

# Troy



Figure: Walls at Troy VII (CC-BY-SA: [source](#))

# History

- ▶ Site: Mediterranean Anatolya
- ▶ More than a dozen archaeological layers
- ▶ Troy VIIa (c. 1300–c. 950 BCE): walled; destroyed by war, fire



Figure: Greece (CC-BY-SA: [source](#))

# Literary Troy

- ▶ Greek poetry
  - ▶ Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* (s. VIII<sup>ex</sup> BCE)
- ▶ Classical Latin poetry
  - ▶ Virgil's *Aeneid* (c. 25 BCE)
- ▶ Medieval Latin (pseudo)historiography
  - ▶ Nennius's *History of the Britons* (c. 828)
  - ▶ Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (c. 1136)
- ▶ Medieval romance
  - ▶ Wace's *Roman de Brut* (1155, based on Geoffrey of Monmouth)
    - ▶ Reworked into Layamon's Middle English *Brut* (c. 1200)
  - ▶ Benoît de Sainte-Maure's *Roman de Troie* (c. 1160)
    - ▶ Reworked into Guido delle Colonne's Latin *History of the Destruction of Troy* (c. 1287)
  - ▶ Anonymous *Roman d'Eneas* (c. 1160)
    - ▶ Translated into Low Franconian/Middle High German by Heinrich von Veldeke (c. 1175)

# Troy Narratives from England and Wales

- ▶ Nennius's *History of the Britons* (c. 828)
- ▶ Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (c. 1136)
- ▶ Wace's *Roman de Brut* (1155, based on Geoffrey of Monmouth)
- ▶ Layamon's Middle English *Brut* (c. 1200, based on Wace)
- ▶ *Siege or Battle of Troy* (s. XIV<sup>in</sup>)
- ▶ *Gest Historiale of the Destruction of Troy* (s. XIV<sup>2</sup>)
- ▶ *Laud Troy Book* (s. XV<sup>in</sup>)

# Ancestral Claims

*Translatio imperii*: the succession of world dominance from one empire to another

- ▶ Virgil: The campaign that founded Rome was led by the Trojan Aeneas
- ▶ Fredegar's Chronicle (s. VII): Priam of Troy was the first king of the Franks
- ▶ Nennius, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, Layamon: Britain founded by the Trojan Brutus; London originally called Trinovantum
- ▶ Snorri Sturluson: Germanic gods were warriors at Troy