

Accoutrements of Wealth: Mycenaean Palatial Structures and Homeric Palaces in the *Odyssey*

The extent to which Homeric epic can be used as a reliable source for reconstructing the Bronze Age Aegean past has remained a contentious point of debate among scholars (Ruijgh 2011, Bennet 2014). Instead of using Homer as a historical source that describes an actual war, I will consider Homer as a source for historical memory of the Bronze Age/Early Iron Age past. In particular, I will compare the palaces at Pylos, Sparta, and Ithaca which are described in the *Odyssey* to the remains of the Palace of Nestor at the site of Ano Englianos (Blegen and Rawson 1966a and 1966b). I will argue that the Homeric descriptions reflect the Mycenaean reality. In looking at such scenes, it also became apparent that some objects, in particular, bathtubs, chairs, and stools, which were associated with the descriptions of Homeric palaces, had Mycenaean precedents. By doing so I will attempt to demonstrate a reliable methodology to find legitimate and meaningful points of comparison between the Homeric epics and the Late Bronze Age world.

Works Cited

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