

Robert Lamberton- September 21st, 1991

Hesiod and the Thespian Festival of the Muses

The Hesiodic tradition (from pre-5th century until just recently) has maintained that Hesiod - a mere rustic bard - had met and been tutored by the Muses near Ascra and Mount Helicon in Boeotia; inspired by them, he wrote the *Theogony* and *Works and Days*. Whether the Muses were taken literally or metaphorically, Hesiod himself, in contrast to the nameless and faceless author of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, was still taken as literal and the autobiographical elements in the poems as true: his feud with his brother, the homeland and resettlement of his father, etc. Local

of the place