

the Istituto Gramsci. Momigliano, asked by the publisher to be the co-editor, made it clear that he wanted Gabba to take a leading part in the project. Gabba and Momigliano's main point was to show that Italian scholarship was now mature enough to produce its own idea of the history of Rome while respecting the independence of individual scholars, and remaining open to foreign contributors. Gabba greatly contributed to the draft of the final plan, and wrote many essays on the subjects that he had worked on throughout life.

During a lifetime of uninterrupted work, Gabba refined his method and returned yet again and again to his favorite themes, always contributing to their understanding from different angles. This was best expressed in his study of archaic Rome. On this topic, almost impossible to master due to the various conflicting theories and the need to deal with the archaeological data, Gabba wrote memorable pages (*Roma arcaica. Storia e storiografia*, 2000). He clarified the ideological background of the ancient historiography on archaic Rome through the analysis of the relevant authors (among them Dionysius of Halicarnassus, the subject of the Sather Lectures in 1991). He took into account the archaeological finds and the antiquarians' testimonies, not in order to combine them with the literary evidence, but to clarify their context, and their potential contribution to the understanding of the problem through their own language. Gabba was again preoccupied with the methodological approach, capable of unmasking erroneous reconstructions, before engaging in proposing his own, which did not give preference to one source over the other, but put all the available evidence in due perspective.

Gabba used the same approach in his continuous study of Roman imperialism, again starting from ancient historiography, and taking into account the evidence on economy and on the change in the attitude of the élite (*Del buon uso della ricchezza*, Como (1988); *Aspetti culturali dell'imperialismo romano* (1993); and the relevant chapters in the *Storia di Roma*).

Gabba was one of the great historians of the twentieth century; he taught several generations of students and formed a school well beyond his direct pupils. His firm convictions and sound methodology make his work a lasting contribution, well beyond ephemeral fashions. His list of publications, with more than 800 items (*Bibliografia 1949-1995*, a cura di A. Baroni, 1996 and 1995-2006, a cura di D. Zoroddu, 2007), is impressive as are the many honorary degrees that he had received and his membership in many prestigious institutions. He was a kind human being and a gentleman. Never accepting scientific faults when he detected them, he could criticize a fellow-scholar with severity, but his criticism, however firm, was always respectful of other people's views. This made his criticism acceptable and positive. He was a bit reserved and even shy in personal relations, but these features did not prevent him from forming warm friendships and from keeping an open mind to any scientific problem or to the ideas of both colleagues and students. For these reasons, knowing Gabba has been an inspiring privilege — both on personal and scientific grounds — for the people who were fortunate enough to have met him.

Guido Clemente

Wolfgang Ze'ev Rubinsohn

(1932-2014)

On January 7th, 2014, shortly before his eighty-second birthday, Wolfgang Ze'ev Rubinsohn, formerly professor of Greek and Roman history at the Department of General History, in Tel-Aviv University, passed away. Like many of that generation, his life was decisively shaped by the Second World War.

Wolfgang (Ze'ev) was born in Berlin on January 20th, 1932, a year before the Nazis seized power. Both his parents were doctors. His mother, Fannie née Levinsohn, was a pediatrician, and his father, Hans, was a pathologist. Due to his devoted service as a military doctor in the German

Imperial Army during the First World War, Wolfgang's father was promoted and became a senior medical officer. Even in Nazi Germany, Jewish war veterans were protected to a certain extent. Thus, unlike other Jewish doctors, he was permitted to work at the Jewish hospital in Berlin.

A fortunate coincidence saved both parents and son. In 1938 Hans Rubinsohn was invited to serve as chief doctor of the Jewish hospital in Harbin, Manchuria, occupied by Japan since 1931. The Japanese, who did not persecute the Jews, approved his appointment. The three left Germany in January 1939, seven months before World War Two broke out.

Upon their arrival in Harbin, Ze'ev, who was only seven years old, first went to a religious Jewish school, and then to English private schools that the Japanese eventually closed down because of the war. Fortunately for Ze'ev, his father hired private teachers, who taught him at home according to the English curriculum for the matriculation exams. Yet, under the Japanese occupation, such exams could not be held, and as a result his secondary education remained incomplete.

