

# Life before Troy: On the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Heinrich Schliemann (1822–1890)



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## KEYWORDS:

Heinrich Schliemann — Catherine Schliemann — Troy — Hisarlik — Archeology

Heinrich Schliemann: self-taught archaeologist, founder of Mycenaean archeology, discoverer of Homeric Troy. All of these high-profile events occurred at the end of the life of Heinrich Schliemann. But what do we really know about his childhood, adolescence, and adulthood?

## FORMATION OF PERSONALITY

On January 6, 1822, in the city of Neubukov, Johann Ludwig Heinrich Julius Schliemann was born into the family of Protestant pastors, Ernst and Louise Schliemann.

The name Schliemann takes its roots from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the town of Lublek. At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in order to improve their own social status, part of the family moved to the city of Rostock. This side of the Schliemann family was engaged in small business, men are educated and become pharmacists and priests.<sup>1</sup>

Ernst Schliemann (1780–1870) was an extremely fickle character. He made attempts at home education<sup>2</sup> of his seven children (eldest daughter Eliza, then Dorothea, Wilhelmina, Louise, eldest son Heinrich, then Ludwig and Paul), but the implementation did not have a systematic approach. Ernst dreamt of a trip to the excavations of Pompeii, but the dream remained unfulfilled. Shortly before the death of his wife Louise, he got himself a mistress from a domestic servant. Heinrich's mother Louise (1793–1831), nee Bürger, died when he was just 9 years old. At the time, the family lived in the village of Ankershagen, where Ernst Schliemann received a new parish. Almost immediately after the death of his wife, Ernst became a central figure in a sex scandal and was defrocked. The consequences led the family to financial ruin and loss of reputation in society. Heinrich was sent to his uncle "the Revered Friedrich

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1 Hans Schliemann, *Name und Wappen unserer Familie Schliemann*, *Archaeology and Heinrich Schliemann: A Century after his Death: Assessments and Prospects*, Myth — History — Science, Athens 2012, pp. 164–170.

2 Dr. Henry Schliemann, *Ilios: The City and Country of the Trojans*, New York 1881, p. 3.



Schliemann, who was the pastor of the village of Kalkhorst in Mecklenburg”<sup>3</sup>.

The uncle rightly judged that Heinrich needed to go to the gymnasium, but it turns out that he was not ready for training and needed a coach to catch up with his peers. Three months after entering the gymnasium, Heinrich was politely asked to leave the school due to the fact that no one paid for his education, in addition to the scandalous reputation of Heinrich’s father, which casted a dark shadow on the gymnasium. As a result, Heinrich moved to the less prestigious Realschule. After graduating in 1836, 14-year-old Schliemann went to work as a laborer in a grocery store in the small town of Fürstenberg, Mecklenburg-Strelitz. For working in the shop, Heinrich was provided with lodging, lunch, and very minimal pay.

After 5 years of monotonous physical work, a miracle happened in the shop. Regular Hermann Niederhöffer, for a drink paid for by Schliemann, began to recite Homer’s passages in Greek from memory. According to Schliemann himself from his Autobiography,<sup>4</sup> this moment was one of the turning points in his life and so he decided to leave the shop, in order to look for something better and more worthy of him. However, it transpired that this fascinating story from the autobiography was in fact a fiction, as confirmed by D. Traill.<sup>5</sup>

In age of 18 Heinrich traveled alone to Hamburg to study accounting. There and then, Schliemann’s plans changed and he again got a job as a laborer at the Fish Market. By working too hard, Heinrich one day began to cough up blood and was fired for fear that was either carrying a contagious disease or would die at the workplace. A happy occasion brought him to Mecklenburg compatriot J.F. Wendt — a shipbroker and a close friend of Schliemann’s mother. According to the Russian researcher Bogdanov,<sup>6</sup> this meeting was not accidental, and it could be possible that Schliemann was specifically looking for J.F. Wendt. He arranged for Schliemann to sail on the Dorothea brig to La Guaira, the harbor of Caracas, Venezuela.

On December 11, 1841, during a storm, a shipwreck occurred off the Dutch island of Texel. This event was described by Schliemann very thoroughly and with many details in three different versions: in a letter to his sisters,<sup>7</sup> in his diary 1850–51,<sup>8</sup> and in the preface “Ilios” (i.e his Autobiography).<sup>9</sup> Dutch researcher W. Arentzen<sup>10</sup> has studied the shipwreck in detail and given that passenger lists were not then available, it was not possible to prove the presence or absence of Schliemann on board “Dorothea”. However, on the basis of other sources, there is reason to believe that the story

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3 Ibid., p. 6.

4 Ibid., p. 7.

5 David Traill, Schliemann’s Dream of Troy: The Making of a Legend, *The Classic Journal*, 1985, Vol. 81, p. 13.

6 Igor Bogdanov, Genrih Shliman: Russkaja avantura, Moskva 2008, s. 52.

7 Gennadius Library Archives: Heinrich Schliemann papers, Series BB: Original Letters, Box 1, Folder 1 — Letter to Wilhelmine and Doris Schliemann, Amsterdam, 20 February 1842 (64 pages), pp. 38–40.

