

Lorimer, H.L., Homer and the Monuments (London: Macmillan & Co.) 1950

p. 78 In the few allusions made to Phoenicians in the poem ^{History} [of the Odyssey] we are aware of an atmosphere of dislike and distrust which would very well suit that part of the eighth century which witnessed the ousting of the Phoenicians from most of the Sicilian coast. +

p. 79 The little that Homer tells us accords remarkably well ^{Geography} with what we have been able to infer from mainly archaeological evidence about these activities. One of the tales of Odysseys shows us how a Phoenician voyage to Libya would begin. The first landmark mentioned is Crete Homer therefore, if not Odysseys, is telling a quite plausible tale when he represents a Phoenician ship as lying in a Cretan harbour whence it could equally well proceed south-west to Libya or north-west to Corcyra and thence to Sardinia. The projected journey to Libya also speaks for a date after the foundation of Carthage. None of the passages which refer to Phoenicians shows any knowledge of Phoenicia on the part of the Greeks, and this agrees with the negative results of archaeology so far. +

Cremation

- p.108 The points of agreement with Homeric practice are striking. . . .
- 109 It does not seem extravagant to suggest that the Iliad itself may have played a considerable part in bringing cremation into the realm of Achilles in the eighth century and promoting its revival in the Kerameikos in the seventh. . . . In the speech of Patroklos' ghost to Achilles we have the kernel of the doctrine which made the cremation of the dead an imperative duty Obviously the whole weight of epic tradition is on the side of cremation. . . . +
- 110 That Homer had witnessed cremations seems beyond question. . . . That he and his audience were also familiar with ^{burial} is made equally certain. . . . Homer's experience is, with perhaps a slight time-lag, exactly what that of an eighth-century Athenian would have been. +

Arms and Armour

p.132,133 It is obvious to-day that Reichel grossly exaggerated the Mycenaean elements in the Homeric poems; yet by demonstrating that it existed he obliged scholars to revise their view of the ancestry of the poems and the nature of the tradition they preserve. Critics who questioned all his other conclusions conceded that in his account of the boar's tusk helmet (K 261-5) he had hit the mark; and as this admission implied that somehow the poet was able to describe accurately an object which never appears after the close of LH III and probably ceased to exist appreciably earlier, a continuity of literary tradition was established which bridged the gulf between the end of the Mycenaean age and the rise of Hellenic Greece. +

Boar's Tusk helmet