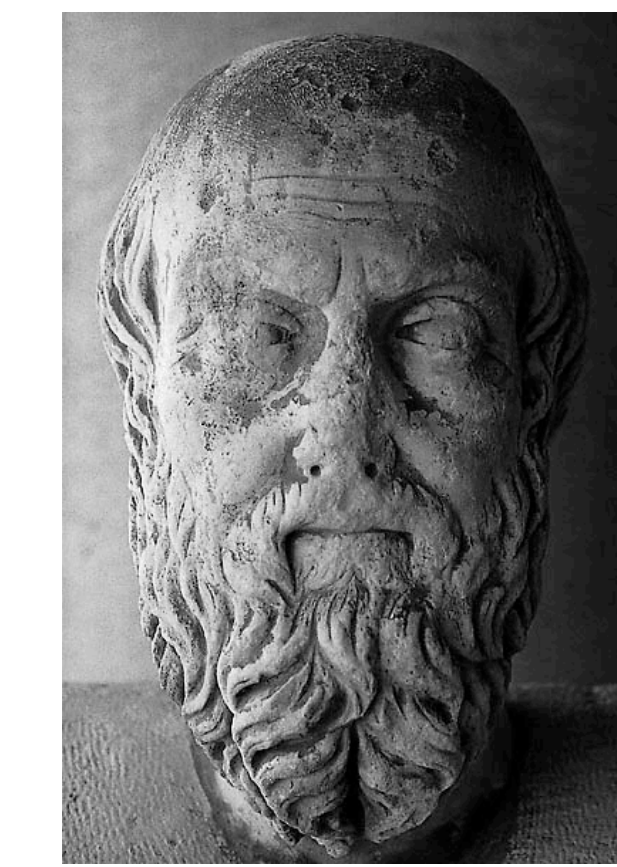


The Herodotos Project: Identifying and Mapping Ancient Peoples and Languages



WHAT?

An ongoing project, based at Ohio State with connections to other institutions, to develop a catalogue with identification and mapping of the ancient peoples, their languages and customs as presented in Herodotus, and ultimately other ancient sources (inscriptions, Thucydides, Strabo, *FGH*, Stephanus of Byzantium, etc.) This may be extended into a visual/mapping project including Greek dialects as well as languages of the ancient world.

WHY?

Gathering data into a single database to document ancient languages and peoples, providing information on language death, language contact, and other linguistic phenomena.

VALUE OF HERODOTUS:

Although the languages attested in Herodotus have not been catalogued or mapped up to now, recent scholarship has emphasized his thematization of language. Where other ancient authors tend to represent foreign languages stereotypically (Colvin, 1999; Lejeune 1948), Herodotus shows an unusual interest in languages Greeks stigmatized as barbarian. Harrison (1998), Daroca (1992), Hollman (2011), Gera (2003), Mopurgo Davies (1987a&b), Woodard (1997), Mosley (1971) and Werner (1989) look to Herodotus as a source for understanding Greek thinking on language and dialect. Munson (2005) has shown that for Herodotus barbarian languages have their own intrinsic value. Linguistic diversity and language contact are Herodotean themes.

Libyans. A populous tribe, larger than the others. They left their cattle on the coast in the summer and went inland for the date harvest at Augila. The Nassamonians reported contact with black-haired pygmies on an west-east river far to the south.

