

Breve Historia

Desde los tiempos más remotos los hijos de Israel establecieron relaciones comerciales con las tribus ibéricas.

Es posible que la judería de Sevilla haya sido una de las más antiguas de España. Los judíos debieron de sentirse atraídos por la gran ciudad que dio su nombre a toda Hispania.

En la época de los visigodos (siglos VI-VII), Sevilla era la ciudad más poblada de España. Su importancia política y cultural se destaca al ser una de las sedes de la monarquía y donde desarrollan su obra Isidoro de Sevilla y su hermano Leandro, de gran influencia en el mundo católico.

Durante la conquista de Hispania por los árabes (siglo VIII), los judíos que habían colaborado fueron respetados y tratados con generosidad por los musulmanes. Se establecieron en muchas ciudades gozando de gran influencia en la nueva sociedad, gracias en parte a su importancia financiera.

El califato almohade los expulsó de Al-Andalus (España, siglo XII) regresando a Sevilla con su conquista por Fernando III de Castilla. Asociados a la propiedad del rey, tuvieron un gran protagonismo y desarrollo bajo Alfonso X y Pedro I en los siglos XIII y XIV.

La judería sevillana era una de las más numerosas y sin duda la más laboriosa de todas. Por aquél entonces, Sevilla no solamente destacaba por sus relaciones comerciales facilitadas por la importancia de su río, sino también por sus escuelas de medicina, su gran movimiento filosófico, y sus artes.



Brief History

From the early beginnings there was existence of ancient trade links between Iberian tribes and the sons of Israel.

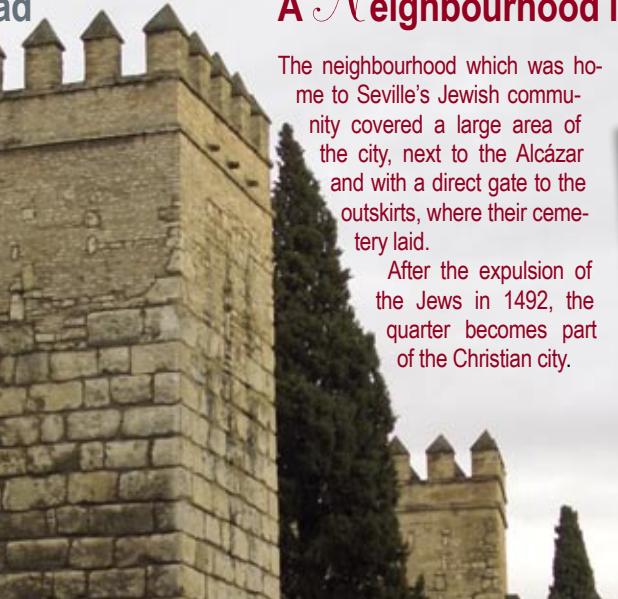
It is quite possible that Seville's Jewish community is certainly one of the oldest in Spain. The Jews must have been attracted by the great city which gave its name to all Hispania.

During the time of the Visigoths (6th and 7th c.), Seville was Spain's most populous city. Its political and cultural importance stands out being one of the sites of the monarchy and the city where Saint Isidoro of Seville and his brother Leandro developed their work, being of great influence in the Catholic World.

During the Arab conquest of Spain (8th c.), those Jews who had collaborated with the invader were respected and generously treated by the muslims. They settled in many cities, enjoying great influence in the new society, thanks partly to their financial importance.

The Almohad Caliphate expelled them from Al-Andalus (Spain, 12th c.), coming back to Seville with the reconquest of Seville by Fernando III of Castilla. Related to the King's property, they played a prominent role and development during the kingdom of Alfonso X and Pedro I in the 13th and 14th c.

Seville's Jewish community was one of the largest and without doubt the most industrious of all. At that time, Seville not only stood out as a result of its trade links, which flourished due to the importance of its river, but also thanks to its medical schools, its great philosophical movement and its arts scene.



Ubicación/Mapa

La Judería de Sevilla comprendía los actuales barrios de Santa Cruz, Santa María la Blanca y San Bartolomé, y estaba separado del resto de la ciudad por un muro, que bajaba desde el comienzo de la calle Conde de Ibarra, pasando por la Plaza de las Mercedarias, hasta la muralla de la ciudad.

Location/Map

Seville's Judería included the modern day areas of Santa Cruz, Santa María la Blanca and San Bartolomé, and was separated from the rest of the city by a wall, which ran down from the beginning of the calle Conde de Ibarra, past the Plaza de las Mercedarias, as far as the city walls.

Un Barrio al Este de la ciudad

El barrio propio que los judíos ocupaban en Sevilla abarcaba una amplia extensión de la ciudad, adosada al Alcázar y con salida directa a las afueras, donde se encontraba el cementerio.

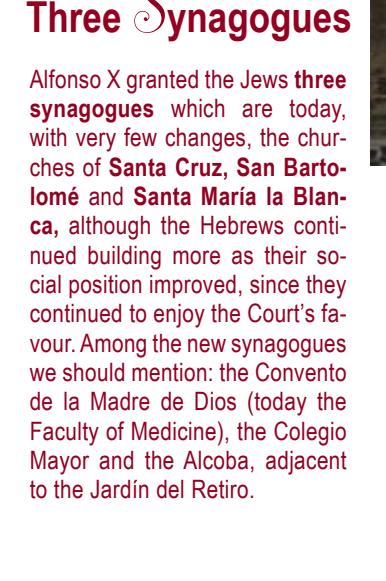
Tras la expulsión de los judíos en 1492, el barrio se incorpora a la ciudad cristiana.