8 Gennadius Library Archives: Heinrich Schliemann papers, Series A: Diaries, A2, pp. iii–vi.

9 Henry Schliemann, *Ilios*, pp. 8–9.

10 Wout Arentzen, *Schliemann en Nederland: Een leven vol verhalen*, Leiden 2012, s. 32–36.

of the shipwreck of “Dorothea” was borrowed by Schliemann from another person.

Nevertheless, Heinrich, traveling from Hamburg instead of Venezuela, arrived in Amsterdam and spent the first two months in the new city in hospital. As a result of the treatment, Schliemann acquired a lifelong habit of swimming in open water every day, no matter what. But over the course of his life, it was swimming under any circumstances that almost cost Heinrich his life several times. As a result, it can be said that swimming became the cause of chronic inflammation of the ear canal,<sup>11</sup> which shortened Schliemann’s life.

From the hospital, Heinrich again wrote a letter to Wendt asking for help: „By a lucky chance my letter reached him when he was sitting at a dinner party with numerous friends. The account of the disaster which had befallen the excited universal compassion, and a subscription which he at once raised for me produced the sum of 240 florins (£20), which he sent me through Consul Quack. At the same time, he recommended me to the excellent Consul-General of Prussia at Amsterdam, Mr. W. Hepner, who procured me a situation in the office of Mr. FC Quien.“<sup>12</sup>

In my opinion, this shorty story looks like a borrowing from a Victorian novel, but anyway, Schliemann still received a cash allowance. And also, through the aforementioned Frederick Charles Quien, who between 1798–1811 worked at the firm “Schröder & Co.”, Schliemann got a job as a peddler clerk in one of the many offices in Amsterdam.

According to Schliemann’s Autobiography,<sup>13</sup> during that period of his life, he began to actively engage in self-education. He took calligraphy lessons, studied foreign languages and developed his own method of studying them, revealing an undoubted talent for languages. Thus, by the age of 22, Schliemann had mastered English, French, Dutch, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

On March 1, 1844, Heinrich started a job as correspondent and book-keeper at the office of Schröder & Co. To demonstrate to his new employers that they made a good decision in hiring him, Schliemann began to study Russian. From his perspective, it was a strategic step: to establish trade contacts for the Schröder firm with Russian merchants and thus become a truly irreplaceable and invaluable employee. Within six weeks, according to his Autobiography,<sup>14</sup> Schliemann wrote his first letter in Russian and began to build up his own clientele of Russian merchants and their representatives. „Accordingly, Schröder, regardless of his youth, promoted him almost once a month, so that after barely two years he already had fifteen clerks working for him, and was given full discretionary powers.“<sup>15</sup>

Between January and February in 1846, 24-year-old Schliemann was promoted to the status of an agent of the Schröder firm and sent on his first independent business trip to the capital of the Russian empire, St. Petersburg. Schliemann defined the

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11 Charalampos Skoulakis et al., *The Otologic Problem and Death of Heinrich Schliemann*, *European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology*, 2008, Vol. 265, Issue 5, pp. 575–580.

12 Henry Schliemann, *Ilios*, p. 9.

13 *Ibid.*, pp. 9–11.

14 *Ibid.*, p. 11.

15 Emil Ludwig, *Schliemann: The Story of a Gold-seeker*, Boston 1932. p. 31.



range of goods which he used to build a name for himself, become a successful businessman and make himself a fortune. Indigo and various raw materials related to the weaving industry and tea were Schliemann's main interests. But Heinrich would never strictly adhere to just this small list of resale items. As a talented businessman, he always followed the trends in the market and the global situation, and from time-to-time Schliemann changed his business preferences.

After half a year in Russia, Schliemann went on his first European tour and visited the British Museum, Louvre and Versailles for the first time, but only as an ordinary visitor. Heinrich had no scientific interest in the collections of Egyptian, Ancient Greek and Roman art. At this stage in his life, Schliemann was more interested in the course of work of the English weaving factories, which he personally visited in London and Liverpool, and the organization of European railways. Interestingly, several pages describing his first European tour were cut out by someone from the diary.<sup>16</sup>

On February 15, 1847, Heinrich Schliemann officially gained Russian citizenship. And after 4 days he enrolled in the second merchant guild.<sup>17</sup> It should be noted that from the moment of the first recording, Schliemann constantly communicated between the guilds, and from the Petersburg merchants to Narva.<sup>18</sup>

On March 4, 1850, Schliemann went on a business trip to Europe for the second time. Upon his return to Russia he was greeted with the news that his brother Ludwig had died in California.

The real reason why Heinrich Schliemann decided to go to California is difficult or almost impossible to establish. Most biographers are inclined to think that Schliemann was on his way to bury Ludwig and save the capital accumulated by his brother, adding money to his savings. Furthermore, in letters to relatives, Heinrich wrote that in Russia nothing else kept him there. In my opinion, the death of his brother in North America was just an excuse to participate in the notorious Gold Rush.

