

- Murray Baumgarten, “Neither Exile nor Homeland: Inventing English Jewish Writing and Culture,” A Talk for the 2009 Dickens Project gathering at Santa Cruz

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“The Most Famous Jew of England”

Shylock



or was it Fagin...?



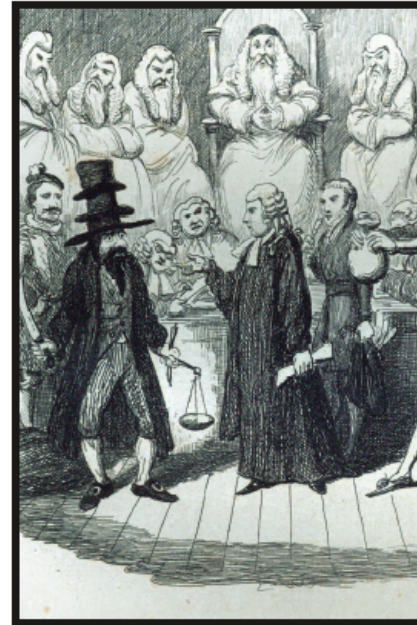
Oliver Twist: Oliver, Fagin, Sikes and the Artful Dodger

- In the nineteenth century, Shylock and Fagin started to merge into a generalized stereotype.

“The Faginization of Shylock:
Victorian Burlesques of the
Merchant of Venice”

– A Talk By Michael Shapiro –

**How Shylock
Became
Fagin’s Cousin:**



**The Jewish Old Clothes Man in
Shakespeare, Dickens, and
Victorian Burlesque Theatre**

Michael Shapiro

- How did English Jews and English Jewish writers respond to the stereotype that attempted to put them in their place?



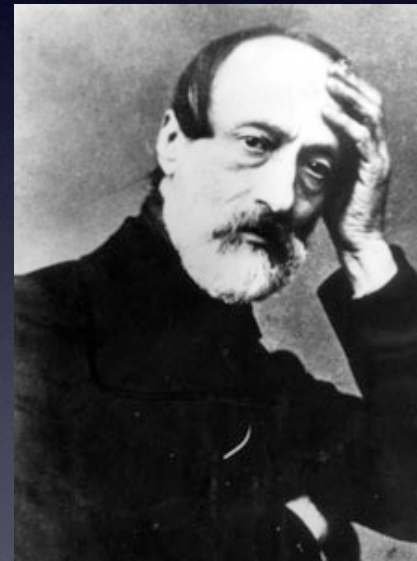
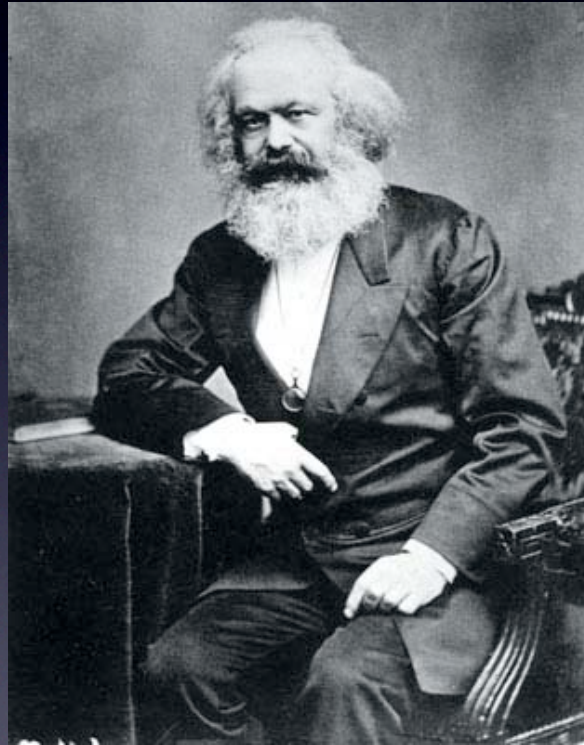
Clive Sinclair

Novelist, Intellectual, Writer

Murray's "Native Informant"

- *Bedbugs*
- *The Brothers Singer*
- *Lady with a Laptop*
- *Clive Sinclair's True Tales of the Wild West*
- *A Soap Opera From Hell: Essays on the Facts of Life and the Facts of Death*

II Are English Jews Exiles?



