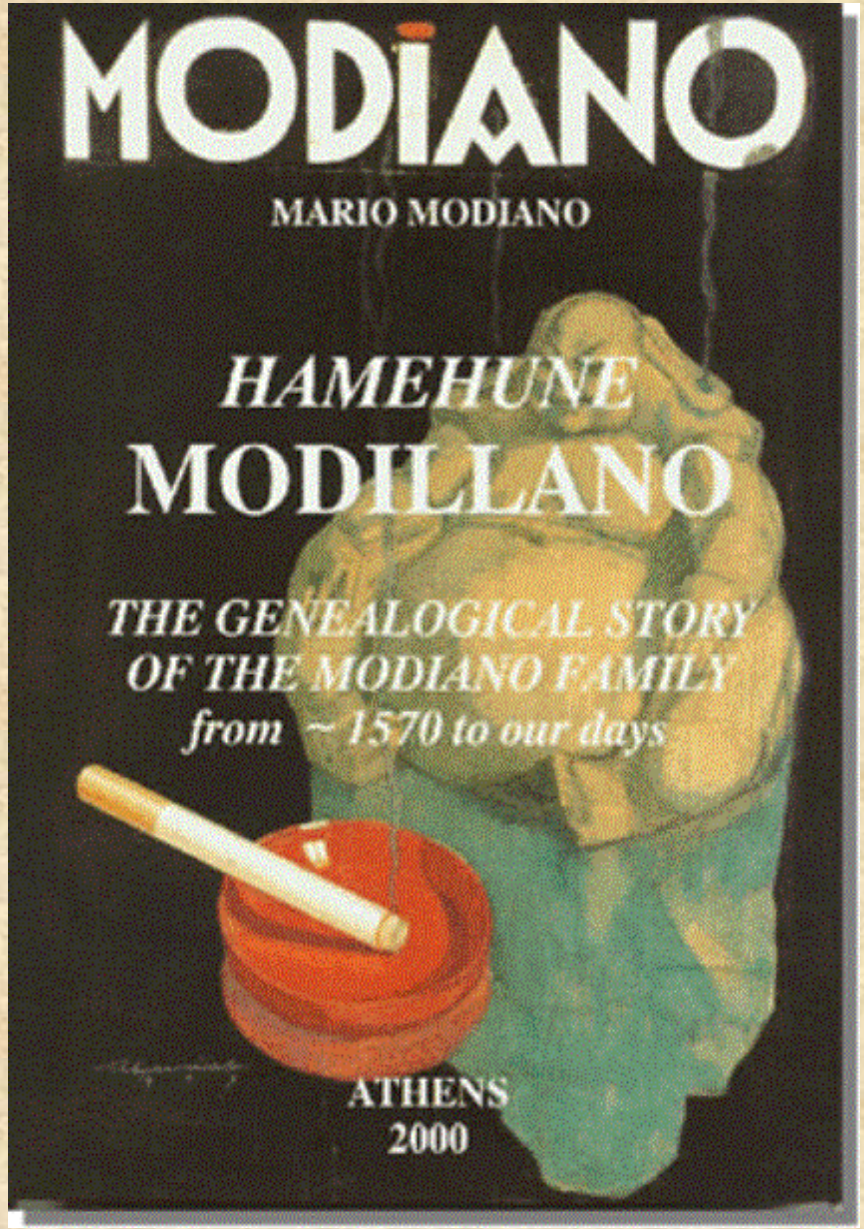

THE STORY

This is a picture of the cover of the original version of *Hamehune Modillano*[1], a 230-page book about the genealogy of the Modiano family, which was published in the year 2000. The book, based on the findings of research launched in 1991, described the genealogical structure of the Modillano/Modiano family from the middle of the 16th cent. to this day. The printed version was never put on sale. Some 500 copies were distributed to members of the family as well as to major public libraries and institutions worldwide. It is now out of print.

This site contains the book's 8th edition, duly updated and revised. Although over the years a vast amount of information has been added to the original version, the family tree is still far from complete. However, more data keep coming in as more Modianos and descendants discover this site, get in touch, and tell their stories.

Already the preliminary results of the Modiano DNA project initiated by the Tor Vergata University of Rome during the Modiano family reunion in Salonika in June 2007 appear to confirm the reconstruction of the family genealogy at least for the five branches that participated in the study. The original report of this study is included in this edition. Sadly, the whole project has been suspended because of a lack of funding. For more details click here.

However fascinating the family story may be, its most spectacular by-product has been that family members and Modiano descendants worldwide were encouraged to seek out each other, discover their links, and eventually meet and relish the feeling of belonging to one great family. The idea of family reunions was born during a chance meeting of Modianos in a Caribbean cruise early in 2004. It was there that total strangers of yesterday became affectionate relatives overnight. Later that year we all had a jolly reunion in Mexico City with the wonderful Modianos of Mexico.

The first worldwide family reunion was held in June 2005 in Florence – a city half-way between Livorno and Modigliana, our virtual hometowns. The 2nd reunion in June 2007 was in Salonika, birthplace of our grandfathers. The 3rd gathering was in Israel in June 2009. As this edition goes on line the 4th family reunion is being prepared for June 2011, this time in Paris.

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[1] *Hamehune* in Hebrew means "the so-called"

A Tribute

Colette Modiano who died in Paris on January 30, 2011, was an exceptional person, a beautiful woman, intelligent, witty, and gifted with a delightful sense of humour. We met in Athens in the early 1990s and it was family love at first sight. We were very amused to discover that her father was named Samuel Modiano, the son of Elie Modiano, same as mine! Were we brother and sister and did not know it? It was fun because Colette encouraged me to continue my genealogical research, the result of which you are now reading.

We were not brother and sister, after all. But we shared a friendship that went on for 20 years, although for the last decade or so Colette had been struck by multiple sclerosis that drastically restricted her activities. On page 156 I gave a brief résumé of her brilliant career as a journalist. Her ill-health prevented her from participating in the Modiano family reunions that took place since 2005 and which she would have enjoyed enormously. But she had a full account of them from her daughter Clementine who came to all of them. Colette's greatest joy in her late life was to be with her granddaughters, Clementine's daughters, Cornelia-Sol and Tamar now aged 22 and 21.

MORE ABOUT THE 8TH EDITION

Several new developments are discussed in this edition.

First, a new branch – E25 the “Four Sisters from Cairo”— has been added to our tree. This was a family whose elementary structure was listed in the Unknown Modianos chapter. Now descendants of that family have contributed sufficient information to warrant a fuller description of their branch.

The discontinuation of the Modiano DNA Project by the University of Rome Tor Vergata because of the lack of funds, is a major setback. The project was initiated by Guido Modiano, professor of biogenetics at the university, and was launched during the 2nd Family Reunion in Salonika in June 2007. Its purpose was to search for genetic proof of our genealogy which, until then, had mainly relied on personal histories and official records. The first results of the DNA study were most encouraging as you can see in the appropriate section. If funds can be secured the project will be resumed and hopefully extended to explore possibile genetic links between the Modiano/Modillano and the Modigliano/Modigliani families.

You can also read in this edition a report by the organizers of the Third Family Reunion held in Israel in June 2009. Those of you who were unable to attend can discover what happened at this exciting meeting where we met for the first time scores of Israeli Modianos.

Several new names have been added to our Family Tree, but there is still a lot of work to be done in this field. In fact the list of Unknown Modianos has been growing longer. We need help to identify these Modianos whose names were drawn from a variety of sources on and off the Internet. Any help in giving these “cousins” their rightful place on our Family Tree, will be greatly appreciated.

FOREWORD

In the old days, the Jews of Salonika were very class conscious. They would refer, for instance, to the *gente alta* [the upper class], or the *gente bacha* [the lower folk] and, in-between, the *gente buena* [nice people] a sort of tolerable middle class; last, and very least, there were *los culiberos* [the shack-dwellers], the lowest caste[2].

The Modianos were considered *gente alta* along with the Allatini, the Fernandez, the Morpurgo and the Nahum. There was even a ditty that went like this:

"Quien puedria ser como los Modianos.
"Y como los Nahoumim…"[3]

According to an old legend[4], when the Almighty blessed the first Modiano, He wished upon him to "feel superior" – not superior to anyone, just superior. We have all done so ever since. Deep in our hearts, however, we did not really know who our ancestors were, or where they came from.

One of the most likeable members[5] of our global family put it succinctly: "It has often struck me that the Modianos have a rather high opinion of themselves; certainly my grandparents always considered themselves to be from a very good, if not grand, family; and it does seem -- from what other people tell me -- that we are a family with the highest of reputations."

This book tries to fill in some gaps in our knowledge of our roots, so that if we still want to feel superior, we can decide whether there is good enough reason.

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2 From an article by Jacques Aelion on the "Castes de Salonique" in La Voix de la Mémoire Ed. Elie Carasso (1997) p.253-4.

3 "Were it that one could be like the Modianos and the Nahums…"

4 From The Tales of Mair Mentirozo (unpublished).

5 Laurent ben Giuseppe Modiano of London.

This is not a history of the Modiano family. It would have been too difficult to span at least 400 years of history of a family consisting of more than 3,000 members (of whom over 2,000 were born with this name), and branches so diverse. This is also particularly true because the Shoah destroyed people and memories, and wiped out the evidence that had survived neglect and frequent fires.

The genealogical research of the Modiano family began in 1991. It involved elaborate expeditions into the archives of the Jewish Communities of Salonika and Istanbul, the Italian Consulates of Salonika, Istanbul, Izmir, Cairo, and Alexandria, as well as the state archives of Tuscany in Florence. The search in the Historical and Diplomatic Archives of the Italian Foreign Ministry revealed the precious Tuscan *Matricola* of 1833. It was the first official listing of Modiano family members residing in Salonika at the time.

A very thorough and systematic research was sponsored by the late Guido Modiano and was carried out by Fabrizio Bedarida in the extensive archives of the city of Livorno. It was Guido who also discovered in the state archives of Vienna, important elements about the mutations of the Modiano name.

Research by professional genealogists was carried out in Jerusalem, the French Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Archives, as well as the extensive Mormon genealogical library in Salt Lake City. I relied heavily on the following literary sources for information on the lives of the Modillano/Modiano family:

first, on the monumental work of Joseph Nehama *L'Histoire des Israélites de Salonique*[6], the admirable narrative of Salonika's Jewish history;

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6 Joseph Nehama L'Histoire des Israélites de Salonique (vols VI & VII) Salonika, 1978 (henceforth JN).

secondly, on the epitaphs from the Salonika cemetery, meticulously collected before its destruction by Rabbi Michael Molho[7] and Dr Isaac S Emmanuel[8]; and

thirdly, on the 17th and 18th century works of the Modillano/Modiano rabbis, found in the collection of ancient texts preserved in the library of the Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem.

A first word of caution: in reviewing the story of a family for the past four centuries, omissions and errors are inevitable. When I began writing this account it felt as if I was reconstituting a mosaic in which too many tesserae were missing, without however blurring the overall picture. I was often compelled to rely on what is euphemistically called "reasoned speculation," much to the distress of my journalistic instincts. Much of this speculation was subsequently confirmed by new discoveries.

The second warning is about the confusing repetition of names. There are, for instance, scores of family members named Isaac, Samuel or Saul Modiano. This cannot be helped however since in keeping with Sephardic tradition these names were repeated every other generation, out of respect to grandparents.

In any event, my purpose has been to present the findings of the genealogical search, halting here and there in order to tell the story of a particular Modiano who did well in his lifetime, or whose story has some fascinating aspect or unusual twist.

I hope that a younger generation of Modianos will be able to pick up the thread from where I leave off, and, with the help of the staggering evolution of technology (to which I am eternally indebted), they will be able to fill in the parts I missed and eventually tell our descendants the full history of our great family.

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6 Michael Molho Matzevot Beit Haalmin Shel Yehudei Saloniki, Jerusalem 1974 (Salonika Jewish Tomb Inscriptions) (henceforth MM).

8 Isaac S. Emmanuel Matzevot Saloniki, 2 vols, Jerusalem 1963 (henceforth IE).

Parameters

Text can best be viewed on a full screen at "page width"format.
Footnotes can be read clearly by bringing the cursor close to the numerical indicator.

A note about symbols and terms

I used R' before a name to indicate a rabbi, and b' to mean "son of".

The sign ~ before a year means "about" or "circa".

In the chapter of the Modillano rabbis, years printed in bold characters are documented.

Names are used in their modern westernized version such as Samuel, rather than Shmuel, Isaac instead of Yitzhak, and Moise for Moshe, except when family members call themselves otherwise and also in book titles.

The sequence of chapters in "Major Branches" was originally in direct relation with the birth year of the first in line and the number of members in each branch. However subsequent additions and corrections have upset this order.

As a rule, and for practical reasons only, the family line of Modiano-born mothers stops at their children and the spouses of their children. To have continued would have meant straying into non-Modiano territory. Naturally, it is up to the descendants of those Modianos to extend privately their full family tree.

Outline Family Trees

Outline family trees are appended at the end of each branch chapter. They give a full list of known members of that branch as well as the years of birth/death when available.

These are, in a way, simplified genealogical trees of descendants. Instead of schematic trees, each individual is listed on a separate line and each generation is indented slightly more than the one before it. This type of tree can fit several generations in a single page. Numbers before each name indicate generation level.

Spouses are listed directly under each descendant after this symbol "+". In case of Modiano intermarriage, the children are usually listed under the father's entry. It must be stated once again that the line of Modiano mothers ends at the generation of their children, except in cases of inter-marriage.

FAMILY ORIGINS

Where do the Modianos come from?"
As you view this screen, no doubt this question is foremost in your mind.
To start with, let us look back on what we already know about ourselves.

Most of us originate from Salonika. Those who were not born in that city, surely have a grandfather or a great-grandfather who was.

Our families observed the Sephardic ritual, but they went to a synagogue called *Italia Yashan.* They spoke Ladino and French, yet many sent their children to the Italian School.

With few exceptions we were all registered at the Italian Consulate. Next to our names was the rather intriguing remark that we were citizens of Livorno.

At least, that is how it was in my generation.

We can trace our roots back to our great-grandfather – a few of us, perhaps, even farther back.

However, all this hardly answers the question: "Where do we come from?"

The Name

The most reputable experts on the derivation of Jewish surnames agree that the names Modigliano, Modigliani, and Modillano mean “one who originates from Modigliana”. Two Italian experts, Samuele Schaerf in *Cognomi Degli Ebrei d'Italia* (Florence, 1925) and Prof. Vittore Colorni in *Judaica Minora* (Milano, 1983) agree that Modiano is a corruption of Modigliano.

Modigliana, a cosy Italian township that gave us our family name is located in the province of Forli about 100 kilometres northeast of Florence across the Apennines. Today it is still a town of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants.

In defiance of these findings, some historians insist that Modiano comes from the name of the Italian city of Modena. This is contrary to evidence that there was absolutely no link between the Modillano/Modiano family and Modena except for the obvious grammatical consonance. Besides, there are Jews from Modena who bear the surname “Modena”.

The late Asher Moissis, a highly respected jurist and scholar in Greece, in his book *Names of the Jews of Greece* (Athens, 1973) played it safe. He wrote that the origin of the name Modiano was “Modigliano (sic) or Modena”.

The Early Search

That the Modiano originated from Modigliana was first suggested by the late Lena Modiano Benlifer (of branch E4). I remember receiving her letter and eagerly looking at a map of Italy to locate this little known township.

However, before we knew that our surname originated from Modigliana, speculation about its provenance ran rife. If we were among the Jews who left Spain, either through expulsion in 1492, or later via Portugal following a conversion, then it is quite probable that we had no hereditary family name. Most Jews of Spain did not at the time. As we have seen, they were known by their father's name – such as Isaac, son of Samuel (Yitzhak b’Shmuel) -- sometimes by their occupation or nicknames related to their character or physical appearance.

As they migrated to other lands, sometimes they adopted surnames. The easiest way was to take the name of the town they had come from like the names Cuenca, Carmona, Toledano, Soriano, Saragossi and many others.

The name Modiano, however, was unrelated to the geography of Spain. Medina Sidonia was proposed, but there is already a Jewish family named Medina. Moreover, no name resembling "Modiano" was ever found in documents retrieved from the Spanish Inquisition, which were elaborate transcripts of the trials of *converso* Jews after the expulsion[9].

It had also been suggested that our name might have Hebrew roots. According to one version, it was derived from "*modeh ani lefaneha,*" the opening words from the Morning Prayer, meaning: "I confess before Thee…" Another is that it comes from *Modi'in* in Israel, the town of the Maccabees. And finally, it was said that the name comes from Midian or Madian, the land of a tribe related to Abraham (Gen. 25:2), best known from the fact that Moses married a Midianite (Ex.2:21).

MODIGLIANA

It is now clear that our family, like so many other Jewish families, became known by the name of the city where some ancestor had lived in before migrating to Salonika.

Why Modigliana?

First, let us list what we do not know:

- We do not know if our early ancestors came to Italy from Spain after the expulsion of 1492, or if they were descendants of Jewish captives brought to Rome by Titus in the year 70 of the Common Era[10] and were already settled in the Italian peninsula when the Sephardim arrived from Spain.
- Although it is clear that we acquired the surname from our Modigliana ancestor, we do not know precisely who this ancestor was.

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9 Confirmed by Prof. Haim Beinhart, of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who studied these texts.

10 These Jews would have been descendants of thousands of prisoners brought from Palestine by the Roman generals (later Emperors) Vespasian and Titus after the sack of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Second Temple in year 70 C.E They usually exercised the profession of money-lender, in fact the only one they were allowed to practice. They were often hostile to the new arrivals from Spain, whom they regarded as potential competitors in their small community

A strong possibility is that our ancestor was Moise, a Jew from Fano, who in the year 1566 was granted a license (*condotta*) to open a money-lending business in Modigliana for an annual fee of 35 ducats. The record of this concession was discovered in the town's historical archive by Guido Modiano. Money lending was one of the few professions Jews were permitted to exercise at the time. Since towns granted money-lending licenses on an exclusive basis, it was natural to assume that Moise and his family were probably the only Jews in Modigliana; therefore, presumably, he was our common ancestor.

What we learned since is that long before Moise settled in Modigliana, other Jews had lived in that town in the 13th century and, even more important, that at least one other Jew had been granted the money-lending license for Modigliana one century earlier.

The Other Jews

During the first International Reunion of the Modiano Family in Florence in June 2005, we made a pilgrimage to Modigliana. In the town's historical archive we were shown the original decision by the city council to grant the *condotta* to Moise from Fano at its meeting of 17 December 1566. The permit was given in defiance of a threat from the Bishop of Faenza, Monsignor Sighicelli (who had jurisdiction over the town) that he would excommunicate Modigliana if Jews were allowed to settle there. Clearly the offer of 35 ducats annually prevailed over the threat of excommunication

During our visit, Professor Oriana Castelli, a city councillor, took us on a tour of the so-called "ghetto" on via Silvestro Lega. This large and squalid complex of adjacent habitations dating from the 12th century (which is still in use) had been called "ghetto" because, according to Prof. Castelli, some 200 Jews had lived there at that time, at least 250 years before Moise settled in Modigliana. She showed us a large arched cellar in the complex which, she said, had probably served as a synagogue.

Of the other Jews who had links with Modigliana, there is record of one Salomone living there in the year 1384 but we have no other trace of him. Another Salomone was mentioned in a will from the end of the 16th century. There is also evidence that a Jewish physician named Benjamin, described as "a native of Modigliana" had practiced successfully in that city until the year 1560. In *Geschichte der Jüdischen Arzte* (The History of Jewish Physicians, Berlin 1895) the author, Dr Richard Landau, names him as the successor of the famous Yehuda ben Yahia, the leading doctor in Bologna, who died in 1560.

In a manuscript in Hebrew, followed by a Latin translation, found at the [Regia] Bibliotheca Casanatense of Rome and dating from 1556, one Isaac ben Menahem Modiliano proudly announced the birth of his son Juda. The following is an English translation of the Hebrew text:

> *"For a good omen Amen. As of today, Friday, six o'clock in the evening, 8 May [5]316[11], 44 days from sefirat haomer[12], a son was born to me that I shall name Yehuda. May [G-d], in his compassion and great kindness, make him grow and lead him to the study of the Torah, to a marriage and to good deeds, amen. And through good deeds by his hands, that the will of God should be fulfilled. He was born to me, Itzhak ben Menahem meModiliano."*

There follows a Latin translation in which the date appears to be "1515", and the signature omits the me- prefix which in Hebrew signified "from" (the origin).

An Alternative?

Michele Luzzati, professor of medieval history at the University of Pisa, who is a leading expert on the Jewish presence in the Italian peninsula in the Middle Ages, speaking to our family reunion in Florence, offered a different hypothesis about the ancestry of the Modiano family. In this address he revealed that the name “Modiano” had been found in two notarial documents in the archives of Ferrara. They dated from the year 1499. You can read the full (authorized) report of the Professor’s lecture in Florence by clicking here.

The professor explained that Jews used toponymic surnames (names based on geographic location) in medieval Italy but changed them frequently, for instance whenever one changed the city of residence or of business. At that time mobility among the Jews was quite high.

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[11] = 1556

[12] The 49-day period from the second night of Passover to Shavuot.

He identified the person named in the Ferrara documents as “Raffaele da Modiano” and noted that this was probably the same Raffaele who was listed as having acquired money-lending rights in Modigliana as early as 1465. Although in the Ferrara archives he is identified as Raffaele da Modiano, apparently he had often changed surname. Raffaele’s presumed ancestors had surnames ranging from “da Recanati” to “da Vicenza” and “da Imola”.

The Professor had already expressed his reservations[13] about our earlier theory in a review of this book. In it he pointed out that a number of Modigliano (even one Modiano, who was a ritual butcher) were recorded in Rome in the 1550s, suggesting that the surname may have been in use long before Moise's descendants appeared on the scene.

However he agrees that these alternatives do not rule out the possibility that Moise may indeed have been our ancestor. He suggested, in fact, that this might be the same Moise mentioned in other documents as “Moise da Fano, Hebrew” who in 1563 had moved from Fano to neighbouring Pesaro. It is possible that he and his family were fleeing from the wave of anti-Semitism that swept the area in the wake of the massacre of the Jewish converts (Marranos) in the port of Ancona in 1556.

Modigliana was then on the borders of the Papal States, but it did not belong to the Pope. It was part of Tuscany, which was ruled by the Medici. The town had acquired a reputation of defiance to the will of the Pope, but also of some sort of autonomy towards the Tuscan rulers.

Yet in 1569, only three years after Moise and his family moved to Modigliana, Cosimo I the ruling Medici tried to gain favour with the Pope in order to be promoted to “Grand Duke” of Tuscany. He, therefore, ordered the Jews out of all villages and townships under his control and compelled them to move to ghettos in cities such as Rome, Florence, or Siena. He got his title.

In view of this, Prof. Luzzati said the case of Moise was weakened by the brief duration of his stay in Modigliana. One should add, however, a possibility that Moise might have continued to operate clandestinely as a money-lender in the area of Modigliana until the end of the century, because (as in so many other cases)[14] the town could not do without his services.

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[13] In Materia Judaica, organ of the Italian Association for the Study of Judaism (AISG) vol. VI/1 (2001) Nota per lo studio della formazione dei cognomi toponimici ebraichi italiani: il case dei Modigliano/Modiano

14 Ariel Toaff in “Il Commercio del Denaro e le Communità Ebraiche ‘di Confine’ tra Cinquecento e Seicento” (delivered at an international forum in Genoa in 1984)

In theory, any Jew who had resided in Modigliana and later migrated to Salonika (then in the Ottoman Empire) could be the common ancestor of the Modiano family. It is clear that it would have been enough for just one couple to settle in Salonika in the mid-16th century, to create a family tree of 3,000 names 400 years later. Let us not forget that between the 16th and 19th centuries, mainly because of high child mortality, married couples usually reared between 8 and 12 children each.

SALONIKA

The only Modiano to have deserved a mention in the 1904 Jewish Encyclopaedia[15] was a famous rabbi. His name was Joseph Samuel Modiano. This is what the Encyclopaedia had to say about him:

> *MODIANO, JOSEPH SAMUEL: Turkish rabbinical author; lived in Salonika at the end of the eighteenth century. He belonged to a family originally from Modena, Italy, the descendants of which are prominent in financial and industrial enterprise in Salonika. He corresponded with Hayyim ben David Abulafia, rabbi of Smyrna. Modiano published two works – "Uryan Telitai" (Salonika, 1795) and "Rosh Mashbir," responsa (2 vols, 1821 and 1840) The former is a collection of novellas on various Talmudic treatises by Nahmani, Ibn Migash, Yom-Tob b'Abraham, R'Samuel b'Isaac of Salonika (18th cent), and by Modiano himself. The latter work was published posthumously.*

R'Joseph b'Samuel Modiano came from a line of rabbis whose ancestor had moved from Italy to Salonika in the 16th century. His grandfather, R'Joseph b'Isaac, after whom he was named, was known as "Modillano", although in those days in Ottoman Salonika, most people had no hereditary surname. They usually identified themselves by the name of their father; yet other people called them "Modillano" to distinguish them from those who had the same given names. The practice of using the father's name for identification was the rule in the Ottoman Empire. It was changed in the 20th century when the Turks were compelled by law to adopt family surnames.

The evidence of the tombstone inscriptions of Salonika indicates that the first Modiliano/Modillano must have settled in that city between 1500 and 1600.

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15 The Jewish Encyclopaedia, Funk & Wagnall's Co, Ed. New York, 1904, p. 639.

R'Joseph b'Samuel was the first in his family to sign his books with the surname "Modiano". However, his grandfather's brother, R'Samuel b'Isaac Modillano, a famous 17th-century chief rabbi of Salonika and the author of important rabbinical works, signed simply as "Shmuel b'Yitzhak". Relatives who financed the publication of these works and who also wrote the introductions, identified the author as R'Samuel b'Isaac "*hamehune* Modillano" *(hamehune* is Hebrew for '*known as'* or *'the so-called'*)[16].

The writings of those two rabbis, as well as the extraordinary collection of epitaphs recorded from the vast Salonika Jewish cemetery (destroyed during World War II), helped us outline the structure of their family branch as far back as the 16th century.

Mutations of the Name

How did the original name of Modigliano/Modillano evolve into Modiano?

Dov Cohen, the Israeli scholar who researched the works of the Modillano/Modiano rabbis at the Ben Zvi Institute's Library in Jerusalem, gave us the explanation of how the name mutated over the centuries into Modiano. He told me that in Hebrew-character Ladino, a liquid L (that in Spanish or French would be represented by "ill" and in Italian by "gli") would be expressed by an L followed by '' a double *yod*. For instance, the word "familla" is written in Ladino with an L followed by two YY, and is pronounced "famiya" not "familia". The same is true of surnames such as "Amarillo," pronounced "Amariyo". This, according to Dov, is how the name Modigliano or Modillano in Salonika eventually became Modiano.

"The earlier generations signed in Hebrew as Modillano with an LYY," Dov said. "Then, after about 1775 they tended to sign in the simplest form as Modiano – without the L". Isaac Emmanuel who transcribed the epitaphs from the cemetery of Salonika, wrote of the inscription on the grave of "Bonomo b'Isaac Moliyano" who died in 1731: "The name of this family is written Modigliano, Modillano, Moliano, Molliano, and actually Modiano."[17]

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16 Hence the title of this volume.

17 IE comments on Tomb No 1288

We now know how the original “Modillano” mutated into “Modiano” in 18th century Salonika. Yet, as Prof. Luzzati disclosed, the name “Modiano” was found in two notarial documents in the archives of Ferrara dating from 1499.

The professor expressed the opinion that in that case “Modiano” was also one of the early forms of the toponymic name that eventually became “Modigliano”. In his words: “ ‘Modiano’ appears to have been a variation of ‘Mutilianum’, ‘Mutiliana’, ‘Modigliano’ or ‘Modigliani’ – all of them names that stabilized in the early 16th century in the form of ‘Modigliano’ or ‘Modigliani’.” Let it be noted that “Mutila” and “Mutilianum” were the ancient (Roman) names of Modigliana.

Another sighting of the surname “Modiano” was recorded in 1570. Fred Hassid, a fellow-genealogist and scholar from Houston, Texas, pointed out to me that a passage in the early volumes of Joseph Nehama’s History of the Jews of Salonika, one “Ruben Modiano was murdered in Salonika in 1570 while defending his home from a band of robbers.” We have nothing more on this Ruben and so far the name Ruben is not among the given names of the Salonika family. However, “Ruben” was frequently found among the Modilhano family (of 18th century Livorno) whose links with our family have not yet been determined.

It is tempting to speculate that perhaps in 16th century Salonika the surnames “Modillano” and “Modiano” co-existed. Such a theory might even explain an abiding family legend that in Salonika some were “real Modiano” while others were not. My own father used to say that we were “real Modiano”, but I suppose other fathers did so too.

Consular Protection

Any Jew, who settled in Salonika during the Ottoman rule, automatically became an Ottoman subject. So the question is: when and how did the Modiano acquire Tuscan and then Italian citizenship?

There were many advantages in being a foreign national in the Ottoman Empire. This was because of the treaties signed between the Sultan and several European powers that became known as "capitulations".[18] The first such treaty was signed between Turkey and France in 1536. It became a model for later treaties.

The capitulations allowed the establishment of French merchants in Turkey, guaranteed them individual and religious freedoms, and reserved for French consuls the right to judge the civil and criminal affairs of French subjects in Turkey, according to French law. Foreign nationals were allowed to set up banks, post offices, and businesses that were exempt from Turkish tax and duties.

These privileges were later extended to a class of local citizens, designated as *protégés*[19], who were employed by these foreigners either as interpreters, or as employees of commercial concerns. At some point foreign consulates in Salonika would extend *protégé* status for a fee. It was, therefore, in the consul's interest to extend this privilege to as many individuals as possible. These *protégés* were known as *beratlis. Berat* in Turkish means decree, and a decree was needed to certify that the Turkish authorities recognized that particular person as a foreign *protégé.*

Tuscany obtained its own capitulations treaty with Turkey in 1747, attracting a large number of *protégés*, who at that time were under the protection of the Austrian Consulate. The Grand Duchy of Tuscany was represented by Austria with whose rulers it had close family ties.

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18 The term comes from "capitula" or chapter. It does not mean capitulation in the sense of military surrender. However many Turks still consider the capitulations to be a humiliating military clause. This was not far from the essence of the treaties since they tended to create a state within a state.

19 The French called them censaux, meaning "agents" who knew local languages and practices.

As Tuscany's destinies varied, so did the representation of Livorno citizens in Salonika. Austria looked after their interests between 1737 and the end of the century. The French Consulate took over when Napoleon consolidated his hold on Tuscany by 1799. Napoleon's fall in 1815 brought back the Austrian-born dynasty in Florence, so the Austrians resumed this responsibility until Tuscany opened a consulate in Salonika before 1830. It was closed down when Italy was unified in 1861.

There was a period in 1748 when the Grand Duke of Tuscany had entrusted the representation of his interests to the Consulate of England in Salonika. At that time English traders and manufacturers used the port of Livorno to stock merchandise for their transactions in the Mediterranean. One-third of the Livorno Jews of Salonika promptly abandoned French protection in favour of protection from the English.

Documents from official Ottoman records in Salonika (1695-1912) show that several Modianos sought the protection of foreign consulates to secure these privileges for themselves and their families. There was one Samuel Yomtov Modiano who was an interpreter for the Swedish Consulate in 1752, and one Isaac Samuel Modiano who was attached to the French Consulate in Salonika in 1787.

By 1833, however, all the Modianos in Salonika were registered at the local consulate of Tuscany as citizens of Livorno. How did this happen?

In 1593, Ferdinando I de' Medici, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, as if to make up for the injustice committed by his father Cosimo I against the Jews some 20 years earlier, passed a decree that came to be known as the *Livornina.* It offered the Jews (and other persecuted foreigners) sanctuary in the port of Livorno by guaranteeing them freedom of worship, work, residence and ownership.

Ferdinand's aim was to attract the Jewish *conversos*[20] from Portugal who had managed to hold on to their wealth. He needed their money and their business acumen to stimulate the economic development of Livorno, and turn this small town of fishermen into one of the biggest and richest ports in the Mediterranean. This project was particularly important as nearby Pisa Tuscany's main port-town had been silted up by the river Arno.

20 Spanish Jews forcibly converted to Catholicism to avoid expulsion. Those who continued to practice their old faith in secret were usually burned at the stake.

Ferdinand achieved it thanks to the Portuguese Jews who came in large numbers; so did other Jews desperate to escape from oppression in parts of Italy controlled or influenced by the Pope.

At the time our ancestors were forced to leave Modigliana, this decree did not exist. We must therefore assume that whichever member of the family decided to migrate to Salonika, he never went to Livorno. He probably left by ship from the port of Ancona.

LIVORNO

Let us clear up one major misconception: our ancestors did not originate from Livorno. Livorno simply offered our family (and many other Jewish families of Salonika) protective citizenship during the Ottoman rule in Salonika. This privilege was very often obtained against a fee paid to the local consul.

When Fabrizio Bedarida researched the Livorno archives he found no Modianos there before 1810. So he looked up the name Modigliano. He found 116 Modiglianos with birth dates in the 1700s. Their name, however, was spelled "Modilhano" – "LH" being the liquid L in the Portuguese language, which was the official language of the Jewish Community until the 18th century.

It is significant that later generations of Modilhanos switched to the spelling "Modigliano" or "Modiliano". A signed statement found in Florence clarified that although the groom's name on his birth certificate was spelt Modilhano, his family name was really “Modigliano”.

In a Livorno wedding certificate of 1829 the groom identified himself both as Modigliano and Modiano. This, in a sense, was the Rosetta stone[21] of our genealogical research.

In the year 1765 a member of the family from Salonika went to Livorno to claim insurance money. He called himself Samuel Moliano. Documents described him as a merchant and an Ottoman subject.

21A trilingual inscription found at the Nile in 1799 that allowed the decipherment of hieroglyphics.

The massive registration of Modianos from Salonika and elsewhere in the municipality of Livorno began a few years after the unification of Italy in 1861. All births, marriages and deaths of “Livorno citizens” in Salonika, Istanbul, Smyrna, Cairo and Alexandria were declared to the local Italian Consulates, which would then report them to the municipality of Livorno.

Few Modianos ever resided in Livorno and those who did had been born (either themselves or their grandfathers) in Salonika. The official census of 1841 in Livorno, revealed three Modiano families with a total membership of 12, all originating from Salonika. Interestingly enough, their addresses indicated that they lived in the same buildings as families named Modigliani and Modigliano. The 1938 Livorno census recorded 10 Modianos of five different branches.

No Modiano graves were found in the cemeteries of Livorno.

To become a citizen of Tuscany was quite complicated. According to Professor J-P.Filippini[22], an authority on the history of the Livorno Jews, the decision to grant Jews the citizenship of Livorno rested with the *Tribunale dei Massari,* a court of Jewish elders selected by the Grand Duke from a list submitted by the Jewish Community. Records of their civil acts exist for the years between 1753 and 1807. A search showed that, during that period, no Modiano from Salonika had acquired Livorno citizenship in this manner.

There were, however, a few Modiglianos, as Filippini indicates, such as Abram son of Aaron, born in Portoferraio, on the island of Elba, who was granted Livorno citizenship in 1761, as well as Joseph and Graziadeo Modigliano from Lippiano who obtained it in 1771.

We know from the Livorno records that one Vita Salomone Modiliano arrived in Livorno in 1819, travelling on an Ottoman passport. The 1820-30 emigration records of Livorno actually show clearly that he became a naturalised Tuscan subject through the process of *ballottazione* (ie approved by the Massari). When he travelled to Constantinople (later Istanbul) on November 23, 1830, it was on his Tuscan passport.

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22 22 J-P. Filippini: La Ballotazione a Livorno nel Settecento (ext.Rassegna Mensile di Israel, 1-4/1983, Rome)

The Modigliani

What, then, about the surname Modigliani? If indeed we are related to them, we can pride ourselves that they gave us Amedeo Modigliani, the great modernist painter, as well as Franco Modigliani, the Nobel Prize winning economist. One possible explanation is that when family members left Italy for Salonika, others decided to settle most probably in Rome.

We know, for instance, that one of the painter's ancestors was Chief Rabbi of Rome, while his great-uncle became a senator. Amedeo's younger brother, Giuseppe Emanuele (1872-1947) known as "Mene," was one of Italy's earliest socialist and labour leaders to be elected in Parliament. In fact, he is described as one of a group of Jewish intellectuals whose influence between 1860 and 1920 was pivotal in the formation of the State of Italy.

Amedeo's parents moved to Livorno where he was born in 1884.

There is another reason for believing that there is some distance between the Modiglianos and the Modiglianis: it is the choice of first names given to their children. The Modigliano are named mostly Isaac, Joseph, Moise, Samuel, Yomtov, Sarah – sometimes in a westernised form. The Modigliani used names such as Flaminio (the name of Amedeo's father), Aron, Emanuel, Olympia, Consiglio, or Crescenzo.

THE MATRICOLA

In 1833, the Modianos of Salonika registered at the Tuscan consulate as citizens of Livorno. The consulate's **Matricola** (Register) of that year which was discovered in the Historical and Diplomatic Archives of the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome listed 38 Modiano names. In fact, the original spelling of the name was "Moliano" It was later corrected to read "Modiano". (Specimens of Josua Modiano's signature, dating from between1832 and 1833, confirm the change in the spelling of his name).

In the margin of this registry there were references to documents that had served to prove that these Modianos were, indeed, citizens of Livorno. Most of these references were letters issued between 1819 and 1827 by the French Consulate; others came from the Chief Rabbinate of Livorno.

It is significant that the Modianos in Salonika should have become Tuscan citizens on the basis of French certificates. The French, of course, had occupied Tuscany between 1800 and 1814. A 1819 document[23] from the French Foreign Ministry archives, ordered the "reintegration" of the "Moliano" brothers as French *protégés*, because, as it put it, this was "a status that they and their fathers had enjoyed for 30 years without interruption."

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23 Dated 5 November 1819: "Bordereau des ordonnances et jugements consulaires depuis le 1 janvier 1819 jusqu'au 31 décembre 1819."

Another document of 1826 from the French consulate in Salonika shows that the Moliano brothers "have enjoyed French protection from father to son for nearly 40 years, which they had abandoned for a brief period during the French-Turkish war of 1798."

Both references to the duration of the French protection to the Moliano//Modiano family are clearly relevant to the *berat* (decree) obtained by the French Consul in Salonika in the early 1780s, granting R'Joseph Samuel Modiano French protection, to rescue him from his persecutors, as we shall see later in the Chapter about the Modillano/Modiano rabbis.

Dispersion

The Modillano/Modiano family rabbis of Salonika in the 17th and 18th century are most probably the ancestors of all of us, even if many branches migrated later to Turkey, Egypt, Israel, France or the Americas, north and south.

There were, in fact, three major Jewish migration waves from Salonika:

The first was the "*sürgün*" – a systematic policy of compulsory population transfer and colonization enforced by the Turks in the mid-19th century in order to repopulate conquered lands including Constantinople, Thrace, Canakkale on the Asian side of the Dardanelles, as well as in areas of Asia Minor. The Ottomans preferred to resettle Jewish populations in sensitive areas because, unlike the Greeks or the Bulgarians, they had no territorial aspirations.

The second was the massive exodus, mainly towards France and the U.S., when it became clear that Salonika, after centuries of Ottoman rule, would pass to the Greek State. It did so in 1912. Relations between the Greeks and the Jews in Salonika had been strained.

The third great exodus, mainly towards Istanbul, France and the United States, was after the 1917 fire that destroyed the Jewish quarter of Salonika. However, thousands of Salonika Jews also fled to Palestine after a "pogrom" in the Campbell suburb of Salonika in 1931. Click here to read more on the migration of Modianos from Salonika in the last 400 years.

GENEALOGY I

THE FAMILY STRUCTURE

A. THE RABBIS

The earliest Modiano ancestor with known links to contemporary Modianos is R'Samuel Modillano, head of a rabbinical dynasty that came to Salonika at the end of the 16th century. His existence is inferred from the inscription on the tombstone of his eldest son, Isaac[24] who is known to have died on 22 February 1634 (24 Adar I 5394). I assume that if Samuel was born ~1570[25] his son, Isaac must have been born ~1590. We cannot be sure where Samuel was born, but we know that his son Isaac was born in Salonika. When he died he was buried in the Jewish cemetery of that city. We can assume that his father Samuel was also buried in Salonika.

These grave inscriptions indicate that Isaac b'Samuel had at least four sons:
Samuel, born ~1610;
Jacob, b. ~1612, known to have died in 1660[26];
Bonomo, b ~1613, who died in 1635[27], one year after his father. Both were buried in the Salonika cemetery;
The fourth son of Isaac Samuel was named Salomon[28], and was born around 1618.

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[24] MM Tomb 848.
[25] Estimates of birth dates are calculated on the basis of a 20-30 year span for each generation.
[26] MM Tomb 1021.
[27] MM Tomb 879: "Bonomo behar Isaac Modillano" d 24 Yar 5395 (12-05-1635). Attilio Milano in his *Storia degli Ebrei Italiani nel Levante* (Florence, 1949) p.94 refers to the graves of rabbis Isaac Samuel Modigliano and his son Bonomo.
[28] Joseph Nehama (J.N.) in *Histoire des Israélites de Salonique* refers to Salomon Modillano as one of the young rabbis who came to the rescue of the ageing and powerless community leaders, during the traumatic days of the schism by the self-styled Messiah Sabbetai Zevi. However, this is clearly an error. He was in fact referring to Samuel Isaac Modillano who later became Chief Rabbi. See comparable error in the epitaph of R.Joseph Samuel Modiano op cit. vol VI p 59.

The Sephardic practice of naming the first-born son after the paternal grandfather is apparently quite old[29]. It was, therefore, natural that most, if not all the sons of the original Isaac Samuel would name their first-born boy after Isaac, their father.

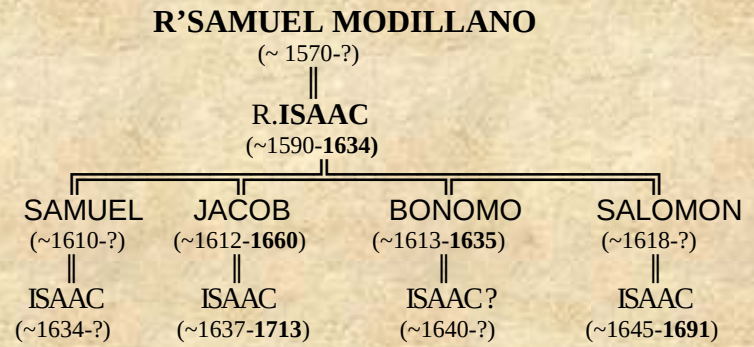

Chart 1

The records of gravestone inscriptions bear this out. There is, for instance, an Isaac of Jacob who died in 1713[30], as well as a Bonomo, son of Isaac, known to have died in 1731[31]. He was the grandson of Isaac Samuel's third son, Bonomo. There is also an Isaac of Salomon who is known to have died in 1691. Finally, there is Isaac, son of Samuel, who is known from the references to his father, the highly respected rabbi Samuel Isaac.

R'Samuel b'Isaac (~1650-1703) and his brother R'Joseph b'Isaac (~1660-1729) were in my view the roots of the Modiano family tree in Salonika. The family branches lived and thrived there between the 18th and the 20th centuries (see *Chart 2* below)

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[29] Dov Cohen, the Jerusalem-based genealogist, believes that this practice comes to us from antiquity, as is proved by ancient gravestone inscriptions.
[30] *Mafteah haHespedim* (Index of posthumous sermons)
[31] MM T. 268, IE T 1280

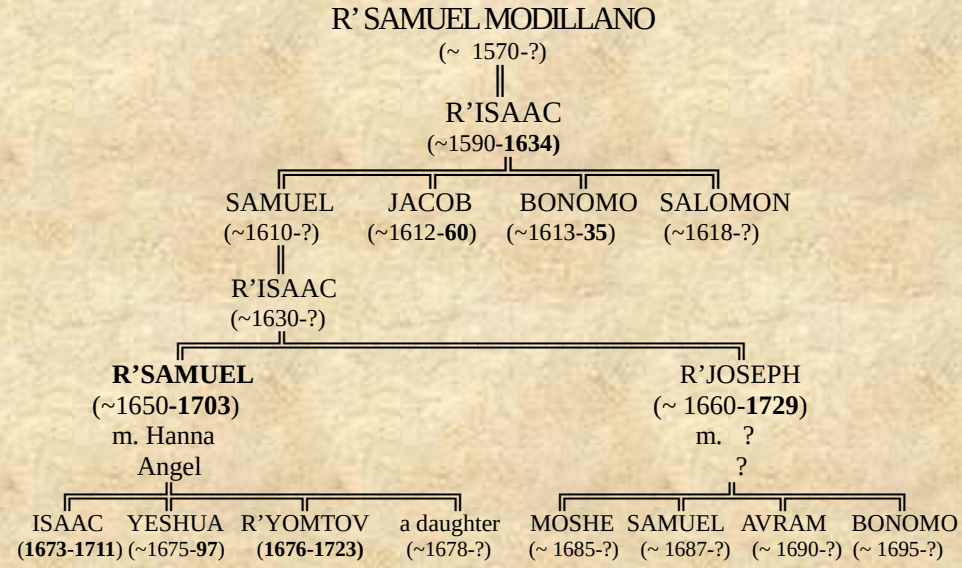

Chart 2

Rabbi Samuel b'Isaac Modillano

Samuel b'Isaac Modillano was chief rabbi of Salonika from 1697 until his death in 1703. He was at the helm at a difficult time for the Jewish Community, which was just recovering from the shock of the massive conversion to Islam by hundreds of wealthy and prominent Jewish families. They had believed in Sabbetai Zevi, the self-proclaimed messiah.

It is known that many Salonika rabbis and many more of their flock espoused the beliefs of Sabbetai Zevi, without, however, abandoning their faith when he converted to Islam. A study[32] published in Israel in 1978, suggested that Rabbi Samuel Isaac was also among these adepts. The author, Meir Benayahu, a well-known historian invokes, among other arguments, the fact that Rabbi Samuel Isaac wrote *Renanat Mizmar* (The Music of Poetry), a book of songs, hymns and chants, whose contents showed that he was inclined in favour of the mystic philosophy of Sabbetanism.

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[32] Meir Benayahu *Hatenua Hashabetait Beyava*" (The Sabbetean Movement in Greece) published in vol. 14 of the review "Sefunot", Jerusalem 1971-78, entitled: "The Sabbeteans who remained in Judaism" pp. 185-191.

Coming from a line of respected rabbis, Samuel b'Isaac had an early start: by 1683 he was appointed rabbi of Italia Yashan synagogue. By 1686 he was made judge (*dayan*) of one of the four communal rabbinical tribunals. He succeeded R'Avram ben Yaish who died in 1693, as chief rabbi of that congregation. When R'Aaron ha-Cohen Perahia, the Chief Rabbi died, he succeeded him as leader of the rabbinical triumvirate that governed the affairs of the community (the other two were Joseph Covo and Salomon Amarillo).

It was during this time that the system of collective leadership, first established in 1657, consolidated its supreme role in Jewish affairs: its authority was no longer challenged by the rabbis of the many Salonika synagogues, who had so treasured their earlier independence.

Rabbi Samuel staunchly opposed the taxation of the clergy. He attacked those who had "had the audacity" to demand that rabbis should also pay taxes[33]. He, therefore, resisted demands from the Aga of the Janissaries to hand over the communal registry that listed all the rabbis.

He was very proud that his ancestors had served as members of the Hevra Kedisha (communal burial service), the only one in Salonika where the rabbis themselves took care of the burials. He himself had succeeded his own father in that function[34].

He was the author of major rabbinical works, containing rabbinical rulings. He also wrote collections of sermons, hymns and speeches, commentaries on Talmudic treatises, and thoughts on civil law.

His works included:

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[33] JN vol. VI p. 143.
[34] IE comments on Tomb 1133

- ***Neeman*** ***Shemuel*** [Faithful Samuel] (Salonika, 1723), a collection of 116 responsas[35].

- ***Aruhat Tamid*** [The Perpetual Meal] (Salonika, 1756), a collection of sermons for weekly services and holidays;
- ***Sha'shua ha-Talmidim*** [The Entertainment of Disciples] (Salonika, 1797), commentaries on the Shulhan Arukh; and
- ***Divre Shemuel***, [Words of Samuel], an unpublished collection of sermons mentioned in the introduction of *Neeman Shemuel*, but which was apparently lost according to a reference in the foreword of *Aruhat Tamid.*
- ***Renanat Mizmar***, [The Music of Poetry] mentioned above, was first published in Salonika in 1687. According to Meir Benayahu, the only existing copy of this first edition belonged to the collection of the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York, but was lost. Dov Cohen found in the Ben Zvi Institute's Library a copy of another edition, published in Salonika in 1753.

These books were vital in reconstructing the family tree of the Hahamim from who sprang all the branches of the Modiano family. For instance, we learn from *Neeman Shemuel* that the author had a son named Yomtov who wrote and signed the introduction. He was a rabbi.

The introduction paid tribute to the four sons of Rabbi Joseph Isaac, the author's nephews, Moshe, Samuel, Avram and "the wise haham" Bonomo, for making it possible to print the book some 20 years after the author's death.

The three sons of R'Yomtov, Samuel, Yeshua and Avram financed the printing of *Aruhat Tamid.* The text of *She'shua ha-Talmidim*, which contains treatises on family and civil law, was found (according to the preface) in the house of Isaac Mordehai, a grandchild of R'Yomtov. The financing came from Behor Isaac Samuel Modiano (probably the eldest son of the book's author).

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[35] Rulings on a variety of practical and ethical questions touching on religion and practice in the everyday life of the Jews.

This is how the genealogical tree of Samuel b'Isaac's family was reconstructed thanks to this information:

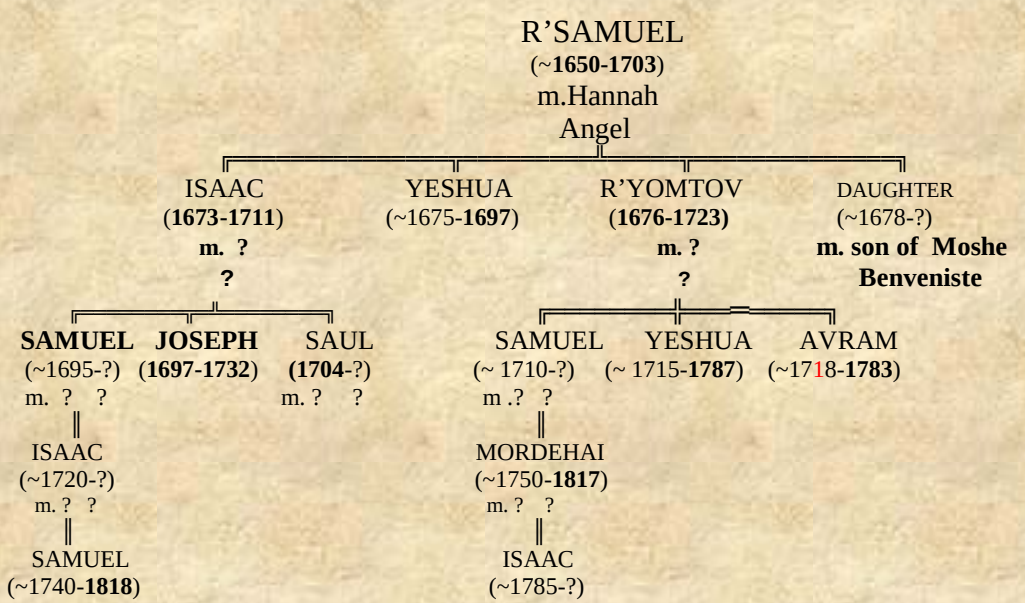

Chart 3

There are some doubts about the date of Samuel's birth. Molho says that R.Samuel Modillano, son of Isaac, better known as Samuel Ishaki, was born in 1656. However, Dov Cohen, the researcher, found that some of his manuscripts carried marginal notes by the author stating the date he had written the relevant texts. Several of these dates show that, if he had been born as late as 1656, those wise words would have been written at the unlikely age of 13.

In *Neeman Samuel*, the name of the author is written as Samuel b'Isaac without a family name. His youngest son, who wrote the introduction, identified himself as Yomtov son of Samuel *hamehune* (known as) Modillano. The author himself used to sign his responsas as Samuel b'Isaac, without a surname.

It is only in the introduction of *Aruhat Tamid* (containing his sermons on the Bible) written by the grandson of the author's brother Joseph – the famous R'Joseph b'Samuel Modiano[36] -- that the author is mentioned for the first time by his surname as "Samuel b'Isaac *hamehune* Modillano".

Emmanuel[37] confirms that the name Modillano was derived from the town of "Modigliano" in the province of Florence (he evidently means present-day Modigliana near Forlì) in Italy.

Rabbi Samuel had three sons and a daughter who married the son of Don Moshe Benveniste[38]. Nothing is known about her family or descendants. His son Yeshua (b. ~1675) died young in 1697. His grave was found near his father's. Nehama mentions among the prominent physicians of that time a Joseph Samuel Modillano who died in 1796. It is possible that he was a great-grandson of *the* Samuel Isaac, either from Samuel ben Yomtov, of from Samuel ben Isaac issued from his first-born son Isaac (Bohor) (see *Chart 3*).

The rabbi himself who suffered from increasingly bad health, died on 23 October 1703. Emmanuel makes a cryptic remark that R'Samuel "lived in poverty until he took over the reins of the community". It is not clear whether this was meant as an imputation on his character. In *Neeman Shemuel*, the rabbi himself wrote of the illness that plagued him (probably a bad form of gout) "…and I am today weak, and cannot go here and there because of an illness of the legs, and am like a poor man for want of shoes[39]."

According to Emmanuel his epitaph read:

> "*This stone rests over the Shepherd of Israel,*
> *Teacher of the Torah to anyone willing to learn*
> *This is why Israel weeps over the loss of this splendour*
> *This is the Grand Rabbi, ribi SAMUEL ISAAC*
> *and he died on the day of 13 Heshvan 5464 "*

He was buried in a grave next to rabbi Eliahu Covo, his teacher and mentor, to whom he referred in *Neeman Shemuel* as "my master, and teacher, the wondrous rabbi."

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[36] The Jewish Encyclopaedia p.639 and Chart 4.
[37] IE T 1133
[38] Chroniclers refer to him as if he were widely known and very rich.
[39] Shlomo A. Rosanes "*Historia de los Israélites en Turquia y en Oriente*" (Amischpat, Sofia), vol.IV pp 226-8.

Rabbi Joseph Isaac Modillano

Rabbi Joseph Isaac Modillano, the brother of rabbi Samuel of Neeman Shemuel was born about 1660. He is known to have been instrumental, together with his own sons and those of his brother R'Samuel, for the financing of the publication of the latter's works the first of which *Neeman Shemuel* appeared in 1723. R'Joseph probably died in 1729[40].

R'Joseph had four sons[41]: Moshe (b. ~1685) who had a son Joseph, known to have died in 1805; Samuel, whose first-born Joseph Samuel (1714-1781) became famous as the controversial leader of the Italian-Jewish community; Avram; and *haham* Bonomo who was probably born after 1690.

On R'Joseph's death, a eulogy was delivered by R'Haim Vidal ben Angel (related to his brother's in-laws) The text was reproduced in R'Angel's book *Sipur Hattayim* (Salonika, 1761).

Rabbi Joseph Samuel Modiano

Rabbi Joseph b'Samuel whose wisdom and scholarship are so highly extolled in the Jewish Encyclopaedia, was born in 1714, some ten years after the death of his equally renowned great-uncle, Rabbi Samuel Isaac of *Neeman Shemuel* fame.

Rabbi Joseph b'Samuel studied under R'Moshe Amarillo and by the age of 20, was a rabbi in his own synagogue of Italia Yashan. Soon, however, he was promoted to be Marbitz Tora or chief rabbi of that congregation. He held that position for over 30 years. The rabbi was known also from his initials as MAARISH (M=Modiano; Resh=Rabbi; Yod=Yossef; Shin=Shemouel).

He was regarded as one of the wisest Talmudic theologians and casuists[42] of his time. He maintained a voluminous correspondence with jurists and theologians throughout the Orient, as they often sought his wise counsel.

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[40] The annex to Molho's list of epitaphs from the Salonika cemetery, lists two Joseph Isaac Modillano, one (#208) died in 1707; the other (#209) in 1729.
[41] *Neeman Shemuel*, introduction.
[42] Theologian specializing in resolving cases of conscience and duty.

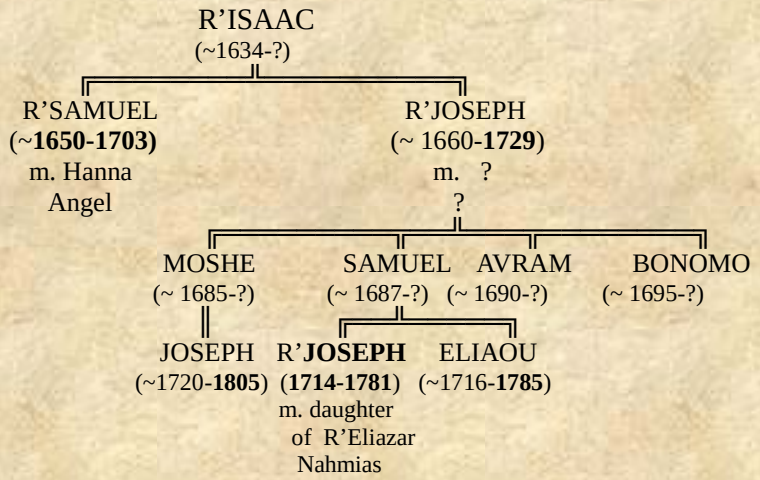

Chart 4

Joseph b'Samuel was brilliant, rich and arrogant. He was aware of his talents, and was often called despotic because he tolerated no criticism. But he was a compassionate man. Following a family tradition, every Thursday he would distribute a sack of flour to the poor.

His tenure as chief rabbi of the Italia Yashan congregation, however, was marred by a great controversy that brought much distress to himself and to his family, and caused serious disruption within the Italian-Jewish community.

Joseph Nehama, in the sixth volume of *Histoire des Israélites de Salonique*, gives an extensive and passionate account of the adventures of R'Joseph Samuel when, between 1775 and 1776, "envious enemies" accused him of embezzling synagogue funds[43].

The Rabbi had been harassed for many years by rivals within the synagogue. However, he faced his critics with disdain, relying on the good faith of his flock, and convinced that no one could reasonably question his probity.

When his brother-in-law, Raphael Eliazar Nahmias, became Chief Rabbi, he promptly appointed R'Joseph b'Samuel as his main assistant. It was the perfect choice, but one that was bound to increase the arrogance of the young rabbi.

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[43] His enemies claimed from him 400,000 piastres, the equivalent of 32,000 gold sovereigns – an enormous sum at the time.

Eventually his enemies, accusing him as an embezzler, secured the help of the Ottoman authorities in confiscating the Rabbi's possessions. He and his family were forced to flee and go into hiding. His brother-in-law the Chief Rabbi fought hard to protect him. But at that time he was severely ill and confined to bed. During the search for the fugitive the authorities invaded his home, and even forced the ailing Chief Rabbi out of his bed in order to search it.

Nevertheless, Chief Rabbi Nahmias managed to convene the rabbinical court and ask it to take up the affair. The Beth Din found Rabbi Joseph Samuel innocent and ruled that all his fortune should be returned to him.

It was at that point that the French consul obtained a *berat*[44] [decree] from Constantinople, recognizing that R'Joseph b'Samuel was under French consular protection. This made him immune to Ottoman authority.

Fully reinstated now, the Rabbi claimed the return of his possessions. However, his detractors had already managed to squander a large part of the funds. He retrieved only part of his wealth. The Chief Rabbi decided that the unpaid balance would have to be raised by compulsory contributions from the congregation of Italia Yashan, the very people who had tolerated such ignominies to be perpetrated against their religious chief.

This decision prompted enormous hostility towards Rabbi Joseph Samuel but also against his brother-in-law. Disgusted by the behaviour of community leaders, Chief Rabbi Nahmias resigned his office in 1776, and left for Jerusalem. The resentful communal bosses refused to promote Joseph b'Samuel to the vacant post of Chief Rabbi, which had been his due. However, in August of the same year he was made a member of the rabbinical triumvirate under Chief Rabbi Raphael Covo.

It is significant that the link then forged between the Modiano family and the French Consulate in Salonika, was maintained for several decades, as was mentioned in the opening chapter of this book.

R. Joseph Samuel told the story of his misadventure in the first volume of his book ***Rosh Mashbir***. In it, however, he refers to himself in the third person as Issahar[45]. *Rosh Mashbir* (Chief of the Cereals) was published in two volumes posthumously, in 1821 and 1840, after a first attempt in 1801 that was abandoned for lack of funds.

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[44] J.N. vol VII p.270-280

[45] J.N. op.cit. VI p. 283, footnote 60.

It is stated in vol. I, that the book was printed with the help of Avram, the author's grandson. In vol. II the author is identified as "Ribi Joseph, son of Samuel, *hamehune* Modiano." The preface indicated that this volume was printed with the help of the author's other grandson, Joseph, son of Esaiah.

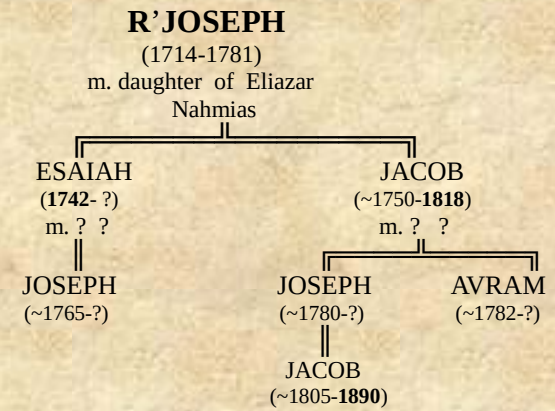

Chart 5

A commentary on the *Shulhan Aruh* based on his great-uncle's (Samuel Isaac) writings, was published under the title ***Uryan Telitai*** (The Triple Doctrine) in 1754. A reprint in 1797 named the author as "Yossef Shemuel Modiano"[46]. He refers to R. Samuel Isaac as "the brother of my father's father" (see *Chart 4*).

Half a century after his death, a collection of his sermons and allocutions was published under the title ***Rosh Maariv*** (Chief Vesperal) (Salonika, 1830).

Joseph Samuel died in 1781 during a bizarre epidemic of what came to be known as the "sneezing illness". According to Nehama, the sneezing apparently came just before the patient was doomed to die. The toll was so high that a special zone was created in the cemetery that came to be known as "the cemetery of the sneezers" (Beth ha-Haim de los Sarnudos)[47].

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[46] This is the first sighting of the surname in its form of "Modiano".
[47] J.N. vol.VI p.195

His epitaph read[48]:

Let passers-by [give a prayer] and an elegy
Our eyes are filled with tears
Ah! Whatever happened to the soul of Joseph?
Heaven's angels succeeded in taking Joseph from us
There has never been a sage, a wiser man
In giving an answer to all those who asked
Whoever is as great as Joseph?
He was called to Heaven
The rabbi haMufle[49]
Rabbi Joseph Shlomo[50] "hamehune" Modiano[51]
He was called to the Heavenly See on Friday 26 Av
5541 years from the creation.

---

[48] MM. T 1336
[49] A title of greatness
[50] This is clearly an error of the engraver. MM (1130) speaks of this as the grave of Joseph Samuel.
[51] IE writes 'Modillano'.

A: Outline Family Tree of the Rabbis

1 R'Samuel MODILLANO ~ 1570 - ?
2 R'Isaac Modillano ~ 1590 – **1634**
3 R'Samuel Modillano ~ 1610 - ?
4 R'Isaac Modillano ~ 1630 - ?
5 R'Samuel Modillano ~ 1650 – 1703
+ Hanna Moshe ANGEL ? - **1743**
6 R'Isaac Modillano **1673** – **1711**
7 R'Samuel Modillano ~ 1695 - ?
8 R'Isaac Modillano ~1720 - ?
9 Samuel Modillano ~ 1740 - **1818**
7 R'Joseph MODIANO **1697 - 1732**
7 Saul MODIANO ~ 1700 - ?
6 Yeshua Modillano ~ 1675 - **1697**
6 R'Yomtov Modillano **1676 – 1723**
7 Samuel Modillano ~ 1710 - ?
8 Mordehai Modillano ~ 1750 – **1817**
9 Isaac MODIANO ~ 1785 - ?
7 Yeshua MODIANO ~ 1715 – **1787**
7 Avram MODIANO ~ 1718 – **1783**
6 (daughter) ? Modillano ~ 1678 - ?
+ son of Don Moshe Benveniste
5 R'Joseph Modillano ~ 1660 – 1727
6 Moshe Modillano ~ 1685 - ?
7 Joseph Modillano ~ 1720 - **1805**
6 Samuel Modillano ~ 1687 - ?

7 **R'Joseph MODIANO**[52] 1714 – 1781
+ daughter of R'Eliezer Nahmias
8 Esaiah Modiano **1742** - ?
9 Joseph Modiano ~1765 - ?
8 Jacob Modiano ~ 1750 - **1818**
9 Joseph Modiano ~ 1780 - ?
10 R'Jacob Modiano[53] 1805 – **1890**
9 Avram Modiano ~ 1782 - ?
7 Eliaou Modiano ~1716 - **1785**
6 Avram Modillano ~ 1690 - ?
6 **R'Bonomo Modillano**[54] ~ 1695 - ?
3 Jacob Modillano ~ 1612 – **1660**
3 R'Bonomo Modillano ~ 1613 – **1635**
4 Isaac Modillano ~ 1634 - ?
5 Bonomo Modillano ~ 1655 – **1731**
3 Salomon Modillano ~ 1615 - ?
4 Isaac Modillano ~ 1635 – **1691**

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[52] Presumed ancestor of Saul Isaac Modiano, the banker (Chapter B).
[53] Presumed ancestor of Patrick Modiano, the author (Chapter C)
[54] Presumed ancestor of Samuel Moise Modiano (Chapter E2).

B. THE DYNASTY

Dr I.S. Emmanuel, in his comments on the epitaph of Saul Isaac Modiano, the well-known banker and financier, and perhaps the most famous Modiano in 19th century Salonika, affirms that he was a descendant of R. Joseph Samuel[55]. If this is correct it would imply that, in addition to the rabbi's known sons, Esaiah and Jacob, there was an elder son named, as tradition required, after his paternal grandfather Samuel.

The line of Saul Isaac Modiano would emanate directly from this son: Samuel. For reasons that will be discussed later, this Samuel who became a merchant, called himself Moliano. Fabrizio Bedarida, who researched the Livorno archives, discovered him in ancient archives containing documents about litigations.

It must be emphasized that the following revised tree is based on conjecture as far as Samuel is concerned:

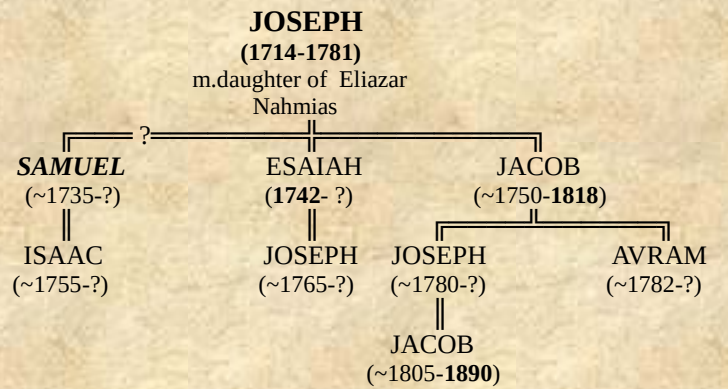

Chart 6

[55] IE T. 1749.

Samuel was not mentioned in the writings of his brothers or his nephews who prefaced the works of Rabbi Joseph Samuel. This may be attributed to the fact that, although he was the first-born, he did not follow the family's rabbinical tradition, or because he took no part in the publishing activities of the rest of his family[56]. In this connexion, it is significant that the existence of a daughter of R'Joseph b'Samuel is stated nowhere but can be presumed from Joseph Nehama's account that "his son-in-law and his youngest son were jailed" during the period of his persecution.

Samuel Moliano is presumably, therefore, the head of the largest branch of Salonika Modianos[57].

Samuel Moliano

At first, the temptation was to exclude from the research someone with the surname Moliano[58] as someone of a lesser breed. Subsequent research proved beyond any doubt that members of the most influential branch of the Modiano family in Salonika had signed their name "Moliano" before switching to "Modiano" about the end of 1833.

Samuel Moliano first appeared in the judicial records of Livorno of 1765. He was also mentioned as the late father of the Moliano/Modianos registered in the *Matricola* that was opened in 1833 by the Consulate of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in Salonika.

According to the Livorno judicial records, Samuel Moliano was "a Jewish merchant of Salonika and an Ottoman subject". He went to Livorno in the spring of 1765 to seek damages from an insurance firm for the loss of merchandise after the sinking off the coast of Sardinia of the vessel that was transporting it. The insurers refused to pay the indemnity, so Samuel took legal action to protect his interests. The documents indicate that the dispute went on between 1764 and 1767. The outcome of this litigation remains unknown to us. But the documents relating to it gave us some insight into the early Modianos.

If Samuel Moliano was already in business in 1764, it would be reasonable to assume that he had been born some time ~1735. He would, therefore, be identified with the father of Isaac who reared five sons, all heads of important Modiano branches living in Salonika in the early 19th century

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[56] IE states that rabbi Joseph Samuel "left two sons". It does not necessarily mean that he only had two.

[57] The story of how the name was corrected is told later in this account.

[58] Among the Modianos of Salonika, it was practically an insult to say that one of them was a "Moliano".

The Dynasty's links with the Rabbis would look like this:

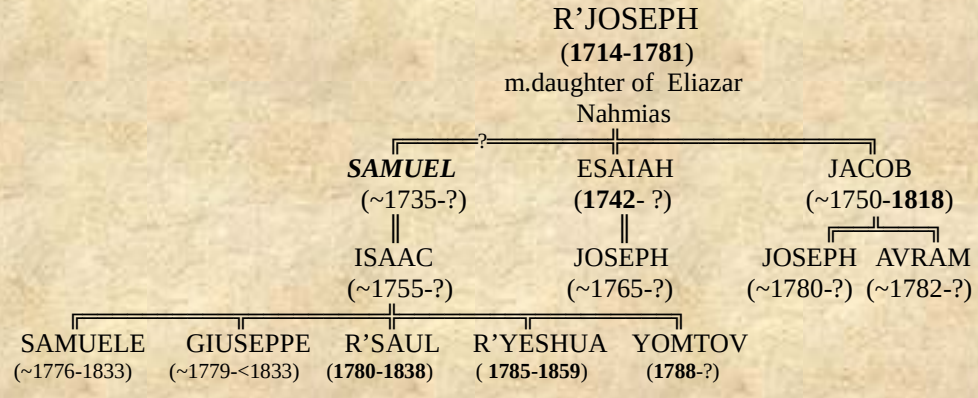

Chart 7

B: The Direct Issue of Isaac Samuel Moliano

1 Samuel MOLIANO ~ 1735 - ?
+ ? ?
2 Isaac Moliano ~1755 - ?
3 Samuele Moliano ~ 1776 – <1833
+ Falcona Arditti
3 Giuseppe Moliano ~ 1779 - <1833
+ ? ?
3 R.Saul Modiano 1780 – 1838
+ Sol ? Modiano
*2nd Wife of R.Saul Modiano:
+ Astrea ?
3 R'Yeshua Modiano 1785 – 1859
+ ? ?
*2nd Wife of Yeshua Modiano:
+ Astrea ?
3 Yomtov Modiano 1788 - ?
+ ? ?
*2nd Wife of Yomtov Modiano:
+ Regina ?

Samuele Isaac

In the 1833 Tuscan *Matricola*, Samuele is identified as the "deceased" brother of Yeshua, Saul and Yomtov Modiano as well as the late father of Isaac, Esther, Juda and Bulissa. The name of his second son Abram is not listed, probably because he was not in Salonika at the time the Matricola was opened. The three boys and two girls were Samuele's children from his marriage to Falcona Arditti[59].

Documents found in Rome indicate that the three brothers, Samuele, Yeshua and Yomtov, had set up a company named "Fratelli Modiano". As such they came into partnership with Lazare Allatini, the man who brought industry to Salonika, a city dominated until then by craftsmen, merchants, middlemen, and labourers. It is unclear whether Fratelli Modiano had shares in all of the Allatini ventures – or just one, the flourmill.

