

## M. I. FINLEY: AN ANCIENT HISTORIAN AND HIS IMPACT

M. I. Finley (1912–1986) was the most famous ancient historian of his generation. He was admired by his peers (Professor of Ancient History at the University of Cambridge, Fellow of the British Academy), his unmistakable voice was familiar to tens of thousands of radio listeners, his polemical reviews and other journalism were found all over the broadsheets and weeklies, and his scholarly as well as his popular works sold in very large numbers as Penguin paperbacks. Yet this was also a man dismissed from his job at Rutgers University when he refused to answer the question of whether he was or had ever been a member of the Communist Party. This pioneering volume assesses Finley's achievements and analyses the nature of the impact of this charismatic individual and the means by which he changed the world of Ancient History.

DANIEL JEW is a Lecturer at the National University of Singapore, College of Alice and Peter Tan, and was formerly Finley Research Fellow at Darwin College, Cambridge.

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Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-14926-7 — M. I. Finley  
Edited by Daniel Jew , Robin Osborne , Michael Scott  
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CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

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**M. I. FINLEY**  
An Ancient Historian and his Impact

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-107-14926-7 — M. I. Finley  
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CAMBRIDGE  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107149267](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107149267)

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First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data*

Names: Jew, Daniel, 1973– editor. | Osborne, Robin, 1957– editor. | Scott, Michael, 1981– editor.

Title: M. I. Finley : an ancient historian and his impact / edited by Daniel Jew, Robin Osborne, Michael Scott.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom : Cambridge University Press, 2016. |

Series: Cambridge classical studies | Based on a conference held in the

Faculty of Classics at the University of Cambridge during May, 2012. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016026403 | ISBN 9781107149267 (hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Finley, M. I. (Moses I.), 1912–1986—Influence—Congresses. |

Historians—United States—Congresses. | Historians—Great

Britain—Congresses. | Classicists—United States—Congresses. |

Classicists—Great Britain—Congresses. |

BISAC: HISTORY / Ancient / General.

Classification: LCC DE9.F56 M5 2016 | DDC 930.072/02—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016026403>

ISBN 978-1-107-14926-7 Hardback

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## Contributors

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## PREFACE

The papers in this volume derive from a conference held in the Faculty of Classics at the University of Cambridge during 29–31 May 2012. This was one of several events held in the USA, UK and France to mark the centenary of the birth of Moses Finley (see Harris 2013, Naiden and Talbert 2014 and the nine papers forming a section on ‘Moses I. Finley et sa réception en France’ in *Anabases* 19 (2014) 11–129). Distinctively, the Cambridge conference set out not simply to remember and to celebrate Finley but to assess his impact. The conference was certainly rich in memories of Finley, and we hope that this volume too does something to recall the man to mind for those who knew him, and to conjure up something of his qualities for those who did not. But it is interested above all in the lasting impact that Finley has made on the field, and what about the man and his work achieved that impact.

For the success of the conference, we are grateful to the Faculty of Classics, whose Laurence Fund paid for the conference, and to Darwin College, which mounted an exhibition in conjunction with the conference and hosted the conference dinner. We are grateful to the readers for Cambridge University Press and the editors of Cambridge Classical Studies for their advice on turning the conference papers into a book.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-14926-7 — M. I. Finley  
Edited by Daniel Jew , Robin Osborne , Michael Scott  
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Preface



FIG. 1 Photograph of Moses and Mary Finley.

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FIG. 2 Photograph of Sir Moses Finley.

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Edited by Daniel Jew , Robin Osborne , Michael Scott  
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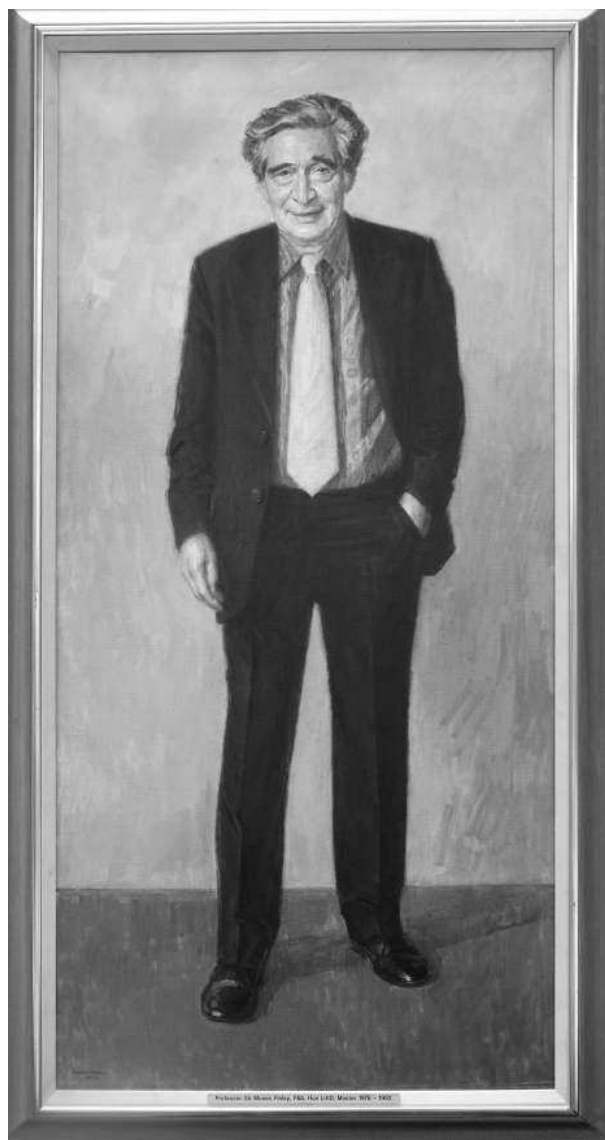


FIG. 3 Portrait of Sir Moses Finley as Master of Darwin College  
by Michael Noakes.