

Dates concerning Homer

Sir M. Bowra in a Companion to Homer

- p. 40 Though Homer is a real name, nothing at all is known about the man who held it. Even if we dismiss those Greek antiquarians who made him a contemporary of the Trojan War, his date remains without external authority, since Herodotus (ii, 53.2), puts him in the ninth century, and Theopompus in the seventh (fr. 203 Jacoby) ... Though his name was known to Xenophanes ... and Heraclitus ..., yet it was not associated with either the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey*, while Simonides ... and Pindar ... regard him as the author of other poems not known to us. B
- p. 41 ... a few facts emerge. First, the poet or poets of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* were connected with Ionia ... Secondly, the main body of the poems may have reached something like its present state c. 700 B.C. ... Thirdly, it is significant that the poems were after all ascribed by name to Homer. It is not customary to ascribe an oral poem to anyone ...
- p. 45 (([the poems] seem to have been written down c. 700 B.C. after being written down they were subjected to serious alterations and accretions))

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- p. 594 according to Herodotus, Homer lived c. 850 B.C., others give a later date, and some a date as early as 1200 B.C.