



PUBLICATION:

November 2013

ISBN: 978-1-906764-14-2

BINDING: hardback

PRICE: £39.50/\$64.50

**FORMAT: 242 x 170 mm/6.5" x 9.5";
416 pages, 36 illustrations
(10 in colour), 4 maps, 8 tables**

The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization
PO Box 645, Oxford OX2 0UJ, UK

US & Canadian orders & enquiries to:

ISBS
920 NE 58th Avenue, Suite 300, Portland, OR 97213-3786
T: 1-800-944-6190
F: (503) 280-8832
E: orders@isbs.com

Israeli orders & enquiries to:

The Hebrew University Magnes Press
PO Box 39099, Jerusalem 91390
T: 1-800-200-217
F: 02-5660341
E: sales.israel@magnespress.co.il
W: www.magnespress.co.il

Australian & New Zealand orders & enquiries to:

DA Information Services Pty Ltd
648 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham, Victoria 3132, Australia
T: +61 3 9210 7777
F: +61 3 9210 7788
E: customerservice@dadirect.com
W: www.dadirect.com

All other orders & enquiries to:

NBN International
10 Thornbury Road, Plymouth PL6 7PP, UK
T: 01752 202301
F: 01752 202333
E: orders@nbninternational.com

The Jews in the Caribbean

Edited by JANE S. GERBER

The Portuguese Jewish diaspora was born out of a double tragedy: the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and the forced conversion/expulsion of the Jews from Portugal in 1497. The potent combination of expulsion, Inquisition, and crypto-Judaism left people neither wholly Jewish nor wholly Christian in their identity. Subsequently many left the Iberian peninsula; some found refuge in the Caribbean, but succeeded in maintaining strong connections with Portuguese Jews in western Europe, the Ottoman empire, and the Far East, while they also forged ties with the surrounding peoples and cultures.

This book looks at many different aspects of this complex past. Its interdisciplinary approach allows a wealth of new information to be brought together to create a comprehensive picture. Part I sets the context, and also considers the relationship of Caribbean Jewry to European trading systems; its special ties to Amsterdam and Dutch-ruled Curaçao; and the role of Jewish merchants in Jamaica's commerce. Part II examines the material and visual culture of Jews in the British and Dutch Caribbean, while Part III looks at Caribbean Jewish identity and heritage and their modern manifestations. Part IV contains archival studies that illuminate other subjects of importance—adventure and piracy, Jewish participation in a nineteenth-century revolt of black slaves and in the first Jamaican elections after Jews were granted the right to vote, and questions of concubinage and sexual relations between Jews and blacks. Part V moves from the local to the international, in particular the connection with mainland America.

In their diversity, the contributions to this volume suggest the many ways in which the formation of the Caribbean Jewish diaspora can be understood today: as a Jewish diaspora dispersed under different European colonial empires; as a Jewish cultural entity created by a set of shared traditions and historical memories; and as one component in a web of relationships that characterized the Atlantic world. Defining it is no simple matter: like all diaspora identities it was constantly in flux, reinventing itself under changing historical circumstances.

Contributors Aviva Ben-Ur, Miriam Bodian, Ainsley Cohen Henriques, Judah M. Cohen, Eli Faber, Rachel Frankel, Noah Gelfand, Jane S. Gerber, Josette Capriles Goldish, Matt Goldish, Jonathan I. Israel, Stanley Mirvis, Gérard Nahon, Joanna Newman, Ronnie Perelis, Jackie Ranston, James Robertson, Jessica Roitman, Dale Rosengarten, Barry L. Stiefel, Hilit Surowitz-Israel, Karl Watson, Swithin Wilmot

Jane S. Gerber is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Sephardic Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is author of *Jewish Society in Fez: 1450–1700*; *The Jews of Spain*, winner of a National Jewish Book Award; *Sephardic Studies in the University*; and *Cities of Splendour in the Shaping of Sephardic History* (forthcoming from the Littman Library).