





**Aerial view of Battaween in the fifties – the Golders Green of Baghdad**  
**In the foreground is Tahrir Square, where Jews were treacherously hanged in 1969●**

40 years ago

## The mass exodus of Iraqi Jews

In March 1950, after years of repression and persecution, a law was enacted allowing Iraqi Jews to leave the country. Thus almost the whole of the Jewish community decided to emigrate after 2,500 years of a glorious history in the Land of the Rivers.

"The trap was broken and we escaped."

(The same process is now taking place in the Soviet Union).

President Herzog said of the Iraqi *Aliyah*: "No other exodus in Jewish history, except the exodus from Egypt, was comparable in terms of its drama and spontaneity, to the story of the Iraqi Jews, who had a better record than any other Diaspora community in responding to the call to come and build up the Jewish homeland."

That exodus was mainly possible through the pressure of President Truman on Nuri Said. Israel wanted the Jews to leave but not all at once as it would be difficult to absorb them. The British wanted the Jews to leave in order to have a free hand in the country's trade.

In the end, Nuri agreed to let the Jews go but within a short period in order to embarrass Israel.

Nuri always let others carry out *controversial* policies and so he made way for Taufiq to carry it out.

Israel, Iraq and Britain all wanted the Jews to leave Iraq but who was responsible for throwing the bombs that hastened their registration for departure? We believe, on reliable authority, that it wasn't Iraq. Israel likewise denied any involvement. So the finger must point at British agents. In fact Britain withheld the development of petroleum until nearly the whole community registered for departure.

There is also a mystery about the law that froze all assets of denationalised Jews. Who wrote that law? Again on high authority, we know that the Iraqi government translated that law from English. Did the English draft come from Britain or, as is more likely, from Israel? Giladi believes such a law would not have been enacted without a recommendation from Israel to provide a set-off for frozen Arab assets in Israeli hands. In March 1951, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett made it clear that in any future settlement of Palestinian frozen property, a set-off will be made of frozen Jewish assets in Iraq.

Many books were written on that historic event, but that momentous period was not without its humorous incidents.

Ibrahim Lawee (Abu Mayer), manager of the tyre department at K. & E.M. Lawee, was summoned before the military tribunal for receiving a letter from Palestine. Although there was nothing harmful in the letter, and in spite of intervention by influential friends, he was fined 500 dinars. Col. Abdulla Nafsani, president of the court, decided that the letter had "a Zionist smell about it." يُسَمُّهُ بِنْتُهُ رَاحِمَةُ مَهْرُونِيَّة

A woman was brought before a military court. The judge informed her that she received a letter from her sister in Palestine. "Thank you, your honour, for giving me the good news," exclaimed the woman. "I haven't heard from her for a long time." The judge then asked her if she knew the people mentioned in the letter. "How dare you read my private letter?" the woman interjected angrily. The judge dismissed her.

One flight to Israel was turned back by a sand storm. Thinking that they arrived at the Holy Land, a woman went down on her knees and started kissing the ground. A policeman came near her and said, "If you love Iraq so much, why did you leave in the first place?" The surprised woman looked up and said, "Wee!, again we had to see your faces?" هَمَّ عَدِيْبًا سَفْنَاوَرُ الرَّوْحَمِ

If Nuri could envisage expelling the Jews who were in Iraq before the Arabs, why can't Israel expel the troublesome Arabs who are posing a threat to Israel's survival?●

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Letter writers are invited to send a small personal photo to publish with their letter●

# The Massacre of the Jews of York

A first hand account

Condensed from *More Lives than One* by Jeffrey Iverson (Souvenir Press)

Contributed by Audrey Dangoor

When Jane Evans, a housewife from South Wales, was hypnotised by Bloxham twenty years ago, she “regressed” into Rebecca, a twelfth century Jewess who lived in York.

She begins with a description of York Minster which she correctly calls “the cathedral of York.” She is in the nearby market place buying fruit and vegetables. The date is “the Christian year of 1189.”

Her husband, she says, is Joseph – a wealthy moneylender. They are both aged forty and have two children: an eighteen year-old son Joseph and Rachel who is eleven. Her father’s father came to York from Cyprus but “although born here we are treated as outcasts!”

Under constant questioning Rebecca pours out her heart: “We are despised for our wealth. They covet our houses and we all have to wear yellow badges. They hate us because we do not believe in their beliefs. They mock us because of our religion, because we cleanse ourselves, because we teach our sons, because we won’t eat unclean food.

“We are happy as a family but we are worried and nervous because of the uprisings in Chester, in London and Lincoln against the Jews. They borrow our money to build their cathedrals and finance the wars in Ireland, but they still hate us. We are not allowed to enter the army or go into trade or hold land under feudal tenure. What else can we do but lend money?”

