

# Seven Surnames of Jews From the Iberian Peninsula

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I give brief historical and/or linguistic summaries of seven Jewish surnames (existing surnames or nicknames which became surnames) borne by Jews or converted Jews in the Iberian peninsula from the 11th through the 15th centuries, at the time when Jews were expelled from Spain and Portugal. Many of these were *conversos* 'converts' or *marranos* 'Christians in appearance', who disguised themselves by changing their names.

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The tragic events concerning expulsion of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula in the 15th century are well known. I have referred to those events earlier (Ferreira 1993). I mention the social circumstances again because they are relevant to some of the surnames I will be discussing.

Many Jews fled from the south of Spain to Christian areas in the north and to Portugal after the Muslim invasion of the peninsula in the 8th century. In Portugal the Jews lived peacefully for a long time before the last expulsion; depending only on the King, they were welcomed in urban and rural communities not only because they had useful professions and trades, but also because they were generally wealthy and had money to lend. Of their own free will, many decided to convert to Christianity but later, largely for political reasons, most were compelled to convert if they wanted to stay, and a large number converted, not wishing to leave the country with their families. Sometimes the rich married Christian women of noble families.

Many of these *conversos* 'converts' or 'new Christians' and the *marranos* or "Christians in appearance" carried on their former religious practices secretly (cf. Roth 1931, 31 ff). To disguise themselves, they changed their names voluntarily (often assuming kinnui or "link names" if they had not yet been assigned new names by the Inquisition Tribunal

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court of Spain. Those (both males and females) who were lucky enough not to be condemned by the Inquisition were given new names of the Iberian type, very often consisting of a first name, a patronymic and a nickname which became a surname.

The names which I attest here, and of which I give a small historical and/or linguistic summary, are mostly Jewish surnames or nicknames which became surnames given to Jews or converted Jews. Apart from some brief references to North Africa and several other European countries, these surnames were extracted from 15th century historical Portuguese (P) and Spanish (Sp) documents from the Algarve in Portugal and from Galicia and Toledo in Spain.

#### **Allcabez, Alkabetz**

P-1450: Abraão *Allcabez* Judeu, *LRF*, fl.1. A Jewish surname found not only in the cited Portuguese document, but also referred to in similar forms elsewhere: In *Seph.*, the forms *Alkabes* (France and N. Africa) and *Alkabez* (Jud.-Sp. community in the Balkans; Australian family). The name *Alkabetz* still occurs in *E. Jud.*, *E. Brit.* and *Judaism*: Solomon ben Moses ha-Levi *Alkabetz*, was a Jewish cabbalist poet, 16th c., famous for his hymns to prepare Sabbath, especially *Lakhah Dodi* 'Come, my beloved'.

#### **Aliote, Aleote**

P-1450: Fajm *Aliote* Judeu, *LRF*, fls. 2, 6v, 9v.

A Semitic surname in Portuguese spelling. The Sp form is *Liot*, either Jews' or New Christians' name found in the Inquisition records of Jewish communities census. (*Seph.* 29). In France *Aliot* is the form used by men, as Louis Aliot; and *Aliote*, the form used by women, as Michelle Aliote-Marie, both political figures. J. L. Vasconcellos (*Antr.*: 310) believes that the Portuguese form originated from the British *Eliot* and attests it in the beginning of the 17th c. In fact genealogists say this name was brought in much earlier by Gilbert Eliot, a British knight who came to the court of Philipa of Lancaster, queen of Portugal in the 14th c.; but there are no documents attesting it before the 16th c. In 1587 the Portuguese knight Gaspar *Leote*, Francisco Leote's son and the grandson of another Gaspar Leote, was married to Maria Tavares, Simão Tavares' daughter (?) in Tangier, Morocco; and a probable descendant from these, Francisco Leote Tavares was granted a new (?) coat of arms in 1639. In the United Kingdom, Gilbert E(l)liot's noble name would be repeated at least until the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. George Eliot is the Victorian novelist's pseudonym, and T. S. Eliot, the American/English poet and playwright. The form spelt *El(y)ot* (17th c.) is given by the *OED* as an obsolete form of *Helot*, an adaptation of Lt. *Helotes*

from a. Gr. Εἰλωται. It does not seem to me, however, that the name of the inhabitants (slaves) of Ἐλωϋς, a town in Laconia, Greece, might be a good suggestion for the source of this name.