In the summer of 1945, after the Japanese had been defeated and expelled, the Russians came in. The civil war between the communists and the republicans, which consequently broke out in China, ended in 1948, and the victorious Communists urged all foreigners to leave the country. Thus in 1950 Ze'ev, his parents, Nadja — a medical student who assisted his father in the clinic, and who later became Ze'ev's wife — together with her parents, immigrated to the recently founded state of Israel.

As a result of his family's upheavals, Ze'ev became a polyglot. Besides German, his mother tongue, he spoke English, Russian, Chinese and Japanese. To this already impressive knowledge Hebrew, Greek and Latin were added after his immigration to Israel. This was an extraordinary asset that enabled him, later in his life, to conduct thorough studies of various themes of Classical antiquity. His knowledge of Russian allowed him a direct access to Soviet historiography of the Classical world, which remained inaccessible to many of his western colleagues.

Upon their arrival in Israel, Ze'ev and Nadja joined kibbutz Mishmar Ha'emek in the northern part of the country. Shortly after, Ze'ev was called to military service. Later, while he was still in uniform, the two married. After completing his service, Ze'ev finally set out to complete his secondary education. After a delay of more than a decade, he successfully passed the matriculation exams, now according to the Israeli curriculum.

While the kibbutz urged Ze'ev to study engineering in nearby Haifa, and work at the local factory, he preferred to study ancient history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 1959 Ze'ev and Nadja left the kibbutz, and finally settled down in Tel-Aviv.

In the early sixties, while Ze'ev was studying in Jerusalem, the late Zvi Yavetz, who founded the Department of General History at the recently established Tel-Aviv University, invited Ze'ev to join the staff. Ze'ev agreed, and joined the department, where he spent three decades, until his retirement in 1993. During those years he published studies on various aspects of ancient history in German, English, and Hebrew.

Already in his PhD dissertation, he dedicated much energy and time to the question of slave-revolts in antiquity. Two publications on this subject appeared in 1983; the first in Hebrew, together with Z. Yavetz, and the second in German, about the revolt of Spartacus as seen by Soviet historiography. An exhaustive study about slave-revolts in antiquity as reflected in the scholarship of the last five centuries was published in 1993 in German. He was also drawn to Hellenistic history, especially to the fateful encounter between Greece and Rome in the second century BCE. This interest was demonstrated in his teaching and studies, both reflecting his scholarly qualities.

I met him in the autumn of 1970, when I began studying ancient history. In all the interesting courses, which Ze'ev taught, he proved to be a kind, profound, and rigorous teacher. In the early nineties he became my PhD supervisor in what turned out to be an intensive journey back to the fifteenth- and sixteenth-centuries scholarship, which shaped the present Greek text of Plutarch's

Lives. His close acquaintance with that era and his encyclopedic knowledge became all the more visible and valuable, as my work progressed. That journey lasted nearly a decade, during which he and Nadja always welcomed me in their small apartment, which contained an excellent library. He was an inspiring, considerate, and a devoted *doktorvater* in the full sense of the word.

Yitzhak Dana

Alla Kushnir-Stein
(1941-2013)

Alla Kushnir-Stein died on 2 August, 2013 after a short illness. Although she had retired some four years ago, her absence is felt keenly by many of us. She left a gap that cannot be filled. She came to academic life late, after a brilliant career in chess in what used to be the Soviet Union. In Israel she studied classics and archaeology and many of the qualities that made her a star in her first profession guaranteed her excellence as a scholar and researcher: one of the sharpest minds most of us ever encountered, the ability to focus on a multitude of interconnected problems, and a lucid and honest sense of the reality in complex situations.

Alla's publications were excellent: she never wrote a superfluous sentence and when she debated, she was usually right — as the participants in those debates found out to their cost. She herself paid a price for the economy of her writing for she never published a book, although the scope of her work over the years certainly would have allowed for a publication at that scale. Her PhD thesis was innovative and interesting, but has remained unpublished because of her severe self-criticism.

Many colleagues and pupils are familiar with her willingness to help others when she could: to the point and with a good sense of humour. Unexpected, perhaps, for someone who excelled in duelling and enjoyed doing so, she was a team-player, as all those know who are part of the group of scholars working on the *Corpus Inscriptionum Judaearum — Palaestinae*, but not only those. She was a devoted member of the faculty of the Department of Classics at Tel Aviv University, a fine supervisor of graduate students and very active in the world of Israeli numismatics.

We are grateful for what she has contributed over the past three decades and will remember her acuity and generosity.

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