## SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA

YEARBOOK OF THE ISRAEL SOCIETY
FOR THE PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

VOLUME V 1979/1980

## SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA

YEARBOOK OF THE ISRAEL SOCIETY
FOR THE
PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

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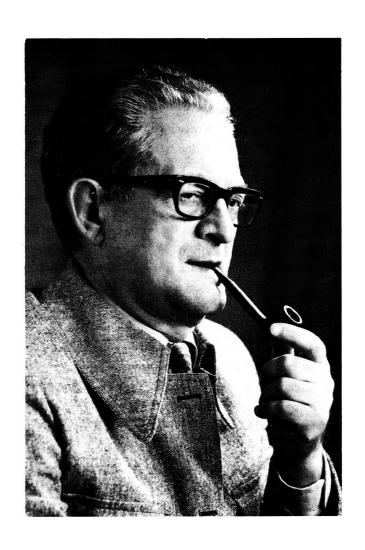
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# ALEXANDER FUKS (29.5.1917–29.11.1978).

The death of Alexander Fuks, only a year after that of his colleague and lifelong friend Chaim Wirszubski, was a severe and unexpected blow to all students of Classics in this country, to the Hebrew University, to the Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies in Israel, whose second President he was, and to his numerous friends and pupils.

Alexander Fuks's main interests were Greek History as well as Jewish History in the Hellenistic Age. His enthusiasm was genuine, his standards of the highest and his perseverance a model for all who knew him: it is typical that he submitted to the Editors the paper that appears in this volume only a week before his death, when already fatally ill and suffering.

Alexander Fuks's achievement as a scholar is well known and can be followed with the aid of the bibliography of his writings. The number of people who knew him personally or were fortunate enough to be his pupils and friends — the two frequently coinciding — is naturally limited. His was a radiant personality, gentle and kind to all, the blue eyes smiling into the world with optimism and courage. Indeed for all who knew him it was easier to believe that the study of the Classics can render us better men. A friend in need, a wise counsellor and an arbitrator whose liking for compromise never induced him to compromise with principles his counsel was much sought and his friendship highly valued. But nowhere did his finest qualities find expression better than in his role as teacher. He fulfilled perfectly the very first of the Teachings of the Fathers (Mishna Aboth 1.1): "Be temperate in judgment, raise up many disciples and fence the Law." Only those who have seen him devote himself with infinite patience and utmost ἀκρίβεια — a favourite word of his — to the guidance of the youngest and least experienced of beginners will understand with what reverence he regarded the profession of teaching. The secret of his success as a teacher was his personality: like all the best teachers he was not only a teacher, but an example.

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