

Harry Friedmann was educated in the European tradition at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles and had a deep grasp of physics, chemistry and mathematics. He also spoke several languages fluently: French, German, English, Hebrew, Dutch, Flemish and Yiddish, switching effortlessly from one to the other. Hearing or reading his English, one would never believe that he had never spent an extended period in an English-speaking country.

He was an excellent if somewhat unconventional teacher, the ultimate absent-minded professor. He loved imparting knowledge and could do so on any level to anyone at any time. Harry was obsessively precise in his scientific papers, worrying about every word and equation, and changing them many times until he was satisfied. He had a child-like curiosity and was full of ideas, many of which he himself rejected the next day.

His scientific interests were wide ranging from quantum mechanics to statistical mechanics, from nonlinear and quantum optics to the effect of laser light on biological systems. His knowledge of classic Jewish texts, mysticism and philosophy was profound and he devoted his last few years to reconciling Jewish mysticism with science. Harry was very generous with both his time and money and many people owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. He is survived by his wife Josephine, his daughter Jacqueline, his son Daniel and five grandchildren to whom he was devoted.