

THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF DIO CHRYSOSTOM

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This paper will examine Dio's approach to the past, with a particular focus on his attitude towards historical evidence and his understanding of how one may determine the truth in the light of it. The paper will concentrate in particular on the use of Homer in the *Trojan Oration*, arguing that behind the humorous debunking of Homer as a source lies a systematic rational historical methodology which can, in more embryonic form, be paralleled elsewhere in Dio's corpus. What is particularly interesting is that this methodology is one that is rarely if ever explicitly employed by writers of history in antiquity; Dio shows that such a sophisticated historical consciousness was not alien to the Greek and Roman mindset, and should encourage us to a more expansive understanding of how ancient writers of history formed their accounts of the past.