According to Tuscan consular records in Rome, when Samuel died (presumably between 1825 and 1833), his two eldest sons Isaac and Abram were not of age, so their uncle Yeshua refused them a share of the business. In 1854 they sued their uncle. With the mediation of the Tuscan Consulate, they reached an agreement on 23 October of that year. They accepted compensation amounting to 60,000 piasters (about 13,700 gold francs) declaring that they had no further claim on the firm. Following this development the firm came to be known as "Allatini & Modiano". Four years before this settlement, a list of Tuscan passports dated 30 April 1850 identified Isaac Samuele Modiano who was travelling to Smyrna and Constantinople, as "head of the Fratelli Modiano Co" .

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[59] This valuable information as well as the full family tree of Samuele's son Abram was obtained from Jean-Paul Bourlac whose site http://genebour.free.fr/ contains a wealth of information about the Jews of southern France.

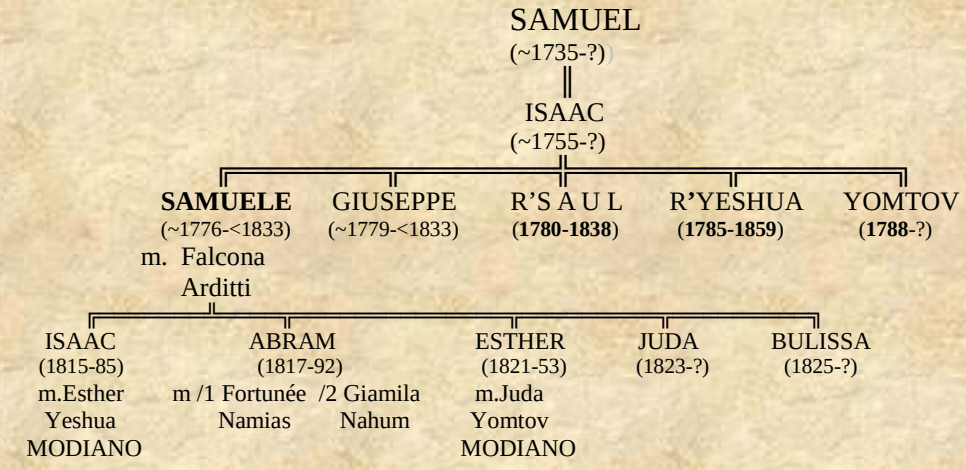

Chart 8

Samuele's first-born Isaac married his uncle Yeshua's daughter Esther. They had three sons and five daughters who, in turn, created extensive families.

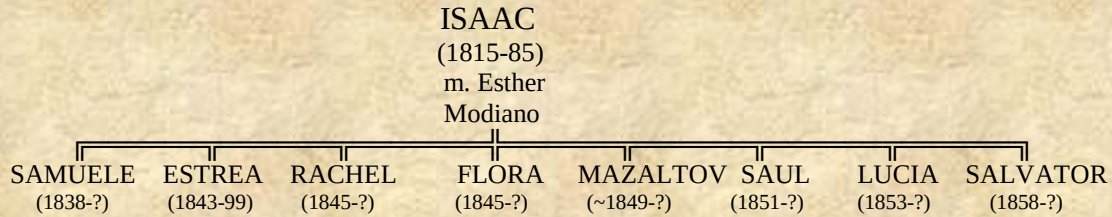

Chart 9

This Isaac's first-born Samuele, who also married his cousin Gracia (his mother's niece), had a daughter named Esther who in turn married Samuel Amar. They had six daughters and four sons.

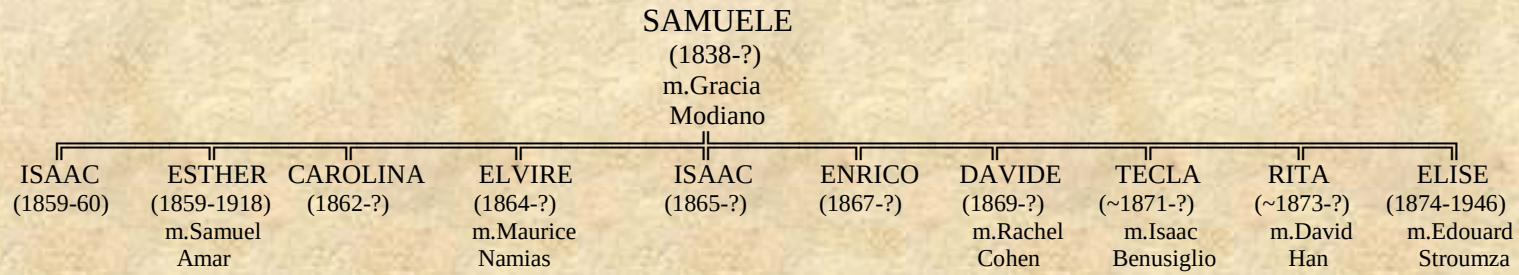

Chart 9a

I am indebted to Anne-Marie Faraggi, the dedicated genealogist from Neuchâtel, as well as to Françoise Gouhier, nee Levy, for reconstructing the genealogy of this branch. Françoise produced a full tree for the Amar-Modiano branch. She is a great-granddaughter of Esther Modiano from her daughter Sol.

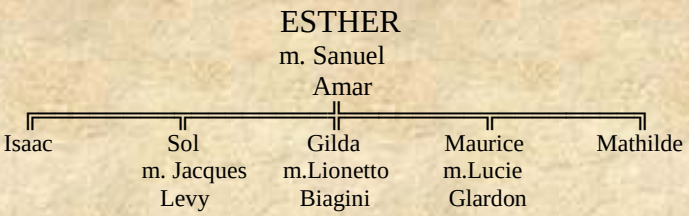

Chart 9b

Anne-Marie, exploring the issue of Samuel and Gracia, discovered the spouses of their many daughters as well as the large family of Elise Modiano, wife of Moise Stroumza. Both were born in Salonika and married there. But in1913 the couple and their children moved and settled in Lausanne. Elise died in Switzerland in 1946, according to the death certificate obtained by Anne-Marie.

Another daughter of Samuel and Gracia, Estrea, married Saul Daniel Modiano of Trieste fame, while her sister Rachel married Benveniste Modiano of branch D1.

Isaac Samuel's sister Esther became the first wife of Juda Modiano her uncle.

The extensive family of Abram, Samuele's second son, is new to this genealogical survey of the Modiano family. I owe thanks to José Klingbeil, a Modiano descendant, for guessing the link between this expatriate Modiano and Samuele Moliano's missing son Abram.

Abram's existence was first detected in the settlement of Samuele's children with their uncle Yeshua over their inheritance rights. However, it was verified mainly thanks to Jean-Paul Bourlac who secured all the certificates that documented Abram's presence in Marseille since at least 1860.

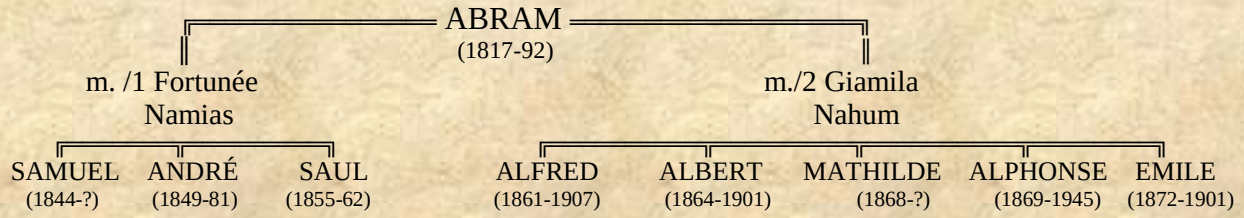

Chart 10

The date of Abram's birth is very much in doubt. Several official certificates in the municipal archives of Marseille indicated different dates on different occasions. This was not unusual. It has been noted that mainly women, but also men were inclined to produce birth certificates showing them to be younger, especially before marrying. In the present case I chose the date that appeared on Abram's death certificate which stated that when he died in 1892 he was aged 75.

There were other problems in placing Abram in the proper genealogical context. Was his father Samuel the same as Samuele, the first born of Isaac Moliano? Originally the year of death differed substantially. Later this was revised by J-PB. The conclusive evidence emerged in Abram's wedding certificate which identified his mother's first name as Falcona. This is a very unusual and rare name. although it is included in Joseph Nehama's Ladino-French dictionary. As far as we know, it was the name chosen by the Medici for their villa in Rome (eventually the villa came to be known as Villa Madama). What clinched the identification was that Esther, Samuele daughter, and wife of her uncle Juda, had named her own daughter Falcona, obviously after her own mother.

By bringing Abram into the fold of Samuele's family, another puzzle was solved. This one concerned Alphonse [another rare name] Modiano of branch E22 in Genealogy II. Abram and his two wives had a distinct habit of giving their children unrelated French names along with their Jewish ones. For instance Alphonse was also Elie; his brother Alfred was also Jacob, while Moise became Albert.

The branch of Alphonse Modiano was first outlined to me by his granddaughter Michèle Weille who was born a Modiano in Marseille in 1925 and now lives in Paris. Her father was Fernand-Michel Modiano, younger son of Alphonse, a broker in Marseille. His brother, Henri, died young. Alphonse was married to Marie-Thérèse Macario, a Roman Catholic.

Michèle's mother, Germaine Bloch, was the daughter of Colonel Emile Bloch and Marguerite Levy. Both died in Auschwitz in 1943. Michèle and her family managed to escape and went into hiding. Fernand himself joined the French Resistance. Because of the racial laws many Jews of France were forced to search their genealogy to find a way out. It was in this way that Michèle had discovered that her paternal grandmother came from the Nahum family – a viral clue to the discovery of her lineage.

Of Samuele’s other issue, Juda and Bulissa, we have no information so far.

B1A: DESCENDANTS OF SAMUELE ISAAC MOLIANO

1 **Samuele Moliano** ~ 1776 – 1832
+ Falcona Arditti ? - > 1860
2 Isaac Modiano 1815 - 1885
+ Esther Yeshua Modiano 1818 - ?
3 Samuele Modiano 1838 - ?
+Gracia Isaac Yeshua Modiano 1843 - ?
4 Isaac Modiano 1859 - 1860
4 Esther Modiano 1859 - 1918
+ Samuel Amar 1858 – 1917
5 Isaac (Ino) Amar 1887 – 1919
5 Sol Amar 1892 – 1963
+ Jacques Levy 1887 - 1953
5 Gilda Amar 1895 - ?
+ Lionetto Biagini
5 Maurice Amar 1904 – 1984
+ Lucie Glardon
5 Mathilde Amar 1906 - 1944
4 Carolina (Rachel) Modiano 1862 - ?
4 Elvire (Flora) Modiano 1864 - ?
+ Maurice Namias
4 Isaac Modiano 1865 - ?
4 Enrico Modiano 1867 - ?
4 Davide Modiano 1869 - ?
+ Rachel Cohen
5 Mathilde Modiano 1906 - ?
5 Liana Modiano 1907 - ?
5 Samuel Modiano 1911 - ?
4 Tecla (Benuta) Modiano ~1871 - ?
+ Isaac Benusiglio
4 Rita Modiano ~ 1873 - ?
+ David Han
4 Elise Modiano 1874 – 1946
+ Moise Stroumza 1865 - ?
5 Edouard Stroumza 1896 – 1965

5 Lina Stroumza 1898 - ?
+ Ino Benusiglio
5 Paul Stroumza 1901 - ?
+ Flore Carasso 1906 - ?
5 Isaac Stroumza 1906 – 1918
5 Benjamin Stroumza 1907 –
+ Marguerite de Mayo
3 Stella (Estrea) Modiano 1843 – 1899
+Saul Daniel Modiano 1840 – 1922
(issue at B1c)
3 Rachel Modiano 1845 - ?
+ Benveniste Modiano 1840 - ?
(issue at D1)
3 Flora Modiano 1845 - ?
+ Jacques Carasso
4 Elise Carasso 1887 – 1943
+ Sam Abastado 1881 – 1943
3 Saul Isaac Modiano 1851 - ?
+Sylvia Samuel Benadi
4 Lidia Modiano 1876 - ?
+ Ettore Saul Yeshua Modiano 1868 - ?
(issue at E5)
4 Michel Modiano 1884 - 1944
+ Mathilde Allalouf 1895 - 1943
5 Giorgio Modiano 1922 – 1944
4 Maurizio Modiano 1885 – 1889
4 Alice Modiano
3 Mazaltov Modiano ~ 1849 - ?
3 Lucia Modiano 1853 - ?
3 Salvator (Sauveur) Modiano (1) 1858 - 1921
+Mathilde Modiano (1) 1868 - 1913
4 Eva (Esther) Modiano (1) 1889 – 1973
4 Marcelle (Giamila) Modiano (1) 1892 – 1972
+ Alfred (Aaron) Alexander (1) 1880 - ?
4 René (Isaac) Modiano (1) 1896 - ?
4 Lucien (Abram) Modiano (1) 1897 - ?

2 Abram Modiano 1817/22 – 1892
+ Fortunée (Mazaltov) Namias ? – 1859
3 Samuel Modiano 1845 – 1889
+ Camille (Giamila) Nahman 1848 – <1889
4 Fortunée (Mazaltov) Modiano 1868 –?
4 Henry Modiano 1870 – ?
4 Berthe (Mazaltov) Modiano 1871 – ?
3 André (Menahem) Modiano 1849 – 1881
+ Stéphanie (Esther) Mosse 1858 - ?
3 Saul Modiano 1855 – 1862
2nd wife of Abram Modiano
+ Giamila Nahum 1844 - > 1902
3 Alfred (Jacob) Modiano 1861 – 1907
+ Louise Fanny Goron 1879 - ?
3 David (Adolphe) Modiano 1862 - ?
+ Anna Eugenie Matt
3 Albert (Moise) Modiano 1864 – 1901
+ Sarah Willig 1873 – 1898
4 Yvonne Marcelle Modiano 1896 – 1971
4 Denise Fanny Modiano 1897 – 1973
+ Pierre Lucien Ernest Gellaz 1901 - ?
2nd companion of Albert Moise
+ Marguerite Guillermin 1875 - ?
4 Berthe Emma Sarah Modiano 1900 – 1980
+ Silvio Nocchi 1894 - ?
3 Mathilde Modiano (2) 1868 – 1913
+ Salvator (Sauveur) Modiano (2) 1858 – 1921
4 Eva (Esther) Modiano (2) 1889 – 1973
4 Marcelle (Giamila) Modiano 1892 - 1972
+ Alfred (Aaron) Alexander 1880 - ?
4 René (Isaac) Modiano (2) 1896 - ?
4 Lucien (Abram) Modiano (2) 1897 - ?
3 Alphonse (Elie) Modiano 1869 – 1945
+ Marie-Thérése Macario 1877 – 1946
4 Henry (Abram Moise) Modiano 1898 – 1922
4 Fermand Michel Modiano 1899 – 1983
+ Germaine Bloch
5 Michèle Modiano 1925 –
+ Roger Simon Weille

3 Emile (Rahamim) Modiano 1872 – 1901

2 Esther Modiano 1821 - 1853

+Juda Yomtov Modiano 1818 - ?

(issue at B1c)

2 Juda Modiano 1823 - ?

2 Bulissa Modiano 1825 – ?

Giuseppe Isaac

The existence of the second brother, Joseph or Giuseppe, (see *Chart 7*) is also inferred from the 1833 *Matricola* in which he was named as the late father of Isaac (b.1804) who married Malca Nehama. We have not yet traced any issue for this line.

The link with the second son, Moise, is still based on conjecture such as dates and the fact that Moise's first-born was named Joseph (b.1826). This son married Miriam Faraggi from Istanbul and the family appears to have moved to that city. We know, however that they were still in Salonika when their fourth child, Menahem, was born in 1862.

This family may be linked to branch E8, not only because both trees include the infrequent name Menahem (Michel), but also because the head of that branch, Samuel son of Joseph, married Giamila Faraggi probably a niece of Miriam.

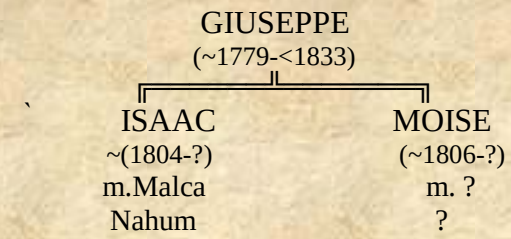

Chart 11

Moise's son Joseph and his wife Miriam Faraggi had six sons and two daughters.

Chart 12

Of Joseph's sons Jacob married Rachel Behar. They had one son and one daughter.

We now know the professions of two other sons of Joseph's -- Menahem (better known as Michel) was a pharmacist, and Isaac was a surgeon who, it was said, had treated the Sultan.

In the first edition of this book, the line of Joseph Modiano and Miriam Faraggi was displayed in bare bones as seen in the records of the Italian Consulate in Istanbul. These records noted the fact that Menachem (Michel) had abandoned his Italian nationality in favour of Turkish citizenship in 1911. The reason for this switch is not known; however that year Italy declared war on Turkey over its possessions in North Africa and Michel's decision may have been influenced by this event.

The descendants of Michel (Menahem) recently contributed significant details about the family. Riccardo's grandson Selim wrote to me after reading the original edition, to clarify and correct some of the facts in his genealogical branch. Riccardo's son Michel and his family are the only survivors of the line of Menahem who live in Istanbul. Menahem had two sons and two daughters:

Chart 12a

Riccardo's son Michel tells me that after a career in clothing manufacturing he was forced to retire to treat a heart condition. By some unfortunate coincidence, Riccardo who had worked for the oil company SHELL had a heart attack and died 48 hours after taking over from his own father as a pharmacist.

Riccardo's brother Ernesto who remained a bachelor, worked for about 35 years for the Italian Consulate General in Istanbul. This seems to have been a family tradition, as we shall see later. The eldest sister, Maria, remained unmarried. The youngest, Stella, married Yeshua Eliaou, a Turkish citizen, and moved to Israel where she died.

Missing Link

An unexpected development relating to this branch was the discovery in Genoa, Italy, of descendants of Menachem's brother Isaac. It all happened like this: in chapter E3 we have a branch based in Naples, which includes a great fan of this genealogical research named Roberto Modiano. He told me one day that as he was surfing on the Internet, he looked up his own name. Suddenly, there he was: Ing Roberto Modiano, profession: surveyor. Roberto is both an engineer and a surveyor. However, the e-mail address did not match his own. "I thought that somehow the Surveyors Association had given the wrong address. But then I spotted the fact that this Roberto Modiano was located in Genoa, not Naples!"

So he got in touch with him and they discovered that they were, in a sense, clones. The same name, the same job – even their grandfathers' name was Isaac in both cases. "An alter ego, a clone, like Dolly the Sheep!" exclaimed the Naples Roberto.

The Genoa Roberto was just as thrilled. He told his namesake that being the only Modiano in Genoa, he felt very lonely – the single son of a father with no brothers or sisters. So the Naples Roberto photocopied the original edition of the book on the Modiano Genealogy and sent it to him.

Roberto then wrote to tell me the fascinating adventures of his father whose career began in the Italian Consulate in Istanbul before World War II. Roberto said: "My grandfather, Isaac Modiano, was a surgeon in Constantinople and he had often treated the Sultan. He died of typhus contracted while treating Turkish soldiers during the First World War."

Isaac Modiano married Esther Yakar. They had one son, Giuseppe, Roberto's father. Roberto says that his grandfather had a brother who had been a pharmacist and had married a "German" woman, and two sisters one of whom was probably called Luna.

The branch that emerged looked like this:

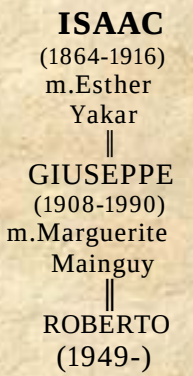

Chart 13

The Italian consular registry of Istanbul states that Giuseppe was “secretary of the consulate” until 1939 when he left for Italy. Roberto tells me that his father had studied first at the Austrian School in Istanbul, then at the French (Jesuit) Grammar School. After graduating and because he knew several foreign languages, he was hired as an interpreter by the Italian Embassy.

Apparently his duties left him plenty of free time, so he studied and obtained a degree in economics from the University of Rome in 1932. “It was at this time that my father wrote with his own hand the false passport that was given to Leon Trotsky when he fled the Soviet Union,” Roberto said.

Later, when the racial laws began to be applied in Europe, Cardinal Roncalli, the Papal Nuncio in Istanbul (later Pope John XXIII), who knew him well offered to furnish him false certificates showing him to have been a Catholic for seven generations. But his father declined. As Roberto put it, his father told the Cardinal: “I am proud of my family name and do not wish to renounce either the name or the religion of my ancestors. However, I appreciate very much the sensitivity of your proposal.”

Undercover work

Roberto says that one of his father's assignments just before World War II had been to report (along with a Greek colleague) the passage of Russian ships through the Bosporus. This was in violation of Turkey's neutrality so they were caught. The Greek diplomat was sentenced, but Giuseppe escaped with the help of Mario Badoglio, General Badoglio's son (who presumably was serving in the Embassy in Istanbul). Giuseppe then settled in Italy.

According to his son, during the war Giuseppe was given a cover name (Giuseppe Ottone) and secret assignments that often took him to Switzerland to pass intelligence to the British about German troop movements in northern Italy. All this was done with General Badoglio's consent. At some point, however, he had to go into hiding because of the Italian racial laws.

After the liberation Giuseppe Modiano, resuming his identity, was sent by the Italian Foreign Ministry to open an Italian Consulate in Marseilles where his job was to look after the affairs of about 400,000 Italian residents in the south of France. It was there that he met Marguerite Mainguy and married her. Roberto was born in Genoa in 1949. In 1960 Giuseppe was assigned to the Italian Embassy in Paris. When he retired in 1973 the family settled in Genoa. It was then that he was made Commander of the Order of the Italian Republic for services rendered.

Roberto said he himself studied engineering at the Milan Polytechnic. He has since been involved in nuclear research and development as well in the railway signalling industry in France. He also joined as a surveyor the British Classification Society of Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

His father died in March 1990 while he Roberto was travelling to the United States to obtain professional technical qualifications. His mother, at the father's request, did not inform him until two weeks later. By that time he had completed his course. "We buried him at the Marseilles cemetery," Roberto said.

He added: "Now, having spent half century around the world, I am still single and I live in Genoa with my mother who is 80. We have a flat in Marseilles and enjoy spending our holidays there."

A fresh research into the records of the Italian Consulate in Istanbul led, thanks to the details provided by Roberto, to the identification of the branch to which his grandfather belonged. It was like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle suddenly falling into place.

B1B: Descendants of Giuseppe Isaac Moliano

1 Giuseppe Modiano ~ 1779 - <1833
+ ? ?
2 Isaac Modiano ~ 1804 - ?
+Malca Nehama
2 Moise Modiano ~1806 - ?
+ ? ?
3 Joseph Modiano ~1826 - ?
+ Miriam Faraggi 1834 - ?
4 Moise Modiano 1851 ?-
4 Elia Modiano 1852 - ?
4 Jacob Modiano 1859 - ?
+ Rachel Behar
5 Giuseppe Modiano 1892 - ?
5 Maria Modiano 1894 - ?
4 Menahem Modiano 1862 - 1932
+ Fortunata Goldenberg 1872 -1924
5 Maria Modiano 1893 - 1964
5 Ernesto Modiano 1894 - 1970
5 Ricardo Modiano 1898 - 1957
+ Kadun Luiza Abeniacar 1912 – 1963
6 Stella Fortunata Modiano 1934 - 2000
+ Rifat Bulent Şereze
6 Maria Modiano 1940 - 1999
+ Erol Çiggin
6 Michel Modiano 1942 -
+Biyevi Ovadia
7 Richar Modiano 1967 –
+ Ruti Weizman
8 Mihael Modiano 1999 -
8 Shimon Modiano 2000 –
8 Chaya Hadassah Modiano 2006 -
7 Selim Modiano 1973 –
+ Rakel Mazaltov
8 Mayk Modiano 2005 -

5 Stella Modiano 1900 - ?
+Yeshua Eliau
4 Rosina Modiano 1863 - ?
4 Isaac Modiano 1864 – 1916
+ Esther Yakar ~1878 - 1958
5 Giuseppe Modiano 1908 – 1990
+ Marguerite Mainguy 1924 –
6 Roberto Modiano 1949 –
4 Luna Modiano 1867 - ?
4 Moise Modiano >1867 - ?

Rabbi Saul Isaac

Endogamy (a Greek word signifying marriage between members of the same family) has always been very popular among the Modiano, especially in the early days when the tribal pull was strongest. Besides, it was the safest way to keep fortunes within the family. In the lineage of Isaac Samuel Moliano (few names of wives were given before that time) we have traced 14 Modiano-to-Modiano couples.

Rabbi Saul b'Isaac was no exception. He followed the family's early rabbinical tradition. He married Sol Modiano, who might be the daughter of his younger brother Yomtov. In that case his niece would have been 40 years younger than he. The *Matricola* indicates that before 1833 he had acquired a second wife named Astrea (presumably Estrea). What seems a strange coincidence here is that his brother Yeshua also had a wife named Astrea, born in 1801. However, she died at the age of 37

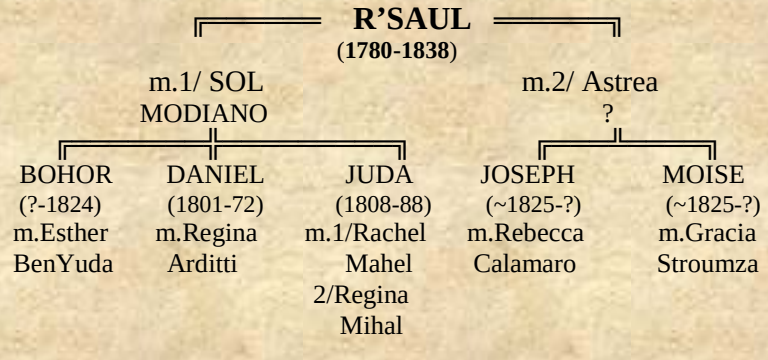

Chart 14

Saul Modiano, the Saga of a Financial Wizard

Saul Modiano, Rabbi Saul's grandson from his eldest, Bohor (Isaac), became a legend in his own lifetime and, probably, gave our family name the grand reputation it still enjoys. Saul Isaac Modiano, banker, real estate developer and philanthropist, was one of the richest, if not the richest man in 19th century Salonika. He also reared a line of distinguished descendants who excelled in the fields of banking, engineering, architecture, and communal service.

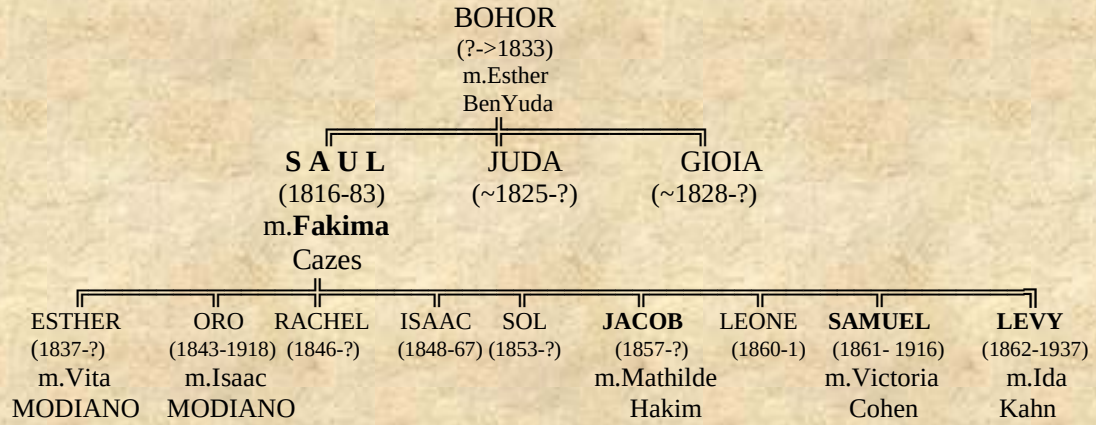

Chart 15

The story of Saul himself runs like a fairy tale of an orphan boy going from rags to riches. Most Salonika rabbis were reputed to live in abject poverty. So, the grandson of a rabbi, even a Modiano, could hardly hope to inherit much. True, Saul's great-uncles, Samuel, Yeshua and Yomtov, by teaming up with Lazare Allatini had associated themselves with the highly profitable industrial development of Salonika. But he does not seem to have sought help from them.

Students of Jewish Salonika attribute Saul's success to his spirit of initiative, his intelligence, and his tireless work[60]. He was the first of Bohor's three children. Born in 1816[61] he was only seven when his father died. Relatives took in his brother and sister. According to a ruling of the religious tribunal, Saul should have been raised by his uncle Juda. However, according to Nehama, because of the opposition of his uncle's second wife that he had just married, he was refused. Saul bravely assured the rabbinical court that he could fend for himself. This version is not borne out by the dates of his uncle's marriage.

The Prophecy

As in all fairy tales, there was bound to be a prophecy. It is said that a rabbi was so impressed by Saul's attitude that he gave him three blessings:

"That he should have the freedom of the streets;
"That he should have enemies;
"That the poor should never be absent from his table."

This signified: that he should be free from debt, so he could walk the streets without fear; that he should have his share of enemies like all worthies; and be rich enough to be chartitable[62].

He first found employment running errands for a Greek physician. While working diligently he observed and studied the world around him. At the tender age of 11 he decided to go into business for[63] himself. He bought and sold coins, chicken, and hides. He did well.

His first real possession was a donkey. He travelled with it as far as Veria and Langada, west and east of Salonika, in search of profitable business. He was successful enough to have the courage, at the age of 17 (20?), to ask to marry the daughter of Abraham Cazes, Fakima. He had watched this young girl as she sat one day, perched on a fig tree. She told him that she was after figs, not a husband. They married in 1833 and if Nehama's account is accurate she must have been aged 12!

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[60] J.N. op.cit. vol. VII pp. 701-705. This account relies heavily on Nehama's information.
[61] There is some doubt about this date. It is more likely that Saul was aged 10 when his father died, although his gravestone inscription confirmed as his birthyear 1816.
[62] "Todas las calles sean tuas; enemigos que tengas; guay que no manque de tu mesa." J.N. op.cit vol. VII. p 701.

His father-in-law worked as a broker for the house of Vlastos (probably Pandely Vlastos of the well-known Greek family from the island of Chios). He was a wealthy Greek merchant from Marseille, whose firm had branches in Paris and London. Vlastos, in fact, dominated the colonial goods market in Salonika – coffee, pepper and indigo.

From Rags to Riches

Saul was hired as his father-in-law's assistant. He worked hard as a jack-of-all-trades, and made himself indispensable. It was said that, if need be, he was willing to go to jail in the place of his master to spare him the ordeal. Vlastos eventually came to trust no one's but Saul's judgement.

One day, in 1840, Turkish soldiers or gendarmes subjected Vlastos to threats and intimidation. This was fairly common practice in Salonika at the time as local officials found this way to make money on the side. However, the merchant was seized by an irrational fear and decided to flee. Leaving all his affairs in the able hands of Saul, he settled in England.

For a while Vlastos kept abreast of developments in Salonika, but later because of health reasons he delegated his affairs to his son Timoleon who lived in Trieste. Saul kept him informed of business affairs.

Under the management of Saul, the enterprise blossomed. He got rid of all unprofitable activities, diversified into pastures and grazing land, acquired real estate and, above all, he used the Black Sea and the river Danube to ship his wheat cargoes up to Europe. During the Crimean War of 1854-8, the English imposed a naval blockade in the Black Sea, but Saul managed to get compensation for his losses.

It was in this context that he managed to turn a very serious setback to his advantage, and avert a catastrophe, demonstrating once again his profound wisdom and business acumen.

The Crisis

A shortage of foodstuffs in Europe in 1858 gave Saul a chance to step up deliveries of grain products via Trieste where his correspondent named Kapsovic spared no effort to forward them to destination. However, quite suddenly, the news came that Kapsovic's entire fleet with its valuable cargo had been blocked by ice in the Danube.

Kapsovic owed Saul enormous sums. However Saul whose now gigantic interests relied heavily on credit, found himself in deep waters. As rumours of insolvency spread in Salonika, depositors of Saul's banking section were beset by fears. A run on deposits, could turn the whole affair into a shameful disaster.

Saul was shortly due to pay taxes amounting to 15 million gold francs to the state. The Vali, the local governor, was naturally worried. So he convened the Council of the Vilayet, the province, to consider the possibility of such a serious loss of revenue that was bound to displease the Porte.

It was then that Saul conceived his plan. He borrowed enough money enabling him to pay a large part of the tax. And while the Council was in session, he offered to pay in advance most of what would soon be due. The Council, relieved, accepted.

Shortly afterwards the people of Salonika were stunned to see 39 porters, loaded with bags of coins, headed, Indian file, towards the konak [the Vali's palace]. Such a spectacle had never been seen in the city before. By paying the tax that was not yet due, Saul managed to reassure both the public and the Vali. Who could ever question a man who was able to produce so promptly such vast a sum? The Vali himself was impressed. He, therefore, renounced the advance payment. And the 39 porters with the cash went straight back to replenish Saul's coffers. Confidence was restored and deposits poured in.

However, the problem remained unsolved. Kapsevic's fleet was still immobilized in the Danube. Saul rushed to Trieste, and, as he set foot there, the news came that the ice in the Danube was thawing. He promptly invested his cash in colonial goods and building materials, which had been in short supply in Salonika. He put them on a cargo ship and sailed back to Salonika where he sold them at 100% profit.

Reaching the Summit

Saul Modiano was now master of his trade. He was a rich man, swamped in gold. But those who knew him said that he remained human and compassionate. Merchants facing hard times, or fathers in search of a loan to marry off their daughters, found prompt and willing help from him. So did the sarafs, the moneylenders who relied on him to keep them out of trouble whenever they ventured into risky business.

Joseph Nehama describes him as a jovial and hearty man who loved to entertain his friends lavishly. A loving and devoted family as well as by trusted associates and friends always surrounded him..

of the Jewish Community over whose council he presided between 1877 and 1882. It was at that time that he came in direct conflict with the Chief Rabbinate, which wished to impose taxes also on community members of foreign nationality who had been exempt. The row led to the resignation of the Chief Rabbi, a development that Saul Modiano soon regretted. Legend had it that when community leaders clashed with the Chief Rabbi, they would die within the year. Although one suspects that this legend was invented by the rabbis, it is noteworthy that both Saul Modiano and Dr Moise Allatini who supported his views, died within the year of their confrontation with the Chief Rabbi in 1883.

Saul supported generously the Talmud Torah, which was the leading rabbinical academy of Salonika and combined several educational, cultural and charitable foundations under one roof. He bequeathed to it many valuable shops in what came to be known as the Cité Saül, the city's largest commercial centre that he had built64 in the centre of Salonika. Such was the impressive art-deco style of this complex that Crown Prince Constantine chose that building to give his first grand reception to celebrate the capture of the city in 1912.

He was made a Cavaliere of the Italian Crown and was decorated by the Sultan. He died on January 16, 1883, aged 67. According to Joseph Nehama, on the day of his funeral the markets remained closed, even church bells rang mournfully .Two military platoons -- one infantry and one cavalry -- led the funeral procession. The entire population of the city followed. A long line of schoolchildren from Jewish, Greek and Moslem schools brought up the rear.

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64 *Cité Saül* was restored in 1990 and is shown to tourists as an outstanding example of 19th cent. ornate architecture.

The epitaph on his tombstone read:

"*He died at the age of 67*
"on 16 January [1883]
"This cold slab of marble
"Covers the remains of the much-lamented
"SAUL MODIANO
"Rare example of integrity, who was admired for virtue and talent,
"A pillar, then President of the Jewish Community,
“An active member of the committee for Jewish Solidarity,
"He did much, encouraged with wisdom,
"He modernised the Talmud Torah,
"Pleasant, modest, hard-working, devout, a benefactor
"He was loved, appreciated, respected."

The first letter of each line of this epitaph, written in Hebrew, formed the name Saul Modiano.

Siniora Fakima

The fascinating story of Saul Modiano would be incomplete without a special mention of his extraordinary wife Fakima ("Siniora Fakima", as she was better known), daughter of Abraham Cazes, and sister of Jacob Cazes who was President of the Jewish Community for many years. Joseph Uziel who met her in her old age, wrote[65]: "A great woman. But, surely, this biblical description does not imply an aggressive woman, a trait that would hardly be appropriate for this tender, compassionate and very Jewish wife."

The author says that although Saul Modiano commanded general respect, it was his wife that was the more popular and admired in Salonika.

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[65] Joseph bar-Pinhas Uziel *Hamigdal Halavan*, (The White Tower, Impressions, Memories and Stories from the Life of A Great Hebrew City) Tel-Aviv, prob.1929.

When her husband died she had a large ornamental synagogue built in the *campanias*, then the outskirts of the city. This monumental synagogue with marble pilasters cost 3,000 sovereigns.When the disastrous fire of 1917 burnt down more than 30 synagogues in Salonika proper, this became the main place of worship for the city's Jews. Completed in 1898, it was named Beth Shaul. But everybody called it "El kahal de Siniora Fakima" (the temple of Siniora Fakima). The Germans razed it to the ground before retreating in 1944. According to a 1945 report by Michael Molho, the local population had already plundered and vandalized it.

Her three surviving sons, Jacob, Samuel and Levy, took good care of her when she became widowed. She lived in a big house in the *campanias*, and dedicated herself to charitable work.

Her monthly allowance was a handsome 100 gold sovereigns, but by the 20th of each month she was asking for an advance. She would provide rooms in her vast house to homeless people and there were always poor families eating at her table. When she died in 1910 she was nearly 90 years old. Says Uziel: "Her face was wrinkled like parchment, lit by a pair of kind eyes – a typical Jewish face, wise and compassionate."

The children of banker Saul

Saul and Fakima had nine children two of them having died young (see *Chart 15*). Their two eldest daughters married Modiano relatives. **Esther**, the first, married Vita, son of her great-uncle Yeshua.

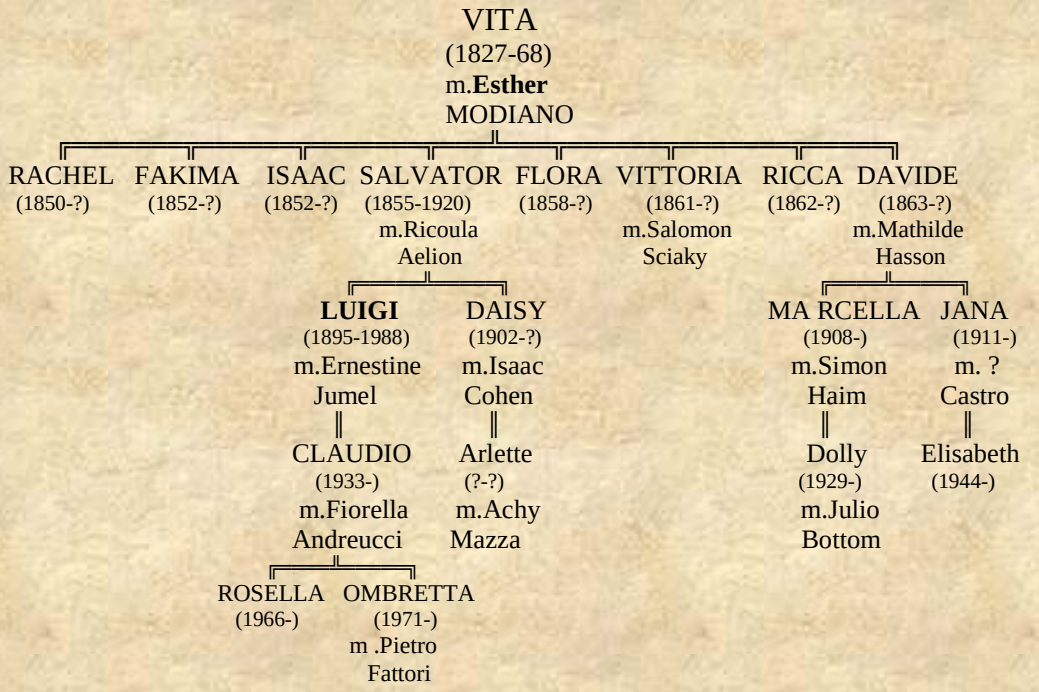

Chart 16

Vita and Esther had eight children. One of them, Salvator, married Ricoula Aelion. Their first-born was Luigi, later **Dr Luigi Modiano** the well-known Salonika obstetrician. With the help of his French wife, Ernestine "Titi" Jumel, a certified midwife, Dr Modiano brought into life innumerable Jewish babies in Salonika, including the author, his brother and most of his cousins.

Dr Modiano, who was evacuated to Italy after the downfall of Mussolini in 1943, settled in Florence, instead of following the example of example of relatives and friends in the same group of evacuees who found refuge in the Lago Maggiore area and were massacred there by the Nazis.

He exercised his profession until his death at an advanced age. His son, Claudio, who lives near Florence with his family, became professor of medicine and a reputed hospital surgeon. He became a grandfather thanks to his lovely daughter Ombretta.

Oro married her cousin Isaac, son of Saul's brother Juda (see *Chart 17 below*). They had six children. The descendants of this branch live mostly in France.

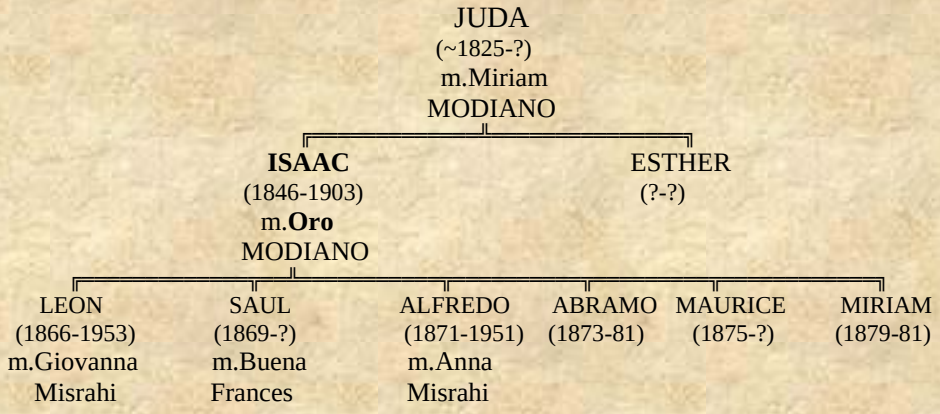

Chart 17

The eldest, Leon studied classics and medicine in Paris between 1878 and 1894. He exercised the medical profession in Salonika becoming a highly respected practitioner. At the same time he achieved notoriety as a writer for the first French-language newspaper of that city, the "*Journal de Salonique*". In 1918, the Chief Rabbi of Salonika recommended him to the French Consulate for the Cross of the Legion of Honour for his services to the injured officers and men of the French Expeditionary Force hospitalized in the Italian Hospital of Salonika where he was chief medical officer.

Leon married Giovanna Misrahi while his brother Alfredo married Anna Misrahi, daughter of the famous Dr Moise Misrahi who was the heart and soul of the hospital built in Salonika by Baron Maurice Hirsch. Giovanna and Anna were probably sisters. Leon and Giovanna had a daughter whom they named Gilberte after Prof. Gilbert who had been Leon's mentor during his university studies.

Gilberte married Leon Bourla. Their daughter Ines-Francine married Pierre Guetta. Bernard, their eldest son, is a highly respected news commentator in Paris today. When I met him at a family reunion in Florence in 2005, he showed me the velvet koratcha[66] with the elaborately embroidered gold monogram "L.M." that had belonged to his great-grandfather.

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66 Koracha is what the Salonika Jews called the velvet or leather bag where they placed their talith, phylacteries and prayer books to take to the synagogue.

SINIOR YAKO, THE BANKER

It was Saul's sons, however, who continued to build and expand his financial empire – **Jacob** (better known as "Sinior Yako"), Samuel, and Levy (see *Chart 15*). Jacob took over the management of the bank that had become the mainstay of the Modiano empire. He did well until the Turco-Italian War of 1911 that caused the suspension of his banking activities[67]. However, the Modiano fortune remained largely intact.

Dr Vanghelis Hekimoglou, who was head of cultural and public relations for the National Bank of Greece in Salonika, made a special study of the case of the Modiano Bank[68].

It all started when Italy claimed sovereignty over Ottoman provinces in North Africa in October 1911. This sparked off rumours of Turkish reprisals against Italian interests in Salonika, generating fears among depositors of the Modiano Bank.

At first the Bank's major creditors, the Greek banks, were not unduly disturbed, aware as they were of the magnitude of the Modiano fortune. But when the Ottoman authorities rounded up Italian nationals in Salonika and expelled them to Italy, closing down their businesses, there was a run on the Modiano Bank. Saul's sons fled to Hungary.

Efforts by Jacob Modiano who headed the bank, to raise funds in Paris and Athens to pay off small depositors, offering his real estate as collateral, proved unsuccessful.

By June 1912 creditors and bank agreed on a settlement that would satisfy immediately the small depositors, while the big creditors would advance a loan of 35 million francs, against the establishment of a mortgage company to manage the Modiano real estate.

The creditors, however, discovered that the owners had made arrangements so that, in case of death, a large part of the Modiano real estate would go into a trust that could not be broken. They demanded therefore the immediate liquidation of the property.

An agreement had been imminent when the Balkan War broke out as Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria joined forces against Turkey. Salonika was cut off from the rest of the world, and the negotiations for a settlement were suspended.

Information on the sequel of this affair is rather erratic. Mr Hekimoglou, in reply to questions, suggested that Salonika newspapers wrote briefly in 1913 that the negotiations between the Modianos and their big creditors were continuing. However, no details were given.

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[67] So did the *Banque de Salonique* owned by the Allatini family.

[68] *The Modiano Affair*, Salonika, 1991.

It is clear, in any event, that after World War I the descendants of Saul Modiano remained among the wealthiest people in Salonika. Whatever arrangements they had made, those had hardly affected their fortune or their standing in society.

Jacob and Mathilde Hakim had six sons:

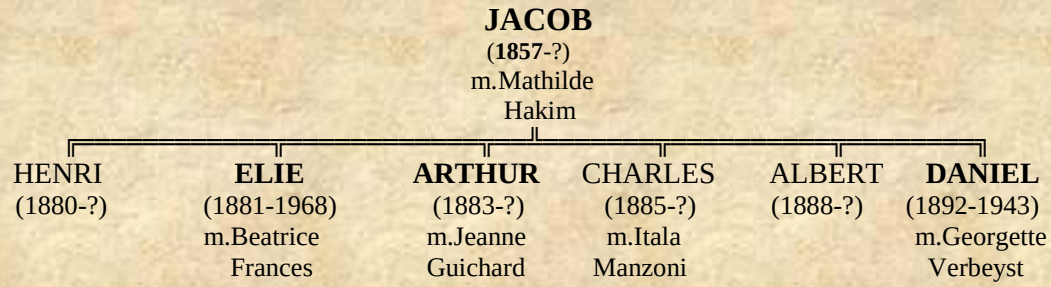

Chart 18

All of Jacob's children were gifted, with excellent studies abroad, and this enabled them to play a significant part in the life and development of Salonika.

It was at the Modiano estate in Topsin, near Salonika, that Crown Prince Constantine, as the Greek Army's commander-in-chief, negotiated the surrender of the city to the Greeks with Salonika's last Turkish Governor Hasan Tahsin pasha. The Greek Crown Prince turned the Topsin estate into his headquarters and later chose to reside in the Modiano villa in Salonika that Jacob had built for himself in 1906. The villa was built on plans of his son Elie. In 1913 it was bought by the Municipality of Salonika and has since been used successively as a residence for King Constantine, of the Governor-General of Macedonia. Subsequently it became a Military School of Medicine. It now houses the Macedonian Folk Art Museum.

Henri, the eldest, was apparently lost during the war in Rumania[69].

Elie Modiano studied architecture in Paris, and made the elaborate plans for Salonika Customs House complex, the first concrete building in the city.

He was also the man who created the Modiano Market (*Agora Modiano*), a 3,300 sq. m. covered area that houses since 1924 the largest food market in town. It included 143 shops, 60 butchers, 35 fishmongers, 10 greengrocers, and six coffee-grinding mills. About 700 people worked in this complex.

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[69] Salonika newspaper clipping.

After the Second World War, *Agora Modiano* became very popular because of its "ouzo" bars, where friends collected before lunch or dinner to discuss politics, negotiate business deals, or chat over a glass of aniseed-flavoured liquor. This was very much an "agora" in the ancient Greek sense. Such is the popularity of the place today that no politician running for office, can afford to omit paying frequent homage to its patrons[70].

The Modiano lifestyle was such that Crown Prince Constantine who had lived in the villa of Jacob Modiano had been so impressed by its furniture that when he became King, after the assassination of his father King George I in Salonika in 1913, he sought to buy some of it.

Copies of letters[71] exchanged from June to October 1914 between Jacob and "Mademoiselle Angélique J. Contostavlos, Palais Royal, Athènes", the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting, show that Jacob was willing to sell the King some of his furniture. For the dining room sitting 12, he asked 130 pounds sterling, while for a large carpet in the hall he wanted 4,000 francs. He observed in one letter that those prices were "far below the cost of acquisition".

The offer for the dining room was accepted, but then the King also asked to buy two armchairs. As it turned out, Jacob did not wish to sell those separately. He argued that there were matching velvet curtains for three windows as well as six stools "*lesquels sont assortis*". The lot was offered for 1,500 francs. But it is not clear whether the deal was concluded.

To return to Jacob's progeny, Elie who survived the war married Beatrice Frances who, after Elie's death lived in a Salonika. She died in a rest home in 2003.

Arthur, Elie's brother, who lived in France, married Jeanne Guichard who gave him a son, Jean. Jean died in 1982, after marrying twice. His first wife, Jacqueline Bozon, gave him a son who died one year after his father; after divorcing her, he married Jacqueline Hayman who died in Paris in mid-2000. There is no issue.

Charles, Jacob's fourth son was very close to Elie also because of professional reasons. He, too, had studied architecture and engineering in England. He married Itala Manzoni who taught French at the Italian School in Salonika. She survived him and moved to Rome.

Albert settled in Paris where he worked as an antiquarian.

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[70] The popularity of this market is illustrated by the fact that "Modiano" became a synonym for "ouzo-bar". One Salonician even opened a restaurant-bar in Athens, which he named "Modiano". When the Modianos of Athens paid him a visit all together, he was overwhelmed. But by then the sign outside the shop had been changed to "Moudiano". We asked him why? He said that the man who painted the sign had made a mistake, but since then his shop had received great publicity under the name of "Moudiano" and he did not wish to confuse patrons by correcting it.

[71] Kindly provided by Albert S. Modiano of Athens.

The Slaughter

It was Daniel, the youngest, however, whose life ended in tragedy. He was unlucky enough to be in the group of wealthy Italian Jews from Salonika[72], repatriated after the collapse of Italy, in August 1943. They chose to go to a hotel in Meina, a small village resort on Lago Maggiore. Hotel “Meina” belonged to an Istanbul Jew by the name of Alberto Behar, who felt safe because of his Turkish citizenship. However the German SS discovered the group of Salonika Jews in his hotel. They killed them all, including the children. Their bodies were thrown into the lake.

This is a description of the drama by Susan Zuccotti[73]:

> *"Fifty-five Germans invaded the shores of beautiful Lago Maggiore on the Swiss frontier. In Meina, a village on the lake between the more famous tourist towns of Arona and Stresa, 16[74] Jews from Greece took lodging in the Hotel Meina. Someone informed the Nazis. On Sept 16, 1943, one week after the German occupation [of Italy], the SS stormed the hotel. They seized a family of six from Salonika, including the children aged 15, 12 and eight. They kept this family and ten other victims under guard for a week, apparently debating what to do with them. Finally they shot each victim in the back of the neck and tossed the bodies into the lake… The next morning most of the bodies rose to the surface of the waters. The bodies were taken to the center of the lake and thrown in again. After this, only one was ever recovered for a proper burial."*

An Italian journalist who carried out a very thorough investigation of the case gives a staggering account of this tragedy in his book[75]. The story, based on the documents used in the subsequent trial of those responsible, indicates that 12 of the Meina Jews were killed in the night of September 22 to 23, and the remaining four, the Fernandez grandfather and the three children, on the following night.

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[72] The others were the Fernandez (6 persons), the Mosseri (4), the Torres (2).
[73] Susan Zuccotti, *The Italians and the Holocaust*, Persecution, Rescue and Survival (Univ. of Nebraska, 1996), p.290
[74] Three of the victims were locals.
[75] Marco Nozza Hotel Meina, La Prima Strage di Ebrei in Italia (Mondadori, Milano, 1993)

The trial took place 25 years later, in Osnabrück, in Austria, in 1968, simply because one of the defendants was Austrian. It was Daniel Modiano's Belgian wife, Georgette, who set in motion the process that led to the trial. She was not in the hotel when it all happened. She was staying at a nearby mountain resort.

She returned the day after the massacre and raised hell with the authorities. She even appealed to the Archbishop of Torino but to no avail. After the war she asked the Italian president De Gasperi to help bring to justice the killers of her husband. A key to the outcome of the trial was that she remembered the face of the SS officer she saw in the hotel lobby the day after the killings. The trial lasted 630 days.

The defendants were officers of the SS Liebstandarte "Adolf Hitler", the elite armoured division that served as personal guard to the Fuehrer. Their units occupied the area around Lago Maggiore. The tribunal found that they had decided on their own initiative and without orders from above, to kill all the Jews who had found refuge in the area.

The motive, the court said, was racial hatred and greed. The author, however, questioned this conclusion of the court and insisted that there must have been orders from above. The Meina Jews were not the only victims. In all, it was estimated that about 50 Jews were assassinated in the same manner in this district.

Five of the German officers were found guilty and condemned: three to life imprisonment, two to three years' imprisonment.

Daniel Modiano's name is carved on the memorial erected there to honour those (Jews and non-Jews) massacred by the Germans. The inscription says: "Here, in the night of 22 to 23 September 1943, under the blows of nazi ferocity, were killed…" The names follow. The inscription concludes: "May their sacrifice serve as a warning and a beacon towards a better humanity."

Samuel & Levy

Jacob's brother and partner, **Samuel**, married Victoria Cohen in 1883. It is, perhaps, interesting that a certificate issued by the Jewish Community of Salonika in 1923, stated that Victoria had brought her husband a dowry of 3,740 Turkish gold sovereigns. The certificate was probably needed to settle financial differences.

They had two daughters, Elda and Andrea, and a son named Edmond. Samuel was very prominent in community affairs and worked closely with Jacob in running the Modiano Bank. All three brothers were great benefactors of community institutions.

Samuel was closest to his younger brother **Levy**. Together they bought, in 1904, a 2,900-ton yacht, which they named Ida, after Levy's strikingly beautiful wife, Ida Kahn who was, at the time, the toast of the town. Ida was the daughter of James and Miriam Kahn of New York where she was born. Her mother was a descendant of one of the oldest American Jewish families, the Abrahams.

Levy and Ida lived in an elegant mansion on Queen Olga Avenue, known as Villa Ida. The building later housed the Italian School in Salonika. After World War II it was pulled down and gave its place to a modern structure rented by the Italian Consulate.

Levy and Ida had two daughters (Isabelle and Daisy) and one son they named Roberto (b.1887). Levy who had been made *Cavaliere* of the Italian Crown, set up his own merchant bank in Salonika with a branch in Paris. During the Turco-Italian conflict in 1911 and the serious losses sustained by the Modiano Bank, he and his son Robert participated actively in the negotiations for a settlement. His own exposure was less dramatic than that of his brother Jacob.

During the war Ida who lived in Paris, was rounded up with the rest of the Jews at Drancy and died in Auschwitz.

1. Daniel

R'Saul's second son, Daniel, produced some fairly important progeny:

R'SAUL MODIANO
(1780-1838)
m./1 SOL
MODIANO

BOHOR **DANIEL** JUDA
(**1801-72**)
m.Regina
Arditti

Chart 19

SAUL D. MODIANO of Trieste

Of the 11 children of Daniel Modiano and Regina Arditti (*see Chart 20 below*) and without any doubt the best known was Saul D. Modiano. He made the Modiano name famous all over the world with the playing cards and the fine cigarette paper he manufactured in his factories in Trieste and Bologna. Decks of Modiano playing cards designed by top graphic artists and printed on the finest and lightest material are still on sale even though the Trieste factory has since passed to other hands.

Legend has it that Saul fled Salonika at an early age, because the Ottoman authorities were after him. Believing that if they caught him they would have cut off his hands under the law of the Sharia, he escaped to Italy[76].

[76] Story told to the author by the late René Modiano of Rishon-le-Zion, Irsael, whose grandmother was the sister of Saul's wife, Stella, also a Modiano.

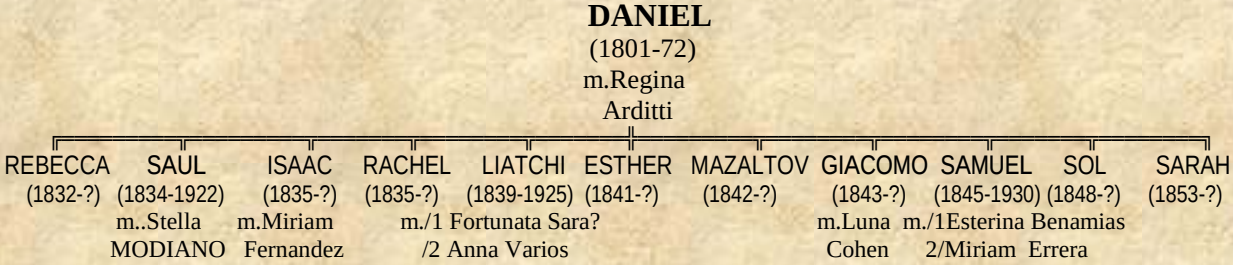

Chart 20

Saul first went to Rome, but seeing the advantages offered by the free port of Trieste[77], he soon transferred his activities there. The official family history says that he visited Trieste to make contacts in order to increase his family's business in Salonika. The same version says that his father, Daniel, had imported to Salonika the first steam engine for the railway that had just been established by Baron Hirsch, the great benefactor of Salonika's community, to link that city to the rest of Europe by rail.

Saul set up a factory to produce fine cigarette paper. It was an ingenious venture since it gave smokers at large a chance to roll their own cigarettes at low cost rather than buy the highly-priced ones sold by state monopolies throughout Europe.

The first factory was established in 1873 and the business expanded rapidly: a typography section was set up, then a box manufacture, as well as stables and equipment for horses. At one point, the company had outlets practically in most countries of the world.

In 1884 a printing establishment with polychrome lithography was added, to print artistic reproductions of superior quality. It was here that Modiano started producing special playing cards, known as the "Great Mogul", for which there was an enormous demand from India. At that time he acquired control of a small playing cards facility named Concordia.

[77] Trieste was proclaimed an imperial free port by Charles VI of Austria in 1719. This privilege was abolished in 1891.

The main Modiano printing works was established in Bologna. At a later stage this factory was placed under the direction of Giacomo Modiano (b.1911), grandson of Saul's brother Giacomo (*see* *Chart 20*). Giacomo junior had a brother **Marcello** (1914-93) who was President of Confindustria, the Italian Federation of Small Industries, and later was elected member of the European Parliament.

Saul who died in 1922 and his wife Stella Modiano had eight children, the first two girls dying at a very early age, while his eldest son Daniel died of peritonitis at the age of 27.

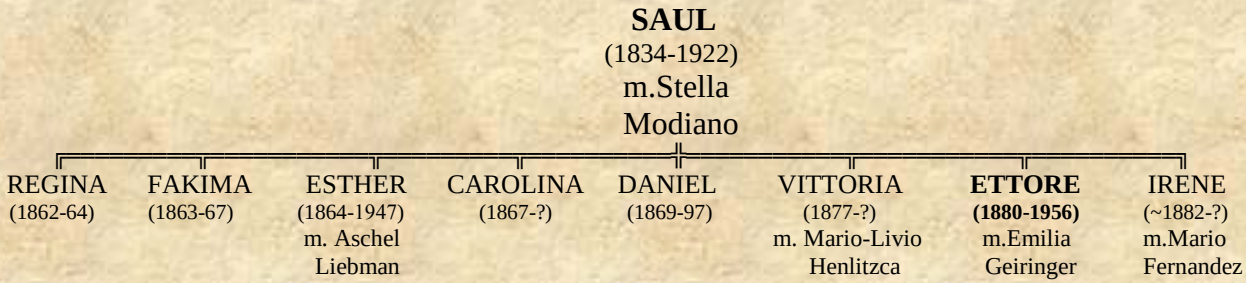

Chart 21

An unusual aspect of the entrepreneurial activities of Saul Modiano is worth noting: at some point in his career, he built a glass factory in Paşabahçe, near Istanbul, which produced exquisite glassware. The factory was eventually sold to the Turkish State. It still operates with great success. In fact, this glass factory acquired a reputation that went beyond Turkey's borders. The old Modiano Glassware Factory was even shown on postcards as a site worth visiting. The caption reads: "*La grande verrerie de M. Saul D Modiano à Paşabahçe*". Saul's eldest son Daniel who had presumably been associated with this venture, died in Istanbul aged 28 after a long illness.

Saul's eldest surviving daughter, Esther, married Achille Liebman member of an old and quite large Jewish family of Trieste. The couple produced two sons, Vico and Roberto. Roberto was killed during World War I and was awarded a posthumous medal of honour. Vico married Anna Menz, a first cousin on the Liebman side. According to Italo, another of Vico's first cousins (more on him later) said of him: "[Vico] was a strange man, a first-class artist who knew to draw like a Leonardo, and an excellent architect [but] who lost millions over millions in bad ventures." Vico's and Anna's only child, a daughter named Silvia (1921-2005) married Enrico Fabbri.

And now for the big surprise: all these details came to me as a result of an extraordinary coincidence. A friend from New York spending a family vacation in the jungle of Belize, in Central America early in 2011, discovered that the owner and manager of the hotel there, was a Modiano descendant from Trieste! It turned out that Roberto Fabbri was the great-grandson of Esther Modiano Liebman . Today he is the proprietor and manager of "Kanantik Reef & Jungle Resort" an eco-lodge in southern Belize, and a well-known wildlife photographer.

Roberto said this of his mother: "She inherited a fortune, but she had a very unhappy life; she died in August 2005 a few days before her birthday, after [spending] two painful years in bed due to a horrible bone cancer... She had very little money left, she wasted it all, and I never saw one lira, but I couldn't care less!"

Roberto was born in 1941. He married Claire Angellilo. A daughter, Barbara, and a son, Max, live in San Francisco, while a second daughter Andreana, 19, who lives with him at the resort -- the last part of her name in honour of "nonna" Anna Menz. `[www.robertofabbri-wildlife.com] .

Surprise upon surprise, Roberto sent me the autobiography of his mother's cousin, Italo, in which this legendary character, now in his mid-90s who lives in Bala Cynwid, Pennsylvania, gives a colorful description of life in the Court of his aunt Esther Liebman, the daughter of Saul Modiano (click here to read more).

Ettore, who was next in line, succeeded his father and fulfilled his own ambition to diversify the enterprise. He went into cement, electro-mechanical equipment, even motorcars – giving, in fact, to his native Trieste by 1907 its first automobile a small car called "Alba". On the eve of World War I, the Modiano factories occupying an area of more than 75,000 cubic meters employed about 1,000 workers.

Ettore was a keen and refined collector of art. He took personal care of the archives of his father's company. However, the Modiano factory was seriously damaged by a thunderbolt in 1895 and by fire in 1915. In 1944, during the war, it was severely damaged by bombs.

According to Manuella Compas, writing in the Italian magazine Gioia, a few volumes of the archives were salvaged. She wrote: "These bear witness to the continued international presence of the Modiano firm, which had always employed the most famous artists of the time to produce posters advertising its products, especially the fine cigarette paper."

Many years later, Christie's, the art auction house in London, held at least two auctions of Modiano posters (the first was on 20 November 1991). Some of these posters produced in the 1920s in art deco style, were marked up to £1,200. They exceeded by far their opening bid.

Albert S. Modiano of Athens bought a beautiful gouache showing a sitting Buddha mounted on jade, beside a red ashtray with a Modiano cigarette, smoke curling upwards, resting on it. This was the original painting for one of the famous Modiano posters and gave us the picture on this book's cover.

A Modiano factory to produce cigarette paper was built in Budapest and it was an instant success. After World War II it was nationalised by the communist regime. A former Hungarian ambassador to Athens who had been on the nationalisation committee confirmed this to me, but pointed out that another Modiano factory in Rijeka (Fiume), in Yugoslavia, nevertheless continued to supply cigarette paper to the Budapest market.

It is, perhaps, significant that the Hungarian communist regime recognizing the artistic merit of the Modiano posters reprinted and sold them to the public. Henry Kamm, the American colleague and dear friend of the author, who was sent to to Budapest to open the New York Times bureau there in 1987, knowing my interest in Modiano memorabilia, sent me two specimens that I have treasured ever since.

Fascinating detail about Ettore and his family arrived quite unexpectedly by e-mail from Italy soon after the publication of the printed version of this book from none other than one of Ettore's great-grandsons, Cesare Ferrari di Valbona. Ettore, he said, had two daughters, Livia and Paola, who married Italian husbands. Thanks to the fact that his sons-in-law were "Aryan", Ettore managed to save his business empire after the imposition of the racial laws in Italy in 1938.

The eldest, Livia, married Baron Francesco Scaglione, lawyer and banker. They had one daughter. The youngest, Paola, married in 1929 Carlo Alberto Ferrari di Valbona, a chemical engineer, son of Professor Giulio Cesare Ferrari who was a pioneer of clinical psychiatry in Italy. They had two sons and one daughter.

The structure of the family, as Cesare outlined it, is as follows:

1 Ettore Modiano 1880-1956
m. Emilia Geringer... .....~1898 - ~ 1940
.....2 Livia Modiano. ....1905 –
..... m. Baron Francesco Scaglione... 1905 - ~1970
....3 Caterina Scaglione... ....1930 –
.... m. Marquess Francesco Paolucci de Calboli Ginnasi.....~1930 - ~1995
....4 Manfredo Paolucci de Calboli.... .... 1960 –
.....2 Paola Modiano ....1908 - 2005
..... m. Carlo Alberto Ferrari di Valbona ...1902 – 1988
....3 Giancarlo Ferrari di Valbona..... ....1930 –
.... m. Baroness Nicoletta Giunti ....~ 1930 –
....4 Carlo Alberto Ferrari di Valbona ....1970 –
....3 Oretta Ferrari di Valbona. ....1935 –
.... m. Dr Antonio Conti .... 1930 – 1986
....4 Paola Conti..... ....1969 –
....4 Donatella Conti .... 1971 –
....3 Adriano Ettore Ferrari di Valbona..... .....1937 –
.... m. Countess Maria Pia Rassatti de Bottrighe 1936 –
....4 Michele Ferrari di Valbona..... .... 1965 –
....4 Cesare Ferrari di Valbona .... 1967 -

Cesare said: “I always felt proud of my partially Jewish blood as a descendant of the Modiano family, even before reading your book. Now that I know about my early ancestors I feel enthusiastic at being the great-grandson of Ettore Modiano.”

Ettore’s jewishness, however, did not stand him in good stead when the Italian fascist regime decided to introduce the racial laws in Italy in 1938. He fled to Argentina just in time, passing on his business to his Aryan heirs although they were still in their teens. “My own father was just one year old,” Cesare explained. The management was taken over by Paola’s husband who became the Chief Executive Officer of the Modiano Group of companies.

Paola’s husband Carlo Alberto worked for the navy’s secret service during World War II, and that gave him much leeway. Cesare said he was “heavily involved with the activities of the resistance in northern Italy and northern Europe.” He goes on: “During the war Ettore Modiano supervised the activities of the Modiano Group from Buenos Aires, cooperating closely with my grandfather. It was in those difficult times that my great-grandfather demonstrated his wit and skills, not only by preserving fairly intact his industrial and financial empire, but also by creating agricultural enterprises in Argentina.”

Nonetheless, Ettore felt he had been treated shabbily by the Italian regime. Two years before his flight abroad, Benito Mussolini, the dictator himself, had mobilised his talents to rescue the state-owned shipyard Cantieri Navali di Trieste from bankruptcy. Ettore took over the ailing company, invested vast sums into the business and managed to save it. However, he was soon forced to resign because he was Jewish. He lost all his investment.

After the end of the war he returned to Italy and took over the fortunes of the Modiano Group, but he declined the title of Cavaliere del Lavoro, the Republic’s highest civil decoration, to express his resentment for the humiliations he had suffered during the war.

There are more interesting details about Ettore’s life in Cesare’s account. He says, for instance, that Ettore’s wife Emilia was the daughter of Emilio Geiringer, a leading Trieste architect and engineer, who had to his credit the Palazzo Generali at Rome’s Piazza Venezia.

During the First World War (1914-18) Ettore, who had Italian citizenship, fled Trieste, which was controlled by Austria, an enemy state, and settled with his family in Rome. Between the two wars the financial headquarters of the Modiano Group of Trieste were moved to Bologna in a 15th century palace, which became known as the Palazzo Modiano. The building was bombed during World War II.

In Bologna Ettore bought a paper-mill, which later produced the famous super-fine cigarette paper. He also acquired an electro-mechanical factory that manufactured elevators, which still exists today under the brand name of Sabiem. He also invested in hotels as well as in agriculture. In a town near Bologna called Sasso Marconi, he financed the establishment of a technical college that was named “Saul D. Modiano” in honour of his father. The school still functions today but only as a nursery.

The Trieste installations were sold some 30 years after Ettore’s death[78] , and the ownership of the company passed (on 30 December 1987) to the Industria Cartotecnica Grafad.

Saul’s generosity left its imprint in many parts of Italy and Greece. Cesare tells me that Saul, his son Ettore, and an army General, Count Pettiti di Roreto, created the Pettiti-Modiano Foundation in the early 1920s to combat tuberculosis. The General had been chief of the Italian Army that took Trieste from the Austrians during World War I. The Foundation established sanatoria, research laboratories and dispensaries in Trieste. It is still active under state control.To honour Saul and Ettore, the city of Trieste named a street after them. It is called via dei Modiano.

The Saul Modiano Home for the Aged in Salonika

To honour Saul's memory after his death in 1922, his children financed the construction of a Jewish Home for Aged Persons in Salonika. It was named after him.

According to the deed established in 1928, Saul's children and heirs: Ettore, Irene (by then she was the widow of Mario Fernandez), Esther (also widowed) and Vittoria, put up the sum of £3,062 and 100,000 Italian lire to create this charitable institution It would "provide shelter, food, and welfare to aged Jews of both sexes, who were unable to work."

The deed was signed by Saul's children in the house of their cousin, the lawyer Dario Modiano, son of Liatchi brother of Saul (*see* *Chart 22*). Dario, in fact, was named the institution's first president of a seven-member administration council. Under the terms of the deed, one of the members had to belong to the branch of Daniel Modiano, Saul's father. The deed also stipulated that no decision of the council was binding unless it had the signature of the president and the Modiano member. The Saul Modiano Aged-Peoples' Home of Salonika is fully functional today on part of the same site, but in a new modern building with comfortable quarters for paying and non-paying guests.

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78 Ettore and his wife Emilia were buried at the Christian cemetery of Bois de Vaux in Lausanne, graves 227-228, sighted by Albert Samuel Modiano of Lausanne. There is no other record of their convertiom to Christianity.

The other children of Daniel Saul Modiano

Daniel's branch *(Chart 20)* had close ties with the Fernandez family. The first son Isaac married Miriam Fernandez. The second son Liatchi took as his second wife Anna Varios, daughter of a prominent Salonika lawyer. Their eldest daughter, Mathilde, married to Salomon Fernandez, while her sister Emma married Leon Modiano, a cousin, the son of her paternal uncle Giuseppe.

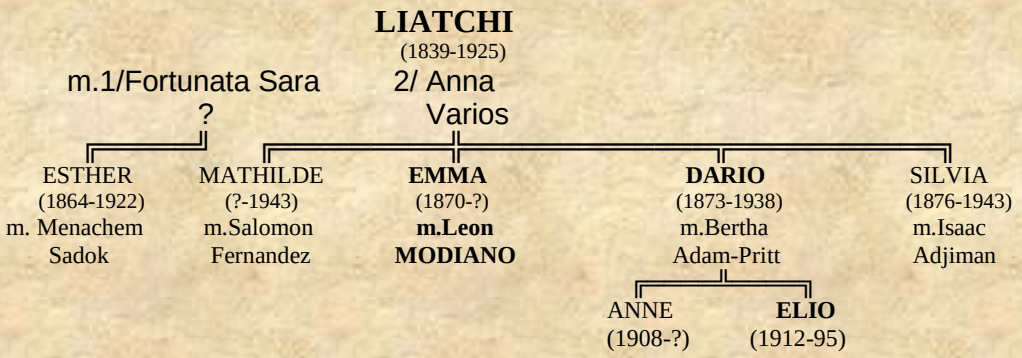

Chart 22

Emma and Leon's son, Raoul, born in 1901, was an advertising adviser between 1921 and 1940. Until his death he lived in a residence for senior citizens in Tournefeuille, in the outskirts of Toulouse, France. When we spoke he was a nonagenarian, but he turned out to be a mine of information about his branch. Raoul's sister Eda also married a Modiano, Moise son of her great-uncle Samuel (see *Chart 20*).