A leisurely journey to California through European capitals followed. In London, Schliemann stayed for a few days to visit the Crystal Palace, theaters and museums. A similarly rich cultural program occurred in New York.<sup>19</sup> This was followed by a fictional meeting in Washington with President Millard Fillmore<sup>20</sup> and his family. Then by ship Schliemann arrived in Panama where he inspected the railway and the ruins of Old Panama.<sup>21</sup> Afterward, Heinrich sailed to San Francisco, where he arrived on April 3, 1851. This suggests that Schliemann's claim that he "received American citizenship on July 4, 1850, when California officially became a state",<sup>22</sup> is completely untrue. First, in July 1850, Heinrich Schliemann was in St. Petersburg, Russia. Second, "President Jefferson signed the California State 31<sup>st</sup> State Bill on September 9,

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16 Gennadius Library Archives: Heinrich Schliemann papers, Series A: Diaries, A1, p. 151.

17 Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 118.

18 Now the Estonian city of Narva.

19 Christo Thanos, Wout Arentzen, Schliemann and the California Gold Rush, pp. 19–27.

20 David Traill, *Schliemann of Troy: Treasure and Deceit*, New York 1995, p. 10.

21 Christo Thanos, Wout Arentzen, Schliemann and the California Gold Rush, pp. 42–46.

22 *Ibid.*, p. 46.

1850".<sup>23</sup> And it was only after that point that everyone in California acquired American citizenship. Truly and officially, Schliemann obtained his American citizenship only in 1869.

After arriving in Sacramento in April 1851, Heinrich Schliemann found Ludwig's grave, set a gravestone and searched for the money left over from his brother, who owned a small hotel and grocery store there.<sup>24</sup> Schliemann did not want to wash the gold sand, therefore, with the approval of B. Davidson, Heinrich opened an office in September 1851 to exchange gold sand for banknotes. After seven months of continuous work, Schliemann closed his bank and decided to return to Russia. Before leaving, Heinrich deceived his partner Davidson, by failing to sell him all of the golden dust.<sup>25</sup> In the end, both reached a compromise.

## FIRST SPOUSE – CATHERINE LYZHINA

Schliemann's return to St. Petersburg was slow. In 1852, while still on the road, he began to exchange letters with his future bride and first wife Catherine Lyzhina.

The entire Lyzhin family came from an old merchant family, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, all family members were firmly connected by their acquaintances with leading St. Petersburg scientists, who for the most part, were Russified Germans. According to Gavrilov,<sup>26</sup> the Lyzhin family were moderate Slavophiles — this is not only a tribute to the trend fashionable at that time, but also fully characterizes the family lifestyle and views on the life of all its members.

Catherine Petrovna Lyzhina, born on September 7, 1826 died in 1896 at the age of 69 and was buried in the Volkovskoye cemetery next to her daughter Natalia.<sup>27</sup> Catherine Lyzhina was a graduate of the St. Petri-Schule, the best school in Russia; she was very good at playing the piano, well versed in literature, fluent in French and German, and showed talent in the macaronic epistolary style.<sup>28</sup> Once Catherine wrote a letter to her fiancé in German. Heinrich did not appreciate this gesture and asked the bride to write him letters in Russian only.<sup>29</sup>

Catherine's father, Petr Alexandrovich Lyzhin, was born in 1783 in Moscow and died in 1855 in Dresden, where he was buried. Petr Lyzhin was educated at a German school in St. Petersburg. Then he lived in London for several years, where he studied English very successfully.<sup>30</sup> He then returned to St. Petersburg and became a lawyer with an impeccable reputation. In 1849, Petr Aleksandrovich left his advocacy and

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 47.

<sup>24</sup> Emil Ludwig, *The Story of a Gold-seeker*, p. 56.

<sup>25</sup> Christo Thanos, Wout Arentzen, *Schliemann and the California Gold Rush*, pp. 70–71.

<sup>26</sup> Alexandr Gavrilov, *Peterburg v sudbe Genriha Shlimana*, Sankt-Peterburg 2006, s. 81.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, s. 82.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, s. 95.

<sup>29</sup> Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 206.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, s. 183.



became a merchant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> guild.<sup>31</sup> The sons of Peter Alexandrovich and brothers of Catherine: Nicholas Petrovich and Pavel Petrovich — both also graduated from the St. Petri-Schule school.<sup>32</sup>

In 1852, Nicholas Lyzhin (1830–1876) became a candidate for rights at St. Petersburg University and in 1858 he studied a master's degree. He was the educator of the members of the imperial Russian house — the children of Prince Peter Georgievich of Oldenburg. The range of scientific interests of Nicholas Petrovich included the general history of Russia in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and especially the Stolbovsky peace treaty. The result of the research was scientific work called “The Stolbovsky agreement and the negotiations that preceded it”, which was published in St. Petersburg in 1857.<sup>33</sup>

