

# Alexander Fuks

(1917–1978)

Alexander Fuks, Professor of Ancient History and Classics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died in Jerusalem on the 29.11.78.

Alexander Fuks was born in Wroclaw (Poland) on 30.5.1917; after completing his secondary studies in his native town, he came to Jerusalem in 1935, and studied at the Hebrew University, where he obtained the degrees of M.A. in 1942 and Ph.D. in 1946. He began to teach at the University while preparing his doctoral thesis, and became Professor of Ancient History and Classics in 1962.

His first field of research dealt with the Political Parties at Athens in the last part of the fifth century B.C.; he published on this subject a series of articles in Hebrew, among them:

*Euripides and the Political Parties of his Time*, « Tarbiz », 1946; *The Political Parties and the Literature during the Peloponnesian War*, « Eshkoloth », 1957; *The Constitution of Draco*, « Eshkoloth », 1959.

In the same field he published in English:

*The Ancestral Constitution: Four Studies in Athenian Party Politics at the End of the Fifth Century B.C.*, London, 1953; *Notes on the Rule of the Ten at Athens in 403 B.C.*, « Mnemosyne » S.iv, vi (1953), 198-207; *The Old Oligarch*, « Scripta Hierosolymitana », I (1954), 21-35.

His work of the History of Athens was summed up in a book, *The Athenian Commonwealth*, published in 1957 (in Hebrew).

At the same time, Prof. Fuks collaborated with Prof. A. V. Tcherikover in the composition of the monumental *Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum* (The Hebrew University Magnes Press and Harvard University Press, 3 vol., 1957-1964). Prof. Tcherikover died in 1958, just after the publication of the first volume, and Prof. Fuks together with Prof. M. Stern published the second and third volumes of this work. The *Corpus* is an almost exhaustive collection of the papyri and ostraca relating to Jews in the millenium between the



Macedonian conquest of Egypt and the coming of the Arab rule; the documents are accompanied by an English translation, a historical commentary and an extensive bibliography; it quickly an indispensable and reliable reference book for all scholars dealing with the History of the period, and especially with the place of the Jews in the Greek and Roman World.

The collaboration to the *Corpus* brought Fuks to papyrology, and he published a number of interesting papers related to this field:

*Notes on the Archives of Nicanor*, « Journal of Jur. Pap. », V (1951), 207-216;

*Dositheos Son of Drimylos*, « Journal of Jur. Pap. », VII-VIII (1954), 205-209;

*The Jewish Revolt in Egypt (A.D. 115-117) in the Light of the Papyri*, « Aegyptus », XXXIII (1953), 131-158;

*Aspects of the Jewish Revolt in A.D. 115-117*, « J.R.S. », LI (1961), 98-104.

In the last 20 years, Prof. Fuks conducted extensive research on the social and economic question in ancient Greece; he collected a considerable documentation on 70 cases of social revolutions, and investigated the ideological reaction to the social unrest in the writings of the orators, historians and phillisophers of the period. He intended to write a synthesis on the problem under the title, *A History of the Social Conflict in late Classical and Hellenistic Greece*. In preparation for this book, he published a number of important articles which are a pioneering work on this aspect of Greek History; among them:

*Patterns and Types of Social-economic Revolution in Greece from the fourth to the second Century B.C.*, « Ancient Society », V (1974), 51-81;

*Agis, Cleomenes and Equality*, « Cl. P. », LVII (1962), 161-166;

*Redistribution of Land and Houses in Syracuse in 356 B.C. and its Ideological Aspects*, « C. Q. », XVIII (1968), 207-223;

*The Bellum Achaicum and its Social Aspect*, « J.H.S. », XC (1970), 78-89;

*Isocrates and the Social-Economic Situation in Greece*, « Ancient Society », III (1972), 17-44;

*Social Revolution in Dyme in Achaia in 116-114 B.C.*, « Scripta Hierosolymitana », XXIII (1972), 21-27;

*The Conditions of Riches and Poverty in Plato's Republic*, « Riv. Stor. dell'Ant. », VI-VII (1976-7), 63-73;

*Plato and the Social Question*, « Ancient Society », VIII (1977), 49-83.

Alexander Fuks was a beloved teacher, an incomparable friend and a perfect gentleman; his untimely death is a great loss for his colleagues and students alike.

MOSHE AMIT

*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

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Con profonda commozione abbiamo appreso della scomparsa di *Claire Préaux*, avvenuta a Bruxelles il 29 marzo 1979. Di lei, della sua opera, della sua indimenticabile figura diremo nel prossimo volume. Il lutto dei Colleghi belgi è anche nostro, e di tutto il mondo dei papirologi.

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Anche *Mariangela Vandoni* ci ha lasciati il 14 luglio 1979, a Milano. Ne diamo l'annuncio con profondo dolore e con viva partecipazione al lutto che ha colpito i Colleghi dell'Università Statale di Milano. Nel prossimo numero ci riserviamo di commemorarla degnamente.

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