

vast scholarship, humour — sometimes self-deprecating — and loyalty to his convictions and friends were well known to his colleagues at Ben-Gurion University, as well as to members of the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies, to which he contributed continuously throughout the years. His students, colleagues and friends will remember Uri Poznanski as a dedicated teacher, insightful scholar and intellectual, and above all, a man of great humanity.

Yulia Ustinova

### Samuel (Shmuel) Scolnicov

(1941-2014)

Samuel Scolnicov, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Philosophy of Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who died last August, had Greek philosophy, and especially Plato and the Presocratics, at the centre of his wide ranging interests. These included not only all branches of philosophy, but the entire range of the arts and humanities and even the natural sciences — in his first year at the Hebrew University he studied chemistry before turning to Philosophy and Hebrew Language. A polyglot perfectly at ease in half a dozen languages he was a widely read humanist who enjoyed teaching and saw education as his foremost brief. Among the projects he was actively involved in for many years was advancing the teaching of philosophy in high schools, and for a number of years he headed teacher training in the Hebrew University School of Education. He was a much loved and appreciated teacher both by undergraduates and even more so by his graduate students who could more accurately evaluate not only his dedication but also his wide ranging erudition. Students of Greek philosophy abroad will not be aware of the time and effort Shmuel invested in textbooks and other aids to students, including *Heraclitus and Parmenides: Testimonia and Fragments*, Introduction, Hebrew translation and notes (1988).

His interest in Greek philosophy was awakened gradually: first attracted to continental philosophy he eventually wrote his M.A. thesis *On the Epistemological Significance of Plato's Theory of Ideal Numbers* under the direction of Shlomo Pines, and his Ph.D. dissertation on *Plato's Method of Hypothesis in the Middle Dialogues* was supervised in Cambridge by Bernard Williams. His major contributions included *Plato's Metaphysics of Education* (1988), *Plato's Parmenides* (2003), and his co-edited volumes *New Images of Plato: Dialogues on the Idea of the Good* (2002) and *Plato's Laws: From Theory into Practice* (2003). In the words of one critic, *Plato's Metaphysics of Education* “fills a major hiatus in scholarship on Plato and to a lesser extent, on Socrates. In the best tradition of recent classical scholarship, Scolnicov carefully delineates the parameters of his study, “how Plato developed his metaphysics with a view to supporting his deepest educational convictions” (p. vii).<sup>1</sup> In all his studies of Plato he insisted on the importance of the dialogic method and on the different forms of irony as well as on the significance of a sound ontological basis.<sup>2</sup>

In 1989 he became a founding member of the International Plato Society and was elected as its president in 1998-2001. He was also a very active member of the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies and a regular contributor to this journal (see vols. 1, 6, 7 [bis], 12, 16). His visiting appointments included Toronto, California at Irvine, São Paulo, Catania, Mexico City, and Paris. But above all he was a private person and a happy and proud family man. Born in

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<sup>1</sup> B.A. Sichel, *Studies in Philosophy and Education* 13 (1994), 141.

<sup>2</sup> For a full list of his publications see <http://pluto.huji.ac.il/~mshpuss/Publications2.html>

Brazil he emigrated to Israel at the age of eighteen, first with a view to returning and teaching there Hebrew – a language he mastered to a higher proficiency than many a native speaker. (Few Greek philosophers will be aware of his editing, as an undergraduate, of the late Chaim Rabin's lectures on the syntax of Biblical Hebrew [1963]). He is survived by his wife of forty-nine years Hanna, professor emerita of Theatre Studies at Tel-Aviv University, a daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren. He will be sorely missed not only by them, but by the entire *Respublica Litterarum*.

Joseph Geiger

### Rachel Feig Vishnia

(1950 – 2015)

Professor Rachel Feig Vishnia passed away on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, after a long struggle with cancer. During her years of illness she continued to be active in teaching and research, and in editing *Scripta Classica Israelica* as the editor-in-chief (a post she held between 2009 and 2014, after being a co-editor during the years 2005-2008). Special care was paid by Rachel to the last volume she edited, which was dedicated to Professor Hannah Cotton upon her retirement (vol. XXXIII, 2014). At the annual conference of the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies, held at Ben Gurion University, in June 2014, Rachel made an enormous effort, hardly noticed by others, to come and present this volume herself. This was typical of her character: always proud, hard-working and rewarding to those she appreciated and loved.

Rachel Feig Vishnia's academic interest was not always focused on ancient Rome; she started her Master's degree on the history of the USSR, and worked in the Cummings Center for Russia and East European Studies in Tel Aviv University; but soon, following her participation in a seminar given by the late Benjamin Cohen (1921-2000), she changed direction and immersed herself in the study of one of the most obscure and fascinating periods of Roman history: the early and middle Republic. Upon completion of her Ph.D. in 1989, she joined the Department of History at Tel Aviv University, where she taught until the very end.

Her first book, *State, Society, and Popular Leaders in Mid-Republican Rome 241-167 BC* (1996), is one of her many studies on the Republic (see the articles in her list of publications), culminating in her book on elections in Rome, first published in Hebrew, and then in an English translation. The Hebrew version, *Elections, Electors and the Elected in Republican Rome* (2008), includes an annotated Hebrew translation of the letter known as *Commentariolum Petitionis*, a handbook on electioneering usually ascribed to Cicero's brother. The translation serves as a point of reference to a lucid and comprehensive discussion of politics and society, the tension between the various governing institutions and the prominence of elections and electioneering in the political life of Republican Rome. As for the English version, *Roman Elections in the Age of Cicero* (2012), it is, to quote one critic, "a serious scholarly work ... There is much of value here, and this book will doubtless (and rightly) find a permanent place in university reading lists for courses in ancient history" — as indeed it has.

Rachel had a special interest in two further subjects: the status of women in the Greco-Roman world (as we see in her articles 'Women and Education in Ancient Rome' and 'The Vestal Virgins — Women outside the Family in Rome', and in her editing a special issue of the Israeli historical quarterly *Zmanim* on Prostitutes and Prostitution in the Ancient World); and the reception of ancient Rome in the cinema ('Ancient Rome in Cinema: from "Cabiria" to "Gladiator"', 'Ancient Rome in Italian Cinema under Mussolini: The Case of Scipione l'Africano'). Another article worthy of mention here deals with slavery and war prisoners: 'Coming Home: Redemption of Prisoners of War in Ancient Rome'. Lately, during her stays (in 2006/7 and 2012) as a visiting