

THE CREATION OF WAR WITH TROY

Summary of the interview between Grant Bage and the storytellers

The last track on CD 3 is a recording of an interview in which Grant Bage (Joint Director, the Iliad Project) discusses *War with Troy* with its creators, Daniel Morden and Hugh Lupton. A full transcript of the interview can be downloaded from the Myths and Storytelling section of the Cambridge School Classics Project website at www.CambridgeSCP.com/myths.

One important motive for conducting the interview is reflected in the nature of many of the questions below. This was to give listeners, especially teachers, access to some of the thinking and problem solving that lay behind the development and performance of *War With Troy*. The story and its recording took three years from conception to publication. Balancing the needs for linguistic accessibility, artistic validity and historical integrity, whilst retaining some flavour of Homer's original language and narrative, was a complex task. A few of those complexities are touched on in answers to various questions.

A further motive was to offer listeners some biographical and background information about the storytellers. Storytelling is an intensely personal art and most listeners are fascinated to find that live storytelling is communicated via memory, rather than scripts written on paper. Communicating some of the personal flavour of storytelling was therefore the aim of other questions, listed below (with slightly adapted wording from the interview itself):

QUESTIONS

- How did you become interested in storytelling?
- How did you first get interested in the ancient Greeks?
- When did you first come across this story of the *War With Troy*?
- How do you remember such long epic tales?
- The twelve episodes of the story were never written down as a script to perform. So how do you remember when an episode starts and ends? Is there a particular technique or is each episode a story within a story for you?
- This story was first devised around 3000 years ago and written down about 2700 years ago ... Does that mean something special to you?
- How have you worked with Homer's *Iliad* ... and made it your own?
- Is there anything about the language, images or poetry in the words that you've chosen that comes from Homer's original and ... bits that you've added, maybe?
- Which particular bits of the story of *War With Troy* are you own, added to the original?
- Historians believe that parts of this story are true ... as storytellers, how true does this story feel to you?