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M. Davies and P. J. Finglass

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54

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# STESICHORUS

## THE POEMS

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION,  
TRANSLATION,  
AND COMMENTARY

BY

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

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and Commentary

M. Davies and P. J. Finglass

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
INTRODUCTION (FINGLASS)	I
1 Date	I
2 Life	6
3 Works	18
4 Performance	23
5 Myth	32
6 Language	40
7 Metre	47
8 Style	52
9 Transmission	60
10 Text	73
TEXT AND CRITICAL APPARATUS (FINGLASS)	93
Index siglorum	94
ΣΤΗΣΙΧΟΡΟΥ ΑΠΟΣΠΑΣΜΑΤΑ	97
ΑΘΛΑ ΕΠΙ ΠΕΛΙΑΙ (fr. 1–4)	99
ΓΗΡΥΟΝΗΙΣ (fr. 5–83)	100
ΕΛΕΝΗ (fr. 84–9)	121
ΠΑΛΙΝΩΔΙΑΙ (fr. 90–1)	123
ΕΡΙΦΥΛΗ (fr. 92–5)	126
ΕΥΡΩΠΕΙΑ (fr. 96)	129
ΘΗΒΑΙΣ? (fr. 97)	129
ΙΛΙΟΥ ΠΕΡΣΙΣ (fr. 98–164)	134
ΚΕΡΒΕΡΟΣ (fr. 165)	155
ΚΥΚΝΟΣ (fr. 166–8)	155
ΝΟΣΤΟΙ (fr. 169)	156
ΝΟΣΤΟΙ? (fr. 170)	156
ΟΡΕΣΤΕΙΑ (fr. 171–81)	157

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-07834-5 - Stesichorus: The Poems Edited with Introduction, Translation,  
and Commentary

M. Davies and P. J. Finglass

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

ΣΚΥΛΛΑ (fr. 182)	162
ΣΥΟΘΗΡΑΙ (fr. 183–6)	162
FRAGMENTA INCERTI CARMINIS (fr. 187–321)	164
FRAGMENTA FORTASSE STESICHOREA (fr. 322–5)	202
FRAGMENTA SPURIA (fr. 326–7)	204
COMMENTARY	207
<i>The Games for Pelias</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	209
<i>Geryoneis</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	230
<i>Helen and Palinodes</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	299
<i>Eriphyle</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	344
<i>Europeia</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	355
<i>Thebais?</i> (FINGLASS)	358
<i>Sack of Troy</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	395
<i>Cerberus</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	459
<i>Cygnus</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	462
<i>The Returns</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	470
<i>The Returns?</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	472
<i>Oresteia</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	482
<i>Scylla</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	512
<i>Boarhunters</i> (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	515
Unplaced fragments (fr. 187–269, 293, 321 FINGLASS, cett. DAVIES / FINGLASS)	533
Fragments perhaps by Stesichorus (fr. 325 FINGLASS, cett. DAVIES / FINGLASS)	595
Spurious fragments (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	601
Fragments conjecturally ascribed to Stesichorus (DAVIES / FINGLASS)	606
BIBLIOGRAPHY	609
1 Abbreviations: reference works	609
2 Abbreviations: scholars' names	612
3 Editions and commentaries on Stesichorus	613
4 Works cited by author's name	614
5 Works cited by author's name with date	623



Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-07834-5 - Stesichorus: The Poems Edited with Introduction, Translation,  
and Commentary

M. Davies and P. J. Finglass

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CONTENTS

COMPARATIO NUMERORUM 677

INDEXES

Index of subjects 684

Index of Greek 689

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-07834-5 - Stesichorus: The Poems Edited with Introduction, Translation,  
and Commentary

M. Davies and P. J. Finglass

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

The genesis of this project goes back to the mid-1970s, when Malcolm Davies began a commentary on the fragments of Stesichorus, the first such work since the rediscovery from the 1950s onwards of significant quantities of this poet on papyrus. In 1979 he successfully submitted the completed work as a DPhil thesis to the University of Oxford; it was subsequently awarded the University's Conington Prize. But the difficulties faced by academic publishers at the time, and the relative unfamiliarity of the idea of a detailed commentary on a fragmentary author, impeded its publication as a book. In 2006, Patrick Finglass approached him to propose a collaborative commentary on Stesichorus taking Davies's thesis as its starting point. At that time Finglass was engaged in an edition of Sophocles' *Ajax*, and Davies in preparing further volumes of his edition of the lyric poets, and so it was not until 2010 that the new project began in earnest. The completed typescript, incorporating an introduction and a new text of the fragments, as well as the commentary, was submitted to Cambridge University Press early in 2013 for consideration by the Editors of the Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries series. The revised typescript was submitted in September 2013, and it has not usually been possible to refer to work published after that date.

