

The evidence does point clearly enough, however, to the general period of the 9th and 8th centuries. Moreover there are almost no factors to favour the 9th rather than the 8th, and some to favour the reverse: . . . Thus provisionally and with due caution I accept the 8th century, as many others have, as the probably date of the composition of the Iliad - and probably too, close to its end, of the Odyssey. . . Again, the formation of the large-scale Odyssey might easily have been as late as the first years of the 7th century.

13. The Circumstances of Homeric Composition

p. 282 " . . . for whatever their differences, their stylistic similarities are enough to suggest that they are unlikely to be separated by more than two or three generations. I take it that in any case the Iliad came first.

6. The Poetical Possibilities of the Dark Age

p. 130 In short there is nothing whatever in the archaeological record of early Dark Age Greece to indicate that oral poetry could not have flourished there.

p. 135 Oral poetry is not like architecture or gem-cutting or high-class vase-making, it does not need prosperity and good material surroundings. Sometimes it flourishes best when the opposite is the case.

*The Iliad of Homer translated by Alexander Pope, Edited, and with an Introduction and Festal Notes by Robert G. Brainer & William H. Bond, Macmillan Co. 1965*

The Iliad as we know it must have been composed in Ionia, on the coast of Asia Minor, toward the end of the eight century; this is the time when Homer lived and sung.

Grube, G.M.A., The Greek and Roman Critics (London: Methuene & Co. Ltd.) 1965  
(Grube - Professor of Classics at Trinity College, University of Toronto)

p. 1 . . . date of Homeric epics

Modern scholars tend to date the Homeric epics towards the end of the eighth century, the Odyssey somewhat later, but there is no unanimity on the subject.

p. 6 They were written at various times, some perhaps, as late as the fourth century B.C. [7]

3. From the Mycenaean Decline to the Time of Homer

p. 42 " . . . Troy VIIa was evidently burned around 1240 - 1230."

p. 51 " . . . a monumental Iliad and Odyssey had achieved fame in most parts of the Hellenic world before the middle of the 7th century . . . "

4. The Oral Poet and His Methods

p. 59 [Milman Parry] demonstrated beyond doubt that Homer was an oral poet, depending on a gradually evolved traditional store of fixed phrases which covered most common ideas and situations . . . "

p. 71 " . . . the question whether alphabetic writing began to establish itself in Greece in the early 8th century, or earlier or later, is only of limited relevance to Homer - though it continues to occupy the attention of many Homeric scholars, who accept successive quasi-archaeological pronunciamenti on the topic with touching credulity . We know that writing was used for short inscriptions . . . by the last decades of the 8th century; . . . Yet we can also be sure that the Iliad and Odyssey are oral poems, composed according to an elaborate system which is quickly weakened when the poet begins to

*Kirk, G.S. The Song of Homer (Cambridge) 1962*

*Kirk, Song 9th*

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