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DATABASE

Name	Greek name	Passage	Herodot...	culture notes	geography notes
Edonians	Ἰδωνοί	ταύτας μὲν δὴ τὰς πόλιας τὰς	7.110	Thracian tribe	
Fish-eaters	Ἰχθυοφάγων	ἢ μὲν δὴ τράπεζα τοῦ ἡλίου	3.19;	knew the Ethiopian language	a tribe inhabiting Elephantine
Garamantes	Γαράμαντες	174. τούτων δὲ κατῴπερθε πρὸς	4.174.	used four-horse chariots to hunt Ethiopian "hole-	a Libyan tribe on the route from Egypt to the Atlas;
Gelonians	Γελωνοί	Βουδῖνοι δὲ ἔθνος ἐὼν μέγα καὶ	4.108 said	they have sanctuaries with Greek Gods, because	neighbours of the Scythians
Gergithes	Γέργιθας	οὗτοι μὲν νυν τῶν Περσῶν	5.122	remnants of the ancient Teucrians	were living around Ilium near some Aeolians
Gilgamae	Γιλγᾶμαι	169. τούτων δὲ ἔχονται	4.169	Libyans	Africa (outside Egypt); west as far as an island called
Gindanes	Γινδάνες	176. Μακῶν δὲ τούτων	4.176	wear one leather ankleband for each lover they	Africa (outside Egypt); next to the Macae
Hylies	Ἵλλιας	ταῦτα μὲν ἐς Ἀδρηστῶν οἱ	5.68	Sicyon tribe	Sicyonian tribe so named after Cleisthenes' death
Hytenneans	Ἵτεννεῶν	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90; their	a Pisidian tribe	second Persian province
Indians	Ἰνδῶν	Παρκιάνιοι δὲ καὶ Αἰθίοπες οἱ ἐκ	3.94; their	There is a large number of Indian tribes, and they do	(near Caspatyrus); live a long way south, far from
Ionians	Ἴωνων	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90	there are four different Ionian dialects. Miletus is the	first Persian province
Lotus-Eaters	Λωτοφάγοι	177. ἀκτὴν δὲ προέχουσαν ἐς	4.177	live exclusively on lotus fruit.	Africa (outside Egypt); on a headland which juts out into
Lycians	Λυκίων	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90, 1.28,	originally from Crete: "The Lycians were originally	first Persian province, lived west of the Halys River
Lydians	Λυδῶν	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90, 1.7,	previously known as Maeans; Portrait of a Lydian	second Persian province, lived west of the Halys River,
Machlyes	Μάχλυες	178. λωτοφάγων δὲ τὸ παρὰ	4.178	where Jason's Argonaut crew nearly sank.	Africa (outside Egypt); territory runs all the way to a
Massagetae	Μασσαγέταις	ὡς δὲ τῷ Κύρῳ καὶ τοῦτο τὸ	1.201	some claim they are a Scythian people	they live in the east, beyond the River Araxes and
Medes	Μῆδός	Δηϊόκης μὲν νυν τὸ Μηδικόν	1.16 their	named after Medea	Media (Old Persian Māda): old, tribal kingdom in the
Milyans	Μιλυέων	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90,	used to live in Milyas and be called Solymians	first Persian province
Minyans	Μινυῖαι	τούτων δὴ εἰνεκα καὶ οἱ Ἴωνες	1.146	intermarried with Lacedaemonians, brought women	from Orchomenus, had a base on Mount Taygetus
Mossynoeci	Μοσσύνοικοι	Παρκιάνιοι δὲ καὶ Αἰθίοπες οἱ ἐκ	3.94, 7.78	Ἰωνῶν μὸσσυνες	a tribe between Armenia and the Euxine
Mycians	Μυκιοί	ἀπὸ Βακτριανῶν δὲ μέχρι	3.93 their	Maka: satrapy of the ancient Achaemenid empire,	fourteenth Persian province; a tribe probably in
Nasamones	Νασαμώνες	172. Αὐσχισῶν δὲ τούτων τὸ	4.172	Libyans. A populous tribe, larger than the others.	Africa (outside Egypt)
Pamphylians	Πάμφυλος	ταῦτα μὲν ἐς Ἀδρηστῶν οἱ	5.68, 7.91,	Sicyon tribe, first Persian province, descended from	first Persian province, lived west of the Halys River
Pantimatians	Παντίμαθοι	ἀπὸ Βαβυλῶνος δὲ καὶ τῆς	3.92their	a tribe in the Persian empire	S. of the Caspian
Paretaceniens	Παρητακηνοί	ἀπὸ Βαβυλῶνος δὲ καὶ τῆς	3.92,1.101	Median Tribe	tenth Persian province
Parthians	Πάρθοι	ἀπὸ Βακτριανῶν δὲ μέχρι	3.93, 7.66	parts of the Persian army; Parthia (Old Persian	sixteenth Persian province; S.E. of the Caspian
Pelasgians	Πελασγοί	τούτων δὴ εἰνεκα καὶ οἱ Ἴωνες	1.146,	name applied by Herodotus to the oldest known	from Arcadia. Lived on Lemnos. now live in the town of
Phrygians	Φρυγῶν	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90, 7.	also called Briges; Phrygians: an ancient nation in	third Persian province, lived west of the Halys River
Psyllians	Ψύλλοι	173. Νασαμώνι δὲ προσόμουροι	4.173 their	met with extinction because of drought. Nasamones	a Libyan tribe
Sacae	Σάκαι	ἀπὸ Βακτριανῶν δὲ μέχρι	3.93,	Scythians; a tribe in the N.E. of the Persian empire;	fifteenth Persian province
Sagartians	Σαγαρτίων	ἀπὸ Βακτριανῶν δὲ μέχρι	3.93, 1.25	Persian tribe, nomadic	fourteenth Persian province
Sarangians	Σαραγγέων	ἀπὸ Βακτριανῶν δὲ μέχρι	3.93	a people of northern Persia; Drangiana (Old Persian	fourteenth Persian province
Sarmatians	Σαυρομάτης	21. Τάναιν δὲ ποταμὸν διαβάντι	4.21,	Were originally Scythians mixed with Amazons. They	across the Tanais river, from the head of Lake Maeetis
Satrae	Σάτραι	ταύτας μὲν δὴ τὰς πόλιας τὰς	7.110-111	Thracian tribe, never been subject to anyone	live in a region of high, thickly wooded mountains
Syrians	Σύριοις	ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Ἴωνων καὶ	3.90	had been subjects of the Medes before being subject	third Persian province, next to the river Halys, which
Thamanaeans	Θαμαναίων	ἀπὸ Βακτριανῶν δὲ μέχρι	3.93	a people probably in N.E. Persia	fourteenth Persian province
Thyssagetae	Θυσσαγέται	21. Τάναιν δὲ ποταμὸν διαβάντι	4.21-22	a populous tribe with its own distinct way of life	North of the Budinians
Traspians	Τράσπεις	6. ἀπὸ μὲν δὴ Λιποξείας	4.6	related to Auchatae	a Scythian tribe

