BENJAMIN MAZAR

In recognition of many years of academic activity, his invaluable contributions to the advancement of research and teaching on the Land of Israel and its antiquities, and in acknowledgment of his leading role in the establishment of the University of Haifa.

Born in Cechanowic in Russia in 1906, he was educated in Germany where he completed his studies in Civilization of the Land of Canaan (1927). He made aliyah in 1929 becoming a teacher at the Reali High School in Haifa. In 1931 he commenced the archaeological activities in Tel-el Mirsin, Beth Shean, Beth Jerach, Ramat Rahel, Kassia and the Temple Mount. This marked a turning point in archaeological research in Israel and became a major contribution to the development of archaeological knowledge.

In 1943 he joined the academic staff of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he trained and guided generations of students who later acquired renown as teachers and scholars of world-repute.

He has published some 450 academic works which have gained world-wide recognition as the keystone of the Land of Israel in all its aspects. He is the initiator of numerous scientific and academic projects, among which are the Encyclopaedia Biblica and the Quarterly of the Israel Exploration Society. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his publications. These include the Israel Prize and the Izhak Ben Zvi Prize.

He was the President and Rector of the Hebrew University for many years, during which period the University’s activities on Givat Ram were developed and consolidated.

In conjunction with the late Abba Khoushy he initiated the establishment of the University of Haifa, and has been a member of its Board of Governors since its inception. He has contributed greatly to the academic development of the University.