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# palaeography

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## *further practice*

**Document 21: A petition by Manasseh ben Israel and others to Oliver Cromwell, asking for Jews to have the right to practise their religion in their own houses, dated 1656**

(Catalogue reference: SP 18/125 folio 173)

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## *About this document*

This document is a petition from Manasseh ben Israel and others to Oliver Cromwell, asking for the Jews to have the right to practise their religion in their own houses, dated 1656. (Catalogue reference: SP18/125 folio 173)

Manasseh ben Israel, a Dutch rabbi, came to England in 1655 hoping to persuade Cromwell to accept the Jews right to worship. Interestingly, although there is no record of any formal reply, it was in 1657 that a Synagogue within a house in Creechurch Lane, London was established.

Please note:

- The document is written in a clear cursive hand.

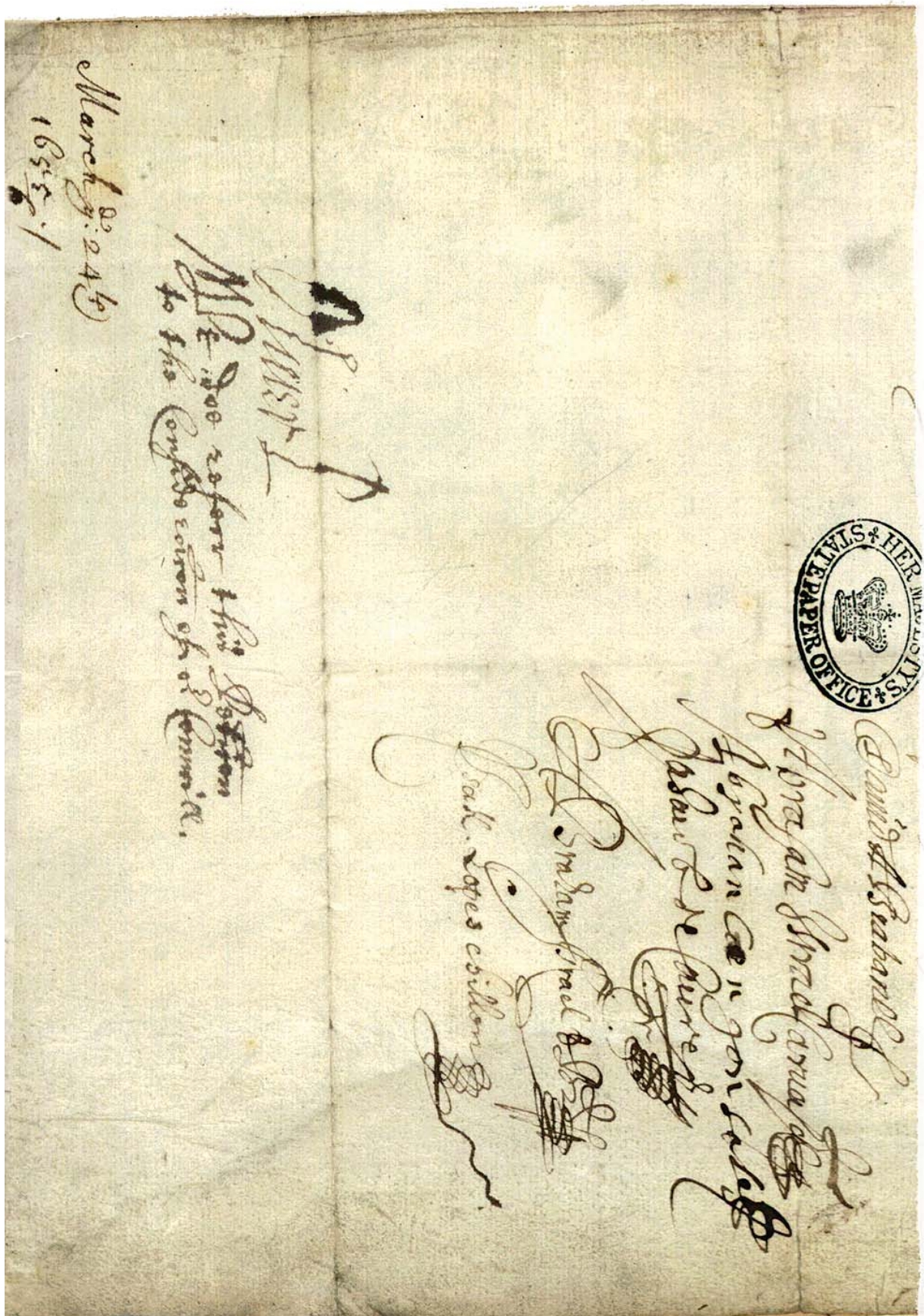
To His Highnesse ourouer Lord Protector of the  
Commonweith of England, Scotland, and Ireland, of the Dominions thereofe

The Humble Petition of The Stebens at Present  
Residing in this city of London whose names are Underwritten

1773

That acknowledging The Manyfold fauours and Protection of His Highnesse hath bin pleased  
to graunt vs in order that wee may with security meeke privately in our particular houses  
to our deuotions, and being desirous to be fauoured more by your Highnesse, wee pray with all  
humblenesse by the best means which may be such Protection may be graunted vs in  
writing as that wee may hereafter meeke at our said private deuotions in our particular  
houses without feare of Molestation either to our persons families or estates, our desires  
Being to due Peaceably vnder your Highnesse Government, and being wee are all mortall soules  
albe humbly pray your Highnesse to graunt vs license that those which may by of our nation  
may be buried in such place out of the churche as wee shall thinck conuenient with the Proprietors  
Leaues in whose said the place shall be, and wee wee shall as well in our life tyme as at our death  
be highly fauoured by your Highnesse for vnto long life and Prosperity wee shall continually pray  
To the allmighty god Amen

TER MAJESTY



## transcript

1. To His Highnesse Oliver Lord Protector of The
2. Com[m]onwelth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, & the Dom[m]inions thereof
3. The Humble Petition of The Hebrews at Present  
[Margin] Humbly sheweth
4. Reziding in this citty of London whose names ar Underwritten
5. That Acknowledging The Manyfold favours and Protection yo[u]r Highnesse hath bin pleased
6. to graunt Us in order that wee may with security meete privatley in owr particular houses
7. to owr Devosions, And being desirous to be favoured more, by yo[u]r Highnesse wee pray with  
all
8. Humblenesse th[a]t by the best meanes which may be such Protection may be graunted Us in
9. Writting as that wee may therew[i]th meete at owr said private devotions in owr Particular
10. houses without feere of Molestation either to owr persons, famillys or estates, owr desires
11. Being to Live Peacebly Under yo[u]r Highnes Governement, And being wee ar all mortall wee
12. allsoe Humbly pray yo[u]r Highnesse to graunt Us Lisence that those which may dey of owr  
nation
13. may be buryed in such place out of the cittye as wee shall thinck Convenient with the  
Proprietors
14. Leave in whose Land the place shall be, and soe wee shall as well in owr Life tyme, as at owr  
death
15. be highly favoured by yo[u]r Highnesse for whose Long Lyfe and Prosperitty wee shall  
Continually pray
16. To the allmighty God
17. Menasseh ben Israel
18. David ABrabanel
19. Abraham Israel Carvajal [?]
20. Abrahan Coen Gonsales
21. Jahacob de Caceres [?]
22. ABraham Israel de Brito [?]
23. Isak Lopez Chillon
24. Oliver P[rotector]
25. We doe referr this Petic[i]on
26. to the Considerac[i]on of o[u]r Councill
27. March the 24th 1655/6