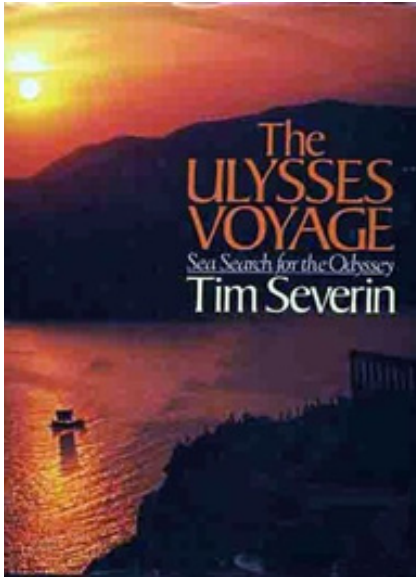


1985-2015: 30th anniversary of the Odyssey in Cythera



“I should have reached my own land safe and sound, had not the swell, the current, and the north wind combined, as I was doubling Malea, to drive me off my course and send me drifting past Cythera.”

With these immortal words uttered by Odysseus, Cythera became part of the Homeric narrative of the Odyssey.

In 1985 the British adventurer and historian, Tim Severin, set out to retrace the steps of the ancient mariners and subsequently published his book, *The Ulysses Voyage*. It was in June of that year that I came across the Argo, a replica of a Bronze Age galley, moored peacefully at Kapsali harbour. This time the Argo had not missed this island home in its voyage to antiquity.



The Argo in Kapsali (photo: George Vardas)

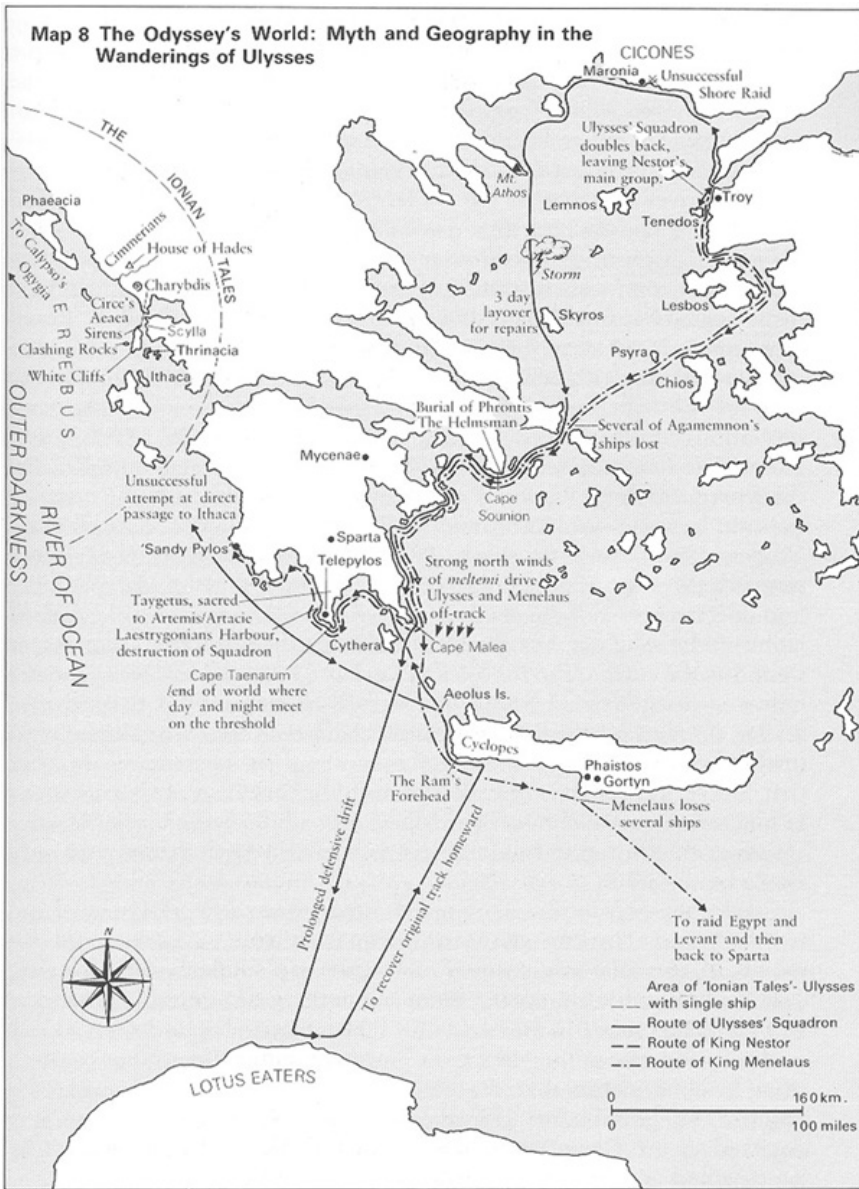


It turns out that Tim Severin had come to Greece and in the Prefecture of the Argolis Valley he arranged for the Argo to be built by Greek craftsmen and builders entirely from wood. Even the nails were wooden. It was 14 metres in length and it was named the “Argo” and was manned by 22 rowers.



Tim Severin and the Ulysses Voyage

The Argo's first voyage was to follow in the footsteps of Jason and the Argonauts in search of the mythical golden fleece. Then Severin and his crew decided to embark upon a voyage through the Mediterranean in Odysseus' Homeric wake. In short, Severin wanted to find convincing geographical locations that fitted in with the famous tale and for the Argo to bring the Odyssey home to Greece. As a result of their journey, these modern-day adventurers concluded that The Odyssey took place within the Aegean, Libyan, and Ionian Seas (as the map below attests).



So it was that thirty years ago the Argo briefly dropped anchor in Cythera and for a moment in time Homer had come to the island which Odysseus originally drifted past.

George Vardas



The Argo near land (possibly Ithaca)