

## Silvia Reich

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### From Palestine to Florence

Silvia Reich was born in 1914 in Leopoli, a city that was annexed to Poland in 1919 and eventually annexed to the Soviet Ukraine in 1945. Her parents, Leon, a lawyer, and Regina Gerstman emigrated to Palestine<sup>1</sup>. Silvia graduated from Herzliya High School in Jaffa in the literature curriculum. In 1936-37 she enrolled in the Agriculture Department at the University of Florence. She took her final exam on 24 February 1940; then she requested a certificate which confirmed the exams she had taken (the confirmation was released in May). She subsequently withdrew «due to *force majeure*» all her documentation<sup>2</sup>. With the imminent onset of war, Silvia decided to return to Palestine.

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### Graduation after the war

After the war was over, in September 1946, Silvia applied for readmission to the university as a *fuori corso* student (one who does not pass all the exams on time). After taking exams in seven subjects, she graduated in Agricultural Sciences on 17 July 1947 with a thesis entitled «Influenza fra soggetto e nesto negli innesti delle piante da frutta» (Influence between subject and nesto on grafts of fruit plants). She got the maximum grade of 110/110 and the *dignità di stampa* (recommendation her thesis be published)<sup>3</sup>. No further information has been found on the subsequent phase of her life.

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<sup>1</sup> ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Reich Silvia», enrollment form, 18 January 1937.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Student booklet; Certificate n. 237, 15 May 1940; copy of authenticated translation of graduation certificate, 16 May 1940.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., request to the administration, September 1946; diploma and certificate of graduation, 17 November 1946.

**Archival sources**

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Reich Silvia».

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