*Who is the king who borrowed this money?*

**Rebecca:** “Henry Plantagenet; he is a good king. He is good to the Jews. He helps us when we have to take our cases to the courts. In return we give him ten parts of the money that we gather back.

“A priest came from the Christian Pope, asking men to sew crosses onto their robes and go to fight the infidels who have taken Jerusalem. The people in the crowd said ‘all Jews are infidels’ and we are frightened, we are frightened. My husband has sent money out of York in case something terrible happens. King Henry is good to us but he is getting old.

“Only the men from the town are going to the Holy Land to fight against the infidels. They are going just for the money and probably to get away from their wives. They are not so close in their family as we are. They have no family life as we have.”

Rebecca names Mabelise (Malebisse) as the arch-conspirator against the Jews. He borrowed heavily but did not want to pay it back.

*Now this is a little later. What are you doing now?*

**Rebecca:** “We are busy packing – packing all our things in case we have to go – in case we have to go. All of us are fortifying our houses – our windows and doors; but we won’t last long. We will have to flee from York.”

Rebecca has moved her story to October or November 1189. King Henry died in July and Richard I (the Lionheart) was crowned in September and was immediately off at the head of the Third Crusade. Rebecca continues: “Now that good King Henry has died and King Richard is in the Crusades – who is going to help us? I do not want to leave my house, but so many awful things have happened. My husband will not tell me a lot of them, but I hear whispers about what has happened to some Jews.”

*Now this is later. Did you have to leave?*

**Rebecca:** “Yes. Yes we all had to go. They came to the house of Benjamin next to us and we could hear the screams and smell the smoke. And we had to go. My husband and our son carrying money on their backs in sacks. We went through the back way to get to the castle but they were pursuing us, so my husband slit a sack of silver and let it pour into the road to keep them busy.

“And when we got to the castle they wouldn’t let us in except just inside the gates – but they wouldn’t give us shelter as they promised and all the people crowded outside shouting to us to come out and be killed. They were shouting out – ‘two silver pieces to anyone who kills a Jew.’ And they started to ram the gates and so people started to kill their own children rather than let them get their children. Terrible – terrible.

“We managed to get out – somebody helped us – somebody my husband paid to help us. We got out of the castle and we took shelter in a church and there was a priest and a clerk in this church and we held them and bound them and told them we wouldn’t hurt them as long as they didn’t tell people we were there – and we were down in the cellars and were so hungry – all we could find was wine and they called us infidels and Jewish pigs for drinking the sacrificial wine. We were thirsty and hungry. We can hear the screams – terrible things. If they find us here they will surely kill us.”

*What is happening now?*

**Rebecca (panicky voice):** “We can hear them coming – we can see the flames – Rachel is crying – my husband is gone to find food for us and my son has gone with him. We can hear the noises coming, we can hear horses – coming nearer and nearer. We can hear the screaming and the shouting and the crying – ‘burn the Jews.’ Oh God – they are coming – Rachel’s crying – don’t cry – don’t cry.

“Aah, they have entered the church – the priest is loose – he has told them we are here – they’re coming down. Oh no – not not not Rachel! No don’t take her – don’t – stop – they’re going to kill her – don’t – not Rachel, no, no, not Rachel.”

Rebecca (grief-stricken voice): “They’ve taken Rachel – they’ve taken Rachel...”

*Are you all right? They have left you alone have they?*

**Rebecca:** “Dark... dark.”

She was then woken up.

Jane Evans stated that she never read anything of the history of York, nor set foot there, yet her description of the events and places was fairly accurate. She had five other “regressions” at which she gave equally accurate recounting of her previous lives.

It is difficult to say whether she had actually had previous existences or her chilling experience was the result of “racial memory” or hidden memories●

With reference to the article on “The Jews of York”, this photograph of Clifford Tower may be of interest. It was taken in March, when my wife and I were on a visit to York.

The number of Jews involved in the mass suicide is given by some as 150 and by others as “over 500.”

Incidentally, according to the guide book, Clifford’s Tower dates from the 13th century. The original Castle was a wooden structure built on the same mound by William I. It was destroyed by fire at the time of the anti-Jewish riots of 1190 and, in this respect, the guide book agrees with Hume’s History●

Croydon, Surrey

Ellis Sofaer



Clifford’s Tower

The newly installed plaque reads: On the night of 16 March 1190, some 150 Jews and Jewesses of York having sought protection in the Royal Castle on this site from a mob incited by Richard Malebisse and others chose to die at each others hands rather than renounce their faith.

שִׁימוּ לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד וְתְהַלְלוּ בְּאֵימֹת יְיָ:

THEY GIVE GLORY UNTO THE LORD AND DECLARE HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS. Isaiah xlii:12●

## Coquelet des Landes Farci à l'Estragon

### Boneless baby chicken stuffed with mushrooms and herbs

This was the Main Course at the 40th annual Conservative Winter Ball – February 1990.

