

UCLA LECTURE SERIES: JEWISH SALONIKA

(1996)

The Center for Jewish Studies and the "1939" Club Holocaust Memorial Fund sponsored the seventh event in the ongoing series on Great Jewish Cities. The series debuted in May 1996 with a highly successful event devoted to Jewish Vienna. Following the Vienna event were lectures on Jewish Vilna, Budapest, Warsaw, Berlin, and Prague.

It is the aim of the Great Cities series to explore the rich cultural diversity of Jewish urban life prior to the Holocaust. Understanding the vibrancy of Jewish life provides a measure of historical perspective for the enormous destruction that the Holocaust wrought.

Aron Rodrigue was the guest lecturer. Professor Rodrigue is the Professor of History and Eva Chernov Lokey Professor in Jewish Studies at Stanford University, and an expert in modern Jewish history. He is author of numerous books, including *Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Transition, 1860-1939: The Teachers of Alliance Israelite Universelle* (University of Washington Press, 1993). He is co-author of *The Jews of Balkans: The Judeo-Spanish Community, 15th to 20th Centuries* (Blackwell Publishers, 1995) and editor of *Ottoman and Turkish Jewry: Community and Leadership* (Indiana University Turkish Studies Series, 1992). He is also the 1994 recipient of the National Jewish Book Council Honor Award in Sephardic Studies. Professor Rodrigue's lecture dealt with the Greek city of Salonika (today Thessaloniki) which boasted one of the largest and most culturally vibrant Sephardic Jewish communities in the world. At times comprising nearly half of the city's population, the Jews of Salonika played an important role in the commercial and social life of this port town. However, following the German invasion of 1941, the overwhelming majority of Salonika's Jews were deported to Poland, where they were killed in Nazi death camps. The lecture will be held on Sunday, April 29, 1999 at 1:00 pm at UCLA Thomas Bradley International Hall.