

The Making of Literary History in Ancient Greece

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1. 'Literary History studies past processes and events related to the production, performance and reception of literature. The discipline focuses on materials and contents (texts in both their oral and literary dimensions), agents (composers, writers, performers, sponsors, audiences, judges, readers and interpreters) and institutions (occasions of performance, schools, libraries, etc.)'. (A.R.)
2. 'the historical study of literature in antiquity was very rudimentary by modern standards' (Russell, *Criticism in Antiquity*, 1995, 159)
3. **Proclus, Chrestomathy I, 4** (*FGrH* 4 F 5b = Damastes *FGrH* 5 F 11 = Pherecydes *FGrH* 3 F 167. M.L. West's translation)

'Hellanicus, Damastes, and Pherecydes trace his (Homer's) lineage back to Orpheus. They say that Homer's father Maion and Hesiod's father Dios were the sons of Apellis, son of Melanopus, son of Epiphraides, son of Chariphemus, son of Philoterpes, son of Idmonides, son of Eucles, son of Dorion, son of Orpheus. And Gorgias of Leontini takes him back to Musaeus.'

4. Parian Marble

- A 50. From the time when the poet Aeschylus first won in tragedy (i.e. in the tragedy contest), and the poet Euripides was born, and the poet Stesichorus a[rrive]d in Hellas, 222 years, when Philocrates was archon in Athens.
- A 60. From the time when Euripides, being 44 (?) years old, first won in tragedy (i.e. in the tragedy contest), [179 (?)] years, when Diphilus was archon in Athens. Also, by Euripides' times lived Socrates as well as Anaxagoras.

5. The Contest of Homer and Hesiod (M.L. West's translation)

Opening: 'After both poets had put up wonderful performances, they say that Hesiod was the winner, in the following manner' (6)

Closing: 'So that is how they say Hesiod got his victory' (13)

6. Some ancient ways to think about the literary past

- Genealogies of Poets
- Poets as chronographical milestones
- Biographical Approach
- Agonistic Approach