

## 7. Discussions of Homer's references to spears.

Page, Denys, History and the Homeric Iliad pp. 238-242

p. 239 . . . what proportion of the language of the Iliad comes from the trained memory, how much scope was left over for the individual's creative mind? The answer is the same for the spear as for most other matters which can be tested: about nine-tenths of the Iliad's language was supplied by memory in ready-made verses or parts of verses. It is to be remembered that the noun + epithet combinations are only part of a much wider traditional phraseology for "spear"; that the whole of this is only part of the whole for weapons in general; and that this in turn is only a fraction of the whole for all subjects.

Page believes the word *μελίη* "an ash-tree", an ash tree spear is an exceptional word since it is used only for Achilles's spear and confirms the impression of extreme antiquity. He considers it a survival from a very remote past.

Wace and Stubbings, A Companion to Homer pp. 517-518 "Arms and Armour" by Frank H. Stubbings.