In a Ghetto?







Matthew Arnold, *Literature and Dogma* (1873)

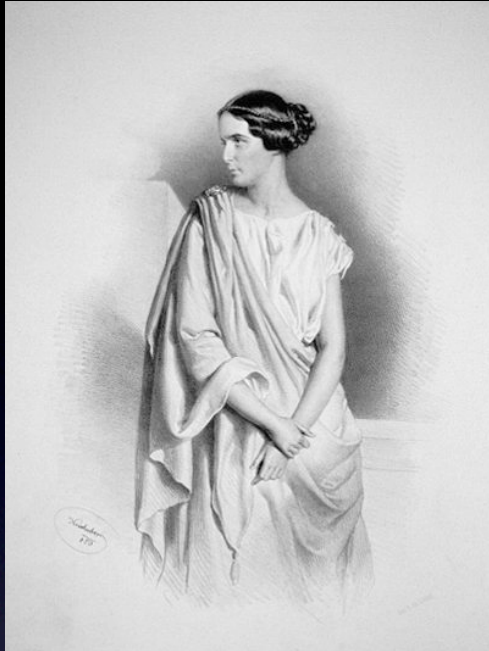
”In spite of all which in them and in their character is unattractive, nay repellent, - in spite of their shortcomings even in righteousness itself and their insignificance in everything else, – this petty, unsuccessful, unamiable people, without politics, without science, without art, without charm, deserve their great place in the world’s regard, and are likely to have it more, as the world goes on, rather than less.”

... Or Immigrants ?

Lionel Nathan de Rothschild
(1808 - 1879)

Elected to Parliament in 1847,
only seated in House of
Commons in 1858 with Jewish
Emancipation





“Rachel”

(1821 - 1858)

- *Phedre*
- “The Great Jewish Actress”





Sarah Bernhardt

(1844 - 1923)

The Divine Sarah

“the greatest actress in the history of the world”

III

For the Jews, England is
Neither Exile nor Homeland

Grace Aguilar

descendant of Portuguese Conversos
(1816 - 1847)



- *Spirit of Judaism*, published in Philadelphia, Jewish Publication Society, with notes by Rabbi Isaac Leeser (1842)
- *The Perez Family* (1843)
- *The Women of Israel* (1845)
- *Vale of Cedars* (1850)

Listen to Clive Sinclair's
Literary Ancestors

Benjamin Disraeli

Earl of Beaconsfield / British Prime Minister 1868, 1874 - 1880
(1804 - 1881)



- India becomes Crown Colony
Suez Canal under British Rule
- *Coningsby* (1844)
- *Sybil, or The Two Nations* (1845)
- *Tancred* (1847)

George Eliot

(1819 - 1880)