In 1858 Pavel Lyzhin (1829–1904) started at St. Petersburg University and studied law with a specialization in cameralistics.<sup>34</sup> After graduating from the University, he was engaged in private law practice in civil cases. In history and literature, Pavel Lyzhin was noted for being the creditor of Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. On June 5, 1865, Dostoevsky's property was described due to non-payment of debt. This and subsequent events served as the starting point for Dostoevsky's creation of the negative character Petr Petrovich Luzhin in the novel *Crime and Punishment*, endowed with the portrait features and character of Pavel Lyzhin.<sup>35</sup> After the death of his father, Pavel Lyzhin replaced him as a lawyer and chargé d'affaires, Heinrich Schliemann.<sup>36</sup>

Some authors of Schliemann's biographies wrote that Catherine Lyzhina married Heinrich for convenience. Based on the above description of the Lyzhin family, I fundamentally disagree with this point of view. Instead, it is possible to assume the opposite — it was Schliemann who needed to improve his position in society, especially after a long absence from Russia. And he could do this in two ways: through conscientious commercial transactions and with the status of a family man. Moreover, Schliemann himself was already 30 years old and a married businessman which inspired more confidence than a wandering German bachelor.

On October 12, 1852,<sup>37</sup> a wedding ceremony took place in St. Isaac's Cathedral.<sup>38</sup> From the register of St. Isaac's Cathedral: St. Petersburg philistine G. Schliemann, Evangelical Lutheran confession, first marriage. The daughter of an honorary citizen Petr Alexandrovich Lyzhin, maiden Catherine Petrovna Lyzhina, of Orthodox confession, 26 years old.<sup>39</sup>

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31 Alexandr Gavrilov, *Peterburg v sudbe Genriha Shlimana*, s. 80.

32 *Ibid.*, s. 88.

33 *Ibid.*, s. 87.

34 *Ibid.*, s. 81.

35 Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 191–192.

36 Alexandr Gavrilov, *Peterburg v sudbe Genriha Shlimana*, s. 148.

37 On the same day Sophia Engastromenos, the second wife of Heinrich Schliemann was born.

38 The same place in a wooden church in 1712, where Peter I and Catherine I Alekseevna were married.

39 Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 211.



The concept of civil marriage in Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century did not exist. Only a church marriage was recognized. All issues between spouses, in particular divorce, were decided by the Synod, and not by the state authority. A spouse of a non-Orthodox faith could marry if the church ceremony was performed by a priest.<sup>40</sup> That was observed in the case with the Protestant Henry and the Orthodox Catherine. Children born in mixed marriages have always become Orthodox.<sup>41</sup> Before the wedding, Schliemann was also obliged to sign a special paper, which stated that the Orthodox faith would be dominant in the new family.<sup>42</sup> Apparently, Schliemann absolutely did not understand the meaning of this document. It was only many years later, when Schliemann was in Indianapolis preparing the documents for divorce, that he opened the document again and learned that the last word in their family had always been and remained with Catherine. Therefore, the divorce, which Heinrich issued in an American civil court without the presence of his wife, was still considered invalid under Russian law. Breaking the marriage bond between Heinrich and Catherine could only be done with the authority of the church, represented by the Synod in Russia.<sup>43</sup>

## TURBULENT DECADE

During the Crimean War, Heinrich Schliemann, an official citizen of the Russian Empire and Mecklenburg native, saw the trade prospects of wartime opening up before him. He took advantage of the blockade of ports and began to actively use illegal trade by reselling saltpeter, sulfur, lead, indigo, and other dyes to Russia.<sup>44</sup> Schliemann had his own small network of cargo ships and carriers which transported goods for him across the Russian-Prussian border and beyond.<sup>45</sup> A network of Schliemann carriers operated in the cities of Kazan, Saratov, Sudislavl, Elabuga, Yaroslavl, Vladislavov, Astrakhan, Nizhny Novgorod, Riga.<sup>46</sup>

Passionate about making money during the Crimean War, Schliemann completely stop caring for his wife, who was pregnant with their first child at the time. It is important to note that the cornerstone of the relationship between Catherine and Heinrich was not money, which they both often argued about, but education. Not a natural talent for anything, but real university education and application of the knowledge gained. Undoubtedly, Heinrich Schliemann had a truly unique talent for

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40 Svod zakonov Rossijskoj Imperii, povelienijem Gosudara Imperatora Nikolaja Pervago sostavlennyj: Izdaniye 1857 goda, Tom desyatij, Chast I: Zakony grazhdanskije, Glava Vtoraja: O brakah lic Hristianskih ne-Pravoslavnago ispovedanija mezhdu soboju i s licami Pravoslavnago, Sankt-Peterburg 1857, st. 72, s. 15.

41 Svod zakonov Rossijskoj Imperii, st. 67, s. 13–14.

42 Ibid., st. 67, s. 13–14.

43 Ibid., st. 73, s. 15.

44 Henry Schliemann, Ilios, p. 14.

45 Igor Bogdanov, Russkaja avantura, s. 241–243.

46 Ibid., s. 245.



languages. But this outside interest of his was an intellectual hobby that Schliemann developed and used for business. During the Crimean War, he learned Danish, Slovenian, Polish, and Swedish.<sup>47</sup> In April 1855, Schliemann began the study of the Modern Greek language and, according to the system he himself developed, hired a native speaker — Theoklet Vimpos<sup>48</sup>, a seminarian at the St. Petersburg Lavra, who played a very important role in the arrangement of Heinrich's second family happiness — but more on that later.

