

Chadwick, H. Munro, and N. Kershaw Chadwick, The Growth of Literature, Vol. I

p. 494 from Laws there is no record before those of the philosophers Pherecydes and Anaximandros, who flourished not long before 550.

p. 496 The linguistic evidence seems to us to point quite definitely to the same conclusion. The remains of the early poets, Hesiod, Callinos, Archilochus, Simonides, Tyrtaios, Mimnermos, Solon and others are all preserved in a more or less uniform type of language. This is also in general the language of the Homeric poems, though here we find also a considerable number of quite alien (Aeolic) forms and also numerous archaic forms, which occur likewise in Hesiod's poems and to some extent elsewhere. The only important exceptions down to the beginning of the sixth century are the poems of Alcman, Sappho and Alcaios. Now the language to which we are referring is not exactly Attic, though it is not far removed from it. Such a language may have served quite well as a common literary medium for Athens and the neighbouring cities of the Cyclades. But it is incredible to us that Tyrtaios can have employed such a form of language in his poems, which are addressed to the Spartans, and very unlikely that Hesiod can have employed it, at least in the Works and Days, which is surely intended in the first place for Boeotians. 'Translation' then in some form or other is involved. But, if so, why are the poems of Alcman, Sappho and Alcaios not translated? The explanation cannot wholly lie in the fact that these latter were lyric poets, although in the case of lyric poems 'translation' may have been more difficult. From Sappho we have also elegiac poems, which are preserved in their original (Aeolic) language, like the lyrics. Moreover we have lyric poems from Archilochos, Solon and others in the same form of language as the rest of their poems.

p. 498 The language of the Homeric poems is a subject which has been debated so frequently and fully that it is impossible to do more than state an opinion here. The poems were familiar throughout the Greek world; and their archaic language and