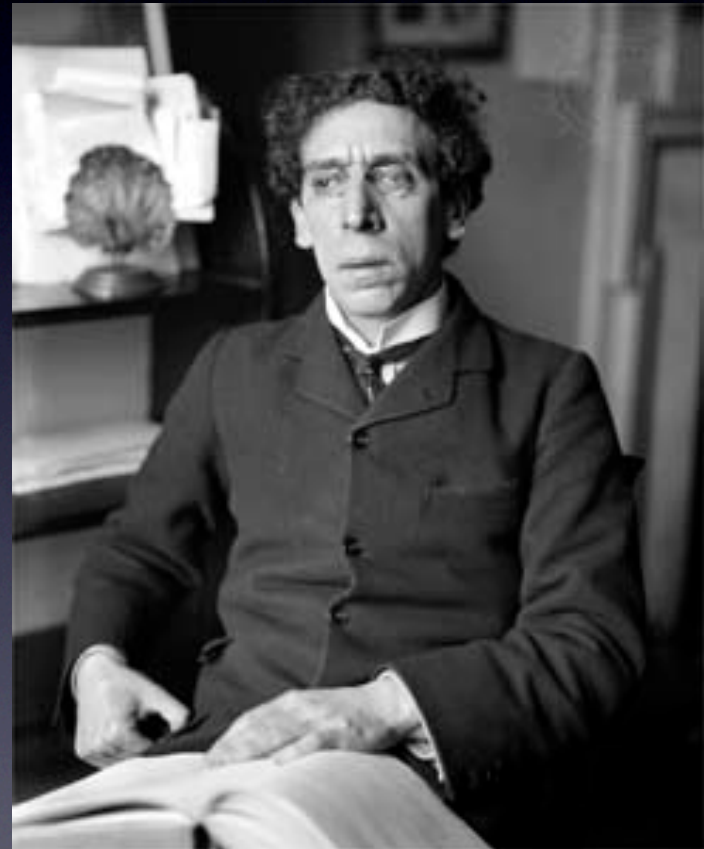
- *Daniel Deronda* (1876)



Israel Zangwill

Journalist, Novelist, Playwright, Zionist
(1864 - 1926)

- *Children of the Ghetto: A Study of a Peculiar People* (1892)
- *King of Schnorrers* (1894)
- *Dreamers of the Ghetto* (1898)
- *The Melting Pot* (1908)



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THE MELTING POT

THE
GREAT AMERICAN DRAMA

BY
ISRAEL ZANGWILL



“America is God’s
Crucible, the great
Melting-Pot, where
all the races of
Europe are
melting...”

“That’s a great play, Mr
Zangwill, that’s a great
play!”

Theodore Roosevelt, at the
premiere of *The Melting-Pot*,
October 5, 1908 in Washington,
DC



Amy Levy

(1861 - 1889)

- *Reuben Sachs: A Sketch* (1888)
- *Jewish Chronicle Essays* (1886)
 - “The Ghetto in Florence
 - “The Jew in Fiction”
 - “Jewish Humour”
 - “Jewish Children”

IV

An English-Jewish
“Success” Story ?

George Frideric Handel

(1685 - 1759)



Judas Maccabeus – “See the Conquering Hero Comes” – became music celebrating national achievements through the 19th century, and in 1932 an Israeli song honoring the Maccabiah games





Sir Moses Montefiore

(1784 - 1885)

- Banker, Philanthropist
- Elected Sheriff of London 1837- 1838
- President, Board of Deputies of British Jews 1835 - 1884
- Spokesperson for World Jewry

Judith Montefiore

(1784 - 1862)

- Traveled to Israel seven times with her husband, building first housing outside old city walls of Jerusalem, including the windmill of Yemin Moshe
- Author of the first Jewish cookbook in English, *The Jewish Manual, or Practical Information in Jewish and Modern Cookery, with a Collection of Valuable Recipes and Hints Relating to the Toilette*, edited by a Lady, 1846.

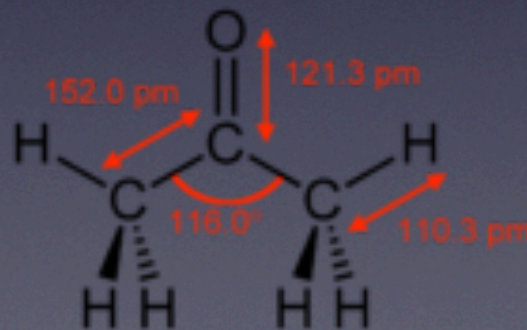


Chaim Weizmann

First President of the State of Israel
(1874 - 1952)



- WW I, engineered method of producing synthetic acetone for British War Effort
- Zionist Leader
- *Trial and Error* (1949)



