IN MEMORIAM SIR MARTIN GILBERT, 1936–2015

I first met Martin Gilbert in May 2000, when he was given an honorary degree at the graduation ceremonies of The George Washington University, where I was Professor of History and chairman of the Program in Judaic Studies. But I felt that I had known him long before that, through his books.

I leave it to others to assess the major portion of his writings devoted to twentieth-century England, especially the career of Winston Churchill. And of course his role within the Chilcot Commission will need to be left to future scholars. Following is an appreciation of his work on Jewish Studies.

His earliest such books clustered not around a specific topic but rather around a medium that fascinated him through much of his life: the map, and the collection of maps in an atlas: *Jewish History Atlas* (1969), *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History in Maps* (1974), *The Jews of Arab Lands: Their History in Maps* (1976), *The Jews of Russia: Their History in Maps and Photographs* (1976), and *Jerusalem History Atlas* (1977).

This last launched his writing on a favorite topic: the history of Zionism and the State of Israel. This began with *Exile and Return: The Struggle for a Jewish Homeland* (1978), followed by *Jerusalem: Rebirth of a City* (1985); *Jerusalem in the Twentieth Century* (1996) and the 750-page survey: *Israel: A History* (1998).

A second significant interest was in Soviet Jewry, first explored in *The Jews of Hope* (1984), followed two years later by *Scharansky: Hero of Our Time* (1986).

An abiding passion was the Holocaust. Publication began with a broad survey: *Final Journey: The Fate of the Jews in Nazi Europe* (1979). *Auschwitz and the Allies* (1981) documented responses especially in the United States and England to the reports of mass murder. Five years later came his magnum opus, the 957-page *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe during the Second World War* (1986).

A subsequent publication elucidated the experience of some 732 young concentration inmate survivors in *The Boys: Triumph over Adversity* (1996). After his more personal *Holocaust Journey: Travelling in Search of the Past* (1997), he later returned to specific themes: saving behavior in *The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust* (2003), and Nazi Germany before the war in *Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction* (2006).

Among his later works was a broader survey – *The Jews in the Twentieth Century* (2001) – and a return to an early area of interest in the sweep of Jewish experience in the Islamic world: *In Ishmael's House: A History of the Jews in Muslim Lands* (2010).

This sustained productivity, alongside his massive research into the broader historical context especially in England, has educated and inspired readers throughout much of the world who seek a deeper understanding of the European, Soviet, and Israeli Jewish role in the staggering events of the previous century. We are impoverished by his passing, but we are immensely enriched by the legacy he has bequeathed.

Marc Saperstein