This delicate preparation was served, without hitch, at the Grosvenor House to 1,200 guests, including Mrs. Thatcher and her entire cabinet.

#### For 4 people you need:

4 half baby chickens, boned out, except drumsticks. Leave skin on. 400 gm each. Tell your butcher to do this.

#### For the stuffing:

Fresh button mushrooms – 120 gm  
Smoked beef – 120 gm  
Fresh tarragon  
One chicken breast minced

#### Method:

Make a duxelle with the mushrooms and smoked beef, add the breadcrumbs, chopped tarragon and the minced chicken, bind the mixture together with a little egg white, season.

Divide the stuffing equally, place in the centre of each coquelet, roll and tie, shallow fry briskly to colour then put in the oven for 45 minutes.

Serve a light red wine sauce with fresh tarragon.

## Pelau Besamak (rice with fish)

by Alice Shashou

#### Rice Ingredients:

2 cups basmati rice  
1 small onion, chopped  
Salt

About 2 tablespoons cut coriander

#### Fish Ingredients:

2 pounds Haddock  
4 onions, chopped  
About 2 tablespoons *noumi Basrah* (dried lime)  
½ to 1 teaspoon curry powder

#### Method:

Wash the rice and soak with salt and water for 2 hours.

Fry the chopped onions.

Wash fish, salt and let stand for 1 hour. Pat dry and fry in oil until golden.

De-bone the fish and shred it. Add the curry and fried onions and stir on low fire for a minute. Add the *noumi Basrah*.

Now prepare the rice.

Fry the chopped onion in the fried fish oil. Add 2 cups water, salt and let it boil. Then add rice and coriander in the boiling water. Mix gently. Cover and cook over medium heat about 20 minutes until rice is done. Stir gently.

Put the fish mixture as a layer in between the cooked rice. Let it simmer until needed.

To get a sparkle in rings, polish gently with a soft toothbrush and toothpaste, then rinse in cold water.

# Tips

by Alice Shashou

Stop worrying about your weight. The more you think about it the more you'll eat.

Canned foods should be stored in a dry, cool and well ventilated place.

Make an 'X' incision in the stems of broccoli so that flowers and stems will be cooked in the same length of time.

Recent research has suggested a connection between aluminium in the diet and Alzheimers discasc. Try not to use aluminium pans to cook. Especially when cooking with acid foods.

Replace worn or damaged non-stick utensils.

If you want your oven to smell really fresh, put half a lemon into an oven dish, cover with water and cook for about 5 minutes.

Chicken contains iron and zinc, but the dark meat of the chicken contains twice as much as the breast.

Milk is an excellent source of calcium. It is very important in the diet even after you stop growing. As a high calcium content in the bones can help delay brittle bones or osteoporosis, which is common in post-menopausal women.

Honey should never be fed to children under a year old. It can cause botulism in infants.

Don't add salt to babies' foods.

Try freezing yoghurt. Your children will love it as it looks just like icecream.

If you are doubling the ingredients in a recipe, do not use twice as much salt. One and a half times as much will do.

Always wipe the top of cans before opening to remove any dust or dirt.

If you have any pets, use a separate opener for their foods.

If using a glass for a hot drink, use a metal spoon before pouring in the hot water. It will stop the glass breaking.

If your fruit cake sinks, it is because the mixture was too wet.

Puff pastry, once rolled and cut out, should be allowed to chill again (15-20 minutes) before going into the oven. Dampen the baking sheet with cold water to create a steamy atmosphere in the oven which encourages the pastry to rise. The oven must be hot. Gas mark 8, 450F (230C) and use the shelf just above the centre of the oven.

Put homemade icecream in a ring mould and freeze. To remove, place under hot water for a second. Put on a plate, replace in freezer.

Always keep filo pastry under a damp cloth to prevent it drying out.

A salad is just as nourishing as a hot meal.

An unrisen soufflé means the egg whites were not beaten stiffly enough, or the egg whites were beaten into the mixture rather than folded in with a metal spoon.

Watercress supplies Vitamin A as well as iodine, iron and calcium.

If you want to cream butter and sugar together, it is more successful if you cream the butter first and then add the sugar.

Do not cut tomatoes more than one hour before use.

What a funny world we live in today!

When newspapers send their reporters to Israel they go and "hang" the government; when they send them to Iraq, the government hangs them and the Foreign Office begs for clemency!

Epsom, Surrey

Moshe Kahtan

Thanks to *The Scribe*, I received some interesting responses to my letter published in your October issue regarding my diary – *Three Years in Hell*. I have met, as a result, brilliant personalities and discussions were fruitful.

