

INDEX OF PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS ORGANIZED GEOGRAPHICALLY

Notes:

- *Dates should be taken with a grain of salt, since many are uncertain, and sources often copy from other secondary sources, which may or may not be reliable.
- *Unless specifically described as Muslim and Christian, personages are Jewish, whether or not they were rabbis.
- *Short or familiar versions of people's names are used, usually because they are used this way in the poems, or introductory material, or notes.
- *Dates are often estimates and should be taken with a grain (or two) of salt, since secondary sources often copy from other secondary secondary sources, which may or may not be accurate.

SPAIN

Cities and other places in *italics* are ones the author visited on his two trips to Spain. The other Spanish cities and places are mentioned in the poems, or are associated with people mentioned in the poems, or the introductory material, or the notes.

Andalucía (Andalusia)

Region in southern Spain and first part of Spain conquered by Muslims (who called it al-Andalus), at one time home to many Jews.

Arévalo

Queen Isabella I of Castile (1474-1504) lived here while growing up.
Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), mystic and main author of the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor/Radiance*, died here. Mrs. Moses de León also may have lived or died here.

Ávila

Convento (or Monasterio) de la Encarnación, once presided over by St. Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582), is here.

Gate of Bad Luck (Puerta de la Malaventura) is located in or near the old Jewish quarter.

Jardín de Moshé de León, a garden honoring Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), mystic and main author of the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor* (or *Radiance*) is here.

Mrs. Moses de León, wife of Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), lived here about the end of the 13th c.
See previous note.

Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), mystic, lived here about the end of the 13th c. See two notes up.

St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), mystic poet, lived here.

St. Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582), mystic and Church reformer, was born here, and her relics are here.

Atlantic Ocean

Second-largest ocean, bordered by European countries like *Spain*, *Portugal*, and France and African countries like **Morocco**.

Barcelona

Jewish-Christian Disputation of 1263 took place here.

Rabbi Hasdai Crescas (1340-1410/1), Jewish philosopher, was born here.

Badajoz

Don Isaac Abravanel (often titled Rabbi Don Isaac Abravanel and also called Abarbanel) (1437-1508), Jewish statesman/financier, biblical commentator, and philosopher, came here in 1483 for a while after fleeing Portugal.

Besalú

Mikveh, old Jewish ritual bath dating to the 12th c., is located here.

Bilbao

Miguel de Unamuno (1864-1936), Spanish writer, was born here.

Guggenheim Museum, designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry (1929-) and opened in 1997, is here.

Cadiz

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946), classical-music composer, was born here.

Cazorla

Sierra de Cazorla is the source of the Guadalquivir River, the main river in Spain.

Córdoba

Averroes (Ibn Rushd) (1126-1198), Muslim philosopher, was born here and has a statue here.

Calle de Los Judíos, "Street of the Jews," is here.

Calles Levies and Pérez, streets with Jewish-sounding names, are here.

Dunash ben Labrat (920-990), Jewish poet, lived here for a time.

Guadalquivir River, the main Spanish river, passes through here.

Ibn Quzman (1078-1160), prominent Muslim poet, was born here.

Mezquita, beautiful mosque around which Christians built a church, is here.

Mrs. Dunash ben Labrat (also known as the Wife of Dunash) (ca. 10th-11th c.), Jewish poet, lived here.

Ibn Masarra (883-931), Muslim thinker, was born here.

Museo Taurino de Córdoba, the Bullfighting Museum, is located in the old Jewish quarter.

Rabbi Moses Maimonides (1138-1204), philosopher and Jewish community leader, was born here and has a statue here.

Samuel (Shmuel) Hanagid (993-1056), Jewish poet, vizier, and military leader was born here.

Seneca (4 B.C.E.-C.E. 65), Roman philosopher, was born here and has a statue here.

Sierra de Córdoba, one of the gardens in *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* (1915), by the Spanish composer Manuel de Falla (1876-1946), is here.

Square of Tiberias is the location of the statue of Maimonides (see above note).

Elvira

Abu Ishaq, Muslim poet (11th c.-1066/7), was born here or near here.

Figueres

Salvador Dalí (1904-1989), Spanish artist, was born here and has a museum of his art here.

Fuente Vaqueros (near Granada)

Federico García Lorca (1898-1936), poet, playwright, and artist, was born here.

Girona

Rabbi Moses Nachmanides (Bonastruc ça Porta, his Catalan name) (1194-1270), mystic, biblical commentator, and community leader, was born here.

Granada

Alhambra, the former Islamic palace, was built here in the 14th c.

Darro and Genil Rivers merge here.

Guadalquivir River, main Spanish river, passes through here.

