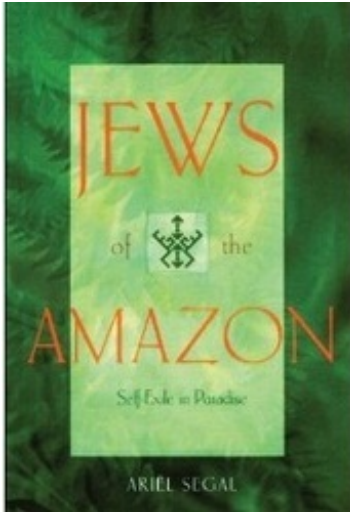




The Jews of The Amazon 2012-04-18



DID YOU KNOW that in the 19th century, the rubber boom in South America brought about a social and economic transformation of the Amazon region ?

Thousands of immigrants from the other side of the Atlantic, including numerous young Moroccan Jews, made their way to South America searching for better opportunities .

Some of these Jewish men who went into the Amazon seeking fortune and adventure, married native Amazonian women, and created a unique hybrid culture, combining elements of both groups. The members of this community consider themselves Jews; many have immigrated to Israel .

DID YOU ALSO know that many of their descendants continue to bear typically Moroccan [Jewish family names](#) such as Benayon, Attias, Benchimon, Pinto, Levi, Serfaty, Cohen, Ben-Zaken and more ?