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SOPHOCLES  
TRACHINIAE

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P. E. EASTERLING

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IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER

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## CONTENTS

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<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
<b>Introduction</b>	
1 <i>The play</i>	1
2 <i>Stage action</i>	12
3 <i>The myth</i>	15
4 <i>The date</i>	19
<b>TRACHINIAE</b>	25
Commentary	71
<b>Appendices</b>	
1 <i>The lyric metres</i>	234
2 <i>The transmission of the text</i>	240
Glossary of metrical terms	250
<b>Indexes</b>	
1 <i>Subjects</i>	251
2 <i>Greek words</i>	253
Map of Trachis and the Malian Gulf	152

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Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

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The highest faculty in the critic of a Greek Play is not ingenuity, but  
discretion. F. A. PALEY

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## PREFACE

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This commentary has taken an embarrassingly long time to write, but delay has brought one advantage. The last ten years have been an unusually productive period in Sophoclean studies, and I have been able to benefit from the publications of more expeditious colleagues, in particular from R. D. Dawe's *Studies on the text of Sophocles* (Leiden, Vols. I and II 1973, Vol. III 1978) and Teubner text (Leipzig, Vol. I 1975, Vol. II 1979), R. P. Winnington-Ingram's *Sophocles, an interpretation* (Cambridge 1980), R. W. B. Burton's *The chorus in Sophocles' tragedies* (Oxford 1980) and T. C. W. Stinton's article 'Notes on Greek tragedy I' (*J.H.S.* 96 (1976)). Two important books on Sophocles which were published after my own typescript had gone to press are Charles Segal's *Tragedy and civilization* (Cambridge, Mass. 1981) and Albert Machin's *Cohérence et continuité dans le théâtre de Sophocle* (Quebec 1981): both contain much of interest on *Trachiniae* that I should have liked to cite. My debt to less recent scholarship will be obvious throughout, most of all to Jebb's great commentaries and to Fraenkel's *Agamemnon*, and in a less direct way to Sir Denys Page, who first encouraged me to work on Sophocles and taught me how to go about it.

It is a pleasure to thank the friends and colleagues who have patiently read the commentary in draft and given me their criticism and advice: Dr R. D. Dawe, Mr J. H. Kells, Professor Hugh Lloyd-Jones, Mr T. C. W. Stinton, Professor R. P. Winnington-Ingram. Between them they are responsible for a great many corrections and improvements; they of course carry no responsibility for whatever blemishes remain. For help with the metrical appendix I am indebted to the late Professor T. B. L. Webster, who long ago provided me with his wife's notes on the lyrics of *Trachiniae*, and to Dr L. P. E. Parker, who has generously found time to subject the metrical problems to a very thorough analysis. For information and suggestions on individual points I am grateful to Dr A. L. Brown, Miss L. M. Burn, Dr G. A. Christodoulou, Mrs G. A. de Grouchy and Dr S. R. F. Price. At crucial stages in the book's preparation I have been fortunate to have support of the most professional kind: Mrs S. J. Chapman typed the whole commentary with scholarly accuracy, Mrs S. R. I. Babbage helped prepare the Index, Miss S. Moore applied exacting standards in preparing the typescript for the press, and

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x

## PREFACE

Dr A. L. Brown and Dr N. Hopkinson vigilantly read the proofs. Finally I should like to thank Professor E. J. Kenney, my colleague as General Editor, for his perceptive criticisms, and my husband John Easterling for helping me understand Sophocles' Greek. This book is dedicated to the memory of my father, E. W. Fairfax, who died in 1978.

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*June 1982*

P.E.E.



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- Campbell L. Campbell, *Sophocles*. Vol. I<sup>2</sup> (Oxford 1879, *O.T.*, *O.C.*, *Ant.*); Vol. II (Oxford 1881, *Aj.*, *El.*, *Trach.*, *Phil.*)
- Dain A. Dain (with translation by P. Mazon), *Sophocle tome I* (Paris 1955, *Trach.*, *Ant.*)
- Dawe *Sophoclis tragoediae* (Teubner edition). Vol. I (Leipzig 1975, *Aj.*, *El.*, *O.T.*); Vol. II (Leipzig 1979, *Trach.*, *Ant.*, *Phil.*, *O.C.*)
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- Kamerbeek J. C. Kamerbeek, *The plays of Sophocles*. Vol. II (Leiden 1959, *Trach.*)
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Fragments are numbered as in S. Radt, *Tragicorum graecorum fragmenta*, Vol. IV (Göttingen 1977) [= R], who retains and extends the numbering of A. C. Pearson, *The fragments of Sophocles* (Cambridge 1917) [= P].

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- W. S. Barrett, Euripides, *Hippolytos* (Oxford 1964)
- H. D. Broadhead, Aeschylus, *Persae* (Cambridge 1960)
- J. D. Denniston, Euripides, *Electra* (Oxford 1939)
- E. R. Dodds, Euripides, *Bacchae*<sup>2</sup> (Oxford 1960)
- K. J. Dover, Aristophanes, *Clouds* (Oxford 1968)
- E. Fraenkel, Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (Oxford 1950)

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 Edited by P. E. Easterling  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

xii

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- D. L. Page, Euripides, *Medea* (Oxford 1938)  
 G. Thomson, Aeschylus, *Oresteia* (Cambridge 1938)  
 M. L. West, Hesiod, *Theogony* (Oxford 1966)
- Books and articles:
- Beazley *ABV* J. D. Beazley, *Attic black-figure vase-painters* (Oxford 1956)  
 Beazley *ARV* J. D. Beazley, *Attic red-figure vase-painters*<sup>2</sup> (Oxford 1963)  
 Bruhn, *Anhang* *Sophokles erklärt* von F. W. Schneidewin und A. Nauck. Vol. VIII, *Anhang* zusammengestellt von E. Bruhn (Berlin 1899, repr. 1963)  
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 Campbell *EL* L. Campbell, *Introductory essay on the language of Sophocles*, in Vol. 1 of his edition of Sophocles (Oxford 1879)  
 Dale *LM* A. M. Dale, *The lyric metres of Greek drama*<sup>2</sup> (Cambridge 1968)  
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 Goodwin W. W. Goodwin, *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb* (London 1889) (references are given to numbered paragraphs)  
 Jackson *MS* J. Jackson, *Marginalia scaenica* (Oxford 1955)  
 K–G R. Kühner, *Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache*, 3rd ed. rev. B. Gerth (Hanover 1898–1904)  
 Long *LTS* A. A. Long, *Language and thought in Sophocles* (London 1968)  
 LSJ Liddell and Scott, *Greek–English Lexicon*, 9th ed. rev. H. Stuart Jones (Oxford 1925–40)  
 Maas *GM* P. Maas, *Greek metre* (Oxford 1962)  
*PMG* *Poetae melici graeci* ed. D. Page (Oxford 1962)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

xiii

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| Roscher                                | W. H. Roscher, <i>Ausführliches Lexicon der griechischen und römischen Mythologie</i> (Leipzig 1884) |
| Stinton                                | T. C. W. Stinton, 'Notes on Greek tragedy 1', <i>J.H.S.</i> 96 (1976) 124–45                         |
| Winnington-Ingram,<br><i>Sophocles</i> | R. P. Winnington-Ingram, <i>Sophocles, an interpretation</i> (Cambridge 1980)                        |