

DISCUSSION 1

ARDEN RASMUSSEN

Hurwit, Jeffrey. "Homeric Questions." In *The Art and Culture of Early Greece: 1100-480 B.C.*, 85-106. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1985

There was initially the debate as to whether Homers works were his own or a collection, but that has shifted to if he was the origin or just transcribed oral tales. Hurwit thinks that there must have been different authors for the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, because of the stark contrast between the writing styles, and the characteristics of the heroes. He also noted that moods of the epics differ greatly. The *Odyssey* seems to be self-reflexive, it makes note that poetry is a major theme. One thought for this is that since the *Iliad* exists, then more emphasis was placed on matching the quality of the poem.

Was writing developed for poetry? Several early writings are poetic, but it is doubtful that the *Iliad* was written out.

He also notes that there are many similarities between the Dipylon Style of the geometric period, and Homers writing. The potters found it hard to mix the patterns with the content. This similarity is demonstrated in the symmetry and patterns that arise. A final note is that both the Dipylon style and Homers writing leave nothing out of view, everything is in the foreground, and laid out for the viewers.

The argument for different authors, intrigues me less, as I don't see how that would change anything, the writing is still the same. I am much more fascinated in the similarity brought between the geometric period pottery, and the writing style of Homer. This sheds new light on the structure of the writing for me, and I find it very interesting.

How does different authors/multiple authors really effect our interpretation of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*?

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