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The Dutch and Portuguese-Jewish background of David Ricardo

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Abstract

This article deals with the Dutch and Portuguese-Jewish background of David Ricardo.

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Notes

I mention N.Cohen, I. Nijenhuis, H. Rodrigues Pereira, and, in particular, J. Zwier.

I would like to thank O. Vlessing, Senior Archivist of the municipal archives in Amsterdam, for her generous help, Jack Letiche for his insightful comments, and the managing editor and the referees for their stimulating remarks.

Sraffa writes that Joseph married twice: the first marriage was in 1721 to Hannah Israel, and the second in 1727 to Hannah Abaz (Sraffa, X, [1951](#), p. 19). This must be considered an error. The marriage certificate of Joseph Israel Ricardo and Hannah Abaz in the municipal archives is dated 31 January 1721, and in the Portuguese archives it is dated 8 Sjewat 5481: the error is understandable. In the archives of the Portuguese Synagogue Hannah Abaz is named Hannah Israel. After her name was written 'Gijoret', which means 'Christian converted of Judaism'. It is quite possible that, as a result of the old Dutch style of writing, the year 1721 may have been misinterpreted as 1727. Sraffa corrected the mistake at my suggestion in Volume XI of *The Works* (Sraffa, [1973](#), XI, p. XXXIX).

It is Moses who was born in 1738 and not Abraham as I earlier reported (Heertje, [1970](#), p. 589). In other words, Abraham was not the youngest son, as has been stated by Sraffa and Henderson, but the second son (Sraffa, [1951](#), X, p. 19; Henderson, [1997](#), p. 83)

The letter-book is now in the British Museum. In fact, David Mendes da Costa acted on

behalf of the Commissariat. (Hyams drawing became

We still Ricard outside Jewish S of 24 No

This pas d'Israeli was one of his patients. His family were Unitarians. He knew Maria Edgeworth,



and in later life he was the editor of a General Biography in ten volumes (Aikin, [1823](#); Weatherall, [1976](#), p. 13).

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