

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 Her PhD thesis was innovative and interesting, but has remained unpublished because of her severe self-criticism.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.

Benjamin Isaac

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