First produced in Athens during the fifth century BC, the tragedies of Sophocles count among the masterpieces of world literature. Drawing on all the resources of Greek mythology, Sophocles vividly depicts unforgettable characters confronted with emotional crises, moral dilemmas, and the inscrutable ways of the gods. This New Survey analyses Sophocles’ reputation as a dramatic poet both in his own day and later in antiquity, investigating how some of his plays survived down the centuries while others were lost. It considers the qualities of those plays, focusing on key aspects of Sophoclean dramaturgy such as stagecraft, narrative, language, rhetoric, and heroism. And it grapples not just with the seven plays that survive in full, but also with those major papyrus fragments discovered in recent years which shed fresh light on Sophocles’ inimitable artistry. All Greek is translated, which means that the book is accessible to anyone interested in one of the greatest playwrights of all time.
NEW SURVEYS IN THE CLASSICS

Regular subscribers to the journal *Greece & Rome* receive a volume in the New Surveys in the Classics series as part of their subscription. The following volumes are also available to purchase as books.

Volume 44  *Sophocles* (ISBN 9781108706094)
Volume 43  *Early Greek Hexameter Poetry* (ISBN 9781316608883)
Volume 42  *Horace* (ISBN 9781107444447)
Volume 39  *Roman Landscape: Culture and Identity* (ISBN 9781107400245)
Volume 38  *Epigram* (ISBN 9780521145701)
Volume 37  *Comedy* (ISBN 9780521270609)
Volume 36  *Roman Oratory* (ISBN 0521687225)
Volume 34  *Roman Art* (ISBN 9780198520818)
Volume 33  *Reception Studies* (ISBN 0198528655)
Volume 32  *The Invention of Prose* (ISBN 0198525234)
Volume 31  *Greek Historians* (ISBN 019922501X)
Volume 30  *Roman Religion* (ISBN 0199224331)
Volume 29  *Greek Science* (ISBN 0199223955)
Volume 28  *Virgil* (ISBN 0199223424)
Volume 27  *Latin Historians* (ISBN 0199229312)
Volume 26  *Homer* (ISBN 0199220986)
Volume 25  *Greek Thought* (ISBN 0199220743)
Volume 24  *Greek Religion* (ISBN 0199220735)

To place an order from within the United States, Canada and Mexico please contact Cambridge Customer Services toll free via +1 800 872 7423 or by email via information@cup.org. For orders outside of North America please call + 44 (0)1223 325566 or email via ukcustserve@cambridge.org.

The Classical Association has a worldwide membership and is open to all who value the study of the languages, literature, and civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome. It creates opportunities for friendly exchange and co-operation among classicists, encourages scholarship through its journals and other publications, and supports classics in schools and universities. Every year it holds an annual conference, and it sponsors branches all over the country which put on programmes of lectures and other activities.

The Classical Association publishes three journals, *Classical Quarterly*, *Classical Review* and *Greece & Rome*. Members may subscribe at substantially reduced cost. Non-members and institutions can subscribe via Cambridge University Press (email journals@cambridge.org).

For more information and a membership application form please contact the Secretary, The Classical Association, Park House, 15–23 Greenhill Crescent, Watford WD18 8PH (e-mail: office@classicalassociation.org). The Secretary can also give information about the reduced journal subscription rates, and about the Association’s other occasional publications.

Cover illustration: second-century papyrus from Oxyrhynchus, Egypt, containing a fragment of Sophocles’ *Teres*. P.Oxy. 5292 © The Egypt Exploration Society.
Greece & Rome
NEW SURVEYS IN THE CLASSICS No. 44

SOPHOCLES

BY
P. J. FINGLESS

Published for the Classical Association
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
2019
CONTENTS

Acknowledgements v
Introduction vi
I Transmission 1
1. A Long Career 1
2. Ancient Spectators, Ancient Readers 9
3. Survival and Rediscovery 17
II Interpretation 29
4. Stagecraft 29
5. Myth 39
6. Narrative 48
7. Language 57
8. Metre 65
9. Rhetoric 73
10. Heroism 81
11. Politics 88
12. Endings 98
Bibliography 106
Index of Passages Discussed 127
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to John Taylor and the Editorial Board of *Greece & Rome* for inviting me to write this little book, and for their helpful comments, together with those of the anonymous referees, and of Lyndsay Coo, Richard Rutherford, and Florence Yoon, ahead of its publication. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the kindness of the Leverhulme Trust, whose award of a Philip Leverhulme Prize in 2012 provided me with some relief from teaching during the spring of 2017, freeing up time to begin this project; and to thank the Egypt Exploration Society for permission to print an image of *POxy*. 5292 on the cover.

After recently leaving the University of Nottingham after eleven happy years, I am honoured to dedicate this volume to the man who established that university as a centre for the study of ancient drama, who has done so much to shape modern scholarship on Sophocles and tragedy more generally, and who throughout my time in the School of Humanities there was the best of colleagues.

Patrick Finglass
Bristol, July 2018

**LEVERHULME TRUST**

Patrick Finglass’s work on this book was supported by the award of a Philip Leverhulme Prize by the Leverhulme Trust.