

## Zelda Youdassin

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### Emigration to Palestine and then to Italy to further her education

Zelda Youdassin was born in 1913 at Ekaterinoslav (today Dnipro), in the Ukraine; her parents, Meyer and Reisa Kuna, subsequently decided to emigrate to Palestine<sup>1</sup>. Ekaterinoslav was the seat of a large Jewish community, which was decimated during the extermination<sup>2</sup>. After receiving her diploma, Zelda emigrated to Italy and enrolled in the Pharmacy Department in Rome in the 1933-34 academic year. She transferred to Florence in her fourth year in 1936-37, graduating from the Pharmacy Department on 9 November 1939, with a thesis entitled «Sintesi di un derivato dell'antipirina», receiving a grade of 92/110. Her supervisor was Mario Passerini, professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Director of the School of Pharmacy<sup>3</sup>. Youdassin, who was no longer enrolled, was able to take advantage of the extra session in November 1939 as part of the previous academic year. This was the last opportunity to avoid expulsion. In 1940 Zelda returned to Tel Aviv, where the Palestinian authorities recognized her license to practice her profession<sup>4</sup>.

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1 ASUFi, AC, SS, f. «Yudassin [sic] Zelda», Regia Università degli studi di Roma, dismissal document, 15 January, 1936.

2 Cfr. Dieter Pohl, *Die Einsatzgruppe C*, in Peter Klein (Hrsg.), *Die Einsatzgruppen in der besetzten Sowjetunion 1941/42. Die Tätigkeits- und Lageberichte des Chefs der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD*, Berlin, Edition Hentrich, 1997, pp. 71-87.

3 ASUFi, AC, SS, f. «Yudassin [sic] Zelda», request to the rector, 28 September, 1939; *ibid.*, Regia Università degli studi di Firenze, verbal transcript of the graduation exam, 9 November, 1939. On Passerini cfr. Marco Fontani, Silvia Selleri, *Mario Torquato Passerini: l'Uomo dietro la Reazione*, «Rendiconti dell'Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL. Memorie di Scienze Fisiche e Naturali», S5, XXXVII, t. II, 2013, pp. 83-94 <<http://media.accademiasxl.it>> (accessed 31 March, 2019).

4 *Pharmacists' Licences*, «The Palestine Gazette», 18 April 1940, p. 441.

**Archival sources**

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Yudassin [sic] Zelda».
- *Pharmacists' Licences*, «The Palestine Gazette», 18 April 1940, p. 441.

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