

This cosmopolitan mix left its imprint on the Jews who emerged as worldly people, with proven records in commerce, the liberal professions and banking. The passion for Judaism has not been forgotten to this very day by Halabi Jews, whom you will always find at the top of the list of donors for any Jewish or Zionist cause.

Moshe (Moise) Cohen

To sum up: the Aleppo Jews earned a good reputation because they merited it, their motto being that "a good name is better than good oil" (Talmudic Idiom). Halab Jewry embodies the Rabbis in their wisdom, the merchants in their ingenuity, the bankers in their performance, and fellow-men in their identity with the community.

Menachem Yedid

On Jewish Emigration and Aliya to Israel

There were two massive waves of Jews emigrating from Syria - the motive in each case being primarily economic.

The first wave occurred at the turn of this century, around 1905, with the Jews immigrating mainly to the U.S.A. - Brooklyn.

The second wave occurred came in 1918, after the first World War - destined mainly to Central and South America. Along with these, there were relatively small waves of immigrants to Eretz Israel, Milano in Italy, Manchester in England, Antwerp in Belgium and even Japan.

Rafi Sitton

Over a hundred years ago, numerous Aleppo Jewish families arrived in the holy cities of Hebron, Safed and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, family dynasties well-known to this very day - settled and established themselves. They included Ades, Hadaya, Harari, Rafful, Shayo, Shammah, Esses and Ancona.

The Aleppo community in Jerusalem, prior to the foundation of the State, was well-established and organized and produced many renowned Rabbis. Some of them also left their imprint on commerce, and the Shammah market in the Mamila Quarter is only an example of this. One must not forgotten that the Rabbis and community leaders of Aleppo did not hesitate for one moment to see the promise of redemption in the State of Israel and hence their decision to have the Aleppo Codex - their most precious item - transferred to Israel and indeed it was delivered to its president at the time - Isaac Ben Zvi.

Menachem Yedid

The Aleppo Jews loved Israel and this is why they are still considered to be among the major donors to the K.K.L. (Israel National Fund). I came to realize this during my long service throughout South America as representative of the National Institutions. This is the same love for Israel which had



inspired my father to make the journey to Zion on foot - which lasted nineteen days.

Izhak Saad

The 1970's brought with them a wave of young Jewish immigrants who had fled from Halab to Israel. They were educated and ambitious young men and women, which the State was lucky to have. Not in vain did the country's high echelons participate in bold and secret missions - not yet publicized - to rescue Jews and bring them over to Israel. I was personally involved in the absorption of these immigrants and I saw with my own eyes how Golda Meir tears as she listened with amazement to a group of people on landing in Israel with Jewish pride, giving intelligent responses in perfect Hebrew to her questions.

During the Yom Kippur War, two young Jews were wounded while fleeing Syria. Moshe Dayan ordered that they be brought to Israel and once he met them he announced they were Jewish soldiers fighting for the State no less than the I.D.F. Soldiers fighting in the Yom Kippur War. Menachem Begin too, on one of his trips from Europe to Israel, made special places in his plane for young emigrants from Syria who were staying in Europe for transit periods.

The openness of young Jews - referred to earlier as a typical Halabi Jew quality - facilitated their quick absorption in Israel. As to the heroism of their Aliya to this country - stories remain yet to be told and secrets to be disclosed.

David Gindi