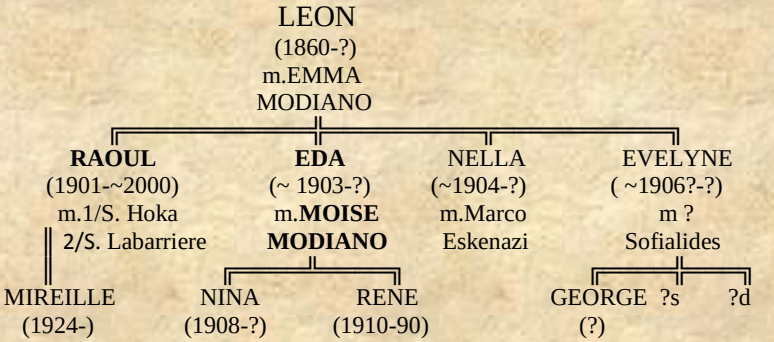

Chart 23

Liatchi's only son, Dario, although disabled, became a prominent lawyer. He married Bertha Adam-Pritt, a German. The rest of the family did not particularly like this and tended to ostracize him, particularly after Hitler rose to power in Germany. Their son, Elio, who became a successful businessman in Athens resented this attitude and rarefied his contacts with the rest of the family.

Elio, a tall, handsome gentleman, married Vassiliki Zapanti. They had a daughter, Nicole who is married and has taken over her father's medical equipment import business in Athens. Elio died in 1995 at the age of 83. His sister Anne married Scialom Pessah, a Salonika dentist.

Giacomo was Daniel's fourth son. He married Luna Cohen and had four sons and four daughters.

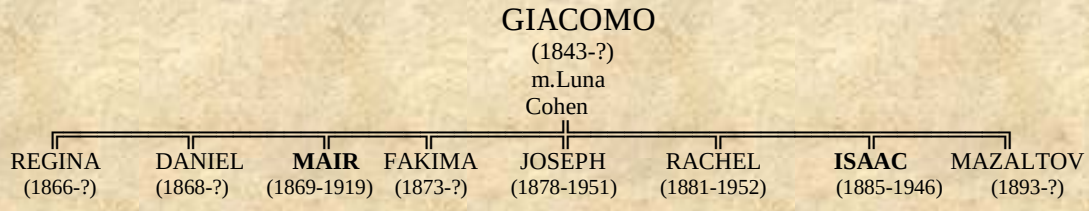

Chart 24

His son Mair married Ricoula Amarillo. They became the parents of Giacomo, to whom Ettore Modiano entrusted the management of the Bologna side of his activities – mainly the printing and graphics section of the business.

MARCELLO MAIR MODIANO, EUROPEAN MP

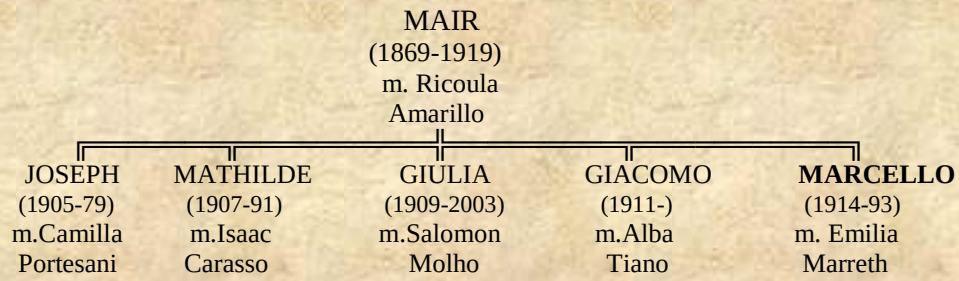

Chart 25

Giacomo's brother, Marcello, wrote in 1992: "I believe that the origin of the Modiano family is, at the bottom line, the same – Spain, Livorno, Salonika, Istanbul, Trieste, and for this reason I do not think I am wrong in saying that ultimately we are all related."

Marcello was born in Salonika in 1914 and went to the Italian school there. In 1932 his mother took him to Trieste where he joined his brothers Giuseppe and Giacomo. He studied law and graduated from the University of Padua in 1937. He then went into industry, which led him, first to be elected president of the Trieste Industrialists Association, then regional, national and international president of the Confederation of Small and Medium Industries, and finally a member of the European Parliament. He died in 1993. Marcello's long-time private secretary Marina Coretti wrote recently: "*What stands out in my memory about Marcello Modiano is his exceptional qualities – his compassion, a remarkable business acumen, his intelligence and his ability to undertake initiatives. As for Mrs Modiano what I remember most was her sweetness and her strong sense of humour."*

Unsung Heroes

Marcello's eldest sister Mathilde, her husband Isaac Carasso and their two boys, Levy and Meir, who lived in Salonika were rounded up and taken to the Baron Hirsch Camp in readiness for deportation. However, thanks to Mathilde's Italian nationality, the Italian Consulate managed to rescue the family and send it off to Athens, which was then under Italian control.

As Italy's collapse was imminent in August 1943, Isaac made arrangements to flee to Turkey secretly by boat. While waiting for the signal, the family was forced to split up. Meir, who was eight, was hidden in the home of a Greek Orthodox priest. "I still remember him as a dear, gentle and caring man," Meir said.

The family eventually made the dash across to Turkey, then to British Palestine. By 1947 Meir became an Israeli citizen and served in the Army. In 1955 he went on a visit to Greece. "Before leaving, I went to Jerusalem and bought a prayer rosary at the Church of the Dormition for this beloved man who saved my life and was so kind to me," Meir told me. "I looked him up in Athens and was heart broken when I found out he had died."

Meir went to university in the U.S. and later in 1962 he settled there, while his brother remained in Israel. Meir now lives in retirement in Boulder, Colorado, after a long career working for the U.S. Government in research of renewable sources of energy. He has a son David Isaac and a daughter Donna Mathilde.

Isaac, the youngest of Giacomo's sons (*see* *Chart 24*) married Bella Bourla, sister of Daniel Bourla, the multimillionaire businessman of Istanbul. Their daughter Lina who made a career working for the Parker Fountain Pen Company, lived in retirement in London until her death in December 2002. Her younger sister Elda is the widow of Garik Natus. She has a daughter, Galya, who married and has a son. They live in London.

Rachel, Mair's and Isaac's sister married a dentist Joseph Hayon. They had a daughter Corinne and a son Maurice. Maurice migrated to Israel early. Corinne married Aranya and had a son. After her husband's death she moved to Israel also.

Samuel, the last son of Daniel (*see* *Chart 20*), was proclaimed President for Life of the Jewish Community of Salonika after serving for many years as President, especially in the crucial years of 1912 and 1913 during the transition from Ottoman to Greek rule. In fact, he opted for Greek citizenship in order to be able to carry on as President – a post that he would not be qualified to hold as an Italian national.

A great benefactor of Jewish causes, he was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour, the highest Greek distinction. He married Esterina Benamias who gave him seven children. He had one daughter from his second wife, Miriam Errera.

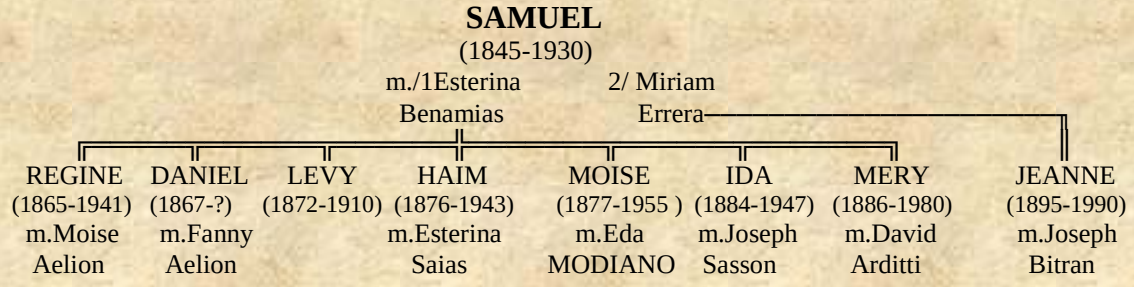

Chart 26

The line of the first-born Regine who married Moise Aelion lost most of its members in the Holocaust.

A granddaughter of the second, Daniel, Clairette Mosseri, married Albert Cazes. They live in Paris. One daughter of Daniel, Daisy, married Oscar Mallah. They both survived the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen, and later died in Paris. Their son Philippe, who adored his mother, took his own life shortly after she died.

Daniel's only son, Sam was killed in Paris in an elevator accident.

Of Samuel's other sons Levy died early in Switzerland, Haim and his wife died in deportation.

Rabbi Saul's other children *(see Chart 14)*

2.Juda

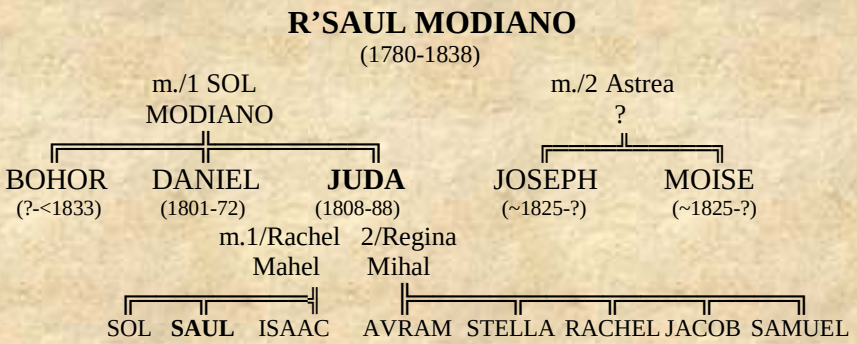

Chart 27

The most prominent member in the line of Juda's son, Saul, is his great-grandson, Prof **Guido** Saul Modiano (b.1931). He teaches bio-genetics at the Tor Vergata University of Rome and is regarded as an authority in genetic research. His brother Renzo (b.1936) is an author who writes very successful spy stories. Earlier he worked for the publishing house of Arnoldo Mondadori.

High marks also go to Guido's two sons: David, who has followed in his father's footsteps, has been coordinating a research team from the Univerisy of La Sapienza of Rome in Africa, which has discovered a substance that can protect people from a kind of malaria that kills 3,000 children daily in that continent. The youngest, Alessandro, joined the Italian diplomatic service and served in many posts.

Most of Saul Juda's descendants live in Italy and Turkey, but many have settled in Switzerland, Canada and the United States.

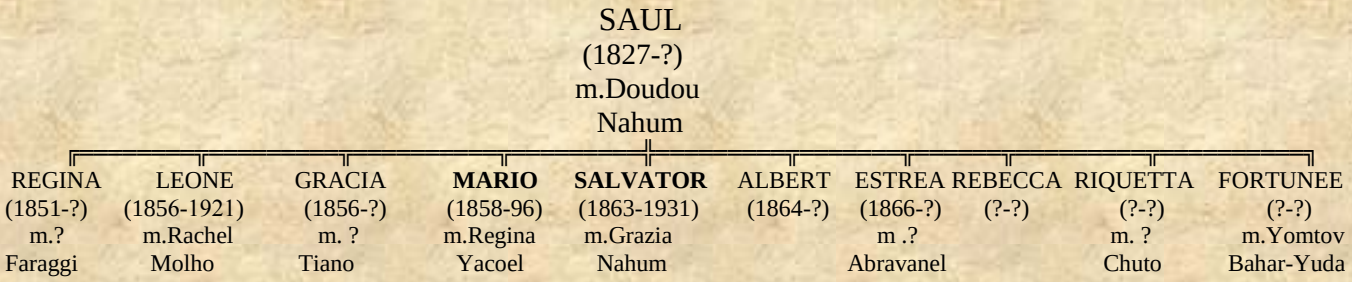

Chart 28

Salvator's daughter Eleonora (1894-1965) married her cousin Gabriel (1890-1963), son of Mario Modiano and Regina Yacoel.

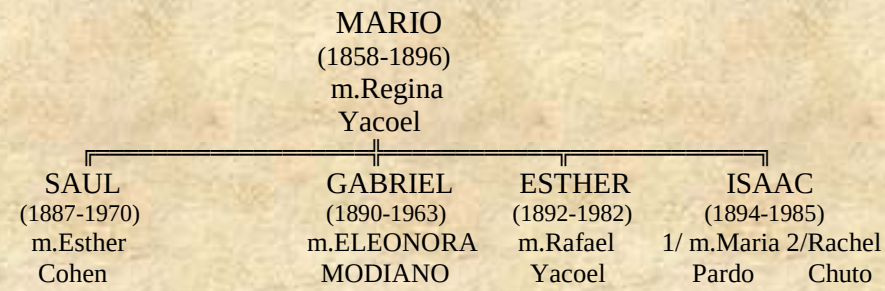

Chart 29

A grandson of Mario from his eldest son Saul, who was also named Mario (1921-92), married Nina Eskenazi. Mario was the founder of several Jewish institutions in Istanbul. Nina recalls that on the day of their wedding in 1948 over 200 orphans came to the synagogue to wish them well. Mario had founded the orphanage.

In February 1942 Mario and his father Saul were involved in the efforts of the Jewish Community of Istanbul to induce the Turkish Government to allow the disabled ship Struma with 763 Jews on board to remain in the harbour of Istanbul, instead of forcing her to return to the port of embarkation in Nazi-controlled Rumania. The efforts failed and the ship sank in the Black Sea after a mysterious explosion (see branch E19: The Rumanian Adventure).

Mario and Nina moved from Turkey and settled in Canada. They have a son Sonny whose first wife, Susan Pasternak, gave him a daughter, Elissabeth-Nina, and a son, Jonathan-Mario both carrying also their grandparents' names. They live in the United States. Sonny is now married to Suzy Harris. They both run a very successful chain of ice-cream parlours in the Detroit area.

Mario's brother Enrico (b.1926), who married Esther Yahni from Bulgaria, remained in Istanbul. They have two married sons, Saul and Alberto. The younger, Alberto, is a well-known artistic photographer in Istanbul and has been very helpful in making the Modiano saga known to the Jews of Turkey.

Mario and Regina's youngest son, Isaac who was in banking in Turkey, had two daughters, Renata (Renée) who moved to Geneva and taught Italian and her sister Giovanna whose brilliant career as an expert on intellectual property was cut short by an untimely death in 1984 at the age of 50.

Of Juda's second marriage (*see Chart 27*) we know little except that Avram (b.1841) married Mimica Modiano. They had a son, Leone (b. 1864).

This was an account of the progeny of Rabbi Saul Modiano from his first wife.

Rabbi Saul Modiano's Second Wife – The Issue

R'SAUL MODIANO
(1780-1838)
m.(2) Astrea
?

JOSEPH	MOISE
(~1825-?)	(~1825-?)
m.Rebecca Calamaro	m.Gracia Stroumza

Chart 30

There is a good deal of speculative collage in the branches related to R. Saul Isaac's second marriage. Joseph is listed in the *1833* *Matricola*, while Moise is not. Yet both seem to follow the name-giving traditions of this branch. Their first-born sons and daughters were named Saul and Estrea

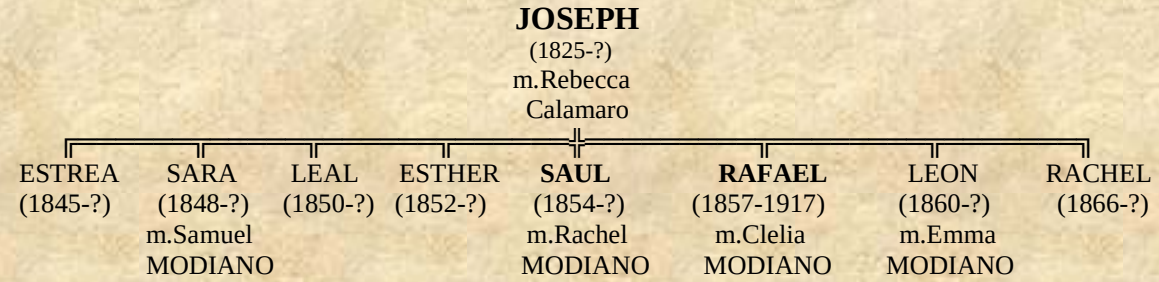

Chart 31

Four of Joseph's eight children married Modianos. His son Saul (b.1854-?) married Rachel, daughter of Jacob Modiano, a cousin. She gave birth to eight children (*see* *Chart 32*). The eldest, Pepo, a man of varied interests, founded a highly successful stocking manufacture in Salonika in 1926. His two brothers, Jacques and Umberto, became partners. Before that, Pepo had made a career as an agent for Italian maritime companies and served as an official interpreter for the Italian Consulate in Salonika. For his multiple services he was made a *Cavaliere* of the Italian Crown. He died in 1931 at the age of 53.

Pepo was an exceptionally gifted man and one of his most impressive projects was the publication in 1908 of a directory of Salonika, then still under Ottoman rule. This volume is a mine of information about the administrative, professional and social life of that city where epoch-making events (such as the revolt of the Young Turks) were brewing under a carefree cosmopolitan surface. A single copy of this valuable volume is in the possession of his son, Armando.

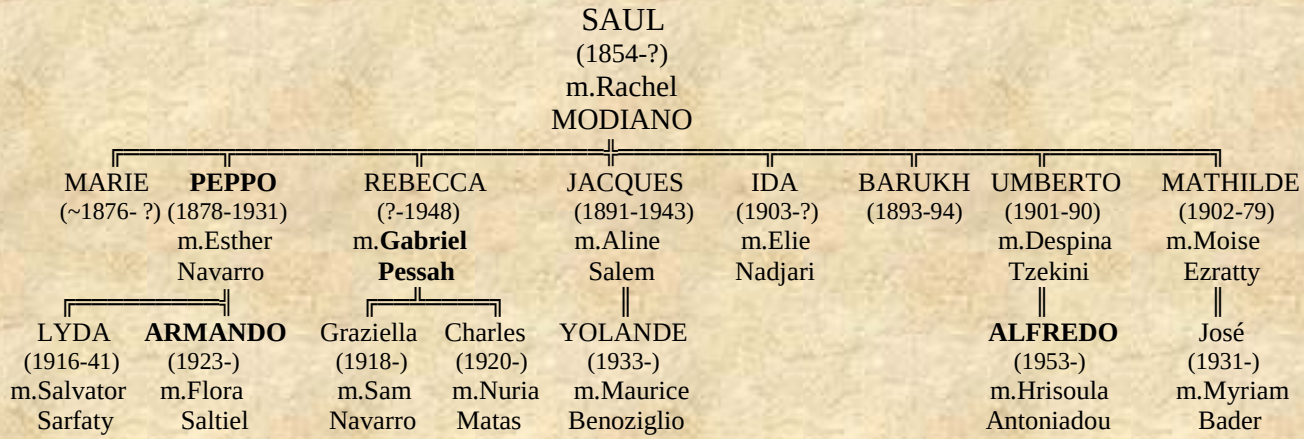

Chart 32

World War II led to the dispersal of this family and a great tragedy. Pepo married Esther Navarro in 1914. They had a daughter, Lyda, and a son, Armando. Lyda married Salvator Sarfaty, a military doctor who was, at one time, the youngest Greek Army captain.

When the Germans invaded Greece across the Bulgarian border in 1941, the Greek Army, fighting the Italians on the Albanian front, retreated hastily. Captain Sarfaty was with the retreating troops. His wife joined him from Athens and they both fled south in search of a boat that would take them across the Mediterranean to Egypt.

The captain then received orders to report to Crete where the Greeks together with the New Zealand and Australian forces were resisting a German invasion. However, the Germans overwhelmed the defences and seized the island with massive parachute drops.

In July of that year Lyda died of typhoid fever. One year later Salvator also died. Armando, her brother who never recovered from this loss, said: "Some said he died of the same illness and others of a broken heart." Armando named his first-born daughter, Lyda, after his sister.

Armando and his mother, Esther, were saved aboard the Italian military train that took several Jews from Salonika to Athens on July 5, 1943.

After the war Armando diversified the family business and became a major importer His wife, Flora Saltiel, is a painter of note. His son **Johnny** works in partnership with his father. Lyda, as a political scientist, played a major role in Greek politics in the mid-1980s. She now holds an executive position in a large Greek bank.

Pepo's sister Rebecca married Gabriel Pessah, a brother of the Pessah sisters who also married Modianos (see Chart 48 & 49). They had a daughter Graziella and a son Charles. Charles who lives in Barcelona since 1952 tells me that he was born in Salonika in 1920, but left during the war and settled in Palestine. In 1947 he moved to Milan where he had close relatives until he finally settled in Spain.

He wrote: "I worked for 33 years in the Greek Consulate in Barcelona as Chancellor." He married Nuria Matas Vilanova who had been born in that city and had graduated from the local university in Semitic literature – Hebrew and Arabic.

They have two daughters: Elly is a physician who specialized in neurology at the University of Lund. She is married to a Dane bearing the famous name of Rasmussen. They live in Malmo, Sweden, with their two daughters. The younger daughter of Charles is called Mickry (for the Greek word for 'little one'). She is in charge of a language school in Barcelona. Charles' sister Graziella now lives in Milan.

Umberto's son Alfredo Modiano was left in charge of the family original business and had specialised in T-shirt production. He has since diversified into imports. He, his wife Hrissoula and their two children are the only Modianos still left in Salonika.

One of Joseph's sons, Rafael [1857-1917] (see Chart 31) who also married a Modiano, Clelia [1861-1922], daughter of Saul Modiano and Buena Fernandez (see Chart 100), is listed in Salonika history books as a famous lawyer. One of their daughters Ines married Pepo Assael. They had two daughters and one son. The family lived in Istanbul until 1920, later moved to Salonika, but soon they emigrated and settled in Italy. Later, one of their children, Gino, became principal agent for Christian Dior in Rome.

Rabbi Saul's other son from his second marriage was Moise (*see* *Chart 30*). His family grew as follows:

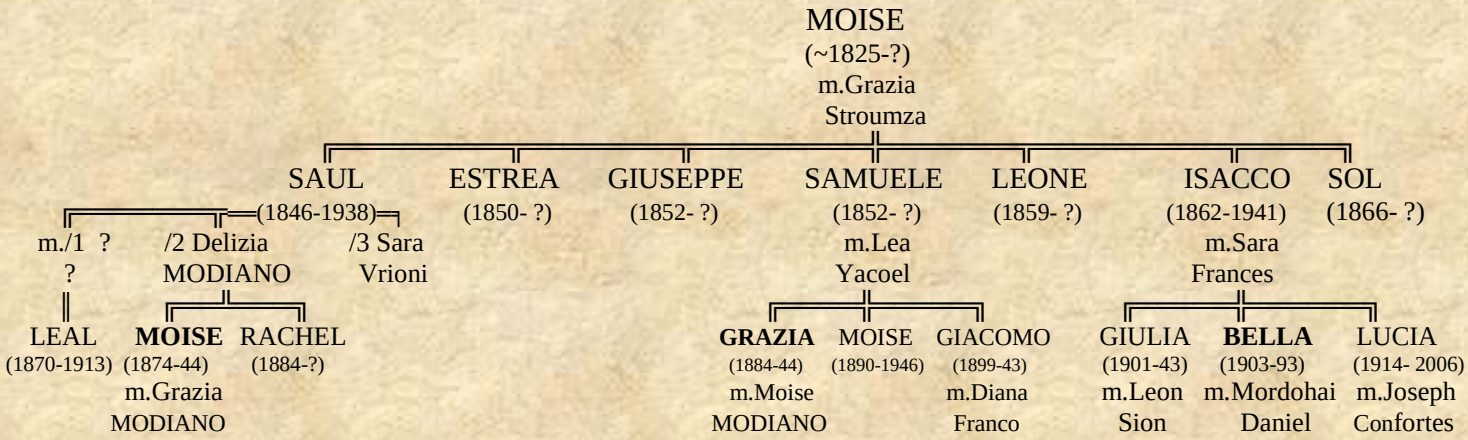

Chart 33

Moise, grandson of Moise from his son Saul, married his first cousin Grazia daughter of Samuel. Their life was destined to end up in tragedy during the war. Another Moise, son of Samuele had migrated to Paris where he worked as a furrier. The family knew very little about him. A death certificate indicated that he had died in Paris in 1946.

Lucia Sullam, the youngest daughter of Moise and Grazia, told me that her parents left Salonika when the Greeks conquered the city in 1912. They moved to the island of Rhodes, then an Italian dependency. During World War II, her two brothers Saul and Samuel served in the Italian army Saul caught meningitis and died at the age of 24.

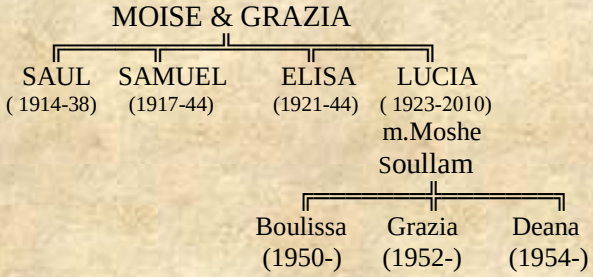

Chart 34

When Italy collapsed and the Germans seized Rhodes, her father Moise was arrested. She never saw him again. Her brother Samuel, who tried to find and rescue him, also disappeared. Lucia herself, her mother and her sister Elisa were taken to Auschwitz where only Lucia survived. Until recently when she fell ill and was placed in an institution, she was the caretaker of the synagogue in Rhodes. Widowed at an early age she has three married daughters in Israel. On the list of names of the Jews deported from Rhodes engraved on a marble slab on a wall of the synagogue, there are eight Modianos. They all belong to her family branch.

Lucia's uncle Giacomo (Yaacov) who married Diana Franco had a son, **Sami**, and a daughter, Lucia. Sam survived the war and now lives half of the time in Italy and half in Rhodes where he helps the community in taking care of the temple. Sami has had an extraordinary life.

In January 2007 he did something very unusual. He celebrated his bar mitzvah at the age of 77. He said that when he was 13 the Germans, who seized Rhodes after Italy's collapse in 1943, rounded up the island's Jews and shipped them off to the death camps. Sami survived against all odds: first because as a child he would have been sent straight to the crematoria. By some mistake he slipped through. Later when his guards realized the mistake, they caught him along with a few others. On their way to the gas chambers of Birkenau the group was diverted to put out a fire, and then he was forgotten."Fate," he says. "Why me?"

So, determined to have his bar mitzvah he arranged with the great synagogue of Rome to celebrate it there in 2007. In the presence of the civic authorities of Rome and leaders of Italy's Jewish Communities, Sami read the day's passage from the Torah. At the end of this unusual and moving ceremony he said: "Thank you for giving me today what was denied to me in my adolescence."

Another related branch with an extraordinary background is that of the children of Bella (1903-93), daughter of Isacco, the youngest of Moise's sons (*see* *Chart 33*). Bella married Mordohai (Mentesh) Daniel from Veria, a township west of Salonika. They had three sons and a daughter. The eldest, Aaron, is a licensed architect, who works for the US Bankruptcy Court in the central district of California. The second, Isaac, is today professor of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in the United States.

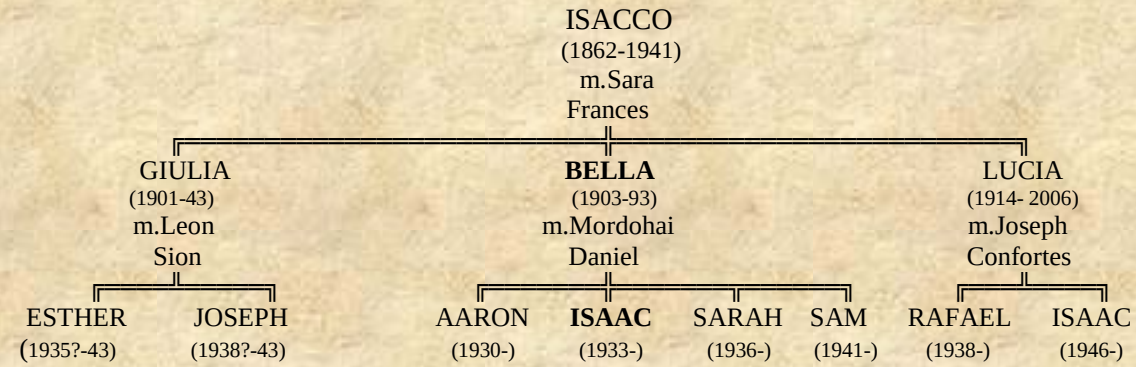

Chart 35

In 1998 at a symposium on the saga of a family of converted Jews of Spain**79**, Professor Isaac Daniel told the dramatic story of how this family survived the war in Greece.

This is a summary of that story: Isaac and his father were at the old synagogue**80** of Veria on the last day of Passover 1943, when three armed men burst in. Isaac says: "My father grabbed me by the hand and led me through a side door and through the women's section." They ran to the basement of their house, which was located just outside the ghetto. That saved the family the first time when the Germans rounded up the Jews of that town. Sarah, the only girl among the four children was spared the ordeal. Her uncle grabbed her and took her to the partisans in the mountains, before the Germans cut off all escape routes. The rest of the family were caught in their hideout and locked up in the Baron Hirsch transit camp next to Salonika's railway station, in readiness for deportation.

The Italian citizenship of Isaac's mother, Bella, saved them the second time. The family was taken out of the camp by the Italians and despatched to Athens aboard the military train that took the Italian Jews from Salonika to Athens in July 1943. Sarah rejoined them there. However, with Italy's capitulation one month later, they had to go into hiding again. This time it was in a house at a mountain suburb of Athens. They had equipped themselves with identity cards bearing assumed Christian names.

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79 The seminar, organized by the Dominican University of Chicago dealt with the Santangel fanily who became famous for financing Christopher Columbus's expedition to the New World. The Santangels were later identified as the converted part of the Tchenio family from Aragon. The mother of the author of this book was a Tchenio.

80 Believed to be the same synagogue where the apostle Paul preached to the Jews of Veria around the year 50.

Two nights after the Germans rounded up the Jews of Athens[81], gun-totting men pretending to belong to the Gestapo, invaded their house. It turned out that they were after the family's money. After getting as much as they could, they went away. The house, however, was no longer safe. The Daniels moved in with a friend in another suburb. But the Gestapo (this time the real one) found out. They were warned in time and escaped once again.

Their next refuge was a two-room basement in Nea Smyrni, the Athens suburb where they were joined by the family of Bella's sister Lucy. By some coincidence, the author of this book and his parents were also given refuge by brave friends in the same suburb, roughly 500 meters from where the Daniels had settled down.

One night, a heavy rainstorm flushed the Daniels out of their basement. Isaac said: "I remember my parents practically swimming and trying to save some of our meagre belongings and my mother shouting in despair: “The Germans are hunting us, we have no friends left on this earth, and now God is sending this flood to destroy us."

Soaking wet as they were they started knocking on the doors of neighbours. One, Kyria (Mrs) Dimitra, took them in, gave them dry clothes and one room to live in "for as long as you want". She told them the whole neighbourhood knew they were Jewish. The Greek militia, who had extorted more gold coins from the family, came back for more. Kyria Dimitra saved them:

"I was standing right behind her,” said Professor Isaac Daniel who was then aged 10, “when she opened the door and told the officer that she had no idea where we were. A flood can destroy or save. God works his miracles in mysterious ways," he added.

[81] March 24, 1944.

B1C: DESCENDANTS OF RABBI SAUL ISAAC MODIANO

1 R'Saul Modiano 1780 – 1838
+ Sol Modiano
2 Bohor (Isaac) Modiano ? - <1833
+ Esther Ben Yuda - ?
3 **Saul Modiano**[1] 1816 – 1883
+ **Fakima Cazes** 1821 – 1911
4 Esther Modiano 1833 - ?
+ Vita Yeshua Modiano 1827 - 1868
4 Oro Modiano 1843 - 1918
+ Isaac Juda Modiano 1845 - 1903
4 Rachel Modiano 1846 - ?
4 Isaac Modiano 1848 - 1867
4 Sol Modiano 1853 – 1935
+ Samuel Saias
4 **Jacob Modiano** 1857 - ?
+ Mathilde Hakim
5 Henri Modiano 1880 - ?
5 **Elie Modiano** 1881 - ?
+ Beatrice Frances 1898 - 2003
5 Arthur Modiano 1883 - ?
+ Jeanne Guichard
6 Jean Modiano ? - 1982
+ Jacqueline Bozon
7 Jacques Modiano ? - 1983
*2nd Wife of Jean Modiano:
+ A J Hyman
5 Charles Modiano 1885 - ?
+ Itala Manzoni
5 Albert Modiano 1888 - ?
5 **Daniel Modiano** 1892 – 1943
+ Georgette Verbeyst
4 Leone Modiano 1860 – 1861

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[1] The Banker Saul Isaac Modiano

4 Samuel Modiano 1861 – 1916
+ Victoria Cohen
5 Elda Modiano 1884 - ?
+ Arthur Schulz
5 Andrea Modiano 1886 - ?
5 Edmond Modiano 1887 - ?
+ Alice Andereau
4 Levy Modiano 1862 - 1937
+ Ida Kahn 1862 - 1944
5 Isabelle Modiano 1885 – 1919
+Dr André Weill 1884 - 1925
5 Robert Modiano 1887 - 1937
5 Daisy Modiano 1889 - ?

3 Juda Modiano ~ 1825 - ?
+ Miriam ? Modiano
4 Isaac Modiano 1846 – 1903
+ Oro Saul Modiano 1843 – 1918
5 Leone Modiano 1866 - 1953
+ Giovanna Misrahi 1874 - ?
6 Gilberte Modiano 1898 - ?
+Leon Bourla
7 Ines Francine Bourla
+ Pierre Guetta
5 Saul Modiano 1869 - ?
+ Buena (Diana) Frances 1875 - ?
6 Roberto Modiano 1892 - ?
6 Aimée (Oro) Modiano 1894 - ?
+ Pepo Covo
7 Maurice Covo
7 Gracia Covo
+ Daniel Carasso
6 Alice (Sunhula) Modiano 1901 -
6 Andrée (Miriam) Modiano 1906 - 2000
+ Georges Hanania
5 Alfredo Modiano 1871 - 1951
+ Anna Misrahi 1882 - 1978

6 Hélène Modiano 1906 - ?
+ Roger Bernard Elie Joffet 1899 - 1963
7 Pierre Jean Alfred Joffet
+ Nicole Sansouth
7 Jean Claude André Raoul Joffet
7 Denise Ida Annette Joffet
7 Françoise Suzanne Eliane Joffet
+ Pierre Chauvin
6 René Modiano 1910 - 2001
+ Hélène Schulhof 1909 - 2003
6 Simone Modiano 1916 -
5 Abramo Modiano 1873 - 1881
5 Maurice Modiano 1875 -
5 Miriam Modiano 1879 - 1881
4 Esther Modiano ? - ?
3 Gioia Modiano ~ 1828 - ?
2 Daniel Modiano 1801 – 1872
+ Regina Elie Arditti 1818 - 1890
3 Rebecca Modiano 1832 - ?
3 Isaac Modiano 1835 - ?
+ Miriam Fernandez 1832 - ?
4 Esther Modiano 1853 - ?
4 Sara Modiano 1857 - ?
4 Rachel Modiano 1860 - ?
+ Hanania Scialom
5 Fakima (Alice) Scialom 1880 – ?
+ Gerson Menasse 1870 - ?
4 Fakima Modiano 1861 - ?
4 Salomon Modiano 1864 - ?
+ Mathilde Strumza
5 Marcello Modiano 1901 –
5 Yvonne Modiano 1907 -
5 Raymond Modiano 1909 -
3 Rachel Modiano 1835 - ?
3 Liatchi Modiano 1839 – 1925
+ Fortunata-Sara ?
4 Esther Modiano 1864 - 1922
+Menahem Sadok

5 Marguerite Sadok
+ Salvator Salem
5 Eliza Sadok
+ Samuel Sasson
5 Olga Sadok
5 Frida Sadok

*2nd Wife of Liatchi Modiano:
+ Anna Varios

4 Mathilde Modiano ? - 1943
+ Salomon Fernandez
4 Emma Modiano 1870 - ?
+ Leon Samuel Modiano 1860 - ?
4 Dario Modiano 1873 – 1938
+Bertha Adam-Pritt
5 Anne Modiano 1908 - ?
+Scialom Pessah
5 Elio Modiano 1912 – 1995
+Vassiliki Zapanti
6 Nicole Modiano
+Athanasios Vlissidis
4 Silvia Modiano 1876 - 1943
+ Isaac Adjiman ~1870 - 1950
5 Aldo Adjiman 1903 - 1942
5 Esther Adjiman 1906 – 1944
+ Pepo Benveniste 1899 - 1944
5 Jacques Adjiman ~1908 - ~1995

3 **Saul Modiano**[83] 1834 – 1922
+ Stella (Estrea) Isaac Samuel Modiano 1843 – 1899
4 Regina Modiano 1862 - 1864
4 Fakima Modiano ~ 1863 - 1867
4 Esther Modiano 1864 - 1947
+ Aschel (Achille) Liebman
5 Vico Liebman >1900 - 1946
+Anna Menz
5 Roberto Liebman ? - <1918
4 Carolina Modiano 1867 - ?
4 Daniel Modiano 1869 – 1897

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[83] Saul of Trieste

4 Vittoria Modiano 1877 - ?
+ Marco-Livio Henlitzca
4 **Ettore Modiano** 1880 – 1956
+ Emilia Geiringer 1880 - ~ 1940
5 Livia Modiano 1905 –
+ Baron Francesco Scaglione 1905 - ~1970
6 Caterina Scaglione 1930 –
+ Marquess Francesco Paolucci de Calboli Ginnasi ~1930 - ~1995
5 Paola Modiano 1908 - 2005
+ Carlo Alberto Ferrari di Valbona 1902 – 1988
6 Giancarlo Ferrari di Valbona 1930 –
+ Baroness Nicoletta Giunti ~ 1930 –
6 Oretta Ferrari di Valbona 1935 –
+ Dr Antonio Conti 1930 – 1986
6 Adriano Ettore Ferrari di Valbona 1937 –
+ Countess Maria Pia Rassatti de Bottrighe 1936 –
4 Irene Modiano ~ 1882 - ?
+ Mario Fernandez
5 Gino Fernandez
3 Esther Modiano 1841 - ?
3 Mazaltov Modiano 1842 - ?
3 Giacomo Modiano 1843 - ?
+ Luna Mair Cohen
4 Regina Modiano 1866 - ?
4 Daniel Modiano 1868 - ?
+ Mazaltov Florentin
5 Giacobbe Modiano 1896 - ?
5 Laure Modiano 1902 - <1984
4 Mair Modiano 1869 - 1919
+ Ricoula Amarillo 1888 – 1950
5 Joseph Modiano 1905 – 1979
+ Camilla Portesani 1909 – 2003
6 Miriam Modiano
5 Mathilde Modiano 1907 - 1989
+ Isaac Carasso 1903 - 1988
6 Levy Carasso 1931 –

6 Meir Carasso 1935 - 2008
5 Giulia Modiano 1909 - 2003
+ Salomon Molho
6 Simon Molho 1937 – 1993
+ Irena Sciaky 1942 -
6 Mario Molho 1951 –
+ Doris Haouel 1955 -
5 Giacomo Modiano 1911 -
+ Alba Tiano 1922 - 1992
6 Ambra Modiano 1954 -
+ Andrea Storlazzi
5 **Marcello Modiano** 1914 – 1993
+Emilia Maroth 1917 - 1993
4 Fakima Modiano 1873 - ?
4 Joseph Modiano 1878 - 1951
+ Rachel Helfman 1890 - 1954
5 Lina Modiano 1916 - 1997
+ Henri Sarfati 1912 - 1961
6 Eddy Sarfati 1938 –
+ Nomi Navarro 1945 -
4 Rachel Modiano 1881 - 1952
+ Joseph Hayon
5 Corinna Hayon 1913 -2001
+ Rafael Aranya 1924 - 1966
5 Maurice Hayon
+ Stina Graif
4 Isaac Modiano 1885 – 1946
+ Bella Bourla 1886 - ?
5 Lina Modiano 1921 - 2002
5 Elda Modiano 1927 -
+ Garik Natus 1923 - 2001
6 Galya Natus
+ Osman Aytaç
4 Mazaltov Modiano 1893 - ?
3 Samuel Modiano 1845 – 1930
+ Esterina Benamias 1849 – 1893
4 Regine Modiano 1865 – 1941
+ Moise Aelion

5 Esther Aelion 1888 - 1944
5 Mathilde Aelion 1890 – 1944
5 Ines Aelion 1892 – 1944
5 Sam Aelion 1908 - 1985
5 Corinne Aelion 1908 – 1985
4 Daniel Modiano 1867 - ?
+ Fanny Aelion
5 Nina Modiano 1898 - 1987
+ Salomon Mosseri
6 Clairette Mosseri 1923 -
+ Albert Cazes
6 Rafael Mosseri 1927 - 1999
5 Sam Modiano 1902 -
5 Daisy Modiano 1908 – 1994
+ Oscar Mallah ? - 1991
6 Philippe Mallah ? - 1995
4 Levy Modiano 1872 – 1910
4 Haim Modiano 1876 – 1943
+ Esterina Saias
4 Moise Modiano 1877 - 1955
+ Eda Leon Modiano ? – 1978?
5 Nina Modiano 1908 - ?
+ Philippe Hasson
6 Marie-France Hasson
*2nd Husband of Nina Modiano:
+ Charles Vivrel
6 Edouard Vivrel
5 René Modiano 1910 - 1990
+ Suzanne Usciani ? - 2000
4 Ida Modiano 1887 - 1947
+ Joseph Sasson 1878 - ?
5 Marcelle (Clara) Sasson 1909 -
5 Raoul (Isaac) Sasson 1911 -
4 Mery Modiano 1891 - 1980
+ David Arditti 1886 - ?
5 Freddy (Juda) Arditti 1915 – 1995
5 Mathilde Arditti 1917 - ?

*2nd Wife of Samuel Daniel Modiano:
+ Miriam Errera
4Jeanne Modiano 1895 – 1990
+ Joseph Bitran
3 Sol Modiano 1848 - ?
3 Sara Modiano 1853 - ?
2 Juda Modiano 1808 – 1888
+ Rachel Mahel
3 Sol Modiano 1826 - ?
3 Saul Modiano 1827 - ?
+ Dudun Nahum
4 Regina Modiano 1851 - ?
+ ? Faraggi
4 Leone Modiano 1856 - 1921
+ Rachel Molho
5 Esterina Modiano 1886 - ?
5 Saul Modiano 1889 - 1963
+ Mathilde Hassid 1905 - 1984
6 Rita Modiano 1930 -
+ Dino Bunazzi
6 Gisella Modiano 1932 -
+ Maurice Behar
5 Tamar Modiano 1894 - ?
5 Oscar Modiano 1898 - ?
4 Gracia Modiano 1856 - ?
+ ? Tiano
4 Mario Modiano 1858 - 1896 + Regina Yacoel
5 Saul Modiano 1887 - 1970
+ Esther Cohen-Benardout
6 Mario Modiano 1921 – 1992
+ Nina Eskenazi
7 Sonny Modiano 1952 -
+ Susan Pasternak
8 Elissabeth-Nina Modiano 1980 -
+ Peter James Brookes

8 Jonathan-Mario Modiano 1981 –
+Erin Colleen McLogan
9 Benjamin Modiano 2009 –
2nd wife of Sonny Modiano
+ Suzy Harris
6 Regina Modiano 1924 - 1983
+ Edgar (Mordehai) Tabah
7 Albert Tabah 1947 -
7 Marcelle Tabah 1950 -
6 Enrico (Yacov) Modiano 1926 -
+ Esther Yahni
7 Saul Modiano 1954 -
+ 1/ Rita Mitrani
2nd wife of Saul Modiano
2/ Rozet Yafet
7 Alberto Modiano 1960 -
+ Rosette Atias
5 Gabriel Modiano 1890 – 1963
+ Eleonora Salvatore Modiano 1894 – 1965
6 Mario Modiano 1922 -
+ Antonietta Boscardini ? - 2002
6 Nina Modiano 1925 -
+ Eugenio Saraceni
5 Esther Modiano 1892 - 1982
+ Rafael Yacoel
6 Gabriel Yacoel 1922 - 1922 -
6 Hannah Yacoel
5 Isaac Modiano 1894 - 1985
+ Maria Pardo
6 Renata Modiano 1927 -
+ Johnny Morel
7 Betty Morel 1949 -
+ Michel Cohen
7 André Morel 1954 -
6 Giovanna Modiano 1934 – 1984
2nd wife of Isaac Modiano
+ Rachel Chuto 1895 - ?

4 Salvatore Modiano 1863 - 1931
+ Gracia Nahum
5 Amelia Modiano 1881 - 1983
+ Jack Cohen
6 Yvonne Cohen 1923 - 1947
6 Marco Cohen 1924 -
5 Eleonora Modiano 1894 – 1965
+ Gabriel Mario Modiano 1890 – 1963
5 Saul Modiano 1899 – 1968
+ Laura Chimchi
6 Guido Modiano 1931 -
+ Clara Clary
7 Cinzia Modiano 1962 - ?
+ Giorgio Fiscarelli
7 David Modiano 1963 -
7 Alessandro Modiano 1964 -
+ Nicole Dunaway
6 Elena Modiano 1932 -
+ Rafaele Levi
7 Laura Levi 1960 -
6 Renzo Modiano 1936 -
+ Elena Rader
7 Barbara Modiano 1969 -
4 Albert Modiano 1864 - ?
4 Estrea Modiano 1866 - ?
+ ? Abravanel
5 Esther Abravanel
5 Maurice Abravanel
5 Henri Abravanel
5 Jeanette Abravanel
4 Rebecca Modiano
4 Riquetta Modiano
+ Levy Chuto
5 Rachel Chuto 1895 - ?
+ Albert Nahum
2nd husband of Rachel Chuto
+ Isaac Modiano 1894 – 1985

4 Fortunee Modiano
+ Yomtov Bahar-Yuda
5 Ida Bahar-Yuda
3 Isaac Modiano 1838 - ?
+ Leal Cazes 1840 - ?
4 Leone Modiano 1854 - ?
4 Abramo Modiano 1862 - ?
4 Giacomo Modiano 1864 – 1866
*2nd Wife of Juda Saul Modiano:
+ Regina Mihal
3 Avram Modiano 1843 - ?
+ Mimica Vita Modiano 1868 - ?
4 Leone Modiano
3 Stella Modiano 1845 - ?
3 Rachel Modiano 1848 - ?
3 Jacob Modiano 1854 - 1865
3 Samuel Modiano 1857 - ?
*2nd Wife of Saul Isaac Modiano:
+ Astrea ?
2 Joseph Modiano ~ 1825 - ?
+ Rebecca Calamaro
3 Estrea Modiano 1845 - ?
3 Sara Modiano 1848 - ?
+ Samuel Juda Yomtov Modiano 1841 - ?
3 Leal Modiano 1850 - ?
3 Esther Modiano 1852 - ?
3 Saul Modiano 1854 - ?
+ Rachel Jacob Modiano 1855 – 19 24
4 Marie Modiano ~1876 - ?
+Alberto DeMayo
4 Peppo Modiano 1878 - 1931
+ Esther Navarro
5 Lyda Modiano 1916 – 1941
+Salvator Sarfaty ? – 1942
5 Armando Modiano 1923 -
+ Flora Saltiel

6 Johnny Modiano 1957 -
+ Mylene Rodrig
7 Laura Modiano 1986 -
7 Daniella Modiano 1989 –
6 Lyda Modiano 1961 -
+ Rafael Leon
7 Anais Leon 1988 -
7 Daphne Leon 1990 –
4 Rebecca Modiano ? - 1945
+ Gabriel Pessah ? – 1960
5 Graziella Pessah 1918 -
+ Sam Navarro 1920 – 1990
6 Nomi Navarro…. 1945 -
5 Charles Pessah 1920 -
+ Nuria Matas 1924 – 2005
4 Jacques Modiano 1891 - 1943
+ Aline Salem ? - 2001
5 Yolande Modiano 1933 -
+ Maurice Benoziglio
6 Ada Benoziglio
6 Ilana Benoziglio
4 Ida Modiano 1893 - ?
+ Elie Nadjari 1893 - ?
4 Baruch Modiano 1893 – 1894
4 Umberto Modiano 1901 - 1990
+ Despina Tzekini
5 Alfredo Modiano 1953 -
+ Hrissoula Antoniadou
6 Daisy Modiano 1983 -
6 Umberto Modiano 1984 -
4 Mathilde Modiano 1902 - 1979
+ Moise Ezratty 1894 - 1952
5 Jose Ezratty 1931 –
+Myriam Bader 1929 -
3 Rafael Modiano 1857 – 1917
+ Clelia Saul Yeshua Modiano 1861 – 1922
4 Ugo Modiano 1883 - ?
+ Allegra Benveniste

5 Rafael Modiano 1917 – 1940
5 Carlo Modiano 1927 – 1928
4 Ines Modiano 1886 - ?
+ Pepo Assael 1876 – 1932
5 Hilda Assael 1906 - 1984
5 Gino Assael 1907 - ?
+ Rita Benusiglio ? - 1981
5 Rafael (Kiko) Assael 1908 - ~1982
4 Jenny Modiano 1887 - ?
+Sabetay Hassid
5 Asher Hassid
5 Rafael Hassid
5 Freda Hassid
5 Lily Hassid
5 Marcel Hassid
4 Saul Modiano 1888 – 1924
+ Calioppe Seliou
5 Clelia-Liliane Modiano 1917 -
4 Olga Modiano 1890 - ?
3 Leon Modiano 1860 - ?
+ Emma Liatchi Daniel Modiano 1870 - ?
4 Raoul Modiano 1901 - ~2000
+ Suzanne Hoka
5 Mireille Modiano 1924 -
*2nd Wife of Raoul Modiano:
+ Suzanne Labarriere
4 Eda Modiano
+ Moise Samuel Daniel Modiano 1877 - 1955
4 Nella Modiano ~1904 -
+ Marco Eskenazi
4 Evelyne Modiano ~ 1906 -
+ ? Sofialides
5 Georges Sofialides
3 Rachel Modiano 1866 - ?

2 Moise Modiano ~ 1825 - ?
+ Gracia Stroumza
3 Saul Modiano 1846 – 1938
+ ? ?
4 Leal Modiano 1870 – 1913
2nd wife of Saul Modiano
+ Delicia Jacob Modiano
4 Moise Modiano 1874 – 1944
+ Gracia Samuele Modiano 1884 - 1944
5 Saul Modiano 1914 - 1938
5 Samuel Modiano 1917 – 1944
5 Elisa Modiano 1921 – 1944
5 Lucia Modiano 1923 – 2010
+ Moshe Sullam
6 Bulissa Sullam 1950 -
+ ? Kohen
7 Elizabeta Kohen
6 Gracia Sullam 1952 -
6 Deana Sullam 1954 -
4 Rachel Modiano 1884 - ?
*3rd Wife of Saul Modiano:
+ Sara Vrioni ? - 1893
3 Estrea Modiano 1850 - ?
3 Giuseppe Modiano 1852 - ?
3 Samuele Modiano 1852 - ?
+ Lea Yacoel ? - 1930
4 Gracia Modiano 1884 - 1944
+ Moise Saul Modiano 1874 – 1944
(also see above)
4 Moise Modiano 1890 - 1946
4 Giacomo Modiano 1899 – 1943
+ Diana Franco 1904 – 1942
5 Lucia Modiano 1927 – 1944
5 Samuel Modiano 1930 -
+ Selma Dumalah 1938 -
3 Leon Modiano

3 Isaaco Modiano 1862-1941
+ Sara Frances
4 Giulia Modiano 1901 - 1943
+ Leon Sion
5 Esther Sion 1935 - 1943
5 Joseph Sion 1938 – 1943
4 Bella Modiano 1903 – 1993
+Mordehai Daniel
5 Aaron Daniel 1930 –
+ Anita Miller
5 Isaac Daniel 1933 –
+ Elaine Krule
5 Sarah Daniel 1936 -
+ Harold Spector 1935 -
5 Sam Daniel 1941 –
+ Judy Maclaine
4 Lucia Modiano 1914 -2006
+Joseph Confortes
5 Rafael Confortes 1938 -
5 Isaac Comfortes 1946 –
+ Shirlene ?
3 Sol Modiano 1866 - ?

R' Yeshua Moliano/Modiano

Documents signed by Yeshua ("Josua") before 1833 read Josua Moliano; while those after 1834 were signed Josua Modiano. Two Salonika documents are significant in this connection: The first, found by Guido Modiano in the Vienna Archives, relates to a judgement issued by the Austrian Consulate's tribunal in connexion with unpaid rents. Yeshua Modiano was appointed substitute judge in the place of Lazare Allatini, his partner, who excused himself because of ill-health. On the court's ruling Yeshua Modiano signs as "Josua Moliano". The date is 12 April 1831.

The second document announces the death of Lazare Allatini, and his succession by his eldest son, (Dr) Moise Allatini. It seeks to reassure all concerned that this development would in no way affect the operations of the firm. Dr Allatini and J. Mo**d**iano sign it. The date is 5 September 1834.

Yeshua was trained and became a rabbi according to the family tradition, but he never exercised these duties. There is no doubt that the partnership with Lazare and later Moise Allatini must have made Yeshua a wealthy man. His name, however, does not appear in any documents indicating that he was, like his Allatini partners, active in Jewish community affairs. It was his two sons, Isaac and Vita who became prominent as generous contributors to charities. Their advice was sought by the community as well as by the Tuscan consulate. Yeshua's direct issue was the following:

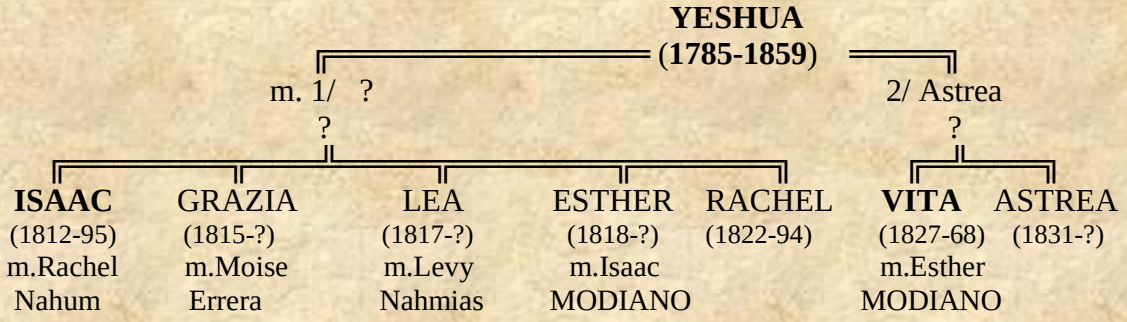

Chart 26

As can be seen here, two of Yeshua's children married in the Modiano family: his daughter Esther married Isaac, his brother Samuel's first-born (see Chart 8). Their daughter married Samuele Isaac Modiano, a grandson of the same Samuel. Yeshua's other son from his second wife, Vita, married his cousin Esther, eldest daughter of banker Saul Modiano (see Chart 16).

Beyond Yeshua Modiano's fascinating personal story and the line of his son Vita, very little was known about his other descendants. More light on this important Modiano branch was shed by the saga of "Facino" Modiano and his family. This story emerged when one of Yeshua's great great grandsons sent me a message from Paris in mid-2003. In it Herbert Klingbeil said he was the son of Nadia, a great granddaughter of Yeshua from his firstborn Isaac. He said his great grandfather was the owner of flourmills. This clearly identified him as Isaac Modiano who had succeeded his father Yeshua as one of the owners of the Allatini flourmill in Salonika.

Herbert Klingbeil was born in Smyrna in 1926. Two years later the family resettled in France where he has lived since. "I know nothing of Turkey," he wrote. "My maternal language is French." He is now retired after working for Air France for 40 years. He has two sons and one daughter.

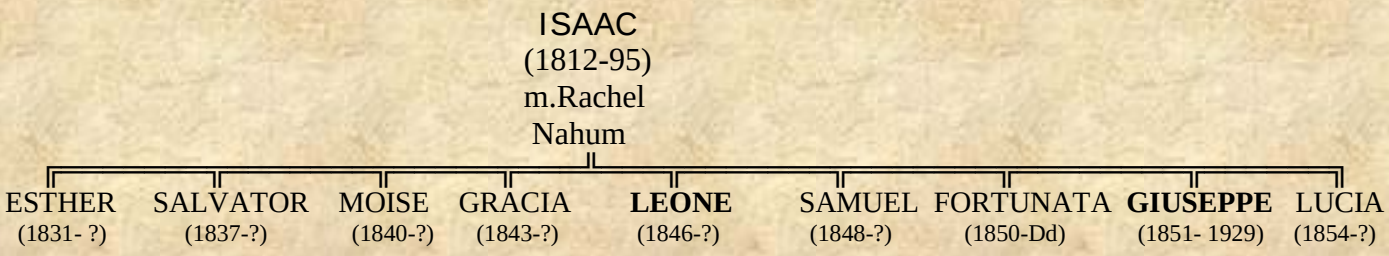

Chart 37

In the early 1900s Giuseppe and his family moved from Salonika to Smyrna where he set up an import-export business. For some reason Herberts's grandfather was known as "Facino Modiano" after the Italian condottiere of the 14th century, Facino Cane, celebrated by Balzac in the book of the same name. "I can't explain the connection, because my grandfather was the gentlest and most peace-loving man in the world," Herbert said.

When Italy went to war with Turkey over Tripolitania in 1911, the Italian citizens of Turkey (including the Modianos) were deported to Italy, where they were very well received, lodged in hotels and enabled to travel all over the country. At the end of this war they returned home to Turkey and resumed their regular lives. However, when the First World War broke out Turkey and Italy once again found themselves in opposite camps. So, the family was again in danger of being treated as enemy subjects.

“My grandfather Giuseppe was held in high esteem in Smyrna, so he consulted the Vali, the local governor who suggested to him to opt for Turkish citizenship, Giuseppe consulted the Italian consul who assured him that if he did he would not lose his Italian citizenship. So he consented to become a Turk and the family was spared the ordeal of going into prisoner camp or to be expelled.

The family migrated to Paris in 1928. Giuseppe died there. His wife Flore and Nadia’s elder sister Elsa were known to be in Salonika in 1940. They were never heard of since and they are assumed to have perished in the Shoah.

Herbert’s memory turned out to be a mine of information about this and related Modiano branches. For instance he knew that of his mother’s cousins, the children of Leone Modiano, Felix had a petroleum import firm in Paris. Herbert’s father worked for him from 1937 to 1944.

Felix had adopted a son who, however, kept the surname of his natural parents. He was named Felix Pelletier. Felix Modiano died in Switzerland soon after the end of the war.

Of Leone’s other children, Anna who married David Aftalion, kept a lingerie shop in the Lido arcades on the Champs-Elysées in Paris. Nadia was very close friends with Jenny, the eldest of Leone’s daughters who married a Mr. Avigdor. But he died and she was left a widow. They had no children.

Nadia’s uncle Samuel lived with his parents in Smyrna in the last years of his life and Herbert said he had heard nothing about Samuel having a wife or daughters. He assumes therefore that they were separated or he was a widower. He said Samuel was “Master” in the local Masonic lodge.

Herbert mentioned a close friendship between his mother Nadia and a distant cousin, Fritz Modiano (see chart 40) who had served as an ensign in the Italian Navy. Nadia’s great-grandfather Yeshua and Fritz’s great-great-grandfather Yomtov were brothers.

Herbert also remembers that one of his grandfather’s sisters (he did not know which one) was married to Jacques de Botton who was in the tobacco business. They had three children, Daisy, Maurice and another boy. The reason I am repeating these details is because some of these persons or their descendants might see them on this site and decide to identify themselves.

One of the most unusual stories concerns Herbert’s father, Noe Klingbeil, Nadia’s husband.

The Klingbeils came from Lodz (Poland) then under Russian rule. When Noe reached the age of adolescence, his mother sent him off to a finishing school in Jaffa, Palestine, which was then under Ottoman rule. Jewish families in Russia used to do this to spare their male offspring the ordeal of having to serve in the Russian Army.

The affair took quite a bizarre turn when at the outbreak of the First World War Turkey sided with Germany. Noe and many other youths in the same situation were therefore treated as enemy nationals. And enemy nationals were usually incarcerated in camps. However, the Turkish Army, which was apparently in need of educated men for the Army, offered them a deal. No prison camp if they opted for Turkish nationality. They would then be sent to Military School in Istanbul and serve in the Turkish Army.

Noe was lucky not to have to serve in the war front but in the south coast of Turkey. When he was demobilized, he settled in Smyrna. It was there that he met Nadia and they married. Herbert was born shortly afterwards and two years later the couple decided to move to France. "This is how I happened to be born a Turkish citizen," says Herbert.

Herbert remembered an amusing story about his great-grandfather Isaac that became part of the family lore. As most of the Salonika wealthy Jews used to do, Isaac would distribute each week to the poor a sort of pancake known as "pita". One day one of the recipients complained that the pancake was too small. Isaac told him: "Go on, man, God is great!" "Yes, God is great," the man retorted, "but the pita is small."[84]

Vita's youngest son David, who married Mathilde Hasson, had two daughters – Marcella and Jana. Marcella married Simon Haim who joined the Greek resistance when the Germans occupied Salonika in 1941. Later he returned and went into hiding. However, the infamous Recanati brothers who worked for the Nazis discovered him and kept blackmailing him. In despair he went to the Community and registered. He was promptly arrested and deported to Auschwitz. It appears that he survived the camp and died soon after the liberation of some unknown cause.

Marcella's daughter Dolly Haim, who is an accomplished pianist, married Julio Botton who was trained as a mechanical engineer. They now live in Mexico where Julio is in textiles. They have two daughters and two grandsons.

Marcella's sister Jana married a Castro in Salonika. In 1943 she was pregnant and was on her way to her doctor, accompanied by her sister, when they heard that the men had been rounded up in the synagogue. They went into hiding and were saved. Jana later divorced and now lives in Boston, MA.

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84 "Ay hombre! Dios es grande ! " The man was not convinced. He said: "Si, Dios es grande, ma la pita es chica ! "

B1d: Descendants of R'Yeshua Moliano/Modiano

1 R'Yeshua Modiano 1785 – 1859
+ Esther ?
2 Isaac Modiano 1812 – 1895
+ Rachel Nahum 1813 - ?
3 Esther Modiano 1831 - ?
3 Salvator Modiano 1837 - ?
+ Rebecca Namias 1841 - ?
3 Moise Modiano 1840 - ?
3 Gracia Modiano 1843 - ?
+ Samuele Isaac Modiano 1838 - ?
4 David Modiano (2) 1873 - ?
+ Rachel Cohen
3 **Leone (**Yehuda) Modiano 1846 – ?
+ Linda Alexander Sidi
4 Jenny (Rachel) Modiano 1880 - 1936
+ ? Avigdor
4 Felix (Isaac) Modiano 1881 - ~1945
+ ? ?
5 Felix Pelletier
4 Moise Modiano 1883 - 1900
4 Anna Modiano 1893 - ?
+ David Aftalion
5 Giselle (Ginette?) Aftalion
5 René Aftalion
3 Samuel Modiano 1848 - ?
+ Leal Samuel Molho
4 Rachel (Nelly) Modiano 1885 - ?
4 Fortunata (Giselle) Modiano 1895 - ?
3 Fortunata Modiano 1850 Dd-
3 Giuseppe (Facino) Modiano 1851 - 1929
+ Flora Yaacov Benyamin 1869 - 1943
4 Elsa Modiano 1892 – 1943
4 Nadia Modiano 1894 - 1964
+ Noe Klingbeil 1898 – 1985

5 Herbert Klingbeil 1926 –
5 José Klingbeil 1929 – 1942
3 Lucia Modiano 1854 - ?
2 Gracia Modiano 1815 - ?
+ Moise Errera
2 Lea Modiano 1817 - ?
+ Levy Namias
2 Esther Modiano 1818 - ?
+ Isaac Samuel Modiano 1818 – 1885
2 Rachel Modiano 1822 – 1895
+ Elie Frances ? - ?

*2nd Wife of Yeshua Modiano:

+ Astrea ?
2 Vita Modiano 1827 – 1868
+ Esther Saul Bohor Modiano 1833 - ?
3 Rachel Modiano 1850 - ?
3 Fakima Modiano 1852 - ?
3 Isaac Modiano 1852 - ?
3 Salvator Modiano 1855 - 1920
+ Ricoula Aelion
4 Luigi Modiano 1895 - 1998
+ Ernestine Jumel
5 Claudio Modiano 1933 -
+ Fiorella Andreucci
6 Rosella Modiano 1966 -
6 Ombretta Modiano 1971 -
+ Pietro Fattori
4 Daisy Modiano 1902 - ?
+ Isaac Cohen
5 Arlette Cohen
+ Achy Mazza
3 Flora Modiano 1858 - ?
3 Vittoria Modiano 1861 - ?
+ Salomon David Sciaky 1858 - ?
4 Moise Renato Sciaky 1884 - ?
4 Samule Ettore Sciaky 1886 -?
4 Flora Sciaky 1892 - ?
4 Gustavo Abramo Sciaky 1895 - ?
4 Olga Sciaky 1899 - ?

3 Ricca Modiano 1862 - ?
3 Davide Modiano 1863 - ?
+ Mathilde Salomon Hasson
4 Marcella Modiano 1908 –
+ Simon Haim ? - 1943
5 Dolly Haim 1929 –
+ Julio Botton 1928 –
4 Jana Modiano 1911 –
+ ? Castro
5 Elisabeth Castro 1944 -
2 Astrea Modiano 1831 - ?

Yomtov Isaac

Yomtov was the youngest of the five sons of Isaac Samuel Moliano. Together with Samuel, the eldest, he participated in the business ventures of their brother Yeshua in the firm Fratelli Modiano. Born in 1788, he was married twice. However, we only know that the first names of his two wives were Esther and Regina. His direct issue is as follows:

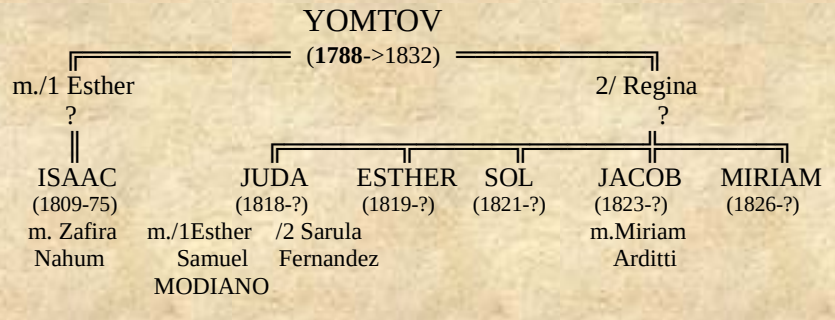

Chart 37

One of the three sons of Isaac Yomtov and his wife Zafira was named Joseph. He married Mathilde, daughter of Moshe Namias. They had six sons and 3 daughters. Among them Mario Modiano who married Ida Fernandez, obtained from the Greek Government the very first licence to run a national lottery.

Chart 38

MARIO JOSEPH MODIANO

According to documents in the Venizelos[85] Archives, Mario Modiano obtained in 1926 the Greek lottery concession from the Venizelos Government. It gave him the right to operate the State Lottery and improve its performance for a period of 10 years. A report presented in Parliament indicated that within three years the lottery's annual revenue had multiplied. In fact, other sources indicated net profit had grown from 2m drachmas to 44m.

Mario Modiano set up his company's headquarters in a central Athens building that in the 19th century had served as the first royal palace. The company was assigned a profit of 8 ½ on sales. A 55 percent share of receipts went to the winning numbers. One-quarter of the revenue went to the National Fleet Fund and the Greek Archaeological Service, nine percent to the resellers, and 2 ½ percent represented printing and distribution costs.

According to a study by Dimitri Dimopoulos of the Greek State Lottery Service, the concession lapsed three years later with the downfall of the government, as was then the practice, despite (or perhaps because of) the enormous profits produced. The author argues that "powerful interests with political clout and an eye on these profits" brought about the cancellation of the concession.

Mario and his wife Ida later settled in Milan. They had two sons, Ugo and Luigi, better known as Louis. According to Louis's daughter Gianna who lives in Pombia (Novarra) in the Piedmont, her father left for Brazil when she was still a child, and he never came back.It is quite possible that Mario and family before settling in Milan had moved from Salonika to Naples during the massive exodus of Salonika Jews to southern Italy after the conflagration that destroyed most of Salonika in 1917.

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[85] Eleftherios Venizelos, universally regarded as Greece's leading statesman in the first half of the 20th century, was four times Prime Minister between 1910 and 1932.

The youngest of Mario's brothers, Vitalis (1884-1965), settled in Milan and raised a family

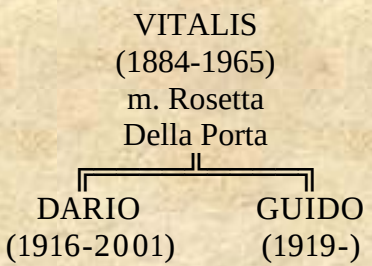

Chart 38a

Dario's son, Pietro Modiano who worked for years as an economist in Italian banks tells me that some years ago it suddenly dawned on him that he had "a talent for asset management and finance." So in 1997 he founded a very profitable investment bank called UBM of which he became Chief Executive Officer.

He also organized, starting virtually from scratch, a global asset management group called Pioneer, with bases in Boston, Dublin and Milan, of which he is the Chairman. That is not all. He is also CEO of the Unicredito Banca d'Impressa which is the Corporate Bank of the Mother company, the Unicredito Group. Finally he is a member of the Board of the Italian Stock Exchange.

If you think that this is where the Pietro Modiano saga ends, you are mistaken. His wife Barbara Pollastrini was a member of the ("very restricted") steering committee of the 'Democrats of the Left' party (Democratici di Sinistra) and a member of the Italian Parliament. Pietro tells me that this is the biggest Italian party after Forza Italia the ruling party of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. She was a minister in Romano Prodi's cabinet.

Vitalis' other son, Guido, is an extraordinary character. At the age of 87 he maintains a delightful web site to display and sell his paintings (http://digilander.libero.it/paintingmodiano/). In an autobiographical note he says he fell in love with colours and painting when as the end of World War II came he fled to Switzerland wearing the uniform of an Italian fighter pilot. There in a small village he tried to paint to while away time.

"In this fertile period of my passion for art," he wrote, "I remember painting on the wall of my hotel room the portrait of a Swiss girl in the nude, simply because I do not think I ever saw her dressed. Thus was born a great artist." He continued to paint nudes seeing the acclaim he received for his first nude painting – from the hotel owner. He produces his paintings by using computer techniques.

Guido has a son and two daughters. Andrea, the son, is a successful architect engineer who married twice and divorced twice. Guido has also two daughters Daria, divorced with two children, and Marina who divorced in 1987 but remarried with Marco Weiss and moved from Milan to an old water-mill overlooking Lake Como. Marina has launched a web site about words of love. It is at www.scrivimiamore.it . The site is great fun with a vast membership that enjoys exchanging love letters in public. She has the active help of her daughter Maddalena Alma Anita Fiocchi, a 24-year-old philosophy student, as well as her son Giacomo Filippo, 21, who “is supposed to study communications, but plays rock music all day”

.

Virginio Salomone Vita

Isaac Yomtov's first son, Mair who married Sol Faraggi (see *Chart 38*), had three children:

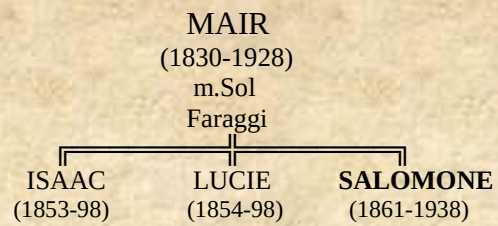

Chart 39

Salomone deserves a mention in this context. He married Emilia Orefice, from an important Jewish-Italian family of Salonika. Their only child, Bertha (b.1890) married Guglielmo Vita, a painter from Florence. Their son Virginio (b.1921) lives in Florence in the majestic, but rather timeworn paternal residence, where he has exhibited the paintings of his father.

Virginio, who is extremely interested in and attached to his Modiano heritage, has adopted his grandfather's name of Salomone. He offered to give this building to the University of Jerusalem, to use as a summer campus. Kindly he also proposed that the Modianos should use it for their first international get-together. He has been extremely helpful in obtaining information for this research.

Early in the year 2000 he was trying to publish a new edition of his father's book "*Jerusalem 5710-Rome 1950*", in which Guglielmo Vita urged the establishment of a Christian-Jewish dialogue that would give the two religions a new start based on the respect of each other's heritage and history.

