

**VESTIGES OF THE HISTORIC
ANGLO-HEBREWS IN EAST
ANGLIA. WITH APPENDICES
AND AN APROPOS ESSAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649753864

Vestiges of the Historic Anglo-Hebrews in East Anglia. With Appendices and an Apropos Essay
by Rev. M. Margoliouth

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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REV. M. MARGOLIOUTH

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A FAC-SIMILE OF THE SKETCH PRESERVED IN THE
MSS. OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

VESTIGES
OF THE
HISTORIC ANGLO-HEBREWS
IN
EAST ANGLIA.

WITH APPENDICES AND AN APROPOS ESSAY.

BY
THE REV. M. MARGOLIOUTH, LL.D., PH.D.,
ETC., ETC.

AUTHOR OF "A PILGRIMAGE TO THE LAND OF MY FATHERS," "THE HISTORY
OF THE JEWS IN GREAT BRITAIN," ETC., ETC.

LONDON :
LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER.

—
1870.

TO
SIR ROBERT PIGOT, BART.,
THIS VOLUME IS,
WITH SENTIMENTS OF GREAT REGARD AND SINCERE ESTEEM,
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

2114386

P R E F A C E .

THIS volume is one of the effects issuing from the labours of the "Royal Archæological Institute for Great Britain and Ireland." Having been asked, in the spring of this year, by some friends interested in the researches and prosperity of that useful Association, to contribute a paper at their annual meeting, to be held this year at Bury St. Edmund's; I acquiesced, and fixed upon the subject which gives the title to this publication. I considered it a proper theme for an Essay to be brought under the notice of an assembly of archæologists, who were to meet in the town which bears the name of one of the kings of the East Angles. The subject commended itself to the Honorary Secretary of the Institute, and I forthwith set to work to isolate some materials for this particular purpose, from MSS. on kindred subjects, upon which many a year's hard work and study had been bestowed.

When I had arranged the joints of my skeleton, I began to feel apprehensive about its probable proportions, should I venture to clothe it with the sinews, flesh, and skin commensurate with its gigantic stature. I therefore, by sundry expedients, reduced the structure of my skeleton to a dwarfish size; but even then I was dubious as to whether it might not be considered out of proportion, for the time usually allowed for one paper. It took me nearly three

hours to accomplish a private perusal of the first abridgment. The dissecting knife was once more applied, and a further series of excisions achieved. Naturally, I had my misgivings as to the effect which the mutilated and maimed thesis might produce upon a highly educated audience, such as form the attendance at such conferences. I confess that whilst I hoped for the best, I was prepared for the worst. However, the meeting was kinder to me than my apprehensions foreboded.

It was my good fortune to read my paper when a NOBLEMAN, well worthy of the name, an accomplished Scholar, and a learned Divine—then the Venerable Lord Arthur Hervey, Archdeacon of Sudbury, now Bishop of Bath and Wells—occupied the chair. The President's generous indulgence seemed to permeate and pervade the whole audience. I had an attentive and encouraging hearing—notwithstanding the great length of my paper, mutilated though it was—accorded to me. That was not all. When I had finished, the noble President, as well as the assembly generally, was good enough to speak in terms of commendation of my humble performance. I was asked by many, then and there, to publish the production; and often, since then, have I been importuned to give the "*opuscula, pro bono publico.*" Refusing compliance might have been construed into an affected modesty. I have deferred therefore to the wishes of my partial critics, as I must call those friends who have urged on the publication of this paper. In doing so, I have restored, in the shape of notes and appendices, some of the

parings which I had made from the original plan ; and have also added an apropos Essay, on the qualifications which the historian of Jewish annals must possess.

It is not improbable that some of the readers of this Brochure, may be already acquainted with my works on the annals of the Anglo-Hebrews,—namely, “The Jews in Great Britain ; being a Series of Six Lectures delivered at the Liverpool Collegiate Institution, on the Antiquities of the Jews in England,” and “The History of the Jews in Great Britain”—such would no doubt feel somewhat struck at my altered interpretation of certain men and things, words, thoughts, and deeds, from that propounded in my former works. “Live and learn,” though a trite saying, is yet a true and sound aphorism. The first-named work was written upwards of a quarter century ago ; the second more than a score of years ago. One learns, and has to unlearn, a great deal during such a period of time. On several subjects, I frankly own, my opinions were then formed on imperfect information, and but crudely digested. Twenty years’ hard reading, travelling, and thinking, wonderfully enlarge one’s information, and ripen considerably one’s judgment.

Let me instance two of the principal features in the following pages—the purport of the bronze vessel found in a Suffolk river, (p. 46,) and the identification of Nicolaus de Lyra with a Franciscan Monk of Lynn, (p. 56.) When I first treated of the former, I was led principally by Dr. Tovey’s account

of the vessel. I then lived far away from Town, and could not avail myself of the unpublished literary treasures of the British Museum. The sketch of the vessel—the *fac simile* of which forms the *frontispiece*—as preserved amongst the MSS. of the National Archives, is as different as possible from the print of the same vessel, as given by Dr. Tovey.* I had not then visited Prague, and had not read the “Sermons in Stone,” with which the ancient Jewish cemetery, in that place, abounds. When I first treated of Nicolaus de Lyra, I was not aware that there flourished a Nicolaus de Lynn at the latter part of the thirteenth, and the early part of the fourteenth, century. My former works, just named, are out of print; I am prepared for a new History of the Jews in Great Britain, up to the present day, founded on materials carefully collected, and critically sifted, since the publication of the works alluded to.

Let me close my few prefatory remarks with a hope that my readers will accord to me the like indulgence which my hearers have done; and will generously credit me with a conscientious desire to give them the truest attainable information in my power, weeded of the tares which ignorance, prejudice, bigotry, and superstition disseminate.

M. M.

BRANCHES PARK, NEWMARKET,
December 1869.

* The stamp on the cover is a miniature of Lady Pigot's grand artistic diagram, which her Ladyship kindly prepared, for the purpose of illustrating the part of the paper which it concerned. (P. 46.)