Passing of Professor Samuel Morell

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H-Judaic is greatly saddened to learn of the passing, following a long illness, of Professor Samuel Morell (1937-2020), emeritus professor at SUNY Binghamton. Professor Jonathan Karp has sent us the following notice:

"Samuel (Shmuel) Morell was a leading scholar of early modern halakhah, focusing especially on the responsa of David ben Solomon ibn Abi Zimra (Radbaz). He authored two major monographs: Studies in the Judicial Methodology of Rabbi David ibn Abi Zimra (2003) and Precedent and Judicial Discretion: The Case of Joseph ibn Lev (1991). Morell was one of the first to receive a PhD in Talmud and Rabbinics from JTS, working under the tutelage of Professor Haim Zalman Dimitrovsky and studying together with Shamma Friedman. Over the course of a long career at Binghamton University (joining the faculty in 1968 and retiring from the University’s Judaic Studies Department in 2007), Shmuel was a devoted teacher of Hebrew literature and language, as well as of Jewish history. He was also a member of the Binghamton Jewish community and Congregation Beth David. He was predeceased by his first wife (Audrey) and is survived by his spouse Marion, his children (Avi Morell, Eitan Morell, and Sima Morell Kelner) and numerous grandchildren in New York State, New Jersey and Israel."

H-Judaic extends deepest condolences to the family.

Jonathan D. Sarna
Chair H-Judaic