"A dialogue between lay and clergy – from each conviction – should open in order to trace a course for a mutual respect of each other's past and new objectives that would ensure co-existence through education and promotion reforms leading to a common goal," Virginio wrote.

Mario's sister, Esterina (*see* Chart 38), married Eduardo Misrahi. It is interesting that their great-granddaughter, Yael, married Laurent Modiano, son of Giuseppe, also a descendant of Yomtov, who is mentioned in the Foreword as well as later in this chapter.

Of the children that Juda had from his first wife, Samuel (b.1841) married Sara, daughter of Joseph Modiano (*see* Chart 31). They had six children. Their second son, Carlo, also had six children, three sons and three daughters.

Chart 40

Samuel Modiano was in commerce in Turkey. Many of his descendants born in Istanbul branched out to Italy and England.

There is no information concerning the six children that Juda had from Sarula Fernandez, his second wife whom he married after Esther's death in 1853. Their two youngest children died very young.

Juda's brother, Jacob, married Miriam Arditti (*see* Chart 37). They had two sons and two daughters.

The eldest, Saul, who at one time cooperated with his cousin Saul Isaac Modiano, the banker, in the building of the *Cité Saul*, was known as "*foukara* Saul" (poor Saul) as opposed to his rich cousin known as "Sinior Saul".

I heard this story from his granddaughter the late Carmen Alkalai who was an inexhaustible source of information about the Modiano family, the more so as she worked for the Italian Embassy in Athens.

JACOB
(1823-?)
m.Miriam
Arditti
‖
SAUL
(~1840-?)
m.Flora
Cohen

JACOB MAZALTOV ESTHER YOMTOV SULTANA MOISE SAMUEL LEON MIRIAM

Chart 41

Carmen's grandfather Saul married Flora Cohen who gave him five sons and four daughters. Jacob, Carmen's father was the eldest:

SAUL
(~1840-?)
m.Flora
Cohen
‖
JACOB
(1869-1923)
m. Sol
Arditti

FLORA FRIDA **CARMEN** JEANNE

Chart 42

Jacob who lived with his family in Cavalla, northern Greece, was in the tobacco business and in arbitration. However, business was bad and he lost everything. He died in Vienna. After his death his family moved to Salonika. During the deportation, although the family had Italian citizenship, Flora was somehow rounded up and sent to concentration camp. Her mother appealed to the Italian Consulate, which protested to the Germans. They promised to return her. They never did.

The second of Saul's sons was Yomtov:

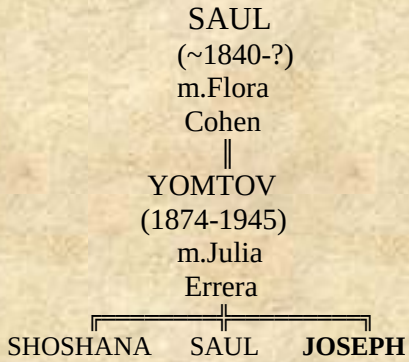

Chart 43

Joseph lives today in Woodbridge, Connecticut, on the east coast of the United States. He and his wife Ada Abudi run a small retail business. They were blessed with three brilliant sons – Ronny, Eytan and Nir Modiano.

Ronny, the eldest, has a small retail business that he started in 1985. Eytan is associate professor at the Aeronautics and Astronautics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He does research and teaching in the area of space and hybrid communications networks. He has participated in major projects that concern network architecture, broadband widths for optical fibres as well as voice-data integrations. His brother Nir, after completing a stage of bio-medical research at Yale University, Is now doing his apprenticeship at Stanford U. in California.

Of Saul's other children Yomtov and Samuel (1879-1943) ran a paper-bag factory in Salonika. Samuel was the father of Laura who married Isaac Moshe Modiano (1912-1943). Both as well as their six-year-old daughter Flora, were rounded up in Livorno during the war. They perished in the camps (see Chart 127)

Carlo committed suicide in Paris at the age of 37, leaving a widow with six small children. Of this issue (see Chart 40), we only know that Fritz married a Catholic who gave him two daughters, the first taking the name of her beautiful grandmother Marietta.

Giuseppe (see Chart 40) was Salonika railway stationmaster, and received a decoration from the Sultan for his services. He married Gioia Hassid and had two sons and four daughters. Most of the descendants of this branch live today in Istanbul, but some, like Alfredo's sons, Giuseppe and Guido live and work respectively in London and Milan.

Chart 44

Some 45 years ago Giuseppe, Alfredo's eldest son, set up a wool trading company that has since developed into a global business based in London with offices and installations around the world. Wool processing is done at its mill in the Czech Republic and in Italy. His two sons, Laurent and Michel, work with him.

B1E: DESCENDANTS OF YOMTOV ISAAC MODIANO

1 Yomtov Modiano 1788 - >1832
+ Esther ?
2 Isaac Modiano 1809 - 1875
+ Zafira Nahum
3 Mair Modiano 1830 – 1928
+ Sol Faraggi 1838 - ?
4 Isaac Modiano 1853 – 1898
4 Lucie Modiano 1854 – 1898
+ Jacob Nahama 1853 – 1928
5 Dario Nahama ~1882 - ?
+ Sol Botton 1875 - ?
5 Mario Nahama ~1884 - ?
+ Esterina ?
5 Joseph Nahama ~ 1885 – 1943
+ Lucie Scialom 1898 - 1944
5 Anna Nahama 1887 – 1962
+ Ovadia de Botton 1874 - 1916
5 Ino Nahama ~1889 – 1943
5 Olympe Nahama 1895 – 1983
+ Samuel Yoel 1893 – 1973
5 Vala Nahama 1897 - 1970
+ Marietta ?
4 Salomon Modiano 1861 – 1938
+ Emilia Orefice
5 Bertha Modiano 1890 – 1961
+ Gulielmo Vita
6 Mathilde Vita 1917 -
6 Graziella Vita 1919 -
6 Virginio Vita 1921 -
3 Yomtov Modiano 1832 - ?
3 Joseph Modiano 1840 - 1910
+ Mathilde Namias 1847 - ?

4 Yomtov Modiano 1862 - ?
+ Esther Joseph Salmona
5 Giuseppe Modiano 1883 - ?
+ Petronilla Zanata
5 Mazaltov Modiano 1884 - ?
5 Lucia Modiano 1886 - ?
5 Oscar Modiano 1888 - ?
4 Mario Modiano 1862 - ?
+ Ida Luigi Fernandez
5 Ugo Modiano 1889 - ?
5 Louis Modiano 1892 - ?
+ Mima Mancuso
6 Giorgio Modiano 1921 – 1975
+ ? ?
7 Luigi Modiano
+ ? ?
8 Barbara Modiano
8 Simonetta Modiano
7 Piero Modiano
7 Fabio Modiano ? - 1972
7 Donnina Modiano
7 Rebecca Modiano
6 Gianna Modiano 1923 –
+ Silvio Ottolenghi ? -
4 Moise Modiano 1865 - 1938
+ Emilia Cohen
4 Esterina Modiano 1869 – 1952
+ Eduardo Misrahi 1860 – ?
5 Jacques Misrahi 1891 – ?
+ Mari Modiano
5 Rita Misrahi 1896 – ?
+ Serge de Botton
5 Isidore Misrahi 1899 – ?
+ ? ?
2nd wife of Isidore Misrahi
+ Blanche ?

5 Marcelle Misrahi 1902 – ?
+ ? Naar
5 Maurice Misrahi 1904 - ?
+ ? ?
6 Eddie Misrahi
+ Imre Herzog
7 Ariella Herzog 1962 -
7 Yael Herzog (1) 1966 -
+ Laurent Giuseppe Modiano (1) 1965 -
5 Daisy Misrahi 1919 -
+ Silvio (Salomon) Sciaky
4 Enrico Modiano 1871 - ?
+ Eugenie Feautrier 1878 - ?
4 Zafira Modiano ~ 1873 - ?
+ Jacques Lubel
4 Isaac Modiano 1876 – 1916
4 Sol Modiano ~ 1880 - ?
+ Jacques Albala
5 Lily Albala
+ Eugenio Rossi
5 Raymond Albala
+ Lily Alguabiche
5 Marcelle Albala
+ Izy Franco
4 Vitalis Modiano 1884 – 1965
+ Rosetta Della Porta 1900 - 1983
5 Dario Modiano 1916 - 2001
+Giovanella Spalletti-Trivelli 1922 -
6 Benedetta Modiano 1947 -
+ Gian Mario Moro Lin 1940 -
6 Pietro Modiano 1951 -
+ Barbara Pollastrini 1949 -
5 Guido Modiano 1919 -
+ Annie McMorrow 1923 -1982

6 Andrea Modiano 1947 -
6 Daria Modiano 1949 -
+ ? Agliardi
7 Niccolo Agliardi 1974 –
7 Guendalina Agliardi 1976 –
6 Marina Modiano 1953 -
+ ? Fiochi
7 Madalena Fiocchi 1979 –
7 Giacomo Filippo Fiocchi 1982 –
2nd husband of Marina Modiano
+ Marco Weiss
3 Esther Modiano 1843 - ~ 1843
3 Rachel Modiano 1849 - ?

*2nd Wife of Yomtov Modiano:

+ Regina ?
2 Juda Modiano 1818 - ?
+ Esther Samuele Isaac Modiano 1821 - 1853
3 Falcona Modiano 1838 - ?
3 Samuel Modiano 1841 - ?
+ Sara Giuseppe Saul Modiano 1848 - ?
4 Juda Modiano 1864 - 1866
4 Carlo Modiano 1867 – 1905
+ Marietta Tiano
5 Nelly Modiano 1893 - ?
5 Guido Modiano 1894 - ?
5 Sara Modiano 1896 – 1966
+Baruch Abramovitch ? – 1967
6 Roger Abramovitch 1924 – 1994
+ Maria Luiza Belizario 1920 – 1995
6 Mireille Abramovitch 1926 – 1998
+ Leo Kraft 1913 - 1977
5 Fritz Modiano 1899 - ?
5 Renata Modiano 1901 - ?
5 Ettore Modiano 1902 - ?

4 Giuseppe Modiano 1870 – 1935
+ Gioia Joseph Hassid ? - 1956
5 Samuel Modiano 1895 - 1985
+ Mireille Russo
6 Jacqueline Modiano 1927 -
+ Hasdai Penso
5 Sara Modiano 1897 - 1964
+ Aaron Danon
6 Joseph Danon 1921 – 2002
+ Eda Mesulam 1929 -
6 Charles Danon 1929 –
+ Mery Benador 1935 -
5 Mary Modiano 1898 - ?
+ M. Behmoiras
6 Leo Behmoiras 1925 – 1999
*2nd Husband of Mary Modiano:
+ Jacques Misrahi
5 Edda Modiano 1901 - 1990
+ Joseph Eskenazi
6 Sami Eskenazi 1927 -
5 Alfredo Modiano 1903 - 1992
+ Fortunata Levy
6 Giuseppe Modiano 1928 -
+ Barbara Winograd 1938 -
7 Laurent Modiano (2) 1965 -
+ Yael Herzog (2) 1966-
8 Liza Modiano 1994 -
8 Lara Modiano 1997 -
7 Michel Modiano 1968 –
+ Liora Grodnikaite 1978 –
8 Rafael Emanuel Modiano 2010 -
6 Guido (Simon) Modiano 1936 -
+ Rezzan Kaldan
7 Francesca Modiano 1963 -
+ Joe Hasbani
7 Patrick (Alfredo) Modiano 1964 -
+ Paola Borra

5 Henriette Modiano 1904 - 1956
+ David Danon
6 Yvette Danon 1927 –
+ Jacques Saban
6 Giselle Danon 1929 -
+ Aldo (Nahum) De Miranda
4 Leon Modiano 1872 - ?
+ Esther Hassid
5 Sara Modiano 1902 -
5 Laura Modiano 1904 – 1991
+ ? Levi
5 Hilda (Mazaltov) Modiano 1908 – ?
+ Silvio (Sabetay) Tiano 1910 - ?
5 Carlo (Yomtov) Modiano 1911 –
+Sara Matalon
4 Isidore Modiano 1878 - 1940
+ Rebecca Haim
5 Sara Modiano 1908 -
+ Martin Kapamaciyan
6 Dakez Kapamaciyan
5 Sammy Modiano 1922 -1999
+ Renée Sara Hatem
4 Lina Modiano 1878 - ~ 1968
+ Elie Haim

*2nd Wife of Juda Modiano:
+ Sarula Fernandez 1825 – ?
3 Yomtov Modiano ~ 1852 - ?
3 Esther Modiano 1854 - ?
3 Joseph Modiano 1856 - ?
3 Elia Modiano 1857 - ?
3 Rebecca Modiano 1862 - 1866
3 Yeshua Modiano 1863 - 1866

2 Esther Modiano 1819 - ?
2 Sol Modiano 1821 - ?
2 Jacob Modiano 1823 - ?
+ Miriam Arditti
3 Saul Modiano ~ 1840 - ?
+ Flora Cohen

4 Jacob Modiano 1869 - 1923
+ Sol Arditti
5 Flora Modiano 1911 - 1944
5 Frida Modiano 1913 – 1926
5 Carmen Modiano 1916 – 2005
+ Nissim Alkalai
6 Tilda Alkalai
6 Charles Alkalai
5 Jeanne Modiano 1922 – 1981
4 Mazaltov Modiano 1869 - ~ 1869
4 Esther Modiano 1873 - 1944
+ ? ?
5 Laura ? ? – 1944
4 Yomtov Modiano 1874 - 1945
+ Julia Errera
5 Shoshana Modiano 1924 -
+ Raphael Ner
6 Adina Ner 1961 -
6 Ilana Ner 1964 -
6 Avi Ner 1970 -
5 Saul Modiano 1928 – 1945
5 Joseph Modiano 1933 -
+ Ada Abudi
6 Ronny Modiano 1961 –
+ Liat Anoch
7 Tal Modiano 1998 -
6 Eytan Modiano 1964 -
+ Isabelle Taillandier
7 Sara Ada Modiano 2001-
6 Nir Modiano 1974 -
4 Sultana Modiano 1876 - 1944
4 Moise Modiano 1877 - ?
4 Samuel Modiano 1879 - 1943
+ Gioia Mano 1883- 1943
5 Laura Modiano 1911 – 1943

+ Isaac Modiano 1912 – 1943
6 Flora Modiano 1937 – 1943
5 Flora Modiano 1916 - ?
4 Leon Modiano 1889 - 1978
+ Regina Cezanna ? - 1999
4 Miriam Modiano 1892 - ?
3 Rachel Modiano 1855 - ?
+ Saul Giuseppe Saul Modiano 1854 - ?
3 Leal Modiano 1859 - 1862
3 Avram Modiano 1862 - ?
+ Oro Dudun Abastado
4 Miriam Modiano 1892 - ?
2 Miriam Modiano 1826 - ?

C. DAYAN JACOB MODIANO

There is compelling evidence that the branch of Jacob (Giacobbo to his family) Modiano, of which Patrick Modiano, the celebrated French novelist, is its most outstanding member today, originates from Jacob son of Joseph, a great-grandson of the famous rabbi Joseph Samuel Modiano:

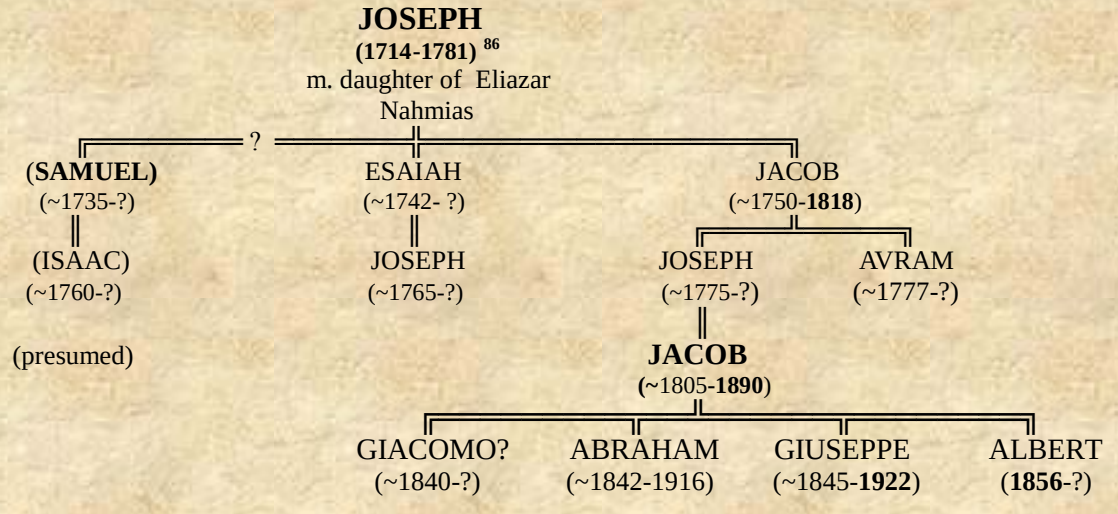

Chart 45

Two great-granddaughters of Jacob Modiano, who are no longer with us, Stella Giroud (see *Chart 47*) and Raquel Adelsberg (see *Chart 51*), both from France, first alerted me to the existence of this branch of Modiano and gave me a wealth of information about its structure.

Much help came from Lily Sallaly, of Cairo, granddaughter (on her mother's side) of Giuseppe Modiano son of Jacob. She wrote that her mother used to say: "If you find which Modiano was a great rabbi of Salonika, he is the one our branch stems from." Raymond Modiano, of Paris, also a grandson of Giuseppe's (*see Chart 54*), says: "I know that the family came from Salonika and it was related to bankers and a rabbi of Salonika." The famous Rabbi Joseph Samuel was the only important rabbi in the family whose descendants also included the Modiano bankers.

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86 Dates in **bold** characters are authenticated.

Jacob son of Joseph was a *dayan,* that is a rabbi and religious judge. His death was recorded in the Salonika newspaper *La Epoca*[87] on 19-9-1890. It said he was aged 85.

One would have expected Jacob's first-born to be named Joseph (Giuseppe), after his own father. But, apparently, this was not so, and there is still a good deal of confusion over the name of the first-born. One possibility is that the first male child was named Joseph but died young and the name was later given to the next arrival.

According to Raquel, Giacobbo Modiano had four sons. She remembered her father saying that her grandfather Abraham had been in the wholesale business of wines and spirits.

The descendants of his children are today well distributed throughout Europe, but mainly in France, Italy and Britain – not forgetting Lily, the last of the family to remain in Cairo.

We begin with France. Here, the descendants of Abraham made up the largest and, perhaps, the most adventurous group.

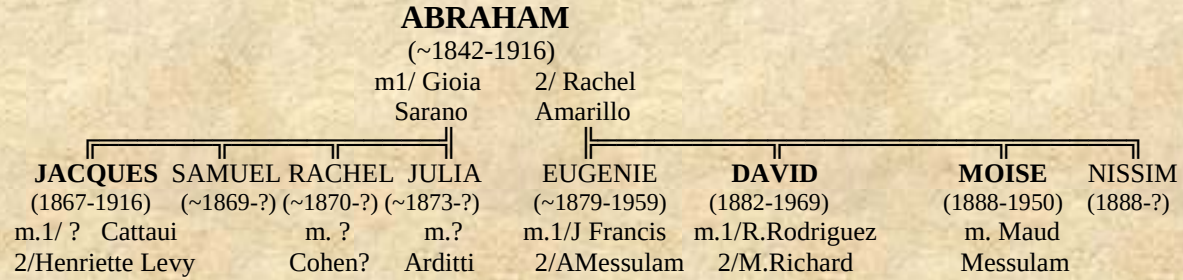

Chart 46

Abraham took two wives. The first gave him two sons and two daughters; the second three sons (Moise and Nissim were twins) and one daughter.

[87] Selection of social announcements from *La Epoca* of Salonika (1889-1897) made and translated by Claude Missistrano, to whom I am grateful.

PATRICK MODIANO, THE NOVELIST

Without doubt the most prominent member of this branch is Patrick Modiano, a much-admired French novelist. His family stems from Abraham's eldest son, Jacques who, by his second marriage to Henriette Levy, had three children, Stella, Albert, and Elias-Ralph (who remained unmarried).

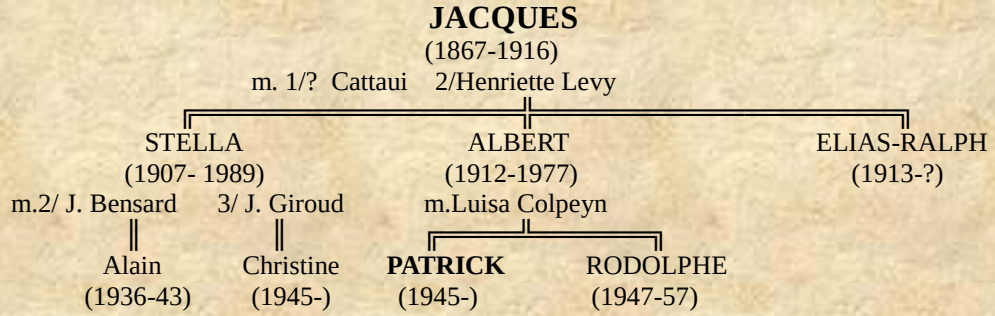

Chart 47

This is how Patrick himself describes his own and his family's story[88]:

"Mon grand-père est né en avril 1867 à Salonique. Il semble que très jeune, il ait quitté cette ville pour l'Egypte et je suppose: Alexandrie. C'est son père à lui qui aurait quitté Salonique dans les années 1880 pour se fixer en Egypte avec ses enfants. D'un premier mariage avec une demoiselle Gioia Sarano, mon arrière-grand-père a eu quatre enfants, dont mon grand-père était l'aîné.
Tous les quatre sont nés sans doute à Salonique. Mais mon arrière-grand-père s'est marié une seconde fois et a eu de nouveau quatre enfants qui, eux, sont nés à Alexandrie.
"Vers vingt cinq ans, mon grand-père s'est marié une première fois, à Alexandrie, avec la fille d'un banquier (?) dont il me semble que le nom était Cattaui. Mais il n'a pas du s'entendre avec sa belle-famille et il a quitté l'Egypte pour le Vénézuéla, sans sa femme.
"J'ai un papier qui indique que mon grand-père était déjà au Vénézuéla, à Caracas, en 1894. Il y est inscrit, au consulat espagnol, comme sujet espagnol.

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88 Out of deference to Patrick, I give his account in the original French, followed by my English translation.

"A Caracas, il a créé un grand bazar où l'on pourrait trouver de tout, dans la ville qui, à l'époque, ne devait pas être étendue.
"Il est resté une dizaine d'années au Vénézuéla. Puis il est retourné à Alexandrie. J'ai un passeport de lui, datant de 1903, délivré par le consulat espagnol d'Alexandrie, lui permettant de quitter l'Egypte. C'est donc à cette époque qu'il arrive en France, puisqu'il se marie en janvier 1905, à Paris, avec ma grande-mère, une certaine Henriette Lévy. Celle-ci est née en France en 1874 mais appartient, par son père, à une famille juive anglo-américaine, et par sa mère à une famille juive de Francfort.
"Ils auront trois enfants, nés tous les trois à Paris: ma tante Stella, née en 1907, mon père Albert, né en 1912, mon oncle Raphaël-Elia, né en 1913. Mon grand-père tenait un magasin d'antiquités à Paris, rue de Chateaudun, où il vendait des objets d'art, de Chine et du Japon.
"Il meurt en août 1916. A Paris, il était inscrit au consulat d'Espagne, comme sujet espagnol, et ma grand-mère, étant sa femme, avait, elle aussi, un passeport espagnol.
"Ses trois enfants, orphelins de père, très jeunes et avec une mère très gentille mais qui n'a pas beaucoup d'autorité, sont un peu livrés à eux-mêmes.
"Ma grand-mère meurt en 1937. La guerre de 1939 vient, sans que mon père ni son frère exercent un métier bien précis.
"Pendant l'occupation allemande, mon père reste à Paris grâce à des faux papiers. En 1942, à Paris, il fait connaissance d'une jeune comédienne qui vient d'arriver de Belgique, Luisa Colpeyn. Ils se marient en novembre 1944, après la Libération. Je suis né en 1945 et mon frère Rudy en 1947. J'ai perdu mon frère en 1957.
"Mes parents se sont séparés au début des années soixante. Mon père est mort en 1977.
"Je me suis marié en 1970 avec Dominique Zehrfuss et j'ai deux filles: Zina, née en 1974, réalisatrice de films, et Marie née en 1978, comédienne."

The English translation:

"My grand-father was born in April 1867 in Salonika. It appears that quite young he left for Egypt. I assume he settled in Alexandria. However, it was his own father that had left Salonika in the 1880s and moved to Egypt with his children. My great-grandfather had four children from his first marriage with a Miss Gioia Sarano. My grandfather was the eldest. All four had probably been born in Salonika. However, my great-grandfather married a second time and had four more children, all born in Alexandria.

"At the age of about 25, my grandfather married a first time in Alexandria with the daughter of a banker (?) whose name was, it seems to me, Cattaui. He was apparently unable to get along with his in-laws, so he left for Venezuela without his wife.

"I have a document showing that my grandfather was already in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1894. He was registered at the Spanish consulate, as a Spanish citizen.

"In Caracas he set up a great bazaar where one could find everything, in a town that, at the time, was not so big.

"He lived in Venezuela about ten years, then returned to Alexandria. I have one of his passports, dated 1903 issued by the Spanish Consulate of Alexandria, authorizing him to leave Egypt. It must be at that time, then, that he arrived in France, since in January 1905 he married in Paris my grandmother, a certain Henriette Levy. She had been born in France in 1874, yet, on her father's side, she belonged to an Anglo-American Jewish family, while on her mother's side to a Jewish family of Frankfurt.

"They had three children, all three born in Paris: my aunt Stella, born in 1907, my father Albert, born in 1912, and my uncle Raphael-Elia, born in 1913. My grandfather had an antique shop in Paris, rue de Chateaudun, where he sold Chinese and Japanese *objets d' art.*

"He died in August 1916. In Paris he was registered in the Spanish Consulate, as a Spanish citizen, while my grandmother by virtue of being his wife also carried a Spanish passport.

"Left orphan of father at a very young age, with a kind but far too lenient mother, the three children had to fend for themselves.

"My grandmother died in 1937. When the war broke out in 1939, neither my father nor his brother had any precise work.

"During the German occupation, my father remained in Paris thanks to false identity papers. In 1942 he meets there a young actress who had just arrived from Belgium, Luisa Colpeyn. They marry in November 1944 after the Liberation. I was born in 1945 and my brother, Rudy, in 1947. I lost my brother in 1957.

"My parents separated in the early 1960s. Father died in 1977.

"In 1970 I married Dominique Zehrfuss, and we have two daughters Zina, born in 1974, a film producer, and Marie, born in 1978, an actress."

The Italian Line

The descendants of Jacob's first-born live in Milan, Italy. Head of this branch was Dora Modiano-Schapira, granddaughter of Giacobbo's still unidentified son. She states that her grandfather was named Giacomo, also an Italian equivalent of Jacob. However, it would not have been usual at that time for the father to give his own name to a son.

The Italian branch is as follows according to Dora:

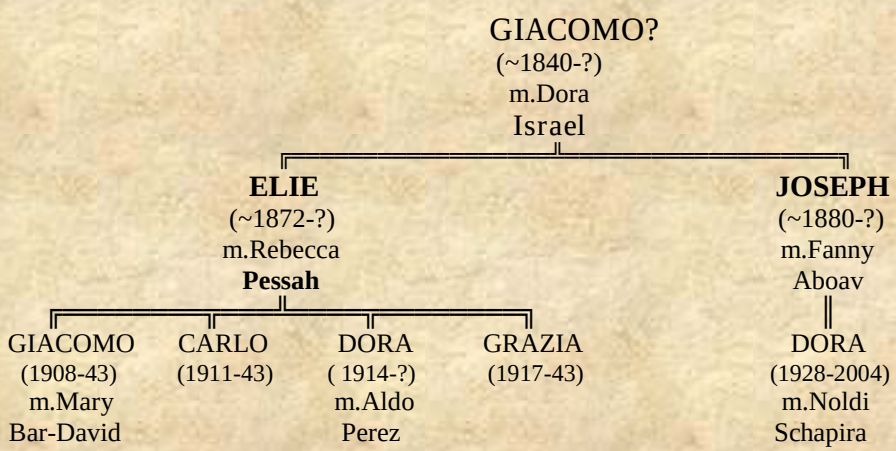

Chart 48

Dora Schapira's daughter Patrizia has a fur business in central Milan named *Pelicceria Neuman by Modiano.* She is married to Mauro Dusio and they have a son, Alessandro.

Elie Modiano, son of the leader of the family, married Rebecca Pessah and had two sons and two daughters. It is interesting that Rebecca's sister Leah married Albert Modiano, her husband's uncle who belonged to the English branch (*see* *Chart 49*). These two families were so close that they gave their children the same names. Both Pessah sisters married Modianos, but so did their brother Gabriel (see *Chart 32*).

The Tragedy

The war reserved a tragic fate for Elie and Rebecca's children (*see* *Chart 48*): Giacomo, his wife Mary, his brother Carlo and his sister Grazia all perished in northern Italy in 1943.

They had taken refuge in the hotel Sempione of Arona, on Lago Maggiore. Soldiers of the "Adolph Hitler" SS Armoured Division, the same unit that massacred the 13 Salonika Jews in Meina, arrested them in the afternoon of 15 September 1943. They were never seen again.

A friend, Mrs Enrica Sinigaglia[89], said that 24 hours after their disappearance she had looked for them everywhere without success. When she heard a story that a lot of bodies had been seen floating in the lake, she took her bicycle and went to see.

She was forced to stop in front of the villa Mondadori as the Germans were disposing of what appeared to be five or six corpses swollen by water "tied in the chest and the feet with metal wire". One by one, the bodies were taken by SS soldiers in a boat. At about 100m from the coast, they stabbed each corpse with their bayonets until it sank. Mrs Sinigaglia watched them at this gruesome task for two hours. But she could not identify the bodies.

More details about this tragedy can be found at this Italian site
http://novara.anpi.it/storia/settembre.htm#ebrei

The other sister, Dora, and her husband Aldo Perez, managed to flee to the south of France. Details about the tragic fate of these cousins, as well as documents relating to the murder of the Salonika Jews in Meina, were given to me by Audrey Skelsey of London, daughter of Dora Albert Modiano of the English branch.

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[89] Quoted in Marco Nozza's fascinating account of the tragedy *Hotel Meina*

The English Line

Chart 49

Jacques (Jack) and his brother Charles (above) ran a profitable antique and rug business in central London for years. Charles' daughter Elena married a Spanish air traffic controller. They lived in Spain but she has now moved back to her father's flat in London with her son, Carlos.

The members of this Modiano branch were so close to each other that at one time they all lived in the same block of flats in London. Few survive today.

The son of Leon is Ramon, a wonderful and sensitive artist. He told me that when as a child, he first saw Walt Disney animated cartoons and he decided that that was what he wanted to do in life. He is an accomplished designer of animated cartoons, whose work was very much appreciated in the film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* (1988). He also contributed to the creation of the famous cartoon Doonesbury.

The English branch kept in close touch with their cousins in Italy, especially since they were the offspring of the two Pessah sisters. Albert's first daughter Bella was blind. Raquel Adelsberg of the French branch told me that she often chatted by telephone with Elena's father, Charles, until his death in 1992.

Ramon and Elena have an impressive collection of photographs of the members of the French branch, especially those of Patrick Modiano, shown as a baby and as a child growing up – pictures that his father sent regularly to his cousins in London.

Abraham's other children

We know nothing about Abraham's second son, Samuel (*see* *Chart 46*). His first daughter, Rachel (probably the name of her paternal grandmother) married a Mr Cohen and had a daughter. The second, Julia, married a Mr Arditti and they had a son, Claude.

Eugenie was the only daughter from his second wife. She also married twice. From her first husband, J. Francis, she had two sons and two daughters. The second marriage was to Alec Messulam, whose sister, Maud, married Eugenie's brother Moise (Maurizio). Eugenie died in 1959 and is buried at the Jewish cemetery of Milan.

Jenny Bewes, Maurizio's granddaughter, told me the following story after seeing the printed version of this book.

Maurizio and Maud had three daughters:

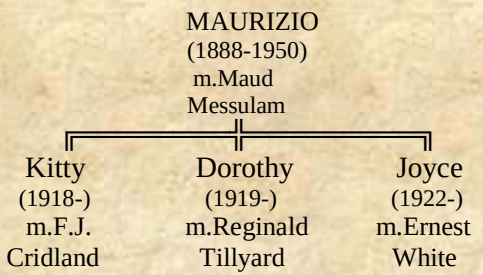

Chart 50

Between 1912 and 1916, Maurizio joined his brother David (see Chart 46) in Venezuela. His daughters knew of this Caracas period but for some reason they had never heard of their father's half-brother, Jacques, who had already been in Venezuela since 1894.

Jenny, who is Kitty's daughter, wrote: "One of the biggest mysteries is that my mother and her two sisters had no inkling that they were Jewish on either side of the family – let alone staunchly Jewish on both sides! Their religious beliefs were up to their mother and they were brought up as Christians …"

Maurizio was not a practicing Jew, but he refused to attend the marriages of his daughters in church – an extraordinary event considering that he adored them all.

According to Jenny her mother and aunts assumed that their relatives spoke some sort of Spanish, but Jenny is now sure that it was Ladino. She said: "I also have a strong suspicion that my grandfather always remained Jewish at heart, but hid the fact from his children because my grandmother refused to remain Jewish. Why, I do not know."

Kitty's given name is Kathleen or Katherine. Her daughter Jenny (Jean Penelope) married David Bewes. They live in Petersfield, Hampshire, in England. Dorothy and Reginald have one daughter Valerie and a son Vivian. Joyce and Ernest have a son they named Ian Stewart Graham.

DAVID & JULIO MODIANO

Of this Modiano branch it was mainly David who lived a passionate and adventurous life (*see* *Chart 46*). According to his son Julio, David was born in Cairo, but caught tuberculosis and the family decided to send him off to Venezuela where his eldest half-sibling, Jacques (Patrick's grandfather), was already in business. Their trade apparently flourished

One day Jacques sent his young brother to the island of Margarita, off Venezuela's north coast, where some clients had failed to pay their debts. The people concerned told him they did not have cash but they were willing to pay off their debt in pearls. So they gave him 50 kg of pearls.

This was a "Wild West" kind of time and Julio showed me a photograph of his father, surrounded by helpers, sitting behind a little mountain of pearls heaped on a table. Resting next to it was a revolver. David's brother was delighted with the deal. So David set up his own branch on the island of Margarita and traded in pearls.

He also fell in love with Ramona, a pretty 14-year-old local girl, and married her. She gave him four daughters and one son.

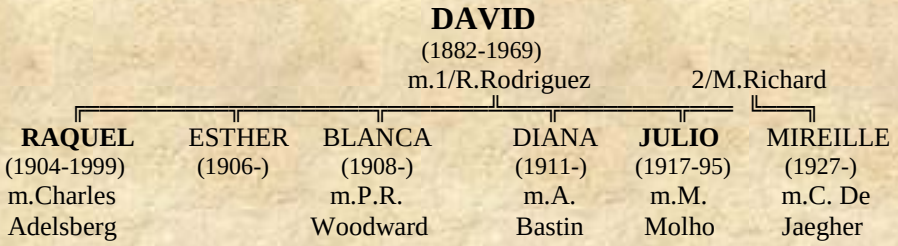

Chart 51

One fine morning in 1924, David decided to abandon Ramona. So he moved to Paris taking their children along. He later married a French woman, Madeleine (Mimi) Richard. She gave him a daughter Mireille who married and settled in Belgium.

David kept sending Ramona money, but she fell gravely ill, so her children brought her to Paris where she eventually died.

Julio learned the craft of cutting gems from his father. He opened a gem trading business in Paris and made frequent journeys to Kashmir and Cambodia to buy uncut stones.

He told me that when the Germans entered Paris in 1940, they forced their way into his house. There was a heap of pebbles in the safe. They brushed them aside, looking for money. The pebbles were raw uncut sapphires.

Julio and his wife Mathilde had known each other from childhood. As he had five sisters to marry off, however, he could not commit himself to her. So Mathilde (born Molho with a Modiano grandmother) married a Mr Guedalia.

By the time Julio and Mathilde met again after the war, coming out of the same cinema, she had divorced and he had remained unmarried. So they married and lived happily together for 47 years, until his death in 1995.

Julio said he had been saved during the war because he had a passport from Venezuela, a country whose interests in occupied France were looked after by the Swiss. However, in order not to tempt fate he went into hiding in French wine country where he also worked for the resistance. It was there that he learned how to tend vineyards and, even more important, how to tell a good wine. This encouraged him later to establish a very fine cellar of rare wine bottles that he, eventually, sold at a handsome profit, out of fear that they might be stolen.

Raquel, the eldest, is the one who worked hardest on reconstructing the genealogy of her family. Married to Charles Adelsberg, she had one son, Jean who married D. Hichard. They have two children. Raquel died in 2000.

Although this Modiano branch (*see* *Chart 46*) set out from Egypt, the only member remaining there today is **Lily Sallaly**, whose mother Rachel, daughter of Giuseppe (Joseph), married twice: first to A. Levy, then to H. Sallaly, a non-Jewish Egyptian.

Lily, keen to establish her maternal lineage, helped this research enormously. The structure of her branch is as follows:

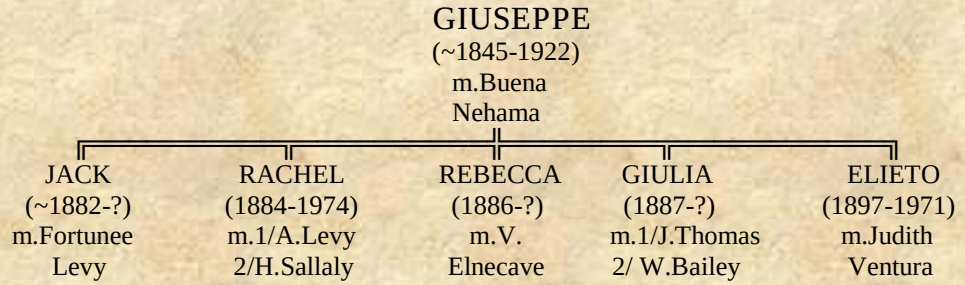

Chart 52

Lily said: "Our branch lived in Alexandria and, later, some members moved to Cairo. My grandfather, Joseph, passed away in Alexandria about 1922 in his 70's or early 80's." Her mother, Rachel, was born in Salonika in 1884 and died at the age of 90. Lily adds: "My grandmother used to go to Salonika to visit the family and apparently gave birth to some of her children there and some in Alexandria."

RACHEL
(1884-1974)
m.1/A.Levy
2/H.Sallaly
‖
Lily
(1926-)

Chart 53

Lily believes that her grandfather Giuseppe had four, not three, brothers and that "one of them stayed in Turkey [presumably Salonika, still Turkish at the time] and the family heard no more about him." She believes that before coming to Egypt, Giuseppe worked at the Customs in Milan.

Elieto, the youngest of Giuseppe's sons moved to Paris in the 1930s. He died in 1971 His descendants live in Paris today.

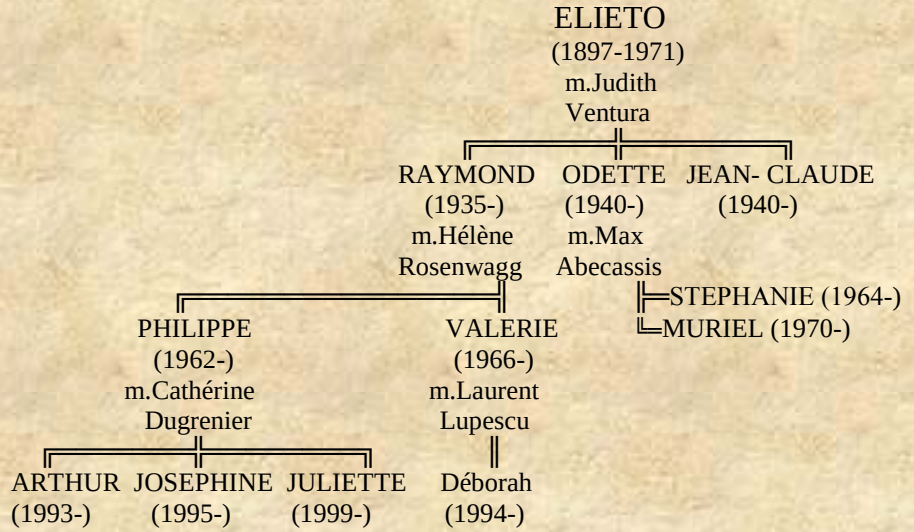

Chart 54

Raymond and his wife Hélène (above) who both worked in Paris in the food business, retired at the end of 2000. Their son Philippe is a dermatologist who practices in Lille. Odette and Jean-Claude are twins and were born in Normandy during the war. Jean-Claude is a chemical engineer.

This, then, is briefly the story of the branch of Jacob or Giacobbo Modiano whose roots can be traced back to the early Modillano rabbis.

C: DESCENDANTS OF JACOB MODIANO

1 Jacob Modiano ~ 1805 – 1890
+ Rachel ?
2 Giacomo? Modiano ~ 1840 - ?
…+ Dora Israel
3 Elie Modiano ~ 1872 - ?
…+ Rebecca Pessah 1917 - ?
4 Giacomo Modiano 1908 – 1943
+ Mary Bar-David ? -1943
4 Carlo Modiano 1911 – 1943
4 Dora Modiano ~ 1914 -
+ Aldo Perez
4 Grazia Modiano 1917 – 1943
3 Joseph Modiano ~ 1880 - ?
+ Fanny Aboav
4 Dora Modiano 1928 - 2004
+ Noldi Sciapira
5 Patrizia Sciapira
+ Mauro Noldi
2 Abraham Modiano ~ 1842 - 1916
+ Gioia Sarano
3 Jacques Modiano 1867 – 1916
+ ? Cattaui
*2nd Wife of Jacques Modiano:
+ Henriette Levy 1874 - 1937
4 Stella Modiano 1907 – 1989
+ ? Balsame
*2nd husband of Stella Modiano
+ Jacques Bensard
5 Alain Bensard 1936 – 1943
*3rd husband of Stella Modiano
+ Jacques Giroud
5 Christine Giroud 1945 -

4 Albert Modiano 1912 – 1977
+ Louisa Colpeyn
5 Patrick Modiano 1945 -
+ Dominique Zehrfuss
6 Zina Modiano 1974 -
6 Marie Modiano 1978 -
5 Rodolphe Modiano 1947 - 1957
4 Elias-Ralph Modiano 1913 -
3 Samuel Modiano ~ 1869 - ?
3 Rachel Modiano ~ 1870 - ?
+ ? Cohen
4 Linda Cohen
+ ? Cuenca
3 Julia Modiano ~ 1873 - ?
+ ? Arditti

*2nd Wife of Abraham Modiano:
+ Rachel Amarillo
3 Eugenie Modiano ~ 1879 - 1959
+ J. Francis
4 Albert Francis
4 Marcel Francis
4 Graziella Francis
4 Rose Francis
+ Meyer Matalon

*2nd Husband of Eugenie Modiano:
+ Alec Messulam ? – 1946
3 David Modiano 1882 – 1969
+ Ramona Rodriguez
4 Raquel Modiano 1904 - 1999
+ Charles Adelsberg
5 Jean Adelsberg
+ Madeleine Hichard
4 Esther Modiano 1906 - ?
4 Blanca Modiano 1908 - ?
+ P. R. Woodward

5 Peter Woodward
+ ? Heintberger
5 Diana Woodward
+ Ray Rapp
4 Diana Modiano 1911 -
+ A. Bastin
5 Janine Bastin
4 Julio Modiano 1917 – 1995
+ Mathilde Molho
*2nd Wife of David Modiano:
+ Madeleine Richard
4 Mireille Modiano 1927 -
+ Camille de Jaegher
3 Maurizio (Moise) Modiano 1888 - 1950
+ Maud Messulam 1884 - 1955
4 Kitty (Kathleen Leda) Modiano 1918 –
+Frederick J Criland 1914 – 1995
5 Jean Penelope Cridland 1942 –
+Arthur David Bewes 1937 –
4 Dorothy Olive Modiano 1919 –
+Reginald Tillyard 1914 –1979
5 Valerie Maud Tillyard 1940 –
+Ian Turnbull
5 Vivian Maurice Tillyard 1945 –
4 Joyce Ann Modiano 1922 –
+Ernest White 1913 – 1997
5 Ian Steward Graham White 1948 -
3 Nissim Modiano 1888 - ?
2 Giuseppe Modiano ~ 1845 - 1922
+ Buena Nehama
3 Jack Modiano ~ 1882 - ?
+ Fortunée Levy
4 Denise Modiano 1923 -
+ W Davison
4 Jules Modiano 1927 -

3 Rachel Modiano 1884 – 1974
+ A Levy
*2nd Husbad of Rachel Modiano:
+ H Sallaly
4 Lily (Leila) Sallaly 1926 -
3 Rebecca Modiano 1886 - ?
+ Victor Elnecave
4 Leon Nissim Elnecave 1922 -
4 Jack Elnecave 1924 -
3 Giulia Modiano 1887 - ?
+ J Thomas
*2nd Husband of Giulia Modiano:
+ W Bailey
3 Elieto Modiano 1897 – 1971
+ Judith Ventura 1901 - ?
4 Raymond Modiano 1935 -
+ Helene Rosenwagg
5 Philippe Modiano 1962 -
+ Catherine Dugrenier
6 Arthur Modiano 1993 -
6 Josephine Modiano 1995 –
6 Juliette Modiano 1999 -
5 Valerie Modiano 1966 -
+ Laurent Lupescu
6 Deborah Lupescu 1994 -
4 Odette Modiano 1940 –
+ Max Abecassis
5 Stephanie Abecassis 1964 –
5 Muriel Abecassis 1970 -
4 Jean-Claude Modiano 1940 -
2 Albert Modiano 1856 - ?
+ Leah Pessah
3 Jacques Modiano 1894 - ~ 1979
+ Charlotte Lateste
3 Bella Modiano 1897 - ?

3 Dora Modiano 1899 - ?
+ Leon Diaz
4 Audrey Diaz
+ Philip Skelsey
4 Robert Diaz
+ Dolores ?
3 Gracia Modiano 1901 - 1987
+ S Fisher
3 Leon Modiano 1903 - 1956
+ Mary Melo
4 Ramon Modiano 1949 -
3 Mathilde Modiano 1905 - 1974
+ Philip Fisher
3 Charles Modiano 1907 – 1992
+ Amparo Inguanzo
4 Elena Modiano 1948 -
+ Xavier Sagra
5 Carlos Sagra 1980 -

D. THE TWO VITA SALOMONS

VITA SALOMON I

The branches of the Modillano/Modiano *hahamim* and of Samuel Moliano/Modiano provided no clues as to how or when they had moved to Salonika from Livorno or elsewhere in Italy. Two other branches, however, which seem to be closely linked to that of Samuel Moliano, have left traces of this decisive move.

The Tuscan *Matricola* includes the following entry:

"**Fortunata**, aged 49,
wife of Vita Salamo Moliano, Livorno merchant
Son: Isaac Vita, aged 28
Wife: Donna, aged 24,daughter of
Vidal Benveniste, Austrian subject
One son: aged one, born in 1835."

It is not clear whether their ages are related to the year of the Matricola – 1833 -- or were added in 1836 like that of Isaac's son "born in 1835".

In any event, the story behind this entry is that Fortunata Moliano/Modiano moved to Salonika with her son Isaac then aged 28, while her husband Vita remained in Livorno probably for business reasons.

Either Vita Salomon Moliano had decided to settle in Salonika, so he sent his wife and son ahead of time, until he could wind up his business; or this move was combined with the marriage of Isaac to Donna Benveniste. She was the daughter of Vidal Benveniste, a wealthy Austrian national who was already established in Salonika.

It is, perhaps, significant that Vidal Benveniste's other daughter, Sarah, was married to Salomon Fernandez Diaz, then consul of Tuscany in Salonika. It was a connection that may have facilitated the granting of the Livorno citizenship to the Moliano/Modiano family.

Fortunata's maiden name was Eskenazi, and a note next to her name in the registry, reported that she had died in 1846.

Vita and Fortunata had two sons. The branch of the eldest, Salomone, reconstituted on the strength of official records, appears as follows:

Chart 55

This is the same Vita Salomone Moliano who had visited Livorno in 1819 on an Ottoman passport, and then traveled to Constantinople on a Tuscan passport in 1829.

I am assuming that the descendants of Salomone Vita (1796-1866) and Fortunata Spinoza remained in Livorno except for his daughter Anna who married Abramino Isaac Modiano, her cousin, and moved to Salonika.

Links to the Rabbis?

The name Salomon does not occur frequently in the early Modiano branches. However as the youngest of the children of R. Isaac Samuel Modillano, son of the head of the family of rabbis, was named Salomon (see below *Chart 1*), it is quite possible that these two branches may have devolved from him:

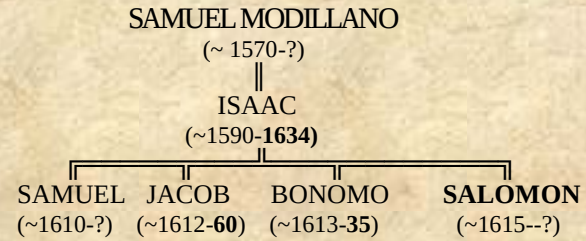

Chart 56

If Rabbi Salomon acquired his first son, Isaac, in 1645, it would have probably taken about four generations to rear our Salomone, born about 1750.

The British Line

It is from the line of Isaac, second son of Vita (*see Chart 57* below), that sprang several well-known Modiano families such as that of his eldest son Vita (1829-?) who married Fortunata Asseo, creating several branches whose descendants live today in the United Kingdom (line of Isaac 1859-1909), France (Elie 1869-1942) and Italy (Levy 1876-?).

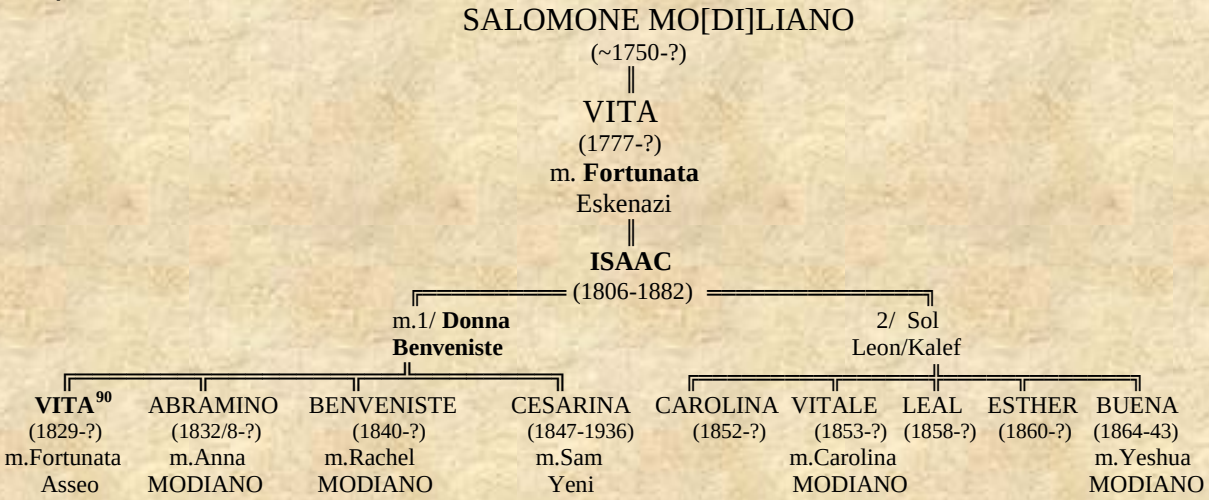

Chart 57

[90] I am particularly indebted to Madame Michèle Haim of Paris for the substantial help she gave me in reconstituting the genealogy of this branch.

The Issue of Vita, first son of Isaac

VITA
m.Fortunata
Asseo

ISAAC SAMUELE CAROLINA ALLEGRA MIMICA BELLE **ELIE** LEVY **MOISE**

Chart 58

Isaac Vita, the first-born, married Luna Franses. They had one daughter and three sons. It was his eldest son, Haim (below), who created the British branch.

ISAAC
(1859-1909)
m.Luna
Franses

MATHILDE	**HAIM**	VICTOR	MAURICE
(1883-1943)	(1885-1932)	(1888-1939)	(1889-1949)
m.Haim	m.Flore	m. Essie	m.Esther
Amar	Gattegno	Franses	Pinto

Chart 59

Haim migrated from Salonika to London in 1914 with his wife, Flore Gattegno, and two of their children. Lily, the third, was born in London.

HAIM
(1885-1932)
m.Flore
Gattegno

JACK	LAURE	LILY
(1909-88)	(1911-61)	(1914-79)
m.Mae	m.William	m.Charles
Arditti	Zinn	Sidi

Chart 60

Haim Modiano established a highly successful business in London dealing with commodities. Jack Modiano, his first son, succeeded him and expanded the business. In 1968 he formed a partnership with Giuseppe son of Alfredo Modiano (see Chart 44), who has since become a leading figure in the wool trade in London. Jack and his wife, Mae Arditti, whose family is also related to the Modianos, had one daughter, Linda, and one son, Philip. Mae and Philip gave me substantial help in reconstructing the branch. Sadly, Mae died in July 2001.

Philip Modiano is a prominent management consultant. While working in southern Africa he met and married Tlokoa Mpobane, the daughter of an African preacher. She gave him two sons, Alexander in 1983 and Timothy in 1985. Philip has since divorced, and remarried, this time Alba Petracco, an attractive Italian, who originates from Friuli but was born and lived mostly in Venezuela. They live in London where Alba is director of a major language translation firm.

An interesting sideline is that, according to Mae, Alba's grandmother in Friuli speaks some form of Ladino, although the family is Catholic. Alba says that most people in the area of Friuli speak “Ladino”.

The late Izo Tazartes, erudite scholar and friend, found the explanation. He showed me an entry in the Dictionary of the Italian Language (De Mauro p. 1330). It said "Ladino" was a "group of neo-latin dialects spoken in the Swiss Grisons, the Dolomites and the region of Friuli."

In 2002 Philip was appointed Chief executive Officer of Pilat Technologies International, which provides systems and software tools for the development and more sophisticated management of staff.

Isaac's sister Carolina (see Chart 58) married Moise Rafael of Salonika. They had two daughters and a son. The first, Mathilde, was arrested in France and perished in the Holocaust; her sister Rachel married J. Benrubi and had a daughter, Huguette who lives in Paris. The son Moise Rafael, who lived in Istanbul and managed the affairs of Elie Modiano of the French branch (see below), married Flor Beraha.

One of their two daughters, Carmen, the eldest, was the first wife of her cousin, Isakino Modiano. They divorced. She died in 1998. The youngest daughter, Perla (b 1924) married Elio Adouth, and they have two children. They live in Barcelona.

The French line

The main French part of this branch comes from Elie (see Chart 58) who married twice. His first wife Rachel Frances died giving birth to his son, Samuel (known as Teddy). Teddy married Rachel Molho and their only child was a daughter, **Colette**, who became a well-known journalist for France-Soir and Elle, and authored several light-hearted travelogues, such as Turkish Coffee and the Fertile Crescent[91] , which she called "Wanderings through the Lebanon, Mesopotamia, Israel, Jordan and Syria." She writes with humour and insight, "whether she is describing the campaigns of the Crusaders or her breakfast with General Dayan."

Her earlier book Chairman Mao and My Millionaires[92] described a trip through China "with twenty snobs". This is an account of Colette's adventures in Communist China as the luckless guide of some "rich, spoiled and very bourgeois" French tourists.

Colette married Jean Gustin, a manufacturer of agricultural machinery. They had one daughter, Clementine, and later they divorced. Clementine has worked for the Louvre Museum. She has two beautiful daughters from her ex-husband Alain Gomez who had been chief executive officer at Thomson-CSF, the electronics and weapons giant in France.

Colette tells me that her father grew up in England and served in the British Army. He moved back to Paris in 1921 and worked in the oil import-export business, mainly with Steaua Romana, the then Rumanian oil company.

His father Elie remarried. His second wife, Caroline Tazartes, had three daughters and one son named Isaac but universally known as Zizi. He, as well as his sister Mathilde's husband, Joe Nahmias, became leading figures in the oil business in France.

Joe Nahmias was also very successful in shipping and finance. A friend of Israel's Prime Minister David BenGurion, he gave, from his position of influence, generous support to Israeli causes. The French Cultural Center in Jerusalem bears his name. Rachel Modiano's son Jacques Sides became one of the most brilliant bankers and financiers of France, but died of a stroke at the early age of 45.

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91 publ. Michel Joseph, London 1974

92 publ. American Heritage Press (McGraw-Hill), New York, 1970.

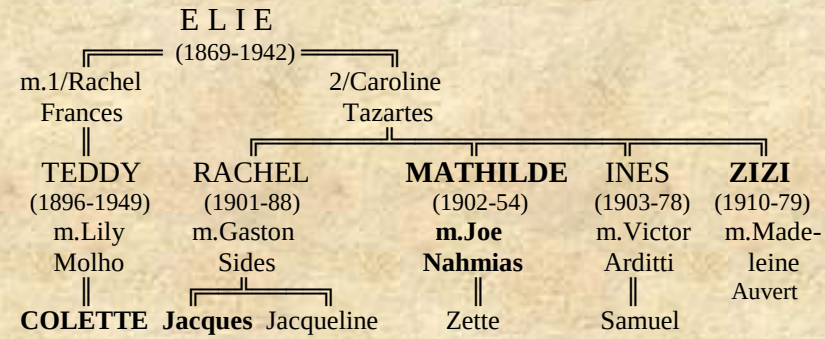

Chart 61

Alain Lizotte, Rachel's grandson, who is a psychiatrist in Paris, remembers fondly his uncle Zizi. He says: "He loved women, music and paintings. In fact, he had a collection of masterpieces, which he would show only to those who he thought would appreciate them. He was certainly not a show-off – a very private person."

It was Zizi, in fact, who gave a helping hand to his cousins, the children of his uncle Moise (below), the youngest of Vita's sons, when they moved from Egypt to France. One of them was Isakino who has had, by all accounts, much talent and a fascinating life.

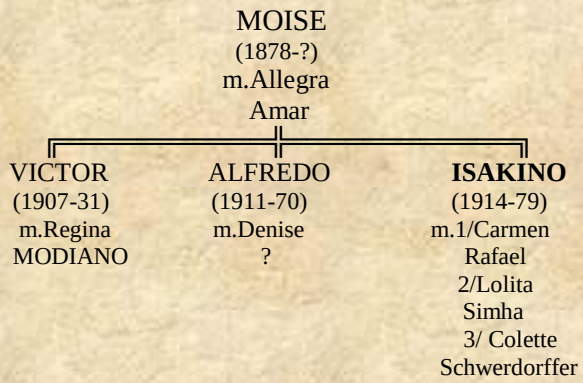

Chart 62

Isakino who had completed his studies in Sofia, Bulgaria, had a traumatic experience at 17. His elder brother Victor, who had married a Modiano, died after an illness. He was aged 24. Isakino found consolation by becoming deeply religious. A few years later he married his first wife, Carmen Rafael, his cousin, but the union did not last. His father Moise was in the vegetable oil trade. But just before the war he moved from Salonika to Cairo. Isakino joined him there.

Alfredo, the second son, had already migrated to Paris and went to work as an accountant at uncle Zizi's office.

ISAKINO MODIANO, A SKY-ROCKETTING CAREER

Isakino's children came from the second wife, Lolita Simha. He met her while serving with the British Army during World War II. His son Serge says that his father was in a Jewish unit engaged in covert operations behind enemy lines. Lolita, who had grown up in Germany and moved to Palestine, helped him in some operations. At the end of the war he was decorated and discharged with the rank of Army Captain.

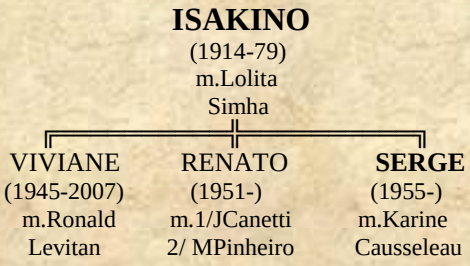

Chart 63

Viviane Levitan had a daughter, Barbara, and a son, David. From his first marriage Renato has a daughter, Lola who married and lives in India. She has a daughter and a son. Renato's daughters from his second wife are Sarica and Lea. Serge, Isakino's youngest, has a daughter, Charlotte, and a son, Raphael. Renato and Serge own a supermarket of biological products near Versailles.

Serge says about his parents:

"After the war, my father and mother settled in Cairo. Father was in the metal trade with his cousin Isaac whom we all called 'uncle Zizi'. In 1956, with the rest of the Jewish Community of Cairo, father and family were forced to leave Egypt within 48 hours. Our destination: Paris where uncle Zizi had already made a fortune dealing in oil. He directed an oil company called Avia and he usually drove round in a gray Rolls Royce. At first father worked for him."

Two years later Isakino decided to take off on his own wings. His field was real estate. After a few dealings with close friends and relatives, he launched his own company GEFIC, which sold residential homes. In the early 1960s, however, with the help of two partners, he started a company to finance actual construction of residential homes. Then in 1965 the real estate crisis hit France; but his father weathered the storm.

That was the year when Lolita died. Serge put it this way: "In 1966 we lost Lolita, my mother, in very tragic circumstances. She suffered from severe depression and she took her own life -- deliverance for her, but a nightmare for us!"

In the early 1970s, Isakino married a very beautiful woman, Colette, a friend of the family. In 1973 he started working very hard to help a friend set up a business. The business was a success, but Isakino's heart gave way. He died at the age of 65.

Serge wrote: "He had had a full life. He was loved and respected by all those who surrounded him. He was a big, burly fellow. He loved beautiful women, friends, card games (poker and gin-rummy), and business. He was what we call in France 'une grosse pointure' – a big shot. Physically he stood at 1.87m and weighed 100 kgs – eyes blue-gray, hair graying at the temples, a great likeness to the actor Kurt Jurgens. He was calm, intelligent, and always said the right thing. They all listened to him."

An offshoot of the French line exists in England. Ines (see *Chart 61*) married Victor Henry Arditti in Paris and moved to Britain. Their only son, Sammy, was born in Manchester in 1927. Sammy married first Cynthia Rayman who gave him two children, Michael and Caroline. His second marriage with Carol Ann Morgan produced another daughter, Samantha.

The Italian branch

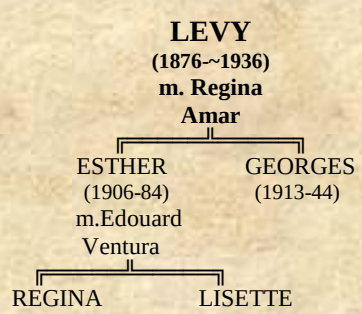

Chart 63a

Levy established the Italian line. He married Regina Amar and had a daughter, Esther, and a son, Georges. Raymond Nefussy (whose grandmother Allegra was Levy's sister) tells me that French collaborators of the Gestapo arrested Georges a few weeks before the liberation of Lyon in 1944. He and other prisoners had been put to work to repair the airfield at Bron, which had been damaged by Allied bombing. He and his comrades were then murdered in cold blood with a burst of machine-gun fire in their backs. He left a widow and a young daughter.

Levy himself had already died of cancer in a Lyon clinic aboutb1936. After the war his widow, Regina, joined her daughter Esther (married to Edouard Ventura) who lived in Milan. The Ventura had two daughters, Regine and Lisette. Both reside in Milan.

Levy's sister, Allegra, (*see Chart 58*) born in 1865, married Raphael Abastado. They had four daughters, of whom the second, Mathilde, married Lazare Nefussy. Their issue lives in France.

The Line of Benveniste

The third son of Isaac Vita from his first wife was Benveniste (*see Chart 57*). He married Rachel Isaac Modiano, sister of Stella who became the wife of Saul D. Modiano of Trieste. Benveniste's descendants live today mainly in France, but one of the grandchildren is René (or Benico named after his grandfather) Modiano (b.1922) who lived in Rishon-le-Zion, Israel, until his death in 2003. René was the only son of Raphael (the youngest) and Bella Botton. His father died when he was an infant. He was very close to his mother.

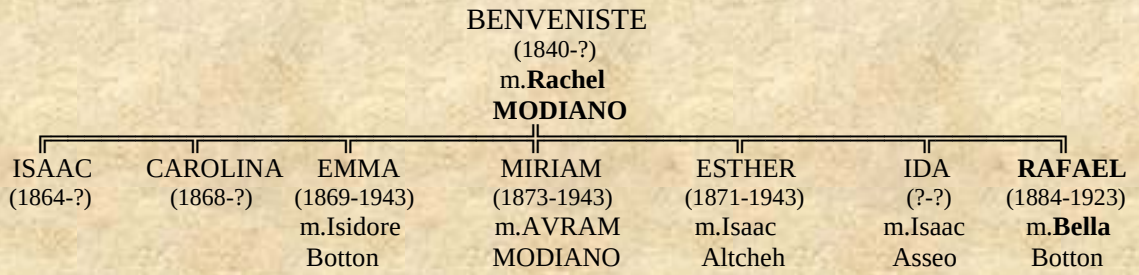

Chart 64

René survived the Shoah thanks to his Italian citizenship, and then by hiding in Athens. After the end of the war he married Marjorie Earwaker and moved to Italy. They did not like it there, so they migrated to Australia where René worked for the General Electric Company. He also edited the company's house journal.

Chart 65

René was a gifted writer and had a perfect command of the English language. However, no amount of goading by relatives and friends ever induced him to sit down and write, at least, his autobiography. Sample text from a letter:

"Your genealogical charts and tables always have a stimulating, as well as curiosity-rousing effect on me. Among other things, these outstanding documents contrive to evoke in my mind the rather salacious representation of the countless couples, who, throughout the ages, have gone to bed ultimately to conceive precious me. Impressive, don't you think? In an odd sort of way, I feel eternal (backwards) and infinitesimal at the

same time. Taking the philosophical approach, perpetuity, which in the common, everyday language implies a kind of unlimited future, should logically, by the same token, connote a timeless past as well."

It was a pity that he did not write his memoirs, for he died peacefully in his sleep on August 28, 2003. He was working at that time for the Agricultural Research Organization of Israel. His boss, Professor Zvi Mendel who informed me wrote: “René was a very dear friend. I loved him like a father. He was beloved by many associates in our research institute…”

The Line of Abramino

ABRAMINO

CAROLINA ALBERTO FORTUNATA

Chart 66

Very little is known about this branch of the family, except that Abramino (b1832-?) married his cousin Anna Modiano (1838-69), the youngest daughter of his uncle Salamone Vita (*see* *Chart 55*). In turn their eldest daughter Carolina (1863-1935) married her uncle, Vitale Modiano, (b1853), eldest son of Isaac Vita's second wife.

The Line of Cesarina

Cesarina is not a common name, but in Salonika there were two or three ladies answering to that name. In the context of the Modiano family it seemed rather puzzling to meet a Cesarina (*see* *Chart 57*).

The only fact we knew about her was that she had a son named Patrick, although his given name was Avram. At a chance meeting during a Paris genealogical seminar, Aure Amaraggi-Recanati, a granddaughter of Cesarina, this member of the family suddenly became real. Aure was investigating her Modiano background.

In fact, Cesarina and her husband, Sam Yeni, went to live with Aure's parents in Marseille between 1923 and 1927. Sam died two years later. Aure remembers her grandmother as a gruff old lady. "She did not give the impression that she was a very indulgent grandmother," she says. Cesarina, who had had breast cancer,

returned to Salonika were she died in 1936 at the advanced age of 91. She had had four sons and two daughters.

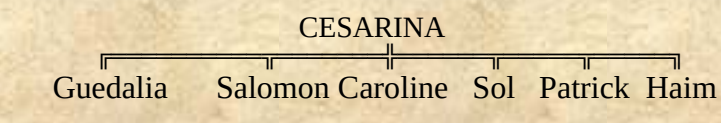

Chart 67

Guedalia died before the war and Salomon died in Marseille in 1945. Caroline died in the Shoah. We only know that Haim, the youngest, married Flore Amaraggi. They were the parents of Aure Renacati, who provided this information. In the year 2000, Aure published a valuable three-volume work listing thousands of Jews from Salonika who were deported and mostly perished in Auschwitz. She drew her material from the property and wealth declarations that the Jews of Salonika were compelled to sign just before deportation in 1943, but also, quite ironically, from the meticulous records that the Nazis kept of the arrivals of Jews at the death camps, which are preserved at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Isaac's second marriage

Of Isaac's (*see Chart 57*) second marriage to Sol Leon Kalef, we know Buena, the youngest, who became the wife of Yeshua Samuel Modiano (1858-1905). They were the parents of the well-known Paris surgeon Dr Vidal Modiano (1888-1971) who was the founder of the Union of Sephardic Jews of France and for many years President of the *Consistoire (CRIF)*, the central authority of the French Jews. More on him will be said in chapter E2 on the author's family – the family of Moise Modiano (*see Chart 83*).

[93] **Recanati**, **Aure**. Mémorial de la déportation des juifs de Grèce. 3 vols. Jerusalem: Erez, 2005 see http://www.sephardicgen.com/databases/recanatiSalonikaSrchFrm.html

D1: Descendants of Vita Salomon Moliano I

1 Salomon Moliano ~ 1750 - ?
+ ? ?
2 Vita Moliano 1777 - ?
+ Fortunata Eskenazi ~ 1780 – 1846
3 Salomone Moliano 1796 -?
+ Fortunata Spinoza 1805 - ?
4 Vita Modiano 1830 - 1897
+ Virginia Fiorillo
4 Giacomo Modiano 1831 - 1902
+ Adele Benvenuti
4 Giuseppe Modiano 1835 - ?
4 Anna Modiano 1839 – 1869
+ Avram Isaac Modiano ~ 1835 - ?
3 Isaac Moliano 1806 – 1882
+ Donna Vidal Benvenisti 1809 - ?
4 Vita Modiano 1829 - ?
+ Fortunata Asseo 1838 - ?
5 Isaac Modiano 1859 – 1909
+ Luna Frances
6 Mathilde Modiano 1883 - 1943
+ Haim Amar 1871 - 1935
7 Raoul Amar 1904 - 1983
+Essie Frances 1935 -
7 Susanne Amar 1908 - 1944
+ Henri Hasson 1906 – 1943
6 Haim Modiano 1885 - 1932
+ Flore Gattegno
7 Jack Modiano 1909 – 1988
+ Mae Arditti ? - 2001
8 Linda Modiano
+ Dennis Lewis
9 Kedie Lewis 1974 -
9 Kerrie Lewis 1974 -
9 Gillie Lewis 1975 -

8 Philip Modiano
+ Tlokoa Mpobane
9 Alexander Modiano 1983
9 Timothy Modiano 1985 -
*2nd Wife of Philip Modiano:
+ Alba Petracco
7 Laure Modiano 1911 - 1961
+ William Zinn
8 Elizabeth Zinn
8 Henry Zinn
7 Lily Modiano 1914 – 1979
+ Charles Sidi
8 Jacqueline Sidi
8 Carol Sidi
6 Victor Modiano 1888 - 1939
+ Essie Frances
7 Bill Modiano ? - 1985
+ Margaret Alexander
6 Maurice Modiano 1889 - 1949
+ Esther Pinto
5 Samuele Modiano 1860 - ?
5 Carolina Modiano 1863 - ?
+Moise Rafael
6 Mathilde Rafael
6 Rachel Rafael
+ J Benrubi
6 Moise Rafael ? – 1952
+Flor Beraha
5 Allegra Modiano 1865 - ?
+ Rafael Abastado
6 Flor Abastado
6 Mathilde Abastado
+ Lazar Nefussy
6 Gina Abastado
+ Henri Beraha
6 Yvonne Abastado 1909 - ?
+ Leon Cohen 1899 - ?

