

we are told, who gave Heracles the lion's skin and the club¹. Peisander is usually placed about 650 B.C.; but, according to one view, that date is too early². In the Alexandrian age he enjoyed a high repute.

The Ionian Panyasis³ of Halicarnassus, *circ.* 480 B.C., also composed a *Heracleia*, in no less than fourteen books. He took a wider range than Peisander's, and aimed at a comprehensive digest of all the principal legends concerning Heracles. Merits of style and arrangement made him popular; but he did not reach the Homeric level, or work in the Homeric spirit⁴. Possibly his large composition, with its survey of heroic deeds in many lands, may have borne some analogy to the great prose-epic of his younger kinsman, Herodotus. That kinship interests us here, since it increases the probability that the epic of Panyasis may have been known to the author of the *Trachiniae*.

The
Heracleia
of
Panyasis.

But to minds in sympathy with Homeric epos it would be evident that there was another way of dealing with the theme of Heracles; a way different from that of Peisander, and still more different from that of Panyasis. Some one episode might be singled out from the mass of legends, and developed by itself, as an epic on a small scale. Hesiod and the Hesiodic school worked thus; they produced, for instance, the *Marriage-feast of Ceyx*, relating how Heracles was entertained by that king of Trachis; the *Aegimius*, turning on the league of Heracles with that Dorian prince; and the extant *Shield of Heracles*, concerning his fight with Cycnus.

¹ See n. on *Philoctetes* 727. The club was no doubt an original trait of the old Dorian legend.

² The 20th epigram of Theocritus is an inscription in hendecasyllables for a Rhodian statue of Peisander, who, with respect to the deeds of Heracles, is called *πρᾶτος τῶν ἐπάνωθε μουσοποιῶν*. Wilamowitz (*Eur. Her.* 1. p. 309), acknowledging the genuineness of the epigram, nevertheless suggests that the name of Peisander may have been a mere invention of the Asiatic Dorians in the 3rd cent. B.C., and holds that the *Ἡράκλεια* ascribed to him was not older than the 6th cent. B.C.

According to Theocritus, Peisander described Heracles *τὸν λεοντομάχαν, τὸν ὀξύχειρα, ... χῶσους ἐξεπόνασεν εἰπ' ἀέθλους*.

³ The penultimate syllable of this Carian name is probably long; another, perhaps more correct, form of it was *Πανύασσις*. Little weight can be attached to the fact that Avienus, writing about 370 A.D., has *Panyāsi* at the beginning of a hexameter (*Arat. Phaen.* 175).

⁴ See the testimonies in Bernhardt, *Gr. Lit.* II. pt 1, p. 340.