Preface

The present volume is the fourteenth in my *Documentary History of the Jews in Italy*, it illustrates the history of the Jews in Genoa and represents volume 131 of the Publications of the *Diaspora Research Institute, The School of Jewish Studies, Tel Aviv University*. The method employed is that applied to the History of the Jews in the Duchy of Milan and those published subsequently (except Rome). As in the previous volumes, the vagaries of the survival of historical records have distorted the quantitative presentation of the documents, although not to the same degree. For the period before the sixteenth century we possess relatively few documents compared to the abundance of the documentation for the succeeding centuries.

The history of the Jews in Genoa goes back to Antiquity and the earliest documentary evidence takes the form of some letters from King Theodoric. Concrete evidence for the presence of the Jews in Genoa in the Middle Ages is not available before the twelfth century. Even after that it remains fragmentary and sporadic. With the sixteenth century and particularly with the seventeenth the Jewish presence in the Republic becomes permanent. Eventually a regular Jewish community was established also in the capital, in addition to the communities in the surrounding areas — the “Dominion”. The archival records presented herewith illustrate mainly the relationship between the authorities and the Jews, the economic activities of the latter and their communal and social life.

As usual, the documents are preceded by an introduction, outlining the history of the Jews in the Genoese Republic. The documents have been furnished with summaries and references, providing a useful tool for further research. In addition there are the usual bibliography, list of sources and abbreviations, a glossary and indexes.

I should like to thank, on Rossana Urbani’s and Guido Nathan Zazzu’s behalf and on mine, all those who made the preparation and publication of this volume possible. In particular our thanks are given to Mrs. Annamaria Biavasco McBurney and to Mr. James McBurney for their fine
Preface

translation from the Italian of the Introduction and of the summaries. We should also like to thank the following institutions and individuals for their help and assistance: Archivio di Stato, Genova: Dr. Carlo Bitossi, director, Dr. Alfonso Assini, Dr. Patrizia Schiappacasse. Archivio Storico del Comune di Genova: Dr. Liana Saginati, director, Dr. Raffaella Ponte. Biblioteca Civica Berio: Dr. Rosella Piatti, director, Dr. Laura Malfatto. University Library, Genoa: Dr. Ernesto Bellezza, Dr. Valeria Giannotto, Dr. Ida Fontana, Dr. Donatella Benazzi, Dr. Oriana Cartaregia. Biblioteca Civica: the late Mons. Francesco Repetto, conservator, Don Claudio Paolocci. Jewish community, Genoa: Rabbi Joseph Momigliano, President Pietro Dello Strologo, Jole Arias, Miriam Krauss, Emilia Pardo Jona, Sigismondo Friedmann, Hava Gozlan Polacco, Emanuela Sciunnach, the late Dr. Ezechia Mestre. Società Ligure di Storia Patria: Dr. Annamaria Salone, librarian. In addition we should like to thank: Dr. Enrico Basso, Padre Venanzio Belloni, O.F.M., Drs. Marino and Francesco Bernardinelli, Prof. Marco Bologna, Prof. Vilma Borghesi, Prof. Manlio Calegari, Prof. Giacomo Casarino, Dr. Riccardo Dellepiane, Dr. Siro Dodero, Dr. Mimma Figari, Prof. Luciana Gatti, Dr. Maurizio Gidoni, Prof. Edoardo Grendi, Prof. Michele Luzzati, Dr. Giuliana Manganelli, Prof. Geo Pistarino, Dr. Emilio Podesta, Prof. Massimo Quaini, Dr. Tullio Rattini, Prof. Rodolfo Savelli, Prof. Renata Segre, Prof. Roberto Sinigaglia and Dr. Gianni Vezzoso.

Shlomo Simonsohn

Tel Aviv University, 1998

[viii]