

Chadwick, H. Munro, and N. Kershaw Chadwick, The Growth of Literature, Vol. I

diction is frequently reproduced in poetic inscriptions. We are unable to believe that they were commonly either recited or learnt in an alien form of language. The fact that the language of the inscriptions which contain the Homeric forms and formulae is always the native language - whether it be the Doric of Corfu or the Ionic of Naucratis - is definite evidence to the contrary. Evidence to the same effect is furnished by the forms of heroic manes, especially on painted vases, where they are written over the figures depicted. Such forms as Wekaba and Diaphobos cannot possibly be derived from our text - or any Ionic text - of the poems. The (presumably Chalcidian) form Ainees is equally incompatible with our text.