The majority of the resulting book is a joint effort by the co-authors. Davies's thesis was sent in Word form to Finglass, who has thus had full access to that work during his writing of the commentary, and has frequently drawn on it, although of course he has engaged with subsequent scholarship too; he has also had the benefit of discussion with Davies throughout, and has been loaned several books and offprints by Davies during the project. However, Finglass is the sole author of those sections of this book which have no corresponding sections in the original thesis: that

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

is, the Introduction, the Text and Apparatus,<sup>1</sup> the Commentary on fr. 97, 186–268, 293, 321, 325 (i.e. fragments on papyri, including the Lille fragment, not discovered when Davies wrote his thesis), the Bibliography, and the Indexes; he has also verified the references and taken account of the detailed comments from the Series Editors and from colleagues who read all or part of the typescript. Davies himself read the entire typescript in early 2013 and offered detailed comments. As a whole, then, the present work constitutes not a revised or updated version of the original dissertation, but a new book in its own right, a work of genuine collaboration.

\* \* \*

A project that has lasted some four decades has incurred many debts. First thanks are owed to our respective institutions, the University of Nottingham and St John's College, Oxford, for giving us the time to do research. A particularly vital contribution was made by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which awarded Patrick Finglass a Research Fellowship for the academic year 2012/13, during which this book was brought to completion. This is the second successive book by Patrick Finglass funded by the AHRC, and he would like to express his thanks not only to that organisation for its generosity, but also to its anonymous peer reviewers, whose comments have affected his thinking in ways large and small. The award, by the Leverhulme Trust, of a Philip Leverhulme prize to Patrick Finglass in 2012 has also assisted the gestation of this project.

The whole volume has been read in typescript and significantly improved by James Diggle, Neil Hopkinson, Michael Reeve, Henry Spelman, and Martin West; we have additionally benefited from comments on selected passages by Simon

<sup>1</sup> Readers should note that since the text is wholly the work of Finglass, the newly-numbered fragments should be cited simply as 'Stesichorus fr. 1 Finglass' etc.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

Hornblower and Alan Sommerstein. The encouragement of Michael Sharp and the Editors of the Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries series at Cambridge University Press has been essential in bringing the project to a successful conclusion. Muriel Hall's copy-editing greatly improved the accuracy of the volume. Patrick Finglass's visits to Oxford to discuss Stesichorus with his collaborator, to consult papyri, and to use libraries have been facilitated by the continuing kindness of the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College. Some of his ideas have been presented in papers read to audiences in London, Birmingham, Naples, Nottingham, Oxford, Thessaloniki, and Turin. Malcolm Davies's original thesis benefited from comments from Spencer Barrett, Winfried Bühler, Rudolf Kassel, Hugh Lloyd-Jones, and Martin West. Neil Stewart-Rutter converted the original thesis into electronic form during his time as Malcolm Davies's research assistant; Annamaria Peri provided Patrick Finglass with a copy of Marcovigi (1970), a document otherwise unavailable in the UK. David Kovacs gave him sight of Benedict (2005), an excellent MA dissertation submitted to the University of Virginia. Donald Mastronarde kindly sent him his preliminary editions of Euripidean scholia containing fragments of Stesichorus. Robert Fowler generously allowed him to see the second volume of his *Early Greek Mythography* in advance of publication. Finally, we are grateful to the staff of the Hallward Library in Nottingham, the Bodleian, Sackler, and Taylorian Libraries in Oxford, the University Library in Cambridge, and the British and Institute of Classical Studies Libraries in London.

We cherish the memory of Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones, the supervisor of Malcolm Davies's doctoral thesis, who provided us both with advice and friendship in the early stages of our respective careers. And we dedicate this book to St John's College, Oxford, which has supplied one of us with employment, the other with education, and both with membership of a flourishing academic community. May the College

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[More information](#)

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continue to foster the study of the ancient world for generations  
to come.

*Scribamus in urbibus Oxonia et Snotengaham*

*Die Festo S. Ioannis Chrysostomi*

*AD MMXIII*

M. D.

P. J. F. F.



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

Patrick Finglass's work on this book was supported  
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