

THE ANTI-ROMAN JEWISH REBELLION IN CYPRUS
IN 116/117 AD

By

ZDZISŁAW J. KAPER A

INTRODUCTION

In the last half century we can witness a revival of historical research on the Jewish uprisings against the Romans of the years AD 66–73, 116/117, and 132–135. It is necessary to say at once that the Jews of Cyprus took part only in one of them, and it is regrettable that this fact is usually barely noticed and rarely treated in depth¹.

The growing interest in the uprisings is very probably the result of documents being unexpectedly found in the Judaeen Desert; they included among others some letters of the famous Bar-Kokhba, leader of the last rebellion². Certainly the continuous progress of studies on Flavius Josephus has had some influence, too. Several colloquia have taken place dealing with the rebellions and even some monographs have appeared. There are specialists concentrating on one or the other uprising. Concerning the turmoil in the Jewish Diaspora at the time of Trajan the leading person is Prof. Miriam PUCCI BEN ZEEV, whose monograph on the subject is a considerable advance in the current research³. However, even in her study, Cyprus is treated only marginally.

¹ Cf. for example M. GOODMAN, *Trajan and Roman Hostility to the Jews*, Past and Present CLXXXII 2004, pp. 3–29 or his: *Rome and Jerusalem. The Clash of Ancient Civilisations*, London 2007, pp. 454 ff.

² The discussion started with the publication of a Bar Kokhba letter from a cave in the Wadi Murabba'at by J.T. MILIK: *Une lettre de Siméon Bar Kokheba*, *Revue Biblique* LX 1953, pp. 276–294. Recently it got a new fuel with the discoveries of hideouts of the rebels in the Judaeen Desert. Cf. for example A. KLONER, B. ZISSU, *Hiding Complexes in Judaea: An Archaeological and Geographical Update on the Area of the Bar Kokhba Revolt*, in: P. SCHÄFER (ed.), *The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered*, Tübingen 2003, pp. 181–216.

³ Cf. a preliminary version in Italian: *La rivolta ebraica al tempo di Traiano*, Pisa 1981, and final English version: *Diaspora in Turmoil, 116/117 CE: Ancient Sources and Modern Insights*, Leuven–Dudley, MA 2005.