**Allmulle, Almuli, Almale, Almali, Almoli, Almohalla, Almonalla.**

Sp-1262: Salomon *Almuli* in a Barcelona list (Jacobs, *ap. Jew.E.*)

Sp-13<sup>th</sup> c.: Nathaniel b. Joseph ibn *Almoli* (*Jew.E.*)

Sp-1347: Juhuda *Almali*, a vineyard worker (*Cont.*)

P-1450: Joçe *Allmulle* Judeu, a dried fruit merchant, *LRF*, fl. 3

Sp-1472: Pascual Sanches de *Almohalla* (*Tol.*)

P-1487: Jaco *Almalle* tailor, *Ver.* 1: 225

Sp-1517: Solomon b. Jacob *Almoli* (*Almuli*) physician and Hebrew Author (*Jew.E.*). An Iberian-Jewish family name derived from the Arabic AL-MU'ALLI 'the one who raises up'. Surname used in the Iberian Peninsula at least since the 13th c. *Almohalla* is a place name and still a frequent surname in Málaga, Sp. (geocities.com). Assad *Almale* is an actual Iraqi's name.

**C(h)achado, Encachado**

P-1374: Maffomede *Cachado* (*DOELP*)

P-1403: Belhamin *Cachado* Judeu blacksmith; 'the' *Chachado*, or *Chachado* Judeu blacksmith is the same person: *Ver.* 1: 117, 136s. In 1403 this man asked the municipal Counsel of Loulé on the 20th of July, to stay and live in the town; and as the neighbours needed a blacksmith very much, the counsellors contracted him for the job. He would be paid 4,000 pounds a year with his apprentice or journeyman and he would pay no municipal taxes.

P-1450: Vasco Lourenço *Encachado* a dried fruit producer or merchant, *LRF*, fl. 9

P-1494: Estevam Vaasquez *Emcachado*, a guarantor, *Ver.* II: 152; and António Estevez *Encachado*, perhaps his son, *ib.*: 172.

This surname, with or without the prefix *En-* or *Em-*, was a nickname derived from the Pg, Sp and Prov. adj *cachado* or *encachado* (pp. of the verb *cachar*, from the pop. Lt \**coacticare*, from the class. Lt. *coactare*, through Fr *cacher* 'hide'), which means 'with a large fat neck' or 'with the head hidden in the neck and shoulders', 'got, caught, hidden, disguised, cunning', or the noun 'deceiver, pretender'. The surname *Cachado* is still actual in Portugal, like Patricia *Cachado* or Álvaro *Cachado* Rodrigues. *Cacho* and *Cachada* are geographic names in the north of Portugal, districts of Oporto, Braga and Viana do Castelo.

**Don(n)o, Donhas, Cem Dono, Tardono(?)**

P-1026: *Donno* Gunsalvis (*Donno* as a title, *HgNb* # 68.3c)

P-1047: *donu*, as a common noun (*DELP*)

Sp-1062: *donno*, as a common noun in a Huesca doc. (Corom.).

As a surname:

P-1053: *Dono* (*HgNb*, *ib*)

P-1408?: Isaque *Dono* Judeu d'Odemyra, smith, *Ver.* I: 198. This year of 1408 (or 1446?) on the 14th of June, this man asked the municipality to live in Loulé.

P-1450: Samoell *Donhas* Judeu, a dried fruit merchant who uses as a signature signal, a Star of David with the Hebraic letter *qof* (Qof) inside the central hexagon, *LRF*, fl. 4v.

P-1461: Joham Martinz Cendono vassal, *Cad.*, fl.147

P-1468-87: Martim An(n)es *Cém* (= ? *sem* 'without') *Dono*, or M.A. *Cendono*, councillor, *Ver.* I: 203, 208, 215, 237.