5 Mimica Modiano 1868 - ?
+ Avram Juda Modiano 1843 - ?
5 Belle Modiano 1869 -
5 Elie Modiano 1869 – 1942
+ Rachel Jacob Frances ` 1872 - 1899
6 Samuel (Teddy) Modiano 1896 - 1949
+ Lily Molho 1901 - ?
7 Colette Modiano 1924 - 2011
+ Jean Gustin
8 Clementine Gustin
+ Alain Gomez
9 Cornelia-Sol Gomez 1988 -
9 Tamar Gomez 1989 -
*Second wife of Elie Modiano
+ Caroline Tazartes
6 Rachel Modiano 1901 - 1988
+ Gaston Sides 1891 - 1974
7 Jacques Sides 1927 - 1989
+ Colette Roos
7 Jacqueline Sides
+ Georges Lizotte
6 Mathilde Modiano 1902 - 1954
+ Joe Nahmias 1901 -73
7 Zette Nahmias 1924 - 1994
+ Jacques Chabert
6 Ines Modiano 1903 - 1978
+ Victor Arditti ? – 1983
7 Samuel Arditti 1927 – 2005
+Cynthia Rayman
*Second wife of Samuel Arditti
+Carol Ann Morgan
6 Zizi Modiano 1910 - 1979
+ Madeleine Auvert
5 Levy Modiano 1876 - ~1936
+ Regina Amar 1880 – 1955

6 Esther Modiano 1906 - ?
+ Edouard Ventura
7 Regine Ventura
7 Lisette Ventura
6 Georges Modiano 1913 – 1944
5 Moise Modiano 1878 - ?
+ Allegra Amar
6 Victor Modiano 1907 - 1931
+ Regina Haim Modiano
6 Alfredo Modiano 1911 – 1970
6 Isakino Modiano 1914 – 1979
+ Carmen Rafael
*2nd Wife of Isakino Modiano:
+ Lolita Simha 1924 – 1966
7 Viviane Modiano 1945 -2007
+ Ronald Levitan
8 Barbara Levitan ` 1971 - 2011
+ Jean Louis Pouget
8 David Levitan
7 Renato Modiano 1951 -
+ Josée Canetti
8 Lola Modiano 1975 –
+Fatou Singh
9 Mona Singh 1988 –
9 Tara Singh 1999 –
*2nd Wife of Renato Modiano:
+ Marie Pinheiro
8 Sarica Modiano
8 Lea Modiano
7 Serge Modiano 1955 -
+ Karine Causseleau
8 Charlotte Modiano
8 Rafael Modiano
*3rd Wife of Isakino Modiano:
+ Colette Schwerdorfer

4 Avram (Abramino) Isaac Modiano 1832/8 - ?
+ Anna Salomone Modiano 1839 – 1869
5 Carolina Modiano 1863 – 1935
+ Vitale Isaac Modiano 1853 - ?
5 Alberto Modiano 1864 - ?
5 Fortunata Modiano 1866 - 1867
4 Benveniste Modiano 1840 - ?
+ Rachel Isaac Modiano 1845 - ?
5 Isaac Modiano 1864 - ?
5 Carolina Modiano 1868 - ?
5 Emma Modiano 1869 - 1943
+ Isidore (Juda) Botton
6 Vital Botton
6 Regine Botton
+ Dario Matalon
6 Elvire Botton
+ Dario Matalon
5 Miriam Modiano 1873 - 1943
+ Avram ? Modiano 1870 - 1943
6 Fortunee Modiano
+ Moise Sarrano
6 Rachel Modiano
+ Isidore Saltiel
6 Nina Modiano
+ Nino Cohen
5 Esther Modiano 1871 - 1943
+ Isaac Altcheh
6 Henri Altcheh
+ Jessica Arones
6 Mery Altcheh
6 Rachel Altcheh
5 Ida Modiano
+ Isaac Asseo
6 Pepo Asseo
6 Benico Asseo
6 Margot Asseo

5 Rafael Modiano 1884 – 1923
+ Bella Botton 1892 - ?
6 René Modiano 1922 - 2003
+ Marjorie Earwaker ?- 1997
4 Cesarina Modiano 1847 - ~1936
+ Sam Yeni 1823 – 1925
5 Guedalia Yeni ? – 1936
5 Salomon Yeni ? - 1945
+ Boukitza ?
5 Caroline Yeni
+ ? Salmona
5 Sol Yeni
+ Haim Asseo
5 Patrick Yeni
+ Dora ?
5 Haim Yeni 1891 - ?
+ Flore Amaraggi 1900 - ?

*2nd Wife of Isaac Vita Moliano:

+ Sol Leon Kalef 1833 - ?
4 Carolina Modiano 1852 - ?
4 Vitale Isaac Modiano 1853 - ?
+ Carolina Modiano 1863 - 1935
4 Leal Modiano 1858 - ?
4 Esther Modiano 1860 - ?
4 Buena Modiano 1864 – 1943
+ Yeshua Samuel Modiano 1858 – 1905

VITA SALOMON II

Vita Salomon's son Salomone married Regina Massarano in Livorno on 4 June 1829. The wedding certificate lists the groom's name as both Modigliano and Modiano. This was the first written evidence that the name evolved from Modigliano or Modillano to Modiano[94].

The structure of the family of Vita Salomon II emerges from official records as follows:

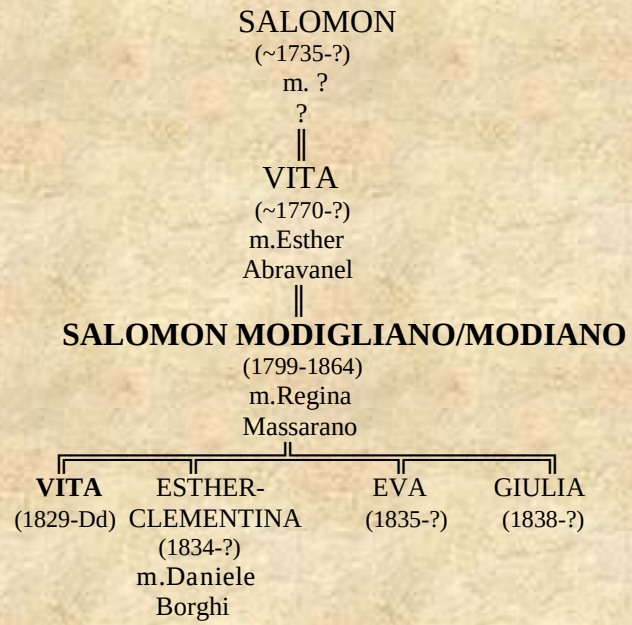

Chart 68

[94] Obviously the listing of the groom's father's name as Salomone instead of Vita, is a clerical error since it is unlikely that father and son had the same name – at least not at that time.

This Modigliano/Modiano branch resided in Livorno and is, most probably, the Modiano family that was recorded during the Livorno census of 1841. According to this census, Salomone Modiano, a merchant aged 40, and a citizen of Salonika, lived in Via Maggi on the first floor, with his wife and three daughters. A family link between the Vita Salomon I and II branches is quite probable because of the similarity of first names, but especially because, according to the death certificate of this Salomon Vita who had no living sons when he died in 1864, it was Vita (Vittorio) Salomon (*see* *Chart 55*) who officially recorded his death. The 1841 census also listed Salomone Modiano, aged 40, living in via Serrisori, also a merchant, also from Salonika – but with three sons, one daughter and his wife. A 70-year-old Vita Salomone was listed as living alone, although married. He is almost certainly the father of Salomon Modigliano/Modiano of *Chart 68*.

D2: Descendants of Vita Salomon Modigliano II

1 Salomon Modigliano	~1735 - ?	
+ ? ?		
2 Vita Modigliano	~ 1770 - ?	
+ Esther Abravanel		
3 **Salomon Modigliano/Modiano**		1799 – 1864
+ Regina Massarano		1803 - ?
4 Vita Modiano		1829 - Dd
4 Esther Clementina Modiano		1834 - ?
+ Daniele Borghi		
4 Eva Modiano		1835 - ?
4 Giulia Modiano		1838 - ?

GENEALOGY II

THE MAJOR BRANCHES

In reconstructing family trees that go back two, three or four hundred years, factual information is not always available. Therefore, a degree of conjecture is inevitable.

In researching the Modiano ancestry it has been possible to bring together several disparate branches thanks to the consular records of Tuscany as well as of (united) Italy. There are, however, several major branches (including my own #E2), which presumably stem from the original family tree of the Rabbis. However, there are major generation gaps and the factual evidence to bridge them has not yet been found for most of them. As can be seen from this edition at least two of the independent branches have now been integrated into the main Modiano trees.

It was the sense of an "unfinished job" that encouraged us to accept help from experts who offered to identify our ancestry on the basis of DNA testing. Two Modiano family members, one belonging to the family of Saul b'Isaac Modiano, the banker, (**B1c**) the other from an unconnected branch (**E2**) took the test. They were found to have the same 11 out of 12 markers in their DNA. This would indicate, according to the same experts, that there is a 50 percent chance that the two have a common ancestor up to 17 generations earlier. This fits in with the conclusions drawn in this book.

Taking this check even further during the Salonika family reunion in 2007, pairs of male Modianos from five different branches had their Y-DNA tested and the results appear to confirm these conclusions (see DNA Project). However, as the number of those tested in Salonika was limited to17 Modianos, the Rome University team that conducted the tests decided to broaden the experiment by including more Modianos and even bring in some Modigliano and Modigliani into the project.

E1. MORDEHAI HAIM MODIANO

R. Yomtov, one of the sons of R. Samuel Isaac Modillano (*see* *Chart 3*) had a son named Samuel who, in turn, had a son named Mordehai (~1750-**1817**). We know that Mordehai had a son he named Isaac (~1785-?). However, we can safely assume that Mordehai must have had a first-born named after his father Samuel.

At this point, let us indulge in some speculation: since in the family we have no other Mordehai at this point in time, we assume that if he also had a son named Haim (b. ~1800), it is possible that this Haim Mordehai Modiano could have been the same Haim Mordehai who reared a large branch of Modianos, and whose descendants live today mostly in Mexico, the United States, Venezuela, and Athens.

This is a speculative reconstruction:

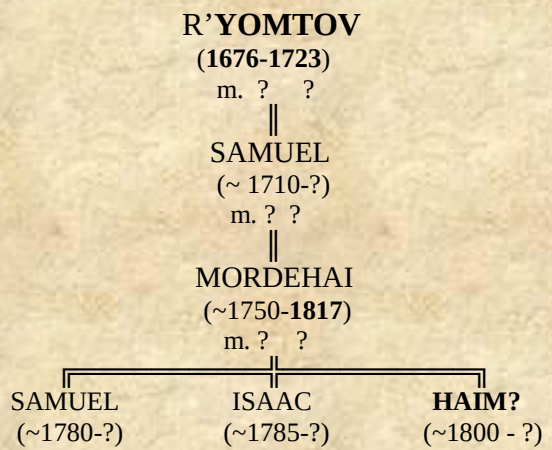

Chart 69

Our Haim who married Flor Arditti had at least two sons: Bohor (Mordehai) (b.1834) and Avram (b.1839). Most of the surviving descendants of Bohor's line are today established in Mexico:

HAIM MODIANO
(~1800 - ?)
m. Flor
Arditti
‖
B O H O R (Mordehai)
(1834-1885)
m.Bulissa
Cuenca

FLORUCHA	HAIM	ESTHER	JACOB	ELIE	MEIR	GRACIA	SARA	ISAAC	
(1863 - ?)	(1864- 1900)	(1865- ?)	(1867- 1942)	(1869-1942)	(1871-1925)	(1872 - ?)	(1876 – 1905)	(1877-1958)	
?	m.Sunhula	m.1/ ? Cohen	m. Ricula	m.Rachel	m.Buena	m. ?		1/ m.Mery	2/Elisa
Nar	Assael	2/M.Hassid	Mallah	Molho	Benjamin	Abravanel		Menache	Reitan

Chart 70

The first son, Haim, married Sunhula Assael. They had seven children, three male and four female:

HAIM
(1864-1900)
m.Sunhula
Assael

MARCOS	SALOMON	MATHILDE	ESTELLA	MANUEL	RACHEL	ANA
(1887-1936)	(1889 – 1909)	(1891 – 1940)	(1893 –1979)	(1893 – 1981)	(1897 – 1988)	(1899 – 1974)

Chart 70a

Haim's children started migrating to Mexico in the early years of the 20th century. We know that Manuel was 16 when he left Salonika where he had been born. The first-born, Marcos (Mordehai), married Dora Saltiel, but died at the age of 49 and they had no children. Salomon had already died in Salonika at the age of 20. Mathilde also was just 49 when she died in Mexico. However she and her husband Ovadia Sides had by then had two sons and one daughter.

Estella (Dudu) married Salvator Azicri and they had one daughter.

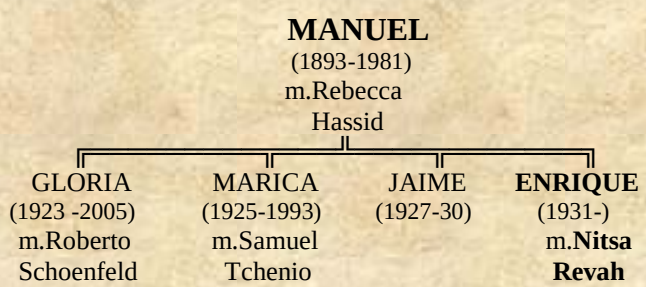

Chart 74

Manuel met Rebecca Hassid during a business trip to New York. Rebecca was working for a textile store and, as she spoke several languages, she was assigned to be Manuel's translator. They fell in love and promptly married. They returned to Mexico. Manuel died in 1981. Rebecca followed him to the grave six months later, leaving two daughters and one son, Enrique, their other son having died in Paris at the age of three.

Enrique retired in the year 2000 after running a thriving textile business in Mexico City. Enrique, who helped enormously in piecing together his side of the family, is married to Nitsa Revah of Salonika. Her brother Freddy, a childhood friend of this author, married the granddaughter of Meir Modiano, brother of Haim, Enrique's grandfather.

Enrique's eldest son, Dr Manuel Modiano (b.1957) is a prominent cancer research physician in Arizona. He married Patricia Plezia. They have two daughters. The second son, Elias (b.1959) who graduated in Business Administration, has done extremely well in brokering and insurance. Married with two sons, he divorced in 1998.

The youngest of Enrique's sons, Jaime-Freddy, studied veterinary medicine in Philadelphia, specializing in immunology. He obtained yet another degree in pathology. He married Michelle Ritt, also a veterinarian. In July 2007 Jaime joined the University of Minnesota as director of the Veterinary Medical Center's Animal Cancer Center. He teaches Animal Oncology. Early in 2008 Jaime and a university colleague discovered evidence that humans and dogs share more than friendship and companionship -- they also share the same genetic basis for certain types of cancer.

“The implication of this finding is that cancer may be the consequence of generations of genetic evolution that has occurred similarly in dogs and humans," Jaime said in a published interview... We believe that studying dog cancers may allow us to identify cancer-associated genes more easily in dog populations than in human populations. Once identified, we may be able to translate these findings to human cancers as we seek to provide a greater level of insight into cancer risk, diagnosis, and prognosis."

Of Mordehai’s children, Jacob and his family remained in Salonika. They were killed in the Shoah.

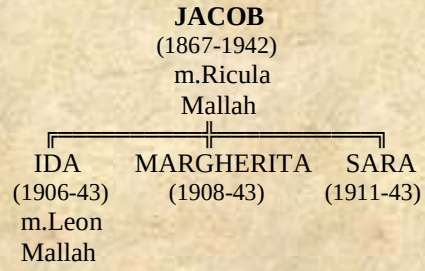

Chart 71

Jacob’s brother Meir died at the age of 53 of a superficial cut in his finger. His widow and their two sons, Marcos and Victor, settled in Mexico. Marcos’ youngest son Mario moved with his family to San Diego in California in 1991. He has been associated with the computer industry since 1978. He has two daughters (one of whom made him grandfather in 2001) and two sons.

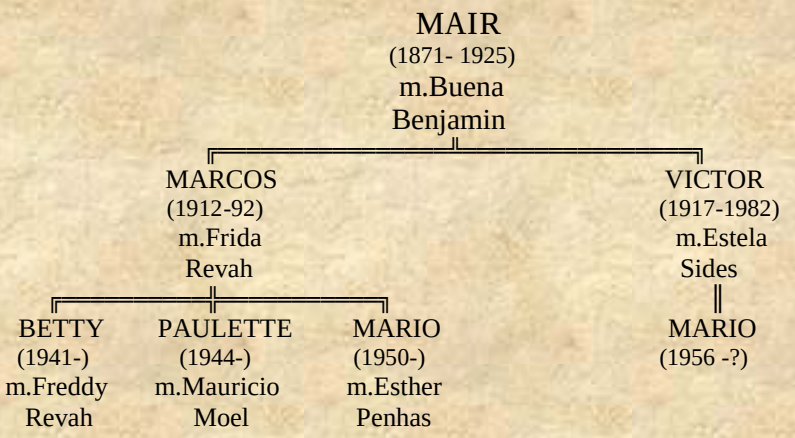

Chart 72

Of Elie's children only Ida outlived the war.

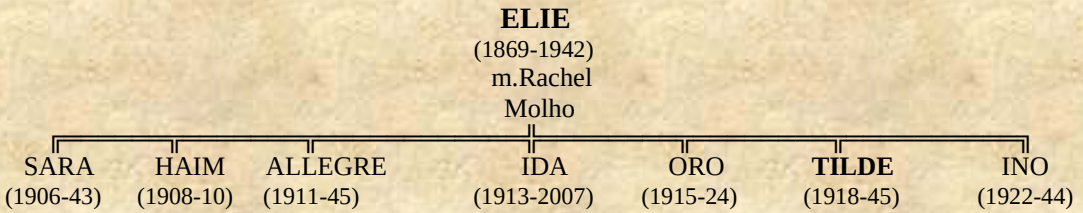

Chart 74

A few years before her death at the age of 94 Ida told me the tragic story of her family. Her father died in Salonika in 1942 after a German officer knocked him to the ground for some undefined reason. He hit his head and was left speechless. He died of these injuries a few days later.

Shortly afterwards the Germans rounded up the rest of the family and although they had Italian citizenship, they were interned at the Baron Hirsch transit camp in readiness for deportation. The eldest sisters, Sara, her husband Nissim Moshe as well as their two boys were put On the first train that left Salonika for the death camps.

“We went into hiding inside the camp until we heard that the first transport had left,” said Ida. “Then we found that Sara and her family had been taken.”

At this point the Italian consulate intervened and they were set free as Italian citizens. Tilde worked closely with the consulate to help in the transfer of Salonika's Italian Jews (and some non-Italian) by Italian military train to the safety of Athens, which was then under Italian control.

In this military convoy there were 217 members of Italian families, 92 members of families in which the wife only had had Italian nationality, and 13 who had had Italian parents[95]. These families, including her own, were transferred to Athens just in time -- two months before Italy’s collapse.

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95 *Italian Diplomatic Documents on the History of the Holocaust in Greece (1941-1943)* edited by Daniel Carpi, The Diaspora Research Institute, Tel-Aviv University, 1999, pp 261-9.

When Tilde was set free from the Salonika camp, she tore off the yellow Star of David that the Germans had forced the Jews to wear, and gave it to Captain Lucillo Merci, the consulate's officer who acted as liaison officer with the German Command – a man that Yad Vashem honoured for saving many Jews. On it she wrote "With emotion and ever-lasting affection" and signed her name. The star was found among Merci's personal documents, when he died after the war.

Once in Athens, the Italian-Jewish refugees were lodged in houses of Christian Greeks in the suburb of Nea Filadelfia. When Italy collapsed in the month of September, the Germans took control of the whole of Greece. They ordered all the Jews to report to the Athens synagogue. Most of them were rounded up there. Others were tracked down in their hiding places.

Ida said that when the order to report to the synagogue came on March 24, 1944, Allegre and Ino obeyed the order and went there, while their mother, Tilde and Ida remained in the flat in central Athens where they were staying.

Ino was detained at the synagogue while Allegre was allowed to return home. The Germans shrewdly knew few family members would escape if one of them was held. The local Greek police advised them to escape, Ida said. She was then working for IKA, the Greek Social Insurance Organization. She said her colleagues would visit to urge them to “go to the mountains” where the Greek Resistance was in control.

But the mother refused because she did not want to leave the Ino, her boy who had already been incarcerated at Haidari prison camp. So Allegre and Tilde were the first to surrender at Haidari prison in order to join their little brother. In spite of the goading of these friends and the local police, Rachel Modiano and her daughter Ida went to join the rest of the family in jail on March 25, the day the Greeks celebrate their Independence.

They were all taken directly to Auschwitz. Ino was forced to work in the crematoria in Birkenau with the sonderkommando. He was killed there. His mother was also led to the gas chambers. “The last time we saw Ino was when he jumped a wall to come and see us” says Ida. A few days later they learned he had been killed.

As the Russians approached Auschwitz, the Germans forced the inmates to march westwards. Ida and her two sisters were put on a train for four “dreadful” days that took them to Bergen Belsen, a concentration camp inside Germany.

There the sisters were separated. “Tilde and Allegre were staying in the same compound as Anne Frank,” Ida said. But they had all suffered so much from disease, starvation and lice that Allegre was the first to die. “I then saw Tilde dead in the pathway inside the camp on April 12,” Ida told me. “Three days later the British Army liberated us.”

Ida returned to Athens and soon migrated to Mexico where she had relatives. There she met Sylvain Benadon, married him, and they moved to Caracas in Venezuela where they settled. Sylvain was in insurance and when he died in 1973, Ida took over. Even in her 90s, she was still active professionally. “I work less now,” she had told me. In 2005 the Venezuelan authorities decorated her for her 30 years of uninterrupted service. But in January 2007 while attending Shabbat service at the synagogue she died of a stroke.

It is now clear that Captain Merci had not been aware of what happened to Tilde after she and her family left Salonika. Mrs Merci, the Captain’s widow said that in his diary96 he said he believed thatTilde had survived the war. Also that her mother and her siblings had died of starvation while hiding in Athens in the months that followed Italy's collapse. This is now known not to be correct.

The youngest of Modechai’s children, Isaac, married twice and had four children. Their extensive families reside mostly in Mexico and the United States:

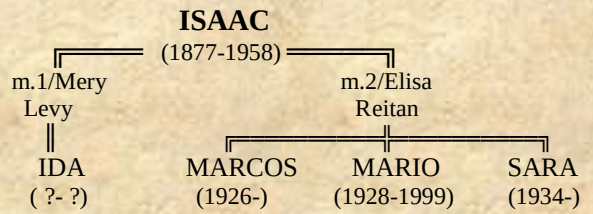

Chart 73

[96]Preserved at the Yad Vashem Museum.

The branch of Haim Mordehai's other son

The line of Avram is composed as follows:

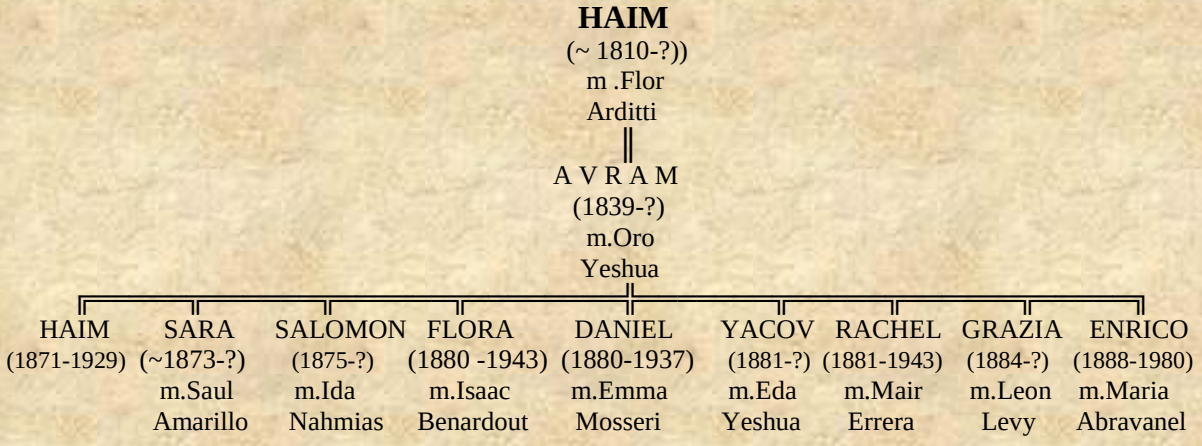

Chart 75

The Italian Consulate also recorded a daughter named Bella, born in 1892, but Laura Mordoh, the daughter of Daniel, said this was not correct.

According to Laura, Sara and Saul Amarillo had seven children, five boys and two girls. Salomon and Ida had a son and three daughters. The son was saved during the war, but the daughters perished in the Shoah. His grandson, also named Salomon, lives in Tel-Aviv. Flora who married Isaac Benardout had three sons and two daughters.

Daniel and Emma had two daughters, Laura and Flora. Laura, the eldest, married Jacques Mordoh. Their daughter, Emmy, widowed in 1997, lives in Athens. The second daughter, Lily, now Recanati, lives in New York where she works for the New York University; their brother Salomon-Albert and his family have settled in Florence, Italy. Flora married Leon Benveniste and had three children.

Laura’s sister Flora married Leon Benveniste. Leon was a Spanish national; the family was therefore sent to Bergen Belsen Camp in Germany, from where they had expected to be forwarded to Spain. However, General Franco, the Spanish dictator, refused permission for the second convoy, so they remained interned until the end

of the war. Shortly after their repatriation to Salonika they migrated to the United States. Two of their children, Sam, the eldest, and Emma, were born in Salonika. Dinah, the youngest daughter, was born in the United States. The Benveniste lived in Syracuse, N.Y. and later In Charlotte, N.C.

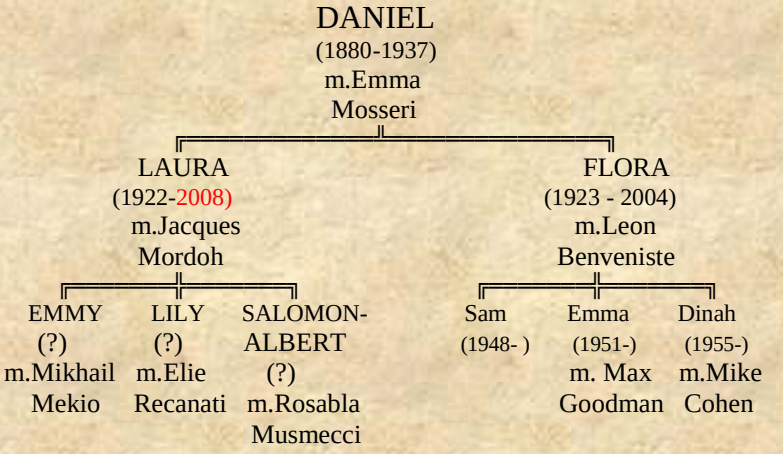

Chart 76

Daniel's brother Yaacov married Eda Yeshua who was related to his mother. Their daughter Laura married Albert Uziel. They, in turn, had a daughter named Sara. Rachel, Daniel's younger sister, married Mair Errera. Both were lost in the Shoah. The other sister, Grazia married Leon Levy. They had two daughters and a son who live in Israel. Finally, the youngest brother, Enrico who was a broker in the iron trade, married Maria Abravanel, daughter of a wine merchant, a lively woman who loved to sing at parties. They survived the Holocaust, but he died of cancer in 1980 and she followed five or six years later.

,

E1: Descendants of Haim Modiano

1 Haim Modiano ~ 1800 - ?
+Flor Arditti
2 Bohor (Mordohai) Modiano 1834 - 1885
+Bulissa (Ida) Cuenca 1845 – 1898
3 Florucha Modiano 1863 - ?
+ ? Nar
4 Julia Nar
+ Pepo Abravanel
3 Haim Modiano 1864 - 1900
+Sunhula Assael 1865 - 1941
4 Marcos Modiano 1887 - 1936
+Dora Saltiel
4 Salomon Modiano 1889 - 1909
+Ida Namias
4 Mazaltov Modiano 1891 - 1940
+Ovadia Sides
5 Jaime Sides 1920 - 1987
+Imelda Navarette
5 David Sides 1923 -
+Sofia Yoffe
*2nd Wife of David Sides:
+Alicia Fuentes
5 Estella Sides 1925 - 1987
+Victor Mario Modiano 1925 – 1982
6 Mario Modiano (1) 1956 -
4 Estella-Dudu Modiano 1893 - 1979
+Salvator Azicri 1893 - 1980
5 Rebecca Azicri 1923 - 2001
+Oscar Sherr ? - 1997
5 Jaime Azicri 1926 -
+Lueba Dolores Berman 1930 -
5 Sara Azicri 1927 -
+Gilberto Rueff 1911 – 1992

5 Margot Azicri 1931 -
+Karol Brill 1923 -
4 Manuel Modiano 1893 - 1981
+ Rebecca Hassid 1897 - 1981
5 Gloria Modiano 1923 - 2005
+Roberto Schoenfeld 1922 -
6 Luis Schoenfeld 1949 - 1957
6 Manuel Schoenfeld 1954 –
+Esther Sampson 1958 -
6 Beni Schoenfeld 1956 –
+ Betty Masliah 1963 -
5 Marica Modiano 1925 - 1993
+Samuel Tchenio 1914 -1963
6 Martha-Sol Tchenio 1945 –
+ Manuel Flisser 1937 -
6 Alberto Tchenio 1947 –
+ Virginia Buck-Kauffman 1949 -
6 Manuel Tchenio 1950 –
+ Silvia Alazraki 1950 -
5 Jaime Modiano 1927 - 1930
5 Enrique Modiano 1931 -
+Nitsa Revah 1936 -
6 Manuel Modiano 1957 -
+Patricia Plezia 1956 -
7 Rebecca Modiano 1994 –
7 Lauren Rachel Modiano 1995 –
6 Elias Modiano 1959 -
+Dorita Gritzewsky 1961 -
7 Mauricio Modiano 1986 -
7 Eduardo Modiano 1988 -
6 Jaime-Freddy Modiano 1962 -
+Michele Ritt 1965 -
4 Rachel Modiano 1897 -1988
+Alejandro Strugo 1895 – 1962

5 Susana Strugo 1925 -
+Joseph Benosiglio 1920 –
5 Gloria Strugo 1927 - 2010
+Jose Roffe 1920
5 Renee Strugo 1929 -
+David Benveniste 1919 -
4 Ana Modiano 1899 - 1974
+Isaac Varon 1895 - 1978
5 Alberto Varon 1923 - 2003
+Mercedes (Cedy) Tazartes 1931 -
5 Raquel Varon 1925 - 1991
+Alberto Sustiel 1926 - 1977
5 Jaime Varon 1929 - 1990
+Miriam Sustiel 1935 –
3 Esther Modiano 1865 - ?
+ ? Cohen
4 Mathilde Cohen
4 Jaenja Cohen
2nd husband of Esther Modiano
+ Moshe Hassid
4 Delicia Hassid
4 Dudu Hassid
3 Jacob Modiano 1867 - 1943
+Ricula Mallah 1883 – 1943
4 Ida Modiano 1906 – 43
+Leon Mallah 1902 - 43
4 Margherita Modiano 1908 – 43
4 Sara Modiano 1911 – 43
3 Elie Modiano 1869 - 1942
+Rachel Molho 1884 – 1944
4 Sara Modiano 1906 – 1943
+ Nissim Moshe ? – 1943
5 Haim Moshe 1933 – 1943
5 Elie Moshe 1941 –1943

4 Haim Modiano 1908 - 1910
4 Allegre Modiano 1911 – 1945
4 Ida Modiano 1913 - 2007
+Sylvain (Salomon) Benadon 1908 – 1973
4 Oro Modiano 1915 - 1924
4 Tilde Modiano 1918 – 1945
4 Ino Modiano 1922 – 1944
3 Mair Modiano 1871 - 1925
+Buena Benjamin 1910 – 1963
4 Marcos Modiano 1912 - 1992
+Frida Revah 1919 -
5 Betty Modiano 1941 -
+Freddy Revah 1928 - 2009
6 Elias Revah 1959 -
+Manny Masliah 1966 -
6 Irma Revah 1962 -
+Peter Daels 1956 -
6 Frida Revah 1964 -
+Santiago Mestre 1963 -
5 Paulette Modiano 1944 -
+Mauricio Moel 1936 -
6 Alberto Moel 1965 -
6 Mark Moel 1967 -
6 Eduardo Moel 1968 –
+ Elena Mirnanda 1968 -
6 Raquel Moel 1972 –
+Victor Finkelstein 1967 -
5 Mario Modiano 1950 -
+Esther Penhas 1955 -
6 Frida Modiano 1977 -
6 Jenny Modiano 1979 –
+ Alberto Galante
7 ? Galante 2001 -
6 Marcos Modiano 1980 -
6 Isacco Modiano 1982 -

4 Victor Modiano 1917 - 1982
+Estella Sides 1925 - 1987
5 Mario Modiano (2) 1956 –
+ Monica ?
6 Esthelita Modiano 2003 -
3 Gracia Modiano 1872 - ?
+ Senor Abravanel
4 Pepo Abravanel
+ Julia Nar
3 Sara Modiano 1876 – 1905
3 Isaac Modiano 1877 - 1958
+Mery Menache
4 Ida Modiano
+Leopoldo Fuchs
5 Jose Fuchs 1940 –
+Ana Tarlovsky 1949 - 2009
5 Esther Fuchs 1943 –
+ Samuel Frid 1935 -
5 Miguel Fuchs 1946 –
+ Yael Mizrahi 1951 -
5 Bernardo Fuchs 1957 –
+ Maite Mallen 1963 -
*2nd Wife of Isaac Modiano:
+Elisa Reitan
4 Marcos Modiano 1926 - 1926 -
+Betty Sevy 1929 -
5 Isaac Modiano 1951 -
+Nina Barouh 1957 -
6 Marcos Modiano 1979 -
5 Elias Modiano 1953 -
+Fanny Esquenazi 1958 -
6 Uriel Modiano 1979 -
6 Marcos Modiano 1982 -
6 David Modiano 1987 -

5 Salvador Modiano 1958 -
+Esther Behar 1962 -
6 Betty Modiano 1992 -
6 Arieh Modiano 1993 -
5 Alberto-Luis Modiano 1965 -
+Iliana Czaskowsky 1972 -
6 Jacklyn Modiano 1992 -
6 Danny Modiano 1995-
5 Lissette Modiano 1967 -
+Lary Harras 1966 -
6 Joseph Harras 1994-
6 Marcos Harras 1998-
4 Mario Modiano 1928 - 1999
+Arlette Sevy 1934 -
5 Alberto Modiano 1958 -
+Nora Hernandez 1959 -
6 Arlette Modiano 1986 -
6 Edith Modiano 1988 -
*2nd Wife of Alberto Modiano
+ Lucy Ocampo 1970-
6 Mario Modiano 1998-
6 Daniel Modiano 2003 -
5 Elisa Modiano 1963 -
+Abraham Kellerstein 1957 -
6 Israel Kellerstein 1985 -
6 Karen Kellerstein 1992 –
6 Mauricio Kellerstein 1996-
5 Raquel Modiano 1966 - 2002
+Moises Opatowsky 1968
6 Michelle Opatowsky 1997 -
4 Ida Modiano ~1931 -dd
4 Sara Modiano 1934 -
+Roberto Levy 1923 -
5 Salomon Levy 1954 -
+Nora Sanders 1956 -

5 Regina Levy 1957 -
+Manuel Renero 1952 –
5 Elisa Levy 1960 -
5 Sylvia Levy 1968 -

2 Avram Modiano 1839 - ?
+Oro Yeshua

3 Haim Modiano 1871 – 1929

3 Sara Modiano ~1873 - ?
+ Saul Amarillo
4 Isaac Amarillo
4 Salomon Amarillo
4 Maurice Amarillo
4 Sara Amarillo
4 Mair Amarillo
4 Lucie Amarillo
4 Rebecca Amarillo

3 Salomon Modiano 1875 - ?
+Ida Nahmias ~1880 - ?
4 Alberto Modiano 1908 -
+Fanny Noah
5 Salomon Modiano 1936 –
+ Rina Yeorri (Lago)
6 Iris Modiano 1961 –
+ Boaz Salmon
7 Asaf Salmon 1986 –
7 Oren Salmon 1991 –
7 Amir Salmon 1995 –
6 Avram Modiano 1964 –
+ Tami Mekel
7 Gal Modiano 1991 –
7 Itai Modiano 1993 –
6 Lior Modiano 1973 –
+ Hagit Ofer
4 Laura Modiano 1913 – 1943
+ Dario Asseo
4 Gracia Modiano 1916 -1943
4 Lina Modiano 1920 - 1943

3 Flora Modiano 1880 - 1943
+ Isaac Benardout

issue
3 Daniel Modiano 1880 - 1937
+Emma Mosseri
4 Laura Modiano 1922 - 2008
+Jacques Mordoh
5 Emmy Mordoh
+Mikhail Mekio ? - 1997
5 Lily Mordoh
+Elie Recanati
5 Salomon-Albert Mordoh
+Rosalba Musmecci
4 Flora Modiano 1923 - 2004
+Leon Benveniste ? – 2001
5 Sam Benveniste 1948 –
5 Emma Benveniste 1951 –
+ Max Goodman
5 Dinah Benveniste 1955 –
+ Mike Cohen
3 Yaacov Modiano 1881 -?
+Eda Yeshua ? – 1977
4 Flora (Oro) Modiano
+Albert Uziel
5 Sara Uziel
4 Haim Modiano 1924 -
3 Rachel Modiano 1881 - 1943
+ Mair Errera ? - 1943
3 Gracia Modiano 1884 – ?
+Leon Levy
3 Enrico Modiano 1888 - 1980
+Maria Abravanel -- ~ 1986

(This family tree would not have been complete without the valuable and authoritative help of Elvira Podgurski, a Modiano granddaughter living in Mexico City)

E2. SAMUEL MOISE MODIANO

The birth certificate of the first-born son of Samuel Moise Modiano, written in calligraphic Italian, includes abbreviations to indicate the names of the father and grandfather of Moise. It reads: *"A son was born to Samuel Modiano, son of the late Moise, of the late Js of Sl."*

This listing of four generations for the lucky father is a boon for genealogists; provided they can decipher those cryptic abbreviations. Taking advantage of the 5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy held in Paris in 1997 eminent specialists on Italian Jewish history were questioned on this.

Professor J.-P. Filippini, a leading expert on the Livorno Jewish Community, identified the marks as *"…son of the late Moise, of Israel son of Samuel"*; Professor Alessandra Berghino who has a profound knowledge of Italian Jewish history, believes that these were the symbols for *"son of the late Moise, of Isaac son of Salomon.*" My own non-expert guess is that Moise was the son of Isaac, son of Samuel.

The Bonomo Legend

Pending a solution of this mystery, the only pointer about the origin of this branch is what the author's father, Sam Elie Modiano (1895-1979) would tell anyone willing to listen: "We are the real Modianos because we come from Bonomo[97]." In reconstructing the family tree, we find three ancestors bearing the unusual name Bonomo. The first was the grandson of the original Rabbi Samuel Modillano. He was Bonomo *behar* Isaac Modigliano[98]. He died in 1635, and was buried in Salonika. This is a translation of his epitaph:

"A caring man,
"Charity and compassion dwelt in him
"The hungry and the thirsty always left his house satiated,
"A great many good things are said of him
"His name is widely known,
"Lord Bonomo son of Isaac Modillano,
"24 Yar of the year 5395[99]"

---

[97] See the chapter on *The Rabbis*.
[98] MM -T 879
[99] [12-05-1635]

SAMUEL MODILLANO
(~ 1570-?)
m ? ?
‖
ISAAC
(~1590-**1634)**
m ? ?
‖
BONOMO
(~1613-**1635**)
m ? ?
‖
ISAAC
(~1634-?)
m ? ?
‖
BONOMO
(~1655 – **1731**)
Chart 77

I. Emmanuel in his book *"Guedoley Saloniki leDorotam"*, commenting on the epitaph of tomb 413, wrote: "Bonomo/Bonhomo is a nickname of Biniamin." However, in his book *"Matzevot Saloniki"* which was printed later, he writes: "Bonomo, is the same as Shemtov (=in hebrew Good Name). It is known that in some families one brother names his son Bonomo, while the other calls his own Shemtov." Emmanuel, evidently, translates Bonomo as 'Good Name' rather than 'Good Man'.

The third Bonomo (b.~1695), the likeliest to have reared the family of Moise Modiano, was the youngest son of R.Joseph Isaac (*see Chart 4)* In this case it must be assumed that there were at least two unidentified generations between him and the grandfather of Moise represented by the symbol "SI".

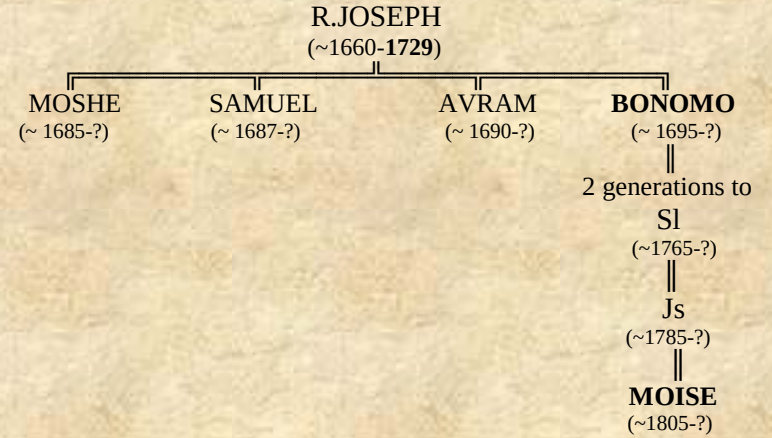

Chart 78

Evidently Samuel was not the first-born son of Moise. "Js", in which the "J" may be a flourish for the letter "I" (specially since there is no letter "J" in the Italian alphabet) could stand for Isaac. Early information of doubtful origin suggested that there was an older son named Vita and a younger one named Elie. No corroboration of this has yet been found. What we do know is that Moise's son Samuel (1828-?) married Rebecca (Ricca) Modiano (1834-?), probably the daughter of Daniel Modiano (*see* *Chart 20*), second son of Rabbi Saul Isaac Modiano.

Samuel and Ricca had six children, but their eldest daughter died in infancy.

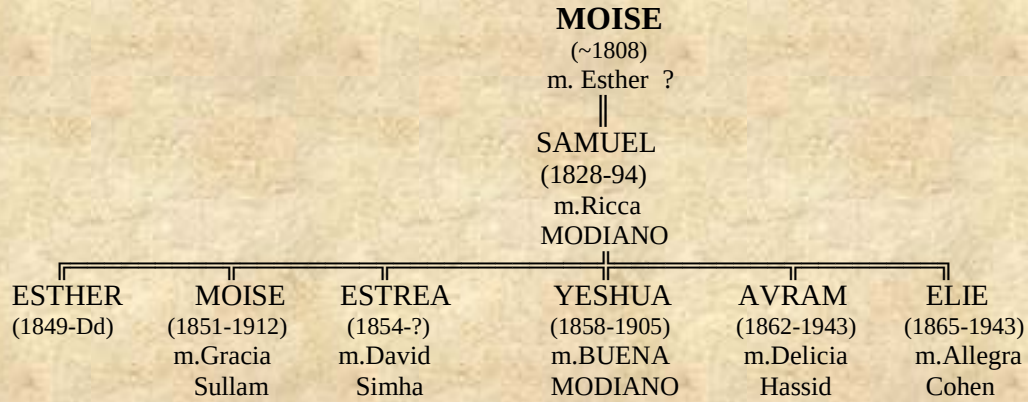

Chart 79

The branch of Moise (below) moved to Egypt and fared well. Moise's descendants fled Egypt after the Nasser Revolution in 1954-56, many of them settling in Italy and France.

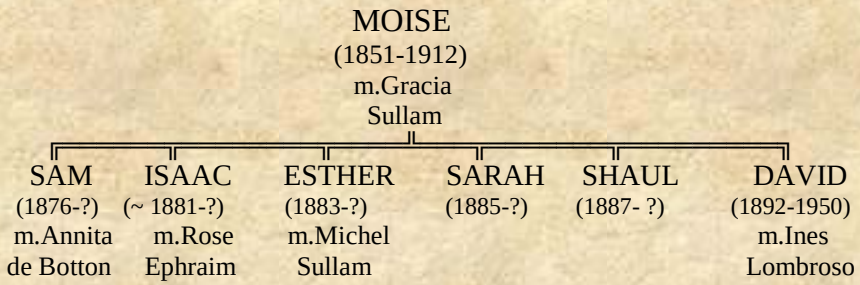

Chart 80

One of the grandsons of Sam, Moise's firstborn, also named Sam Modiano is today a physician in Paris. He is a general practitioner who specializes also in acupuncture and homeopathy. What is quite remarkable about this family is that his son David Modiano is also a general practitioner who has specialized in the treatment of tobacco addiction and has established his private practice in Paris. His sister Sophie is an intern in a Paris hospital, and his younger sister Laura is in University studying, what else, medicine!

We have kept in contact with this branch of the family because when Lelo, my brother, fled from occupied Greece in 1943 to join the Greek Air Force in the Middle East, he met in Cairo the whole family of the late Moise, our grandfather's eldest brother.

Odette, Sam senior's widow, remembers him well. She wrote: "He was our pride from Greece – as if he had descended from the skies! Is he always as handsome? All our friends fell in love with him."

We also remained in touch with Esther Sullam's children, especially Pepo Sullam who unfortunately died in Milan (where the family moved after Nasser).

One of Moise's grandsons, Roland Samuel (descended from the youngest David), lives in Monte Carlo. He recently retired after representing the international investment firm Meryll Lynch in Monte Carlo for many decades. He has now set up his own separate business as an investment broker. His daughter Carol works with him.

I heard a macabre story about the husband of Estrea, Samuel's eldest daughter. David Simha (*see* Charts 79) was a tobacco trader, so he travelled frequently to eastern Macedonia where tobacco was the main crop. On one of those journeys Bulgarian bandits caught him and demanded ransom from his family. To make the point that this was no joke, they sent poor Estrea an occasional ear or a nose or a finger, saying that worse would happen to him if the money were not paid up. It is uncertain whether the family found enough cash to please the bandits. However, when he was set free two years later David was physically intact. The severed members had probably come from dead bodies.

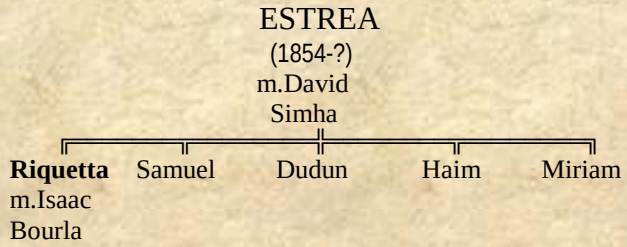

Chart 81

Riquetta and Isaac Bourla had three sons and one daughter. The eldest Dino died young. Salvator married Elda Gategno. They had one daughter. Riquetta's youngest son, Marcel, a charming bachelor who enjoyed life to the hilt, died relatively young. Salvator and Marcel represented British houses of luxury textiles and had a boutique in Athens. Their sister Irene married her cousin Benico Modiano, son of her great-uncle Avram.

Samuel's third son Avram married Delicia Hassid and they had three sons and one daughter:

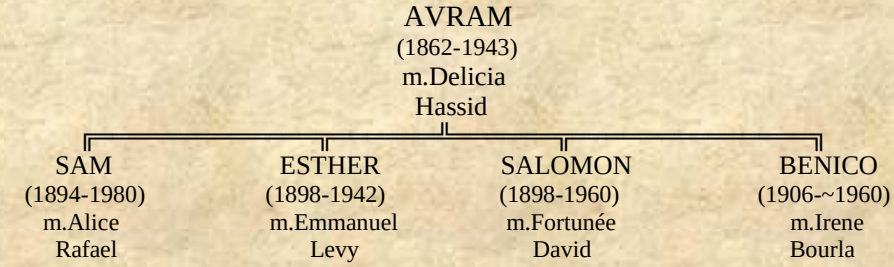

Chart 82

Sam who was in the insurance business and Alice joined their son Albert in Switzerland where they both spent the last years of their lives. Their daughter Dolly married twice, first Albert Mardoshe, then Jacques Benozio from whom she has a son, Gerard. They live in Paris. Dolly's brother Albert (Ticot) settled in Lausanne and is married to Claude Bloch. They have two daughters, Marina and Sandra. Sam's sister Esther and her son were killed during the Shoah.

Salomon and Fortunée had one son, Albert, who made an extremely successful career in Athens as representative of foreign shipbuilders and producers of other hardware; and a daughter Gina who, after marrying twice, now lives between Athens and Morges in Switzerland. Albert is married to Aliki, daughter of a prominent Greek professor of constitutional law.

The youngest of Avram's sons, Benico and his wife Irene had two daughters, Tedda and Dina. They all emigrated to the United States after the war, where Benico died. Irene followed him to the grave a few years ago. Their two daughters are no longer in touch with the rest of the family. Dina who changed the spelling of her surname to Modianot, is a journalist. She was a foreign correspondent for NBC, and is currently associate editior of the Greenwich Magazine.

This brings us to Yeshua, Samuel's second son, who married Buena Modiano (*see* *Chart 57*). They had an only son, Vidal.

DR VIDAL MODIANO, LEADER AND SURGEON

YESHUA
(SALVATORE)
(1858-1905)
m.Buena
MODIANO
‖
VITALE
(Vidal)
(1888-1971)
m.Blanche
Besson

ESTHER (Ziza) (1920-1950)
YESHUA **(Henri)** (1932-)

Chart 83

Dr Vidal Modiano is one of the great names of our family, both because of his career as a surgeon and his leadership of the Jewish Community of France in crtitical times. His son Henri tells us his father's story:

"Vitale (Vidal) Modiano was born on the 18 February 1888 in Salonika, then part of Turkey. His parents were Italian and…he was a Modiano on both sides. His father was Salvatore Modiano while his mother was named Buena, born Modiano. Up to the age of 13 Vitale attended the French School in Salonika. Then his father contracted tuberculosis of the lungs. His doctors urged him to get treatment in a mountain sanatorium. He chose Pau in southwestern France in the lower Pyrenées. His family joined him there. Young Vitale finished school after his father died in 1905, and entered medical school, first at Montpellier, then at the University of Paris.

“Vitale graduated and after his internship, he became a surgeon In 1914, at the age of 26 he was appointed surgeon of the Italian Hospital that Italy had donated to France to help in her war effort. When Italy joined the war a year later on the side of the allies, Vitale was named Surgeon-Major in the Italian Army. His services won him the Légion d'Honneur (Military Section) as well as the Cross of French Gratitude.

“Demobilised by 1918, he married Blanche Besson. They had one daughter, Esther, and a son Henri."

Henri continues: "Vitale pursued two careers in Paris from 1918 until his death in 1972: one was surgery, in which he had considerable success; the other was Zionist politics. In 1920 he founded the Friendly Association of Salonika Jews, which was later renamed Union of Sepharadic Jews. He induced the establishment of two Sepharadic synagogues, one at the rue de Buffault, the other on rue Saint-Lazare.

"In the field of politics he was a passionate Zionist. In the years between the two wars he became the friend and mainstay of Haim Weizman and David BenGurion in France. From 1940 until his arrest in 1943, he militated against the anti-Jewish laws of the Vichy regime. In defence of the Jews In 1943, he and Leon Meiss set up the CRIF (from the French initials of Representative Council of the Jews of France), which became the political arm of the Jewish Community. Meiss became its first President until 1955, and Vitale followed from 1956 to 1970.

“Within CRIF he lent support to the State of Israel, the United Jewish Appeal, and the World Jewish Congress of which he served as world vice-president next to his friend Nahum Goldman.

Wartime Hardships

"Vitale's double career was, naturally, interrupted by the war in 1940, his arrest (1943), his incarceration at Lyon first, then at Drancy, finally in the camp of Austerlitz (1943-45). Earlier, he had refused an offer from Franco, the Spanish dictator, through the Ambassador of Spain in France, to be given exceptionally a Spanish passport as leader of the Sepharadic Jews. However, he encouraged his fellow-Jews to seize any opportunity to save their families. He himself felt devastated that he had not been able to save his own mother from deportation and death in Auschwitz. Then, he had to suffer the shock of his daughter's death at the age of 30, from the consequences of her imprisonment by the Germans. He never forgave himself, but he never regretted that he had rejected an offer to commit an act of cowardice."

Beyond the fascinating details Henri gave us of his father, there is another episode in Dr Modiano's life, described in a book by Henri Amouroux. The story is told[100] how, during the German occupation of France, Dr Modiano stopped a brainless scheme devised by a group of Parisian Jews of Spanish and Portuguese origin. They had seen an article by a learned professor suggesting that the blood formula of the Sephardim was different from that of the Ashkenazim, the east European Jews. So they obtained from a professor of the anthropological institute of Paris, against payment of a generous sum, a report confirming this theory and practically calling the Sephardim Aryans.

The story goes on to say that this report was presented to the Germans. They in turn, allegedly checked it with the Institute on Races in Munich, which -- hear, hear -- confirmed this. There only remained the Vichy government to be convinced that the Sephardim should be exempted from the racial laws. At this point Dr Modiano, leader of the Sepharadic Jews of France, put his foot down saying: "It would be a lack of dignity to pursue these efforts."

Henri remembers that there had been an attempt to take advantage of the "venality" of a professor Montendon, "a sinister and grotesque theoretician of racial physiognomy," to demonstrate that the Sephardim were Aryans. Henri himself had had a personal experience of this while he was in Drancy, the Paris transit camp for the Jews due for deportation – an episode that will be told in Henri's biographical notes that follow.[101]

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[100] Henri Amouroux *La Vie des Français sous l'Occupation*, vol.II, pp 182-183.

[101]

HENRI MODIANO, NON-CONFORMIST M.P.

Dr Vidal Modiano intended his son Henri to study medicine and follow in his footsteps all the way to the operating theatre. Henri hated the idea, but bowed before the dominant character of his father. The aftermath of the war helped Henri free himself from what he regarded as forced labour. He opted for what truly appealed to him – politics. He was full of fresh ideas; he loved communicating with people, and felt ready for action. He admits, however, that his character was hardly suited for that career. His absolute non-conformism came in direct conflict with the manners and morals of French politics, as we shall see later.

Born in 1932, Henri had a painful childhood. With the occupation of France in 1940, his family went into hiding in the area of Thonon, on the French southern shore of Lake Geneva, which was the homestead of his mother's Protestant family. At the age of 12, while helping his brother-in-law carry out missions for the Resistance near the Swiss border, he was caught and thrown into prison.

At the same time, the whole family was arrested for being Jewish, including its Protestant members who had to prove that they were not. Henri was jailed in Lyon, but by November his German captors decided he was a Jew too, so he was sent on to Drancy, the main transit camp near Paris for Jews bound for the death camps.

Powerful friends of the family intervened, so his sister and he were released in January 1944. Henri tells an amusing story about this influential protector who brought in a famous (but very mercenary) anthropologist to Drancy. He had been paid to prove that he and his sister were Aryan, not Jewish. "He measured my ears, then my nose, then my chin – which he called the‘facial angle’, and ruled that my sister and I were the adulterous offspring of my mother with an Aryan lover," Henri said. They were set free.

After the end of the war, Henri studied medicine at his father's insistence. He graduated in 1954. However, after an agonizing internship he decided to change profession. He joined the Rothschild Bank for a while then moved on to Renault, the motorcar industry, where he worked for five years. At the age of 29 he became export manager, then commercial manager for agricultural machinery.

But politics was still on his mind. In 1968 he was offered to be a candidate in the general election held after the student troubles of May of '68. He agreed and beat his leftist opponent in the 13th district of Paris by 101 votes.

Since his childhood he had an immense admiration for General de Gaulle. But, once inside politics, he began to perceive how the General's closest associates had been plotting to get rid of the ageing leader. Henri tried to expose their manoeuvres, but found that he was making enemies everywhere.

One instance told by the prominent historians Anne and Pierre Rouanet[102], was when Henri Modiano set in motion the mechanism that finally induced General de Gaulle to overrule the government's plan to devalue the franc in 1968. The politicians who wanted what was later described as "the devaluation of de Gaulle," never forgave him. Henri is convinced that when de Gaulle died in 1970, the machinery was set in motion to annihilate him too.

Henri's idea of building factories to dehydrate forage and turn hay into pellets to feed cattle in arid areas was ingenious. The Government agreed to finance it, but, as Henri put it, the Minister of Finance[103] who hated him turned off the financing just as his own experimental company was ready to take off. He was compelled to hand over the business to avoid accusations of favouritism.

By 1972, as charges of fraudulent bankruptcy and tax evasion piled up against him, he was ordered by the party to leave the country. He is convinced that they wanted his flight to be seen as an admission of guilt.

He resisted this order, but finally gave in. As the French court condemned him by default, he lived for a while in Italy and Israel and in the US where he settled and where he made his home. If there was any blessing in this traumatic experience, it was that he met "the woman of my life," his present wife, in Israel in 1973.

Henri, who is a brilliant writer, tells the story of his adventures in French politics in a book published in 1972. He called it "An Open Letter to the Betrayed Gaullists"[104]. Jean-Francois Revel[105] described him as the Saint-Simon[106] of the Fifth Republic.

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[102][102] Anne et Pierre Rouanet Les trois derniers chagrins du général de Gaulle (Grasset, Paris, 1980)

[103] Giscard d'Estaing, later President of the Republic.

[104] Henri Modiano *LettreOouverte aux Gaullistes Trahis*, Albin Michel, Paris 1972.

[105] At the time chief editor of the respected Paris news-magazine *L'Exprès.*

[106] Saint-Simon (1675-1755) French author of the celebrated *Mémoires* in which he portrayed the great personalities of his time in a vivid, often scathing style, and whose judgement of people was later proved correct.

Even after the new government of France granted him a total personal amnesty in 1982, Henri continued to live “in exile”. He says he fully understands why the ancient Greeks considered ostracism as the most cruel of punishments.

Henri who has a son Laurent (b.1963) from a previous marriage now lives with his wife Micheline in Florida. He is a businessman and has been active in many fields ranging from representing a firm of mechanical wheel chairs and handling the security aspects of information technology, to art dealing. He has just finished writing a new book on -- what else? -- French politics.

Egypt Again

The youngest of Samuel Moise's sons (*see* *Chart 79*), Elie, married Allegra, daughter of David Cohen, his father's business partner, who himself was married to Esther Modiano. In 1901 Elie tried his luck and joined his eldest brother, Moise, in Alexandria. He worked for a stockbroker who went bankrupt when the Egyptian stock market crashed in 1910. So Elie, Allegra and their three children returned to Salonika. Elie found modest employment in the bookkeeping section of the Errera department store (the first of its kind in Salonika).

SAM E. MODIANO, JOURNALIST BORN AND BRED

ELIE
(1865-1943)
m. Allegra
Cohen

SAM	LILY	JOSEPH
(1895-1979)	(1897-1943)	(1901-2000)
m.Nella	m.1/J.Nehama	m.Aline
Tchenio	2/Y.Sevi	Nahmias

Chart 84

Elie's eldest son, Sam, the author's father, was a journalist. If modesty did not restrain me, I would say that he was a "damn good journalist, with a hound's instinct." He started his career in 1916 with the French-language newspaper "Opinion" in Salonika. One of his first reporting assignments was to cover the spectacular downing of a German dirigible by Allied Forces in Salonika during World War I.

Four years later, in 1920, Sam married Nella Tchenio. She was the daughter of Mair Avram Tchenio, of a prominent family from Aragon, whose converted members in the 16th century took the name of Santangel. Among them was Luis de Santangel who financed Christopher Columbus's expedition to the New World**107**.

Sam Modiano joined Avram Houly who founded *Le Progrès*, a French language daily, in 1923. After Houly's death in 1931, Sam took over the paper. *Le Progrès* faced stiff competition from the long established and highly respected afternoon daily *Indépendant* run by Elie Attas and edited by Mentesh Bessanchi, and later also from *La Volonté* published by Avram Levy.

However, through hard work, the paper survived with a small but loyal readership. In 1941 the German Army invaded Greece and occupied Salonika. German officers visited the premises of *Le Progrès* and seized the installations to produce the army newspaper *Wacht Im Südosten.*

Until then Sam Modiano had also worked for the British news agency Reuter, reporting on the Albanian front where the Greek forces were resisting the Italian invasion since October 1940. Sam, having survived the war thanks first and foremost to the protection of the Italians and the courage of his Greek friends, resumed working for Reuter from Athens. He gradually rose to become bureau chief for Greece and Turkey. He died in 1979, working until to the last as correspondent of the London newspaper the *Daily Telegraph* -- perhaps the most respected foreign correspondent of his time.

His son Mario, author of this genealogical survey, followed in his father's footsteps and served as the correspondent of *The Times* of London and the *Economist* from 1952 to 1990. Both Sam and Mario were awarded honours for services to journalism, especially during the difficult times of the Greek Colonels' dictatorship 1967-74. Queen Elizabeth II named both Sam and Mario, at different times, honorary Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). Sam was also made a Commander of the Hellenic Order of the Phoenix. Earlier, during his *Le Progrès* days, he became Knight of the Italian Crown (*Cavaliere*), received the palms of the French Academy of Letters, as well as important distinctions from Spain and Poland.

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107 "The Jewish Identity of Santangel and his Descendants". Paper by Yitzhak Kerem, editor of Sefarad, the Sephardic Newsletter, Jerusalem, presented at the Santangel '98 international symposium organized by the Dominican University of Chicago which subsequently withdrew its support from the publication of the proceedings.

Back in 1933, when a decree barred foreign nationals from owning daily newspapers in Greece, Sam Modiano had been forced to switch from Italian to Greek citizenship. Nazi documents that have just surfaced[108] showed that Sam Modiano's name was second (after that of the Chief Rabbi Zvi Koretz) in the list of persons the infamous Rosenberg Commission, intended to question and search their homes after the Germans captured Salonika.

The Germans did turn up at our doorstep shortly after the capture of Salonika. Two nights earlier we had made an unsuccessful attempt to escape by boat from Salonika to Mount Olympus where the Allied forces were supposed to put up a final stand before the advancing German Army (they did not). We found no boat, so we returned home.

The Rosenberg Commission officers turned up and questioned Sam Modiano for several hours while in another room their associates were piling up our library books (none very precious or rare) into neat wooden cases that were taken away by an army truck.

When the persecution of the Jews began in Salonika in 1943, Sam and his family (because of their Greek nationality) moved into the ghetto and prepared for the journey to Poland. It was then that Sam's Greek journalist colleagues called in and urged him to apply for the restitution of his former Italian citizenship at the Italian Consulate.

He took their advice. This saved not only Sam's direct family, but also several Jewish families, most of them already held at the "Baron Hirsch" transit camp facing the railway station, awaiting deportation The moment Sam regained his Italian nationality, the Consulate mobilized him to help in saving more Jewish families. So, those families in which the wife had been Italian before her marriage, were promptly granted temporary Italian citizenship, exempted from deportation and taken out of the camp.

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[108] Abschlussbericht über die Tätigkeit des Sonderkommandos Rosenberg in Griechenland, III Hausdurchsuchungen und Verhöre von Judischen Privatpersonen (Final Report on the Activities of the Rosenberg Commission in Greece, III House Search and Questionning of Jewish private individuals). The order for the report was issued on February 25, 1941 (before the German declaration of war on Greece. It was completed under ref.no.3929/R/DT on 15 Nov. 1941. Source: Mrs Katy Anagnostopoulou who is preparing a documentary film on the basis of these newly discovered documents.

Chart 85

According to Italian diplomatic archives[109] on June 25, 1943, the Italian Consulate of Salonika asked from the Diplomatic Mission in Athens permission for Sam Modiano and his family to be sent to Athens. His mission was "that, in coordination with the Embassy, he [should] set up a committee that would make the necessary arrangements for receiving the Jews [sent from Salonika]." Permission was granted and Sam Modiano with family left for Athens on an Italian military train on July 5, 1943.

Unknown to this writer or to his family at the time (until the Italian archives were published in 1999) as they boarded the train, an Italian officer invoked the "racial laws" and protested "vigorously" to the Consulate and to his superiors in Athens that Jews were allowed to board his train. Promptly, the top brass of the Italian consulate rushed to the railway station to soothe spirits before the incident took wider dimentions that would inevitably have drawn the attention of the Germans. The military train was allowed to leave.

Another military train loaded with the Italian Jews of Salonika left for Athens on July 15 after several obstacles placed by the German military were overcome. Aboard this train there were 322 Jews under Italian protection. They all arrived in Athens four days later. Sam Modiano and the reception committee went to meet them at the Amfiklia railway station, and on arrival in Athens, they settled them in schools and Greek houses in Nea Filadelfia suburb.

Unfortunately, after the Italian surrender in September 1943, the SS rounded up many of those rescued from Salonika as well as most Athenian Jews. The majority died in the concentration camps.

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[109] *Italian Diplomatic Documents* (op. cit. p.231 see my footnote 78).

Sam, his wife Nella, and Mario went into hiding and were saved by the kindness and courage of Greek family friends – Niko and Elli Sanikou -- who put at risk not only their own lives, but also their children's, in order to hide them in their house. Lelo fled to the Middle East where he joined the Greek Air Force and was wounded seriously during training flights in South Africa.

Lelo, after his repatriation, worked in the commercial field of audio-visual equipment. He married Nina Hassid and they had a son, Samuel (better known as Micky). Micky graduated in the United Kingdom and returned to a highly successful career in television productions[110] in Athens. He and his wife Christina (née Kassara) have a daughter who was given combined name of their two mothers – Marianina.

Joseph Modiano

Sam's brother Joseph (1901-2000) married Aline Nahmias. They had a son Maurice (b.1932) who studied engineering at Stanford University in California. He became a successful planning engineer, a company director and later chairman of the board of the company that owns the Grande Bretagne Hotel, the oldest and most prestigious of Athens hotels, which has been thoroughly renovated in 2003 in readiness from the Athens Olympic Games of 2004.

Before the war Joseph and his family lived in Kavala, in northeastern Greece, where he was engaged in the tobacco trade. With the outbreak of the Greek-Italian war in 1940, they were interned as enemy subjects in various places, but in fairly decent conditions.

During the German occupation of Athens, Joseph and his family were hiding in an Athens suburb frequented by communists. One night the SS raided their hideout. They were taken to Gestapo headquarters where they spent the night, while their false identity cards were being checked. Their papers were found to be impeccable; it was established that they were not communist; and no one ever asked them if they were Jews.

So, they were set free right out of the lion's den. But they no longer had a home. They rented a room in a Greek house in the same suburb where Sam and his family were hiding. Joseph pretended quite convincingly that they had been bombed out of their Piraeus home during an Allied air raid on the harbour.

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[110] He has sponsored the publication of this book.

JOSEPH
(1901-2000)
m.Aline
Nahmias
‖
MAURICE
(1932-)
m.Roe
Pastra

JOE	ALEXANDROS
(1963-)	(1965-)

Chart 86

After the war Joseph became one of the directors of the "Joint", the American Joint Distribution Committee mission in Athens that gave generous help to the Greek Jews returning from camps. He was kind, polite and considerate and all his co-workers loved him. Later he migrated to the United States to give his son, whom he adored, a first rate college education. He succeeded, although the beginnings were extremely difficult for him and his wife. They both had to work to make ends meet.

"Joe" resettled in Monte Carlo when he was called upon to manage the shipping fortune for a relative. He retired in Athens from where they watched their son Maurice rise admirably in his career, marry and rear two exceptionally gifted sons. He died at the age of 99.

Lily, the sister of Sam and Joseph (*see* *Chart 84*) as well as her second husband, a Greek citizen, were among the first to be taken from Salonika to the death camps. Even worse, at the time that Italy collapsed, their father Elie needed an urgent operation. So, while the rest of the family went into safe houses, he was placed in a clinic under the care of a trusted doctor. However, a nurse betrayed the presence of the Jew in the clinic. He was almost 80 years old when the Germans deported him from Athens. Mercifully, he died in the crowded cattle-wagon of the train taking him to Auschwitz.

E2: Descendants of Samuel Moise Modiano

1 Moise Modiano ~ 1808 - ?
+ Esther ?
2 Samuele Modiano 1828 - 1894
+Ricca Modiano 1834 - ?
3 Esther Modiano 1849 - ~ 1849
3 Moise Modiano 1851 – 1912
+Gracia Sullam
4 Sam Modiano ~ 1880 - ?
+Annita de Botton
5 Max Modiano 1906 - 1940
+Doudou Simha
5 Vanda Modiano 1909 - 1954
+Nessim Ancona
6 Albert Ancona
5 Renato Modiano 1914 - 1965
+Odette Avram 1916 - 2004
6 Sam Modiano 1949 -
+ Sophie Chamoula 1949 -
7 David Modiano 1973 -
+ Karine Benchimol 1975 –
8 Elie Modiano 2005 –
8 Salome Modiano 2005 -
7 Sylvie Modiano 1976 –
+ Guil Yazdi 1972 -
8 Aaron Yazdi 2004 -
7 Laura Modiano 1984 -
5 Vera Modiano 1917 – 1995
+ Moise Cohenca 1902 – 1988
6 Max Joseph Cohenca 1943 -
4 Isaac Modiano ~ 1881 - ?
+Rose Ephraim
4 Esther Modiano ~ 1883 - ?
+Michel Sullam
5 Deli Sullam 1906 -
5 Linda Sullam 1909 -

5 Albert Sullam 1913 -
5 Pepo Sullam 1914 - ~1998
4 Sarah Modiano 1885 ?-
4 Saul Modiano 1887 - ?
4 David Modiano 1892 - 1950
+Ines Lombroso
5 Rolando Modiano 1929 -
+Cathy Filakouridi
6 Carol Modiano 1967 –
7 Matteo Modiano 2007 -
3 Estrea Modiano 1854 - ?
+David Simha
4 Riquetta Simha
+Isaac Bourla
5 Dino Bourla
5 Salvator Bourla
5 Marcel Bourla
5 Irene Bourla
+Benico Modiano 1906 - ~1960
4 Samuel Simha
4 Dudu Simha
4 Haim Simha
4 Miriam Simha
3 Yeshua Modiano 1858 – 1905
+Buena Modiano 1864 - 1943
4 **Vidal Modiano** 1888 – 1971
+Blanche Besson
5 Ziza Modiano 1920 - 1950
+Charles Navarro
6 Daniel Navarro 1943 - 1978
6 Catherine Navarro 1947 -
5 **Henri Modiano** 1932 -
+Evelyne Munwes
6 Laurent Modiano 1963 -
*2nd Wife of Henri Modiano:
+Micheline Elguiz

3 Avram Modiano 1862 - 1943
+Delicia Hassid
4 Sam Modiano 1894 -1980
+Alice Rafael 1900 - 1980
5 Dolly Modiano 1922 -
+Albert Menache
*2nd Husband of Dolly Modiano:
+Jacques Benozio
6 Gerard Benozio 1951 -
5 Albert Modiano 1928 -
+Claude Bloch 1933 -
6 Marina Modiano 1954 -
+Raphael Vadnai
7 Gael Vadnai 1980 –
7 Michael Vadnai 1982 -
6 Sandra Modiano 1959 -
+Daniel Topow
7 Gaya Topow 1987 –
7 Nathan Topow 1990 -
4 Esther Modiano 1898 – 1942
+Emmanuel Levy
5 Albert Levy 1928 – 1943
4 Salomon Modiano 1898 - 1960
+Fortunee David
5 Albert Modiano 1927 -
+Aliki Georgopoulou
5 Gina Modiano 1934 -
+Raymond Picard
*2nd Husband of Gina Modiano:
+Dimitri Manolatos
4 Benico Modiano 1906 - ~1960
+Irene Bourla
5 Tedda Modiano 1936 -
+S Wollin
5 Dina Modianot 1940 –
+ ? Fox

3 Elie Modiano 1865 – 1943
+Allegra Cohen ? - 1936
4 **Sam Modiano** 1895 – 1979
+Nella Tchenio 1900 – 1985
5 Lelo Modiano 1922 -
+Nina Hassid 1926- 1988
6 Micky Modiano 1952 -
+Christina Kassara 1956 -
7 Marianina Modiano 1994 -
5 Mario Modiano 1926 -
+Inci Moran 1929 – 1998
4 Lily Modiano 1897 – 1943
+Joseph Nehama
*2nd Husband of Lily Modiano:
+Yeshua Sevi ? - 1943
4 **Joseph Modiano** 1901 - 2000
+Aline Nahmias 1907 - 1987
5 Maurice Modiano 1932 -
+Roe Pastra 1938 - 2003
6 Joe Modiano 1963 –
+ Ioanna Milopoulou
7 Maurice Joseph Modiano 2007 –
7 Aris Modiano 2007 -
6 Alexandros Modiano 1965 –
+ Rebecca Saba

E3. DAVID VITAL MODIANO

This is the branch of the late **Guido** Modiano of Milan, whose enormous contribution to the success of this project is outlined in this volume's *Acknowledgements*. However, as in the case of this author's own branch, it has not yet been possible to link the family of David Vital Modiano to the main tree because of gaps of several generations between the *Hahamim* and these Modiano branches.

Guido's help in this research proved vital. Not only did he launch and finance the extensive research of the Livorno records by Fabrizio Bedarida; he eagerly shared his substantial knowledge of the historical background relating to the passage of the Jews through Italy.

