

**A SHORT HISTORY  
OF THE JEWS IN  
ENGLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649747283

A short history of the Jews in England by H. P. Stokes

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**H. P. STOKES**

**A SHORT HISTORY  
OF THE JEWS IN  
ENGLAND**





MENASSEH BEN-ISRAEL  
1604-1680 (APRIL 16, 1657)

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JEWISH STUDIES

Edited by A. LUKYN WILLIAMS, D.D.

A SHORT HISTORY  
OF THE  
JEWS IN ENGLAND

BY THE REV.

H. P. STOKES, LL.D., LITT.D., F.S.A.

HON. FELLOW OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; HOOL. CANON OF ELY

WITH 8 ILLUSTRATIONS

166288.  
19.10.21.

LONDON  
CENTRAL BOARD OF MISSIONS  
AND  
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING  
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE  
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN CO.  
1921

## PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

No modern nation has taken more interest in the Jews than the English-speaking peoples, none has tried to deal more fairly with them. Yet it cannot be pretended that we English know much about their post-Biblical history, practices, and beliefs, much less that we have studied these in relation to Christianity past and present.

The aim of this series is to do something towards supplying this want. It will endeavour to describe Jews as they have been and as they are, to state and explain the efforts of Christians in past centuries to win them, and the methods used, and both to set out and to weigh their chief doctrines.

Thus gradually but surely a collection of handbooks will be formed, which Jews and Christians alike may use, and each learn to understand better the religion of the other. Naturally the books will be Christian, and because they are Christian will try both to represent Christianity in its proper spirit, and to exhibit it as the supreme truth.

A. LUKYN WILLIAMS.

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**I**

**THE PRE-EXPULSION PERIOD**

# HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN ENGLAND

## CHAPTER I

### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE JEWS IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE EXPULSION

THE Jews came into England with the Conqueror. There are, indeed, rumours of their presence here now and then in Anglo-Saxon times; but the evidence of this is too vague to be accepted. William I. brought them from Rouen, and settled them in various towns in his new dominion; and during the reign of the first Norman king they gradually prospered. They were still more favoured by William II. Referring to a controversy between some clerics and some Israelites, the Red King is said to have declared, with a characteristic oath: "by the face of St. Luke," that "if the Jews overcame the Christians, he himself would become one of their sect."

In Henry I.'s time, in certain Treasury records, we first meet with official allusions to Jewish financial