

# Fikhman, Itskhok Fiselevitch

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## In memoriam Otto Oskarovich Krüger

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## IN MEMORIAM OTTO OSKAROVICH KRÜGER

Soviet papyrology suffered heavy and irreparable loss. On April 12, 1967, Otto Oskarovich Krüger, professor and doctor of Historical Sciences, died after a very long illness in Leningrad. He was an outstanding Soviet papyrologist and epigraphist, and excellent expert in classical languages, history and culture.

Otto Oskarovich Krüger was born on October 31, 1893 in Moscow. He came from the family of a musician in the orchestra of Moscow Opera. After his father's death in 1894, his mother left for St. Petersburg, and since then all his life and activities have been connected with this city. After finishing the high school in 1913, he entered the classical department of the historical-philological faculty. There he studied under T. Zielinski, M. Rostovtzeff and G. Zereteli. The seminar conducted by M. Rostovtzeff and G. Zereteli had a great influence upon O. O. Krüger, determining his scientific career.

After graduation from the University in 1918, he was trained for a professorship, and at the same time he got a job at the State Hermitage, where he was working (with some intervals) till 1937, occupying different posts (ranging from the junior research worker to the head of the department and the learned secretary). In 1918 his first work on papyrology, written together with G. Zereteli, was published.<sup>1</sup> The new edition of the text, later included in the first volume of the papyri of the Soviet collection,<sup>2</sup> considerably improved the reading of the text offered by A. Bakstrom in 1903 and made possible a more profound interpretation of the text.

Almost at the same time O. O. Krüger held different posts at the State Academy of Material Culture (1920—1937). He began as a research worker, being appointed the President at interim of the Academy at last. All these years O. O. Krüger was teaching at certain Leningrad colleges, viz. the University (1926—1938), the Leningrad Institute of Philosophy, Literature and History (1930—1932, 1934—1937), Pokrovskii Pedagogical Institute (1932—1933, 1935—1938), where he was running the department of Ancient History.

<sup>1</sup> O. O. Krüger, G. Zereteli, *Meditsinskii papirus Muzeya Aleksandra III v Moskve Izvestiya RAN*, ser. VI, t. XII, 1918, pp. 1261—1278.

<sup>2</sup> *Papyri russischer und georgischer Sammlungen* (P. Ross. Georg.) hrsgb. von G. Zereteli, I—V, Tiflis, 1925—1935. Reedition Amsterdam, 1966.

O. O. Krüger gave much thought to Hellenistic history and papyrological studies. Many of the well-known Soviet scholars in the history and culture of the ancient world were trained by him and warmly remember him now.

His scientific interests embraced a vast field and he had a great knowledge and true research interest in antiquity. Writing about his creative work, we should make special note of his hard work in publishing the papyri of the Soviet collections both documentary and literary. In 1925 he published together with G. Zereteli the first volume of *Papyri russischer und georgischer Sammlungen*.<sup>3</sup> The volume included literary texts. In the same year he published a papyrus on the Theban uprising of 88 B.C.<sup>4</sup> The papyrus preceded the edition of P. Ross. Georg. II<sup>5</sup> in 1929, prepared by O. O. Krüger himself. It included 43 late-Ptolemaic and early Roman documents. The contents of the volume (e.g. P. Ross. Georg. II 18, 41 and others) are of great value, and it should be mentioned here that its excellent historical-juridical and philological comments aroused great scientific interest. Highly appreciating the edition as a whole, U. Wilcken praised the author's resourcefulness emphasizing that O. O. Krüger not only overcame difficulties he had been faced with but also in many cases improved the reading and interpretation of the texts previously published. To his work on papyrology we should add the selection and translations of the papyri made for the reader *Antique Mode of Production in Sources*<sup>6</sup> (many of these translations were included in other antique readers) as well as papers and articles with numerous corrections of papyrological and epigraphic texts.<sup>7</sup>

Another field of O. O. Krüger research activities was the study of the class struggle in antiquity<sup>8</sup> and the history of agriculture in Ptolemaic Egypt.<sup>9</sup> He also wrote a brief essay on Hellenism.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Literarische Texte* bearbeitet von G. Zereteli und O. O. Krüger, Tiflis, 1925.

<sup>4</sup> O. O. Krüger, *Zum thebanischen Aufstand von 88 v. Chr.* *Raccolta di scritti in onore di G. Lumbroso*, Milano, 1925, pp. 316-318.