General Allenby enters Jerusalem December 11, 1917



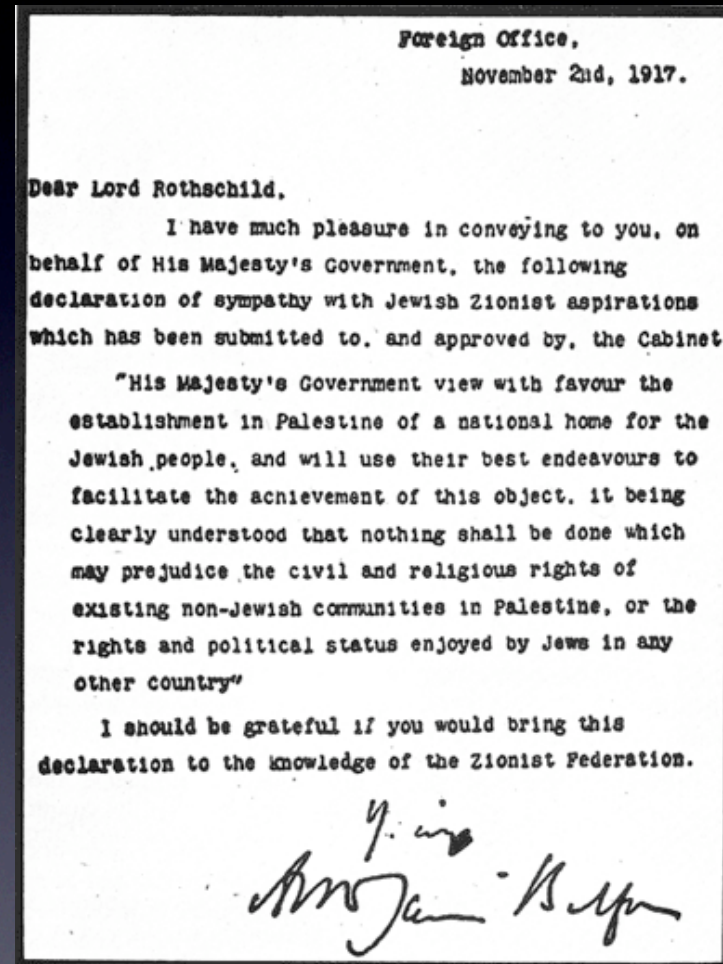
Sir Herbert Samuel

1st Viscount Samuel
(1870 - 1963)

First High Commissioner for
Palestine under the British Mandate
1920 - 1925



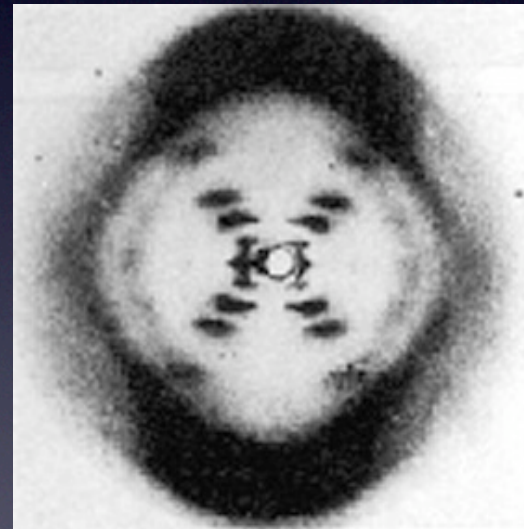
Balfour Declaration 1917



Rosalind Franklin

Niece of Herbert Samuel
(1920 - 1958)

Her work on the X-ray diffraction images of DNA, according to Francis Crick, were “the data we actually used” to formulate Crick and Watson's 1953 hypothesis regarding the structure of DNA.



Rosalind Franklin's X-ray diffraction photograph of DNA, 1953

V Postmodern English Jews?

“The minds of Jews in Europe are thoroughly colonised, and have no means of escape from it, because that is the nature of diaspora. You can’t struggle free of it. I think America was able to do it, because America was a continent of immigration, but I don’t think that Britain or Europe did... No. I think that these are all places where the mind is still thoroughly colonised.”

