

SELECTED RESEARCH AND RESOURCES LIST

ARCHIVES

London Metropolitan Archives. The LMA is the custodian of the archives from the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregations. More detailed information about the relevant archival content is in the folder at

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1F3qBX5CUAI_RxDFTBSZHDYv5wj_nvdJA

'The burial register of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, London 1657-1735', R D Barnett, Miscellanies (Jewish Historical Society of England), Vol. 6 (1962), pp. 1-72. A commented and indexed record of every single burial at the Velho Cemetery; the only part of the Bevis Marks registry material at the London Metropolitan Archive that appears to be online (digitised by Jstor).

https://www.jstor.org/stable/29777128?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

'El Libro de los Acuerdos', being the records and accompts of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of London from 1663 to 1681', by Lionel D Barnett (1931, Oxford University Press). Another comprehensive record of various transactions. Not at LMA.

British Library sound archives, oral histories of Jewish experience and Holocaust testimonies (including interview recordings from Sephardi Voices project).

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/oral-histories-of-jewish-experience-and-holocaust-testimonies>

ORGANISATIONS & INITIATIVES ABOUT SEPHARDI JEWS

Foundation for the Advancement of Sephardic Studies, whose mission is to preserve and promote the centuries-old culture of the Sephardic communities of Turkey, Greece, the Balkans, Europe and the US. Includes publications and information on Ladino. However, it looks as if the Foundation may no longer be active.

<http://www.sephardicstudies.org/>

Sephardi Voices, an oral history project that collects testimonies from Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews who fled to the UK from North Africa, the Middle East and Iran essentially during the second half of the 20th century. The website includes information about the approximately 80 individuals who were interviewed, but the recordings themselves are held in the British Library's sound archives (see above). <https://www.sephardivoices.org.uk/>

Jewish Museum exhibition on 'Sephardi Voices' (2017), accompanying the above project.

<https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/sephardi-voices-jews-from-north-africa-the-middle-east-and-iran/>

Routes of Sepharad, English-language version of Spanish multimedia resource ('Camino de Sefarad') that charts the Sephardi presence in Spain through interactive maps, images and chronologies; an initiative of the Red de Juderías de España.

<https://www.redjuderias.org/google/index.php?l=en>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, a membership organisation whose aims include the encouragement of genealogical research and the promotion/preservation of Jewish Genealogical records. It runs a Dutch and Sephardi special interest group which

organises occasional meetings (although its pages on the JGSGB website appear to be reserved for members). <http://www.jgs.gb.org.uk/>

GENERAL ANGLO-SEPHARDI HISTORY

'Bevis Marks Records - Being contributions to the history of the Spanish and Portuguese congregations of London', part 1, the early history of the congregation from the beginning until 1800, edited by Lionel L Barnett (Oxford University Press 1940). Parts 2 to 6 are archival material kept at LMA, but part 1 is a straightforward history, with illustrations, not an archive - and therefore not kept at LMA.

'The Sephardim of England', a history of the Spanish and Portuguese community 1492-1951, by Albert M Hyamson (Methuen, 1951). A very comprehensive history, 468 pages.

The Jewish community of London, a summarised history, including a short account of the resettlement of Jews in the 1650s, on the website of the Museum of the Jewish People, in Israel. <https://dbs.bh.org.il/place/london-england>

'Tracing the first Jews of Britain', a piece on the BBC website (2006), with information about selected families. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/5338942.stm>

'A short history of Anglo-Jewry: the Jews of Britain, 1656-2006', by Paul Vallely; an article published in 2006 in The Independent, covering both Sephardi and Ashkenazi history. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/a-short-history-of-anglo-jewry-the-jews-in-britain-1656-2006-6098403.html>

'Report on the "Marranos" or Crypto-Jews of Portugal', by Lucian Wolf (Anglo-Jewish Association, 1926). An account of the history of secret Jewish communities that subsisted in Portugal until the early 20th century. This includes some brief background about the circumstances that led some of these communities to seek refuge in other parts of Europe, including London, between 1580 and 1640 - the period during which Portugal came under Spanish domination. The report refers to the Alien Certificates, originally preserved in Bevis Marks, which provide insights into the reasons why refugees sought sanctuary in England. The report provided the basis for the setting up of the Portuguese Marranos Committee, which operated in London from 1926 to 1938, with the aim of helping to reconnect the remaining Marrano communities with Judaism. The report, along with extensive documentation relating to the Committee's work, is kept at LMA.