In 1857 came the post-war financial crisis. But Schliemann's turnover did not decrease. As well as a thirst for languages — Schliemann hired a Latin tutor.<sup>49</sup> Having quenched his thirst for languages and left his pregnant wife with a three-year-old son in St. Petersburg, Schliemann sets off on a trip to Europe, Africa, and Asia. This journey, lasting 8 months, from November 1858 to July 1859, took the route: Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Italy, Egypt, Jerusalem, Jordan, Syria, Smyrna, the Cyclades archipelago, Athens.<sup>50</sup> It must be said that although Schliemann visited several Greek cities, all these stays were limited to the accumulation of personal impressions described in his diaries<sup>51</sup> and the study of the Arabic language, which he later deepened. In Athens, Schliemann found more letters<sup>52</sup> from home, from which he learned that his newborn daughter was already 5 months old. Heinrich returned to Petersburg in July 1859. He visited his wife and children vacationing at the dacha in order to personally tell them that on August 3 he would again leave for Europe.

Schliemann spent the summer and autumn of 1859 on another trip to Europe. Heinrich visited Königsberg, Paris, Madrid, Mecklenburg, Switzerland, Milan, Rome, Frankfurt, and Baden-Baden. In December 1859, he finally returned to St. Petersburg. Immediately, he was met with new concerns, now not only did he have family complications, but during his absence in Russia, litigation with Stepan Fyodorovich Solovyov<sup>53</sup> was brought against him.

The conflict between Schliemann and Solovyov began in November/December 1857<sup>54</sup> when Schliemann instructed his lawyer Fyodor Kukhchinsky to sue Solovyov in order to declare the latter bankrupt<sup>55</sup> since the latter was not able to pay Heinrich Schliemann the owed money as promised. According to the laws on bills, in

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47 Ibid., s. 258.

48 Henry Schliemann, *Ilios*, p. 14.

49 Ibid., p. 15.

50 Ibid., pp. 16–17.

51 Gennadius Library Archives: Heinrich Schliemann papers, Series A: Diaries, A3.

52 Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 288–290.

53 Russian merchant of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild, hereditary honorary citizen of Saint-Petersburg, gold miner, and Maecenas; 1819–1867.

54 Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 271–272.

55 Vasilij Ivanovich Fomin, *Sobranije uzakonenij o vekselah, zajemnyh pismah, bankrotah i prochih dolgovih aktah: soderzhashee v sebe: vekselnij ustav, bankrotskij ustav i posledovavshije po predmetu semu ukazy i postanovlenija po 1826 god, Sankt-Peterburg 1826, VIII, X, 135–138.*





court, it was possible to accuse a person of bankruptcy without his personal presence in the courtroom, but on the condition that the accused is in the city at that moment in time. The accused is summoned to court for three days in a row, and if he did not appear on the fourth day or did not send an attorney, or did not try to pay the bills, then such a person was declared bankrupt. He was immediately put on the wanted list, when he was found, he was put on trial, and his property was withdrawn from him. Additionally, debts were paid from the inventory according to the sequence prescribed by law. At this time, the bankrupt person was held in custody, and an official announcement was printed in the newspapers that if someone else has claims against bankruptcy, then such people must provide information about themselves and the amount of debt required to the court. Schliemann's aggressive maneuver caused Stepan Fyodorovich to be justly indignant. Moreover, at the time of the beginning of Schliemann's trial against Solovyov, the latter was in Siberia and wrote<sup>56</sup> to Petersburg that he would arrive in the capital in March 1858. In the meantime, Schliemann, to help Kukhchinsky, additionally hired Pavel Petrovich Lyzhin so that he prepared papers for transfer to the Commercial Court "to recover from Solovyov 26 thousand rubles for goods and 50 thousand rubles for protested bills".<sup>57</sup>

At the beginning of 1860, Catherine had a baby, which soon died. And in May of the same year, Heinrich finally sent his wife and children on their first trip abroad for rest and treatment. Catherine without her husband, and tending to young children Sergey and Natasha visited Hamburg, Marienbad, Karlsbad, Teplitz, Dresden, Ostend, and Mecklenburg.

On July 21, 1861, daughter Nadezhda was born into the Schliemann family. At this point, Heinrich was at the Nizhny Novgorod fair. Schliemann learned about the birth of his daughter from a letter<sup>58</sup> from Nicholas Lyzhin. At the same time, Heinrich learned Persian and tried not to stay at home for too long, constantly departing on long business trips to fairs.

Back in 1861, Schliemann made a famous photographic portrait in a top hat and a fur coat with the inscription: "Photo of Henry Schliemann, formerly a student of Mr. Guckstedt in Fürstenberg, now a wholesale merchant of the first guild, a Russian honorary hereditary citizen, a judge at the St. Petersburg Commercial Court and director of the Imperial State bank in St. Petersburg".<sup>59</sup> He was proud to send this photograph to his family in Mecklenburg. Alas, Schliemann personally attributed all the titles in the inscription on the card to himself.