I also met Mr. Emil Murad, author and writer of many books on the history of Iraqi Jews. I strongly recommend his books to your readers as a refreshment of memories, and to the new generation, as an addition to their knowledge.

I wish to draw attention to the discrimination against Oriental Jews in Israel. I am married to a non-Iraqi, and his name hides my identity. That is why it comes more of a shock to notice how people's attitudes change when they realise I come from Iraq. This problem is not going away, as some were hoping, and has to be resolved, for the sake of our children and the new generations that will come.

Why should the world know only about good things while the evil and the negative is hidden? So please let my words reach those responsible.

When I left my home in Baghdad in 1951 and came to Israel, I was just fourteen years old. The separation was hard and I was inspired to write a poem in Arabic which forms part of my diary – *Three Years in Hell*. This is the Arabic text and the English translation.

ولداً يا بيتي الحبيب (بغداد ١٩٥١)  
ها قد هان مؤعد الرحيل  
وذكراتي ألهمه يا بيتي الحبيب  
ومشاعري مرتبكة وقلبي كفتيب  
ولداً يا ملجئي الوحيد  
كلماقي جامدة وذمفي شريد  
لحظات فقط وسكول البراق  
وسطوى الصغيات وتحميل الأوراق  
فولداً يا بيتي الصغير  
فالخدر عميقة والأسى كبير  
نظرة الهمة - تروقات وهسرات  
للدهيار لي - سأرعل مع الذكريات!

#### Farewell Home (Baghdad 1951)

Farewell, sweet home, farewell;  
Whether being a shelter or a hell;  
With mixed feelings I say so;  
With deep regrets I must go!

Time has come, I am packing;  
Something in my heart is aching;  
Memories and pains altogether;  
Will accompany always and forever!

Thus let me sigh, thus let me weep;  
Whatever I do, the roots are so deep;  
Thus let me have a last look at the past;  
Oh! It's inevitable, I must leave at last!

Ramat Gan

Esther Mercado

I read with great interest your letter to *Manna* which was reprinted in your March issue. You mention that Monotheism did not start with Abraham. This is so. All religions have developed out of the dark background of primitive religions, but Judaism moved away from primitive concepts.

Under the laws of Hamurabi slaves were treated harshly, whereas the Hebrews' concept of slavery was just a system of 7-year contract labour!

Furthermore, in Judaism God is neither male nor female, neither good nor evil; God is absolute; God is One. In Christianity, God is loving and good, but Satan is a separate power – a duality. And then there is also the Trinity – the Holy Ghost.

In Islam, God is looked upon only as masculine.

Both Christians and Moslems persecuted the Jews in varying degrees of severity and at different periods.

53 Regal Way Sam Smith, BA, ABPS  
Harrow HA3 0SA Principal Psychologist

#### Naim Dangoor comments:

Even Jewish Monotheism did not start with Abraham as is generally believed. It started with Adam. By definition, our civilization began with the establishment of agricultural settlements only 9,000 years ago, as a result of the discovery of wild wheat as a useful and convenient source of food. It is reasonable to assume that this breakthrough was the work of one man – call him Adam, which is derived from *adama* = land.

Genesis then is the history of civilization and Adam is its hero. Adam was a great man, a great leader and a prophet, and was given the honorary title of First Man. He is said to be buried in Hejaz. He is given more recognition in Islam than in Judaism. Adam's son Seth is reputedly buried in Mosul. Adam's allegorical encounter with God shows that he recognised One Creator. This belief became widespread and Genesis pointedly informs us that people began to call upon the name of the Lord at the time of Enosh, son of Seth.

This strand of Monotheism continued through Noah, a saintly man, who was likewise accorded the honorary title as the Sole Survivor of the Flood, with his family. But eventually paganism became dominant as a result of power-hungry despots in the Near East. Monotheism, however, continued to exist in Western Arabia and Canaan, where Melchizedek was king of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest to El Elyon (the Most High God), where Abraham decided to emigrate.



Nebi Sheet – the tomb of Seth, son of Adam, at Mosul



**Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Hillaly of Tel Aviv who recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.**

**They were married 15 February 1920 in Bombay, where their first daughter was born. Mr. Hillaly worked with E.D. Sassoon & Co. and in 1923 the family moved to Shanghai where three daughters were born.**

**Above is a wedding picture taken 70 years ago**

My nephew Mr. E. Isaacs of Edmonton has given me a copy of *The Scribe*, March 1990 issue, which I read with great interest. I am of Baghdadi origin, emigrated to Italy in 1940. I would appreciate it if you can put me on your mailing list for the Journal.

Milan

A. Isaacs

Sometime ago my uncle Mr. Moshi Dellal was good enough to hand over to you a video cassette which was given to me by Mr. Naim Aboody in Tel Aviv with the request to deliver it to you in London.