SEPHARDI SETTLEMENT IN ENGLAND IN THE 17th CENTURY

Archival material

Archives of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation. These are kept and curated on behalf of the Congregation by the London Metropolitan Archive. The detailed catalogue covering the full set of LMA/4521 material (pdf, 258 pages) is at https://search.lma.gov.uk/LMA_DOC/LMA_4521.PDF . Further information about the archive and a small selection of examples of its useful material can be found in a shared folder set up as part of the project, at https://drive.google.com/open?id=1F3qBX5CUAI_RxDFTBSZHDYv5wj_nvdJA .

Thomason Tracts. This is a large collection of over 22,000 printed items (printed pamphlets, books and newspapers), kept at the British Library, mostly from the period 1640-1661. This collection includes material of relevance to debates surrounding the re-admittance of Jews, including the writings of William Prynne, a notoriously anti-semitic pamphleteer who argued forcibly against the readmittance. Much of the material in the collection has been digitised, but is only available for viewing on site at the British Library; further details at <https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/thomason-tracts> .

'A Collection of the State Papers of John Thurloe', originally published by Fletcher Gyles, London, 1742. John Thurloe was Secretary to the Council of State under Cromwell's Protectorate, and also head of intelligence, in control of a vast spying network. He was a key figure in Cromwellian England and his voluminous correspondence was subsequently published. Small elements of this material relates to the re-admission of Jews, and provides insights into contemporary debates around this issue. Two examples are indicated here: a letter from Major General Whalley to Thurloe, from 12 December 1655, expressing the view that there is much to be gained from readmitting Jews (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/thurloe-papers/vol4/pp302-317>); and a letter from Thurloe to Major General H Cromwell, describing the variety of views expressed at the Whitehall Conference (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/thurloe-papers/vol4/pp318-332#h3-0011>) . All the correspondence has been conveniently digitised and made available through British History Online. It is worth searching through all of Thurloe's correspondence to identify any other relevant material.

Secondary sources

'A history of the establishment and residence of the Jews in England', by J E Blunt (1830). This extract from the introduction to the book which, from the perspective of the early 19th century, sets the scene: *"Most persons appear to entertain the opinion that the Jews labour under some disabilities; but of their nature and extent there are, probably, very few who can give any distinct or accurate account. It will be the object of the following pages to remove, as far as possible, the uncertainty and difficulty by which this question is surrounded - to show the former and well as the actual situation of the Jews in this country - and to point out the foundation and nature of the law, as it regards them at the present moment."* The circumstances relating to the resettlement are covered briefly in pages 67-73. https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=6v-ue_Hiub4C&hl=en_GB&pg=GBS.PR3

'History of the Jews, volume 5.', by Heinrich Graetz (Cosimo Classics, 2009; originally published 1856), part of what was the first standard complete sweep of Jewish history, from biblical times to the end of the 19th century. Chapter 2 is a detailed account of the settlement in England in the 1650s, with much emphasis on the millenarian movement, the efforts of Menasseh ben Israel and Cromwell's attitudes towards Jews. There is also a good description of the 1655 Whitehall Conference and the debates that raged around it.

'The Jews of Britain, 1656-2000', by Todd M Endelman (University of California Press, 2002). Chapter 1 covers the resettlement period, from the 1650s to 1700, and also provides some detail about the circumstances relating to the re-admittance of Jews under Cromwell.

'Philo-Semitism and the Readmission of the Jews to England 1603-1655', by David S Katz (Oxford University Press, 1982). Highly detailed account of the circumstances relating to the Jewish settlement in England, with particular emphasis on the millenarian and religious considerations. In Katz's words, *"Cromwell and Charles II realized that the Jews as a nation could never be admitted through the front door, they were anxious to go round the back themselves and let them in through the door reserved for tradesmen."*

‘The Whitehall Conference of 1655 and the Readmission of the Jews to England’, by Jonathan M Tillotson (1997). This MA dissertation describes the circumstances leading up to the Conference, particularly the emergence of philo-Semitism and how this related to the religious politics of England under Cromwell. However, there is relatively little on the Conference itself, although the paper briefly considers its aftermath. https://www.academia.edu/9851912/The_Whitehall_Conference_of_1655_and_the_Readmission_of_the_Jews_to_England_MA_Dissertation_1997