He became a merchant of the 1<sup>st</sup> guild back in 1854 when he first set foot on the land of the Russian Empire. Since then, Schliemann incessantly dropped out and again enrolled in the merchant's workshop. At the time of making the photo portrait, it was known that Schliemann was a Narva merchant, but 1 or 2 guilds are not known for certain. Schliemann became an honorary hereditary citizen of St. Petersburg in

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<sup>56</sup> Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 272–273.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, s. 271–272.

<sup>58</sup> Alexandr Gavrilov, *Peterburg v sudbe Genriha Shlimana*, s. 139.

<sup>59</sup> Igor Bogdanov, *Russkaja avantura*, s. 323.



1864, which corresponds to a file stored in the Russian State Historical Archives.<sup>60</sup> The position of a judge in the St. Petersburg Commercial Court is actually Schliemann's exaggerated membership in the Commercial Court, which Schliemann formalized on September 4, 1861. As for the post of director of the State Bank of the Russian Empire, this is Schliemann's unattainable dream, which he apparently was unable to deny.

On September 29, 1861, there a verdict was reached in the trial between Schliemann and Solovyov.<sup>61</sup> Solovyov lost and was obliged to pay. But then the appeal began, which was transferred to the Senate. This trial dragged on for another three years. On May 20, 1861, Stepan Fyodorovich simultaneously began a trial against his former attorney Bartelink, whose scams were revealed during the first sessions of the Commercial Court. On charges of abuse, Bartelink was summoned to a criminal court. He was found guilty of issuing Solovyov's documents to Schliemann, which were subject only to personal use, as well as some calculations issued by Bartelink without Solovyov's knowledge, in other words, a waste. Bartelink went to jail, and Schliemann sued Solovyov in the Senate for several more years on charges of non-payment and other new circumstances that were revealed during the trial in the Commercial Court.

The period from 1862 to 1864 was spent with Heinrich in the routine of commercial transactions, business trips, and studying Hindi, whilst Catherine was caring for three children and the home. The money issue began to exert a stronger influence on the process of the distance between spouses. Heinrich, approximately every six months, sent his family on long trips across Europe, while he was terribly angry and skimmed on travel and food, forgetting that Catherine traveled with three small children, a servant, and always without a husband. The children did not always safely endure long trips and they were often sick. In addition, they had to start their first homeschooling in order to keep up with children of their age, and with 5-6 month periods of travel, it was difficult to find a suitable home teacher whilst paying their travel and food costs too. Heinrich, who had no home teachers and was released early from school, did not understand the importance of systematic primary education for his children. Catherine, on the other hand, had the most complete idea of when, how, and what her children should be taught. The polar points of view of the spouses led to the fact that the first-born Sergei, spoilt in his childhood, did not achieve any significant success<sup>62</sup> in his mature years and until his father's death provided instructions regarding his own education, career choice and life in general.

A new round of family scandals, now on the basis of the issue of raising children, further alienated the spouses from each other. Heinrich launched unfounded attacks on the Russian education system, schools, and universities. In his opinion, the best education could only be obtained in Dresden. This was a rather rude way to show his wife and her brothers that although they graduated from St. Petersburg the St. Petri-

60 Russian State Historical Archives/РГИА, Фонд 1343, опись 39, дело 5560 — [Шлиман (археолог) Дело по прошению Петербургского 1-ой гильдии купца Г.Шлимана о возведении его с семейством в потомственное почетное дворянство].

61 Russian State Historical Archives/РГИА. Фонд 1348, опись 60, дело 1949 — [Шлиман купец (археолог) о споре его с Соловьевым о 19792р 33к], s. 6-25.

62 Alexandr Gavrilov, Peterburg v sudbe Genriha Shlimana, s. 164.



Schule and the University, their education was not the best. After all, Heinrich was a German-born, prominent St. Petersburg merchant and polyglot, the embodiment and confirmation of the fact that university education is not the key to success. Thus, he turned against Catherine and both brothers, who in this situation took the side of his sister and defended her.

Heinrich understood that he was losing and committed an act typical of his character — he decided that commercial operations in Russia would not attract him and left his family in order to travel. This time, Schliemann surpassed himself in his adventures.

## WORLD JOURNEY AND NEW GOALS IN HIS LIFE

At the end of March — beginning of April 1864, Schliemann left St. Petersburg on a trip around the world, which ended in January 1866 in Paris. It is interesting that initially, Schliemann did not plan to travel around the world, he just went wherever his heart desired: Prussia, France, Italy, Tunisia. At the beginning of the journey, everything was fine, but in Egypt, Schliemann got an ear infection as a result of his daily bathing. He returned for a short time to Italy and Prussia for treatment. He then continued his adventures. Heinrich visited Ceylon, India, Singapore, and Java in Indonesia for the first time — here he had to make another long stop to undergo surgery on his sore ear. From Indonesia, he sailed to Vietnam, then to China: Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, then to Japan. Further, across the Pacific Ocean, Schliemann sailed to San Francisco and California, then Mexico, Nicaragua, and Cuba. He then returned to North America again, visited New Orleans, New York, and traveled to Canada. After crossing the Atlantic, Schliemann arrived in London and then went to Paris.<sup>63</sup>

Schliemann's travel diaries from 1864 to 1866 are written in 11 languages: Arabic, Italian, French, German, English, Urdu, Farsi, Russian, Dutch, Spanish, and Greek. He published his revised recordings in 1867 in Paris in the form of the book "La Chine et le Japon au Temps présent" in French — this was Schliemann's first book.

