

David Konstan: A Friend of the SBL

At its best, the SBL has always endeavored to be a multidisciplinary society that not only welcomes but also celebrates the many valuable contributions that our colleagues in other fields make to biblical studies. Among the SBL's numerous friends, David Konstan (1940–2024) was exemplary. I first met David in 1992 when I was a visiting professor at Brown University, where, thanks particularly to Stanley K. Stowers, David began to devote greater attention to the world of early Christianity. Stan and I were members of the SBL's program unit on Hellenistic Moral Philosophy and Early Christianity, and we were able to involve David and other classicists in our project to translate Philodemus's *On Frank Criticism* into English. It surprised none of us when David ultimately took the lead in that project and spearheaded the translation, which was published in the old SBL Texts and Translations series (1998). When the SBL established the current Writings from the Greco-Roman World (WGRW) series, David readily agreed to serve on the editorial board (2000–2006) and then, together with Johan C. Thom, led the WGRW series as co-general editors (2007–2013). In addition to his more general WGRW work, David and Donald Russell edited and translated Heraclitus, *On Homeric Problems* (2005), and David translated the Greek text for both Iliaria Ramelli's volume on Hierocles the Stoic (2009) and Grammatiki Karla's just-published volume on the Life of Aesop (2024). In addition, David was the volume editor for L. Michael White and G. Anthony Keddie's *Jewish Fictional Letter from Hellenistic Egypt* (2018) and a volume editor for Martin Albl's translation of Pseudo-Gregory of Nyssa's *Testimonies against the Jews* (2004).

For those of us who were privileged to know him, we appreciated David for being a truly splendid human being whose scholarship was always stimulating, his charisma constantly inspiring, and his friendship utterly remarkable. Indeed, he embodied what genuine friendship entails, and he taught us to appreciate what Epicurus once said, "Friendship goes dancing round the world, announcing to all of us to wake up to happiness" (*Vatican Saying* 52). May his memory be a blessing to us all.

John T. Fitzgerald