‘Menasseh ben Israel’s Mission to Oliver Cromwell’, by Lionel Abrahams (The Jewish Quarterly Review, vol 14 no 1 Oct 1901). A venerable article that examines Menasseh ben Israel’s role in seeking to gain readmittance for Jews in England in the 1650s, his relationship with Oliver Cromwell and more broadly, the attitudes towards Jews at the time and the situation of the small crypto-Jewish community under the Commonwealth. Available via JStor at https://www.jstor.org/stable/1450525?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

‘Mr Pepys’ contacts with the Spanish and Portuguese Jews of London’, an unpublished article by Richard David Barnett, Keeper at the British Museum’s Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities (1955–74), on the friendships between Samuel Pepys and members of the Sephardi community in London in the 1660s. The article offers insights in the relationship between the emergent Jewish community and English society between the 1660s and 1680s. Available via JStor at https://www.jstor.org/stable/29779807?read-now=1&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents .

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SEPHARDI HISTORY IN ENGLISH LOCALITIES

‘The Sephardim of Manchester’, by Lydia Collins (Shaare Hayim 2006). A history, but mostly a record of families, by country of origin.

‘The Jews of Bristol’, by Alex Schlesinger. A history of the Jewish community in Bristol, although not specifically focused on Sephardis. <https://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Community/bri1/Articles/History.pdf> Bristol

‘Bath’, by Marcus Roberts. A history of the Sephardic Jews in Bath, from the website of the National Anglo-Jewish Heritage Trail. <http://www.jtrails.org.uk/trails/bath/history?page=1>

SEPHARDI HISTORY IN THE CARIBBEAN

'The Jews of Jamaica', by Yvette Alt Miller (2016), a piece on the Aish website, covering both history and culture. <http://www.aish.com/jw/s/Jews-of-Jamaica.html>

'Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean', by Edward Kritzer (Anchor Books, 2009). The book's sub-title is 'How a generation of swashbuckling Jews carved out an empire in the new world in their quest for treasure, religious freedom - and revenge'; it tells the history of how Jews who fled Spanish and Portuguese persecution turned to piracy in the 17th century - and more broadly, of Jewish settlement in the Americas.

'Incorrect information about Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean', a piece by Ton Tielen, published on the Geni genealogy website, and which seeks to debunk what it considers to be serious misinformation in Kritzer's book, above. <https://www.geni.com/projects/Incorrect-Information-from-Jewish-Pirates-of-the-Caribbean/44092>

'Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean', by Gil Stern Zohar, a 2016 article in The Jerusalem Post. This covers the general history of Jewish settlement and economic activity in the Caribbean, as well as a more specific details on Jewish pirates and buccaneers. <https://www.jpost.com/Magazine/Jewish-pirates-of-the-Caribbean-447397>

'The forgotten Jewish Pirates of Jamaica', by Ross Kenneth Urken, writing a travel piece in the Smithsonian website in 2016. More broadly than just recalling piracy, this piece describes the documentation of Jewish history in Jamaica since the 17th century, with some reference to the relationship between Judaism and Rastafarianism. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/forgotten-jewish-pirates-jamaica-180959252/>

'Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean?', by Andrée Aelion Brooks, in Hadassah Magazine (2008); this article examines the reality and myths surrounding supposed Jewish piracy in the Caribbean, and casts some doubt about the extent to which Jews were involved in piracy. <http://www.hadassahmagazine.org/2008/11/29/feature-jewish-pirates-caribbean/>

'Famous Jewish Pirates', an unauthored and undated post on the JewishSphere website; a straightforward list of purportedly Jewish pirates, along with a chronology and background information. Part of the information looks of dubious quality. <http://www.jewishsphere.com/Directory/FamousJewishPirates.html>

THE MILE END CEMETERIES

'The Novo Cemetery', an authoritative history and description of the Novo Cemetery, compiled by Historic England. The Cemetery has been inscribed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens because of its special historic interest, hence its cataloguing by Historic England. The web page also includes a list of useful references.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1416421>

'At The Velho & Alderney Rd Cemeteries', a description of the Velho Cemetery with over 30 photos of graves and other cemetery features, from the Spitalfields Life blog (2014). <http://spitalfieldslife.com/2014/04/14/at-the-velho-alderney-rd-cemeteries/>