Heinrich returned to Petersburg in March 1866. Over the course of an almost two-year journey, he and Catherine exchanged letters, but the separation did not benefit their relationship and the spouses became even more distant from each other. Upon returning to St. Petersburg, Schliemann again seemed interested in commerce, but rather quickly he gave up everything, both business and family, and left for the city of Samara for the treatment of kumis,<sup>64</sup> which was fashionable at that time. But after less than a month of staying in a sanatorium, Schliemann was overcome by boredom and he wanted to go on a journey again. From Samara,<sup>65</sup> along the water routes,

63 Gennadius Library Archives: Heinrich Schliemann papers, Series A: Diaries, A5–9.

64 Kumis is a drink obtained from mare's milk by means of lactic acid and alcoholic fermentation of lactic acid bacteria and yeast. It was believed that kumis treatment helped with tuberculosis, bronchitis, and pleurisy, with various diseases of the stomach, intestines, and loss of appetite, with diseases accompanied by fever.

65 Genrich Shliman, Dnevnik 1866 goda: Puteshestvije po Volge, Sankt-Peterburg 1998, s. 8.



Heinrich went down to the Sea of Azov and then to Paris,<sup>66</sup> where he had several tenement houses. Here, Schliemann paid for several courses of lectures and receive a diploma from the Sorbonne University. Heinrich's ambitions and extremely negative attitude towards education in Russia grew with renewed vigor here. Schliemann began to literally bombard Catherine with letters in which he increasingly forced her to leave her homeland and move permanently with her children to Paris or at least Dresden. This time, the family discord will be so irrepressible that Heinrich, from threats to give up everything, finally moved on to decisive action.

## THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE

In 1867, Schliemann once again announced to Catherine that he was leaving her, trading, and leaving Russia forever. Heinrich spent the whole of 1868 on new travels. From Paris, he went to Liverpool, from there to the USA, then returned to France. He spent the spring and the first month of the calendar summer in Italy. In July he went to Greece, and in August he was in Turkey, specifically in Bunarbashi. From September to December 1868 Schliemann was again in Paris and at the end of the year he went to St. Petersburg for a short Christmas holiday. This visit was his last. On January 9, 1869, Heinrich left Russia forever. Schliemann spent the winter in France, where preparations were in full swing for the publication of his second book, "Ithaque, Peloponnésé et Troie", which was published in French with his own money.<sup>67</sup> In March 1869, Heinrich traveled to the United States to Indianapolis, Indiana, to divorce Catherine through the court.

Schliemann, having already made an attempt to officially part with Catherine in 1867, made an unpleasant discovery concerning the very document that Heinrich, being a non-Orthodox, signed at the altar. This agreement of 1852 confirmed that his marriage with Catherine was an Orthodox act. This meant that, according to the laws of the Russian Empire, only the church could officially divorce the spouses. In addition, for a divorce, a more compelling reason was required than Heinrich's simple reluctance to be married to Catherine, because she did not want to leave her homeland and move to Paris or Dresden. When Schliemann finally realized that he had lost this battle many years ago, he began to look for alternative solutions.

John A. Scott believes that at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, American Indianapolis was a city where it was very easy to get a divorce if only a couple of criteria were met.<sup>68</sup> According to documents collected by Scott, Schliemann, as soon as he arrived in Indiana, specially bought several houses in order to give the impression of a "bona fide" citizen. And as soon as Schliemann divorced and remarried, he lost all interest in the American city, real estate, and business on this continent. In addition, John A. Scott<sup>69</sup>

<sup>66</sup> Gennadius Library Archives: Heinrich Schliemann papers, Series A: Diaries, A9, s. 106–112.

<sup>67</sup> Henry Schliemann, *Ilios*, s. 20.

<sup>68</sup> John A. Scott, Ludwig and Schliemann, *The Classical Journal, Inc. (CAMWS) 1931–1932*, Vol. 27, pp. 20–21 (viz. also Eli Lilly, *Schliemann in Indianapolis*, Indianapolis 1961, p. 12.).