P-1487/88: Diogo Martinz *Cendono*, M.A. *Cem Dono*'s son, *id.* I: 237, 258

P-1493: Joham Martinz *C.* and other relatives, *id.* II:127.

*Dono/a* not only used as titles but also as first ns, represented the Lt *dominus,-a*, 'the lord/the lady of the house' (*Ant.*: 579), 'master, the Lord', very often abbreviated as *DNŸs*. The Pg word is *dono*, as in Italian; ant. Catalan and Occitan, *don*; and the Sp word became *dueño*, after the first vowel diphthongisation [Lt *o* > Sp *we*]. *Dom/n* is the title form, and the name became a surname. *Dono* di Paolo was the famous Florentine painter Paolo Uccello's or Paolo di *Dono*'s father. They lived in Florence in the late 14th and 15th c. Forms like *Donho*, *Donio* are included in the Izmir name lists of the 19th and 20th c., provided by Dov. Cohen, *Seph.* 11, 12.

Will TARDONO and TARDANO be other forms of the same name or is there a corruption or bad reading of "*taŸ* (= *taŸm* = *ta(balia)m* 'notary') *Dono*", as it happens in *LvPag*, fl.3?. *Seph.* 29, however, shows *Tardano* as a Spanish n. used by Jews or Converts; and in Portuguese *Tardona* still exists as a place n. and *Tardão* as a surname (*DOELP*). *Dunash* ben Labrat (Adonim ha-Levi - a translation of his Berber name as though it were Sp *dueños*: mid-10th c.) was a Hebrew poet, grammarian and polemicist who was a Baghdadi by origin and a man of Fez (N. Africa) by education. *Dunash* ben Tamin, also known as Adonim and of 10th c., was a Jewish physician and scholar who practised medicine in Tunisia. (*E. Brit* and *E. Jud.*). *Donnolo* (Italy, 10th c), N. *Donin* (France, 13th c.), Leopold and Eduard *Donath*, and C and M. *Donati* (19th c.) were all European Jews born

in various countries (*E. Jud.*). In Portugal the family *Donas* has existed at least since the 16th c.: Maria *Donas*, her son Gaspar Fernandes *D.*, her grandson Alvaro *D.* and descendants (GeneAll.net).

**Mazcor(r)o, Mascar(r)o**

P-1450: Afonso Vaasquez *Mazcoro*, *LRF*, fls.3v, 5v, a dried fruit merchant

P-1450: Martim Vaasquez *Mazcoro*, a resident vassal, *id.* fl.6; and *Cad.*1461, fl.140v c..1480, a dried fruit merchant in Loulé, *LvPag.* fl.1v.

P-1461: Alvaro V. *M.*, a deceased vassal, perhaps brother of the last two, *Cad.*, fl.142

P-1461: Vasco (E)an(n)es *Mazcor(r)o*, *Cad.* fl.145v; and P-1470, 1487, 1488, 1493: this man, a squire and a town councillor, married to a noble widow, Catarina Gonçallvez, and became Joham de Taide's stepfather, *Ver.* I: 213, 235, 237, 254; II: 89; c.1480 he is a merchant, *LvPag.* fl.8v. In 1494, 'the younger' is a police officer, *Ver.* II: 159

P-1493/4: Diogo Alvarez *Mazcoro*, a squire and councillor, Fernand' Alvarez *M.* and Joham Alvez *M.*, perhaps brothers, *id.* *ib.*:127, 159.

