English Abstract

Rabbi Joshua Moshe – First Sephardic Rabbi
of the City of Givatayim
A Chapter in the History of the Sephardic Rabbinite
in the State of Israel

Ben Zion Rosenfeld

This is a pioneering research into the history of the Sephardic Rabbinate of the state of Israel. It investigates the life and work of Rabbi Joshua Moshe who was the first Sephardic chief rabbi of the city of Givatayim. The research describes the actions of Rabbi Joshua in Bagdad the city in which he was born and raised in order to establish his social and religious status prior to his ascent to the land of Israel. Following it unfolds his life story from his emigration to the land of Israel and his settling in Givatayim. The seven years prior to his appointment as chief rabbi are analyzed, showing the various stages and the gradual ascent until he was finally appointed. Many authentic documents are presented showing the work the rabbi did within the various oriental communities in Givatayim and his struggle with the lay leadership of the religious council of the city. A byproduct of the discussion exposes various aspects of the rabbinic establishment and the official rabbinic institutions of the young state of Israel.