

Yamauchi, Edwin, Composition and Corroboration in Classical and Biblical Studies. 1965

External Corroboration of Elements in Homer

1. Homer had described the sack of Troy.  
Excavations at Troy by Carl Blegen of Univ. of Cincinnati have shown that Troy VIIa(1300-1250 BC ) was indeed destroyed by fire.
2. Homer had spoken of the invaders as Achaeans, i.e. mainland Greeks we now call Mycenaeans. Abundant materials evidence, especially pottery, has been found which points to widespread Mycenaean trade throughout the Mediterranean, particularly between 1400-1250 B.C.
3. Contemporary Hittite documents have been discovered that describe the activities of the Achaeans, called Ahhiyawa, on the east coast of Asia Minor at the time of the Trojan War.
4. All critics are agreed that the Catalogue of Ships in the second book of the Iliad preserved the names and descriptions of many Mycenaean sites which had been abandoned and were not known to the Greeks in later times. ( Some question their accuracy)
5. Homeric epics omission of references to the Hittites said to be deliberate.
6. Homeric mention of Phoenicians in the Odyssey called an anachronism.
7. Homeric names found in Linear B (equivalents of Achilles, Ajax, Hector) Of these 17 are names found in both Iliad and Odyssey, 29 are found in only the Iliad, and 12 in only the Odyssey.
8. Objects once held to be anachronisms by critics but which have now been shown to be authentic by archaeologists:
  - a. the house of Odysseys. Homer mentioned the staircase ,but 19th century critics assumed that ancient houses were never more than one story high and that men and women occupied separate quarters in a rather oriental manner. Schliemann's excavations revealed clear evidence of staircases and basements. The latter house fully illustrates the type of house depicted in the Odyssey.
  - b. the bronze "breastplate". Homer constantly refers to. Tendency was to regard them as unrepresentative of the practice of the Mycenaean Greece. But in 1953 a pair of very similar type was found in a LH III(1400-1100 B.C.) grave near Kallithea in Achaea; and soon afterwards another Cypriote example. In 1960 a Greco-Swedish expedition at Dendra produced , ~~in~~ from a LH III grave, not only a possible pair of greaves but the first known metal corslet of Bronze Age date . . .

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