



GREECE



JEWISH NEWSPAPER
CORFU - 1900



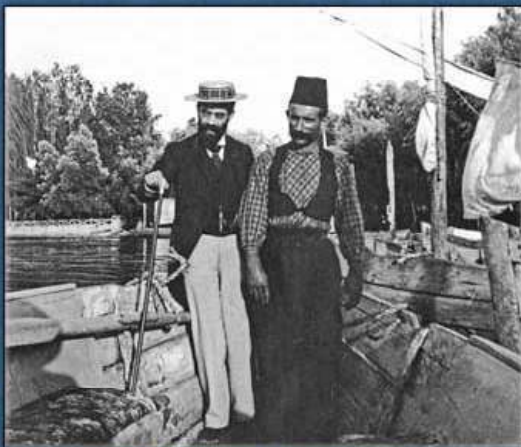
MEAT MARKET IN PARAMYTHIA - 1913



PLAQUE FROM FORMER
SYNAGOGUE IN PREVEZA

The Jews of Greece have lived on what is now Greek soil for over 2,300 years, the longest continuous Jewish presence in the European Diaspora. Archeological finds of early synagogues and Jewish artifacts have been discovered on the island of Delos, in the Ancient Agora of Athens, in Thessaloniki, Crete, Rhodes and Thessaly.

During their long history Greek Jews developed distinctive traditions, customs & liturgy passed down from generation to generation and carried with them when they immigrated to other countries. This special text has been prepared in conjunction with the exhibit "Memories."



DR. KOFINAS & FRIEND
ON LAKE PAMVIOTIS IN IOANNINA



WHITE TOWER IN SALONIKA
EARLY 20TH CENTURY



JEWISH PRODUCE
SELLER IN CORFU

For 1,800 of the 2,300 year history of Greek Jewry, it is the story of Romaniote Jews, Hellenized Jews, Greek-speaking Jews who preserved their Judaism while absorbing much of the culture of the non-Jewish Greek world. After 1492, with the expulsion from Spain, Sephardic Jews would enter the soil of what is now Greece, bringing their distinctive culture, language, minhag and traditions with them.



ROMANIOTE JEWS



SEPHARDIC JEW



JEWISH WOMEN IN SALONIKA
LATE 19TH CENTURY



JEWS IN SALONIKA
LATE 19TH CENTURY



JEWISH WATER CARRIER
IN IOANNINA



RABBI IN IOANNINA



JEWISH WOMAN FROM CORFU
LATE 19TH CENTURY



KOFINAS FAMILY IN ATHENS
EARLY 20TH CENTURY



RABBI YEHUDA MOSHE FRANCO FAMILY
FROM RHODES 1915



GRACIA SAMUELS
YOUNG VICTIM FROM IOANNINA

Jews would begin to leave Greece in the beginning of the 20th century. Most made their way across the Atlantic to the United States, the greater majority to the streets of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The world they left behind would remain etched in their memories.

They left because of political upheavals, wars and poor economic conditions. They carried with them their dreams for a better future and, for many, a love of the land they were leaving behind.

The Holocaust would decimate Greek Jewry. The Greece of pre-WWII only remains in the memory of those who survived and in the photos preserved from that period.



ANNA LEVY BECHOROPOULOS
GRADUATION CLASS
ATHENS 1934



JACOB ABRAHAM COHEN FAMILY
KASTORIA 1928



AZOUVI FAMILY FROM KAVALA



YAFFES FAMILY
THRACE PRE-WWII



SHEEP IN FRONT OF THE ACROPOLIS



PORT IN SALONIKA



THE STREETS OF SALONIKA
EARLY 20TH CENTURY



LAUNDRY HANGING BY THE LAKE
IN IOANNINA



MINARET IN SALONIKA
BEFORE 1912



MARKETPLACE IN IOANNINA

The world they left behind when they boarded the ships for the New World was quite different than the Greece of today. In the early 20th century, sheep grazed in pastures at the foot of the Acropolis in the center of Athens, horse-drawn carts weaved through the streets of Salonika, and laundry was still washed in the lake of Ioannina.

