

Felice Vinci's C.V. (Aug. 2014)

Felice Vinci, born in Rome in 1946, performed classical studies in the high school. He graduated in Nuclear Engineering in the University of Rome La Sapienza in 1971. He became a manager in ENEL (the national company for electric power), then he retired in 2004.

Felice's research on Homeric geography started in 1992. His book *Omero nel Baltico. Le origini nordiche dell'Odissea e dell'Iliade* ("Homer in the Baltic. The Northern Origins of the Odyssey and the Iliad"), 5th edition 2008, is introduced by Prof. Rosa Calzecchi Onesti, a scholar and translator of the Iliad and Odyssey into Italian. In 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2012 the book was also published in Russia, USA, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The USA edition, entitled *The Baltic Origins of Homer's Epic Tales*, was adopted as a text for the students of the Bard College of New York, where three lectures on this theory were planned in the Syllabus of the upper level "Homer" course. A 35 pages presentation is found on "ARION. A Journal of Humanities and the Classics" of Spring-Summer 2007, published by the Boston University.

Felice presented, upon invitation, the theory expounded in his book in many Universities and cultural institutions worldwide (such as the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg and the Universities of Vancouver, Riga, Padova, Pavia, and so on). A scientific international Congress inspired to his book took place in Finland in 2007, with archaeologists and professors from the Universities of Milan, Rome, Pavia, Messina, New York, Riga. Another Congress in Finland was held in 2011 (the Proceedings were published in 2012). A Congress entitled "The northern Origins of the Homeric poems", centred around the topic of this book, was held by the University of Rome La Sapienza in June 2012. The papers presented on that occasion were recently published by the prestigious Italian Review of classical philology, i.e. the "Rivista di Cultura Classica e Medioevale", in a monographic issue (2/2013, 356 pages), entitled "Scandinavia and the Homeric poems", with articles of many scholars, such as William Mullen and Ilze Rumniece (a classical philologist who is the dean of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Riga, Latvia).

"Homer in the Baltic" has recently inspired the European cultural project "Meeting the Odyssey", a social and artistic theatre project sailing from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. From 2014 to 2016, artists and organizers from different European countries will travel together, giving workshops and performing theatre pieces. The project will combine elements of the Odyssey, contemporary themes relevant to Europe and stories collected through exchanges with the local population, in order to identify the common roots and the meaning of belonging to the European Community, by opposing "the Europe of culture to the Europe of markets".