

# The Ages Of Homer

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The Age of Homer (Classic Reprint)  
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Littell's Living Age  
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homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* have fascinated listeners and readers for over twenty-five centuries. In this volume of original essays collected to honor the distinguished career of Emily Vermeule, thirty-four leading experts in Homeric studies and related fields provide up-to-date multidisciplinary accounts of the most current issues in the study of Homer. The book is divided into three sections: the first section treats the Bronze Age setting of the poems around 1200 B.C. using archaeological evidence to reveal how poetic memory preserves, distorts, and invents the past; the second section explores the Early Iron Age in which the poems were written (c. 800–500 B.C.) using the strategies of comparative philology and mythology, literary theory, historical linguistics, anthropology, and iconography to determine how the poems took shape; the final section traces the use of Homer for literary and artistic inspiration by classical Greece and Rome.

Andrew Lang (1844–1912) was a prolific Scotsman of letters, a poet, novelist, literary critic, and contributor to anthropology. He is now best known as the collector of folk and fairy tales. He was educated at the Edinburgh Academy, St. Andrews University, and Balliol College, Oxford, as a journalist, poet, critic, and historian. He soon made a reputation as one of the ablest and most versatile writers of the day. Lang was one of the founders of the study of psychical research, and his other writings on anthropology include *The Book of Dreams and Ghosts* (1897), *Magic and Religion* (1901), and *The Secret of the Totem* (1905). He was a Homeric scholar of conservative views. Other works include *Homer and the Epic* (1893), a prose translation of the Homeric Hymns (1899), with literary and mythological essays in which he draws parallels between Greek myths and other mythologies, and *Homer and His Age* (1906). He also wrote *Ballades in Blue China* (1880) and *Rhymes à la Mode* (1884).

In *Studies on Homer and the Homeric Age*, W. E. Gladstone embarks on a comprehensive examination of the works attributed to Homer, intertwining literary analysis with historical context. The book meticulously delves into the linguistic structure and thematic elements of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, offering a profound inquiry into Homeric tradition and its implications for understanding ancient Greek society. Gladstone's scholarly approach, rich with philological insights and intertextual references, situates these epic tales within the broader currents of 19th-century thought, bridging classical antiquity and emerging modern ideologies. W. E. Gladstone, a British statesman and a profound scholar of ancient literature,

drew inspiration from his lifelong fascination with greek culture and history his political career and profound interest in moral philosophy influenced his interpretation of homer seeing the epics not merely as literary artifacts but as revelations of human nature and moral dilemmas gladstone s unique background as both a politician and a passionate philologist imbues this work with an exceptional depth of insight and significance for any scholar student or avid reader of classical literature studies on homer and the homeric age serves as an enriching resource that enhances one s understanding of not only homer s works but also the civilization from which they emerged gladstone s erudition invites readers to engage with the moral and cultural questions that resonate through time making it a must read for anyone interested in the intersection of literature and historical context

analysing in detail ancient greek culture and society gladstone achieves his aim to promote and extend the study of homer

how reliable is the tradition embodied in the homeric poems their basic historicity was widely accepted in the ancient world thucydides and plato used homeric data in reconstructing early greek history and territorial claims could be supported by reference to the epic traditions does research in more modern times support this view professor luce examines in detail the world of homer through the literary and archeological evidence in the years since schliemann s first soundings on the site of troy archeological investigations in greek lands and on the aegean coast of turkey have been numerous and productive the most important result of this activity has been the establishment of a tantalizingly cogent basis for the greek heroic legends in this most readable survey professor luce displays the evidence for and the interpretations of a truly golden heroic age from publisher s description

a theorist who believes that the homeric poems are the growth of four changeful centuries must present a definite working hypothesis as to how they escaped from certain influences of the late age in which much of them is said to have been composed we must first ask to what manner of audiences did the poets sing in the alleged four centuries of the evolution of the epics mr leaf as a champion of the theory of ages of expansion answers that the iliad and odyssey are essentially and above all court poems they were composed to be sung in the palaces of aruling aristocracy the poems are aristocratic and courtly not popular footnote companion to the iliad pp 2 8 1892 they are not volkspoesie they are not ballads it is now

generally recognised that this conception is radically false these opinions in which we heartily agree there never was such a thing as a popular epic were published fourteen years ago Mr Leaf however would not express them with regard to our Iliad and Odyssey because in his view a considerable part of the Iliad as it stands was made not by court bards in the Achaean courts of Europe not for an audience of noble warriors and dames but by wandering minstrels in the later Ionian colonies of Asia they did not chant for a military aristocracy but for the enjoyment of town and country folk at popular festivals footnote Iliad vol i p xvi 1900 the poems were begun indeed he thinks for a wealthy aristocracy living on the product of their lands in European Greece were begun by contemporary court minstrels but were continued vastly expanded and altered to taste by wandering singers and reciting rhapsodists who amused the holidays of a commercial expansive and bustling Ionian democracy footnote Companion to the Iliad p ii we must suppose that on this theory the later poets pleased a commercial democracy by keeping up the tone that had delighted an old land owning military aristocracy it is not difficult however to admit this as possible for the poems continued to be admired in all ages of Greece and under every form of society the real question is would the modern poets be the men to keep up a tone some four or five centuries old and to be true if they were true to the details of the heroic age it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that some part of the most primitive Iliad may have been actually sung by the court minstrel in the palace whose ruins can still be seen in Mycenae

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excerpt from the age of homer mr paley and mr sayce have put forward their views with regard to the late age of the homeric poems that is of the texts of the iliad and the odyssey as we now have them from a critical examination of their language i would here wish to express in a few notes my further doubts with regard to the early date of the homeric poems

founded on the knowledge they evince of the art of a late date before discussing the date of the art as it appears in the poems i shall endeavour to point out some evidences of the rudeness and imperfection of greek civilization and language in the seventh century about a century and a half after the supposed date of homer i must in the first place confess myself a thorough sceptic with regard to the early date usually assigned to the iliad in its present form and i accept the theories so convincingly put forward by mr paley the mythology the art and science the language appear far too advanced for an early period of literature the mythology is too grand the conceptions too magnificent for that period the archaisms seem too often unreal imitative and affected besides the arts which would have been required to carry out the conception of the shield of achilles would have been enough to task the genius of a phidias from what we know of the rudeness of greek art in the seventh and sixth centuries b c there is every reason to believe about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks.com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

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