

Prof. Jacob Menachem Emil Goldschmidt

1930-1982



Jacob Menachem Emil Goldschmidt was born in 1930 in Aschaffenburg in Germany. In 1933, his family moved to the UK where he received his elementary and secondary education. From 1948-52, he studied at New York University, receiving a BA in chemistry. In 1952, he immigrated to Israel. After working for a year in the Weizmann Institute for the ministry of Defense, he studied for a PhD in inorganic chemistry under the supervision of Prof. M. Bobtelsky of the Hebrew University. In 1958-60, he was a postdoc at Birkbeck College, University of London with Prof. R. A. Shaw.

In 1961, he joined the newly established Department of Chemistry at Bar-Ilan as its first lecturer in inorganic chemistry. He rose through the ranks, becoming an associate professor in 1971. Prof. Goldschmidt served in many capacities in Bar-Ilan including Head of the Chemistry Department and Dean of the Faculty of Science (twice).

He was an idealist who shared the vision of the founders of Bar-Ilan, namely, to establish a university that would provide future generations with both an excellent scientific and Jewish education. He was a soft-spoken kind man with a high regard for precision and honesty in both research and academic life. As well as being an excellent researcher, he valued teaching and set up workshops so that university lecturers could improve their teaching. He even participated in them himself.

Unfortunately, aged only 51, he had a fatal heart attack, leaving his devoted wife Dina with a young family to raise alone.