

Bibliographical Essay

Homer and History

p. 155 For a full account of the period 1100-650 B.C., the book to turn to is Chester G. Starr, The Origins of Greek Civilization (New York: Knopf, 1961). The massive 700-page Life in the Homeric Age by Thomas Day Seymour (New York: Macmillan, 1907; reprinted in 1963 by Biblio and Tannen, New York) is stronger on what was once generally known as "antiquities" - dress, animals, furniture, and the like - than on institutions. It is not altogether trustworthy in its reporting and it is badly out of date on the archaeological side.

p. 156 For the most recent views on the evolution of the Greek language, see John Chadwick, The Prehistory of the Greek Language, separately printed in advance of the book itself as volume 2, chapter 39 of the revised edition of the first two volumes of the Cambridge Ancient History (Cambridge University Press, 1963).

G.S. Kirk, The Songs of Homer (Cambridge University Press, 1962) is far and away the best introduction to all the problems - historical, linguistic, and literary - raised by the Homeric poems. Of slightly older works, two may be singled out, neither of which attempts to cover so much of the ground: Rhys Carpenter, Folk Tale, Fiction and Sage in the Homeric Epics (University of California Press, 1946) . . . Denys Page, The Homeric Odyssey (Oxford: Clarendon, 1955).

p. 157 On the Trojan War and its background in both Greece and Asia Minor, see Denys Page, History and the Homeric Iliad (University of California Press, 1959) I have put forward an alternative explanation, expanding some of the ideas already present in this book and rejecting as fundamentally unhistorical the tradition of a great mainland coalition against Troy, in "The Trojan War," published together with critical comments by J. L. Caskey, G. S. Kirk, and D. L. Page in Journal of Hellenic Studies, volume 94 (1964), pp. 1-20.

Homer, Mycenae, and Archaeology

p. 157 The discussion acquired a new dimension, . . . as a result of the last seventy-five years of archaeological excavation, and then of the decipherment of the Linear B tablets. For a full survey of the Bronze Age archaeology from this point of view, "Homer has been rejected as evidence," see Emily Vermeule, Greece in the Bronze Age (University of Chicago Press, 1964). A diametrically opposed view will be found in A Companion to Homer, edited by Alan J.B. Wace and Frank H. Stubbings (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1962): "if our record of it [the Mycenaean age] is found more and more to correspond to Homer's picture we should feel no surprise, for we are talking about the same age." . . . The controversy between the two schools has been fierce and is unresolved; for a discussion of the main arguments on both sides, with a conclusion leaning rather heavily against the Wace-Stubbings position in favor of that taken in the present book, see Pierre Vidal-Naquet, "Homère et le monde mycénien, à propos d'un livre récent et d'une polémique ancienne," in Annales, volume 18 (1963), pp. 703-19.

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