Heinrich Schliemann was born in Germany in 1822. He had difficulties studying when he was a child, coming as he did from a humble family. He started working at a very young age while studying on his own and learning a variety of languages. He managed to become a very successful businessman thanks to his proactive approach to life and his knack for communication and learning, quickly climbing the business ladder and acquiring enough experience to create his own gold-trading business.

While working in bookstores, the young Schliemann came across the Greek literature. One classic that caught his attention was Homer's Iliad. This epic recounts the battle between the Greeks and Trojans, where great warriors like Achilles, Hector, and Agamemnon faced each other in battle. Schliemann grew curious about the history of Troy and came to think that the place must have truly existed. Years after building his fortune, he devoted himself to pursuing his dream of finding Troy, and he used the Iliad poem as the key to finding the exact spot where the story took place. Ignoring the skepticism towards him of scientists of the day, he set off and managed to locate the city of Hisarlik, where, to everyone’s astonishment, he discovered the remains of Troy.

Heinrich Schliemann is an example of what it means to be a researcher. A researcher seeks information, compares and contrasts it and then analyzes it, discovering new knowledge in the process – or, in this case, a city once considered mythical. With the Iliad verses in hand, Schliemann verified information, checked maps, and went in search of the city.

Schliemann’s case shows us how fundamental reading is in the work of any researcher. For him, besides being his inspiration, reading was also the tool that guided him and led him to discover the ruins of Troy. It is a clear example of the effort, dedication, and patience that a research requires to generate developments that contribute to the needs of society.

Despite difficulties of access to resources and staff, the number of researchers in Colombia has been growing, and these researchers have become more and more relevant. The new knowledge generated in this country will become increasingly important with the passage of time. These research results scarcely come from the work of a single person, but rather from the cooperative work of research groups, which manage to build a collective vision that can gradually transform society.

In the following pages, TECCIENCIA journal, with its commitment to the dissemination of research advances in the engineering field, presents some studies developed by scientists from several national universities. These results contribute to the construction and expansion of knowledge in diverse fields such as energy, materials, electronics, and bioengineering, among others.

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