



OXFORD CENTRE FOR  
HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

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The London Lecture Series  
in association with the Jewish Museum London

## Menasseh ben Israel



A lecture to be given by Dr César Merchán-Hamann  
(Director of the Muller Library, OCHJS/Hebraica and  
Judaica Curator at the Bodleian)

Manoel Dias Soeiro was born on the island of Madeira in 1604, to parents who had left mainland Portugal because of the Inquisition. The family moved to the Netherlands in 1610. Menasseh ben Israel, as Manoel became known, rose to eminence not only as a rabbi and an author, but also as a printer and publisher. He established the first Hebrew press in Holland in 1626 at the age of 22, and earned a reputation as one of Europe's leading Hebrew scholars, highly regarded for his theological works and linguistic interpretations of the Bible.

In his later years, Menasseh ben Israel also served as diplomat and political leader. He is known for his petition to Oliver Cromwell and the British Parliament, to readmit the Jews of England (they had been expelled in 1290). He died at Middelburg, Holland in the autumn of 1657, shortly after his return from England.

7pm, Monday 30 April 2012  
Jewish Museum London  
129-131 Albert Street  
London NW1 7NB

**(Nearest tube station: CamdenTown)**

**From 6-7pm guests will have the opportunity to view the Museum's galleries. To reserve your place at this event, please email [enquiries@ochjs.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ochjs.ac.uk)**

**JEWISH  
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