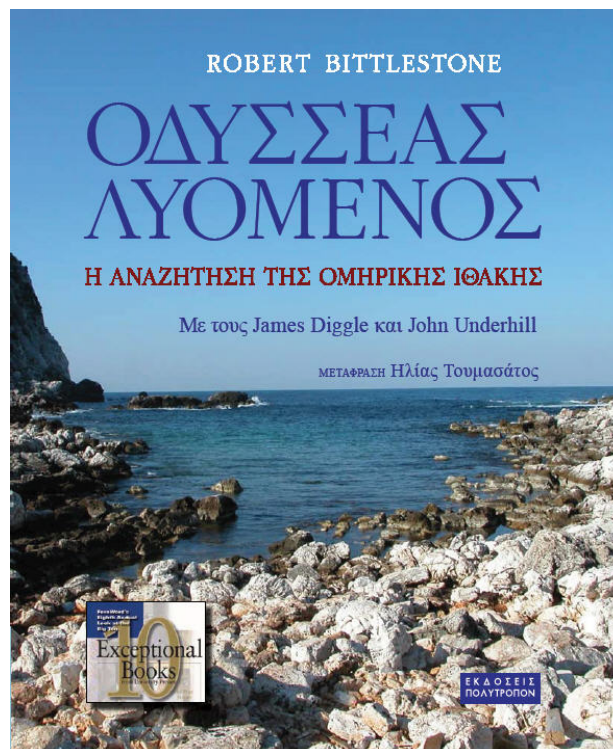


PRESS RELEASE - JANUARY 4 2008

*Issued on behalf of Ekdoseis Polytropon, Athens and the authors of
'Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca'*

**Publication of the Greek edition of
'Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca'**

- Publication in Greek of the award-winning book 'Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca' brings this extraordinary debate home to Greece
- Homer described Ithaca as 'furthest west' but where is Odysseus' island now?
- Latest scientific techniques are used to investigate Europe's earliest enigma
- New Preface and Sequel update the book with key developments since 2005
- Website research findings now provided in Greek as well as English
- Authors to visit Athens and Kefalonia to present the latest findings in person



Athens, January 4 2008. The award-winning best-seller *Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca* is now available in Greek. First published by Cambridge University Press in October 2005, the book has been updated with the latest developments from the island of Kefalonia and is published in Athens by Ekdoseis Polytropon, <http://www.ekdoseispolytropon.gr>

The book represents a remarkable collaboration between management consultant Robert Bittlestone, (Chairman, Metapraxis), Professor of Classics James Diggle (University of Cambridge) and Professor of Geology John Underhill (University of Edinburgh). Critical acclaim for the English edition includes comments such as:

"I've just finished reading *Odysseus Unbound* and I have to say that the experience was utterly enthralling from start to finish."

"If Robert Bittlestone is correct, this will be one of the most important archaeological discoveries since Schliemann's uncovering of Troy in the late 19th century."

"Bittlestone has had the benefit of expert advice from James Diggle, probably the greatest living Hellenist, and John Underhill, an eminent professor of geology."

"Scholars will now have to think again about received wisdom on the *Odyssey*."

"Lavishly illustrated, *Odysseus Unbound* uses 21st-century technology to affirm the genius of the past."

"The reader's reward is truly thrilling detection supported by breathtaking illustration."

"There is no doubt whatever that, in its essence, *Odysseus Unbound* proposes something that is absolutely new and of permanent value."

"Bittlestone's theory is fundamentally simple...and it is almost certainly correct. This confirmation of literary inference by the heavy weapons of modern science and technology is a major triumph."

In January 2007 new geological results were announced which support the theory proposed in the book. A 122 metre deep borehole was drilled at the southern end of the isthmus between Kefalonia and Paliki, to see whether the drill-bit would encounter solid limestone bedrock or loose rockfall and landslide material. The borehole penetrated to well below sea level and as the theory predicted, no solid limestone bedrock was encountered. Within 24 hours the news had been relayed by over 100 newspapers, TV and radio stations world-wide.



Fugro RESOLVE airborne electromagnetic survey system

In March 2007 the global geoscientific company FUGRO announced their sponsorship of the *Odysseus Unbound* project. Since September 2007 expert teams from FUGRO have conducted land, sea and air-based surveys of the area with the objective of probing deep into the ground to search for a buried marine seaway. An unprecedented array of gravity, seismic, marine and helicopter-based electromagnetic techniques are being used to test the theory by performing a “whole body scan” of this 6 kilometre long, 2 kilometre wide isthmus.

Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca is a book of 641 pages and 346 colour illustrations and its translation into Greek has represented a major challenge for Elias Toumasatos, who is a graduate in Law and Theatrical Studies of the University of Athens now undertaking a PhD at the Department of History at the Ionian University. The translation has involved extensive cooperation between reviewers world-wide and Robert Bittlestone comments:

“Elias Toumasatos and his panel of reviewers have done a wonderful job in translating the book into Greek. This is primarily a work of research but it is also the story of a family adventure, and so he has had to tackle a very wide variety of source material. James Diggle, John Underhill and I are thrilled that the book is now available to the people of Greece in your timeless and exquisite language. We hope that you will read it with an open mind and that after reading it you will believe, as I do, that your incomparable ancestor Homer never wavered from the truth.”

The *Odysseus Unbound* website has been released in Greek at <http://www.odysseus-lyomenos.org> as well in English at <http://www.odysseus-unbound.org>, reporting the latest news and events from the project. A new Preface and Sequel have been written for the book, highlighting geological and classical progress since 2005. These are also provided in English and Greek at the project websites.

***** ENDS *****

Οδυσσέας Ανόμιμος : Η Αναζήτηση της Ομηρικής Ιθάκης
(*Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca*)

Published by Ekdoseis Polytropon, Athens

Language: Greek. 641 pages, 346 colour illustrations.

Authors: Robert Bittlestone, with James Diggle and John Underhill

Translated by Elias Toumasatos and updated with a new Preface and Sequel

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For further details of the latest research, visit the project websites:

<http://www.odysseus-lyomenos.org> (Greek), <http://www.odysseus-unbound.org> (English)

The authors will be visiting Athens in 2008 for book signings and lectures. To arrange author interviews please email anne.stephenson@metapraxis.com

The project website provides a Press Resources area containing high-resolution versions of the latest research photographs, as well as photographs of the authors and other images. To access the Press Resources area, email anne.stephenson@metapraxis.com