I. JUDAH MOSCATO. HIS LIFE AND HIS WORK
The biographical data about the Mantuan Rabbi, Judah (Leone) ben Joseph Moscato, are fragmentary and uncertain. Not even the dates of his birth and death were known until I found his death certificate in the State Archives of Mantua, which also states the birth date of Moscato. According to the death certificate, Moscato died in Mantua on September 20, 1590, at the age of fifty-seven. He was therefore born after September 21, 1532.

Recently discovered documents in the State Archives of Mantua and in the Archives of the Jewish Community provide new information about Moscato’s role as a representative of the Jewish community in the Duchy of Mantua as well as biographical data. He was probably born in Osimo (province of Ancona), a small town in the Marche region of central Italy. It is not certain when he went to Mantua. Moscato dedicated the *Nefusot Yehudah* to his brother-in-law R. Samuel ben Joshua Minzi-Berettaro as an expression of gratitude for having given him shelter in his house when he came to Mantua as a fugitive. According to Apfelbaum, Moscato refers to the acts of persecution against the Jews that took place in Ancona and in the Marche region.

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2 See Gianfranco Miletto, “Rabbi Yehuda Moscato and a Case of Forced Conversion,” *Frankfurter Judaistische Beiträge* 34 (2007–2008): 149–163; idem, “A New Look into Judah Moscato’s Life: His Recently Discovered Last Will and Testament from the State Archives of Mantua,” *European Journal of Jewish Studies* 2 (2008): 271–276. In this paper, I summarize the results of my research in the State Archives of Mantua and in the Archives of the Jewish Community. The most important documents have been edited in the aforementioned papers. I am grateful to the employees of the Archives, Dr. Franca Maestrini, Dr. Ivana Freddi, and Dr. Maria Luisa Aldegheri, for their assistance with my research.