

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

p. 526 (cont'd) and so forth, which may occur at any time) are the two to which reference has been made, the Athenian entry in the Catalogue of Ships, which may be taken to involve that of Salamis, and the Supplicatio of the sixth book in the Panathenaic form which it now wears. If we consider the facilities which the Athenians possessed for imposing their text on the Greek world . . . the fact that interpolations which can plausibly be ascribed to them are so few is striking. It suggests that they had received in writing the text which they transmitted. By the middle of the seventh century writing had been practiced in the Greek world for not less than a hundred years and had been in ordinary and trivial use for at least fifty; there is no obvious reason why the two great poems, preserved orally for about half a century, should not then have been accorded the safeguard of script.

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