

10. Discussion of Homer's references to Nestor's cup.

Wace and Stubbings, A Companion to Homer, p. 536 (Ch. 21 "Crafts and Industries" by Frank H. Stubbings

3.41-16<sup>4</sup>  
 xx-12b Carpenter, Rhys, Folk Tale, Fiction and Sage in the Homeric Epics, p. 30 The description of Nestor's cup should be read without prior conviction that it must resemble the cup from the shaft grave at Mycenae. It was a huge affair, heavier than an ordinary man could lift from the table. It had four handles and two supports, props, or bases (whatever that may mean). On or beside each handle were two doves. The shaft-grave cup has a little gold hawk attached to each of its two handles, but seems to me to present no common terms other than this use of birds as a decorative motif. The gold strips which run from either handle to the base are very extraordinary and distinctive, but they cannot be the ΠΥΘΜΕΝΕΣ of Nestor's cup, which had only two, despite its four handles. I am inclined to think that the archaeologists may be at fault in taking this cup too literally. There may be only literary exaggeration: in order to ascribe impressive properties to this Ur-tankard, where the ordinary cup has two handles it has been given four, and where the ordinary cup has only a single base it has two.

3.41-15<sup>8</sup>  
 xx-15e Lorimer, H., Homer and the Monuments, p. 335 . . . the Dove cup is unique . . . Meagre and unsatisfactory as the evidence is, it justifies the conclusion that the Homeric description is that of a cup related in some degree to the Dove cup and has been transmitted, very possibly with modifications, from the Bronze Age, possibly LH 1.

3.41-10<sup>6</sup>  
 xx-6c Kirk, G.S., "Objective Dating Criteria in Homer" 1960. p. 176 Nestor's dove cup . . . whatever its exact type or relationship to the cup from the fourth Shaft-grave, must be Mycenaean and cannot be envisaged as having been made in any later period.

Kirk, G.S., The Songs of Homer. (London: Cambridge U. Press) 1962.  
 p. 111 . . . Nestor's cup decorated with doves at xi.632ff., which has some similarities with a cup found by Schliemann in the fourth shaft-grave at Mycenae and cannot be adequately paralleled from later ware . . .  
 p. 395 It is right to criticize the old parallels drawn between Nestor's cup and the shaft grave cup, as S. Marinatos has, Festschrift B. Schweitzer (Stuttgart, 1954), pp. 11ff.; but it is surely wrong to imply that the description of Nestor's cup is not based on a Mycenaean type, as Starr does (Origin, p. 47 and n.6, with other references).