

disfavor. ~~Dr. Louise Pound, in her 1921 work, Poetic Origins~~
(republished, New York: Russell and Russell, 1962)
~~and the Ballad (reprinted 1948, 1962)~~ summarizes her findings

as follows:

Songs composed and sung by individuals and songs sung by groups of singers (or "throng," if you prefer) are to be found in the most primitive of living tribes. That in the earliest stage there was group utterance only, arising from the folk-dance, is fanciful hypothesis. That primitive song is of group composition or collaboration, not individual composition, is quite as fanciful (p. 25).

Her
This view is corroborated by Paul Radin in an article "Primitive Literature" in The World Through Literature (1959) edited by ~~Charlton Laird~~ (ed. Charlton Laird, London: Peter Owen Limited, 1959)

I think we can safely dismiss all theories of communal authorship. The evidence at our disposal today proves overwhelmingly that poems and prose narratives are composed by individuals, no matter how communal the setting in which they are composed. Nor is there any reason for believing that at any time in the history of the world it has been otherwise (p. 38).

As regards medieval literature, for example, the Nibelungenlied and Beowulf (e.g. R.W. Chambers (Man's Unconquerable Mind and others have pointed out that, although these works

show a combination of ideas from different sources, the quality of composition does not allow merely sticking lays together.

Chambers well remarks, "Half a dozen motor-bikes cannot be combined to make a Rolls-Royce car" (ibid., p. 64). Concerning the view that

Beowulf was the work of both pagan and Christian writers, he says: ~~concerning~~

But most students have long ago abandoned the attempt (to sort the poem into Christian and non-Christian sections), and have come to agree that the Christian elements are, almost without exception, so deeply ingrained in the very fabric of the poem that they cannot be explained away as the work of a reviser or later interpolator. Whilst the episodes are all but free from these modern influences, the main story has been thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Christianity. (ibid., p. 62)