

Iliadic Territory: Homer's Insurgence into Duggan's *The Watchers on Gallipoli*

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ABSTRACT

The essay discusses the reception of Homer's *Iliad* in WW1 works of the so-called Gallipoli poets, and takes a special interest in a poem by George Chester Duggan named *The Watchers on Gallipoli*. The premise for the study is that reception of Homer is especially likely when the modern poets are writing on the Gallipoli peninsula, geographically proximate to Homer's Troy (as identified by Schliemann). The essay initially addresses reception theory to illustrate why we might expect the *Iliad* to be refigured in the WW1 poetry before presenting clear cut examples of Gallipoli poets interacting with Homer. G.C. Duggan's poem is unpacked at some length in order to reveal the multiple Homeric touch points. This section is concluded by an attempt to answer the question of why Duggan might have deployed Homer, using clues within the prologue. The final section is a discussion of further instances of Homeric reception by Gallipoli poets, but explores examples where Homer is incorporated to different effect. Thus can we conclude that while Homeric reception is indeed rife amongst this geographically united group of poets, the responses evoked are far from uniform.