

Appendix 2

THE HEBREW-ARABIC DOCUMENT
IN MS. OXFORD,
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE 133
Malachi Beit-Arié

Ms. Oxford, Corpus Christi College 133, kept in the Bodleian Library, is a vocalized copy of an Ashkenazic prayer-book, written in an early square and semi-cursive Ashkenazic hand. At the end of the manuscript, on fol. 350r and 349v—two leaves of the last quire of the original parchment codex, which were left blank by the scribe who had completed his copy on fol. 349r—a creditor, who wrote in a cursive Sephardic type of script, recorded in Arabic (written in Hebrew characters) payments made to him as from 1 July, 'since being here in England'.

The document was written by an Arabic-speaking Jew, undoubtedly from Spain, who came to England about the end of the twelfth century, and engaged in lending money to various Englishmen. At least ten men are mentioned, in areas extending from Exeter to Winchester, and from Bath to Norwich; half of them are identified or discussed below by Mrs Zefira Entin

* Rokéah.

This extraordinary document, set down in England around 1200 in Arabic written in Hebrew characters, reminds one of the Arabic seal written in Hebrew characters which was discovered long ago in Edinburgh. The signet, which contains the Jewish name of Solomon ben Isaac followed by an Arabic title that attests to his high rank, was ascribed by J. Jacobs, *The Jews of Angevin England* (London, 1893), pp. 26-7, to the middle of the twelfth century (cf. H. Loewe, *Starrs and Jewish Charters Preserved in the British Museum*, iii (London, 1932); pp. cxvi-cxvii; see also H. P. Stokes, *Studies in Anglo-Jewish History* (Edinburgh, 1913), pp. 64, xi). One is tempted to suggest that the owner of the seal, Solomon ben Isaac, might have been the Spanish Jew who recorded his financial activity in Arabic at the end of Ms. Corpus Christi.

The original document, as deciphered by Mr. Efraim Wust of the department of Manuscripts at the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, follows:

<fol. 350r>

איל	1	אל עאם יבתדי אויל יוליי
	2	
	3	גמיע מא כאן לי מן די אנא הונא פי אנגלסירה
	4	מן בישוף אקשתרי פי מרתין מרק
	5	איצא מן בישוף באת נסף מרק
	6	איצא מן אל קונד פי מרתין מרקין ונסף
	7	איצא מן גליאם שומלה פי תלאת מראת ארבע מרקית ונסף
	8	מן בישוף רינאשטר פי מרתין כמסה מרקית

	9	מן שיר ואטר אוד לתנה פי מרתין נסף מרק
נצף מרק	10	
	11	מן ראו ברואיר כמסה אדי / איצא באַת
מאַרק	12	מן ואטר גרדון אדי / איצא שמאלה
	13	איצא מן אונרתי פי מרת עאם כמסה מארקית
נצף מרק	14	איצא שומלה / איצא קונד
		<fol. 349v>
נסף מרק	15	
מרק	16	גמיע מא קבילת מן אשתילינתן אוילא מן אונרתי אדא /
מרקין	17	איצא מן אשתילינתן בכתאבה לי גוריו
מרק	18	איצא מן אשתילינתן באמר קלריקה פי מרתין
אדא ל	19	איצא קבילת בכתאב שיר הרי מן אשתילינתן אל מדכור
	20	
	21	אל זמיע מרקית / אדא ל / זמיע הדא פי מרת עאם

TRANSLATION

<fol. 350r>

1	The year commencing first of July	
2		first
3	all that I have since being here in England:	
4	from the Bishop of Exeter one mark, twice;	
5	also from the Bishop of Bath half a mark;	
6	also from the Count two and a half marks, twice;	
7	also from William Chemillé, three times four and a half marks;	
8	from the Bishop of Winchester five marks, twice;	
9	from Sir Walter Aud Luna half a mark, twice;	
10		half a mark/
11	from Rau Bruyerre five paid/also Bath;	
12	from Walter Gourdon paid <unidentified numeral>/also Chemillé one mark/	
13	also from Oucherty <?> during one year, five marks;	
14	also Chemillé half a mark/also Count	half a mark/

<fol. 349v>

15		half a mark
16	all that I received from Stillington <?> at first from [Ou?]chetry <= Oucherty?> payment <unidentified three numerals>/	
17	also from Stillington <?> in his writ to Norwich, one mark;	
18	also from Stillington <?> by order of his clerk two marks, twice;	
19	also I received by the writ of Sir Harry from the above noted Stillington <?> one mark;	
20		and payment 5 <?>/
21	total marks <unidentified numeral>/ and payment 5 <?>/ all this received during a year	