STYLE

Carpenter, Rhys, Folk Tale, Fiction and Saga in the Homeric Epics, U. of Calif., 1946

p. 89 Scholars have discovered a veritable plethora of critical tests for disintegrating Homeric poems: they may be split up according to their knowledge of iron, according to the types of armor, according to the Aeolicism and Ionicisms of the language, according to the metric value of an invisible digamma (which last, though it sounds ridiculous, ought to be one of the most trustworthy of all), and so on through all manner of devices archaeological, philological, and cultural. In every case the resulting pattern of the parts is a different one. No two methods, not even any two exponents of the same method, ever agree. Since only one out of all this multitude can be right, I do not think it hasty or ill-advised to suppose that all are wrong.