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Something About Ancient Ships—Concluded.

THE Greeks up to 1200 B. C. were indifferent sailors and what sailing they did was in making piratical descents on the neighboring coasts. In 1226 a number of young Greeks under Jason set sail in the "Argo," from Ioclos in Thessaly for Colchis, in the eastern end of the Black Sea. As the Argonauts had to follow the shores this trip was perhaps 1200 miles. About thirty years later the whole confederate force of Greece engaged in a maritime enterprise of great proportions. Paris, son of the king of Troy, carried off Helen, wife of the king of Sparta and to avenge this affront a fleet of 1186 ships carrying about 100,000 men sailed from Greece. The smallest of these ships carried 50 men and the largest 120. They were slightly built and flat bottomed. Each ship had one mast on which a sail was raised but oars were mainly depended on as a means of propulsion.

The introduction of the trireme into Greece about 700 B. C. marked a great advance in naval construction. Amiocles of Corinth, built four such ships for the Samians and very soon most of the states of Greece adopted the idea.