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PORTUGUESE WRITERS  
AND ENGLISH READERS

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BOOKS BY PORTUGUESE WRITERS  
PRINTED BEFORE 1640 IN THE  
LIBRARIES OF OXFORD AND  
CAMBRIDGE

T. F. EARLE

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## SHORT-TITLE CATALOGUE

The short-title catalogue lists every copy of every edition of every work by a Portuguese author printed before 1640 and findable today in the university and college libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. Work is taken to mean a piece of writing with a separate title-page, but works without a title-page of their own which form part of compilations are listed, if they are mentioned on the title-page. The only exception are the compilations of letters from Jesuit missionaries, which are listed if they contain material by Portuguese writers, regardless of whether the writer in question is mentioned on the title-page.

It must be stressed that not all the information which a bibliographer might want is to be found here. Individual copies are located, by library and by shelf-mark, and whatever I have been able to discover about provenance and date of acquisition is stated, as briefly as possible. In the case of libraries which have several catalogues, compiled at different periods, reference is normally made only to the first occasion when a book is recorded. Brief details about owners of books are included where they are available. That is all. For further information about the books the reader should consult OLIS, Newton and the bibliographies to which cross-reference is made.

Some bibliographers – Adams in particular – multiply entries by regarding every change of date on a title-page, and every change of printer as evidence of a new edition. However, long and complex publications sometimes took early modern printers more than a year to finish, and they would alter the date as the edition progressed. They also quite frequently collaborated, each member of the consortium putting his name on the title-page of the copies for which he was responsible. For these reasons, and for the sake of clarity, I have tried wherever possible to reduce the number of entries.

The short notes which follow the name of each author listed in the catalogue are not intended as a full account of their lives. Rather they should be seen as complementary to the catalogue, and to the statements made in the Introduction. I have included details of writers' foreign experience, particularly if it is relevant to the printing of their works in publishing centres outside Portugal. I have also recorded whether or not they made a statement of nationality on the title-pages. Information about the number of copies of their books in early modern Oxford and Cambridge is included where it is not immediately obvious, and wherever

an explanation for the presence or absence of their work is possible I have given one. Each article is followed by a brief bibliography.

Books in Oxford libraries are listed before Cambridge ones. References to the Bodlean Library and Cambridge University Library are placed before references to the college libraries, which follow in alphabetical order.

**Abarbanel/Abравanel, Isaac (1437–1508)**

Abравanel, who was born in Lisbon, was King Afonso V's treasurer. However, he was suspected of having taken part in the conspiracy led by the Duke of Bragança against Afonso's successor, João II, and forced to flee Portugal in 1483. He never returned and, like many other Portuguese Jews, spent his last years in Italy. Abравanel is the only author of books in Hebrew in this catalogue. In 17 there is a refutation of his views by the Christian writer Constantin L'Empereur.

*Encyclopaedia Judaica*, II, cols 109–11; Benzion Netanyahu, *Don Isaac Abравanel: Statesman and Philosopher*.

1 'Ateret zekenim : 'od lamad da 'at 'et ha-'am mah hem soro' ha-yesodot, Sabbioneta, 1557.

CUL S817.d.55.7.

2 Maayene ha-yeshuah, Ferrara, Shemuel Tsarefati, 1551. 4°

BOD (3 copies) Opp. Add. 4° IV.496 Previously 4° T11 Seld., and with 11 on the leading edge, so part of the Selden bequest deposited in 1659; Opp. 4° 235 Acquired in 1829; Opp. Add. 4° III.71.

3 Markhevet ha-mishnah perush le-mishnah torat 'el, Sabbioneta, Tobias Foa, 1551.

CUL S817.b.56.6.

4 Mashmi'a yeshu'ah, [Salonica], 1526.

CUL S817.b.52.4.

5 Pirke 'Avot : 'im perush . . . Mosheh bar Mayymon ve-'im perush Don Yitshak 'Abравan'el ve-kara' be-shem . . . Nahalat 'Avot, Be-Venetsiyah, Be-vet M.A. Yushtiniyano, 305, 1545.

CUL S817.b.54.11.

6 Pirke 'Avot, Venice, Giorgio di Cavalli, 1566–67. Fol.

BOD (3 copies) DD 23 Art. Seld. From the Selden bequest of 1659; Fol BS 146(1) With 146 on the leading edge. The shelf-mark indicates that the book was deposited between 1650–68. 17th-century calf binding with fillets, stamped HF. Chain mark; Opp. Fol. 333(4) Acquired in 1829.

CUL S816.b.56.1 SJCC Tt.2.23(1) From the bequest of David Dolben, Bishop of Bangor, 1635.

7 Perush ha-Torah, Venetsiyah, Zuan Bragadin, 5339 [1579]. 4°