

†Alessandra Gara

With deep sadness the *Bulletin* records the death from cancer of Alessandra Gara on 26 April 1993. At the time of her death, Cippi (as she was known to her legions of friends) was Associate Professor of Ancient History at the University of Pavia and anticipating a promotion to Professor in the near future.

Alessandra Gara was born in Venice in 1944. She was educated at the University of Milan, graduating in 1968 with a thesis on the literary works of Critias, and she continued at Milan with an appointment at the Istituto di Papirologia, then directed by I. Cazzaniga. In 1970 she was appointed to a research post in the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, followed by a regular research and teaching position in the University a few years later. She joined the University of Pavia in 1983, teaching a range of courses in ancient history, particularly in ancient social and economic history.

Gara's first major published work, *Prosdia graphomena e circolazione monetaria* (Milan 1976) quickly became a classic, bringing intelligible order to a subject of technical complexity encountered by almost all papyrologists at some point. Her ability to deploy papyrological and numismatic sources with equal facility marked her as an unusual contributor to the field. This dual focus marked a whole series of articles, ranging from publications of both papyri (notably of Michigan papyri in *ZPE* 35, 37, and 50) and coins (perhaps most notably her brilliant "Matrici di fusione e falsificazione monetaria nell'Egitto del IV secolo," *QuadTic* 1978) to several broad-ranging syntheses. The largest of these, a piece on the monetary economy of Roman Egypt, appeared in *ANRW* II.10.1 (1988), long after its original composition, and at a point when its author had already changed her mind about some of the issues on the basis of more recent research. The essential points had already appeared in 1979 (in *Points de vue sur la fiscalité antique*, ed. H. van Effenterre).

Her interests in the ancient economy and its social context were far broader than monetary history, however, and her association with E. Gabba in Pavia offered a great deal of stimulation for the combination of her technical expertise with theoretical sophistication. In the 1980s a stream of articles on other aspects of the subject began to appear, some of them in collaboration with her long-time colleague Daniele Foraboschi; an example is the study on the differences between interest rates in money and in kind in Egyptian loans delivered at the XVI International Congress of Papyrology (1980) and published in its *Proceedings*. With Foraboschi she also carried out field research in 1988 on ceramic deposits in and near Alexandria. In

the last few years she was engaged in preparing a book on ancient technology, which will be published posthumously.

Gara was a member of the editorial board of the *Rivista Italiana di Numismatica* and of numerous learned societies, including both the American Society of Papyrologists and the American Numismatic Society. She had many close ties in the United States, where she spent ten months at the University of Michigan in 1978 and which she visited on other occasions. Equally, however, she had a host of friends in many other countries, who delighted in her visits for research and lecturing. Cippi's natural exuberance and generosity were rare gifts for all she knew. She was also an excellent cook; two of the mainstays of my summer pasta repertory are from meals she served during one of my visits to Milan.

She is survived by her husband, Angelo Gavezzotti, a professor at the University of Milan (to whom I am indebted for some of the biographical information in this notice).

[R. S. B.]