

Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, “The Procession of the Trojan Horse into Troy” (ca. 1760)

Mastery Image

The artist’s attention to detail makes it fairly clear that he is illustrating the classic account from Vergil *Aeneid* 2. EXCEPT, Vergil’s Horse is clearly made of wood.

In spite of Laocoon’s insistence against it — and because of Neptune’s violent silencing of Laocoon’s opposition — the Trojans put wheels under the horse, which is clearly marked in the painting with a Latin inscription “An Offering to Pallas (Athena)”, and led it into Troy by way of the breeched walls.

The modern site of Hisarlik in Turkey has been the focus of much archaeological examination since 1820, and especially since Schliemann and Dörpfeld excavated from 1870 to 1894. The site has never been identified irrefutably as Troy; but, it is generally agreed that evidence of a violent destruction ca. 1050 B.C. may allow identification of “Troy VIIb” as Priam’s Troy.



“It is generally assumed that some residue of historical truth persists in the legends concerning the Trojan War, although how much and where is uncertain.” *Oxford Classical Dictionary*

OGCMA1048TrojanHorse_Tiepolo

<http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/giovanni-domenico-tiepolo-the-procession-of-the-trojan-horse-into-troy>