Joseph Hanagid (1035-1066), vizier and son of Samuel Hanagid (993-1056), was born here.

Qasmuna (12th c.), female Jewish poet, was born here .

Rabbi Moses ibn Ezra (1055-1135), Jewish poet, was born here.

Sacramonte, gypsy caves, located outside main part of city.

Samuel (Shmuel) Hanagid (993-1056), poet and vizier, lived here in the 11th c.

Guadalajara

Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), mystic and main author of the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor* (or *Radiance*), lived here in the 13th c. (and possibly into the early 14th). One assumes Mrs. Moses de León also lived here.

Iberian Peninsula (but visited only Spain)

Southern European peninsula comprising Spain and Portugal.

Jérez

Sherry grapes thrive in the region.

León

Calle Misericordia, hosts a street that sounds like misery.

Calle Moisés de León is a street named after the Jewish mystic Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305). See four notes down.

La Sinagoga Mayor, former main synagogue, is located here.

Museum of Three Cultures is located here.

Plaza San Martín, square in district whose streets at one time were home to various artisans like goldsmiths.

Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), mystic and main author of the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor* (or *Radiance*), probably was born here.

Santa María de León Cathedral (also called the House of Light or the Pulchra Leonina), is here.

St. James Way (Camino de Santiago), pilgrim's route, passes through here to/from Santiago de Compostela.

Lucena

Famous Talmudic academy was located here, and a number of important Jewish scholars lived here in the middle ages.

Madrid

Federico García Lorca (1896-1936), poet, playwright, and artist, has bust here.

Miguel Cervantes de Saavedra (1514-1616), author of *Don Quixote*, lived here 1607-1616.

Madrigal de las Altas Torres, Ávila

Queen Isabella I of Castile (1474-1504) was born here.

Málaga

Alcázar, Islamic palace, is here.

Rabbi Solomon ibn Gabirol (1021/2-1054/58/70), poet and philosopher, was born here and has a statue here.

Mediterranean Sea

This sea is connected to the Atlantic Ocean and borders not European countries like *Spain*, *France*, *Italy*, and Greece but North African and Middle Eastern countries like Morocco, Egypt, *Israel*, and Turkey.

Murcia

Ibn 'Arabi (1165-1240), Muslim philosopher, mystic, and poet, was born here.

Pamplona

Pablo de Sarasate 1844-1908), gypsy violinist, was born here.

Running of the bulls takes place here during Easter week.

Salamanca

Biblioteca Abraham Zacut, university library named after Rabbi Abraham Zacut(o) (1452-1515), is here.

Fray Luis de León (1527-1591), professor and poet, taught here.

Miguel de Unamuno (1842-1898), writer, lived and taught here.

Rabbi Abraham Zacut(o) (1452-1515), scientist, cartographer, and inventor, was born here.

University of Salamanca was founded here in 1134.

Santiago de Compostela

Camino de Santiago (St. James Way), pilgrim's path to church with relics of St James.

Segovia

Don Abraham Senior (1412-1493), rabbi and Jewish community leader, was born here.

Jewish cemetery (necropolis) is located here.

Leaping Mary, the Jewish woman who according to legend (she probably never existed) was pushed (or jumped) from a cliff, supposedly was entombed in the cathedral cloister in 1237.

Monasterio des los Carmelitas Descalzos is here, with the tomb of St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), some of whose body parts are buried here .

Segovia Cathedral is here, where Leaping Mary (see above) was entombed in 1237.

Sevilla (Seville)

Guadalquivir River, main Spanish river, runs through here.

Hotel Triana is located in Triana, one of the birthplaces of flamenco and today a flamenco showcase.

Susona ben Susán ("La Fembra Ferosa," "the beautiful woman") (15th c.), who according to legend was born here, lived here, and has memorial plaques here.

Vargas Family of flamencos performed here in 2000 (and undoubtedly many other times as well).

Sos del Rey Católico, Zaragoza

King Ferdinand II of Aragon (later V of Castile, then of all of Spain) (1452-1516) was born here.

Tarazona

Hanging homes inhabited at one time by Jews are here.

Toledo

Alfonso X ("the Wise") (1221-1284), king of Castile, León, and Galicia, ruled from here.

El Greco (1541-1614), Greek painter, lived here 1577-1614.

Rabbi Moses ibn Ezra (1055-1135), poet, is commemorated here outside the synagogue (see next entry).

Rabbi Yehudah Halevi (1075-1141), poet and philosopher, might have been born here.

Sinagoga el Transito, the synagogue built about 1356 and renovated in the 1960s and 1970s, is located here.

Toledo steel knives are made here.

Tortosa

Jewish-Christian Disputation of 1413-1414 took place here.

Río Ebro, river, runs through here.

