

# **Domestic vs Commercial? Non-elite Craftsmen between Mycenaean and Archaic Times**

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This paper has two aims: by delineating the different forms of craft specialization in late Bronze age Aegean communities, it should lead to the question of the continuities in that domain into later times; by examining the Homeric and early Archaic data on this topic it should lead to a questioning of the pertinence of the rigid distinction between the demiurgos on one side and the modest craftsmen of Greek city-states on the other side. By doing this, one would like to revise some current assumptions. Not every 'specialization' is linked to the palace in the LBA Aegean, on the contrary. A closer look at the economic condition of craftsmen shows the great variety of the forms of production preexisting to the palace, or existing without it. Notably, specialized communities are clearly attested. The question of the demiurgoi and through it the question of aristocratic control on production does not explain everything in early Iron age and Homeric sources. One should also question the usual distinction between domestic and commercial or prestige production: is there really a sphere of domestic production and consumption completely separated from the rest? We will argue against that point of view.