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SIR MOSES FINLEY

SIR MOSES FINLEY, who was a lecturer and later an assistant professor in the Department of History in the Newark division of Rutgers University from 1948 to 1952, died in Cambridge, England, on 23 June 1986. By action of the Rutgers Board of Trustees in December 1952 he was dismissed from his position on the grounds that his refusal—on the grounds of the Fifth Amendment—to answer questions put to him by the Internal Security Committee of the United States Senate impaired confidence in his fitness to teach. The case attracted wide attention at the time, because it was the first of its kind, and it established a precedent for similar firings at other universities.

Finley was born in New York on 20 May 1912. He graduated from Syracuse University when he was only fifteen and obtained his M.A. degree from Columbia two years later. Subsequently, he held research fellowships at Columbia and taught part-time at City College while completing work for his doctorate in Ancient History. His dissertation, *Studies in Land and Credit in Ancient Athens*, published in 1952, established his reputation, which was further enhanced by his brilliant *World of Odysseus* (1954).

Because of the distinction of these works, he was invited to lecture at Oxford and Cambridge in 1954-55. In 1955 he was appointed to a Lectureship at Cambridge and elected a Fellow of Jesus College. A prolific scholar, brilliant lecturer, and inspiring teacher, he quickly attained distinction at Cambridge. He was promoted to the rank of Reader in 1964, and six years later he became the Professor of Ancient History. He acquired British citizenship in 1962, was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1971, and was appointed a Trustee of the British Museum in 1977. In further recognition of his outstanding merits, he was knighted in 1979. As a fitting climax of his illustrious career at Cambridge, he was

chosen Master of Darwin College in 1976 and served effectively in that post until his retirement in 1982.

The Board of Trustees resolution that occasioned his dismissal was voided in 1957. In 1972 Finley returned to Rutgers to deliver the first Mason Gross lectures, later (1973) published as *Democracy Ancient and Modern*. A memorial service was held in Kirkpatrick Chapel on 6 November 1986, when Dr. Cargill delivered the appraisal of Finley's scholarship that is published here.

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