Every year the Israel Broadcasting Authority shows on television a Selihot service from one of the country's synagogues, during the days immediately preceding Yom Kippur. In 1988 the service was televised from the Iraqi Synagogue in Rehov Shelomo Hamelech, Tel Aviv, named after my late father Benjamin Shelomo Shamash. This Synagogue was established in 1958 or 1959, largely through the efforts of the late Mr. Menahem Yacoub Hay and the late Mr. Joseph Shelomo Shamash, to serve the many Iraqi families then living in the neighbourhood. It was felt that one of the video cassette copies of the broadcast should be entrusted to you for use and safe-keeping with the other archives of the Iraqi Jewish Community, which it is known you have laboured hard to gather and conserve. I hope that this audio-visual record will be of interest to you and other members of the Iraqi Jewish Community living in London. I would like to add that I very much enjoy reading *The Scribe* whenever it comes into my hands.

London

Charles Shamash

*Scribe*: The video was produced by Mr. Yacov Lamdan and directed by Mr. Meir Avihod who are currently producing a documentary on the Jews of Iraq in Britain for Israeli Television.

## War Crimes Bill

from the *Jewish Chronicle*

Sir, – The proposed war crimes legislation would serve a greater purpose if the definition of who is a Nazi criminal was broadened to include (a) all those who say Hitler was right to kill the Jews and (b) all those who deny the Holocaust (the denial of which is already a crime in Germany). Prevention is better than cure.

Those who cover up for Hitler or present him in a favourable light must be regarded as sharing in his crimes, for their aim is to recreate a climate where genocide becomes possible.

London SW7

Naim E. Dangoor

#### From Lord Hailsham

Dear Mr. Dangoor,

Your proposed extension is unnecessary and cures none of the defects of the Government proposals. These proposals as printed are wicked:

- 1) Because no British Court has jurisdiction to try persons for crimes committed in the Baltic states and the proposals breach the rules both against retrospectivity and against assuming jurisdiction not available at international law.
- 2) Because it is proposed to fiddle the laws of evidence.
- 3) Because it is proposed retrospectively to bypass the committal procedure and to remove the right to decree a voluntary bill to the legislature.
- 4) It is impossible for an individual to defend himself fairly against a charge related to a place in a far country after 50 years even if he is still sufficiently *compos mentis* to be tried.
- 5) Because it does not extend to the systematic massacres by the Soviets under Stalin committed in Poland and the Baltic states.

The facts, appalling and undeniable, concerning the 'holocaust' have been established in the record of the Nuremberg trials and by incontrovertible evidence preserved on site.

House of Lords

Yours sincerely,

Hailsham

#### Nazi Penalty

A Frenchman was jailed for a month for denying that gas chambers existed in Nazi death camps.

Re: "The Unacceptable Faces of Capitalism" in your April issue, another Jew by race, Karl Marx, tried in Socialism and Communism to obtain a better deal for manual workers, but the Russian Socialists-Communists perverted this ideal by the lust for power. The Communist party of the USSR established a system of spying on the rank and file of the Russian people, whilst they obtained special privileges, and the *Nomenklatura* spied on them. This prostitution of a noble ideal has now been exposed in the USSR and its empire.

East Yorkshire

Dr. Leslie I. Hardy

We enjoy reading this most informative journal and thank you so much. Many of our friends also benefit.

Great Neck, N.Y.

Diana Murad

# Davide Sala

## JIA Man of the Year

If people are measured by the amount of their charitable work then Davide Sala is a giant among giants, head and shoulders above the rest.

The other day I wanted to find out the full name of a charity, Friends of JCT, to which I had made a donation. We telephoned the Israel Embassy, Balfour House, the Board of Deputies, even the bank where my cheque was paid in, but no one could give me a clue. Then I thought of asking my friend Davide Sala. Quickly came the reply: "The Jerusalem College of Technology – a worthy cause."

Davide Sala, or as we knew him, Dahud Selman Yehuda, is involved in most Jewish and Israeli charities. There is hardly a foundation of which he is not a governor or a sponsor. Giving money away has become his full time job. He has given away many millions. He has discovered that the joy of giving exceeds the pleasure of receiving. This is a brief list of his involvements:

In Israel, he is: governor of the Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University, Haifa University, Tel Aviv University, the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Israel Museum, Tel Aviv Museum, Beth Hatefutsoth Museum of the Jewish Diaspora; member of the board of the Jerusalem Foundation, Tel Aviv Foundation; honorary president of the Iraqi Cultural and Research Association.

