

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I

W. W. Tarn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

I

Narrative

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I

W. W. Tarn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

I

Narrative

BY

W. W. TARN



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

LONDON • NEW YORK • MELBOURNE

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I
W. W. Tarn
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521295635

© Cambridge University Press 1948

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1948

Reissued and first paperback edition 1979

Re-issued 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-22584-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-29563-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I

W. W. Tarn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

Volume I of this book gives a narrative in compendious form; Volume II, which is the main part of the work, contains a number of special studies. It has been arranged that either volume can be purchased separately, as a straightforward narrative may appeal to a class of readers who do not want anything further; the work is therefore in essence almost two books. The narrative in Volume I consists in the main of my chapters XII and XIII in volume VI of the *Cambridge Ancient History*, but the text has been carefully corrected and brought up to date, and a considerable amount has been rewritten, making the present narrative rather longer; my general view of Alexander remains unchanged. I desire to express my gratitude to the Syndics of the Press both for permitting me to use these chapters and for allowing me a completely free hand over the rest of the work which they had undertaken to publish. In the circumstances, I have written a separate prefatory note to Volume II; but I may say here that some such examination of the sources as forms Part I of that volume is long overdue, and that the twenty-five studies called Appendices, some of them long essays, which form Part II of that volume, do not claim to cover all the problems raised by the Alexander story; they only deal with matters on which I thought I had something to say which needed saying; but they do include an examination of the things which are really important for our judgement of one of the greatest of mankind. No apology is needed, in my view, for stressing an individual man rather than streams of tendency or the mass mind or other 'idols of the cave'.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I
W. W. Tarn
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface

As for some time I have had no access to libraries, I am almost bound to have missed some modern work; even had it been otherwise, what was written in France, Germany and Italy during the war is only now becoming accessible. I trust, however, that I have not missed much of real importance, for the history of Alexander has never received much help from new material, such as inscriptions; it depends chiefly on the examination and interpretation of literary texts. My best thanks are due to the friends who have sent me references, notably Professors H. M. Last, N. H. Baynes, and A. D. Nock; Mr Nock also read Appendix 22 for me, and Mr Last and Mr Baynes most kindly copied out for me extracts from books which I could not get sent to me. I thank the Council of the Hellenic Society for permission to make the use I have made in Appendix 24 of an article of mine published in the *Journal* of the Hellenic Society for 1939, and also the Royal Geographical Society for kindly sending me a copy of the article by the late Sir A. Stein, published after his death, which is utilised in Appendix 8 ii. But my great indebtedness is to Professor F. E. Adcock, not merely for sending me some references and material, but for undertaking the labour of reading both volumes in proof with minute care and making a number of suggestions which have greatly improved the book, for which I am most grateful. In conclusion, besides my already expressed thanks to the Syndics of the Press for publishing the book, I should like to thank the printing staff for setting up the book so well from my manuscript, it being impossible for me to get it typed.

W. W. TARN

MUIRTOWN HOUSE
INVERNESS
September, 1947

CONTENTS

<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>Chapters</i>	
I. The Conquest of Persia	I
II. The Conquest of the Far East	59
III. Personality, Policy and Aims	121
<i>Index</i>	149
<i>Map</i>	162

CONTENTS OF

VOLUME II (*SOURCES AND STUDIES*)

Part I. The so-called 'Vulgate' and its Sources

The Problem. Cleitarchus and Alexander's Expedition. The Date of Cleitarchus. Aristobulus and Cleitarchus. Cleitarchus' Book. The Poetasters. Diodorus XVII. Diodorus' Method of Work. Quintus Curtius Rufus. Curtius' Use of Diodorus. Justin, Books XI and XII. Summary.

Part II. Appendices

MILITARY. Alexander's Macedonian Troops. The Short Macedonian Cubit. Alexander's Communications. The Cardaces. The Battle of Gaugamela. The Battle of the Hydaspes.

CITIES. Alexander and the Greek Cities of Asia Minor. Alexander's Foundations.

SOME HISTORICAL ITEMS. Caranus. The Gordian Knot. The Death of Batis. The Murder of Parmenion. The Alleged Massacre of the Branchidae. Alexander and the Ganges.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I
W. W. Tarn
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents of Volume II

DOCUMENTARY. The Speeches in Arrian (and some in Curtius). Plutarch's *Life* of Alexander. The Date of the Gazetteer of Alexander's Empire.

PERSONAL. Alexander's Attitude to Sex. The Queen of the Amazons. 'Barsine' and her Son Heracles. ΑΝΙΚΗΤΟΣ.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS. Alexander's Deification. The Embassies to Babylon. Alexander's Supposed Plans and the 'World-kingdom'. Brotherhood and Unity.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I

W. W. Tarn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*To all the friends, living and dead, who have
helped me over many years*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-29563-5 - Alexander the Great: Narrative I

W. W. Tarn

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ABBREVIATIONS

- Berve. H. Berve, *Das Alexanderreich*, 2 vols., 1926.
- C.A.H. *Cambridge Ancient History*.
- Jacoby. F. Jacoby, *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker (FGrHist)*. In progress.
- Kornemann. E. Kornemann, *Die Alexandergeschichte des Königs Ptolemaios I von Aegypten*, 1935.
- Pliny. C. Plinius Secundus, *Naturalis Historia*.
- Rostovtzeff, *Soc. and Econ. Hist.* M. Rostovtzeff, *The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World*, 3 vols., 1941.
- S.V.F. H. von Arnim, *Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta*, 3 vols., 1903–5.
- Susemihl. Fr. Susemihl, *Geschichte der griechischen Literatur in der Alexandrinerzeit*, 2 vols., 1891, 1892.
- Tarn, *Hell. Civ.*² W. W. Tarn, *Hellenistic Civilisation*, 2nd ed., 1930.
- Tarn, *Bactria and India*. W. W. Tarn, *The Greeks in Bactria and India*, 1938.