The similar surnames *Mascarán* (Asturias, Sp), *Mascaram*, *Mascharan* (Aragon, Sp), *Mascaro* and *Mascara* (Murcia, Sp) are mentioned in *Seph.* 19, 22, 29, 42, being what some considered original Sephardic names such as *Mascara*, also a place name in Algeria; and others, Jewish Converts' or New Christians' names assigned by the Holy Office and found in Inquisition records, as *Mascaro*. *Mazcaren(h)as*, a name of 'marranos' (Roth 1931: 61) and of Sephardic Portuguese-Brazilian families punished by the Inquisition (*Seph.* 7, 30, 37) seems to me a compound name: *Mazcaro*+*Eañes* (*Johannes*), such as Clareanes, a toponym of Loulé. According to documents, *Mazcarenhas* is first a Pg place name in the district of Bragança, N. frontier with Spain, and after (?) a family name (*Ant.*: 170). I think, however, that an anthroponym can precede the toponym in the former Hebrew movements in the north of the peninsula (before 12th c.). The place would be given as lordship to a family, and the geographic name would come to belong to their name. If we could prove that Vasco Gonçallvez Mazcarenhas 1487, *Ver.* I: 245, was a son of Vasco Eannes Mazcoro and Catarina Gonçallvez, it would be very interesting. *Mascarra* and *Mascarrado* are Pg nicknames (*TAAL*) derived from the noun and adjective which mean 'coal darkened or dirty face(d)' like *Tisnado* that is another nickname (*TAAL*) used as a surname. *Tizón de la Nobleza de España* was a book written by Cardinal Mendoza (c 1560) to show that almost all Castilla and Aragon nobility had Jew-

ish blood (Roth 1931: 33 n.2). 'Mascoriento' or 'Bestion mascoriento' is one of the multiple ns given to the Devil, meaning 'dirty thing'. The Iberian adjective suffix *-orro(a)* is classified as pejorative and so it is easy to suppose a certain connotation showing a xenophobic attitude against a different culture; for *Mascorro* that could be a transformation of *Mascara*. In Catalonia and in other Spanish-speaking regions the surname is still alive. Aniceto *Mascaró* was a brilliant Catalan ophthalmologist living in Lisbon in the last century, who developed an important reading system for visual and unvisual children. Afonso Ayala *Mascorro* is a noted Mexican painter and Oscar *Mascorro*, a known Mexican football player. *Mascarraque* is also an actual surname and old (since 1484, at least) place name in Castilla-La Mancha, Sp. (*Tol.*: 498s). Many *Mascorro* families live in the U. S., namely in Texas and California. In Portugal there are the toponyms *Mascarra* and *Mascorro* in the districts of Beja and Évora.

#### Pincho, Pinchas, Pinehas

P-1392/1394: Domingos (E)stevez *Pincho*, *Ver.* I, Lvs. 02, 03: 53, 58

P-1450: Alvaro Gonçalvez *Pincho* (o Velho), *LRF*: fl.7; 1474, *Cad Imp*. fl 1

P-1461: Va(a)sco (Anes) *Pincho* vassal, *Cad*, fl. 148v; c.1480, *Lv Pag.*, fl.19v.;

1493, *Ver.* II, Lv.11: 98.

P-1470, 1487, 1488: Rodrigo Alvarez *Pin(n)cho*, *Ver.* I, Lvs.08, 10: 213, 240, 257;

1493: R. A. *Pineho* (*Pinebro* ?), *id.* II, Lv.11: 89

P-1474: Joham Alvarez *Pincho*, *Cad. Imp*, fl 1. Diogo A. *Pincho*, his brother and landworker, *id, ib*; 1493, *Ver.* II, Lv.11: 98. *Pinchas* (Phineas) peen-CHAWS (Lawson 1991:111), *Pinehas* (*Seph.* 31) is the biblical n. of Aaron's grandson (Ex 6: 25), with the Eng. spelling *Phinehas/ Phineas* and the Pg. *Fineias*. Possibly from the Hebrew *pinkas* 'writing tablet', linked to the account book of tradesmen (Lawson, et. al 1992, II: 86). The ending *-o* of the Iberian form *Pincho* must be the morpheme of masculine singular. Nowadays, *Pincho*, *Pinchas*, *Pinehas* are used as first names, nicknames and place names. Some examples: Pinehas Heyman, a Bar Ilan scholar; Pinehas Furtado, a modern Brazilian; Pinchas Zuckerman, a noted Israeli violinist and conductor; Pinchas Cohen, a singer from Morocco; Pincho (Philip) Goldstein, an American born in Poland. 'Pincho' Guerra is a Spanish politician's nickname. *Pincho* is also a Portuguese place name in the districts of Faro, Coimbra and Portalegre.

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