

Communications and Trade - Frank H. Stubbings

? Not known if such a vehicle as Priam's cart was current in Mycenaean times.
 There are no representations of carts in Mycenaean art . . . (p.540)

+ The Homeric method of lashing the yoke to the shaft (probably the same for both carts and chariots) was in use in the fourteenth century B.C. in Egypt. (p.540)

+ There is no reason to doubt that the Homeric descriptions of nautical procedure, both sailing and rowing are true to their period. Pictures of vessels with many oars have been found at Volo on a Middle Helladic vase . . . archaeological evidence . . . leaves us in no doubt that seafaring and sea-borne trade were as essential a feature of the Mycenaean world as they are of the Odyssey and the Iliad. (p. 542)

+ There are numerous references to Phoenician articles of craftsmanship in Homer. All such allusions to Phoenician ships and merchandise were at one time supposed to be 'late' elements in the epic, projections of the poet's own times . . . Now, however, it is clear from archaeological evidence that Mycenaean Greece was in frequent contact with the peoples of the eastern Mediterranean . . . interchange of both merchandise and artistic influences. (p.542)

+ . . . So there is no anachronism in Homer's Phoenicians; his picture of the heroic age would indeed be less true without them. (p. 543)

+ When the Greeks at Troy barter bronze, iron, hides, cattle, and salves for Lemnian wine this method of exchange (i.e. barter) is doubtless historically correct.

+ Cattle are not infrequently a measure of value . . . and it seems likely that the talent was originally a weight of metal equivalent to the value of an ox. This is supported by the currency in Minoan-Mycenaean times of copper ingots of standard weight shaped to resemble an ox-hide. (p.543)

Writing - Lillian H. Jeffery

The language of Linear B must be Greek - an archaic form of Greek, nearest to the Arcado-Cypriot among the classical dialects. p.500

It was thus established beyond doubt that the Mycenaean age was literate.(p.551)
 We should not assume, however, that Homer's heroes could themselves write.

? There are only two Homeric passages which bear on the problem of writing. One tells only that the Achaeans were illiterate, as warriors might well be, whether in the Mycenaean period or in the Middle Ages, although the art of writing was undoubtedly known at both these times. The other may indicate that the Lycians at an early date knew of a system of writing and that written communication between Greece and Lycia existed as early as the Mycenaean period. These references to writing in the Iliad can give no proof that the art of writing was practiced in Greece when the Homeric poems were composed, and therefore cannot help us with the further problem as to whether the poems themselves were written down at the time of their composition (p.555)

Scholars have continued to maintain opposing opinions on the subject to the present day . . . (p.556)

. . . it seems on the whole safest to regard the last third of the sixth century, the time of Polycrates and the Peisistratidae, as the latest possible, rather than the likeliest, date for the establishment of the poems in writing. (p. 559)