A Neighbourhood in the East of the city

The neighbourhood which was home to Seville's Jewish community covered a large area of the city, next to the Alcázar and with a direct gate to the outskirts, where their cemetery laid.

After the expulsion of the Jews in 1492, the quarter becomes part of the Christian city.



Tres Sinagogas

Alfonso X otorgó a los judíos tres sinagogas. Solo una de ellas se corresponde con poca diferencia con la actual parroquia de Santa María la Blanca. Otra estaba ubicada en la actual Plaza de Santa Cruz, no existiendo en la actualidad vestigio alguno de la misma, y la tercera se transformó en la parroquia de San Bartolomé, pero los hebreos fueron erigiendo otras nuevas a medida que su prestigio iba en aumento, pues no cesaban de obtener los favores de la Corte. Entre las nuevas sinagogas debemos citar la del Convento de la



Madre de Dios, hoy Facultad de Medicina; la del Colegio Mayor; y la de la Alcoba, contigua al jardín del Retiro.

Three Synagogues

Alfonso X granted the Jews three synagogues which are today, with very few changes, the churches of Santa Cruz, San Bartolomé and Santa María la Blanca, although the Hebrews continued building more as their social position improved, since they continued to enjoy the Court's favour. Among the new synagogues we should mention: the Convento de la Madre de Dios (today the Faculty of Medicine), the Colegio Mayor and the Alcoba, adjacent to the Jardín del Retiro.

Instituciones propias

Los judíos sevillanos tenían sus propias instituciones. Su sistema de organización coincidía en muchos puntos con el de los cristianos. Así, la máxima autoridad el Judío Mayor, Viejo o Juez "del aljama de los judíos de la muy noble ciudad de Sevilla" que la gobernaba ayudado por un consejo de judíos.

Desde el punto de vista jurídico, los hebreos poseían un Alcalde propio, encargado de juzgar los pleitos entre judíos, ya que cuando se trataba de litigios entre cristianos y hebreos, éstos pasaban a la jurisdicción ordinaria.

En lo que se refiere a la religión, los judíos sevillanos tenían sus rabinos, que proveían las necesidades espirituales de la aljama y celebraban el culto en las sinagogas.

Otro hecho que diferenciaba a los judíos de los cristianos eran los tributos especiales que tenían que pagar, tanto al rey, como a la Iglesia.



Tres Puertas

El barrio judío comunicaba con el campo y su necrópolis propia por la Puerta de la Carne, a la que los árabes llamaban Bab Yahwar. Cerca de la catedral disponían de otra puerta en la actual calle de Mesón del Moro. La tercera era la de San Nicolás, al comienzo de la calle San José.

Finalmente, había una puerta pequeña junto al Alcázar, llamada "del Atambor" porque por la tarde se cerraba a los sones del tambor del cuerpo de guardia. Esta puerta daba a la calle Rodrigo Caro, eminent historiador del siglo XVII de origen hebreo.

Las tres puertas se cerraban al toque del angelus (18 h.) y no se abrían hasta la mañana siguiente.



Three Gates

The Jewish quarter was connected to the countryside and the necropolis by the gate known as "Puerta de la Carne", which the Arabs called BabaYahwar. Next to the Cathedral there was another gate located at Mesón del Moro Street. The third one was San Nicolás gate, situated at the beginning of San José Street.

Finally, there was a small gate next to the Alcazar, called Atambor because in the evening it was closed at the stroke of a drum of the guard force. This gate faced to Rodrigo Caro street, a famous 16th-century historian of Jewish origin.

The three gates were closed at 6pm, at the angelus call, and were not open till the following day.



Reinado de Pedro I

La judería sevillana alcanzó su apogeo bajo el reinado de Pedro I, gran mecenas de la Sevilla judía, llamado el Cruel por sus detractores y el Justiciero por sus partidarios, rey de Castilla desde el 26 de marzo de 1350 hasta su muerte.

Propenso por naturaleza a favorecer a los hebreos, fue imitado por todos los municipios, especialmente en Sevilla, residencia de la Corte y ciudad principal de la monarquía castellana.

Don Pedro otorgó su confianza a su tesorero, un judío portugués llamado Samuel Levi.



Reign of Pedro I

Seville's Jewish Community enjoyed its heyday during the reign of Pedro I, the great patron of Jewish Seville, known by his detractors as the Cruel, and by his supporters as the Avenger, King of Castile from 26 March 1350 until his death.

Naturally inclined to favour the Jews, all municipalities followed suit, especially Seville, which was home to the Court and the major city of the Castilian monarchy.

Pedro placed his trust in his treasurer, a Portuguese Jew named Samuel Levi.



Decreto de Expulsión

La decadencia de la Judería sevillana tras el pogromo de 1391 fue decisiva por lo que el decreto de expulsión dictado por los Reyes Católicos en 1492 fue muy acusado en el resto de juderías y muy poco en Sevilla.

Decree of Expulsion

The decline of the Sevillian Jewish Quarter after the 1391 pogrom was crucial, so that the decree of expulsion of the Jews signed by the Catholic Monarchs in 1492 was quite felt in every city in the kingdom but hardly in Seville.

Judíos Conversos (Conversos)

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