

Footnotes

The above chart focuses on Sheshet ben Isaac ben Joseph Benveniste, also called Perfet (Catalan for the Hebrew name Meshullam), his brother Benveniste ibn Benveniste and his nephew Isaac Benveniste. They were Jewish community leaders with the title of *Nasi* and also served Count Ramon Berenguer IV of Barcelona and succeeding Kings of Aragon in more than one capacity. (*Alfaquim* = counsellor; *Bailiff* = financial administrator). Their connections to other leading Jewish families such as the Shealtiel and Barzillay are indicated on the chart.

(References: Elka Klein : Jews, Christian Society, and Royal Power in Medieval Barcelona, Univ. of Michigan Press, 2006; Moshe Shealtiel-Gracian : Shealtiel, Academy Chicago Publishers, 2005).

A later Benveniste line runs to the family of Joseph Nasi, whose economic and political services to the Ottoman Empire were recognized when he was made Duke of Naxos in 1566 (Cecil Roth: The House of Nasi - Dona Gracia, p 13, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, 1948).

According to family traditions, the Epstein and Horowitz families descend respectively from Aharon and his elder brother Pinchas, the sons of Joseph Halevi (ben) Benveniste and his wife Clara, although some believe that a brother of Pinchas and Aharon, named Benveniste, was the progenitor of the Horowitz line (see Meir Wunder, Meorei Galicia, Vol. 6 : 450, Jerusalem 2005).

Rabbi Aharon de na Clara ben Yosef Halevi of Barcelona in his book *Bedek Habayit* gave his paternal pedigree as follows:

Aharon Halevi b. Yosef b. Benveniste b. Yosef b. Zerachiah b. Shem Tov. Later scholars had *Zerachiah* as the son of *Yitzchak* son of *Zerachiah* (see Chayim Josef David Azulai, Shem Hagedolim, Jerusalem 1979, Vol.1 page 18; Itzhak Epstein, Epstein Research message 112 posted 31. 12.2002). So it appears that descent from *Zerachiah* ben *Yitzchak* Halevi Girondi to *Aharon* Halevi proceeded via *Zerachiah*'s son *Joseph* to a *Benveniste* (grandfather of *Aharon* and *Pinchas* Halevi), and then to their father *Joseph* Halevi ben *Benveniste* (see also Henri Gross, Gallia Judaica, new edition, Philo Press, Amsterdam 1969 pp 330 et seq).

A *Joseph* Benveniste is believed to have been the brother of the *Nasi* *Isaac* Benveniste (see Jewish Encyclopedia article on *Benveniste* and *Neil* Rosenstein, Ashkenazi rabbinic families, RAV-SIG online journal). This *Isaac* Benveniste, a distinguished leader of Aragonese Jewry, died at a mature age circa 1224 and is identified as a son of *Benveniste* ibn *Benveniste* (Elka Klein, *loc cit*). *Aharon* Halevi was born around 1235 to 1240 (H, Gross, *loc cit*) and one of his teachers was his elder brother *Pinchas*. Their father *Joseph* might have been born round about 1195-1205 so he could not be a brother of the *Nasi* *Isaac* ben *Benveniste*. However, a *Joseph* Benveniste is recorded as living in Montpellier around 1190.