His great-grandfather, David Vital Modiano, born in Salonika ~1835, was a silk merchant, who travelled often to Lyon and Paris. He married Simhoula Mordoh and they had ten children:

VITAL
(~1810-?)
m. ? ?
‖
DAVID
(~1835-?)
m.Simhoula Mordoh

HAIM	FLORA	SABETAI	**ELIAOU**	**ISAAC**	GRACIA	GUIDO	RACHEL	JACOB	SALVATOR
(1858-1927)	(1864-?)	(1869-1933)	(1870-?)	(1872-1952)	(1875-?)	(1876-?)	(1880-1943-?)	(1881-?)	(1883-?)
m.Mathilde Rosenberg	m.Manny Sciaki	m.Palomba Hassid	m.Flora Saltiel	m.Victoria Levy	m. ? ?	m.Lisa Errera	m. ? ?	m.Lucilla Basevi	m.Allegra Calamaro

Chart 87

Guido's grandfather Haim (after whom he was named – Guido Haim) was born in Salonika. He was a customs clearance agent. He married Mathilde Rosenberg and they had three sons:

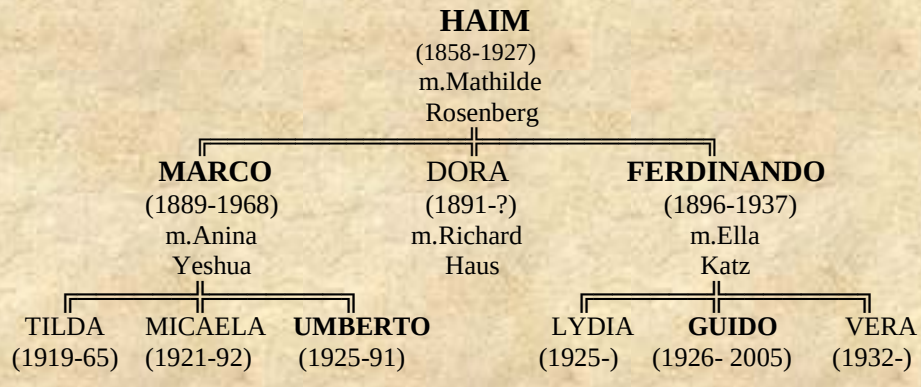

Chart 88

In the early 1920s Marco (David) and Ferdinando (Ephraim) set up a business in Smyrna as importers and exporters. They were also, according to the office letterhead, agents and storekeepers (warehousing) for Corn Products Refining Company of New York. But they soon parted their ways – Marco gravitating towards South America, and Ferdinando settling in Vienna.

Guido was born in Vienna in 1926. After the Anschluss (Hitler's annexation of Austria) and because of his father's death in 1937, the family moved to Rumania since Guido's mother was of Rumanian origin. However, as they were Italian citizens, they were protected throughout the war.

He graduated in engineering in Milan, and then branched out into an unusual profession: he became a Patent Attorney. He passed his US exams and became also a US Patent Agent. His knowledge of at least five languages helped him establish a successful enterprise in Milan, with branch offices in many Italian cities.

He married Sara Alagem, the widow of his cousin Tory (Salvatore) Modiano who had died of cancer very young in 1965. Sara has one daughter from Tory (Lily-Renée Glorioso) and two daughters from Guido (Gabriella and Micaela). He died in 2005 a few months after the successful first Modiano family reunion he had organized in Florence.

EDUARDO MODIANO, ECONOMIC REFORMER

Perhaps the best-known member of Haim's branch is Eduardo Modiano, son of Umberto, whose reputation as an economist led him to the helm of BNDES[111], the bank that in the early 1990s was assigned to carry out the most progressive economic and social reforms ever undertaken in Brazil.

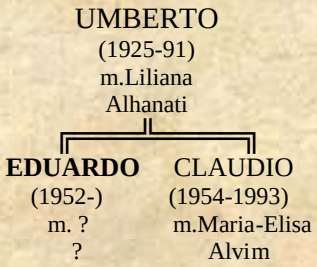

Chart 89

Eduardo, who graduated (first Master's, then a PhD in Business Administration) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978, thought he would spend the rest of his life in academic life. For one year, in fact, he taught at the MIT's Alfred P. Sloan School of Management.

However, the family had already overstayed the year it had planned to remain there (two of his three daughters were born in the US), so they returned home to Brazil.

Eduardo began teaching economics at the Pontifica Universidade Catolica in Rio de Janeiro, but he was soon drawn into consulting work, both state and private. He told an interviewer at the time: "I got to like the idea of executing ideas, after having worked many years formulating ideas."

He worked in the team that prepared the economic platform for Fernando Coller de Mello, the presidential candidate in the 1989 elections. When de Mello won, he offered the top job in BNDES to Modiano. Eduardo said he could not refuse.

The post was crucial for Brazil's effort to privatise its state-run industry. He met stiff opposition from the labour unions. He said at the time: "The plain fact is that the government has run out of funds for keeping up Brazil's industrial base. The alternative to privatisation is closure and 100% dismissals."

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[111] Banco National de Desenvolvimiento Economico e Social.

Modiano was so respected that even the opposition said they would have liked to have him on their side. "He has the image of having good intentions," said Gilmar Carneiro, leader of the leftist labour federation, "but he works for a government that does not deserve people like him."

Following the political vagaries of Brazil, the reforms were abandoned because of strong popular reactions to the stiff austerity measures. Eduardo left his post and is now vice-president of one of the main Brazilian banks. He has remarried and has added a fourth to the three daughters he had had with his first wife.

Salonika to Brazil

His grandfather Marco (*see* *Chart 88*) was born in Salonika, but each of his three children was born in a different city: Tilda, named after his mother, in Smyrna, Micaela (Miriam) in Barcelona, and Umberto (Samuel) in Marseille. A passport issued to Marco by the Italian Consulate in Tangier showed how the family from 1937 to 1952 moved between Smyrna, Paris, Marseille, Morocco and ultimately Rio de Janeiro. Eventually, they all migrated to Brazil.

Umberto Modiano was born in 1925. He was 21 when he landed in Brazil. He became a clerk in an export firm. He never abandoned exports since. By 1971 he was one of the biggest coffee exporters in the country. In that year, the Brazilian Government decided to regulate the price of coffee.

This action effectively paralysed coffee exports, so Umberto sued the government agency concerned. The courts decided in his favour, but the policy did not change. He went to court again and again. Eventually, the government deprived him of his licence as an exporter. He sued once more and the government was sentenced to pay him $50m.

It was in anticipation of receiving this compensation that he started building the tourist complex at Buzios – 10 percent of which he gave away as a public relations gimmick to Brigitte Bardot who frequented the resort in the 1960s.

One personal tradition he never changed: every evening at 6:30 his friends would gather in his home for a drink. It was during these gatherings that the idea of suing the government and of creating the Buzios resort actually emerged.

Umberto married Liliana Alhanati from a Jewish family originating from Crete. Eduardo was their first son. The second was Claudio (*see* *Chart 89*). He became an architect. His father used his talents when he built the 10-million-sq.m residential resort and a marina at Porto Buzios, some 150 kms from Rio de Janeiro.

Umberto who was also very interested in the genealogy of the Modiano family, once said: "Only the rich and important are relatives of mine. And since all the Modianos are rich or important, they are all my relatives."

Sadly, Claudio was killed in a motor accident in 1993, leaving a widow and two daughters who later sued Fiat, the car manufacturer, and obtained an indemnity proving that the car he was driving was defective. After Claudio's death, Umbrerto sold the resort.

The Paris Branch

The second son of David Modiano, Sabetai, had two daughters and one son. They lived in Paris. The son Isadi died in 1991 shortly after we began corresponding about the composition of his branch. His wife had already died in 1982. However, it was his brother-in-law Roger Martinois, the husband of his sister Corinne, who continued these exchanges. He turned out to be an extraordinary fellow, very knowledgeable and full of kindness and affection. Unfortunately, he died in 2008.

Roger, handsome even in his 80s, loved dancing and generally having a good time. He used to tell me that in his youth he looked like Eroll Flynn, which attracted women galore. For many years he worked for civil aviation in South America and he became an *afficionado* of Latin American music. He was not Jewish but his knowledge oft Judaica was enormous. On Friday evening he liked to don his *kippa* and go to the local synagogue for the service. Then on Sunday morning he would go to Church. He said: "God is up there and he can hear me from either place of worship!"

Roger and Corinne had two daughters. The eldest Michèle is married to a French diplomat. Two years before Corinne died, Roger who was deeply in love with her, composed on his guitar a tune he called "*Los Modianos*". This tune was used as background music in the funny video shown at the Salonika reunion in 2007 in which spouses of Modianos commented on the pros and cons of life with a Modiano.

Isadi's other sister Elda married Salomon Baruch. They had a son and a daughter.

DARIO MODIANO, WRESTED FROM A GESTAPO JAIL

Another important member of this branch was Dario Modiano, the son of Eliaou. During World War I, he served with the Italian Air Force. He was a well-to-do businessman married to Lily Saltiel, a beautiful and remarkably brave woman to the last. They had two children, Tory (Salvatore) and Rosa.

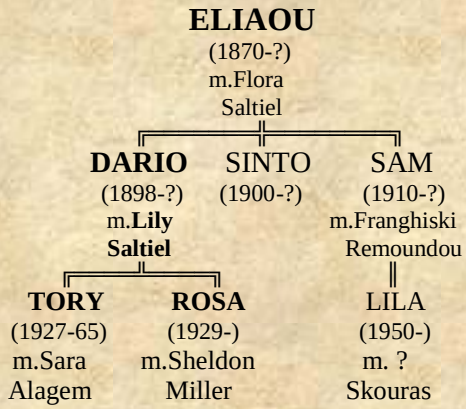

Chart 90

During the Nazi persecution of the Jews in Salonika, the family had immunity because of its Italian citizenship. However, on April 24, 1943, they were put aboard an Italian military train to be taken from Salonika to Athens (which was under Italian control). Suddenly a posse of SS officers led by the Political Commander of Salonika Dr Max Merten arrived at Salonika railway station and promptly arrested Dario Modiano on charges of "gold smuggling"[112].

The official Italian documents said that by May 13, efforts by the Italian Consulate to free Dario Modiano from the Gestapo jail had not been effective. However, his daughter **Rosa**, in a poignant account of those events[113], said the ordeal lasted a full month.

She said that a few weeks earlier, a Jewish friend had entrusted to her mother, Lily, a sum of money that had to be paid to a Greek who would have taken them across the lines into the Italian sector, south of Salonika. Hiding money for the Greek Jews was expressly prohibited and punishable, but the brave Lily felt she could not jeopardise the chances of this friend to escape.

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[112] Italian Diplomatic Documents op.cit. p.176

[113] Rosa Miller The Destruction of Salonika Jewry: A Personal View, March 1972, private viewing.

However, the man and his family were eventually caught and tortured. One brother told that money had been entrusted to Dario. So he was arrested.

Rosa says that her mother bravely stood up and decided to stay behind in Salonika to make sure her husband was not harmed. Dario was put in the Gestapo jail to be brought before a court martial. One month later, the Germans appeared to accept the Italian Consul's argument that an Italian citizen could not be court-martialled by the Germans: he had to be tried by the Italians in their own sector.

Dario was set free, but for the sake of appearances two *carabinieri* escorted him to the train that took him and his wife to Athens to join their children. Once in Athens he teamed up with Sam Modiano in the committee set up to receive the 322 Jewish Italian citizens[114] who arrived in Athens by Italian military train on July 18, 1943.

When Italy surrendered, these Italian Jews had the choice of either complying with the German order to report to the synagogue, or going into hiding. Those who complied were rounded up and deported to Auschwitz. Dario's family hid, but split: the males, including Dario's brothers, hid in partisan-held villages up on the mountains, while Lily and Rosa found shelter under assumed names in hospitable Greek homes.

After the war, Rosa Modiano married Lt.Cmdr. Sheldon Miller, now a retired Navy Captain, who served with the U.S. Public Health Service. Between 1943 and 1973 he was attached also to the foreign technical assistance programs of the State Department. He was responsible for planning national health delivery systems in four countries, including Greece.

They have two married daughters in Florida. They used to live near Washington DC because, while Sheldon had retired, Rosa continued to work for the American Government. They finally moved to Tampa in 2001 to be near their daughters. Sheldon passed away in 2007.

Lily, after Dario's death in the US, continued to live with the Millers, having courageously faced the ravages of facial cancer, and looking as beautiful as ever even in her eighties. She died in 1999.

The Naples Branch

David's son Isaac (see Chart 87) was born in Salonika and worked for the German Maritime Agency there. He married Victoria Levy from Istanbul and had two daughters and two sons. However, after the Salonika fire in 1917 they moved to Italy. Isaac settled in Naples were he set up an oriental carpets business.

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[114] Several of these were families of Italian-born women married to Greeks, and a few had absolutely no Italian connection.

His granddaughter Luisa Modiano Morelli says she was little when he died in 1952, but she knew him as a kind and even-tempered person. It was his wife, her grandmother Victoria, who had a volcanic temperament, rather well suited (one might say) to living near Mount Vesuvius.

She spoke several languages because her father had been in the Ottoman diplomatic service, so German came in handy when, during World War II, the family had to hide in a small town called Presenzano in the district of Caserta. Victoria was promptly hired to be the SS interpreter. She was paid in foodstuffs that were then in short supply. Luisa says her grandmother saved many people by giving them warning of imminent arrest.

"She was a great woman, with a strong character and a big heart," Luisa said. She helped many people, very discreetly, and her house was open to all kinds of refugees. One of them was Maurice Mizrahi from Izmir. He became her son-in-law by marrying her first-born daughter Sara. Maurice later ran Isaac's carpet business until 1985 when he retired.

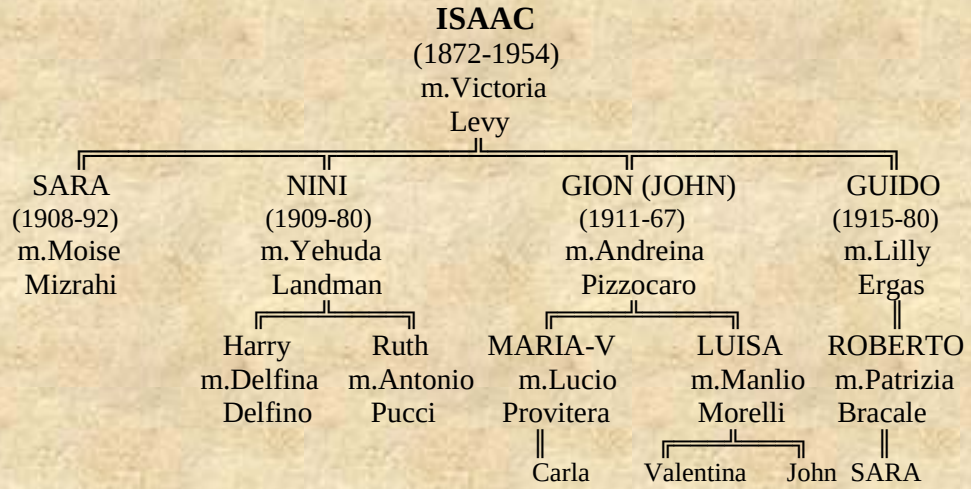

Chart 91

Isaac and Victoria named their second daughter Alice Tamar, but everybody called her Nini. From her marriage to Kurt Landman, a stateless Czech, they had one daughter Ruth who is a gymnastics instructor and Harry a cardiologist.

The first son of Isaac, Giovanni Davide, wrote his name Gion and pronounced it John. He was a chemical engineer and worked for the Naples Harbour Office. At times he also worked for insurance companies and for NATO. He married Andreina Pizzocaro, a catholic girl from Genoa. They had a religious ceremony in 1942 because by then mixed marriages had been prohibited. They moved to Genoa.

Gion had to join the partisans to survive when the SS took control of the north of Italy. After the war they moved back to Naples where he resumed working for the harbour, while Andreina opened a wool store. Their first daughter Maria-Vittoria was born in 1943. Their second was Luisa, born in Naples in 1948.

Maria-Vittoria married Lucio Provitera and they have a daughter Carla. Luisa married Manlio Morelli and moved first to the Milan area, then to Ancona on Italy's east coast. They have a daughter, Valentina, who is a psychologist (and who gave Luisa her first grandchild – Emma) and John who has a degree in information technology. Luisa asked me not to mention Gennarino, her faithful dog, "because he is not a Modiano."

The youngest son of Isaac and Victoria (see Chart 91) was Guido Eskia (better known as Kikko). He was born in Salonika in 1915 and joined his brother in the port surveyor office they had in Naples. Married to Lilly Ergas, they had a son, Roberto. Roberto married Patrizia Bracale. They have one daughter, Sara Modiano, a university student. Lilly remarried and lives in Israel.

Roberto, who is director of a dental supply company owned by the Beraha family, says: “After my father died in September 1980, I continued the tradition that wants a Modiano Surveyors Office in Napoli port from 1948. So, even if seldom, I am still an insurance surveyor.”

By sheer coincidence, while surfing in the Internet, Roberto discovered another Roberto Modiano who lives in Genoa and is also an engineer like him and a surveyor of shipping damages. Roberto was stunned. He said: “He looks exactly like me, as if we are cloned like Dolly, the sheep! He is a living copy of myself – just two years older than me, same built, a real family resemblance!” They now keep in touch daily by phone or e-mail (see Missing Link).

E3 : Descendants of Vital Modiano

1 Vital Modiano ~ 1810 - ?
+ ? ?
2 David Modiano ~ 1835 - ?
+Simhoula Mordoh
3 Haim Modiano 1858 – 1927
+Mathilde Rosenberg
4 Marco Modiano 1889 – 1968
+Anina Yeshua 1893 - ?
5 Tilda Modiano 1919 – 1965
5 Micaela Modiano 1921 – 1992
+Raphael Benveniste
6 Marcos Benveniste (Modiano) 1948 -
+Doris Esperanza
5 Umberto Modiano 1925 – 1991
+Liliana Alhanati
6 **Eduardo Modiano** 1952 -
+? ?
7 Daniella Modiano 1976 -
7 Alessandra Modiano 1978 -
7 Fabiana Modiano 1982 –
*Second wife of Eduardo Modiano
+ ? ?
7 one d.
6 Claudio Modiano 1954 – 1993
+Maria-Elisa Alvim
7 Fernanda Modiano 1979 -
7 Roberta Modiano 1979 –
4 Dora Modiano 1891 - ?
+Richard Haus
4 Ferdinando Modiano 1896 – 1937
+Ella Katz 1895 - ?
5 Lydia Modiano 1925 -
+Giorgio Verea

6 Leonardo Verea 1953-
+Dorit Wallach
6 Sylvio Verea 1955 -
+Enrica Raho
5 **Guido Modiano** 1926 - 2005
+Sara Alegem
6 Gabriella Modiano 1970 –
+Simone Grabstein
6 Micaela Modiano 1972 -
5 Vera Modiano 1932 -
+Eros De Marchi
6 Diana De Marchi 1959 –
3 Flora Modiano 1864 - ?
+Many Sciaky
4 Anina Sciaky
+? Massarano
4 Sara Sciaky
+? Basevi
4 Allegra Sciaky
+? Durkovic
4 Leonore Sciaky
+Juko Amir
3 Sabetai Modiano 1869 - 1933
+Palomba Hassid
4 Corinne Modiano 1907 - 1981
+Roger Martinois 1921 – 2008
5 Michèle Martinois
+ Bernard Guillet
5 Christine Martinois
+ Serge Lerosier
4 Elda Modiano 1911 - 1943
+Salomon Baruch
5 Guy Baruch
+ ? ?
5 Marlène Baruch

4 Isadi Modiano 1922 - 1991
+Jacqueline Cassagne ? – 1982

3 Eliaou Modiano 1870 - ?
+Flora Saltiel

4 **Dario Modiano** 1898 - ?
+Lily Saltiel 1905 – 1999

5 Tory (Salvatore) Modiano 1927 - 1965
+Sara Alegem

6 Lily Modiano 1959 -
+Antonio Glorioso

7 Andrea Glorioso 1993 -
7 Micol Glorioso 1995 -

5 Rosa Modiano 1929 -
+Sheldon Miller ? - 2007

6 Anne Miller
+Michael Ramee

6 Joan Miller
+John Karamalis

4 Sinto Modiano 1900 - ?
4 Sam Modiano 1910 - ?
+Franghiski Remoundou ? - 2000

5 Lila Modiano 1950 -
+? Skouras

3 Isaac Modiano 1872 - 1952
+Victoria Levy… …~1880 - 1961

4 Sara Modiano 1908 - 1992
+Moise Misrahi 1907- 2002

4 Alice Tamar (Nini) Modiano 1910 - 1980
+Yehuda Landman

5 Harry Ermanno Landman
+Delfina Delfino

5 Ruth Ethel Landman
+Antonio Pucci

4 Gion (John) Davide Modiano 1911 – 1967
+ Andreina Pizzocaro 1920 -
5 Maria-Vittoria Modiano 1943 -
+Lucio Provitera
6 Carla Provitera 1981 –
5 Luisa Modiano 1948 –
+Manlio Morelli
6 Valentina Morelli 1973 –
6 John Morelli 1975 -
4 Guido Heskia Modiano 1915 - 1980
+Lilly Ergas ? - 2009
5 Roberto Modiano 1951 –
+Patrizia Bracale
6 Sara Modiano

3 Gracia Modiano 1875 - ?
+ ? Bendavid

3 Guido (Juda) Modiano 1876 - ?
+Lisa Errera

3 Rachel Modiano ~1880 - 1943
+?

3 Jacob Modiano 1881 - ?
+Lucilla Basevi
4 Dario Modiano
+Rosina Busetti
5 Tiziana Modiano
5 Cinzia Modiano
+Nino di Domenico
6 Veronica di Domenico 1974 –
6 Caroline di Domenico 1979 -
4 Ziva Grazia Modiano
+Robert Fischer
5 Daniele Fischer 1956 -
+ Ariela Bömm
5 Sandro Fischer 1958 –
+ Gloria Ciochetti

4 Yole Modiano
+ Vittorio Ventura
5 Claude Ventura
5 Anna Ventura

3 Salvator Modiano 1886 - 1926
+Allegre Calamaro

3 Davide Modiano 1883-1883

E4. CHILIBON MODIANO

In 1984, a young woman named Victoria Brown who was working as a temporary secretary at Harper & Row, the New York publishers, met a friend (Sam Waagenaar, author of the celebrated biography of Mata Hari) who spoke to her about the author of this volume. She had already seen the Modiano name in reports in the New York Times, so she wrote to say that her maiden name was Modiano, and she was wondering whether she had any relatives in Greece.

She wrote: "My father David Modiano was born in Salonika. He never spoke to us about his life in Europe or about his relatives. The only thing I know is that my grandfather taught Hebrew."

At that time I was fully immersed in my professional life and, although my interest in genealogy existed, I had little time to investigate. I promised to get in touch with her as soon as I retired from journalism and managed to collect the genealogical evidence. It turned out that Victoria (b. 1931) was a great-granddaughter of Giuseppe Modiano (b.~1830) who married Esther Altcheh.

Altcheh was the name of a famous Jewish school in Salonika founded by the two brothers Altcheh, Isaac and Albert, early in the 20th century. One supposition is that they followed a long family teaching tradition that went back to Esther Altcheh's family.

It is perhaps significant that Joseph Modiano (b.1922), a second cousin of Victoria (their grandfathers, Baruch and Jacob, were brothers), who now lives in Michigan, also said that his family ran a school in Salonika.

The head of this branch was Chilibon Modiano who had probably been born ~1810. There are strong possibilities that this branch of Modianos may be linked to branch E8 of Samuel Joseph Modiano. It is now quite likely that Giuseppe Modiano who married Esther Altcheh, had three sons: Samuel who married Giamila Faraggi (E8), Baruch Modiano who married Clara Yahiel (E4) and Jacob Modiano who married Luna Menahem (also E4). However until more solid evidence appears, we shall continue to list them separately.

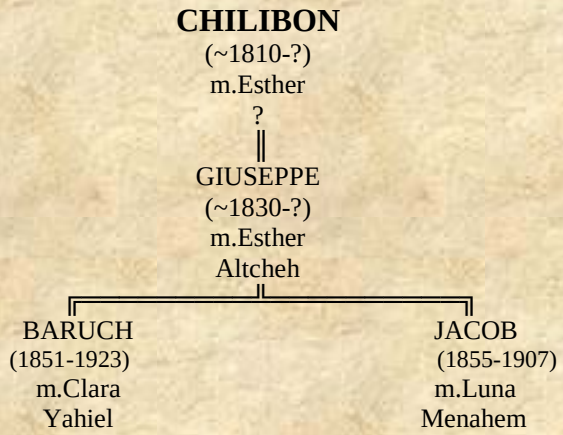

Chart 92

Chilibon is a corruption of the Turkish word "celebi" which means "a gentleman". According to Asher Moissis[115], this name was given to the newborn boy if his father died during the mother's pregnancy. In fact, according to tradition, the boy had to be named after the father in order to perpetuate his name. But as the family was reluctant to use the name of the deceased, they used the term "Chilibon".

When Italy and Turkey went to war in 1911 over their possessions in North Africa, the Italian Jews of Salonika were expelled. Most of them were housed temporarily in Palermo, Sicily. A few remained in Italy and never returned to Salonika. Baruch had had eight children; but following this adventure his family dispersed. Some descendants went to France, some to Italy, others to Israel, but most migrated to the United States

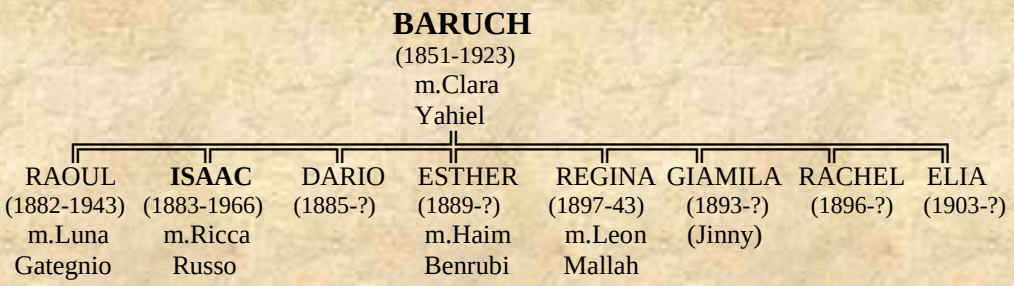

Chart 93

[115] Asher Moissis *Η Ονοματολογία των Εβραίων της Ελλάδος,*(Jewish Names of Greece) Athens 1973

Raoul settled in the south of France. His family was wiped out during the Holocaust, except for his son Jacques who survived because he was serving in the French Army at the time. He died in 1988, leaving his French-born widow Lucienne, two daughters and one son, who still live in France.

JACQUES
(1923-1988)
m. Lucienne
?

JOEL MICHELE NICOLE

Chart 94

Isaac arrived in the United States in 1913 aboard an Italian steamer from Tripoli, North Africa. His son Joseph tells me that he had been drafted into the Italian Army fighting the Turks in Tunisia. He served as an interpreter. It is a tragic coincidence that some 30 years later, during World War II, Isaac's own first-born son, Raoul, Joseph's brother (below), was killed by the Italians while serving as a scout with the Allied forces in that same area, Kosserim Pass. He was awarded a posthumous Purple Heart Medal.

ISAAC
(1883-1966)
m.Ricca
Russo

CLARA (1917-90) m.Bernard Wood
RAOUL (1920-43)
JOSEPH (1922-) m.1/Jean Poley 2/Shirley Cohen
CAROLYNE (1925-2007) m.Matthew Abravaya

Chart 95

From his first marriage, Joseph has two sons:

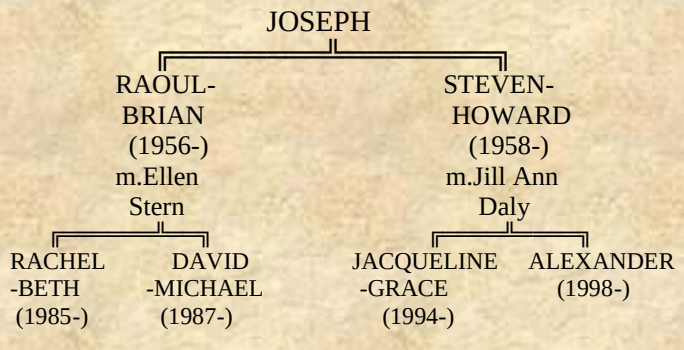

Chart 96

Joseph, who retired after a successful career in office furniture designing, lives with his charming wife Shirley in a beautiful house in West Bloomfield, south of Detroit. His son Brian, who lives in Indianapolis, after a career in banking, is now chief financial officer in a computer firm. Steven works for Monsanto, the chemical firm. He is a chemical engineer specializing in agricultural crops.

Jacob's branch (*see* *Chart 92*) was composed as follows:

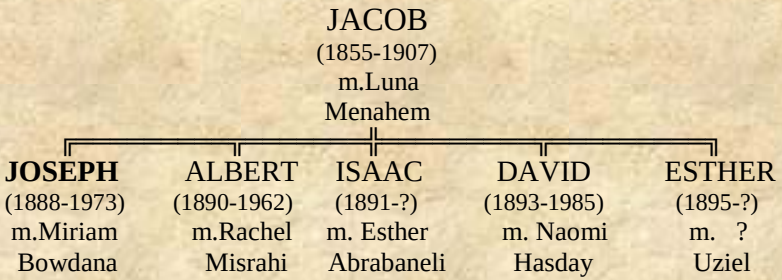

Chart 97

Joseph, son of Jacob, had four daughters and one son. Lena, the eldest daughter, who married Morris Benlifer, was very interested in genealogy. She travelled to Portugal, her mother's native country, then to Milan, Italy to meet some cousins, the daughters of her uncle Albert who had been killed in a motor accident.

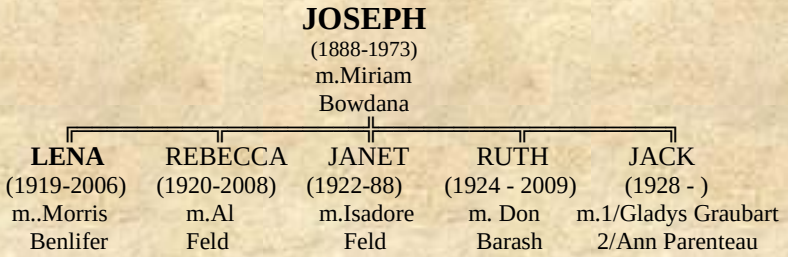

Chart 98

Lena (so named for her grandmother Luna) was the first to point out to me that the name Modiano was a corruption of Modigliano, a name derived from Modigliana. She wrote to say that Modigliana was a small town in the Apennines within the province of Florence until 1923, then under the jurisdiction of Forli.

Jack, Lena's brother, lives in Cranston, RI. He wrote that his grandfather born in Salonika had emigrated to Italy where he taught languages. His own father, Joseph, had gone to the United States from Salonika together with his brother David. From his first wife Jack has a daughter Shelly (Rachel) and a son (Marc) and a granddaughter from his daughter (Rose-Mandi).

The line of Lena’s uncle Albert, who died so tragically in Livorno, was recorded in the 1938 Livorno census. Albert married Rachel Misrahi. They had four daughters – Luna (1926), Mathilde (1928), Anna (1935) and Giovanna (1937).

David Cassuto, Anna’s son tells me his parents moved to Israel where they manufactured high-quality clothing under the brand name of "Modiano" that sold in many department stores in the United States. The factory was forced to close in 1986 due to Israel’s economic crisis. Later they established a factory to produce Italian pasta, which their children now run.

Jacob’s third son Isaac married Esther Abrabaneli, probably from Istanbul, and they had two sons and two daughters.

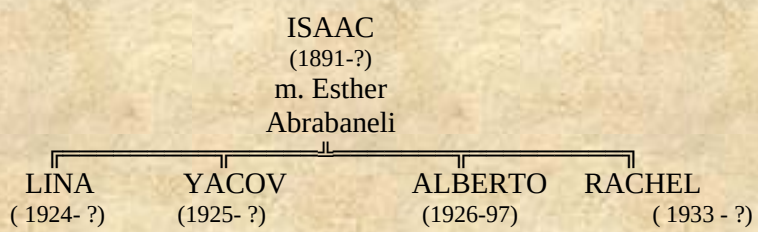

Chart 98a

Esther (Gardosh) Gavish (who joined our company after discovering the Modiano site on the Internet) is the daughter of Isaac’s second son Alberto (Avram). She says: “My grandfather was drafted in the Italian Army and was sent to Tripolitania to fight the Turks.” This probably happened in 1911 when Italy declared war on Turkey with the aim of seizing Tripolitania (present-day Libya). At that time all adult males among the Italian Jews of Salonika were compelled to join the Italian Army.

However, after the war ended in Italy’s favour Isaac and Esther decided to stay on in Tripoli where eventually they died. Esther says: “My father was the first of the family to make aliya. He belonged to a Zionist group, and fled to Israel illegally just before Israel's Independence war. He was on a secret mission and could not even say good-bye to his parents.”

But the British captured Alberto as he approached the coast, and he was sent to Cyprus. When eventually he was allowed to go to Israel, he joined the police force. He died in 1997 “leaving many questions about the family’s history, unanswered” as Esther put it. She discovered some of the answers when she incidentally stumbled on this research in the web. She knew that two of her grandfather’s siblings, Joseph and David, had emigrated to the United States; the third, Albert, had settled in Livorno, while Esther, who had married a man named Uziel, went to Israel.

Israel is also where Avram raised his family – one son called Isaac and three daughters, Esther, Lidia and Dalia. Esther’s husband, Ron Gavish, is of Hungarian origin. Their eldest son Eran is a lawyer in Israel and he married Sagit Levi who is also a lawyer. The youngest Nir just completed his studies in sound engineering in London.

The branch of David, whose daughter Victoria first told me of its existence, is as follows:

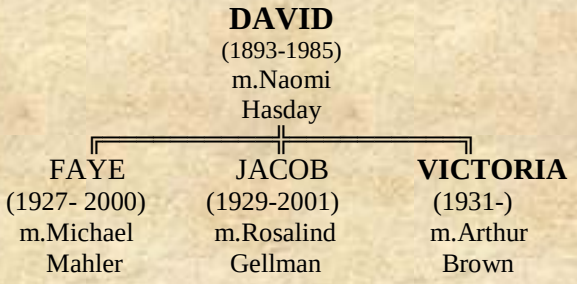

Chart 99

Victoria who has a son, Joshua (b.1969), wrote again in 1995 to point out that she had discovered another Modiano on the Aegean island of Rhodes. During a cruise with her husband and her sister in law that took them to Istanbul to investigate her mother's ancestry, they had met Lucia Soulam, who is the caretaker of the Rhodes synagogue.

E4 : Descendants of Chilibon Modiano

1 Chilibon Modiano ~ 1810 - ?
+Esther ?
2 Giuseppe Modiano ~ 1830 - ?
+Esther Altcheh
3 Baruch Modiano 1851 – 1923
+Clara Yahiel ~1857 - ?
4 Raoul (Joseph) Modiano 1882 - 1943
+Luna Gategno 1890 - 1943
5 Jacques Modiano 1923 – 1988
+Lucienne ?
6 Joël Modiano
6 Michèle Modiano
6 Nicole Modiano
5 Carmel (Clara) Modiano 1924 – 1943
4 Isaac Modiano 1883 – 1966
+ Recka Russo
5 Clara Modiano 1917 - 1990
+Bernard Wood
6 Pamela Wood
5 Raoul Modiano 1920 – 1943
5 Joseph Modiano 1922 –
+Jean Poley 1932 - 1990
6 Raoul-Brian Modiano 1956 -
+Ellen Stern
7 Rachel-Beth Modiano 1985 -
7 David-Michael Modiano 1987 -
6 Steven-Howard Modiano 1958 -
+Jill-Ann Daly
7 Jacqueline Grace Modiano 1994 –
7 Alexander Modiano 1998 -
*2nd Wife of Joseph Modiano
+Shirley Cohen
5 Carolyne Modiano 1925 -2007
+Matthew Abravaya 1926 – 2000

6 Sharyn-Gale Abravaya 1958 -
+Marc Weiss 1958 -
6 Robin-Sue Abravaya 1960 -
+Martin Duvall 1965 -
4 Dario Modiano 1885 - ?
4 Esther Modiano 1889 - ?
+Haim Benrubi
4 Regina Modiano 1898 - 1952
+Leon Mallah 1888 - 1949
5 Joseph Mallah
+Lee ? ? - 1985
5 Lee Mallah
+Ted Baker
4 Giamila Modiano 1893 - ?
4 Rachel Modiano 1896 - ?
4 Elia Modiano 1903 -
3 Jacob Modiano 1855 – 1907
+Luna Menahem
4 Joseph Modiano 1888 – 1973
+Miriam Bowdana 1899 - 1958
5 Lena Modiano 1919 - 2006
+Morris Benlifer 1914 - 1989
6 Marcia Lee Benlifer 1940 -
+Charles Joseph Divona 1940 -
6 Arlene Faith Benlifer 1943 -
+Lester Alexander Mindus 1943 -
6 Brian David Benlifer 1948 - 1996
+Ginger Engel 1949 -
5 Rebecca Modiano 1920 - 2008
+Abraham Feld 1913 - 2007
6 Ronald David Feld 1947 -
+Reta Noblett 1945 –
6 Joyce Leslie Feld 1950 –
+ Charles Glisson 1946 -
5 Janet Modiano 1922 - 1988
+Isadore Feld ? – 2004
6 Jacqueline Feld 1948 -2008
6 Steven Feld 1952 - 2011

5 Ruth Modiano 1924 - 2009
+ Donald Barash 1921 –
6 Robert Elliot Barash 1945 –
+ Susan Kovner 1948 -
6 Judith Donna Barash 1948 –
+ Lawrence Elliot Blumberg 1947 - 1998
6 Sandra Mae Barash 1956 -
5 Jack Modiano 1928 -
+Gladys Graubart 1928 – 2004
6 Rachelle (Shelly) Hope Modiano 1955 –
7 Rose Mandi 1988 -
6 Marc David Modiano 1960 -
*Second wife of Jack Modiano
+Anne Parenteau 1924 –
4 Alberto Modiano 1890 - 1962
+Rachel Misrahi 1901 – 1982
5 Luna Modiano 1926 –
+Sirio Sanguinetti 1923 – 1981
6.Giuliana Sanguinetti 1945 –
+Giani Mauro 1942 –
6 Mathilde Sanguinetti 1952 –
+ Agostino Gallupi 1948 –
5 Mathilde Modiano 1928 – 1950
+ Arie Alfred Mainzer ?
5 Anna Modiano 1935 –
+Luciano Cassuto 1932 –
6 Arnoldo Cassuto 1958 –
+ Jeanette Buschart 1964 –
6 David Cassuto 1959 –
+Vered Fleischner 1965 –
6 Susanna Cassuto 1964 –
+Gadi Carucci
2nd marriage of Susanna Cassuto
+Moshe Levincron 1960 –
6 Alberto Cassuto 1970
+ Sigal Joseph 1969
5 Giovanna Modiano 1937 –
+Giancarlo Gatto 1933 –

6 Annalisa Gatto 1965 –
+Renato Lattanzi 1965 –
6 Claudio Gatto 1968 –
4 Isaac Modiano 1891 - ?
+ Esther Abrabaneli
5 Lina Modiano 1924 –
+ Avraham Guetta 1923 –
6 Viola Guetta
+ Eli Tagouri
6 Esther Guetta
+ Moses Matza
6 Dina Guetta
+ David Shaya
6 Malka Guetta
+ Hayim Shemouel
6 Tova Guetta
+ Eli Zarfati
5 Yacov Modiano 1925 –
+ Canouna ?
6 Esther Modiano
+ Arie Harari
5 Alberto (Avram) Modiano 1926 – 1997
+ Rina Haviv 1930 –
6 Isaac Modiano 1949 –
+ Rachel Malka 1955 –
7 Rinat Modiano
7 Avram Modiano
7 Lizi Modiano
6 Esther Modiano 1951 –
+ Ron Gavish (Gardosh) 1950 – 2010
7 Eran Gavish 1974 –
+ Sagit Levi 1974 –
7 Nir Gavish 1978 –
6 Lidia Modiano 1953 –
+ Victor Joseph 1949 –
7 Josi Joseph 1973 –
7 Yaniv Joseph 1977

6 Dalia Modiano 1955 –
+ Hannan Peri 1946 –
7 Daniele Peri 1991 –
7 Tal Peri 1995 –
5 Rachel Modiano 1933 –
+Amos Reginiano 1927 –
6 Shlomo Reginiano 1951 –
+Ariella Reginiano 1954 –
6 Esther Reginiano 1953 –
+ ? Tischler
6 Oshra Reginiano 1956 –
+ Reuben Weber 1951 –
6 Isaac Reginiano 1961 –
+ ? ?
4 David Modiano 1893 – 1985
+Naomi Hasday
5 Faye Modiano 1927 - 2000
+Michael Mahler
6 Sharon Mahler
6 Barbara Mahler
6 Joyce Mahler
5 Jacob Modiano 1929 - 2001
+Rosalind Gellman
6 David Modiano 1965 -
6 Cindy Modiano 1967 -
5 Victoria Modiano 1931 -
+Arthur Brown
6 Joshua Brown 1969 -
4 Esther Modiano 1895 - ?
+ ? Uziel

E5. SAUL YESHUA MODIANO

This branch includes several well-known personalities and is closely linked by marriage to the Fernandez and Morpurgo families. However, its place in the family tree has yet to be determined.

The Yeshua/Saul combination implies a connection with the branch of Yeshua Moliano/Modiano born in 1785. However, the link, if there is one, is elusive.

Following the tradition of the great dynasty, we have here two of the children of Saul Yeshua Modiano marrying into the Modiano family. Sad to say, however, the lines fizzle out. Only two great-grandsons of Saul survived to carry the name -- their whereabouts are unknown.

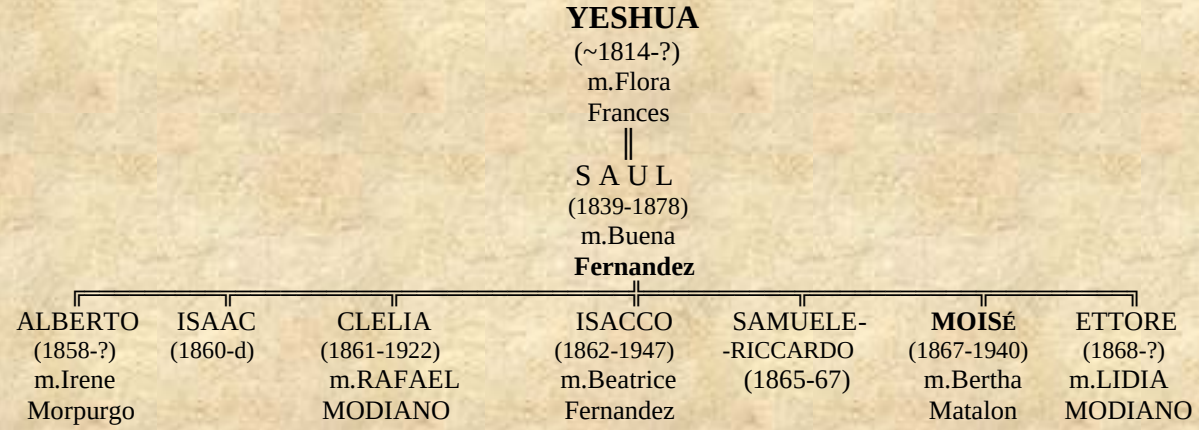

Chart 100

Saul's first-born was known as Alberto, although his given name was his grandfather's Yeshua. Alberto's son Guido married Corina Fernandez, probably a relative of his grandmother. They had a son named Alberto born in 1912. Guido married again. His second wife Elena Dobrescu was a beautiful Rumanian woman.

Two of Saul's sons, Isaac and Samuele-Riccardo, died in infancy. The only daughter, Clelia, married Rafael Modiano (1857-1917), the celebrated lawyer, a descendant of the branch of rabbi Saul Modiano (*see Chart 31*). They had two sons, Ugo and Saul and three daughters, Ines, Jenny and Olga.

Ugo, who was in the carpet business, married Allegre Benveniste. A niece of Allegre, Colette Piault-Benveniste who had a special affection for her uncle Ugo, says he was a splendid man and a gifted painter. He died in 1946. Ugo's younger son Carlo died at the age of two; the elder Rafael died in 1940.

When the war broke out in 1939, Rafael was serving in the French cavalry. According to Colette, Ralph, as she called him, was sent behind enemy lines into German territory but was killed by a land mine. His mother Allegra received on his behalf a posthumous War Cross and *Medaille Militaire* during a ceremony in the courtyard of *Les Invalides.*

Isacco also married a Fernandez. He had two daughters, Margherita and her sister Georgette who married Albert Simon.

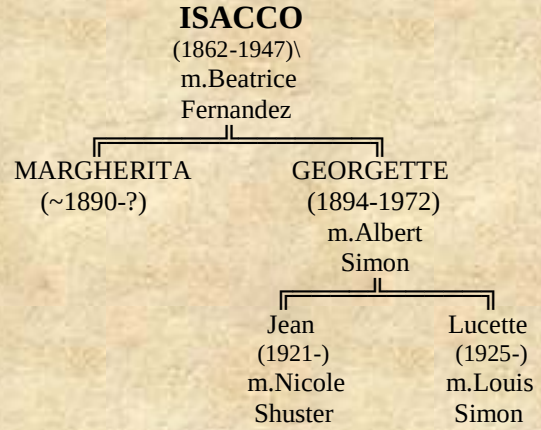

Chart 101

Lucette married, and then divorced Louis Simon who is not related to her father. They had a daughter. Lucette lived in the Paris area. Saul's youngest son, Ettore, married Lidia Saul Modiano, a great-granddaughter of rabbi Saul's brother Samuele.

CAV DR MOISÉ MODIANO

Of the remaining four sons of Saul and Buena (*see* *Chart 100*), the most famous was Moisé, the well-known Dr Moisé Modiano (1867- 1935), whose services as chief surgeon of the Italian Hospital in Salonika earned him not only the title of "*cavaliere*" of the Italian Crown, but also the respect and gratitude of the Jewish Community. He married Bertha daughter of Bohor Isaac Matalon in 1892.

MOISÉ
(1867- 1940)
m.Bertha Matalon

GINA	CORINNE
(1893- 1950)	(1900- 1991)
m.Raoul Gallichi	m.Carlo. Masi

Chart 102

After the great fire of Salonika in 1917, Dr Modiano and his family joined several Italian Jews who migrated to Naples aboard the steamer Bosporus[116]. Because of the war that was raging in the Mediterranean, the ship had to seek haven in several ports before reaching its destination. The voyage lasted a good 17 days. The new arrivals brought new blood to the old Jewish community of Naples, but although relations with the local Jews were strained at first, they improved substantially by the early 1920s.

Chroniclers noted, for instance, that the new arrivals, most of them belonging to distinguished families, preferred their own way of preparing the *matzos* for Passover. They were also very fond of *bamies*, a vegetable grown in Salonika (known in English as okra or gumbo). So they sent an emissary to the old country to obtain seeds that they planted in the area of Naples in order not to be deprived of this tasty legume. Following the introduction of the racial laws by Mussolini between 1938 and 1940, the Naples Community mostly dispersed.

Vittorio Gallichi, the youngest son of Gina, daughter of Dr Moisé Modiano, gave me a fascinating account of what happened during the war and the German occupation of Italy.

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[116] The Bosporus was sunk during a subsequent voyage. Details of this adventure were drawn from *La Lettre Sépharade* (No 6) quoting an article written by prof. Samuele Varsano of Rome in *Storia Contemporanea*, Feb. 1992, under the title "*Juifs de Salonique immigrés à Naples 1917-1940*".

He said: “When the racial laws came into force in Italy, the young Neapolitan Jews hid at Tora e Piccilli, in the province of Caserta, to avoid forced farm labour. A few of their families followed them. So did my own, fortunately. Had they gone to Pisa where their parents lived, they would surely have been killed as their parents were.

“No Jew was deported from Tora e Piccilli because of how these fine villagers behaved. Imagine that my mother Gina Modiano Gallichi and Mrs Vittoria Levi Modiano both acted as interpreters for the Germans who remained unaware all the time that they were Jewish. Vittoria was hiding in nearby Presenzano.

“After the war, I told the story to the President of the Italian Republic and he awarded the town the Silver Medal of Civic Valour. The town gave me the freedom of Tora e Piccilli. I am convinced that our survival from Nazi deportation is due to the goodness of the inhabitants of Tora e Piccilli.”

Fabrizio Gallichi, a nephew of Vittorio from his sister Vera, is an architect who has published a study about remodelling the seafront of Naples. Fabrizio has one son and two daughters from his first marriage, and a son and a daughter from his second marriage to Assja Laundau. His daughter Giulia Ester is married to R’Pinhas Punturello, the rabbi of Naples.

E5 : DESCENDANTS OF SAUL YESHUA MODIANO I

1 Yeshua Modiano ~ 1814 - ?
+Flora Frances
2 Saul Modiano 1839 - 1878
+Buena Isaac Fernandez 1842 - ?
3 Alberto Modiano 1858 - ?
+Irene David Morpurgo ~1863 - ?
4 Guido (Saul) Modiano 1883 - ?
+Corinna Vital Fernandez
5 Alberto Modiano 1912 -
*2nd Wife of Guido Modiano:
+Elena Dobrescu
4 Flora Modiano 1886 - ?
3 Isaac Modiano 1860 – 1860
3 Clelia Modiano 1861 – 1922
+Rafael Giuseppe Modiano 1857 – 1917
4 Ugo Modiano 1883 - 1946
+Allegre Mair Benveniste 1895 - ?
5 Rafael Modiano 1917 - 1940
5 Carlo Modiano 1927 – 1928
4 Ines Modiano 1886 - ?
+Pepo Assael 1876 - 1932
4 Jenny (Vida) Modiano 1887 - ?
+ Sabetai Hassid
4 Saul Modiano 1888 – 1924
+Calliope Seliou
5 Liliane Modiano 1917 -
4 Olga (Sunhula) Modiano 1890 - ?
+Salomon Elnecave
3 Isacco Modiano 1863 – 1947
+Beatrice Vital Fernandez 1871 - ?
4 Margherita (Buena) Modiano 1890 - 1893
4 Georgette Modiano 1894 – 1972
+Albert Simon 1894 - 1971

5 Jean Simon 1921 -
+Nicole Shuster
5 Lucette Simon 1925 -
+Louis Simon

3 Samuele-Riccardo Modiano 1865 – 1867

3 **Moisé Modiano** 1867 – 1940
+Bertha Bohor Matalon

4 Gina Modiano 1893 – 1950
+Raoul Gallichi
5.Vera Gallichi 1922 - 1990
+Fernando Mannucci
5 Lucianna Gallichi 1925 -
5 Giorgio Raffael Gallichi 1926 - 1927
5 Vittorio Gallichi 1927 - 2008

4 Corinna Modiano 1900 - 1991
+Carlo Masi 1903 – ?

3 Ettore Modiano 1868 - ?
+Lidia Saul Modiano 1876 - ?

4 Renato Modiano 1900 - 1965
+Aline Najar 1908 - ?
5 Huguette Modiano 1929 – 1977

E6. THE OTHER SAUL YESHUA MODIANO

There is a second detached branch that begins with Yehoshua (a variant of Yeshua) Modiano, born ten years after the previous one, whose son is also called Saul. However, the names of the wives are different, so we can only assume that the two branches were closely related.

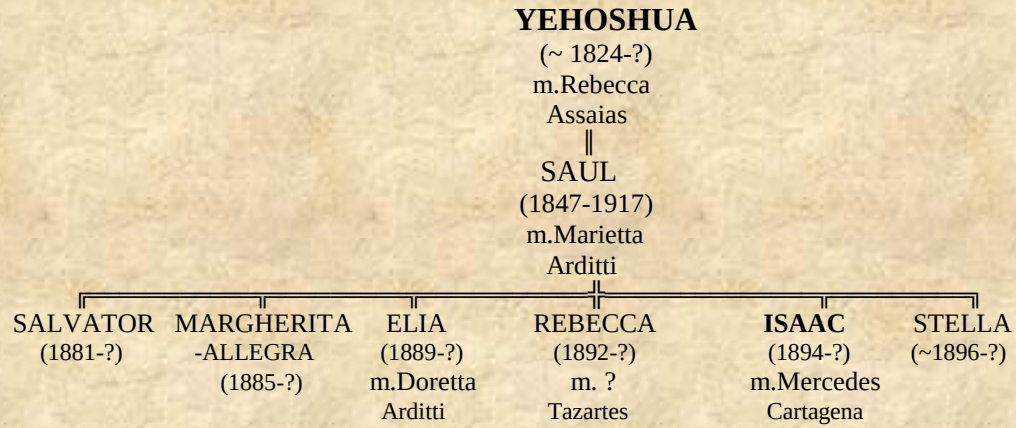

Chart 103

Saul married Marietta Arditti from Cairo in 1874, and settled in that city where they raised their family. It is certainly interesting that Saul named his second daughter Margherita, a name that existed also in the previous branch, but this one was also called Allegra. His son Elia married his mother's niece.

The Chilean Connection

An interesting feature of this branch is that Isaac, born in Cairo, emigrated to Santiago, Chile, in the late 1920s. There he married Mercedes Cartagena. They had one son named Ignacio. This is the family he reared:

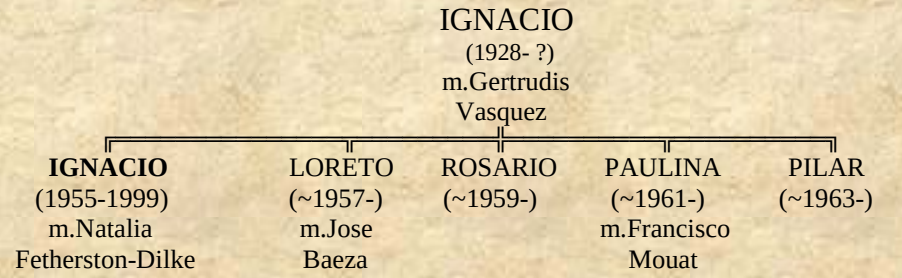

Chart 104

Ignacio Jr. had a promising career as an architect, professor and head of a wonderful family, when disaster struck on February 27, 1999. He died of a brain aneurism while he was swimming in a lake. He was just 43.

He had graduated in Chile as an architect but also obtained a Master of Science degree in London. He had been searching for years the roots of his family. He was particularly intrigued by the story he had heard from his father Ignacio that his grandfather Isaac had disappeared mysteriously in Venezuela in the late 1920s. He never found what happened to him.

The only facts he had were that the family originated from Egypt and that his grandfather Saul had married Marietta Arditi, also from a family of Egypt. He wrote to me: "I have done my own research in Italy, England and Salonika, but I have not managed to find any trace of him [Isaac, his grandfather]."

It turns out that the Livorno records traced back his family to his great-grandfather Jehoshua (or Salvatore). Ignacio married Natalia Fetherston-Dilke, and had three sons: the first, born in 1994, was named Oscar David; the second was Lucas Ignacio; the youngest, Bruno Samuel was born in 1998. After his premature death, Natalia, his wife, returned to Winchester in England to be closer to her family, which helped her cope with her three small sons.

Two years after Ignacio’s death, the faculties of the two universities (of Chile and Catolica) where he had taught paid tribute to his talent. They staged an exhibition of more than 70 drawings and sketches he had made during his travels in Europe – mainly façades of buildings, churches and museums in many Italian cities. The brochure described Ignacio as “one of the greatest critics of architecture in this country.”

Ignatio's sister Paulina has worked as a journalist for Reuters in Santiago. His youngest sister, Pilar Modiano Vasquez is a historian who has published several studies on Chilean social evolution.

E6 : Descendants of Saul Yeshua Modiano II

1 Yehoshua Modiano ~ 1824 - ?
+Rebecca Assaias
2 Saul Modiano 1847 – 1917
+Marietta Arditti ~1852 - ?
3 Salvator Modiano 1881 - ?
3 Margherita Modiano 1885 - ?
3 Elia Modiano 1889 - ?
+Doretta Arditti
4 Maria Modiano 1921 -
4 Samuel Modiano 1924 -
4 Aline Modiano 1936 -
4 Sara Modiano 1938 -
3 Rebecca Modiano 1892 - ?
+? Tazartes
3 Isaac Modiano 1894 - ?
+Mercedes Cartagena
4 Ignacio Modiano 1928 -
+Gertrudis Vasquez
5 Ignacio Jr Modiano 1955 - 1999
+Natalia Fetherston-Dilke
6 Oscar David Modiano 1994 -
6 Lucas Ignatio Modiano 1996 -
6 Bruno Samuel Modiano 1998 -
5 Loreto Modiano ~1957 -
+Jose Baeza
6 Joaquin Baeza
6 Bernardo Baeza
6 Benjamin Baeza
5 Rosario Modiano ~1959 -
5 Paulina Modiano ~1961 -
+Francisco Mouat
6 Antonia Mouat
5 Pilar Modiano ~1963 -
3 Stella Modiano ~ 1896 - ?

E7. VITA'S FAMILY MOVES TO ISRAEL

This branch of the Modiano family lived in Egypt. It moved to Israel between 1946 and 1947, but its ramifications now reach the south of France as well as the United States.

The late Baruch Vita Modiano, of Israel, (*see* *Chart 108*) who first gave me details of his family tree, said: "My grandfather Saul (*see chart below*) came to Egypt from Livorno. My father was born in Egypt and we came to Israel in 1947." Other members of the family suggested that the earliest members of the branch came from Salonika.

Chart 105

Helen, whose given name was Leah, and Oro were sisters. The first-born, Abraham, had two sons and one daughter.

The family of the first-born, Abraham, developed as follows:

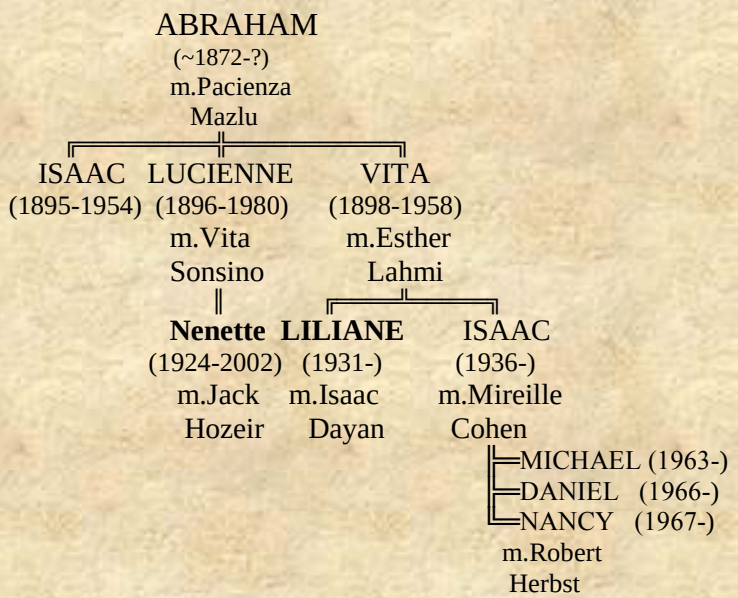

Chart 106

Liliane Dayan (whose given name is her grandmother's – Pacienza Allegre) tells me that her grandparents were born in Salonika where they lived for a few years before moving to Egypt. Liliane's father Vita had an antiquities store in Cairo. Her brother Isaac, who was also working in the store, married Mireille Cohen. They had two boys and one girl. The first child Michael was born in Cairo. But as the situation for the Jews in Egypt worsened in the late 1950s, they left. After one difficult year in France, they migrated to the United States and settled in Newark, NJ, with the help of Jewish organizations.

It was there that Mireille gave birth first to Daniel, who is the source of this information, then to Nancy. Dan wrote: "My father's first job in the States was that of delivery man for a furniture store in town." Later, as the family grew, they moved to Union, NJ where they live today. After working in the same line of business, Isaac decided to set up a store of his own. Despite the difficulties, says Dan, "he managed to put three kids through college, and establish a favourable reputation for his store which specializes in selling dining-room furniture."

Dan graduated in Mechanical Engineering but decided to work with his father. He married Laurie Cecil who is an Occupational Therapist. They recently had a daughter, Marissa Modiano.

Nancy, the youngest graduated in dentistry and practices today in Newark, NJ. She is married to Robert Herbst. They have three daughters and one son.

The second son of Isaac Vita, Saul, married Suzanne Sonsino; they had two sons and two daughters.

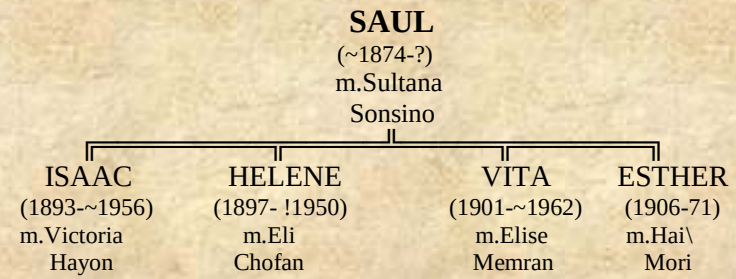

Chart 107

Isaac, Saul's first-born, and Victoria had five sons: Saul, Benjamin, Eli, Moshe and Felix. Helene who married Eli Chofan, had no children. Esther, the youngest, had four children, Leon, Saul and Maurice and Riquette (Kate) a daughter who married Albert Alazraki.

It was Vita and Elise who had the largest family, but it was one that confronted great happiness but also much pain.

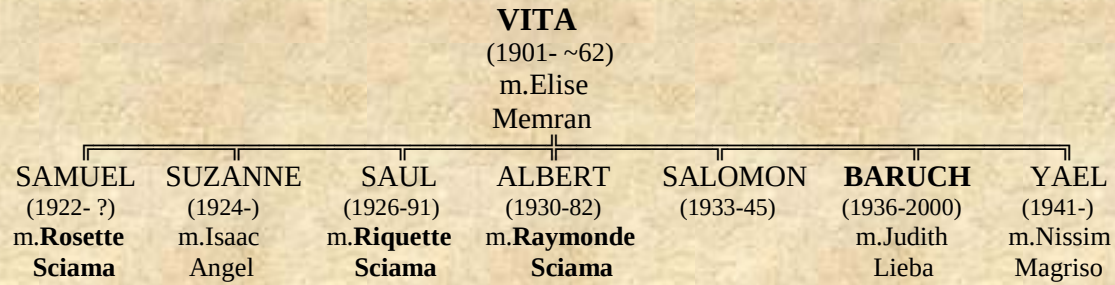

Chart 108

Of Vita's five sons, three brothers married three sisters from the Sciama family. Samuel married Rosie Sciama. They had two sons and one daughter.

The eldest of Rosie's sons, Haim, lives in Los Angeles. Born in 1950, he married Ani. Their first child was a daughter, Galit, who was born in 1977; their second, a son named Nir, in 1981. One year later the family migrated to the US where Haim embarked on a career as a computer programmer. He produced a very successful software programme about health insurance. He says: "I have hundreds of clients all around the country using my software." At the end of 1993 they adopted a baby daughter, Natalia: "Everybody is crazy about her," says Haim.

Rosie's second Edy, divorced with a son, lives in Tel-Aviv. His sister Mary is married to Yaacov Avisar. They have three daughters.

It was Samuel and Saul who first moved from Egypt to Haifa in Israel. Samuel went to the Technion University there and graduated as chemical engineer. However in his mid-60s he was taken ill and later died.

Saul became a chief accountant. He married Riquette Sciama and had a daughter, Lily, and a son, Victor. They have six grandchildren. Unfortunately, Saul also died after suffering for ten years from the same illness as his elder brother.

Albert, the next in line, married Raimonde Sciama but he died of a stroke at the age of 52. They had two daughters, Eliane and Maryse. Eliane married David Hary and now lives in Los Angeles where she practices clinical psychology; they have two daughters. Maryse remains in Israel; she married Yaacov Zemer, a computer engineer. They have three sons.

Baruch, the youngest brother, who helped me so much in reconstructing the family's tree, also had a tragic end. His wife died of cancer. Some years later he had an unhappy relationship that led also to his own death.

The French branch of this family began with Jacques, the first son of Isaac Vita’s second wife, Oro. Jacques' son Isaac married his cousin Lidia Tiano. They had two sons:

Chart 109

Jacques Modiano lives in Montauroux, not far from Cannes and the Côte d'Azur in the south of France. His first-born Philippe has two sons, Percival and Timothée; the second, Thierry, has one daughter, Elise, and two sons, Camille and Cyrille.

After the publication of this book, members of the branch of the last of Isaac Vita's sons gave signs of life from Israel. The youngest of Isaac Vita's sons was Yeshua (Salvator) (See Chart 105).

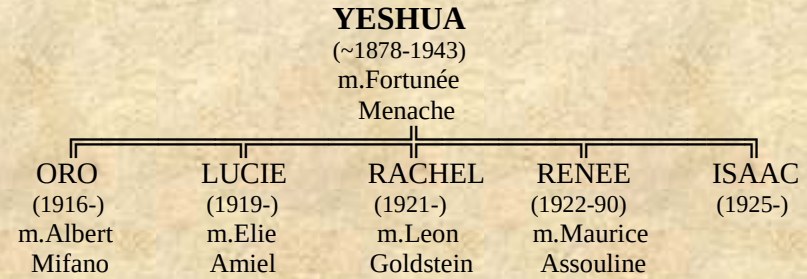

Chart 110

According to Oro Mifano, the eldest, her father Yeshua, born in Livorno, migrated to Egypt. He was a manufacturer of boxes. There he met and married Fortunée Menaché from Alexandria. Their children were all born in Egypt.

Oro herself moved to Israel in 1948 where she married Albert Mifano, who had been born in Bulgaria. She worked as a children's hospital nurse.

Her sister Lucie married Elie (Lello) Amiel, an accountant, and they settled in Brazil in 1950. Rachel, the next sister, also went to Israel and married Leon Goldstein, an oil company employee who died in 1987.

Morrie Assouline of New York told me the fascinating story of Yeshua's youngest daughter, Renée – Morrie's grandmother. She married Maurice Assouline, a film actor, singer and composer who is regarded today as a pioneer in Arabic dance music. Maurice who was following in the footsteps of his father, also a singer and composer in Egypt, adopted the name Munir Mourad. After the war Renée migrated to the U.S. and settled in Seattle with her children. She died there in 1990.

Yeshua's only son, Isaac, also moved to Israel where he lives today.

E7 : Descendants of Isaac Vita Modiano

1 Isaac Vita Modiano ~ 1852 - ?
+Helen ?
2 Abraham Modiano 1872 - ?
+Pacienzia Mazlu ~1877 - ~ 1932
3 Isaac Modiano 1895 - 1954
3 Lucienne Modiano 1896 - 1980
+Vita Sonsino 1895 - 1963
4 Nenette Sonsino 1924 - 2002
+Jack Hozeir 1922 -
3 Vita Modiano 1899 - 1958
+Esther Lahmi 1899 - 1955
4 Liliane Modiano 1931 -
+Isaac Dayan 1920 -
4 Isaac Modiano 1936 -
+Mireille Cohen 1937 -
5 Michael Modiano 1963 –
+ Yohanna Deborah Basso 1962 -
5 Daniel Modiano 1967 –
+ Laurie Cecil 1971 –
6 Marissa Modiano 2003 -
5 Nancy Modiano 1967 -
+Robert Herbst 1962 -
6 Emily Herbst 1995 –
6 Alex Herbst 1998 –
6 Juliette Herbst 2003 –
6 Sophia Herbst 2003 –
2 Saul Modiano 1874 - ?
+ Suzanne (Sultana) Sonsino 1876 - 1917
3 Isaac Modiano 1893 - ~ 1956
+Victoria Hayon
4 Saul Modiano 1931 - ~ 1957
4 Benjamin Modiano 1933 -
+Aviva Hatoueli

4 Eli Modiano 1935 - ~ 1965
+Shoshana ?
4 Moshe Modiano 1936 -
+Shula Seda
4 Felix Modiano 1938 -
+Frida ?
3 Helene Modiano 1897 - ~1950
+Eli Chofan
3 Vita Modiano 1901 - ~ 1962
+Elise Memran
4 Samuel Modiano 1922 - ?
+Rosette Sciama 1928 -
5 Haim Modiano 1950 -
+Ani ?
6 Galit Modiano 1977 –
+ Assaf Nachshon
7 Ari Nachshon 2005 –
7 Dalia Nachson 2008 -
6 Nir Modiano 1981 –
6 Natalia Modiano 1993 -
5 Mary Modiano
+Yaacov Avisar
6 Karine Avisar 1980 -
6 Lorraine Avisar 1983 -
6 Delene Avisar 1988 -
5 Edy Modiano
+?
6 Omre Modiano 1985 -
4 Suzanne Modiano 1924 -
+Isaac Angel
4 Saul Modiano 1926 - 1991
+Riquette Sciama 1931 -
5 Lily Modiano
+Nissim Forte
6 Marc-Daniel Forte 1972 -
6 Nathalie Forte 1978 -
6 Roni Forte 1989 -

5 Victor Modiano
+Yudith Elfani
6 Nathaniel Modiano 1977 -
6 Lilah Modiano 1979 -
6 Eden Modiano 1986 -
4 Albert Modiano 1930 – 1982
+Raymonde Sciama
5 Eliane Modiano 1951 -
+David Hary
6 Goni Hary 1976 -
6 Tania Hary 1979 -
5 Maryse Modiano 1956 -
+Yaacov Zemer
6 Aviram Zemer 1983 -
6 Amir Zemer 1985 -
6 Alon Zemer 1994 -
4 Salomon Modiano 1933 - 1945
4 Barukh Modiano 1936 - 2000
+Judith Lieba
5 Shlomo Modiano
5 Iris Modiano
+ ? Hermon
4 Yael Modiano 1941 -
+Nissim Magriso
3 Esther Modiano 1906 – 1971
+ Hai Mory
4 Leon Mory 1933 –
+ Ayala Abali
4 Saul Mory 1934 –
+ Rachel Abadi
4 Riquette Mory 1939 –
+ Albert Alazraki
4 Maurice Mory 1942 –
+ Sarah Guttmann

2 Saul Modiano's 2nd wife
+ ? Caden

*2nd Wife of 1. Isaac Modiano:
+Oro ?

2 Jacques Modiano 1876 - ?
+Marie Tiano

3 Isaac Modiano 1895 – 1987
+Lidia Tiano - 1999

4 Jacques Modiano 1927 -
+Monique Bruyere

5 Philippe Modiano 1951 -
+Fabienne Ripoli

6 Percival Modiano 1989 -
6 Timothee Modiano 1993 –

5 Thierry Modiano 1953 -
+Catherine Rolland

6 Camille Modiano 1981 -
6 Cyrille Modiano 1983 -
6 Elise Modiano 1986 -

5 Sylvie Modiano 1956 -
+Jean Mechin

4 Marco-Ruggiero Modiano 1931 -
+Claudine Alimi

2 Yeshua Modiano 1878 - 1943
+Fortunée Menache 1890 – 1975

3 Oro Modiano 1916 -
+Albert Mifano 1903 - 1978

4 Arik Nofim 1954
+Ofra Barak 1957

3 Lucie Modiano 1919 -
+Elie Amiel 1920 - 1985

4 Aliza Amiel 1952 –
+ Tony Queiroz 1949 –

4 Albert Amiel 1946 –
+ Flora Liebmass 1949 -

3 Rachel Modiano 1921 -
+Leon Goldstein 1919 - 1987
4 Oded Simon Goldstein 1956 -1987
3 Renée Modiano 1922 - 1990
+Maurice Assouline (known as Munir Mourad) 1922 - 1981
4 Jacques Assouline 1946 –
+Linda Capelouto 1952 -
3 Isaac Modiano 1925 -

E8. THE RIDDLE OF SAMUEL JOSEPH

Reconstructing the genealogy of the branch of Samuel Modiano, son of Joseph, has been no easy task. The main problem was that the records from Salonika, Istanbul and Livorno gave contradictory information – about the number of children and their years of birth. For instance, Samuel married Giamila/Djamila Faraggi, daughter of Daniel. According to the records, the marriage took place on 19 March 1881[117]. This must be an error, since Samuel and Giamila had registered the birth of their first child in 1870.

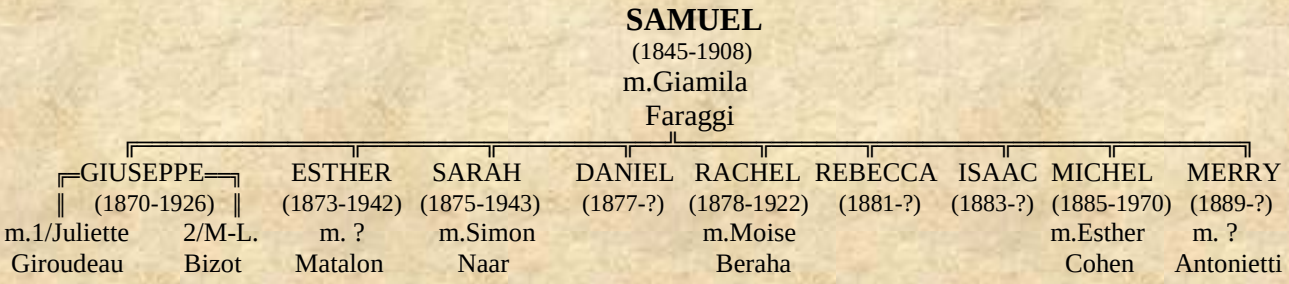

Chart 111

Problem number two was that none of these records mention a son named Michel. Yet, Michel's descendants who live in Paris today are, to say the least, proof that Michel did exist.