Interview with novelist Linda Grant, *Wasafiri: Jewish/Postcolonial Diasporas* #57, Spring 2009, p. 32.



Bryan Cheyette

Contemporary Jewish
Writing in Britain and Ireland:
An Anthology, 1998

Harold Pinter

(1930 - 2008)

Playwright, Actor,
Screenwriter, Poet

Nobel Laureate in
Literature 2005



Arnold Wesker

(b 1932)

Shylock (1976)

“No, no, NO! I will not have it. I do not want apologies for my humanity. Plead for me no special pleas. I will not have my humanity mocked and apologized for. If I am unexceptionally like any man then I need no exceptional portraiture. I merit no special pleas, no special cautions, no special gratitudes. My humanity is my right, not your bestowed and gracious privilege.”



VI

Why are Clive and Murray
Searching for Mendoza?

Daniel Mendoza



Boxing champion from
1792 - 1795

- Inspired a novel, *A Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss
- *The Art of Boxing* (1789)
- *Memoirs* (1816)



Reading Clive Sinclair's Story, *"The Wingate Football Club"*

"There are some dilemmas it is better not to think about. I'll give you a for-instance. Suppose England were to play Israel in the World Cup. Who should I support? Ah, you will say, such a thing is very unlikely. England's football is stale, Israel's half-baked. But I'll tell you, stranger things have happened, like when Wingate won the London League Cup."

“When I was a boy I used to go with my father to watch Wingate play on Saturday afternoons. Wingate was the only Jewish team in the entire football league; named in honour of our version of Lawrence, crazy Orde, a *goyisher* Zionist. Wingate was never a great team, and though they always had a couple of good players they usually spent the season near the bottom. So imagine our astonishment when we won a hard tie away from home and found ourselves in the London League Cup Final.”

“Our opponents were a dockland team, notorious for their antisemitic supporters. They came to our ground like a wolf on the fold. But that year we had a brilliant outside-right, in real life a ladies’ hairdresser. To me his dizzy runs down the wing were a thing of infinite beauty; left-backs tumbled to the ground when he passed, felled as if by magic. Pursued by these humbled clods he sprinted for the corner flag and unleashed acute crosses that sent their goal-keeper flailing in the air. Our centre-forward leapt and dived fearlessly to meet the winger’s passes, but each time he missed by a hair’s breadth. ‘Only connect,’ we yelled in encouragement.”

“The second half started with a sensation. Straight from the kick-off the ball went to our outside-right who rounded his man with arrogant ease and set off on one of his runs. At the last possible moment he crossed the ball and our centre-forward rose like there springs in his heels to meet that perfect pass. He seemed to be floating while the ball rested on his instep before he smacked it into the back of the net. The equalizer! We went delirious with joy . . .”

“Our defence held.

As the whistle blew a woman in a fake leopard-skin coat said out loud. ‘Hitler was right! right! Send the Jews to the showers!’

The boy standing next to her was one of our supporters. . . . ‘Keep quiet, you bitch,’ he said.

Whereupon she slapped him round the face. He hit her back.

‘You dirty Jew!’ she cried.”

“Her companion moved in on the boy, but he never hit him more than once before Al Pinsky interceded. Now Al wasn’t tall, so that golem just laughed, which was daft, because Al Pinsky was once the lightweight champion of Great Britain. The golem dropped the boy and took a swing at Pinsky. His fists were the size of hams. Pinsky ducked, like he was taking a bow, then straightened up and calmly knocked the fellow cold. When the police came and listened to the various versions of the incident we tingled with the pleasure of righteous indignation.”

General Orde Charles Wingate

Creator of special military units in India, Burma, Palestine
(1903 - 1944)



- Machon Wingate is Israel's National Center for Physical Education and Sport
- Kikar Wingate in Jerusalem also honors him
- Deeply religious, Wingate became a Zionist believing it his Christian duty to help the Jewish community in Palestine form a Jewish state.
- Assigned to the British Mandate of Palestine in 1936, he trained members of the Haganah, including Moshe Dayan.