Before 1912-1913, minarets were still part of the landscape in both Ioannina and Salonika. Jews were part of the fabric of everyday life on the islands of Corfu, Zakynthos, Crete, Chalkis, Kos and Rhodes. Major Jewish populations inhabited the cities of Salonika, Ioannina, Volos, Larissa, Trikala, Patras, Arta, Preveza, Drama and Kavala, in addition to cities throughout Thrace.



JEWISH WEDDING PARTY LEAVES THE KASTRO IN IOANNINA - EARLY 20TH CENTURY



PURIM INSIDE OF SECOND SYNAGOGUE IN IOANNINA

87% of Greek Jews perished in the Holocaust, the largest percentage of any officially occupied country during WWII.

Salonika lost 97% of its Jews and Ioannina 91%. Synagogues that marked the landscape of pre-WWII Greece were lost in the war. Along with the Jews, the memory of their presence in Greece would be lost. That memory and the memory of a Salonika of the early 20th century, a Jewish city, "La Madre de Israel" were carried in the minds of the immigrants as they made their way to the New World. They also carried the memory of life in the Jewish community of Ioannina and other small communities throughout Greece.



SALONIKA 1913



LAKE OF KASTORIA



JEWISH MERCHANT IN CORFU



JEWISH FAMILY IN CRETE



RHODES HARBOR EARLY 20TH CENTURY



JEWISH QUARTER (BARBOUTA) IN VEROIA



POSTCARD FROM RHODES SHOWING SHIP THAT WILL TAKE THEM TO THE UNITED STATES



SEEING THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



ELLIS ISLAND



SS MARTHA WASHINGTON

As they boarded the ships for the New World, all immigrants carried with them pieces of the old world they were leaving behind: traditional garments, religious articles, photos and memories. We at Kehila Kedosha Janina have been so fortunate in becoming the recipients of these treasures, especially the memories.

Our exhibit "Memories" is a labor of love to share these precious memories with you.

We are deeply grateful to those who have shared their photos with us and, especially Bob Bedford of The Foundation for the Advancement of Sephardic Studies and Culture.



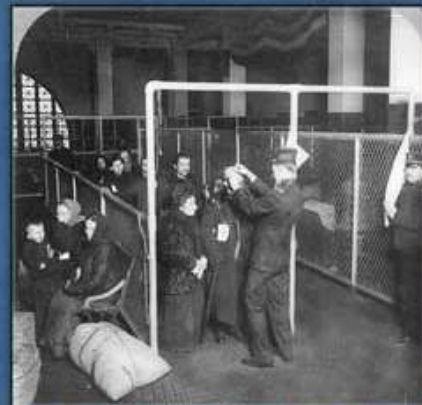
GREEK PASSENGERS ON BOARD A SHIP COMING FROM PATRAS TO NYC



WAITING FOR EXAMINATION AT ELLIS ISLAND



DISEMBARCKING AT ELLIS ISLAND



THE DREADED EYE EXAM AT ELLIS ISLAND



276 BROOME STREET



277 BROOME STREET



280 BROOME STREET

The Lower East Side of the early 20th century, when Greek Jews (both Sephardic and Romaniote) made their arduous journey from the Old World to the New, was an immigrant world, and though not exclusively a Jewish world, Jews were an obvious presence.

Broome Street and the nearby streets became a center for Sephardic and Romaniote Jews. Two Sephardic synagogues were on Eldridge and Kehila Kedosha Janina on Broome. Coffee shops lined Allen Street and the streets echoed with the sounds of spoken Greek and Ladino.

Most of that Balkan Jewish world is gone. Kehila Kedosha Janina remains as a repository for those memories.



173 ELDRIDGE STREET



281 BROOME STREET



133 ELDRIDGE STREET



80 DELANCEY STREET



284 BROOME STREET