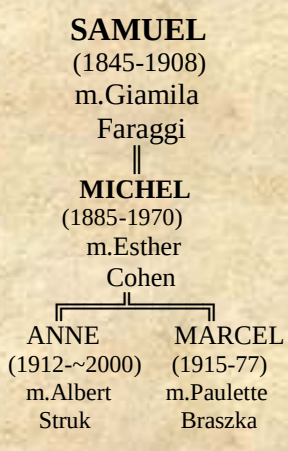

Chart 112

[117] Livorno marriage records.

Michel's daughter Anne Struk wrote that her father's given name was Joseph. However, there is another Joseph or Giuseppe in the family and he, naturally, was the first-born since he bore the name of Samuel's father. The second son was named after Giamila's father, Daniel.

Apparently, Michel never spoke to his children about a brother named Joseph. So when Mrs Renée Fichelson, also of Paris, wrote to say that she was the great-granddaughter of Samuel Modiano and Giamila Faraggi from their son Giuseppe, there was confusion.

Chart 113

Renée did not know what happened to Samuel, her grandfather's son from his second marriage. She said that once in 1947 while investigating her mother's line, she and her mother had visited Michel Modiano. But later all contact was lost.

Thus the mystery remains. One can only surmise. It is likely that Giuseppe differed with his family – perhaps over his marriage to a non-Jewish woman. He most certainly left home and moved to France and his father told the family he never wanted to hear about him again.

Later, the rest of the family moved from Salonika to France, probably around 1928 as according to Anne Struk her father Michel was 13 when the family settled in Paris.

Consular documents show that Giamila was from Istanbul. Samuel and Giamila must lived in Istanbul (then Constantinople) for some time, since their son Daniel and two daughters were born in that city. The other children were born in Salonika.

Of Samuel's other children, Esther married Mr Matalon, a wealthy pharmacist who was a high-ranking official of the Salonika Masonic lodge. It appears that the Matalons also owned some copper mines in Austria. They lived in Austria and later moved to Paris where Esther owned a fur shop on boulevard Garibaldi. They had a son, David, who died during the epidemic of Spanish 'flu [118]. Esther and her husband were deported during the Shoah and were killed in Auschwitz.

Samuel's second daughter Sarah married Simon Naar and they had a son Felix and a daughter Lily. The youngest daughter, Merry, married a lawyer Me. Antonietti. They had two sons, Pierre (married to Jeanette Lesperon) and Jean (also married) as well as one daughter, Josephine.

The third daughter, Rachel, married Moise Beraha. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter – Sam, Raoul and Esther.

Sam Beraha, refused to leave Paris when the Germans invaded. According to Carole Bar-Lev, his niece, "he trusted that the Germans could not be as uncivilized as reports suggested." However, despite his Turkish citizenship, he, his wife Jeanne and their three children were arrested and deported to Auschwitz in February 1942. They are assumed to have perished there.

Hiding in Oradour

Sam's brother Raoul Beraha, who was a dental surgeon in Paris, did not take chances. He took his wife Juliette and his daughter Nicole (Carole's mother) to a forest village in mid-France, in the Limousin. There they had a narrow escape. Carole tells me that her grandfather who had volunteered in the French army (although he held a Turkish passport) later joined the French resistance. The family was hiding in a small village called Oradour-sur-Veyres. Carole tells me that the Nazis, determined to liquidate the resistance in that region, burnt down another village called Oradour-sur-Glane by mistake, killing the whole population. Nicole is a practicing doctor today. Carole is an economist working out of France and Denmark.

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[118] Much of the new information in this chapter comes from a taped interview given in 1984 by Mattica Modiano, a daughter of Samuel's second marriage to Leah Modiano.

Rachel Beraha's daughter Esther and her husband Albert Behar also survived by escaping from Paris. Their issue renewed the links with the Modiano family, as her granddaughter Martine married her cousin Patrick Modiano, Marcel's and Paulette's son (*see* *Chart 115*).

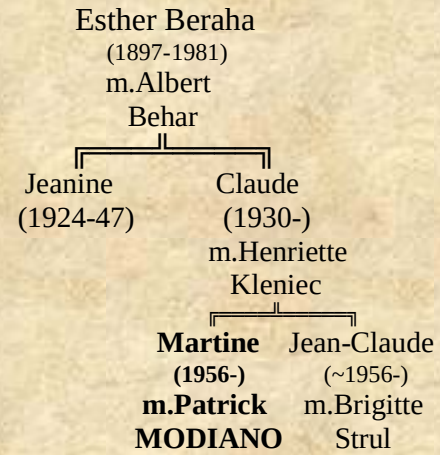

Chart 114

Patrick is a doctor of medicine in keeping with a long tradition of the Modiano family, which has produced several prominent physicians. He has specialized in anaesthesiology and reanimation and has an enviable reputation in France. He tells me that he often receives the mail of his namesake, the author Patrick Modiano. They both live in Paris.

Michel's branch developed as follows:

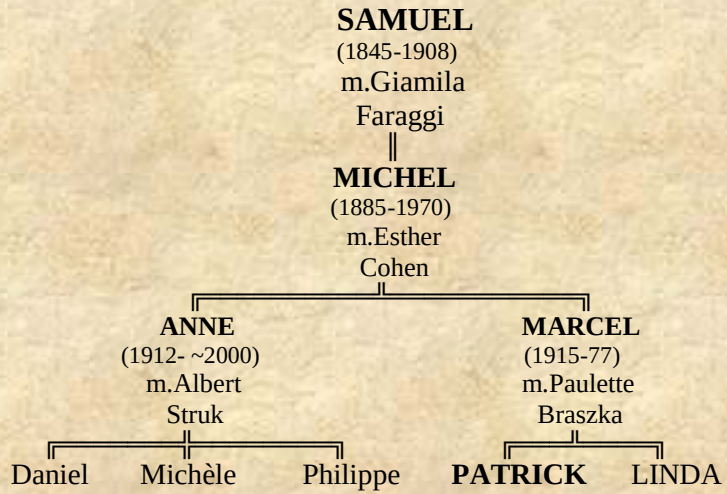

Chart 115

Patrick remembers his father Michel telling him that his own grandfather Samuel had served as Consul of Italy in the Orient (usually the term employed for the Ottoman Empire). He also said that his father directed a French school in Salonika.

Patrick says that there is evidence that his great-grandfather's family was fairly well off. Samuel was an intellectual who spoke seven languages. However, the family's fortunes seem to have taken a bad turn before the Greek conquest of Salonika in 1912, and everything was lost. It is not clear whether this was due to Samuel's death in 1908. However, the family was reduced to poverty and this account dovetails with the version of Samuel's progeny from his second marriage.

For, the saga of the Samuel Modiano branch does not end here. After Giamila's death he took a second wife, this time a Modiano, named Leah.

Leah Modiano was the daughter of Saul Modiano (see Chart 33) a branch of Modiano related to the original Rabbi Saul and his banking descendants. Apparently, during a business trip to Odessa, Saul, a grandson of R'Saul Modiano, fell in love and married the daughter of a local Jewish family. She gave birth to Leah but died in childbirth. Saul remarried, this time another Modiano, Delizia, daughter of Jacob Modiano.

Leah gave Samuel four children: Saul (also known as Paul), Raoul, Elise and Mattica. Again here the Italian consular records are not clear about the issue, mentioning one not two sons[119].

In 1984 Mattica gave a three-hour recorded interview to a niece, in which she gave a graphic and quite controversial description of the family origins and relations of Samuel, Giamila, Leah and their children.

She said that Leah was a close friend of Samuel's daughters Esther and Sarah and about the same age. According to Mattica, Sarah resented her father's second marriage to her friend.

She attributed Samuel's financial ruin to the fact that he had committed a large sum of money to rescue, feed and lodge 82 Jewish children, victims of a Russian pogrom, brought to Salonika with the help of the Allatini family. The Allatini, however, had suddenly withdrawn their support from Samuel forcing him into bankruptcy. He committed suicide shortly afterwards by swallowing a bottle of methylated spirits.

These tragic events could not be independently confirmed.

About Leah's family Mattica said that when the Greeks occupied Salonika in 1912, Leah's half-brother Moise who also ran a school, moved to the Aegean island of Rhodes which was then under Italian rule. Moise was married to his cousin Grazia Modiano (see Chart 33).

SAMUEL
(1845-1908)
m.2/**Leah**
MODIANO

SAUL	RAOUL	ELISE	MATTICA
(1899-?)	(1901- ?)	(1904-1942)	(1908-96)
m.Louisette Petiot	m. ? ?	m.Haim Nahmias	m. Henri Uziel

Chart 116

[119] Italian Consulate General in Salonika: record 94.

According to Mattica. Saul, Leah's first-born was a very unruly child. After the death of Samuel, Leah was advised by the Italian Consulate to send him as a boarder to Italy. He never returned to Salonika. He was just 17 when he volunteered for the First World War and was later demobilized in Paris. At the age of 20 he married a very beautiful woman, but they divorced a few years later. There was no issue.

Raoul was interned at the Allatini Orphanage after his father's death. He too moved to Paris, got married and is known to have had a daughter named Rolande.

The story of Elise was a sad one as recounted by her sister. At 16 she was apparently compelled against her will to marry an older man for whom she had little respect. By the age of 18 she had two daughters – Claire and Lea. Elise died in Auschwitz.

Mattica herself never knew her father since he killed himself a few weeks after her birth. She was aged five and on a trip to Genoa with her mother visiting her elder brother Paul when her mother also died suddenly. The child was then dispatched care of the Italian authorities to her maternal aunt Rachel then married to Leon Abastado, a journalist with the Salonika French-language newspaper L'Indépendant. Later Dr Vidal Modiano (E2) whose mother Buena, also a Modiano (see Chart 57), was a cousin of Leah gave her hospitality.

Mattica married Henri Uziel from Istanbul and always maintained that Jewish men of Istanbul were real gentlemen. They had no children. She died in 1996 and he followed two years later.

After Samuel's death, some legal problems must have emerged because his descendants applied for a certificate from the Jewish Community of Salonika (#30 p.103-4 No 367 now in Jerusalem) that "Shemuel Yosef Modiano, originating from Salonika, had had two legitimate wives. The first was called Djamila Farache [Giamila Faraggi] and the second was named Lea, née Modiano." It added: "He celebrated his second marriage with the latter, after the death of his first wife." The document was dated in Salonika, 11 Elul 5682 (4/9/1922).

There are indications that this branch of Modianos may be linked directly to branch E4 of Chilibon Modiano. It is very likely that Giuseppe Modiano who married Esther Altcheh, had three sons: Samuel who married Giamila Faraggi (E8), Baruch Modiano who married Clara Yahiel (E4) and Jacob Modiano who married Luna Menahem (E4). According to Mattica's interview, Samuel had two other brothers and they all were in the school business. This is precisely what their descendants said of Baruch and Jacob. Besides, the father of Samuel on one hand, and the father of Baruch and Jacob on the other, had the same first name -- Joseph (or Giuseppe).

Another sign is that both Samuel and Baruch (as well as Baruch's son Isaac) named their first-born sons Raoul, which is not a habitual name in the Modiano family. If further evidence emerges, it might be possible to join the two family trees.

E8 : DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL JOSEPH MODIANO

1 Joseph Modiano ~ 1825 - ?
+? ?
2 Samuel Modiano 1845 - 1908
+Giamila Faraggi
3 Giuseppe Modiano 1870 – 1926
+Juliette Giroudeau 1870 - ?
4 Rachel Modiano 1900 - 1992
+Rene Lebatard
5 Maurice Lebatard 1925 -
5 Renee Lebatard 1927 - 2006
+Maurice Fichelson
5 Francoise Lebatard 1936 -
*2nd Wife of Giuseppe Modiano
+Marie-Louise Bizot 1871 - ?
4 Samuel Modiano ? - ~1912
3 Esther Modiano 1873 - 1943
+ ? Matalon ? – 1943
4 David Matalon
3 Sarah Modiano 1875 -1943
+Simon Naar
4 Lily Naar
4 Felix Naar
3 Daniel Modiano 1877 - ?
3 Rachel Modiano 1878 – 1992
+Moise Beraha
4 Albert Beraha
4 Sam Beraha ? – 1943
+ Jeanne Chicurel ? - 1943
4 Raoul Beraha
+Juliette Gross
4 Esther Beraha 1897 – 1981
+Albert Behar

5 Jeanine Behar 1924 - 1947
5 Claude Behar 1930 -
+Henriette Kleniec
6 Martine Behar 1956 -
+Patrick Marcel Modiano (1) 1949 –
6 Jean Claude Behar
+ Brigitte Strul

3 Rebecca Modiano 1881 - ?
3 Isaac Modiano 1883 - ?
3 Michel Modiano 1885 – 1970
+Esther Cohen 1888 - ?
4 Anne Modiano 1912 - ~2000
+Albert Struk
5 Daniel Struk 1934 -
+Paulette Dabrowski
5 Michele Struk 1935 -
+Elie Naparstek
5 Philippe Struk 1949 -
+Patricia Leclerc
4 Marcel Modiano 1915 - 1977
+Paulette Blaszka
5 Patrick Modiano (2) 1949 -
+Martine Behar 1956 -
6 Deborah Modiano 1979 -
6 David Modiano 1981 -
5 Linda Modiano 1951 -
+Michel Florentin
6 Antoine Florentin

3 Merry Modiano 1889 - ?
+? Antonietti
4 Jean Antonietti 1911 -
4 Pierre Antonietti 1913 -
+Jeanette Lesperon
4 Josephine Antonietti ~ 1915 -

*2nd Wife of Samuel Modiano:
+Leah Modiano 1874 – 1913

3 Saul (Paul) Modiano 1899 - ?
+ Louisette Petiot 1905 - ?
4 Rolande Modiano
3 Raoul Modiano 1901 - ?
+ ? ?
3 Elise Modiano 1904 - 1942
+Haim Namias
4 Claire Namias 1921 -
+Jean Gavsewich
4 Lea Namias 1922 -
+Jean Rollet
3 Mattica Modiano 1908 – 1996
+ Henri Uziel

E9. THE DYNASTY OF MOSHE

Traditionally the Modianos have resided in Salonika for centuries. At times, however, some branches or individuals would move out and settle in Istanbul, France, or America. This was especially true just before and after the Greek Army conquered Salonika from the Turks in 1912 and after the Great Fire of 1917 that destroyed most of the city.

In the mid-18th century the Turkish authorities systematically encouraged and often coerced Salonika Jews to move to other areas of the Ottoman Empire that they wished to repopulate. This policy was known as the "*sürgün*". The Jews were preferred because, unlike the Greeks and the Bulgarians, they nursed no territorial claims. They were, therefore, trusted as loyal subjects.

Among the families relocated from Salonika was one that I call the *Dynasty of Moshe.* This was a family of rabbis that flourished mainly in the general area of Canakkale on the Asian coast of the strategic Dardanelles Straits, southwest of Istanbul across the Sea of Marmara. Looking back it is quite possible that this branch originated from the line of Moshe Joseph Modillano, the eldest son of R'Joseph Isaac Modillano (see *Chart 2*).

Moshe and his wife Reyna had four sons and two daughters.

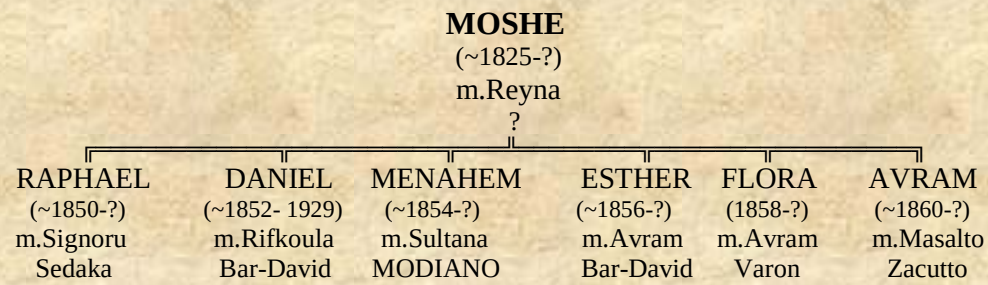

Chart 117

It was Ida Eskenazi, born Modiano, (see *Chart 120*) a descendant of Moshe's first-born Raphael, who first alerted me about the existence of this branch. In a letter touchingly written in Ladino she said she knew that her grandfather Hayim and his brother Nissim had been rabbis in Ezine, a village near Canakkale. At my request, Ida and her cousin Lina Zadok, who both live in Israel, prepared a family tree that went as far back as their great-grandfather.

However the bulk of the information about this branch came just as unexpectedly from **Raymond** Modiano of Oceanside, N.Y., a distant cousin of theirs and a descendant of Moshe's youngest son, Avram. Ray and his wife Phyllis (née Molho) prepared a gigantic spreadsheet listing all the details they had managed to collect about the family. *Chart 117* is just the top of this very large and detailed family tree.

With the help of Ida and Lina the line of Moshe's eldest son, Raphael, was reconstructed as follows:

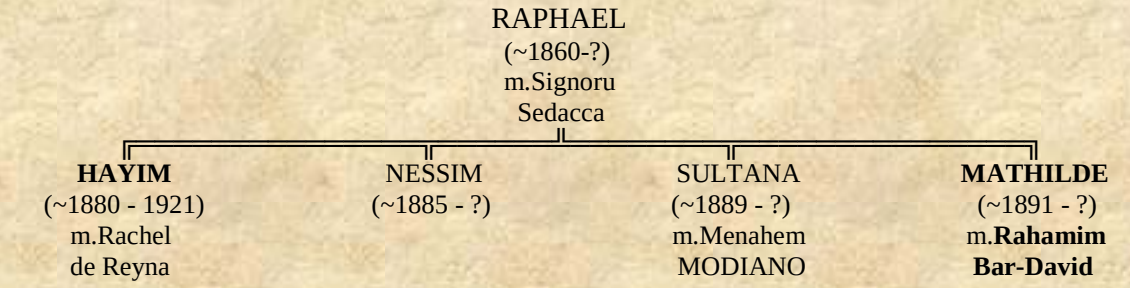

Chart 118

Rabbi Hayim, the grandfather of Ida and Lina, had two sons and four daughters:

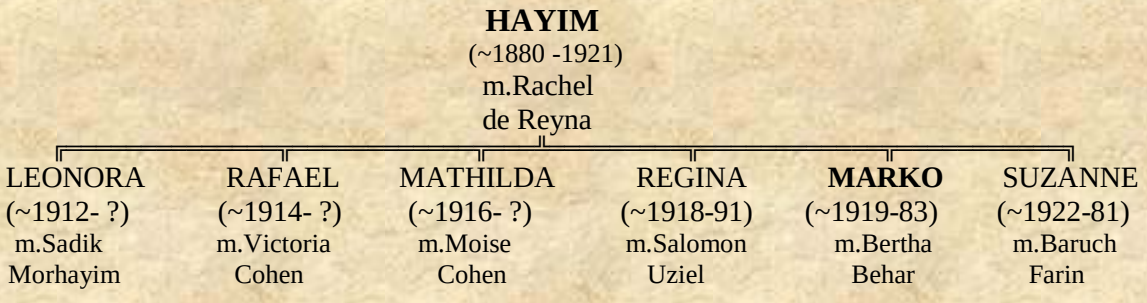

Chart 119

Hayim's youngest son Marko had four daughters. Ida was the second.

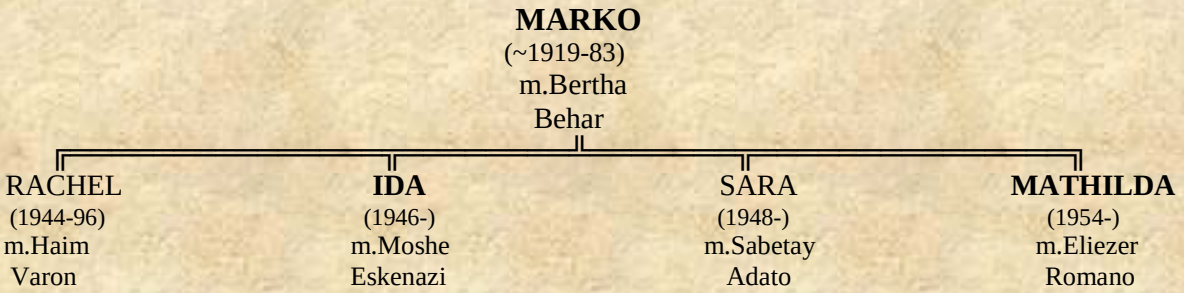

Chart 120

Marko's daughters moved to Israel in 1970. Marko himself, a dedicated Zionist, stayed on for another year to help destitute young Jews who wanted to settle in Israel. Marko's sisters (see *Chart 119*) and their families joined him later. They have since died but their descendants continue to live in that country.

Lina Zadok is a granddaughter of Marko's sister Regina Uziel. Ida said that her great uncle Nissim died in the synagogue at the age of 40 just before his wedding. Mathilda, Ida's youngest sister, and her family settled in Canada.

Of Raphael's children (see *Chart 118*) Sultana married her uncle Menahem despite an age difference of 35 years. But the most amazing story is that of Mathilde (Mazaltov) the youngest. She married Rahamim Bar-David (at least two other members of this family were already married to Bar-Davids!). Ida said that Mathilde and Rahamim converted to Islam and the family never wanted to hear of them since.

The Conversion

What might have happened to induce Mathilde and Rahamim to convert?

The story was revealed recently by one of their great-grandchildren that I shall identify as AB because he asked that the family's privacy should be respected. AB said that the family had converted because they had a thriving pastry business in Ezine, but local anti-Semitism was so brutal in the early 1920s that conditions had become unbearable.

AB said he had discovered that his maternal family was Jewish and descended from the Modiano family by a convergence of incidents. He said: "While I was studying at Columbia College in Chicago, I was in close contact with the Jewish community since most of my instructors and friends were Jewish. I was surprised to hear them say that I looked Jewish. This was news to me since I am a Muslim and a Turk."

AB is the grandson of one of Mathilde's daughters. He said: "My grandmother was called Suzan. That is not a usual Turkish name. Shortly before my grandmother passed away, I asked her if she was Jewish. She snapped 'no' and told me that she wanted to hear no more about it."

He was very attached to his maternal grandmother and was traumatised by her death. But he became interested in Jewish religion and history. He was fascinated to find out that a large number of Jews once lived in the Dardanelles-Canakkale area. This was where his grandmother and, therefore, his mother had come from.

"I decided to go to my grandmother's home town, Ezine, which is 75 km away from Canakkale," he said. "After chatting with some elders in town, I found out that my grandmother came from a Jewish family. But I was unable to learn the family name or their story." The local people even refused to show him where the synagogue had stood. Eventually he discovered the location. The synagogue, he said, had been destroyed during the anti-semitic riots. "The ruins are still there," he explained.

The man who told him everything about his family's background was Jako Zacutto now of Istanbul, who himself originates from Ezine and was connected with the Modianos there. According to Zacutto, one Modiano who had been the rabbi at the local synagogue and had died during the service, had had several children including Hayim, Nissim and Mazaltov (Mathilde).

During the years of the Greek occupation of the region (1919-22), Hayim had apparently fraternized with the Greeks. The local Turks resented this and when the occupation ended, the Turkish militia executed him in the middle of the town as a traitor. But, Zacutto added, "I know for a fact that he was not a traitor."

Nissim moved to Istanbul. Mathilde her husband Rahamim and their three children left for Brazil. Then they moved to Cairo, but could not adjust, so eventually they came back to Ezine.

AB says that Rahamim had a very successful business making candies and marzipan. Although the anti-Semitic feelings in the village were quite strong, he thought he could manage. But then there were anti-Jewish demonstrations and the local people boycotted Jewish shops. The synagogue was ransacked. So the Jews began to drift away. They first went to Canakkale, then to Istanbul. Some people went to America and to Israel.

"Rahamim stayed in Ezine," AB said, "because he thought he could manage. But his shop was attacked and destroyed. So he decided to convert to Islam in order to save the prosperous business. I am not sure that he really wanted it. Mathilde had expressed the wish to be buried in a Jewish cemetery, but when she died she was not accepted."

All except Suzan changed their names. Suzan married a Muslim. They had two daughters. One of them is AB's mother. AB showed the Modiano genealogy book to his mother and she remembered that when she was young she used to play with Ida Modiano (daughter of Marko) in Istanbul. His mother knew of the Jewish connection, but had been told it was a secret. A B said: "I really don't know why this fact was hidden from me. I guess it was because of the lack of tolerance. God knows the truth."

According to AB, after the riots in Ezine, Kemal Atatürk, the Turkish President, went personally to the village and severely reprimanded the local authorities. However, this did not help much; Rahamim's family continued to be harrassed even after their convertion.

His son Nissim (he changed his name) moved to Izmir where he continued in the same line of business producing sweets and did very well. His descendants married Turkish Moslems.

The Branch of Daniel

Of the issue of the original Moshe (see Chart 117) his second son Daniel married Rifkoula Bar-David. Daniel's grandson, who lives in Istanbul and bears his name, Daniel Modiano, expanded on the story of this branch after reading this book in its first edition. Daniel who was born in 1925 is now in finance.

He said: "My grandfather Daniel was one of the six children of Moshe Modiano. They lived in Bayramic, a town close to Canakkale. He was highly respected mainly because although he was not a rabbi, he was venerated like one because of his profound knowledge of our religion. He had good relations with both Turks and Greeks, and was therefore able to avoid being imprisoned like many other Turkish men during the Greek occupation between 1919 and 1922."

The original Daniel, who married Rivkoula Bar-David, had four sons – Moshe (Moise), Eliaou, Nissim (Samuel) and Salomon – all born in Bayramic. Three of them – Moshe, Eliaou and Salomon were involved in the drapery business. Nissim migrated to the United States at the age of 14 and settled in New Jersey. Eliaou married Reyna Halio and had three children Becky, Daniel and Mathilda.

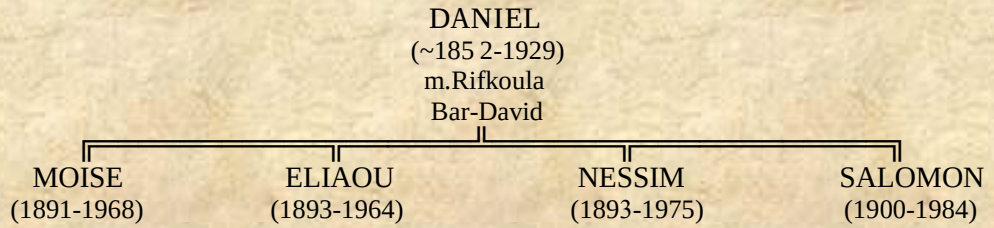

Chart 121

Daniel wrote: “We were all born in Bayramic and I spend the first nine years of my life in that town. However in 1934 another wave of anti-semitism among local Nazi sympathizers forced the Jews in Thrace (the European part of Turkey) and Canakkale to leave**120**. We moved to Istanbul briefly, then returned and settled in Canakkale. We remember this period as ‘el tiempo del Bekotaj’ (the time of the boycott) because Jewish shops were boycotted.”

Daniel said his father Eliaou and his two uncles continued to work as drapers in Canakkale. When Eliaou died in 1964, the family moved back to Istanbul and remained there.

Of the children of Moise only Estella survives and lives in Istanbul with her family.

Salomon Modiano who was one of the leaders of the Jewish Community in Canakkale, settled in Israel in 1978, but died there six years later. His daughter Allegre lives in Bat Yam.

Nessim moved to the United States where he reared three daughters and one son.

Of Eliaou’s children, Rebecca (Daniel’s elder sister) married Binyamin Varon. They had two sons and a daughter – David, Elie, and Simha. Rebecca died in 1991. Her elder son Dr David Varon is a distinguished gastroenterologist practicing in San Francisco.

ELIAOU
(1893-1964)
m.Reyna
Halio

REBECCA	DANIEL	MATHILDA
(1923-1991)	(1925-)	(1933-)
m.Binyamin Varon		m.Albert Singer

Chart 122

“I married once,” Daniel confided, “but I divorced and now live with my sister Mathilda whose husband Albert Singer died young, and with her son. In fact, my nephew, Dr Ralfi Singer is a dermatologist in Istanbul.”

The story of Daniel’s third son, Nessim, was told after the publication of this book’s first edition. Claire, born Modiano, married to Judge Gerald Weinstein of New Jersey, reported the full composition of Nessim’s descendance. Claire said her father used his second name Samuel.

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120 This is a recurrent theme that was seen earlier in this account.

The Branch of Nessim

SAMUEL/NESSIM
(1893 - 1975)
m.Esther
Abravaya

REBECCA	OLGA	CLAIRE	DANIEL
(1920-)	(1924-2006)	(1930-)	(1934-)

Chart 123

Claire said that her father and mother met in New York and, after they married, they settled in Atlantic City, N.J. where they remained until their death. “We, the children, were raised in Atlantic City. We now reside in Ventnor and Margate in New Jersey,” she added. Raymond had told me that he remembered as a child accompanying his father to Atlantic City to visit a great uncle named Nessim!

Of Samuel/Nessim’s issue, Rebecca married Harry Bernstein. They had a son named Marc-Louis. Rebecca’s second husband was David Fishman. Olga remained single. Claire, who married Judge Gerald Weinstein, has two sons. Both have strong links with Israel: Julian is a family therapist and is waiting for his first novel to be published. James who obtained a PhD in botany switched to painting in 1992. He has a fascinating approach to his work drawing from his knowledge of the complexity of the fundamental elements of life. One critic wrote: “Jim Modiano’s research in the field of cellular biology changed his perspective on the world and prepared him to make art that makes visible universal systems of organization.” Jim who uses his mother’s maiden name as his signature, lives in California and his work can be seen at his website <www.jimmodiano.com>.

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Daniel, the youngest and the only son of Nessim/Samuel married Eliz Rankin. They have three sons, the first two are married – Sanford, Edward and Michael.

The elder Daniel's sister Esther (see Chart 117) also married a Bar-David, Avram, probably the brother of Rifkoula.

The Branch of Avram

Thanks to Raymond Modiano we have the detailed genealogy of the youngest of Moshe's sons, Avram (see *Chart 117*)

Chart 124

Raymond tells me that his father Joseph was the first to migrate to the United States just before World War I. He later helped bring over some of his nieces, since the Oriental practice of granting a dowry to find husbands for their daughters, was too onerous for their family to bear. Three of these nieces were the daughters of his widowed sister Regina.

A daughter and a son of Joseph's eldest brother Moise (above), Fanny and Albert also came over to the United States, but they were refused entry because Fanny was found during the Ellis Island screening to suffer from glaucoma (or was it trachoma?).

Albert went to Cuba instead and Fanny to Canada. Later, Albert moved to Miami where he set up a business and raised a family. Fanny also eventually entered the United States, got married and had children. She died in Florida in 1999.

A grandson of Samuel, Marko Modiano son of (the other) Raymond, is today senior lecturer in British literature at the University of Gävle in Sweden since 1994. In 1998 he became head of the Modern Languages Section of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. In the early stages of his academic career he had focussed on the writings of D.H. Lawrence. In recent years, however, Dr Modiano has become interested in socio-linguistics. His current research focusses on English as an international language and Euro-English, spoken by non-native English speakers in mainland Europe.

Samuel who moved to the United States had two daughters from his first wife and two sons and a daughter from his second. His brother Shalom migrated to the US at the age of 18 and joined Samuel who had settled in New York four years earlier. When Samuel died, he married Samuel's third wife Allegre Sadicario. Shalom died in 1950 and Allegre in 1980. They had no children.

E9 : DESCENDANTS OF MOSHE MODIANO

1 Moshe Modiano ~ 1825 - ?
+ Reyna ?
2 Rafael Modiano ~ 1850 - ?
+Signora Sedacca
3 Hayim Modiano ~ 1880 – 1921
+Rachel de Reyna
4 Leonora Modiano ~ 1912 -
+Sadik Morhayim
5 Vital Morhayim
+Rosie ?
5 Samy Morhayim 1952 – 2008
+Luna Menahem
4 Joseph Modiano 1888 – 1973
+Luna Menahem
4 Joseph Modiano 1888 – 1973
4 Rafael Modiano 1910 - 1954
+Victoria Cohen 1920 -
5 Chela (Rachel) Modiano 1940 -
+Betto(Avram) Aranya
6 Rafael Aranya 1965 -
6 Mordohai Aranya 1973 -
5 Rosie Modiano
+Rahmi Katri
6 Vicky Katri
+Dudi Trablusi
5 Sarah Modiano 1947 - 1972
+Moshe Eskenazi

4 Mathilda Modiano ~ 1916 -
+Moise Cohen
5 Sol Cohen
5 Vital Cohen
5 Samy Cohen
4 Regina Modiano ~ 1918 – 1991
+Salomon Uziel
5 Lina Uziel
+Daniel Sadok
5 Samy Uziel
4 Marko Modiano ~ 1919 – 1983
+Bertha Behar
5 Rachel Modiano 1944 - 1996
+Haim Varon
6 Amalya Varon 1966 -
6 Betty Varon 1976 -
5 Ida Modiano 1946 -
+Moshe Eskenazi
6 Jennifer Eskenazi 1966 -
6 Avi Eskenazi 1973 -
5 Sara Modiano ~ 1948 -
+Sabetay Adato
6 Judith Adato 1967 -
6 Betty Adato 1971 -
5 Mathilda Modiano 1954 -
+Eliezer Romano
6 Yitzhak Romano
6 Teri Romano
4 Suzanne Modiano ~1922 - 1981
+Baruch Farin
5 Shlomo Farin
+Meri Levy
5 Victoria Farin
+Yossef Jaen
3 Nessim Modiano ~ 1885 - ?
3 Sultana Modiano ~ 1889 - ?
+Menahem Moshe Modiano ~ 1854 - ?
3 Mazaltov (Mathilde) Modiano ~ 1891 - ?
+Rahamim Bar-David

4 Nissim Bar-David
(issue withheld)
4 Esther Bar-David
(issue withheld)
4 Suzanne Bar-David
(issue withheld)

2 Daniel Modiano ~ 1852 - 1929
+Rifkoula Bar-David ? -1918

3 Moise Modiano 1891 – 1968
+Esther Varon
4 Becky Modiano 1919 –1996
+ Isaac Varon
4 Estella Modiano 1925 –

Second wife of Moise
+Allegre Candiotti
4 Daniel Modiano 1931 - 1966

3 Eliaou Modiano 1893 – 1964
+Reyna Halio
4 Rebecca Modiano 1923 – 1991
+Binyamin Varon
5 David Varon 1945 -
5 Elie Varon 1946 -
5 Simha Varon 1956 -
4 Daniel Modiano 1925 –
+ Rosa Varon (div.)
4 Mathilda Modiano 1933 –
+ Albert Singer 1917 - ?
6 Ralfi Singer 1964 -

3 Nessim (Samuel) Modiano 1893 - 1975
+ Esther Abravaya 1899 - 1972
4 Rebecca Modiano 1920 -
+ Harry Bernstein
5 Marc Louis Bernstein 1950 -
Second husband of Rebecca
+ David Fishman
4 Olga Modiano 1924 - 2006
4 Claire Modiano 1930 -
+ Gerald Weinstein

5 Julian Weinstein 1955 -
5 James Weinstein 1958
4 Daniel Modiano 1934 -
+ Eliz Rankin
5 Sanford Modiano 1960 –
+Ilene Channell
6 Albert Modiano
6 Kevin Modiano
5 Edward Modiano 1963 –
+Clare Chiari
6 Ana Modiano
5 Michael Modiano 1967 -
3 Salomon Modiano 1900 – 1984
+Regina Sedaka
4 Allegre Modiano 1929 –
+ Joseph Sadi
2 Menahem Modiano ~ 1854 - ?
+ Sultana Rafael Modiano ~ 1889 - ?
3 Moise Modiano
2 Esther Modiano ~1856 - ?
+Avram Bar-David
2 Flora Modiano ~ 1868 - ?
+Avram Varon
2 Avram Modiano ~ 1860 - ?
+Mazalto Zacutto
3 Regina Modiano 1880 - ?
+Yehuda Abrevaya
4 Marie Abrevaya 1902 - 1976
+Yomtov Amira 1898 – 1973
4 Mathilda Abrevaya 1907 - 1980
+Elia-Bension Varon 1902 - 1979
4 Fortunee Abrevaya 1908 - 1990
+Morris Lomita
4 Corinne Abrevaya 1910 - 1986
+Leon Chiprut 1908 - 1965
4 Avram Abrevaya 1914 -
+Louise Abrevaya 1920 - 1988
4 Esther Abrevaya 1917 -

3 Moise Modiano ~ 1882 - ?
+Anula Amira

4 Shirin Modiano 1904 - 1941
+Yacutti Molinas

5 Isaac Molinas 1921 - 1980
+Zafira Varnali

5 Janette Molinas 1929 -
+Vitali Sadaka 1919 -

5 Becki Molinas 1934 - 1987
+Nissim Zacutto 1928 -

5 Moise Molinas 1935 -
+Tuna ? 1947 -

*2nd Wife of Moise Molinas:
+Estrea ? 1946 -

4 Joya Modiano ~ 1906 -
+Leon Alkanli

5 Mordo Alkanli 1926 -
+Etty Sheres 1943 -

5 Moise Alkanli 1927 -
+Zimbul Behar 1940 - 1975

5 Palomba Alkanli 1934 -
+Izak Mendes 1927 -

4 Fanny Modiano 1910 –1999
+Solomon Amira 1907 - 1975

5 Juliette Amira 1934 –
+Herbert Meyerowitz 1929 – 1994

*2nd Husband of Juliette Amira:
+Arthur Sedaka 1930 -

4 Yomtov Modiano ~ 1912 -
+Sara Megerdic Kokcu (Avinu)

5 Betty Modiano 1942 -
+Yaacov Romi ? – 1991

6 Sim Romi 1965 -
+Jenny Sevi 1967 -

5 Janette Modiano 1946 –
+Albert Galimidi

6 Liz Galimidi
4 Albert (Avram) Modiano ~ 1915 -
+Bertha Cohen 1922 -
5 Morris Modiano
+Anna ?
5 Anita Modiano
+Manolo Cruz
4 Allegre Modiano ~ 1917 -
+Israel Pinto
5 Izak Pinto 1938 -
+Joya Candiotti 1945 -
3 Samuel Modiano 1893 – 1971
+Rebecca Halio 1897 – ?
4 Molly Modiano 1920 -
4 Regina Modiano 1921 -
+Joseph Charnin
5 Richard Charnin 1943 -
5 Victoria Charnin 1953 -
+Dennis Harkins
*2nd Wife of Samuel Modiano:
+Victoria Perez
4 Albert Modiano 1924 - ?
+Selma ?
5 Victoria Modiano 1952 -
+William Bennett 1950 - 1988
6 Erica Bennett 1982 -
5 Howard Modiano 1952 -
+Linda Califano 1957 -
6 Adam Modiano 1984 -
6 Christopher Modiano 1985 -
4 Rachel Modiano 1927 – 1991
4 Raymond Modiano 1928 -
+Frances Mary Tarpey
5 Stephen Modiano 1950 -
5 Marko Modiano 1953 –
+Karin Hedenmalm

6 Victoria Modiano Hedenmalm 1991 –
6 Maria Astrid Modiano Hedenmalm 1993 –
6 Eric Modiano Hedenmalm 1995 -
5 Paul Modiano 1968 –

*3rd Wife of Samuel Modiano:
+Allegre Sadicario 1903 – 1980

3 Joseph Modiano 1896 – 1975
+Benvenuta Molinas 1899 – 1974
4 Albert Modiano 1922 -2000
+Elizabeth Levy 1925 -
5 Esta Modiano 1957 -
+Mark Egger 1952 -
6 Kerry Egger 1992 -
4 Victor Modiano 1926 -
+Shirley Fishler 1927 – 2000
5 Martin Modiano 1955 -
+Lisa Alvarez 1963 -
6 Damin Modiano 1986 -
4 Raymond Modiano 1932 -
+Phyllis Molho 1938 -
5 Jordan Modiano 1968 –
+ Mindi Vilano 1968 -
5 Jeffrey Modiano 1970 -

3 Rahamim Modiano ? - ?

3 Shalom Modiano 1898 – 1950
+Allegre Sadicario 1903 – 1980

E10. MENAHEM MODIANO

This detached branch listed in the records of the Italian Consulate General of Salonika, hails from Menahem who was born ~1820. He had at least one son called Jacob or Giacomo born in 1840. Giacomo had three sons and three daughters from his marriage to Buena Carasso.

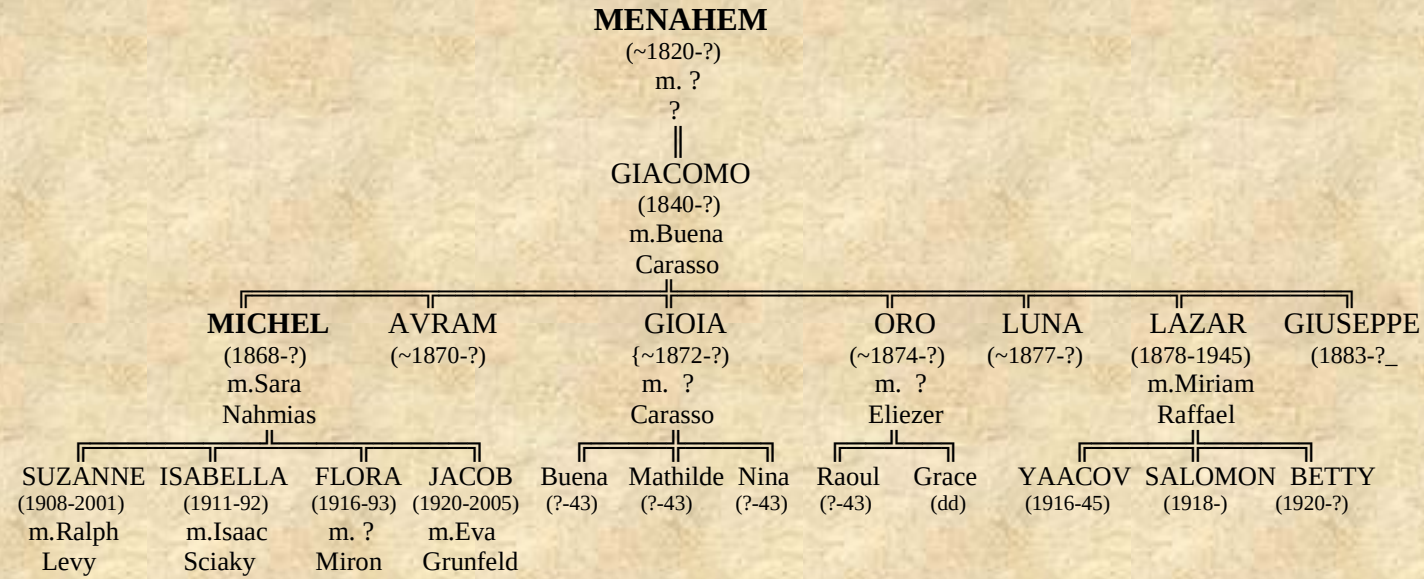

Chart 125

According to the late Elio Modiano (*see* *Chart 22*) who was a friend of Jacob (Jacques), his father Michel (Menahem), was in the real estate business in Salonika, dealing mainly with high-priced property in the Vassileos Georgiou area.

Jacques moved to Colombia where he lives today. He married Eva Grunfeld, They have three children.

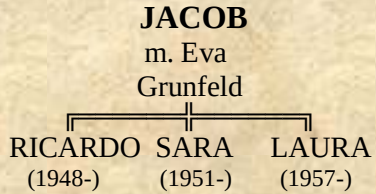

Chart 126

His sister Isabella, a graduate of the University of Torino (Italy) at the age of 22, returned to Salonika after graduating and later taught mathematics and geography at the Italian School. After the war she lived in New York, but suffered from severe lung problems. She died in 1992. Her daughter Daniela (b.1948) contacted me through the Internet to give me these details. Isabella's younger sister Flora died in Israel, leaving a daughter named Hannah and son, Moshe.

The eldest sister Suzanne married Ralph Levy, a self-made industrialist. They had met in Paris and left Europe for the U.S. in the nick of time, in 1939, with their first daughter Monique who had just been born. They lived in New York and had two more children – Marc (b.1940) and Jacqueline (b.1943). After Ralph's death in 1967, Suzanne, a superb cook of Sepharadic dishes, according to her daughter Jacqueline went to live with Monique in Miami Beach, Florida. She died in 2001.

Lazar (see *Chart 125*) who lived with his family in Skopje, Yugoslavia, died in Bergen Belsen in 1945. His son Salomon (Alfredo) survived the Holocaust, and lives in Israel with his family – including his two children Marie and Moshe. His sister Betty died in Israel.

Of Giacomo's daughters Gioia married and had three daughters but they all died in concentration camp. Oro had two children, Raoul and Grace. The first went to concentration camp. The other died young.

Avram never married.

There is no doubt in my mind that this branch is closely related to that of Menachem Modiano in B1b (see Chart 12a) in Genealogy I. There is a problem with dates, but there is a strong resemblance in names such as Menahem/Michel, Jacob as well as Riccardo.

E10 : DESCENDANTS OF MENAHEM MODIANO

1 Menahem Modiano ~ 1820 - ?
+? ?
2 Giacomo Modiano 1840 - ?
+Buena Carasso 1849 - ?
3 Michel (Menahem) Modiano 1868 - ?
+Sara Nahmias ~1882 - ?
4 Suzanne Modiano 1908 - 2001
+ Ralph Levy 1897 - 1967
5 Monique Levy 1939 –
+ Renato Zarfati
5 Marc Levy 1940 –
5 Jacqueline Levy 1943 –
+ Ralph Antoine Champana
4 Isabella Modiano 1911 – 1992
+Isaac Sciaky 1909 - 2003
5 Daniela Sciaky 1948 -
4 Flora Modiano 1915 – 1993
+? Miron
5 Hannah Miron 1948 –
5 Moshe Miron
4 Jacob Modiano 1920 - 2005
+Eva Grunfeld
5 Ricardo Modiano 1948 -
+ Maria-Claudia ?
6 Jacques Modiano
6 Jonathan Modiano
5 Sara Modiano 1951 –
+ ? Roiter
6 Silvana ?
+ ? Avinami
5 Laura Modiano 1957 –
+ Piero Di Capua 1952 -
3 Abraham Modiano ~ 1870 - ?

3 Gioia Modiano ~ 1872 - ?
+? Carasso
4 Buena Carasso ? - 1943
4 Mathilde Carasso ? - 1943
4 Nina Carasso ? – 1943
3 Oro Modiano ~ 1874 - ?
+? Eliezer
4 Raoul Eliezer ? - 1943
4 Grace Eliezer ? - ?
3 Luna Modiano ~ 1877 - ?
3 Lazar Modiano 1878 – 1945
+Miriam Rafael 1895 - 1945
4 Yaacov Modiano 1916 - 45
4 Alfredo (Salomon) Modiano 1918 –
+ ? ?
5 Marie Modiano
5 Moshe Modiano
4 Betty Modiano 1920 - ?
3 Giuseppe Modiano 1883 - ?

E11. MOSHE HAIM, SHOEMAKER

Rachel Modiano is a psychologist in New Jersey, U.S. From the little her father Alberto told her of his family history, she gained a strong sense of being "the end of the line". So when she married, she promised her father that she would keep alive the Modiano name by giving it to her children.

Rachel's family has now been traced back to Salvator Modiano born probably about 1820.

Chart 127

Before the war, Rachel's father had been married to Rachel Bension who gave him two children. Because Alberto was an Italian national, he, his wife Rachel and their two children were saved and taken aboard the Italian military train that took the Italian Jews from Salonika to Athens on July 15, 1943[121]. But when Italy collapsed in September they were caught by the Germans and deported to Auschwitz. His wife and both children perished.

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[121] *Italian Diplomatic Documents* op.cit., p.262 Permits 540 & 541.

Alberto's elder sisters and their families had already been deported from Salonika and died. So did his younger brother Isaac (Isakino) who lived in Livorno[122] (see Chart above). He was married to Laura Modiano, daughter of Samuel Modiano and Gioia Mano (see Outine B1e). They had a daughter Flora (Rachel) who was aged six when the family was taken to the death camps in 1943.

Alberto survived. He was a glazier by profession so he saved his life by fitting windowpanes for the Germans in the camp. After his return to Salonika at the end of the war he discovered that only he and two elder brothers who had left Greece before the war, survived from this large family. He met Rachel's mother and they were married in Salonika.

His elder brother Giuseppe, who was in New York and had remained single, sponsored their immigration to the United States in 1952. Rachel was born three years later. She wrote: "Neither of my uncles had children of their own. As a result from a very young age, I have had the sense that I was 'the end of the line'."

She promised her father she would hold on to the family name and has done so. She married Jonathan Ehrlich who is a speech therapist and was born in 1955. They had two boys and one girl.

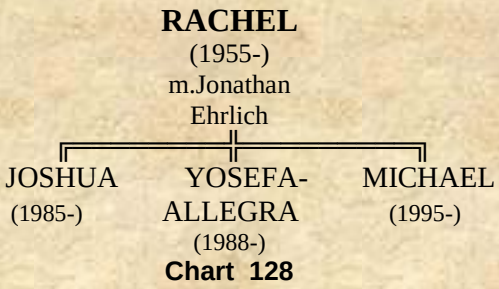

Chart 128

All the children bear the Modiano name along with their father's. In the summer of 2001 Rachel took the family on a pilgrimage to Salonika, the birthplace of her father.

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[122] Livorno Census 1938.

E11 : Descendants of Salvator Modiano

1 Salvator Modiano ~ 1820 - ?
+? ?
2 Haim Modiano ~ 1845 - ?
+Esther Halfon
3 Moshe Modiano 1869 - ?
+Rachel Castro 1874 - ?
4 Samuel Modiano 1892 - ?
4 Esther Modiano 1894 – 1943
+ ? ?
4 Giuseppe Modiano 1897 - ?
4 Eliza Modiano 1902 - ~ 1903
4 Mazaltov Modiano 1903 – 1943
+ ? ?
4 Alberto Modiano 1907 – 1989
+Rachel Bension 1907 - 1943
5 Maurice Modiano 1933 - 1943
5 Allegre Modiano 1937 - 1943
*2nd Wife of Alberto Modiano:
+Fay Levy
5 Rachel Modiano 1955 -
+Jonathan Erhlich 1955 -
6 Joshua Modiano-Erhlich 1985 -
6 Yosefa-Allegra Modiano-Erhlich 1988
6 Michael Modiano-Erhlich 1995 -
4 Isaac Modiano 1912 – 1943
+Laura Modiano 1911 – 1943
5 Flora Modiano 1938 – 1943

E12. THE FAMILY OF SAADI AVRAM

I met Albert Louis Modiano in 1992 at a small reception we gave in our hotel for our Washington friends and the Modianos of that city. There were four Modianos present and they had never met each other. They were shy at first, but when the family spirit caught up and we all became instant "cousins".

Albert was deputy director of the Minerals Management Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. He brought along a letter. It was a letter from my father, Sam Modiano, dated 1978, in reply to his father, Sam Modiano, who had written to ask whether they were related.

What was important about that letter was that it contained the only written text I ever had of my father's views on the family's genealogy, before I began my research in 1990. I have always blamed myself for not starting earlier, seeing that my father's incredible memory would have spared me at least one-half of the work.

Albert also brought along a sketch of the family he prepared after questioning his mother. Since then, I received much help from a cousin of Albert's father, Anne Modiano-Greene.

The basic tree looks like this:

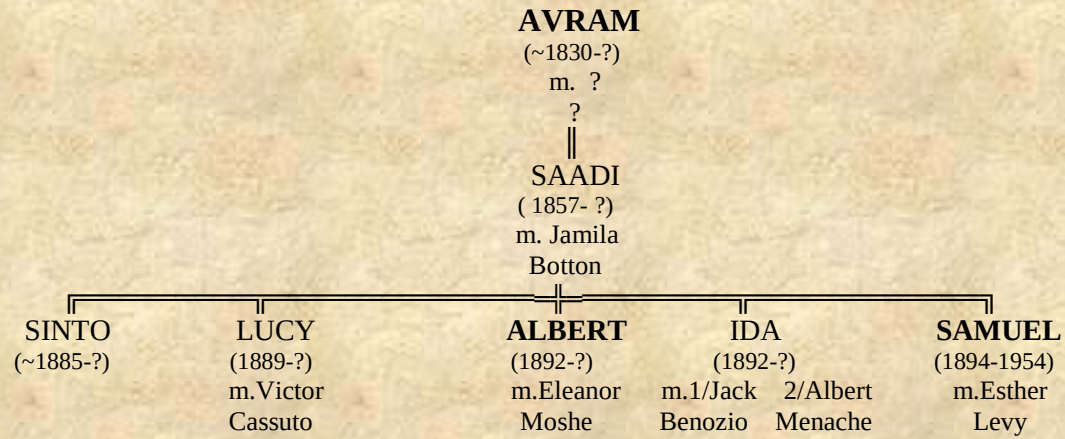

Chart 129

The first member of the family to settle in America was Samuel. He had trained as a tailor. Before leaving Salonika he had met Esther Levy. When he left he promised to bring her over. He did. However they were compelled to marry on Ellis Island because of a law passed to protect young women from being brought to the States on false pretences. They later had a religious marriage.

Samuel and Esther saved money and sent it to Salonika to help the other brothers and sisters to move to the States. Albert became a draftsman for the Edison Co. According to Anne Greene, as this company refused to hire Jews, he let them think of him as an Italian Catholic.

Sam, Albert's son, married Evalore Mamlok. They had two children, Albert Louis, whom we have met, and his sister Stephanie-Rose.

Samuel Saadi's branch, to which Anne Greene belonged, was quite large:

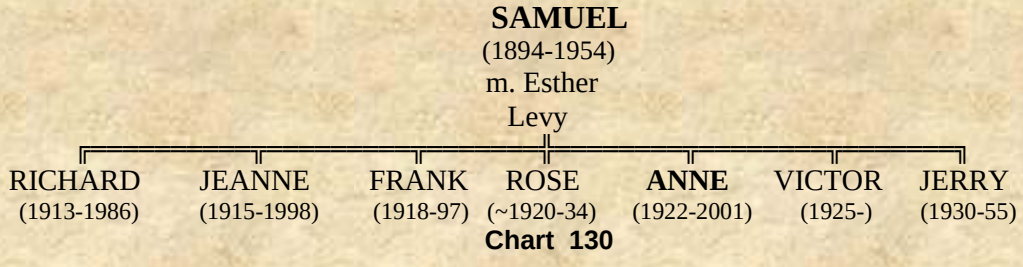

Chart 130

Anne wrote in 1994: "A few months ago I started writing the story of my immediate family and found myself stumped because I never asked any pertinent questions of either my mother or father, and now no one is left to ask." Have we not all felt that way at one time or another?

Of Samuel and Esther's children only Victor survives today. Rose died very young. Jerry (Jerome), the youngest, died at the age of 25 in 1955 after a heart operation just as he had graduated from university. It was the first aorta operation of its kind and he had been warned that his chance of survival was one in three.

Richard, who died in 1987, had been involved in a strange affair in Spain. According to Anne, Richard who in the 1970s lived in Costa del Sol in Spain had a project to create a sort of Spanish Monte Carlo. He had been friendly with the ambassador[123] who arranged an audience with the King.

[123] I assume the American Ambassador in Spain.

The King was agreeable to the idea, but then a competitor turned up with a similar project. He misinformed the King that Richard, because of his Italian-sounding name, was obviously connected with the Italian Mafia. The other man apparently won and went ahead with the casino project.

Richard's son, Richard (jr) is a well-known poet. He started studying American poetry from the Colonial era to the late 19th century. After attending Allen Ginsberg's workshop in New York, he was introduced to Asian poetics via Japanese forms. His interest in Japanese aesthetics deepened in the 1980s and he became consultant editior of the Subterranean Press.

Victor with his second wife Doris, two sons from his first and a daughter from the second, lives in Los Angeles. His brother Frank because of strong earthquakes in Hollywood where he resided moved to Arizona where he died in 1997. At some point, Richard, Frank and Victor had set up the Modiano Construction Company. It did not do well and the partnership was dissolved a few years later.

Anne whose husband Arthur Greene had died in 1963, also lived in Los Angeles with her son and daughter. She suffered from a heart ailment and died in early 2001.

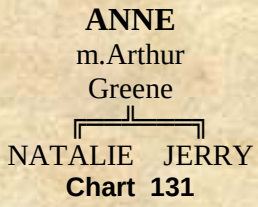

Chart 131

Of Sadie's other children (see *Chart 129*) we only know that Ida married twice and was living in Mexico. Her family is still there.

E12 : Descendants of Saadi Avram Modiano

1 Avram Modiano ~ 1830- ?
+ ? ?
2 Saadi Modiano 1857 - ?
+Giamila Botton 1866 -
3 Sinto Modiano ~ 1885 - ?
3 Lucy Modiano 1889 - ?
+Victor Cassuto
3 Albert Modiano 1892 - ?
+Eleonore Moshe
4 Sam Modiano 1926 – 1984
+Evalore Mamlok
5 Albert-Louis Modiano 1953 -
+Elizabeth Barker
6 Aaron Modiano 1981 -
6 Sarah Modiano 1984 -
5 Stephanie-Rose Modiano 1958 -
+Robert Carpenter
6 Samantha-Ruth Carpenter 1987 –
6 Rebecca-Emily Carpenter 1992 -
3 Ida Modiano 1892 - ?
+Jack Benozio
4 Carmen Benozio
+? Miller
4 Samuel Benozio
*2nd Husband of Ida Modiano:
+Albert Menache
4 Maurice Menache
4 Olga Menache
3 Samuel Modiano 1894 - 1954
+Esther Levy 1894 - 1976
4 Richard Modiano 1913 – 1986
+Victoria ?

5 Richard Modiano 1950 -
5 Robert Modiano 1952 – 1985
*2nd Wife of Richard Modiano:
+? Lecani
*3rd Wife of Richard Modiano
+ Emiko Shimura
4 Jeanne Modiano 1915 - 1998
+Hyman Eller
5 Dale Eller 1948 -
5 Lynn Eller 1951 -
5 Sandra Eller 1958 -
4 Frank Modiano 1918 - 1997
+Ruth Gottlieb 1919 -
*2nd Wife of Frank Modiano:
+Sandy ? ? - ?
4 Rose Modiano ~1920 – 1934
4 Anne Modiano 1922 - 2001
+Arthur Greene ? - 1963
5 Natalie Greene
5 Jerry Greene
4 Victor Modiano 1925 -
+Mary ?
5 Michael Modiano
5 Steven Modiano
*2nd Wife of Victor Modiano:
+Doris Rochelle
5 Susan Modiano
4 Jerry Modiano 1930 – 1955

E13. VITA ABRAMO MODIANO

A certificate of the Italian Consulate of Salonika says that the children of Vita Abramo Modiano were born in Volos, an industrial town in central Greece, which had a thriving Jewish Community. Vita married Allegre Altcheh and they had one son, Moise, and four daughters. They probably moved to Salonika soon after 1900. Vita had a silk-print business.

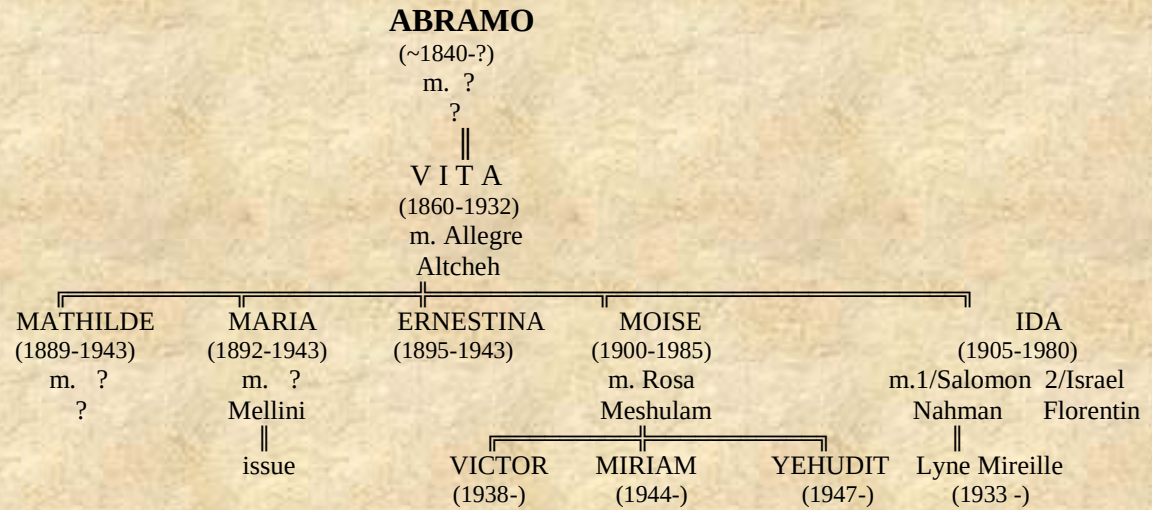

Chart 132

During the First World War, Moise, although he was only 17, was drafted in the Italian Army. Later he studied commercial accounting in Italy, before returning to Salonika where he was engaged by the Salem Bank. Switching jobs later he found employment with an Italian timber company that moved him to their Cairo branch. It was there that he met his future wife, Rosa Meshulam.

Moise and Rosa had one son and two daughters, all born in Cairo. The family moved to Israel in 1949. The son, Victor, is now a retired police officer and a grandfather of six. Miriam (Mercada) married Avram Arnon who is marketing manager of a large food company. They have two sons and a daughter.

The youngest daughter, Yehudit (Allegrette), who contributed most of the information in this chapter, works for a bank. Her husband Moshe Barnea is an assessor. They have a married daughter and a son.

Of Vita's four daughters, three were lost during the Holocaust. Only Ida, the youngest, was saved because she had left Salonika for France. There she married a Mr Florentin and acquired a daughter called Lyne Mireille. During the German occupation they fled from Paris, finding refuge first in the countryside, then in Egypt where they stayed with her brother Moise. Lyne married Henri Baur of an old Alsatian family. They have two children, Georges and Marianne.

This branch and that of Vita Modiano (see *Chart 105*) were listed in the same registry of the Italian Consulate of Alexandria. This and the fact that the given names of their members are fairly similar, would suggest a link between the two branches. One possibility is that Abramo was the brother of Isaac, both sons of Vita.

E13 : DESCENDANTS OF HAIM ABRAMO MODIANO

1 Abramo Modiano ~ 1840 - ?
+ ? ?
2 Haim (Vita) Modiano 1860 – 1932
+Allegre Altcheh 1868 - 1943
3 Mathilde Modiano 1889 – 1943
+Isaac Cohen
3 Maria Modiano 1892 - 1943
+ ? Mellini
4 issue
3 Ernestina Modiano 1895 – 1943
+ Joseph Levi
3 Moise Modiano 1900 – 1985
+Rosa Messulam 1919 - 1990
4 Victor Modiano 1938 -
+Tzipora Litman 1940 –
5 Orly Modiano 1963 –
+Moshe Pardo 1962 –
6 Bar Pardo 1989 –
6 Shahar Pardo 1990 -

–

6 Yarden Pardo 1999 –
5 Moshe Modiano 1964 –
+Anat Hason 1971 –
6 Almog Modiano 2001 -
5 Miriam Modiano 1964 –
+ Amnon Azulay 1960 –
6 Pazit Azulay 1988 –
6 Shir Azulay 1990 –
6 Aviv Azulay 1995 –
4 Mercada-Miriam Modiano 1944 –
+Avram Arnon 1937 -
5 Roded Arnon 1963 –
+Dorit Fresco 1973 –
5 Nir Arnon 1965 –
+Ronit Tori 1972 –
5 Yael Arnon 1973 –
+Eyal Mutzafi 1972 -
4 Allegrette-Yehudit Modiano 1947 –
+Moshe Barnea 1945 –
5 Keren Barnea 1971 –
+ Edo Breger 1971 -
5 Oren Barnea 1973 -
3 Ida Modiano 1905 – 1980
+ Salomon Nahman 1900 – 1937
4 Lyne Mireille Nahman 1933 –
+ Henri Baur
2nd husband of Ida Modiano
+ Israel Florentin ? -

E14. MEIR YITZHAK MODIANO

Boris Senior is a South African Jew who went to Israel immediately after the War of Independence in 1948, and became one of the founders of Israeli Air Force and one of the heroes of the War of Independence.

In Israel he met Batya, daughter of Meir Modiano, and they got married. They went back to Johannesburg in 1980 with their three children, but by 1993 they moved permanently to Israel to live in a beautiful house with a vast garden in Kfar Shmaryahu near Tel Aviv. Boris died in 2004.

Meir Modiano was in his upper 80s when we got in touch through Boris. He remembered that his father, Isaac (Yitzhak) had had two marriages. He had two half-brothers from the first – Samuel and Daniel. He was the only child of the second marriage.

Chart 133

Meir said that his father lived in Salonika. He believes his grandfather's name was either Samuel or Raphael. After his father's death, his two half-brothers left home and raised their own families. Meir himself married Mathilda Nahman and moved to Israel. They had three daughters and one son Meir tried to locate his relatives in Salonika after the war, without success He believes that the family that was left behind perished in the Holocaust.

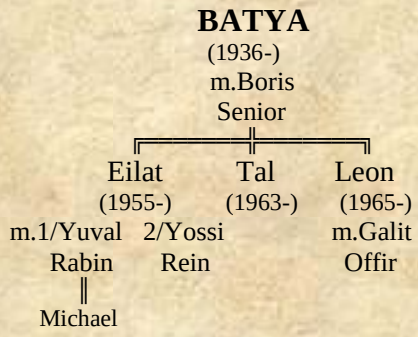

Chart 134

Batya has a daughter Eilat, who made her grandmother of a delightful grandson named Michael. Michael was born from Eilat's first marriage with Yuval Rabin, son of the murdered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Eilat has since remarried and settled in Australia. Batya's eldest son, Tal, who studied architecture in London, has established his business in Tel Aviv. He has designed a house in Natanya for his cousin Lior and his wife Mayrav, children of Batya's brother Yitzhak. Yitzhak himself changed his name to Modiani, while his son Lior opted for the surname of Meidan. Batya's youngest, Leon, who is a gynaecologist, married Galit.in 2002

E14 : DESCENDANTS OF YITZHAK MODIANO

1 Yitzhak Modiano ~ 1870 - ?
+? ?
2 Shmuel Modiano ~1892 - ?
2 Daniel Modiano ~1895 - ?
*2nd Wife of Yitzhak Modiano:
+? ?
2 Meir Modiano 1905 - 1995
+Mathilda Nahman
3 Batya Modiano 1936 -
+Boris Senior ?-2004
4 Eilat Senior 1955 -
+ Yuval Rabin
5 Michael Rabin 1979 -

2nd husband of Eilat
+ Yossi Rein 1945 -
4 Tal Senior 1963 -
4 Leon Senior 1965 –
+ Galit Offir
5 Omer Senior 2003 -
3 Rachel Modiano 1940 -
+Eli Levi
4 Einat Levi 1963 -
+Ronen Trichter
4 Reuven Levi 1967 -
3 Yitzhak Modiano 1942 -
+Ilana Zerubavel
4 Dalit Modiani 1969 –
+Gill Zalebski
5 Sahar Modiani 2000 –
5 Shaked Modiani 2002 -
4 Lior (Modiano) Meidan 1970 –
+ Merav Brosh
5 Amit Meidan 1998 –
5 Rotem Meidan 2002 –
5 Nitzan Meidan 2006 -
4 Rinat Modiani 1974 -
3 Esther Modiano 1944 -
+Hessie Shapira
4 Maital Shapira 1974 -
4 Ido Shapira 1976 –

E15. YOMTOV GUEDALIA MODIANO

On June 23, 1893, the Salonika newspaper Epoca[124] carried this announcement:

"Mr and Mrs Yomtov Guedalia Modiano and Mr & Mrs Samuel Yaacov Saragossi announce the marriage of Tamar and Salomon on 11 Tamuz 5653 (25-6-1893), at Evora synagogue. Reception at Abraham Cuenca's."

This way we discovered the name of the great-grandfather of Nissim Modiano of Nahariya in Israel. Tamar was his aunt.

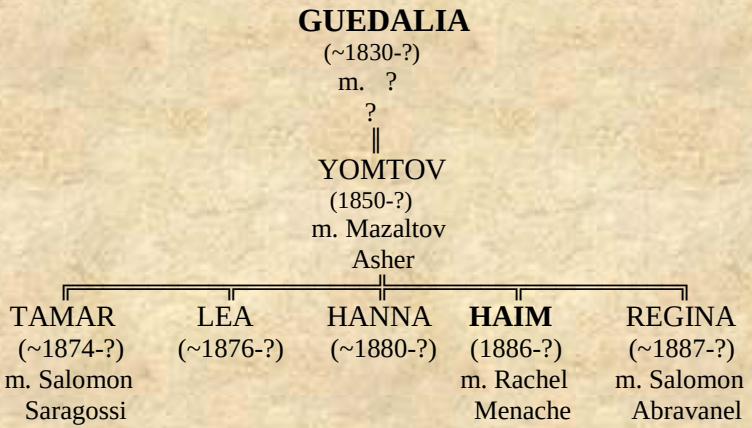

Chart 135

Haim, Yomtov's only son, was born in Salonika where he married Rachel Menache. In 1914, two years after the Turks surrendered Salonika to the Greeks, he moved to Istanbul. It was in that city that Nissim was born. Two of Haim's sisters settled in Israel before the Second World War. The rest of the family remained in Salonika and were lost during the Shoah. It is quite possible that Guedalia also had a daughter named Sarah who, according to Yad Vashem, died in Birkenau.

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[124] With thanks to Claude Missistrano for retrieving these announcements and translating them from Ladino.

HAIM
(1886-?)
m. Rachel
Menache

MATHILDA	ISAAC	**NISSIM**
(1916-2004)	(1919-1987)	(1921-)
m. Marko Uziel	m.Adela Cohen	m.Suzanne Grinzinger

Chart 136

Isaac, the eldest, graduated from the French school in Istanbul and in 1941 he settled in Palestine. Because of the strict migration rules imposed by the British, however, he had to return toTurkey to be able to marry Adela Cohen, before returning with her to his kibbutz. Later they moved to Nahariya where Isaac worked in a textile factory. He died in Israel in 1987 while Adela died in 2001 during a visit to Istanbul with her daughter Amalia.

Amalia herself was born in Israel. After serving two years in the Navy, she studied textile design at Tel Aviv University for four years. Later she worked as import/export manager of a large firm in Tel-Aviv.

Isaac's brother Nissim who got a German education in Istanbul went to Israel in 1950. Before that he had worked in Turkey for the Ford Motor Company. In Israel he was employed as an accountant in an absestos factory. Now that he has retired, he volunteers his services to the local hospital.

Their sister Mathilda remained in Istanbul with her family – her husband Yeshua Marko Uziel and two married daughters: She died in 2004:

- the eldest, Esther, married David Sisa. They have a son, Melih and a daughter Vildan. Both are married and have children of their own;
- Rachel, the youngest, married Victor Abaruch and migrated to Israel. They have two children of whom one married last year.

Melih Sisa who practices law in Istanbul told me the following amusing story how his uncle Victor had to switch his name from Baruch to Abaruch:

"As you know before the creation of the Turkish Republic people in this country had no family names. Then Parliament passed a law requiring everybody to find a surname and register it, Of course, the Jews already had theirs. So they went to register them. However in Bursa where uncle Victor lived there were many with the surname Baruch. The authorities claimed this would be confusing, so they decided to rename them as Abaruch, Bebaruh, Cebaruch, Debaruch and so on."