Tudela

Benjamin of Tudela (1130-1173), Jewish traveler, was born here.

Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra (ca. 1093-1167), poet and biblical exegete, was born here.

Rabbi Yehudah Halevi (1075-1141), poet and philosopher, has memorial plaques here and probably was born here.

Río Ebro, river, runs through here.

Úbeda

Remains of medieval pottery factory located here.
St. John of the Cross (1542-1591), mystic poet, died here.

Valladolid

Rabbi Moses de León (1250-1305), mystic and main author of the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor* or *Radiance*, lived here for a time. Mrs. Moses de León also may have lived here.

Whitewashed Towns

The white villages of southern Spain like Ronda.

Zaragoza (Saragossa)

Manuscript Found at Saragossa, a literary work published in Poland in 1815; film version in 1965.
Rabbi Abraham Abulafia (1240-1291), mystic, was born here.
Río Ebro, river, runs through here.

OTHER COUNTRIES, CITIES, AND REGIONS

Italicized countries, states, and cities have been visited by the author. Bold-faced countries and cities are mentioned or associated with people or events associated with the poems or notes.

PORTUGAL

Don Isaac Abravanel (also called Rabbi Don Isaac Abravanel and Abarbanel) (1437-1508), Jewish statesman, financier, biblical commentator, and philosopher, was born in **Lisbon**.
Fado, Portuguese national song style, developed here.

MOROCCO

Dunash ben Labrat (ca. 920-990), Jewish poet, was born in **Fez**.
Ibn Battuta (1304-1368/9), Muslim traveler, was born in **Tangier**.
Mrs. Dunash ben Labrat (also referred to as the Wife of Dunash) (ca. 9th-10th c.), Jewish poet, was born in **Fez**.
Rabbi Moses ben Maimonides (1138-1205), philosopher and Jewish community leader, lived in **Fez** in the 12th c.

EGYPT

Plotinus (204/5-270), Greek philosopher, was born in **Lycopolis**.
Rabbi Moses ben Maimonides (1138-1204), philosopher and Jewish community leader, fled Spain, lived in Morocco, and then moved to **Cairo**.
Rabbi Yehudah Halevi (1075-1141), poet and philosopher, stopped briefly in **Alexandria** and **Cairo** in the 12th c. on his way to the Holy Land (now **Israel**).

PERSIA (also called IRAN after 1935)

Al-Ghazzali (1058-1111), Muslim philosopher and mystic, was born in **Tus**.
Hafiz/Hafez Shirazi (ca. 1315-1390), Muslim poet and mystic, was born in **Shiraz**.

Sa'adi (also transliterated Sa'di or Saadi) Shirazi (1210-1292), Muslim poet, was born in **Shiraz**.

CENTRAL ASIA

Rumi (1207-1273), Persian-speaking Muslim poet and mystic, was born either in **Balkh**, in what is now **Afghanistan**, or in **Vakhsh**, in what is now **Tajikistan**.

ISRAEL (Holy Land)

First Crusade, conquest of **Jerusalem**, in 1095-1099.

Rabbi Isaac of Acre (13th-14th c.), associated with the mystic Rabbi Moses de León (the main author of the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor/Radiance*) in Spain, was born in **Acre**.

Rabbi Isaac Luria (1534-1572), mystic, was born in **Safed**.

Rabbi Moses Nachmanides (Bonastruc ca Porta, his Ctaln name) (1194-1270), mystic, philosopher, biblical commentator, and community leader, fled Spain for **Jerusalem** in 1267.

Rabbi Shimon (or Simeon) bar (or ben) Yohai (d. 160 C.E.), the "Holy Lamp," main personage in the *Zohar*, the *Book of Splendor (or Radiance)*, the primary Jewish mystical text, is buried in **Meron**.

Ramban Synagogue, founded by and subsequently named after Rabbi Moses Nachmanides (the Ramban) (see two notes up) (1194-1270) in **Jerusalem** in 1267.

UNITED STATES

HAWAII (visited, but not Merwin's home)

W.S. Merwin (1927-2019)

TAOS, NEW MEXICO

Crypto-Jews (hidden Jews) and penitentes lived and still live here.

INDIA

Gypsy homeland is in the state of **Rajasthan**.

THE NETHERLANDS (HOLLAND)

Hieronymous Bosch (1450-1516), painter, was born here in **'s-Hertogenbosch, Brabant**.

ARGENTINA

Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986), writer, with Jewish ancestors, was born in Buenos Aires.

ITALY

Don Isaac Abravanel 1437-1508), financier, statesman, biblical commentator, and philosopher, died in **Venice** and is buried in **Padua**.

St. Francis of Assisi (ca.1181/2-1226), was born here.