He has endowed: a Chair in Nuclear Engineering at Ben-Gurion University; 20 scholarships for BA and MA students at Haifa University; scholarships for two PhD students a year at Tel Aviv University; a laboratory for biogenetic research at the Hebrew University; two PhD scholarships a year for nursing students at the Hadassah Medical Centre; an art studio at the Bezalel Academy; a research project on immunity-related disease at Beilinson Hospital, Petach Tikvah; an ethnography wing at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; an art workshop at Tel Aviv Museum; mothers' guidance and day-care centres in Ashkelon; a day-care centre in Jerusalem; a centre for the study of Alzheimer's Disease at the Shaare Zedek Hospital; a centre for diseases of the aged in Jerusalem; and has supported colleges, schools, a sports stadium in Ashkelon, orchestras and the publication of books in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

In Britain, he is: president of the Sephardi Committee of the Joint Israel Appeal; vice-chairman of Israel Bonds; patron of the Jewish Marriage Council; honorary vice-president of Hillel; honorary vice-president of the Zionist Federation Educational Trust; president of the Friends of Haifa University.

He has: donated the library building and furnishings of Jews' College; the dining room at the Vi and John Rubens old age home, Redbridge; helped to provide a building for the Jewish Marriage Council; and is a major contributor to many charities.



**At the JIA dinner in honour of Davide Sala**

Left to right: Percy Gourgey, Naim Dangoor, Davide Sala, Sami Shamoon, Lord Young presenting the award.

May we have more like him●

An American acquaintance, knowing of my Iraqi origin, gave me a copy of your January 1990 issue with the hope that it might interest me. Well, it indeed did beyond his expectations. I found it pleasantly nostalgic.

First of all, I found the name of a long lost friend among the writers of your Letters section. Secondly, I recognised a few acquaintances among the students in the picture printed on the last page, one of them a cousin of mine.

Your project is indeed commendable and I would appreciate it if you will add my name to your mailing list. I would also like to have some old copies if you have any to spare●

**Forest-Hills, N.Y.**

**Ellis N. Baruch**

Thanks for sending us *The Scribe* – we really do enjoy it●

**Johannesburg Wendy & Derek Hayim**

Re: *The Scribe* of March 1990.

I agree with Mr. Gourgey that the idea of one God is the most revolutionary of doctrines to have been conceived by man.

The story of the rabbi in "In Defence of God" (by N.E.D.) is very apt.

I am not quite sure of some points raised in "Let them have Jordan" and "People of Israel, Listen to me!" Does the writer really mean to tax the Arabs out of the West Bank and Gaza – the Israelis paying these high taxes?

**East Yorkshire**

**Dr. Leslie Isaac Hardy**

Israeli citizens can afford to pay the high taxes because they would benefit by receiving the national dividend that would be paid from these taxes – N.E.D●

We have lived in Australia for the last 27 years; and during the recent visit of Prof. Elie Kedourie and Sylvia Kedourie, we discussed your journal over Tebit dinner Friday night, in Melbourne, at our place. We are very much interested in receiving your journal.

May God help you to publish many many more for the future●

**Melbourne**

**Naji & Myra Cohen**

I find myself reading *The Scribe* from cover to cover; no doubt I will be saving it. Although I live far away, *The Scribe* has made me feel the bond that exists between us●

Doylestown, Pa., U.S.A.

J.S. Bekhor

18 February 1990

Dear Mr. Dangoor

It is always a pleasure to receive *The Scribe*. It gives me joy to read about Baghdad.

My son, Rabbi Yacob Manasseh, received Rabbinical ordination from the "Rishon Le Sion," the Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Hakham Mordechai Eliyahu, as well as from Rabbi Sinai Halberstam, the "Zemigrode Rebbe."

It was with the same Rabbi Halberstam that three years ago my son founded Midrash Ben Ish Hai, for the furtherance of the holy Sephardi tradition, in accordance with the Babylonian rite.

The object of the Midrash can be stated concisely as follows: to return our Sephardi and Babylonian children (both young and old) to our heritage.

Today the Midrash has gained momentum and the work that it is doing needs to be centralised. Seeing the progress that has been made I, personally, feel that there is a need for a centre. The Hakham Dr. Solomon Gaon has also expressed his opinion that the Midrash needs its own centre. Some are even expressing a desire to hold services there on Sabbaths and possibly during the week.

To open and maintain the centre will cost, initially, US\$100,000. The future will depend on the support it receives.

I would be grateful if, in your esteemed publication, you would be so kind as to make an appeal to our brethren in England, America and Canada for contributions to this important cause.

May I mention, finally, that I am deeply interested in the prayer books (and other books) published by your late grandfather of blessed memory. Till today on the High Holy Days and Mo'adim I pray from those books. In Bombay, I had a daily prayer book by your grandfather which contained extensive Halakhoth and Dinim.

I used to keep the book on my Sissith bag, so that anyone who wished to find any Din could consult it. Eight years ago the book was no longer there. I was told that it was sent to the Genizah as it was old.