<sup>5</sup> *Ptolemäische und frühromische Texte* bearbeitet von O. O. Krüger, Tiflis, 1929.

<sup>6</sup> *Antichnyi sposob proizvodstva v istochnikakh. Literaturnye, epigraficheskiye i papirologicheskiye svidetel'stva o sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoy istorii drevney Gretsii, ellinisticheskogo Vostoka i Rima*, Leningrad, 1933.

<sup>7</sup> O. O. Krüger, *Nadgrobiye Leoksa, syna Molpagora*. *Izvestiya GAIMK*, I, 1921, pp. 41-50; O. O. Krüger, *Epigraficheskiye melochi*, *Izvestiya GAIMK*, IV, 1925, pp. 81-96; O. O. Krüger, *Papirologicheskiye zametki*, *Problemy istorii dokapitalisticheskikh obshchestv*, 1934, no 9-10 pp. 204-210.

<sup>8</sup> O. O. Krüger, *Zum thebanischen Aufstand...*, O. O. Krüger, *Dvizheniya antichnykh rabov v doellinisticheskuyu epokhu*, in: *Iz istorii antichnego obshchestva*, *Izvestiya GAIMK*, 101, 1934, p. 116-138.

<sup>9</sup> O. O. Krüger, *Sel'skokhozyaistvennoye proizvodstvo v Ellinisticheskoy Egipte. Zernovyye kul'tury*. *Izvestiya GAIML*, 108, 1935, pp. 7-114.

<sup>10</sup> O. O. Krüger, *Ellinizm, Sotsial'no-ekonomichskii ocherk*. *Problemy istorii dokapitalisticheskikh obshchestv*, 1934, no. 11-12, pp. 181-201.

His work was highly appreciated and in 1938 he was granted a professorship and the degree of doctor of Historical Sciences. For a long time then he did not work in his field, resuming research and teaching in 1957. But being old and ill he did not start any fundamental monographs. He trained post-graduates at the Leningrad Branch of the Institute of History, students of Leningrad University, read papers and edited a number of translations from Greek and Latin.<sup>11</sup> He also resumed the edition of papyri, ostraca and mummy labels (cf. *JJP* XV p. 421; XVI-XVII p. 199—200) and published a number of papers and reviews. Special note should be made of *The Recluses in Ptolemaic Egypt* which offers a new interpretation of this term, *Miscellanea epigraphica* (cf. *JJP* XV pp. 421—423) as well as his review of *Corpus of the Bosporan Inscriptions* containing few, unfortunately very few, of his onomastic observations (cf. *JJP* XVI-XVII p. 199).

In the last years of his life his health was too poor to enable him to work actively and to study in the libraries, but until the last day of his life he took great interest in whatever was concerned with ancient history. Science lost in O. O. Krüger an excellent reader and interpreter of papyrological and epigraphical texts as well as a versatile student of antiquity.

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I. F. Fikhman

#### IN MEMORIAM PETER VIKTOROVICH JERNSTEDT

P. V. Jernstedt, the outstanding Soviet linguist, papyrologist and coptologist, a corresponding member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, died in Leningrad on December 25, 1966.

P. V. Jernstedt was born on June 21, 1890, in the town of Gatchina (the Leningrad district) in the family of Academician V. K. Jernstedt, the well-known hellenist and palaeographer, the founder of Russian papyrology. Being very good at linguistics, after his graduation from the secondary school he entered in 1908 the classical department of the historical-philological faculty at St. Petersburg University. There he chose as his future field the history of Greek and in the first place Modern Greek, This compelled him to make a thorough study of Middle Greek. At the same time he studied some Oriental languages at the Oriental faculty, viz. Hebrew, Aramaic, Assyrian, Syriac, Arabic, Sanskrit, Old Persian, etc., and later Egyptian and Coptic, the latter becoming his second and later his main speciality.

<sup>11</sup> Arrian, *Pokhod Aleksandra*, M.-L., 1962 (in the same book, pp. 5—14 his paper *Arrian i yego trud "Pokhod Aleksandra"*, cf. *JJP*, XV, p. 422). Varron, *Sel'skoye khozyaistvo*, M.-L., 1963; Strabon, *Geografiya*, M.-L., 1964 Cf. *JJP*, XVI-XVII, p. 87.