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES:

- Is Herodotus reliable as a source of information?
- Language observations in the *Histories* are scattered and impressionistic
- Most ethnonyms have little or no mention of language at all—how many of these groups had separate languages, or dialects of Greek?
- Some of the groups he mentions are clearly unreal/mythological, e.g. the one-eyed people (such as the Ἀριμασποί/Arimaspians).
- Questions about the difference between language and dialect
- What became of the group- both how long they survived as a people, and how long they maintained a separate language.
- determining rate of “replacement” of languages from dialect split and creolization, and tying the results of historical language loss to other key events such as conquests and colonialization.

- **Language death:** Pelasgian, the language of a pre-Greek people who transmitted the names of the gods from the Egyptians to Greece—while conceding autochthony to the Athenians, Herodotus makes them descendants of Hellenized non-Greek speaking Pelasgians. Herodotus attests the survival of certain Pelasgian peoples such as the Aegialians in Sicyon.

- **Contact languages:**—the *Gelonian* language resulted from contact of the originally Greek-speaking Gelonians with their neighbors the Budini; farmers, apparently living on the Don, they maintained Greek religion and customs while altering their language.



- The *Sauromatae*, a nomadic culture notable for the high status of women, living east of the Don, developed their own language, an ungrammatical form of Scythian, by contact with the Amazons 4.57.

- Originally emigrants from Egypt and Ethiopia, the *Ammonians* spoke a hybrid language of Egyptian and Ethiopian.

- **Language observations:** The language of the *Garamantes* included bat-like squeaks. The *Atarantes* had no individual names. The *Ichthyophagi*, a tribe of Elephantine on the Red Sea, served as interpreters for Cambyses to the Ethiopians.

How?

Surveying texts and digital resources for Herodotus, other ancient authors and inscriptions, with the help of the Phi Epigraphy Project based at OSU's Center for Epigraphical & Palaeographical Studies.

WHO?

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PROJECT SPONSORS:

- The OSU College of Arts and Humanities
- Linguist List (linguistlist.org)