‘Novo Beth Chaim: an old Jewish cemetery marooned on a university campus’, a description of the Novo Cemetery with 16 photos and a short reference list, from the Flickering Lamps blog (2015). <https://flickeringlamps.com/2015/07/24/novo-beth-chaim-an-old-jewish-cemetery-marooned-on-a-university-campus/>

SEPHARDI / LADINO MUSIC

Sephardic music - a century of recordings, a comprehensive website compiled by Joel Bresler that showcases over 100 years of recorded Sephardic music. Contains much information about the history of Sephardic music and musical styles, as well as extracts from selected recordings across the years and an index of musicians. <https://www.sephardicmusic.org/index.htm>

Folk literature of the Sephardic Jews, an extensive multimedia archive of ballads and other oral literature in Ladino, collected between 1957 and 1993 and currently hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. All the recorded tapes and transcripts are freely available on the site. <http://www.sephardifolklit.org/>

‘Sepharad, music of Sephardic Jews’, a half hour film (1991), outlining the Sephardic musical tradition. The film is an independent production, reproduced on the site of the Jewish Music Research Centre at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The quality of the sound of the recording is good, but the visual elements are unfortunately of poor definition. <http://www.jewish-music.huji.ac.il/content/sepahrad-music-sephardic-jews>

Selected musicians / musical ensembles specialising in Sephardi / Ladino music:

- La Roza Enflorese - A Belgian group which has been interpreting the Sephardic monodic repertoire since 2000. Originating in an oral tradition, these songs are open to a wide range of interpretative possibilities. Made up of five musicians with a variety of backgrounds, the ensemble presents these songs as an encounter between early, traditional and modern music, drawing both on instrumental techniques inspired by popular music and on improvisation. <http://roza-enflorese.be/en/>
- Los Desterrados - a north London ensemble bringing new life to the ancient music of the Sephardic Jews. Fusing Spanish Flamenco and the fiery Gypsy melodies of the Balkans and Greece with the rhythms of North Africa and Turkey, Los Desterrados have created a Mediterranean sound that is wholly their own. Their repertoire is sung mainly in Ladino. <http://www.losdesterrados.com/>
- Yair Dalal - Israeli composer, violinist, oud player and singer of Iraki origin. A prolific ethnic musician, plays an important role in shaping the global world music scene. Over the last decade he has put 12 albums, covering wide and varied cultural territory, and authentically representing Israeli, Jewish and Middle Eastern cultures and fusing them through music as whole. <https://www.yairdalal.com/>
- Yamma Ensemble - a leading Israeli world music ensemble which presents original contemporary Hebrew music, but whose repertoire includes the traditional music and material of the various Jewish diasporas. Songs of the Jewish communities from Yemen, Babylon, and Sepharad, as well as Hasidic music, with the forms and rhythms that have been preserved by generations of Jewish traditions. <http://www.yammaensemble.com/>

Examples of Sephardi / Ladino song recordings:

- La Roza Enflorese - by La Roza Enflorese (musical ensemble of the same name as the song - see above), from the album 'Séfarad'.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aU947GrXYCc>
- Morena me Yaman - by Isaac Levy, from the album 'El Kante de una Vida' (The Song of a Life). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35G4B3NmUZg>
- Sien Drahmas Al Dia - by the Yamma Ensemble (see above), recorded in concert.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2siNjpiyKY>
- Luna Sefardita - by Ana Alcaide, from the album 'La Cantiga del Fuego'.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSM8K0yC_Lw

Cordoba International Festival of Sephardi Music, a one-hour film from the 16th edition of the Festival, in 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6itZDX316I>

Liturgical music of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews of London, an extensive archive of recordings (including a CD of celebratory chants, with choir) from the S&P Sephardi Community. <https://www.sephardi.org.uk/community/sephardi-music/>

SEPHARDI FOOD

'Portuguese-Jewish exiles turned chips with fish into our national dish', by Samuel Muston. An article in The Independent (2015) that explores the possible Sephardi origins of fish & chips.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/features/portuguese-jewish-exiles-turned-chips-with-fish-into-our-national-dish-10394910.html#r3z-addoor>

'As British as fish and chips', a piece on the website of the National Federation of Fish Friers, with a section on the Sephardi origins of fried fish.

<http://www.federationoffishfriers.co.uk/pages/history--599.htm>