I wrote to Hakham Sasson Houghi, son of Hakham Silman Houghi Aboody (who is both my dear friend and guide in spiritual matters), to try and obtain a copy for me. He searched Jerusalem but could not find one.

If you by any chance have a spare copy, I would be very grateful if you could lend it to me●

London

Albert Manasseh

5 March 1990

I am indeed ever so grateful to you for so kindly copying out for me the esteemed prayer book of your Reverend Grandfather, and for which I thank you ever so much.

This is the book which I was hoping to find and I am very grateful that you have helped me to do so●

London

Albert Manasseh



The Calcutta Jewish Girls' School had a Reunion in London last February which was attended by over 100 former pupils.

Seated left to right: Miss Ramah Luddy, Principal of the School since 1926 for 60 years, and Kitty Morris, one of her pupils who later became a teacher.

Standing: Seemah Ezra, Seemah Chodosh, Mathilde Gubbay, Mozelle Gubbay, Helene Sopher, Florence Judah, Lillian Abraham, Diana Daniels and Blima Levine.

Also present were: Stella Benjamin (teacher), Mercia Rembaum, Flora Gubbay, Noreen David, Mercia Ezra, Seemah Lanyado, Trixie Twena, Rachel Ezekiel, Hans Ellis, Kathleen Morris, Rachel Futerman, Nancy David, Cheryl Isaacs, Rosy Moses, Hazel Ferner, Aisy Meyers, Helen Silas, Ruth Twena, Tabby Samuels, Jennifer Saul, Flora Ezra, Rachel Cohen, Mozelle Morris and Trifine Gotlib.

Some of the men present were: Dr Maurice Gubbay, Irwin Twena, Mordechai Cohen, Nissim Cohen, Norman Ezekiel, Kelly Saul, David Futerman, Sydney Abraham, Mark Manasseh, Jeremy Daniels, Adrian Ezra, Joe Samuels, Joe Abraham, Elias Solomon, Ellis Abraham, Nat Benjamin and Saul Ezra●

I was very pleasantly surprised to receive your March issue and absolutely overwhelmed by your kind and generous contribution of £500 to our "Goshen" (the bulletin of Egyptian Jews in Israel). It certainly comes as a most welcome Purim sponsorship to "Goshen" for which we are very thankful.

I enjoyed reading *The Scribe*, especially the editorial about the "demographic problem" with which I identify totally. The numerous and interesting letters to the Editor from all over the world are no doubt a testimonial to the involvement and strong feelings of fraternity of the Iraqi Jews after their exodus from Iraq●

Haifa

Lucy Gottesman

Mrs. L. Gottesman passed on to me her copy of *The Scribe* which I read with great interest and I would appreciate being included on its mailing list.

Your generous donation is a very touching gesture and a great encouragement to our efforts in reviving the heritage of Egyptian Jewry. Many Iraqi Jews living in Israel sympathise with us and both our communities are in close co-operation.

I am sending to you under separate cover some previous copies of our *Goshen* and it will be our pleasure to include you in our mailing list●

Israel Federation of  
Egyptian Jews, Haifa

Avner Assael  
President

Thank you so much for the two copies of *The Scribe*. I have to say for a small paper I am glued to it. They are well written and truly paint a picture of life. Please continue to send them to me●

Toronto

Rahele Benaiah

*The Scribe* gives a valuable opportunity to Iraqi Jews to review parts of their history, and at the same time strengthens the awareness of their children to their parents' heritage.

I express my admiration for your diligence in publishing it, and wish you good health and will, to continue doing so●

Givat Abraham H. Shemtov, M.Sc.  
Savyon, Israel

Greetings from China. We received a marvellous reception in Beijing. We were wined and dined and shown the sights for 3 days and were delivered to our school. In addition to being English teachers we are USA Sephardic-Jewish ambassadors of peace and friendship. We feel proud of China for its historic lack of antisemitism and for never persecuting our brethren, for allowing them to establish synagogues and to practice their religion in freedom. We are proud of China for its all-out attack on illiteracy. It is the greatest accomplishment in world history. From 80% illiteracy to 20% in 40 years. We are part of this truly educational miracle that is continuing.

Salud i Beraha●

Hubei, China

Albert & Lili Adatto

I recently read a copy of your journal *The Scribe* and found it very interesting. My roots go back to Baghdad and I hail from the Elkabir family. My mother, who resides in Phoenix, Arizona, is also on your mailing list. Please add my name to your mailing list●

Montreal

Sarah Remer



The above photo, received by Percy Gourgey from Mrs. Juliette Ezra of Jerusalem, is of the wedding in 1924 of her parents – Mr. and Mrs. David Marshall (née Somekh) at the Town Hall, Fort, Bombay.

