

Rose, H.J., A Handbook of Greek Literature (4th ed. 1951, reprinted with minor corrections 1956 and 1961)

p. 77 An amusing parallel to the rise and fall of the separatist theories may be given from Middle English philology. In 1902, a theory was put forward and rapidly gained ground to the effect that Piers Plowman was the work of a plurality of authors; see Camb. Hist. Eng. Lit., vol. ii, p. 3 sqq. Today, as my late colleague A. Blyth Wester informed me, scarcely a philologist of any eminence takes ~~it~~ it seriously. In the case of Homer, the paradox has had a longer run.

Encyclopedia Britannica, 1956

William Langland - the supposed English poet, generally regarded as the single author of the 14th Century poem Piers the Plowman. The traditional view, accepted by W. W. Skeat and Jusserand, that a single author (Langland) was responsible for the whole poem, in all its versions, has been disputed. J. M. Manly, of Chicago, says it is the work of five different men. He recognizes A as the real poet. He denies any real existence to Langland. His view has obtained increasing acceptance among scholars.

New Catholic Encyclopedia, 1967

Article on Piers Plowman by G. L. O'Grady.

p. 351 Although the famous controversy over the authorship is not completely resolved, Piers Plowman is now generally attributed to William Langland on the basis of two 15th century notes in the MSS and of internal evidence. *cf. 3.53-2*