

## *Enoch Seminar Life Achievement Award to Paolo Sacchi*

*Henoch's* Board of Directors, jointly with the journal's Editorial Board and Advisory Board, are proud to announce that the Enoch Seminar, in its online session of Monday, June 29, 2020, awarded Paolo Sacchi – the founder of our journal, its first Editor-in-Chief from 1979 to 1989, and to date a member of its Board of Directors – the Enoch Seminar Life Achievement Award, along with such other eminent scholars of Second Temple Judaism as Devorah Dimant (a member of *Henoch's* Advisory Board), Michael A. Knibb, Robert A. Kraft, George W.E. Nickelsburg, and Michael E. Stone, «in gratitude for their exceptional contribution to the field of Second Temple Jewish Studies and their generous service in the Enoch Seminar».

We are happy to publish the award speech by Gabriele Boccaccini (founding Director of the Enoch Seminar since 2001 and *Henoch's* Editor-in-Chief from 2005 to 2012) and Paolo Sacchi's acceptance speech. We express our gratitude to Gabriele for allowing us to publish the speeches; to Paolo, our warmest congratulations and, as always, our deepest friendship and affection.

*Piero Capelli*

It is my honor to introduce our first awardee, Paolo Sacchi, Professor Emeritus at the University of Turin, and a very proud native of Florence. Professor Sacchi is internationally known for his groundbreaking studies on Jewish apocalypticism and in particular on the Books of Enoch. His major works have been translated into English: *Jewish Apocalyptic and Its History* (in 1996), and *History of the Second Temple Period* (in the year 2000). Sacchi was the founder of the journal *Henoch* in 1979. In the same year he also founded, along with a group of Italian colleagues, the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism (AISG).

A respected international scholar, in Italy Sacchi is even more than that. He is a living legend. In the 1980s I had the privilege of being a PhD student of his at the University of Turin but in Italy everyone who deals with Second Temple Judaism is a student of Sacchi. He created the field, published the

first Italian translation of the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha and the Septuagint, promoted studies on the Dead Sea Scrolls. A devoted teacher and a brilliant lecturer, he taught popular classes at the University and reached a large audience even outside the classroom.

Sacchi completed his studies at the University of Florence in the early 1950s. In 1956 he published his dissertation; it was a work of New Testament philology: *At the Origin of the New Testament*. Immediately his interests shifted from the New Testament itself to the environment in which the New Testament was born, from philology to intellectual history, from Christian Studies to Judaic Studies. In 1976 came his *Storia del mondo giudaico (History of the Jewish World)* a sort of first edition of his *History of the Second Temple Period*, and a revolutionary book in itself. Sacchi realized that in order to write an intellectual history of Second Temple Judaism, it was necessary to get rid not only of the canonical boundaries but also of any categorization that would collect documents according to their literary genre. The apocalyptic literature did not represent a unitary movement but it was possible to identify within the apocalyptic literature a certain distinctive tradition of thought, that attested to by the Enoch literature. His book was titled *Jewish Apocalyptic and Its History* but in reality it was the first attempt to write a history of what would be later called Enochic Judaism as a fundamental component of ancient Jewish thought.

Sacchi's work was one of those scholarly streams that most directly inspired the formation of the Enoch Seminar, when his work finally met with what Klaus Koch and Helge Kvanvig were doing in Europe, and George Nickelsburg, John Collins and James VanderKam were doing in the United States. Sacchi was one of the leading participants in all the first meetings of the Enoch Seminar and even after his retirement has remained a close friend of ours. Many of us will remember his very emotional visit to our latest Enoch Seminar in Florence just one year ago.

In 2015 Sacchi published an autobiographic account of his intellectual and spiritual journey. It is a fascinating reading about his meetings with some of the most distinguished Italian specialists of antiquity, such as Giorgio Pasquali, Sabatino Moscati and Giovanni Pugliese Carratelli, as well as about the development of his interests in the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Historical Jesus.

Paolo, grazie. siamo tutti orgogliosi di te. L'Italia è orgogliosa di te. Thank you, Paolo. We are all proud of you. Italy is proud of you.

Gabriele Boccaccini

First of all, I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Enoch Seminar for the honor they have so graciously given me, with this award and by including my name in such distinguished company. I greet with joy and best wishes all those who have worked and work at the Enoch Seminar – the directors, and especially Gabriele Boccaccini, who many years ago came out from Turin, Italy as one of my best students, certainly the one who had and has the widest interests. I praise his tenacity and ability to sacrifice himself at the beginning of his American life, as well as the hard work that led him to found the Enoch Seminar; it is a testament to his qualities as a scholar and a human being.

I would like to mention two events that preceded the foundation of the Enoch seminar. The first dates back to when Franco Bolgiani, Professor of Early Christianity at the University of Turin, felt the need to expand the interests of his chair to include the study of the Jewish environment in which Jesus lived. He needed a Hebraist to collaborate with: I was hired as his assistant professor. It was the year 1967: the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls was still in its infancy. I started studying them, not primarily for their relations to the New Testament, as many were doing at the time, but for what they were telling us about the history of ancient Jewish thought. To achieve this, I immediately realized that it was necessary to make all existing sources more easily available. Hence, the idea of publishing the first Italian editions of the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha and of the Septuagint, with introductions and commentary. I was not interested in theological or religious goals, but by the desire for a historical understanding of ancient sources. It was in this atmosphere that Dr. Gabriele Boccaccini arrived in Turin in the 1980s. The rest is history, a story of which Gabriele was made part and of which he is now a protagonist. It is the story of the Enoch Seminar. Thank you!

*Paolo Sacchi*