To the right of the groom is his brother Joseph and, next to him, the bearded gentleman is Sir Sassoon J. David. The second directly behind Sir Sassoon is Molly, and behind her is her father Mr. Saul Sassoon Gourgey, father of Percy. Behind the bride (in the dark dress) is Percy's mother, Hannah. In front of Sir Sassoon is Reggie Gourgey, but Percy is not in the picture.

The bridegroom was the uncle of Mr. David Marshall (Mashaal), first Chief Minister of Singapore, now Singapore Ambassador to France and Spain. A grand-daughter of the bride and groom, Sandra, is married to Mr. Meir Benayahu, son of the late Chief Rabbi of Israel Itzhak Nissim and a brother of Israel's former Finance Minister, Mr. Moshe Nissim.

Others appearing in the photograph are:

Mrs. Sophie David, Mrs. Rachel Abraham, Simon Judah, Mrs. Katie Judah (Simon's mother), Mr. Saleh Mouallim, Mr. Isaac Musry, Mr. Judah Gubbay, Mrs. A.E.I. Mansoor, Mr. A.E.I. Mansoor, Mr. Shuli Cohen, Mozelle Joseph, Violet Joseph, Mr. Moses Hillel, Mr. Maurice Cohen, Mr. Sonny Gahtan, Mr. J.D. Ezra, Sophie Ezra●

Thank you for publishing the graduation photograph of the Shamash Secondary School of 1947, as I was a member of that class. I left Iraq shortly after graduation and did not get to see this picture again until 1982 and once again when it appeared in your September 1989 issue.

Your March 1990 issue features an article by Prof. Frederick Ezekiel. Frederick is a lifelong friend of mine. We both went to the Alliance School together and to M.I.T. as well.

Although I missed his talk which he described, he does keep me posted on his research about the Babylonian Jewish heritage●

University of  
Connecticut

Prof. Eli Dabora

I am Iraqi-born, and live in Israel since the age of one. I would like to become acquainted with the Iraqi-Jewish community in England, their political and other views, especially concerning Israel. I am also interested in learning about Iraqi cookery.

I shall be very glad if you will add my name to your list of subscribers●

Givatayim, Israel

Madeleine Zelouf

I wish to congratulate you on the important contribution you are making to Jews of Iraqi origin and to Jewish heritage through the publication of *The Scribe*. As a recent subscriber, and as an American married to an Iraqi Jew, I have learned through your publication the rich cultural background of my husband and the prom-

inent role Babylonian Jews played in the history of Judaism. I am also grateful to Mrs. Alice Shashou for her column on Iraqi cuisine, which we enjoy very much. The column is superb and her helpful "Tips" add the "little extra" which allows us to follow her recipes successfully. It is said one needs language and food to better relate to the essence of a culture. The food is contributed by Mrs. Shashou through her column, and the language, on occasion, by my husband, when he uses colourful Arabic in anger (a translation is always enthusiastically forthcoming when the anger subsides).

Once again, I wish to congratulate and thank you for an invaluable service to world Judaism●

Cherry Hill, N.J.

Sandra Soffer

I have really enjoyed reading the last two issues. *The Scribe* is a living and effective link for the community throughout the world.

I do hope that *The Scribe's* political outlook will open new channels between us and our neighbours leading to peace with honour in the Middle East.

Thank you again for the wonderful job you are doing, carrying the torch of your beloved family. The Babylonian Haggadah was part of my early life before I got lost among the *goyim* of all kinds.

Does any of your readers know what happened to Yoseph Zloof of Haiderkhana, Baghdad, who studied law in the 1930's and his friend Raphael, a teacher of Arabic literature?●

Enfield, Middlesex

Gideon Giladi

I was born in Baghdad, educated in England in the early thirties and settled on a Naval career from the age of 13.

Please don't ask what a nice Jewish boy from Iraq was doing in the Navy in the early thirties! It is rather a long story.

We settled in Australia after World War II, married, with children and grandchildren. We have family in Israel, having migrated there in the early fifties, both legally and illegally!! We also have family in England. I was born Nessim Shoa-Haim. Dropped the Shoa and am now plain Haim.

I am now retired from Naval reserve. I look forward to your wonderful magazine. Is there anything I can do●

St. Ives, N.S. Wales

Nessim Haim  
Captain retired

## BOOKS

### Quest for the Messiah

by Lucien Gubbay

The Book Guild Limited – £12.95

Since King David's time, many men appeared claiming to be messiahs, especially during hard periods in Jewish history.

This carefully researched and readable book traces those messianic ideas, both religious and political.

Lucien Gubbay, who is of Iraqi origin, is the author of several books on religious themes, including *Ages of Man* which is used as a standard reference work by chaplains to HM Forces.

Highly recommended●