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GAD GUIDO TEDESCHI — *IN MEMORIAM*

We regret to inform our readers of the death of Professor Gad Tedeschi, one of the founders of the Israel Law Review, and a member of our Editorial Board since its inception. Following is the eulogy delivered at the funeral service by Professor Izhak Englard of the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In deep sorrow we mourn the passing of Prof. Gad Guido Tedeschi. A man of sterling worth and accomplishment, he was a brilliant jurist, a deeply committed Jew and Zionist, a true humanist and liberal, and our beloved and admired teacher.

Professor Tedeschi was born into one of Italy's most illustrious families. Though the name Tedeschi testifies to German origins on his father's side, his forebears had resided for hundreds of years in Ancona and in Rovigo, his birthplace. His mother was a Del Vecchio, a name that means "of the elders". It is, indeed, one of the ancient families that preserved the original traditions of Italian Jewry, and its presence in Italy is said to date back to before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. More recent generations of Del Vecchios produced leading scientists, jurists and economists who served as university rectors and as government ministers.

Professor Tedeschi's education was infused with classical culture, but from youth he was drawn to the law, and to the law he dedicated his life passionately and unceasingly until his very last days. When asked about his work, he would reply: The law strives to establish justice among men; what could be more beautiful?

Under the influence of Jewish friends, Prof. Tedeschi turned to the world of Judaism and the Zionist movement even before the rise of Fascism, which he abhorred. In Rome, he met Rabbi Dante Lattes who profoundly influenced his approach to Judaism and Zionism, and whom

he regarded as teacher and mentor. In 1931, Prof. Tedeschi first visited Palestine, and in 1932 he published "*Per una convenzione internazionale contro-l'antisemitismo*" (Proposal for an International Convention Outlawing Anti-Semitism), an act that brought down the wrath of the Fascist press.

Professor Tedeschi emigrated to Palestine in 1939. Fully aware of the formidable difficulties that stood in the path of a foreign legal scholar he lovingly accepted the spiritual, physical and economic hardships that attended his acculturation. I will never forget my impression, as a young student and assistant, of his modest Rehavia apartment and his unpretentious manner. His lifestyle remained unchanged throughout his life. A truly spiritual man, he took no interest in worldly goods and vanities. All his life he strove for intellectual perfection in its deepest sense, seeking both perfection in conduct and in the scientific study of his field of research, the law.

In his research, Prof. Tedeschi was uncompromising but fair; he was as strict with himself as he was with others. And the products of his research were painstakingly exact. As his students and assistants, we learned the importance of precision and scientific responsibility, yet even as his colleagues we have never equalled him.

Although always self-effacing and reluctant to sally forth from the sphere of legal research, his practical effect on Israeli law was dramatic. He was among the founders of the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, raised a generation of scholars, and produced a vast reservoir of impeccable legal resources.¹ He was like a spring that flowed as powerfully in old age as in youth, and his energy and diligence were astonishing. In his last letter to me he described his work and his initiatives in providing a comprehensive commentary to the civil law. This project made a decisive contribution to Israeli law, and it pains me that his work has now come to an end.

Professor Tedeschi's scientific contribution did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the Israel Prize for Jurisprudence, received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University, was elected a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and earned international recognition.

To us, his disciples, Prof. Tedeschi was a father and friend. He aided our advancement, took an interest in our families and our achievements,

1 For a detailed bibliography of Prof. Tedeschi's publications see (1986) 21 Is.L.R. 256-268.

and looked forward to our visits. We admired him. He filled us with that sense of awe that one feels in the presence of the great. We hung upon his words. He was a man of truth; his praise was praise and his criticism deserved.

If the loss of Prof. Tedeschi weighs so heavily upon his students and friends, how great must be the bereavement of his wife Elda *née* Finzi, his daughter Ya'ara, and the other members of his family to whom he was devoted with all his heart.

Professor Tedeschi's bookplate bore a hand holding a plumb-line to check the trueness of a building under construction. When asked as to its significance, he replied:

"Law is truth. Its purpose is to right the world by making the crooked straight and the rough places plain. Thus the jurist must understand his role". He then added: "I also intended to express the self-criticism that I tried to apply to my deeds, in scholarship and in life, in order to limit my mistakes. Was it all in vain? That is for others to say".

My teacher and my mentor Gad Guido Tedeschi, I here bear witness that your efforts were not in vain and that your life's work was wondrous! May your soul be enshrined for everlasting life.