Record Nr. UNINA9911018078703321 Autore Arad Dotan Titolo 'Wisdom and Greatness in One Place': The Alexandrian Trader Moses Ben Judah and His Circle Pubbl/distr/stampa Cambridge, UK:,: Open Book Publishers,, 2025 ©2025 **ISBN** 1-80511-072-1 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (552 pages) Collana Semitic Languages and Cultures Series; v.37 Altri autori (Persone) WagnerEsther-Miriam 909.04924 Disciplina Soggetti Jews - Social life and customs

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Sommario/riassunto

The manuscript collections of the Bodleian Library contain a corpus of dozens of documents from the archive of Moses ben Judah. A leader of the Jewish community in Alexandria, he was also a prominent businessman and in contact with individuals from Cairo to Sicily. This collection of documents at the Bodleian likely did not emerge from the Cairo Genizah, but from another depository, and appears to have been buried at some point. The documents, which include letters and deeds, shed light on the world of the Jewish elite of a Mediterranean city at the end of the Middle Ages, their communal and business life, connections between Jewish communities, and intellectual trends and tastes among educated Jews. They improve our understanding of the lives of Alexandrian Jews in the late Middle Ages and provide new data about the local leadership and its relations with the Nagidate (the central Jewish leadership) in Cairo, the cantors, the poll tax and its effects, and more. We hear about tensions within this society and the growing presence of European (Italian, Greek, Iberian, and conversos) Jews within the complex social mosaic of Egyptian Jewry in the late Mamluk period. The documents inform us about Alexandria's Jewish community and the commercial networks of the Mediterranean world, in which Jews traded alongside Christians and Muslims. This volume makes an important contribution to the study of Judaeo-Arabic at a watershed

moment. Sources from the late Mamluk period show Judaeo-Arabic at a linguistic border between Classical and Late Judaeo-Arabic. The volume will therefore further readers' knowledge of historical linguistics of Arabic in general, and Judaeo-Arabic in particular. The phrase 'Wisdom and Greatness in One Place' in the title of the book is a quotation from the Babylonian Talmud (Gittin 59a), the meaning of which is that it is rare to find combined in one man political leadership and intellectual pre-eminence.