

LEON FELDMAN

(1921 – 2008)

Howard R. Feldman

Dr. Leon A. Feldman, renowned scholar, prolific author, and master teacher, passed away on July 23, 2008, at the age of 87 after a brief battle with cancer. He served as Professor of Jewish History at the Touro College Graduate School of Jewish Studies since September 2004. Dr. Feldman was born in Berlin and found refuge in England and Canada during World War II, eventually settling in New York. In 1947, he was ordained as a rabbi by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He earned a DHL from Yeshiva University and a PhD from Columbia University. He also received a doctorate from the University of Amsterdam, and bachelor's and master's degrees from Oxford University as well as a doctorate from Yeshiva University.

Dr. Feldman founded the Department of Hebraic Studies at Rutgers University and taught there from 1962–1992, serving as Distinguished Professor of Hebraic Studies. He also held visiting faculty appointments at universities in Canada, England, Germany, Israel, Spain, and Switzerland, and was the founding rector of the College of Jewish Studies in Heidelberg, Germany.

Dr. Feldman's many scholarly volumes and articles focus primarily upon medieval rabbinic literature and, in particular, on responsa as a source for the study of Jewish history. His critical edition of the sermons of Rabbi Nissim ben Reuben Gerondi was awarded the



Jerusalem Prize for Literature and Jewish Thought in 1975. In 1988, he received the Rabbi Judah Leib Maimon Prize for Rabbinic Literature and Jewish History. Dr. Feldman was the recipient of numerous prestigious academic fellowships, and served as consultant to a wide variety of Jewish communal and educational organizations. He was a Fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research since 1982.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth Small Feldman, his brother Emmanuel Feldman, his sons Howard R. Feldman and Peter B. Telem, his granddaughters Debra Belowich and Adele and Michal Telem, his grandsons Brian Feldman and Elan Telem, and his great grandchildren Alexa and Talia Belowich.

Howard R. Feldman is Professor in the Biology Department at The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School of Touro College and son of Leon A. Feldman.

JONATHAN FRANKEL

(1935 – 2008)

Steven J. Zipperstein

Jonathan Frankel, arguably the most highly regarded historian of modern Jewry of his generation, died at the age of 72 of cancer in Jerusalem on May 7, 2008. A man of unusual generosity of spirit and the author of many works, his academic reputation is based primarily on two masterpieces of historical scholarship: *Prophecy and Politics* (1981), and *The Damascus Affair* (1997). He wrote on an epic scale, dense, yet lucid examinations of international politics and their intersection with Jews, profoundly original work that never broadcast its innovations that were left to readers to discover in prose that was subtle, unobtrusively learned.

Born in London on July 15, 1935, educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, Frankel completed his PhD in 1961 and moved to Israel in 1964 to teach at the Hebrew University. He remained at the Hebrew University until the time of his retirement, while also teaching (and holding, intermittently, a Chair) at University College, London, and from time to time occupying visiting positions at Columbia, Stanford, and elsewhere. He came from a family of Jewish businessmen, public figures, professionals, artists, and scholars with rabbis in the not-too-distant past, and he was raised in a traditional Jewish home with strong Zionist commitments. His devotion to Israel ran deep. It was wedded to an unyielding belief in liberalism, a crucial feature of Frankel's highly active political life as well as his