<sup>69</sup> John A. Scott, *Schliemann and Indianapolis*, *The Classical Journal, Inc. (CAMWS) Apr.*, 1922, Vol. 17, No. 7, pp. 404–406.



sent a request to the Indianapolis library, and it was there confirmed that no Henry or Heinrich Schliemann was listed in the directory of that city. I am inclined to think that Schliemann<sup>70</sup> perfectly understood which, not entirely honest, ways he was seeking a divorce from Catherine. Schliemann hired as many as five lawyers,<sup>71</sup> and personally submitted the court letters to Catherine, which he himself translated from Russian into English, as one of the main justifications that his wife was the cause of the breakdown of the family. Schliemann then asks one of his lawyers to collect the translations of Catherine's letters from the Indianapolis court because „the translations of 2 letters are not very accurate; in Russian, it always says that my wife will never follow me in foreign countries but there is nothing mentioned about America.“<sup>72</sup>

While the divorce proceedings were underway, Schliemann was wasting no time. On April 27, Heinrich helped other German lawyers, received their doctorate<sup>73</sup> from the University of Rostock on the basis of two of his publications. At the same time, Schliemann was looking for a new wife. In this venture, Heinrich was assisted and supported by a former Greek tutor and now an Orthodox Archbishop Theocletus Vimpos, who, at the request of Schliemann, sent him photographs of Greek widows and young women. Among them is Sophia Engastromenos, the youngest daughter of cousin Theocletus Vimpos.

Finally, on June 30, 1869, Schliemann achieved the desired divorce from Catherine. Soon enough, Schliemann was preparing everything necessary for his second wedding, which took place on September 23, 1869, with Sophia Engastromenos.

Again, Schliemann left out some details. Under US law, Heinrich in 1869 really became an official American citizen and a divorced, free man. Although the lawyers which he hired in Germany again confirmed the decision of the American court, this in no way positively affected his relationship with Catherine. In Russia, Schliemann did not legally confirm anything and did not even send copies of the divorce documents to Catherine. Moreover, according to the laws of the Russian Empire, Schliemann became not only a bigamist but also a state criminal, since without notifying the authorities, arbitrarily and without reason, he changed his citizenship.

## THE SELF-LEARNED ARCHEOLOGIST

In 1870, Schliemann traveled around the Cyclades and made trial excavations in Hisarlik. In May 1871, Schliemann and Sophia had a daughter, Andromache. In October/November of the same year, Schliemann carried out the first excavation season at Troy.<sup>74</sup> In 1873, Heinrich found the so-called “Priam's treasure” and wanted to first sell, and later at least donate the funds to the Russian Hermitage, but to no avail. Schliemann made exactly the same attempts to sell or donate the treasures to the

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<sup>70</sup> Eli Lilly, Schliemann in Indianapolis, p. 17.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 57–58.

<sup>73</sup> Henry Schliemann, *Ilios*, p. 20.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 18–21.



British Museum and the Louvre, but these were also refused. “Priam’s Treasure” became a stumbling block not only for Schliemann personally but also for several generations of scientists. Studying the finds of the treasure, Schliemann’s diary records, and other documentation on the excavations at Hisarlik, there are good reasons to believe that the items from the treasure are not a one-time find.<sup>75</sup> It is most likely that these were objects found by Schliemann during the entire period of the first season of excavations, which were then collected together and named after the last Trojan king.

In his last two decades, Schliemann excavated at Mycenae (1874) and discovered shaft tombs in the ancient city (1876). In 1878, Heinrich and Sophia had a son called Agamemnon. In 1884, Schliemann excavated at Tiryns. He also constantly returned to the excavations of Troy, wrote books about it, and composed a beautiful autobiography, where Troy became the main driving force of his life story.

On January 10, 1889, two years before his death, Schliemann drew up a will,<sup>76</sup> which more or less evenly distributed the accumulated money and real estate among all of his children and wives. On November 13, 1890, in the German city of Halle, Schliemann underwent another operation on a sore ear. After the surgery, Heinrich ignored medical prescriptions suggesting bed rest and to aid reducing stress. On December 26 in Naples, after a postoperative complication, Heinrich died. His body was transported to Athens and on January 4, 1891, Schliemann was buried in the first city cemetery in the city of Athens.

## CONCLUSION

There’s no doubt that Heinrich Schliemann lived a bright life, was an extraordinary personality, and at the same time very complicated. He possessed an undeniable polyglot talent and a genius commercial instinct. At the same time, Schliemann was not deprived of imagination, possessed a lively mind, amazing purposefulness, and an ardent, sometimes uncontrollable, passion. Sometimes these virtues took him too far.

A rather difficult youth, according to *Autobiography*, taught Schliemann to look for alternative ways of education, career growth, and obtaining social status. This was reflected in the tendency to hyperbole and borrow. Commercial flair and imagination made Schliemann listen to Frank Calvert and begin excavations on the Hisarlik Hill. Alas, these same qualities led to the fact that Schliemann, during and after his life, overshadowed the names of fellow scientists with whom he worked on the excavations of Troy, Mycenae, Tiryns and also to the destruction of the very precious Homeric Troy, around which Schliemann built his autobiography and the last 20 years of his real life.

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<sup>75</sup> It’s not just my point of view; viz. e.g. David Traill, *Schliemann of Troy*, pp. 102-124.

<sup>76</sup> Eli Lilly, *Schliemann in Indianapolis*, pp. 69-71.