

Historicity of *Mneme* (“Memory”): *A Homeric Mystery*

For a 27-page monograph on “The Historicity of the Trojan War and Homer,” see the “FREE NON-FICTION” tab of this web site.

There is also much information on historicity in the sections entitled “Historicity of the Illustrations” and “Names and Terminology” at the end of the novel.

The following are factual:

- Kykeon
- The depictions and descriptions of the Phoenician alphabet
- The various epithets of Dionysus
- The *Didymaion*
- The description of the ships and seamanship
- The burial customs described in Chapter 57 and the wedding customs in Chapter 58

The following are speculative but plausible:

- Mysians as inveterate raiders; and the Mysian watch
- Homeros’ poetic wanderings during the cold months
- The depiction of stoning
- The Council of Elders and the Settlement Tribunal
- The “ancient canon” of Chapter 52

The following are fictional:

- The concept of a magus
- The Cliff of the Oceanids, Mnemosyne’s Peak, Mount Aigón, and the Chasm of Tartarus
- Homeros’ “late changes” to the *Iliad*
- Pretty much the entire plot of the *Odyssey* as depicted in the novel

Partial Bibliography

Since Greece was in the very earliest stage of adopting writing during Homer’s lifetime, we have few historical sources from the period—which makes for a comparatively meagre bibliography.

Note that the following list includes just whole books, not smaller articles.

- Jonathon Burgess, *Homer*, I. B. Tauris & Co. Ltd, 2015

- Jonathon Burgess, *The Tradition of the Trojan War in Homer & the Epic Cycle*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001
- Raffaele D'Amato, Andrea Salimbeti, and Giuseppe Rava, *Early Iron Age Greek Warrior 1100 - 700 BC*, Osprey Publishing, 2016
- Oliver Dickinson, *The Aegean from Bronze Age to Iron Age*, Routledge, 2006
- M. I. Finley, *The World of Odysseus*, The New York Review of Books, 1982
- Robert Garland, *Daily Life of the Ancient Greeks*, Hackett Publishing Company Inc., 2008
- Barbara Graziosi, *Homer*, Oxford University Press, 2016
- Hesiod, *Theogony and Works and Days*, translated by M. L. West, Oxford University Press, 1988
- Homer, *The Iliad*, translated by Richard Lattimore, University of Chicago Press, 1951
- Homer, *The Odyssey*, translated by Richard Lattimore, University of Chicago Press, 1951
- Joseph Naveh, *Early History of the Alphabet*, Varda Books, 2005
- A. M. Snodgrass, *Arms and Armor of the Greeks*, Thames and Hudson, 1967
- A. M. Snodgrass, *The Dark Age of Greece*, Routledge, 2000
- Carol G. Thomas and Craig Conant, *Citadel to City-State: The Transformation of Greece, 1200 - 700 B.C.E.*, Indiana University Press, 1999
- Adrian K. Wood, *Warships of the Ancient World, 3000 - 500 B.C.*, Osprey Publishing, 2012
- Michael Wood, *In Search of the Trojan War*, BBC DVD, 1985