Ilan Weinberg, 1945–2013

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5774 has seen the passing of one of the great figures of the Judaica library world, Ilan Weinberg. Ilan, along with his brother Arodi, were the principals in A.I. Weinberg, Ltd., a firm started by their father in 1946 which supplies Israeli publications to Judaica libraries around the globe. Ilan, a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Computer Science, entered the book business in 1971, and developed a vast personal network throughout the world of Israeli publishing.

The Judaica Division of the Harvard Library was privileged to work closely with Ilan Weinberg over the course of four decades, in which he was a partner to the Judaica Division in its efforts to collect materials that document Jewish life in Israel. Ilan worked tirelessly to acquire books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers, posters, leaflets, flyers, sound recordings, and video recordings published in Israel. Ilan worked with great dedication, enormous wisdom and quiet diplomacy and his efforts yielded extraordinary results. No task was too difficult for Ilan, and he persevered until he invariably achieved success. Thanks to Ilan’s nearly forty years of work on behalf of Harvard Library’s Judaica Division, Harvard was able to build the largest collection of Israeli materials outside the State of Israel. He will be sorely missed, but his vital contribution will remain forever enshrined in the Israel Collection at the Harvard Library and in collections that he helped to build at other libraries.

May the memory of Ilan Weinberg be an inspiration to all—now and in future generations—who will benefit from all that he did to build library collections of Israeli publications.

Ilan is survived by his wife Liora, his daughters—Galit, Merav and Tal—and their spouses, nine grandchildren, and his brother Arodi. The A.I. Weinberg Ltd. firm continues its work, with a new generation of the family working alongside Arodi: Ilan’s daughter Merav, and Shai Nachmany, Arodi Weinberg’s son-in-law.

Yehi zikhro barukh.