

WHO'S WHO

THE TROJANS



Priam

Priam (*preye-am*) is king of the powerful city of Troy. He firmly holds the reins of power and is perhaps the only Trojan who completely understands the political picture. Though he surrounds himself with Trojan nobles and his many sons, he continually tests them while keeping his own council. As a child, he promised to recover his sister Hesionne from the conquering Achaeans. As an adult, he attempted to fulfill his promise by sending his son, Paris, to bring Hesionne to Troy. Paris failed this test, forcing Priam to deal with consequences beyond any he imagined.



Hekuba

Hekuba (*hek-yoo-ba*) is Priam's chief wife. She is devoted to her many children whom she loves and to her husband whom she respects.



Paris

Paris (*pa-ris*) was exposed on Mt. Ida as an infant. A cattleman rescued and raised him. Paris developed an intimate relationship with a local priestess, Oenone, but left her and his adoptive parents behind when he learned that he was a prince of Troy. Instead of bringing Hesionne back to Troy as Priam had commissioned him to do, Paris seduced Helen of Sparta away from her home and family. The consternation among the Trojans when he brought home Helen and the son she'd borne him delighted Paris.



Hektor

Hektor (*hek-tor*) is the eldest son of Priam and Hekuba. Though disturbed by recent events at Troy—the arrival of Helen and the departure of Aeneas—he still has faith in Priam's leadership. Hektor eagerly anticipates marriage with Andromache of Thebes.



Deiphobus

Deiphobus (*dee-if-oh-bus*) is the third son of Priam and Hekuba. Deiphobus refrained from killing or maiming Paris when he learned Paris was his brother, but when Paris returned with Helen, Deiphobus's scorn and jealousy toward Paris grew.



Helenus

Helenus (*he-len-us*) is the fourth son of Priam and Hekuba. Like his fraternal twin Cassandra, he has the gift of prophecy. But unlike Cassandra, he is comfortable suppressing it.

WHO'S WHO

THE ACHAEANS



Helen

Helen (*he-len*) left her husband, Menelaus king of Lakedaemon, to run off with Paris, prince of Troy. She hasn't had to make many important decisions in her life since most of them have been made by powerful men around her. But she's beginning to discover that getting what's important to her through her own efforts can be immensely satisfying.



Agamemnon

Agamemnon (*a-ga-mem-non*) is the king of Mycenae and High King of the Achaeans. He loves power and control, though he prefers to use politically acceptable methods to obtain these ends. When Paris of Troy took his sister-in-law, Helen, Agamemnon knew he had the perfect excuse to attack the wealthy city of Troy. To be certain of victory, he raised an immense army of Achaeans which so far has failed to reach Troy.



Menelaus

Menelaus (*me-ne-lay-us*) is the king of Lakedaemon. He's easily dominated by his elder brother, Agamemnon, but when Paris looted Menelaus's palace and took his wife, Helen, away, Menelaus insisted that Agamemnon retaliate. All he wants now is to crush the Trojans and recover Helen.



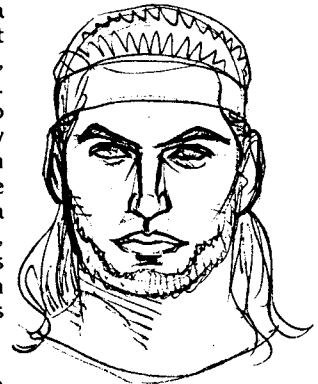
Odysseus

Odysseus (*o-dis-yoos*) is the king of Ithaka. He was initially reluctant to leave his wife and newborn son to join the Achaean army. But he's come to accept his part in the war, and he's become a close advisor of Agamemnon due to his nimble mind.



Achilles

Achilles (*a-kil-eez*) is a prince of Phthia where he spent his early years. But when his mother, Thetis, left his father, Peleus, Achilles went to live on Mt. Pelion with the centaur, Cheiron, who taught him hunting, healing, and many other arts. Thetis, to shield her son from the war, hid Achilles among the princesses of Skyros. Achilles fathered a son by the eldest princess, Deidamia, before Odysseus penetrated Achilles's disguise. Achilles joined the Achaean army where he was reunited with his childhood friend, Patroklos.



Ajax

Ajax (*aj-jax*) is a prince of Salamis, son of King Telamon and Periboea.

Next best preserved is probably Mycenae, Agamemnon's city. Mycenae's still there, famous throughout the world for its Lion Gate. The southern portion of the room identified as the throne room fell down the hill long ago, so I had to use info from the remains at Pylos to reconstruct it. But the fresco I put on the north wall of the room is assembled from fragments found at Mycenae. It shows a city at the foot of a mountain—Mycenae itself, I believe—being attacked. Agamemnon faces this battle scene whenever he sits on his throne, and it's featured in issue #6 in the scene in which Agamemnon first seriously contemplates war with Troy.

