

Attribution of Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle

Sir Maurice Bowra in A Companion to Homer ed. by Wace & Stubbings

p. 40 From the time of Aristotle onwards, the Greeks, almost without exception, believed that the Iliad and the Odyssey were both composed by a man called Homer. ... It was generally believed that Homer was an Ionian, and in the sixth and fifth centuries he was associated with Smyrna or Chios or Kolophon ...

Before Aristotle reduced the works attributed to him to the Iliad, the Odyssey, and the Megareis, he seems to have been treated uncritically as the author of almost any ancient epic.

p. 42 Though the structure of the Iliad differs from that of the Odyssey, both are praised by Aristotle for their marvellous superiority to other Epic poems in their unity of action.

p. 221 Even Plato ... cannot be supposed to have had a text identical with that in which ours is based.

the first mention of a text which might deserve to be called "critical" is that which Alexander the Great is said to have taken with him when he invaded Persia; the preservation of it is ascribed to Aristotle. ... Aristotle's own quotations from Homer need further study, but it seems clear that his text diverged more than that used by Plato from the ancestor of our texts, and it is unlikely that the Naples edition, even if it was produced by Aristotle, is of any great significance for the later history of the Homeric text.