המכון הבינלאומי לגנאלוגיה יהודית ומרכז פאול יעקבי, ירושלים

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY
AND PAUL JACOBI CENTER
AT THE JEWISH NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, JERUSALEM

Geographical and Genealogical Origins of Anglo-Jewry

Research Proposal

Sir Martin Gilbert

For the past few years, I have been working on a History of the Jews of Great Britain from earliest times until today. As every British Jew is a descendant of an immigrant family, starting with the immigration from Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands in the 1650s and 1660s, I have become increasingly interested in the countries and towns of origin of Jews who emigrated to Britain, and whose children and grandchildren became an integral part of British Jewish life.

The work I have in mind is a study, with genealogical tables and maps (which I will draw myself) of the places of origins of Britain's Jewish families, country by country and period by period, and a discussion of their descendants in Britain, including the towns where they settled.

My plan is to start with the fifty-year period of immigration from both Sephardi and Ashkenazi lands in the second half of the seventeenth century, with the readmission of Jews to England after 1650. This would be followed by immigration patterns decade by decade, focusing on historically significant periods, including 1815 to 1848 (mainly German and Italian Jews); 1880-1905 (Russian Jews); 1933-1939 (German, Austrian and Czech Jews); 1948-1968 (Mizrahi Jews, including Iraqi, North African, Iranian, Adeni, Yemeni and Bahraini Jews); 1956 (Jews from both Hungary and Egypt; the 1970s (South African Jews); the 1990s (Russian Jews).

This project will link the genealogical tables of a sample of fifty specific families (or perhaps a hundred, subject to discussion with the sponsor) with the map of their place of origin and their route of immigration – see Appendix.

The genealogical tables and maps will also address those British Jews – the descendants of immigrants – who left Britain for North America, Europe, Australia, Israel and elsewhere.

Additionally, the charts and maps would include for each generation and wave of immigrants both well-known families, and typical families whose stories are not part of the published literature.

The end-product will be a unique view of Anglo-Jewry, from an original and very human perspective.

Budget: To carry out and complete the research a grant of £13-15,000 would be required.

***

Appendix:

Sample families whose roots and descendants to be traced and mapped

(in date order from the 16th Century onwards)

SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Crato, Portugal: Rodrigo Lopez, Physician to Queen Elizabeth I, 1586.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Fundao, Portugal: Antonio Carvajal, the first naturalised English Jew, 1655.
Oran, North Africa: Jacob Sasportas, first Haham in London, 1660.
Hamburg: Moses Levy, an original subscriber to the Bank of England, 1688.
Venice: Rabbi David Nieto, Rabbi of the Creechurch Street Synagogue, 1698.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Bordeaux: Sir Solomon de Medina, the first Jew to be knighted, 1700.
Wurttemburg: Meyer Schomberg, admitted to the Royal College of Physicians, 1722
Lisbon: Isaac de Sequeira Samuda, the first Jew elected to the Royal Society, 1723.
Wiesbaden: Benjamin Levy, founded the Portsmouth Jewish congregation, 1747.
Furth, Bavaria: Zalman Solomon, pioneer Jewish education, 1780s.
Gibraltar: Moses Toledano, married in Bevis Marks Synagogue, 1783.
Posen: Hyman Hurwitz, first head of the Highgate Jewish boarding school, 1799.

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Jamaica: Sir Manasseh Lopes elected to Parliament 1802.
Frankfurt-on-Main: Nathan Mayer Rothschild opens his London banking house, 1811.
Livorno, Italy: Moses Montefiore, philanthropist, knighted by Queen Victoria, 1837.
Bombay: Sassoon David Sassoon reaches London, founds a merchant dynasty, 1858.
Cologne: Ernest Cassell, the future banker, reaches Liverpool, 1869.
Slonim, Russia: Michael Marks, establishes Marks and Spencer, 1884.
Bucharest: Moses Gaster becomes Haham and a leading British Zionist, 1887.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Warsaw: Alfred Wolmark, painter, first exhibits at the Royal Academy, 1911.
Riga: Isaiah Berlin, philosopher, Prize Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford, 1932.
Travnik, Yugoslavia: Solomon Gaon, becomes Haham, 1949.
Tokmak, Ukraine: Lew Grade, establishes Associated TeleVision (ATV), 1954.
Vienna: Ernst Gombrich, art historian, author of *Story of Art*, 1950.
Konigsberg: Immanuel Jakobovits becomes Chief Rabbi, 1967.
Baghdad: Eli Kedourie, historian, founded *Middle Eastern Studies*, 1964
Cairo: Claudia Roden, cookery writer, wrote *A Book of Middle Eastern Food* 1968.
Baghdad: Naim Dangoor, established *The Scribe* for Iraqi Jews in Britain, 1971.
Budapest: Martin Roth, first British Professor of Psychiatry, 1977.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Berlin: Claus Moser, one of the first People's Peers (as Lord Moser), 2001.
Kashan (Iran): David Alliance, businessman, created a Life Peer, 2004.