E15 : Descendants of Guedalia Modiano

1 Guedalia Modiano ~ 1830 - ?
+ ? ?
2 Yomtov Modiano 1850 - ?
+Mazaltov Asher
3 Tamar Modiano ~ 1874 - ?
+Salomon Saragossi
3 Lea Modiano ~ 1876 - ?
3 Hanna Modiano ~ 1880 - ?
3 Haim Modiano 1886 - ?
+ Rachel/Fortunée Menache
4 Mathilda Modiano 1916 - 2004
+ Marco Uziel 1912 - ?
5 Esther Uziel 1945 -
+David Sisa 1933 -
6 Melih Sisa 1968 –
+ Tania Bahar
7 Esin (Esther) Sisa 2000 –
7 Verda Sisa 2003 -
6 Vildan Sisa 1972 –
+ Dogan Erim (Elnekave)
7 Nedi Erim 1998 –
7 Elsi Erim 1998 -
5 Rachel Uziel 1951 -
+ Victor Abaruch 1947 –
6 Alon Abaruch 1973 –
6 Lelia Abaruch 1976 -
4 Isaac Modiano 1919 - 1987
+Adela Cohen 1921 -2001
5 Amalia Modiano 1954 -
4 Nissim Modiano 1921 - ?
+ Suzanne Grinzinger

3 Regina Modiano 1887 - ?
+ Salomon Abravanel 1866 - ?
4 Sol Abravanel 1921 -
+ Elie Varsano
5 Naava Varsano
5 Reviva Varsano
4 Mathilda Abravanel 1923 -
+Yaacov Aruh
5 Talia Aruh
5 Eytan Aruh
4 Jacob Abravanel 1924 -
+Bella Recanati
5 Mihal Abravanel
5 Dina Abravanel
2 Sarah Modiano (?) ? – 1943

E16. SHIMON AND PERLA MODIANO

Another Israeli Modiano with an unconnected branch is Joseph Modiano whose father Moise was one of seven children reared by Shimon and Perla Modiano although the wife's name is given as Gracia in the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony. In the same archive, their son Haim who perished in the Shoah, is listed as a former customs official.

SHIMON
(~1883-1943)
m.Perla
?

SAMUEL	JOSEPH	ELIEZER	**MOISE**	HAIM	LUNA	DUDUN
(~1903-43)	(~1905-43)	(~1907-43)	(1909-57)	(1911-43)	(1913-43)	(1915-43)

Chart 137

Joseph says that his father Moise emigrated to Palestine in 1932. His siblings remained in Salonika and most certainly perished in the Shoah.

Moise married and built a family in Israel. Joseph was his only son. He had two daughters.

MOISE
(1909-57)
m.Devora
Taboh

PERLA	**JOSEPH**	ADINA
m.Yaacov Dzerassi	m.Aliza Arenos	m. David Dzerassi

Chart 138

Joseph and Aliza have two daughters, Avivite and Dorit, and one son Moshe. Dorit has given them two grandchildren.

E16: Descendants of Shimon Modiano

1 Shimon Modiano ~ 1880 - 1943
+Perla ?
- 2 Samuel Modiano ~ 1903 - 1943
- 2 Joseph Modiano ~ 1905 - 1943
- 2 Eliezer Modiano ~ 1907 - 1943
- 2 Moise Modiano 1909 – 1957
  +Devora Taboh
  - 3 Perla Modiano
    +Yaacov Dzherasi
  - 3 Joseph Modiano
    +Aliza Arenos
    - 4 Avivite Modiano
    - 4 Moshe Modiano
    - 4 Dorit Modiano
      +Nissim Pinto
      - 5 Yaacov Pinto
      - 5 Shani Pinto
  - 3 Adina Modiano
    +David Dzherasi
- 2 Haim Modiano ~ 1911 - 1943
- 2 Luna Modiano ~ 1913 - 1943
- 2 Dudun Modiano ~ 1915 - 1943

E17. SALOMON AVRAM MODIANO

Salomon, one of the sons of Avram Modiano, was born about 1879 in a town whose Turkish name of Dedeagac was switched to Didymoteihon ("twin wall") when the Greeks took it from the Turks and, later, from the Bulgarians in 1913. It stands close to the Greek-Turkish frontier in Thrace.

Salomon's grandchildren, Victor (Hiam) Modiano and his sister Susan Modiano Frenchu, both of New Jersey, in the U. S., say that Salomon was one of four brothers. However only his youngest brother's name, Eliaou, is known. Eliaou apparently lived in Bulgaria (*see also* *Branch E19*).

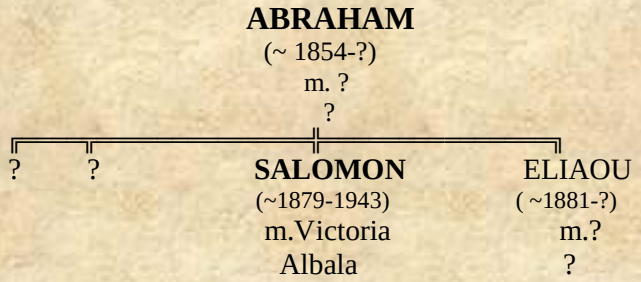

Chart 139

Salomon, his wife and four of his seven children, with their families, were probably killed in the Holocaust. Albert, his eldest son, who had married and moved to Salonika, was presumably arrested there. The others were rounded up in Bulgarian-held Thrace[125]

Chart 140

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[125] One troubling aspect about Bulgarian attitudes towards the Jews during the war was that they consented to the deportation of Jews from Greek territories occupied by them, but saved their own Jewish Community in Bulgaria.

Mordo, Charles and Isaac survived concentration camp in Dachau, and returned to Greece after the liberation. Mordo and Charles married and had children all born in Athens.

Isaac, the youngest, decided to seek his fortune in the United States where, as his daughter Susan put it, "he thought the streets were paved with gold." Isaac's children were all born in the States. Later, Charles moved to America, while Mordo settled in Israel.

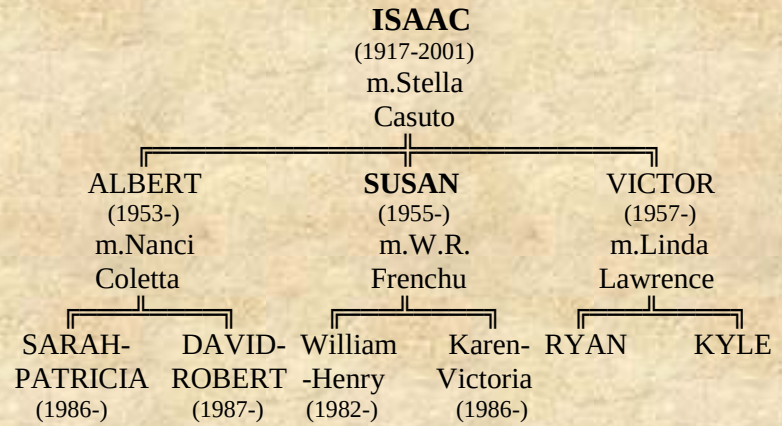

Chart 141

There is one interesting point. Susan says: "They definitely were not Italian nationals." This is the first sighting of Modiano who are not Italian nationals except for those who gave up Italian nationality for a particular purpose. It is unclear how this has come about.

A striking feature in this branch is that the names of wives, such as Soufoula (Mordo's wife), Stamatia (Charles') widow, and Stella (Isaac's widow, a remarkable personality), are all Greek-sounding names, particularly the first two.

There is a strong probability that Salomon and Eliaou of this branch belong to the same family as D1 and E20. The names and the dates seem to fit, and even more significant is the fact that while the family of this chapter lived in Ottoman (now Greek) Thrace, Elias of this branch moved north to Bulgaria while Elias in E19 migrated to Romania

E17: Descendants of Avram Modiano

1 Avram (Abraham) Modiano ~ 1854 - ?
- 2 ? Modiano
- 2 ? Modiano
- 2 Salomon Modiano 1879 – 1943
  - +Victoria Albala
    - 3 Souzan Modiano 1906 – 1943
    - 3 Albert Modiano 1907 - 1943
      - +Buena Estrumza
        - 4 Salomon Modiano
        - 4 ? Modiano
    - 3 Fortunee Modiano 1909 - 1943
    - 3 Mordo Modiano 1914 - ?
      - +Sofoula Miskatel ? - 1962
        - 4 Salomon Mondiano 1947 - 2005
          - +Irit Atzitz
            - 5 Moti Mondiano 1978 -
            - 5 Sherri Mondiano 1979 -
            - 5 Oded Mondiano 1985 -
        - 4 Morris Mondiano 1956 -1947 -
    - 3 Neama Modiano 1916 - 1943
      - +Nissim Casuto
    - 3 Isaac Modiano 1917 - 2001
      - +Stella Casuto
        - 4 Albert Modiano 1953 -
          - +Nanci Coletta
            - 5 Sarah Patricia Modiano 1986 -
            - 5 David Robert Modiano 1987 -
        - 4 Susan Modiano 1955 -
          - +William R Frenchu
            - 5 William-Henry Frenchu 1982 -
            - 5 Karen-Victoria Frenchu 1986 –
    - 3 Charles Modiano 1916 – 1981
      - +Stamatia Levy ? - 2004
        - 4 Victoria Modiano

4 Victor Modiano 1957 -
+Linda Lawrence
5 Ryan Modiano
5 Kyle Modiano
2 Eliaou Modiano ~ 1881 - ?

E18. GIUSEPPE MOISE MODIANO

Joe Modiano of New York once told me that he left Egypt at the age of 15 went to Italy where he studied engineering and mathematics, then landed in New York and made a fortune using his skills on the New York Stock Market. He died in 1995. In fact, according to Alain Farhi, the prominent genealogist[126], Joe was educated at the Ecole des Ingénieurs of Marseille, and became a New York trader in precious metals and risk arbitrage.

It all started with his great-grandfather Moise Modiano of Salonika. According to the records of the Italian Consulate in Cairo, Moise married Fortunata Consolo and had two sons: The first, Giuseppe was born in Salonika; and Eduardo in Baghdad. This suggests that before finally moving to Egypt, Moise and family had lived in Iraq.

Chart 142

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Giuseppe and his first wife, Angelica Cohen, had four sons and two daughters. Moise, the first, was born, like his siblings, in Cairo. He was a mathematics teacher and his son Giuseppe (Joe) must have inherited the gene that gave him his enthusiasm for mathematics.

126 http://www.farhi.org/genealogy/index.htm I

MOISE
(1905-38)
m.Marcelle
Shohet
‖
JOE
(1937-95)
m.Patricia
Limes
‖
PAUL (1967-) CHARLES (1970-)

Chart 143

Paul, Joe's eldest son, founded in 1998 a Web management company called UpdateThis, which specializes in offering its services for the updating of Web sites in an easy manner without requiring specialised skills. Paul who attended the University of Massachusetts, and is an expert programmer, has now become President and CEO of the company.

Matatia, the second of Giuseppe's sons, married Camille Bassan and moved also to the United States; their daughter Fran (b.1946) married Zachary Brahmi. They live in Indianapolis. Zac is professor of Medicine and Immunology at Indianapolis University, while Fran is Curriculum and Education Director at the Ruth Lilly library of the same School of Medicine.

Roberto died in Los Angeles in 1995.

Adele (known as Line) married Theophile Perez, also from Cairo, who was the author of a trilingual technical dictionary. In 1958 they moved to Rio de Janeiro. They had four daughters and a son. Theophile died in 1962. Line was very proud to have 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She died in 2007.

Marcello, the youngest, married Germaine de Picciotto in Cairo. After the birth of Eva, their daughter, they also moved to Brazil in 1953. Germaine, died there seven years later. Marcello's second wife, Daisy Hassid, is a native of Salonika. He died in Sao Paolo in 1996.

Nothing is known about Giuseppe's brother Eduardo except that he had one daughter and one son.

E18: Descandants of Moise Modiano

1 Moise Modiano ~ 1856 - ?
+Fortunata Consolo
2 Giuseppe Modiano 1876 – 1946
+Angelica Cohen
3 Moise Modiano 1905 - 1938
+Marcelle Shohet ? - 2004
4 Giuseppe Modiano 1937 - 1995
+Patricia Limes 1936 - 1977
5 Paul Modiano 1967 -
5 Charles Modiano 1970 –
2nd wife of Giuseppe Modiano
+Dinah Bivas 1942 -
3 Matatia Modiano 1906 – 1973
+Camille Bassan ? - 2006
4 Angele-Fanny (Fran) Modiano 1946 -
+Zacharie Brahmi
5 Dalia Brahmi
+ Jason Yoder 1972 -
3 Marie Modiano 1911 - 1995
+William Hoche
4 Raymond Hoche-Mong 1935 -
+Trudy ?
*2nd Husband of Marie Modiano:
+Olav Mong
3 Roberto Modiano 1912 - 1995
+Renée Hassid
3 Adele (Line) Modiano 1914 - 2007
+Theophile Perez ? - 1962
4 Lucette Perez
+ Leone Tedeschi
4 Ginette Perez 1937 -
+ Emmanuel Maury

4 Angele Perez
+ Michel Tssier
4 Albert Perez
+ Solange Pereira
4 Nadine Perez
+ Armando Fausto de Souza

3 Marcello Modiano 1918 – 1996
+Germaine de Picciotto 1923 - 1960
4 Eva Modiano 1950 -

*2nd Wife of Marcello Modiano:
+Daisy Hassid

*2nd Wife of Giuseppe Modiano:
+Carmella Anna Ovietta

2 Eduardo Modiano 1887 - ?
+ ? ?
3 Fortunata Modiano 1931 -
3 Maurizio Modiano 1938 –

E19. THE RUMANIAN ADVENTURE

Raimonda Modiano who teaches English and Comparative Literature at Washington University in Seattle, on the Pacific coast of the United States, is one of the world's authorities on the poetry of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Her curriculum vitae and list of awards on the University's website http://depts.washington.edu/engl/people/profile.php?id=41. She is married to Norman Arkans. They have one son, Samuel and, a daughter, Andrea.

Raimonda's background makes these achievements rather special. She was born in Radauti, Romania, in 1946. She graduated from the University of Bucharest with a degree in English literature in 1968. A year later she was allowed to go to the United States to specialize for one year.

She says: "It sounds quite simple. Actually it was an excruciating day-to-day struggle that lasted two years. It was an utter miracle that I ever got out of the country at the time." Romania was then under the dictatorial thumb of the Ceaucescus and her father Salomon was a Marxist who had become estranged from the regime.

Raimonda (known as "Mona" to her friends) obtained her Ph.D. in philology from the University of San Diego in 1973. She has since been teaching in Seattle and became a full professor at Washington University in 1986. Raimonda met Norman Arkans and they were married in 1976. They have two children. "At the time I named my son Samuel, I had no idea that this was the most common name for boys in the Modiano line," she said.

Elias Modiano, Raimonda's grandfather, was born in Salonika. He married there before moving to Istanbul. Later he settled in Romania. There were two sons and four daughters.

As stated in Chapter D1 as well as in E17, there is a strong probability that Elias Modiano of this branch was the son of Anna Salomone Modiano of D1 and her husband and cousin Abram(ino) Isaac Modiano of the same branch. Elias named his first born Albert (the equivalent of Abram) and his second Salomon, while his first daughter was named Anna. The dates fit approximately. It is also possible that Elias is identified with Eliaou of the branch E17 of Avram Modiano (see Chart 139), since both the age and the fact that his namesake was supposed to be living in Bulgaria, seem relevant.

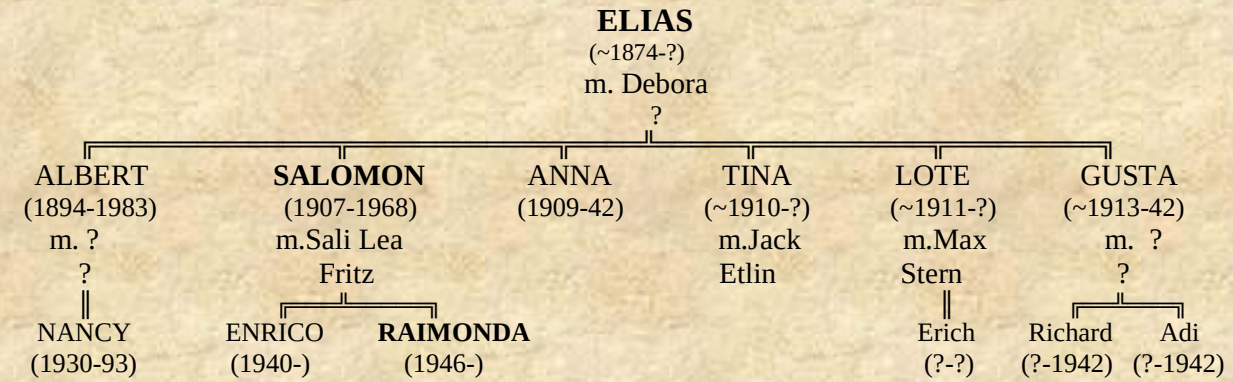

Chart 144

Salomon, Raimonda's father was "a gentle and very caring man, always devoted to helping others under the most strenuous historical conditions."

This is what Raimonda has to say about her father:

"Salomon Modiano, born in Radauti, Rumania, in 1907, was a manufacturer before the country was occupied by the Germans. He owned the very first Rumanian tennis racket factory. His products won a prize in New York.

"He was also a committed Marxist before the war and because of his political activities he was imprisoned in the same jail as Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, who was to become the first president of the Socialist Republic after the war."

These connections were to serve him well after the war, but alas all too briefly.

The German occupation of Rumania in 1940 was hell for this family. Salomon and his beautiful wife Sali Lea spent three and a half years in concentration camp in Transnistria (Russian Moldavia), from 1940 to 1944. With them was Enrico, Raimonda's elder brother, who was aged one at the time.

Raimonda's description:

"Mother was a heroic woman… a national tennis champion, and local ice-skating champion. She studied law and Roman Art. She married father in 1939 and had a child in 1940. In the camp, she was saved by the fact that a German officer was an admirer of her tennis talents. He told the other Germans that mother was a German spy working for them, so they should leave her alone.

"Yet, she always slept with her baby tied to her body for fear that they would take him away during the night. They had done so to another child whom they had used for target practice in front of the desperate parents."

The Russians liberated them in 1944. Salomon was promptly drafted for service in Russia. It was Sali Lea that got Salomon out of this mess, by commandeering a horse and taking the family back to their hometown. They found their house gutted – an empty shell.

Because of his record, Salomon was recruited to join the new communist government and was put in charge of the sports division.

"For a while in 1950 the family enjoyed the privileges of government protégés. A car was put at father's disposal," Raimonda wrote. "But Salomon was a highly idealistic and principled man. He refused to join the Communist Party because he was shocked by the corruption and the betrayal of the Marxist ideals he had fought for."

Naturally Salomon lost all his privileges and was denied further employment. He applied for migration to Israel and was refused. The family then became a target for persecution. His son Enrico was denied entry in a medical school and was forced to work in a factory. Raimonda herself had to take an extremely difficult exam, given to no other student, in order to pass from 7th to 8th grade. When she graduated in philology from Bucharest University, she was denied a professorship because of her family's background and her being Jewish.

Although most of the family, including its elderly members, survived the war, two of Solomon' sisters, Gusta and Anna (*see* *Chart 144*), perished in 1942 with their families in what came to be known as the Struma tragedy.

The *Struma* was a ramshackle, converted riverboat. It had been loaded with 763 Rumanian Jews who wished to migrate to Palestine. The ship, whose engine had failed, after an excruciating 71-day delay in Istanbul, was refused permission by the British to proceed to destination. Forced to return to German-controlled Rumania, it sank in the Black Sea following a mysterious explosion. It was February 1942. All aboard, except one 19-year-old passenger, perished. Recent research into the tragic incident[1] suggests that the Russians may have torpedoed the crippled ship. (Read more: http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/struma.htm).

[1] *Death on the Black Sea* by D.Frantz and C.Collins, Ed. Ecco, New York, 2003.

Salomon died in 1968 in Romania. Raimonda managed to get her mother to whom she was very attached, to emigrate to the States in 1974. Brother Enrico who had managed by then to distinguish himself as tennis pro, followed one year later.

Sally Lea died in 1999 aged 89. Enrico, who also lives in Seattle, never married. He became blind from a retinal disease and retrained as a massage therapist.

Salomon's elder brother Albert was a musician who went to America. According to the Ellis Island records Albert Modiano, from Radautz, Romania, arrived in the U.S. in 1923, aged 29.

At the time, he declared that he was going to stay with his uncle Morris Modiano who lived in Cincinatti, Ohio. This clue has not yet been followed up.

The U.S. Social Security Records indicate that Albert Modiano, born on 18 Feb 1894, died in June 1983, and his last residence was: Mexico. This ties up with Raimonda's information that Albert's daughter, Nancy, became an anthropologist but her traces were lost in Mexico during an expedition.

Nancy was highly regarded as an expert on bilingual education for indigenous minorities. Her book on "Indian Education in Chiapas Highlands" published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston in January 1973, is regarded as a classic. She is believed to have died during one of her expeditions in Chiapas country in southern Mexico. The Social Security Record gives the following dates: born in 1930, died in 1993.

Salomon's sisters Tina and Lote moved to Israel.

E19: Descendants of Elias Modiano

1 Elias Modiano ~ 1874 - ?
+Deborah ?

- 2 Albert Modiano 1894 - 1983
  +? ?
  - 3 Nancy Modiano 1930 - 1993
- 2 **Salomon Modiano** 1907 – 1968
  +Sali Lea Fritz 1910 – 1999
  - 3 Enrico Modiano 1940 -
  - 3 **Raimonda Modiano** 1946 -
    +Norman Arkans
    - 4 Samuel Arkans 1984 -
    - 4 Andrea Arkans 1989 –
- 2 Anna Modiano 1909 – 1942
- 2 Tina Modiano ~ 1910 -
  +Jack Etlin
- 2 Lote Modiano ~ 1911 -
  +Max Stern
  - 3 Erich Stern
- 2 Gusta Modiano ~ 1913 – 1942
  +? ?
  - 3 Richard ? ?- 1942
  - 3 Adi ? ?- 1942

E20. A MODIANO PHARMACY IN MILAN

The concept that the Modianos migrated from Italy to Salonika seems to have been reversed in the case of the branch of Giuseppina Modiano. She had told me that her family left Salonika and settled in Milan in the early 19th century, but she could only remember as far back as her grandfather Saul.

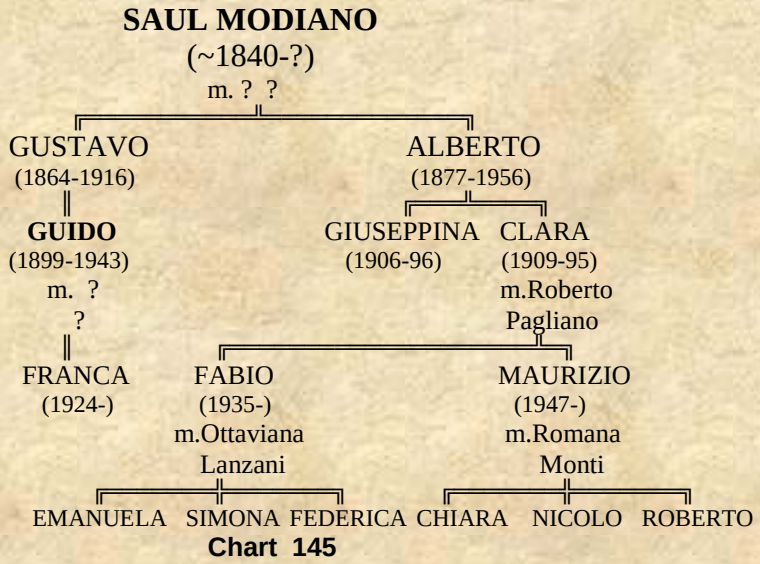

Chart 145

Giuseppina and I had a language problem, but she soon managed to get through a message in English which said: "We know very little about our ancestors. They came from Salonika in the first half of the 19th century and disembarked in Livorno. Thereafter, some of them moved to Milano where one founded a printing shop which, among other things, printed *Le Vie d'Italia*, the review published by the TCI, the Italian Touring Club, for long."

Giuseppina also made a parallel with "another Modiano" from Salonika, obviously meaning Saul Daniel Modiano, who went to Trieste and he, too, was involved in the printing trade. "Among other things, he did printing for the State Mint," she added.

Giuseppina said she was unmarried and lived with her sister Clara in Milan where Clara ran a pharmacy named “Modiano”.

Giuseppina died in 1996. Clara had died one year earlier. Clara's eldest son, Fabio Pagliani, after receiving a copy of the printed version of this book, offered to explain to me the family structure. Fabio is a professor of medicine. The information he provided led to a complete revision of the genealogical tree of this Modiano branchin which Giuseppina was the last with the surname Modiano.

Fabio's brother, Maurizio, graduated in pharmacology and now runs Clara's pharmacy in Milan which no longer bears the name Modiano. His daughter Chiara is also studying to become a pharmacist and her father hopes she will eventually take over. His son Nicolo studied law. Roberto the youngest was born in 1987.

Fabio said: "We all remember Clara with affection and we are proud of our roots." He himself has a daughter, Emanuela, who is a doctor, specialized in neuro-psychiatry who works in Milan. Simona is an English teacher and Federica graduated in law.

The strange story of Guido Modiano

Clara and Giuseppina were the daughters of Saul’s second son, Alberto. However, it was the branch of Gustavo, Saul’s eldest that had a strange and intriguing life. It was Gustavo who inherited the printing house that Saul had founded. He became quite famous for his postcards, some of the earliest ever published. In fact his work was so outstanding that these postcards became collector pieces fetching high prices. To read more about Gustavo click here .

The story of Gustavo’s son Guido was told by Francesco Tentori, a professor at the University of Architechture in Venice, after he interviewed Franca, Guido’s daughter.

Gustavo inherited the printing house that Saul had founded. However he died in January 1916, just as his only son Guido had finished school. Guido had to give up his plan to enter university, since at the young age of 17 he had to take charge of the printing house and its staff of 120. In 1917, however, he volunteered in the Army, which was then fighting against the Central European Powers. He eventually obtained a degree in jurisprudence from the University of Pavia in 1932.

Guido reorganized the company after the end of World War I. He discarded all other activities of the publishing house and concentrated on printing rare and specialized books and periodicals. In 1928 he was listed in a London professional review as one of the world's leading avant-garde publishers in "Modern Book Production".

According to Franca her father underwent military retraining in 1935 and was given the rank of Captain in the anti-aircraft artillery. He was called up again in 1938, and during the Second World War he served with the Italian expeditionary corps in Russia in 1942. He was then commended for having preserved the life of his men and the equipment assigned to his unit.

In 1943, after returning to Italy, he was dispatched for retraining at an artillery school near Rostock, the German port in the Baltic. He was killed there on 28 July 1943 during an Allied air bombardment. His body was never returned to Italy.

Three weeks later, during another air raid, his printing house in Milan was destroyed. Franca managed to rescue her father's archive as well as some of the rare books he had printed and published in his lifetime.

It is very strange that the Italians should have allowed a Jew to serve in the Italian Army, particularly as an officer, seeing that the Racial Laws introduced in 1938 excluded the Jews from any public office. According to Franca, it is significant that when her father printed the elaborate catalogue of the Graphic Arts Fair in 1940, he was commended for his excellent work but was not allowed to attend the opening because he had to wear the black shirt of the Fascist Party to which he did not belong. He offered to wear his military uniform instead, but this was refused.

Franca, the only one in the family to still bear the name Modiano, was born in 1924 and graduated in literature and history. She says that her father, before leaving for Germany in 1943, had intended to collect and publish all the articles he had written in various journals in his past life. She is now the guardian of this precious archive.

E20: DESCENDANTS OF SAUL MODIANO

1 Saul Modiano ~ 1840 - ?
+? ?
2 Gustavo Modiano 1864 - 1916
+ Bice Marchi ? - 1941
3 Guido Modiano 1899 - 1943
+ ? ?
4 Franca Modiano 1924 –
2 Alberto Modiano 1877 - 1956
+? ?
3 Giuseppina Modiano 1906 - 1996
3 Clara Modiano 1909 - 1995
+Roberto Pagliano
4 Fabio Pagliano 1935 –
+ Ottaviana Lanzani
4 Maurizio Pagliano 1947 -
+ Romana Monti

E21. SALOMON ISAAC MODIANO

This is one of the smaller branches that have not been fitted into a more general pattern of the Modiano family, either because of missing links or of the author's lack of imagination.

Yet, Salomon who was born in 1836 married into the Fernandez family. He must, therefore, have been a fairly prominent Modiano. Salomon and Elena Fernandez had four sons and two daughters. Of the sons David and Jacques-Raoul were both born in Marseille, according to the genealogical findings of Jean-Paul Bourlac. It may be safely assumed that Salomon and Elena had by then moved their residencee to Marseille.

ISAAC
(~1816-?)
m. ? ?
‖
SALOMON
(1835-?)
m.Elena
Fernandez

EMMA	ISAAC	MOISE	ROSA	DAVID	JACQUES-RAOUL
(1858-?)	(1859-?)	(1861-1930)	(1862-?)	(1864-?)	(1870-?)

Chart 146

Moise who married Grazia Saltiel, had three sons and one daughter:

MOISE
(1861-1930)
m.Grazia
Saltiel

UMBERTO	ELENA	RENATO	ENRICO
(1899- ?)	(1901- ?)	(1905-1968)	(1914-)
		m.Violetta Cordova	

Chart 147

Moise and his family probably resided in Istanbul as they were registered at the Italian Consulate General of that city. Presumably the head of this branch originates from another, larger Modiano tree. But because of the lack of evidence, these remain mere names.

E21: Descendants of Salomon Isaac Modiano

1 Isaac Modiano ~ 1816 - ?
+? ?
2 Salomon Modiano 1836 - ?
+Elena Fernandez 1841 - ?
3 Emma Modiano 1858 - ?
3 Isaac Modiano 1859 - ?
3 Moise Modiano 1861 – 1930
+Gracia Saltiel
4 Umberto Modiano 1899 - ?
4 Elena Modiano 1901 -
4 Renato Modiano 1904 - 1968
+Violetta Cordova
4 Enrico Modiano 1914 –
3 Rosa Modiano 1862 - ?
3 David Modiano 1864 - ?
3 Jacques-Raoul Modiano 1870 - ?

E22. ALPHONSE MODIANO

(This branch has now been reunited with that of Samuel Isaac Moliano (B1a). Click here.

E23. REUNITING YEHUDA'S DESCENDANTS

One of the most exciting and rewarding aspects of genealogical research is when the genealogist is instrumental in bringing together members of family branches that had lost contact. One such instance was the reconstruction of the branch of Yehuda Modiano.

It all began with a message posted on a genealogical site by Iris Maimran, of New York, seeking information about the Modiano family. It turned out that her mother Sarah had a Modiano grandmother named Henrietta, and was eager to find other members from that line who might have survived the Shoah.

Sarah remembered that her grandmother Henrietta had a sister called Stella who had lived in London before the war, but then moved to Chile where she married Joseph Cazes. Thanks to Moises Hasson, a fellow genealogist in Santiago who had always been more than helpful, we located Stella's daughter Sylvia Cazes Modiano.

The result was a very emotional reunion albeit through e-mails and telephone calls between New York , Santiago and Israel. "You have no idea how much this means to me," Sarah wrote. They promptly started exchanging photographs of their family over the web.

Sylvia who prefers to correspond in Castilian wrote: "I had an e-mail from Sarah today… she was so very moved, and so was I. She said she wished she were a butterfly to be able to fly over and give all my family big kisses."

With the help of the two cousins, the following chart emerged:

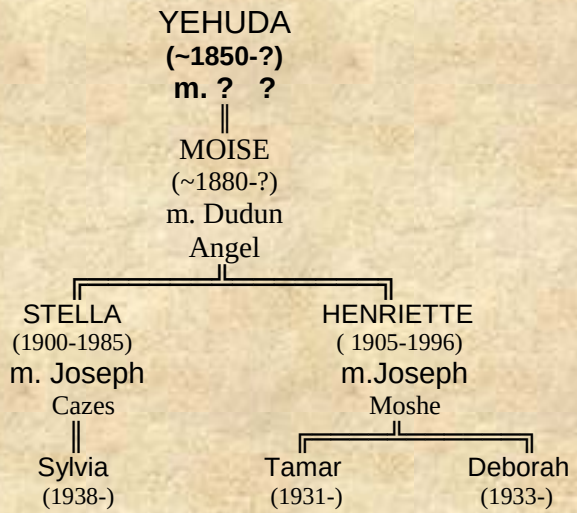

Chart 149

Either Yehuda Modiano or his son Moise, was involved in the publication of one of the early Jewish newspapers in Salonika. There are no details for the time being. According to Sylvia: "I remember hearing my mother say that her father or grandfather created the first Jewish newspaper in Salonika."

At first a search in the Modiano database found a Leon (the equivalent of Juda/Yehuda) Modiano married to Linda Sidi. This Leon was born in 1846 and died in 1916. His eldest son, named Moise after the paternal grandfather, was born in 1883. He would have been 20-25 years old when Stella (Estrea) and Henriette (Riquetta) were born between 1900 and 1905, which makes him a probable candidate.

However this probability has had to be discarded as in mid-2009 the grave of that Moise found in Brussels, indicated that he had died at the age of 16 and that his full name was Henri Moise.

The story of Stella, Sylvia's mother, is rather unusual. She was sent from Salonika to London to get married, but something went amiss with the match and she remained in London for 17 years – seven of them spent working at Harrod's, the premier department store of London.

In 1936 she met Joseph Cazes whose origins were from Istanbul. They migrated to Santiago, Chile, and got married in September of the same year. Their only daughter, Sylvia, married Frederico Zauritz (they are now divorced). She has two daughters, Gloria and Karen (both married with two children each), and a son, Federico, who has three children. Gloria and her family moved from Chile to Israel.

On the other side, Henriette married Joseph Moshe who, according to Sarah, owned the Gelman laundry business in Salonika. Henriette and Joseph moved to Israel in 1933 (probably in the wake of the Campbell anti-Jewish riots in Salonika). Their two daughters, Tamar (Mimi) and Deborah (Daisy) had just been born.

Joseph died of diabetes in 1940. Henriette survived him for 56 years and never remarried. She married off her two daughters – Mimi to Mike Gavrieli (three children) and Daisy to Itzhak Cohen-Nehemia (two daughters – Sarah and Ronit). Yitzhak is Sephardic and a 9th generation Israeli. Henriette died in Israel in 1996. Her sister Stella died in 1985 in Chile.

Our Sarah married Raphael Maimran and moved to New York where she lives with her three children today. Ronit married Eli Shcheber (three children) and remained in Israel.

All the branches are now energetically researching their ancestry in the hope of filling in any gaps left in the family tree.

E23: Descendants of Yehuda Modiano

1 Yehuda Modiano ~1850 - ?
+ ? ?
2 Moise Modiano ~1880 - ?
+ Dudun Angel
3 Stella Modiano 1900 – 1985
+ Joseph Cazes 1886 – 1966
4 Sylvia Cazes 1938 –
+Federico Zauritz 1936 –
3 Henriette Modiano 1905 – 1996
+ Joseph Moshe ? - 1940
4 Tamar Moshe 1931 –
+ Mike Gavrieli
4 Deborah Moshe 1933 –
+Itzhak Cohen-Nehemia 1928 -

E24. THE CRETAN "MODIANOS"

This account would not have been complete without mentioning the Modianos, that is, Modiano with an final letter 'S' (usually a Greek name-ending).

During a visit to the United States in 1996, I spoke on the phone with Doan Modianos who lived in New Orleans, in Louisiana. He was an expert in land drainage and flood control.

He told me a fascinating story. His father, born in Crete in 1880, was named Mehmet. He was a Turk and a Moslem. His mother was Melahat Nasis or Nasif whose family, according to Mehmet, had strong connections with the Sultan.

Doan said that his mother's family was wiped out during World War I in the battles in Gallipoli and elsewhere. Two of Melahat's brothers had received lethal wounds. In 1914 Mehmet joined the Foreign Legion to acquire French citizenship. He later emigrated to the United States.

Doan married an American and they had one son, Doan Thomas and three daughters, Melanie, Stephanie and Diane. He recalled that his father had a sister named Junesh who lived in California.

Unfortunately, Doan Sr. (Doğan in Turkish) died in September of that year, and we never had an opportunity to discover whether there was any link between his family and the other Modiano.

When I contacted Doan Jr, he was professor of Management at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He is now Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, Florida.

Doan Thomas tells me he believes his great-grandmother's family name was "Nasis or *Nasif*". If originally the name was Nasi it would be logical to assume that her family was related to that of Donna Gracia Mendes and her nephew/son-in-law Don Joseph Nasi whom the Ottoman Sultan Selim appointed Duke of Naxos in the mid-16th cent.

Doan Thomas says: “I recall clearly that my grandmother was a great admirer of Atatürk. My grandfather was apolitical**.** I vaguely recall him once telling me that his ancestors were Jewish. He may have been Muslim in name, but he was not Muslim in practice.”

The Modianos tree as outlined by Doan-Thomas:

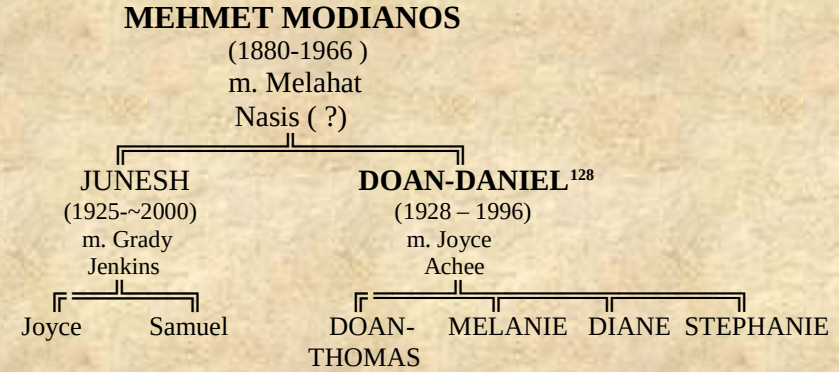

Chart 150

Samuel and Lizabeth had two daughters : Lauren (1985) and Meredith (1991). Samuel, like his father Grady, were printers. Joyce had three sons: Christopher,. Brian and James.

Doan Thomas says: “I like to think that there is a connection between the Cretan Modianos and the others who live around the world.”

The Ottoman archives in Salonika are full of documents of Jews who converted to Islam in order to avoid harassment (see *The Conversion E9*) or to benefit from the privileges that Moslem Turks enjoyed compared to the conquered peoples. Another possibility is that the Modianos were descended from *dönmes* (converts), the Jewish families that in 1665 believed that Sabbetai Zevi, a Jewish rabbi from Smyrna, to be the long-awaited Messiah. A year later, however, Zevi was forced to espouse Islam. Many of his Jewish followers (among them some of the most prominent Jewish families in Salonika) then converted massively, causing profound divisions in the communities throughout the Mediterranean.

The descendants of the *dönmes* are part of the elite in Turkey today. They still have a tendency to intermarry while some are said to be practicing some Jewish rites secretly. The *dönmes,* who identified themselves as Turks, were forced to leave Salonika and Crete after the Greek-Turkish population exchange in 1922, and found a new home in Turkey.

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128 Social Security Death Index: Doan b.04-11-1928/d.09-1996.
Father Mehmet b. 14-05-1880/ d. 04-1966.

E24: Descendants of Mehmet Modianos

1 Mehmet Modianos 1880-1966
+ Melahat Nasis or Nasif 1902 – 1960
2 Junesh Modianos 1925 - ~ 2000
+ Grady Jenkins ? –
3 Joyce Jenkins ~1953 –
+ ? ?
3 Samuel Jenkins ~1957 –
+Lizabeth McGrath
2 Doan-Daniel Modianos 1928 – 1996
+ Joyce Achee 1929 - 1991
3 Doan-Thomas Modianos 1949 -
+ Jane Breaux 1950 -
4 Nicole Modianos 1975 –
+ Karl Stumo 1969 -
5 Bryn Modianos Stumo 2002 –
5 Karsten Modianos Stumo 2004 –
5 Maren Modianos Stumo 2007 -
4 Alexis Modianos 1978 -
3 Melanie Modianos
+ David Tompkins
4 John Tompkins
4 Erika Tompkins
4 Rick Tompkins
3 Diane Modianos
3 Stephanie Modianos

E25. FOUR MODIANO SISTERS FROM CAIRO

My firm belief that the Web is the best thing that happened to genealogical research in recent years was vindicated once again when Michele Benn from Britain wrote to offer information on a Modiano branch that had been relegated to the Unknown Modianos chapter of this website.

This was an unusual branch in the sense that an "unknown" Modiano who lived in Cairo and married Caroline (of unknown surname) had four daughters! "So there are no Modianos in that line," Michele wrote.

Michele had found the site and discovered that her mother's ancestors had been listed among the "Unknown Modianos". So, after consulting her parents, she wrote to put the record straight.

The four daughters were: Dudun, Esther, Rakhel, and Lea.

The account I received from Michele[129]:

"**Dudun** married (?) Castoriano. Little is known about them except that they had five daughters – Regine, Caroline, Rachel, Esther (who married (?) Fer(r)o of Cairo and had a son), and Fortunee who married (?) and also had a son."

Details are fuller in the case of the second daughter, **Esther** – Michele's great-grandmother:

"Esther married Albert Saul a tobacco merchant from Salonika. He died young leaving seven children and she moved to Alexandria. Her children were:

a. Flora (1878?-1963?) m. Gabriel Papouchado – one son Maurice. She died in a nursing home in Switzerland.
b. Emma (1885?-1967) m. Jacques Ber(r)o – spellings vary – four daughters who survived:
    1 -Nelly/Esther (1919-2003) m Giovanni Casagrande - children Bruno & Liliana – Brazil.
    2 -Gisele/Stella (1923-2008) m. Jack Summers – children: Vivienne, Sandra, Colin – UK.
    3 -Yolande/Fortunee (1926-2009) m. Armando Lattaruli – children: Fiorella & Roberto – Brazil.
    4 -Denise/Marie (1928-) m. Martyn Benn – one daughter: Michele – UK.
c. Jacques (Jack)) married unknown and had a son Albert; after his wife's death he married Fortunee (?) and had two sons, Raymond and Richard who live in Brazil and are probably in their 80s now (2010).
d. Elie also married a Fortunee (?). They had a daughter Nancy who lives in California.
e. Fortunee – nothing known except that she died at the age of 21.
f. Mary (?-1993) married Donald Vince, King Farouk's bodyguard. They had a son named Derby.

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[129] Credit for this information goes to Claudine Finney and to Denise Benn (Michele's mother). Martyn Benn edited the original text.

g. Giulia (1899-1985) married an Austro-Hungarian named Joseph Klun. After leaving Egypt they lived in Livorno, the city with many links to the Modianos. Their children (again, mostly girls):
    1. Solange (1924-) married Johann Facheng – two daughters (Austria);
    2. Claudine (1925-) married a British soldier, Ernest Finney – ch. Scarlett (USA), Bernard;
    3. Huguette (1928-) married Gino Foschi. They live in Livorno – one daughter;
    4. Jacqueline (1932-) unmarried – Livorno
    5. Bernard (1934-2008) married Bianca – living in Milan – two sons.

Nothing is known about the third daughter **Rachel/Rakhel** – only what was already posted on the website: that she was married to a (?) Cassuto and had three children – Peppo, Emma, and Rosina.

The fourth daughter **Lea** married Abraham Elnecave. Her first daughter Esther married Joseph Cassuto [could this be her cousin Pepo, son of Rakhel?]. Their children were Mario, Berto and Rachel who moved to Canada.

The second daughter, Caroline married (?) Perry, who was a teacher at Repton public school in the U.K. They had two daughters.

Son Elie worked for Barclays Bank in Egypt and was imprisoned and tortured before being released. He married Rosina ? [possibly his cousin of the Cassuto branch?]. They lived in London. No children.

This was taken from Michele's account of her ancestry. I realize that there are too many question marks in the place of facts and dates. But my hope is that just as Michele happened to find this website and contribute this much, other members of the family will see this incomplete account and chip in their information.

E25: DESCENDANTS OF THE FOUR CAIRO SISTERS

1. ? Modiano
+ Caroline ?
2. Dudun Modiano
+ ? Castoriano
3. Regine Castoriano
3. Caroline Castoriano
3. Rachel Castoriano
3. Esther Castoriano
+ ? Ferro
3. Fortunée Castoriano
+ ? ?
2. Esther Modiano
+ Albert Saul
3. Flora Saul ~1878 - ~1962
+ Gabriel Papouchado
3. Emma Saul ~1885 - ~ 1967
+ Jacques Ber(r)o
3. Jacques Saul
+ ? ?
Second wife of Jacques
+ Fortunee ?
3. Elie Saul
+ Fortunee ?
3 Fortunee Saul
3. Mary Saul ? - 1993
+ Donald Vince
3. Giulia Saul 1899 – 1995
+ Joseph Klun
2. Rakhel Modiano
+ ? Cassuto
3. Peppo Cassuto
3. Emma Cassuto
3. Rosine Cassuto
2. Lea Modiano
+ Abraham Elnecave

3. Esther Elnecave
   + Joseph Cassuto
3. Caroline Elnecave
   + ? Perry
3. Elie Elnecave
   + Rosina ?

There are many Modiano members in smaller branches, whose roots it has not been possible to trace. Subsequent research has allowed the merging of some of them with the larger groupings. Those that have not been integrated are listed in the section about "Unknown Modianos". Please help us place them on the family tree. Branch E27 is an example of a successful such attempt.

EPILOGUE

The unexpected conclusion that should be drawn from this genealogical study is that the Modianos arrived in Salonika long before the so-called Livorno Jews. Eminent scholars and historians have always included the Modianos among the wealthy Jews from Livorno, who, like the Allatini, the Fernandez and others, arrived in Salonika at the end of the 18th century bringing along their fortunes but also the "lights of the Renaissance" to this backward oriental city.

The fact is that by the time the rich Livournese arrived in Salonika, the Modillano/Modiano rabbis had already been established and active in the city for more than a century.

So, rather than bring their fortunes from abroad the Modianos, at least some of them, acquired enormous wealth through hard work and sharp wits in the highly competitive environment of Salonika. The rags-to-riches story of Saul Modiano, who became one of the wealthiest bankers of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, is the best illustration of how the Modianos won their reputation in Salonika and the world at large -- on their own (rather than inherited) merit.

There has also been a feeling that the Modianos exercised exclusively high-class professions, such as lawyers, doctors and intellectuals. However, a Greek electoral list for the period 1914-15[130] which included 44 Modianos[131], defined six of them as unemployed, eight as employees and one a servant; three were labourers, one a stone-cutter, one a box-maker, one a tobacco-worker, one a salesman, one ironed clothes for a living, one was a customs officer. Only seven declared such professions as merchants, lawyers, as well as one industrialist and one landowner.

Now that we know about our ancestors, we can feel proud, not superior, as descendants of a Modiano even from a stonecutter's family.

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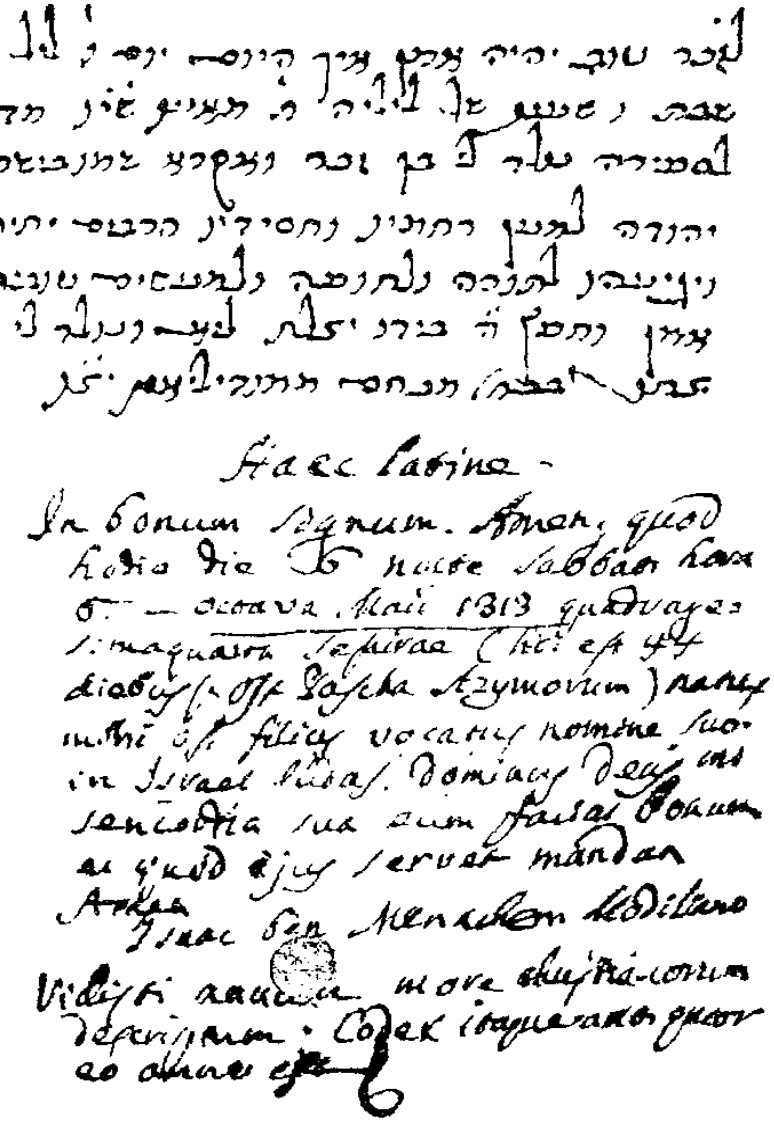
[130] List provided by Mrs Angheliki Georghiou, of the Historical Archive of Macadonia, in Salonika..

[131] At that time the fact that they were Livorno citizens did not deprive them of their Greek voting rights. They were excluded later.

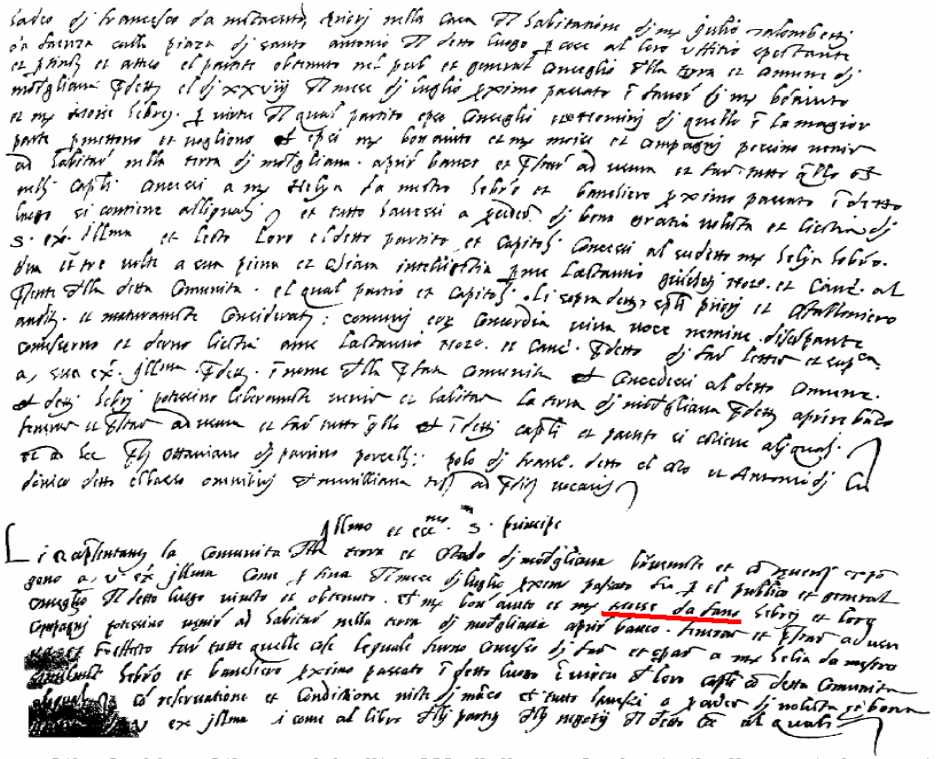
OLD DOCUMENTS

Birth Announcement (1555)
Modigliana Archives (1556)
Neeman Shemuel (1723)
Passport (1819)
Rosh Mashbir (1821)
Wedding certificate (1829)
The Matricola – page 1 (1833)
The Matricola – page 2 (1833)
Joshua's signature (1833-4)
Birth certificate (1854)
Modiano Poster 1 (1926)
Modiano Poster (1932)
Livorno-Ancona map



Isaac ben Menachem Modiliano announces the birth of his son Juda in a declaration written both in Hebrew and Latin, circa 1555 (1515?).

Bibliotheca Casanatense of Rome



Section of the Archive of the municipality of Modigliana referring to the license to be granted to "Moïse da Fano" to open a bank and a shop in Modigliana in 1566.

Municipal Archives Modigliana

ספר

נאמן שמואל

בשאניקי יצא

Title Page of Samuel Isaac Modillano's *Neeman Shemuel* [The Faithful Samuel], Salonika כסנת התפ"ד=1724 or 1729.

1Ben-Zvi Institute Library, Jerusalem

N. 203

NOI PASQUALE SCHELINI

P E R L A R. C. A.

CONSOLE GENERALE DE' LEVANTINI

In questo Porto, e Città d' Ancona
e sue Giurisdizioni

PASSAPORTO

CONNOTATI

Professione Negoziante
Nativo di Salonicchi
Età d'anni quarantadue
Statura ordinaria
Faccia tonda
Capelli bianchi
Occhj neri
Naso ordinario

La propria sottoscrizione
Vita S.mo Modiliano

Partendo da questa Città alla volta di Livorno
Sig.r Vita Salomon Modiliano suddito ottomano

Lo accompagniamo col presente; onde in tutti quei [redacted] per i quali dovrà passare, e trattenersi sia [redacted] in ogni sua occorrenza. Ricerchiamo a tale effetto tutti i Signori Governatori, ed altri pubblici Rappresentanti ec. tanto Civili che Militari di SUA SANTITA', e preghiamo similmente quelli delle Potenze Estere per ove transita per la via di Roma affine possa liberamente proseguire il suo viaggio assicurandoli della reciproca corrispondenza. Il presente Passaporto verrà munito col nostro Sigillo Consolare.

Dalla nostra Residenza questo dì 25 ottobre 1819 Ancona

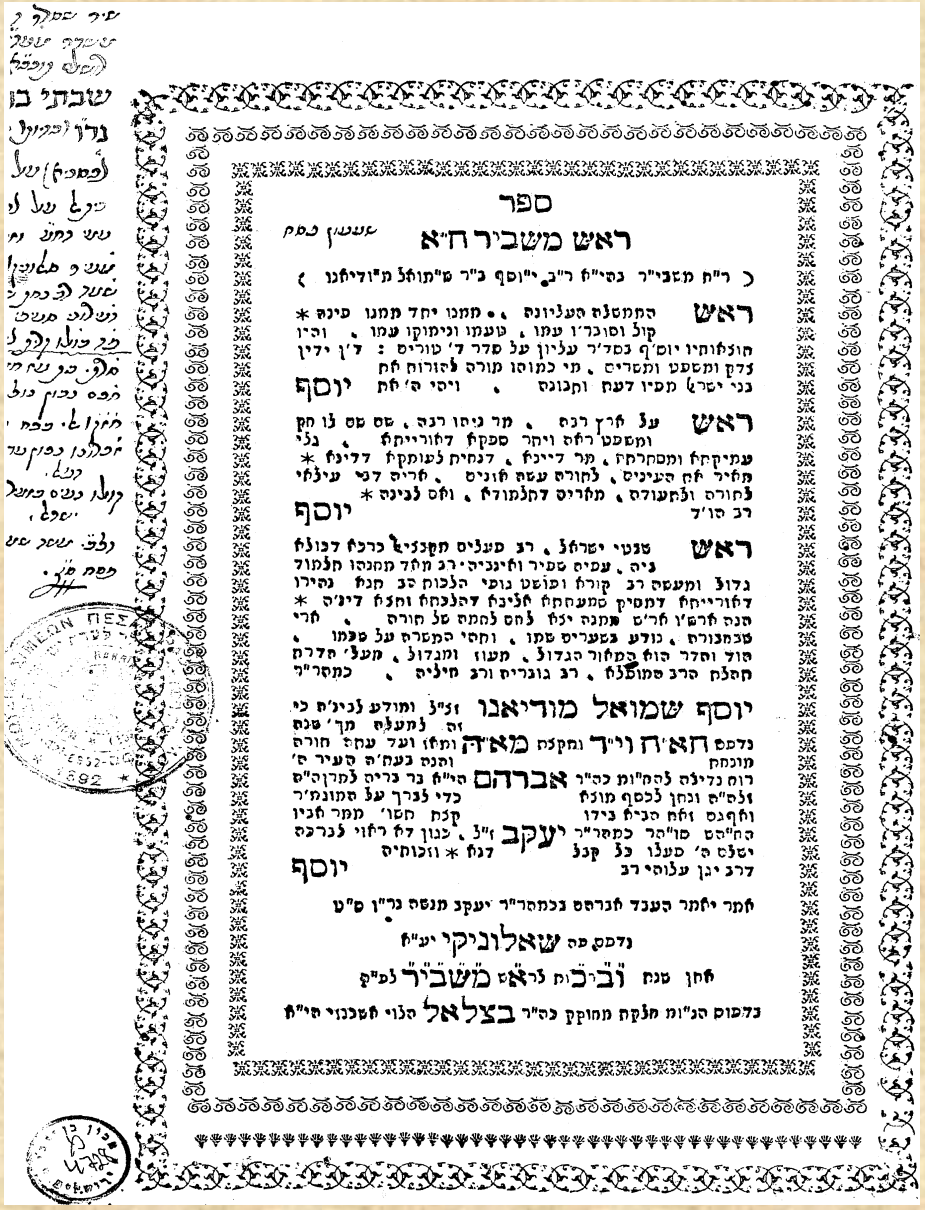
Gratis

Il Console Generale
Pasquale Schelini

Vaglia per il presente suo viaggio

Passport issued to Vita Salomone Modiliano by the Consul of the Ottoman Empire in Ancona in 1819.

Livorno Municipal Archive



ספר

ראש משביר ח"א

שעשוין כמת

ר"ת מצבי"ר נפי"ח ר"ב יוסף ב"ר מ"מואל מ"ודיאנו ז"ל

ראש התחלת העניונים • ממנו יחל ממנו פינה * קול וסובר"ו עמו • טעמו וניחוקו עמו • והיו חוקותיו יום"ק נסד"ר עליון על סדר ד' טוריס : ל"ן ילין נדק ומשפט ומתרים • מי כמוהו מורה לחזרוק לת בני ישר"ל מפיו דעת ותבונה • ויסי ה' לת יוסף

ראש על פרק רבה • מר ניחו רבה • שם שם נו חק ומשפט רחם ויחר ספקת לתוריית • נגלי עמיקתת ומסתרתת • מר דיינ"ו • דנחית לעומקת דדינ"ו * מחיל לת העניניס • לחורם עשה חונים • תריס לפי עיניתי לחורם ולחעולם • מתריס לתלמודת • וחס לניניה * רב הו"ל יוסף

ראש טענני ישרחל • רב מעניס מקנניה כרכת דכונת ניה • עמיס ספיר וחינניה • רב מיל מחנהו חלמוד גדול ומעשה רב קורת ופושט נופי הלכות הב חנת נהירו דתורייתת דמסיק סמעתתת חלינת דהלכתח וחנת דינ"ה * הנה תרש"ן תר"ס ממנה יצת לחס לחמת של תורס • תרי טבמנורס • נודע בשעריס שמו • וחסי המערס על פשמו • הוא והדר הוא המלוך הגדול • מעוז ומגדול • מעל' מדרת תהלת הרב ממופלח • רב גוגריס ורב חיליס • כמהר"ר יוסף שמואל מודיאנו זצ"ל ומולע לניג"ח כי זה למעלה מך' שנה נדפס חא"ח וי"ך ומקנח מא"ה ומתו ועד עתה חורס מונחת והנה בעת"ה סעיר ס' רוח נליבה להח"ום כה"ר אברהם הי"ת נר נריס למקו"ס ולם"ס ונחן לכסף מונח כדי לנרך על המונמ"ר ותתנס ותת הכי"ת ניהו קנת חסו' ממר חכיו הח"הס סו"הר כמהר"ר יעקב זצ"ל כנון לת ריחו לנרכה ישלח ה' סעלו כל קנל דנת * וזכותיס ירנ יגן עלוהי רב יוסף

לתר יתתר הענד תנדפס נכמהר"ר יעקב מנשה נר"ן ס"ט

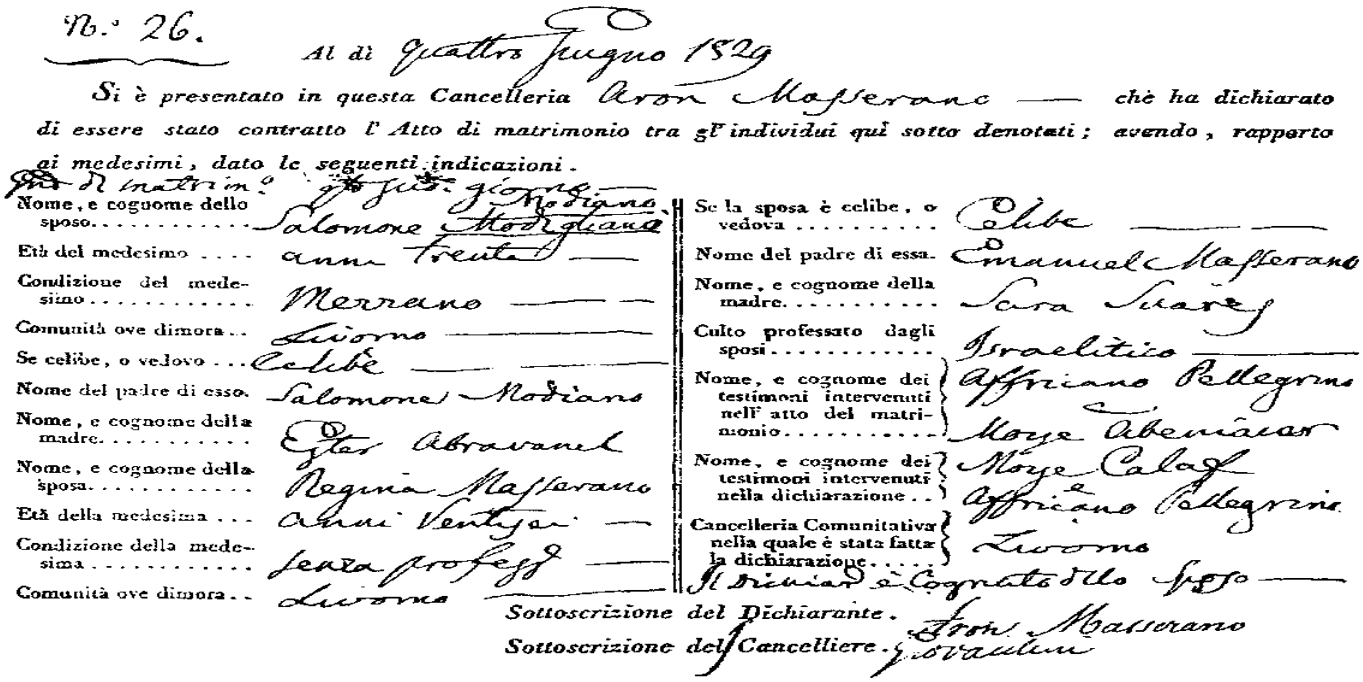
נדפס פה שאלוניקי יע"ת

תחן טנת ובי"כות נראש משביר נפ"ק

נדפוס הנ"ום מלקח מחוקק כה"ר בצלאל הלוי תשכנזי הי"ת

Title Page of Joseph Samuel Modiano's *Rosh Mashbir* [Chief of Cereals] Volume 1, Salonika 1821

Ben-Zvi Institute Library, Jerusalem



N.° 26.

Al dì quattro Giugno 1829

Si è presentato in questa Cancelleria Aron Masserano — chè ha dichiarato di essere stato contratto l'Atto di matrimonio tra gl'individui qui sotto denotati; avendo, rapporto ai medesimi, dato le seguenti indicazioni.

Matrim.° gli Ebr. Modigliano

Nome, e cognome dello sposo	Salomone Modigliano
Età del medesimo	anni trenta
Condizione del medesimo	Mercante
Comunità ove dimora	Livorno
Se celibe, o vedovo	Celibe
Nome del padre di esso	Salomone Modiano
Nome, e cognome della madre	Ester Abravanel
Nome, e cognome della sposa	Regina Masserano
Età della medesima	anni Ventisei
Condizione della medesima	senza professione
Comunità ove dimora	Livorno

Se la sposa è celibe, o vedova	Celibe
Nome del padre di essa	Emanuel Masserano
Nome, e cognome della madre	Sara Suarez
Culto professato dagli sposi	Israelitico
Nome, e cognome dei testimoni intervenuti nell'atto del matrimonio	Affriano Pellegrino e Moyse Abenaiar
Nome, e cognome dei testimoni intervenuti nella dichiarazione	Moyse Calef e Affriano Pellegrino
Cancelleria Comunitativa nella quale è stata fatta la dichiarazione	Livorno

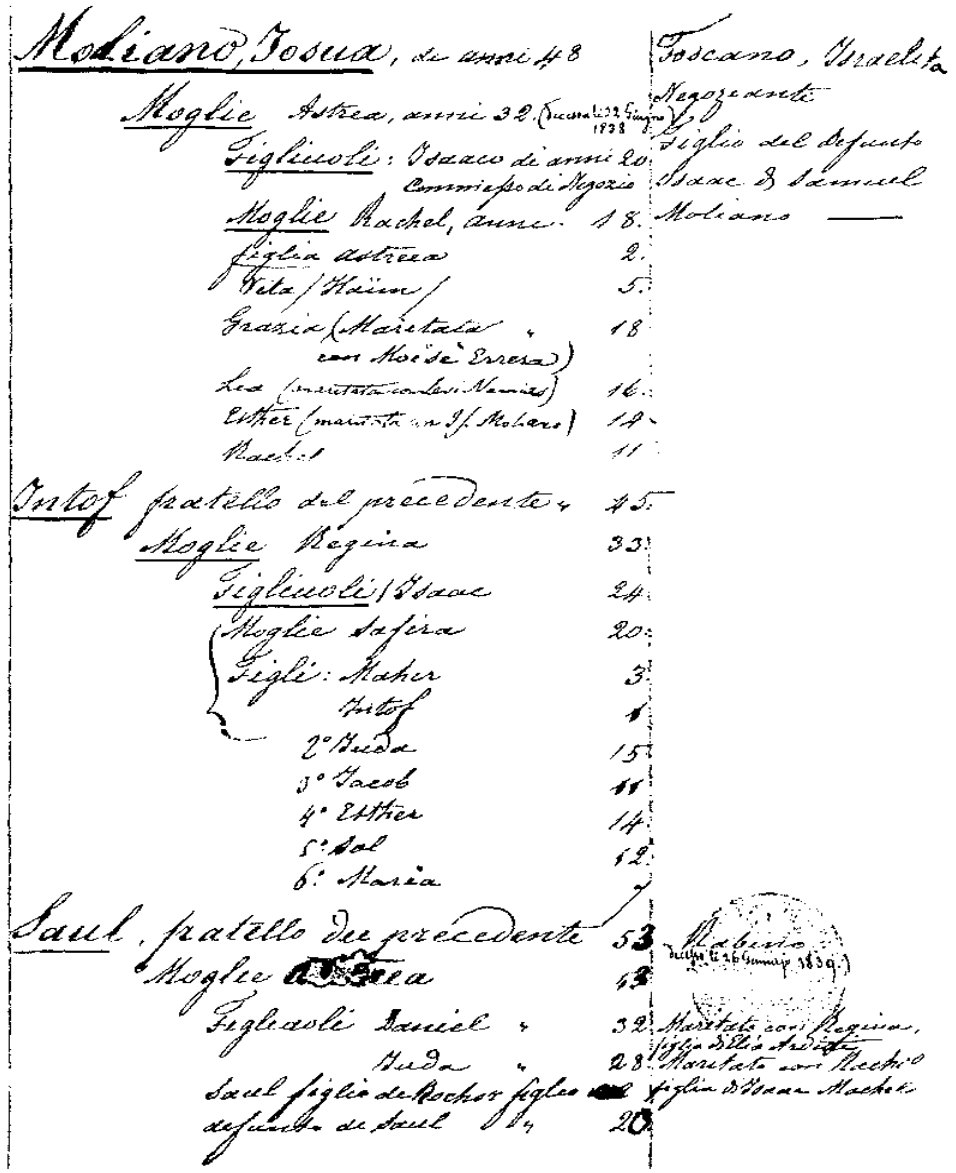
Il Dichiarante è Cognato dello Sposo

Sottoscrizione del Dichiarante. Aron Masserano

Sottoscrizione del Cancelliere. Giovanetti

The wedding certificate of 1829 with the Modiano/Modigliano variations.

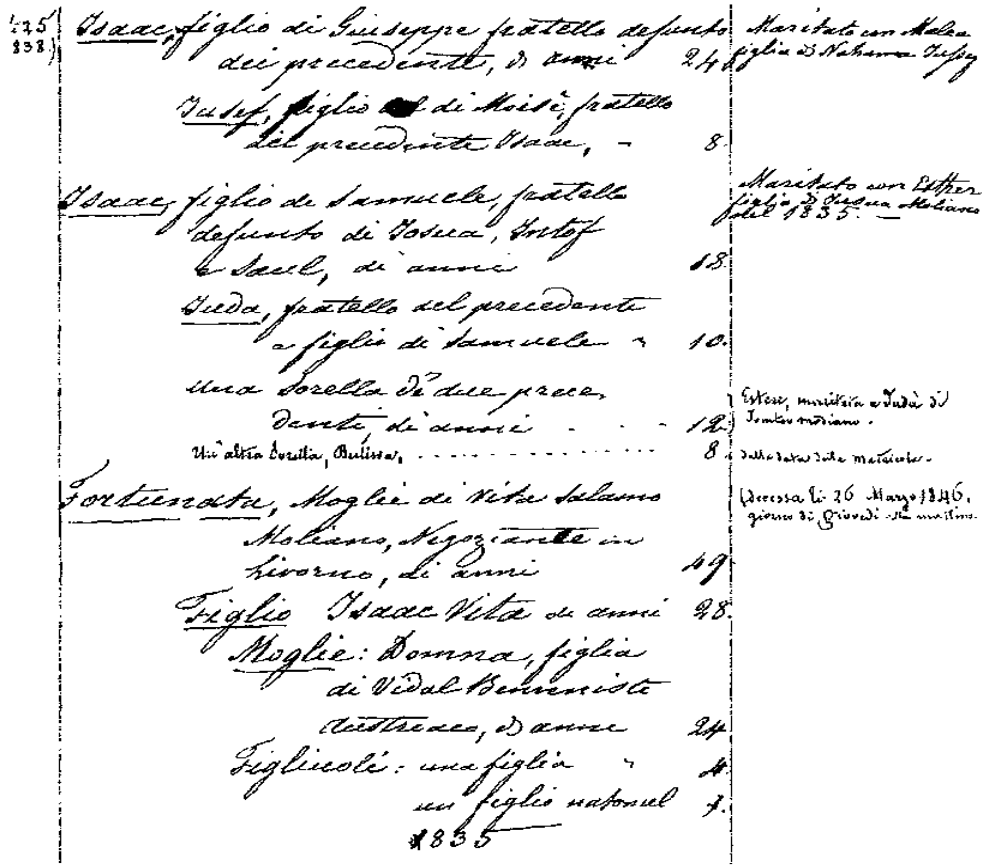
State Archive, Florence



Moliano, Josua, de anni 48 — Toscano, Israelita
Moglie Astrea, anni 32. (Sucursale 22 Giugno 1838) — Negoziante
Figliuoli: Isaaco di anni 20 — Figlio del defunto
Commesso di Negozio — Isaac & Samuel
Moglie Rachel, anne 18. — Moliano ——
Figlia astrea 2.
Vita / Haïm / 5.
Grazia (Maritata con Moïse Errera) 18
Lea (maritata con Isac Nanias) 16.
Esther (maritata con J.f. Rolano) 19
Rachel 11
Intof fratello del precedente 45.
Moglie Regina 33
Figliuoli / Isaac 24
Moglie safira 20
Figli: Maher 3
Intof 1
2° Buda 15
3° Jacob 11
4° Esther 14
5° Sol 12
6° Maria 7
Saul, fratello del precedente 53
Moglie Astrea 43
Figliuoli Daniel 32. Maritato con Regina, figlia d'Elia Moliano
Buda 28. Maritato con Rachel figlia d'Isaac Machon
Saul figlio di Rachor figlio
defunto di Saul 20
Rabino (Salonique le 26 Giugno 1839.)

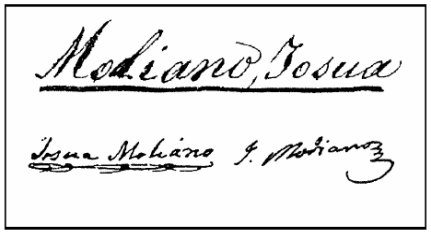
The 1833 Matricola of the Consulate of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in Salonika, page 1.

Diplomatic and Historical Archives, Italian Foreign Ministry, Rone



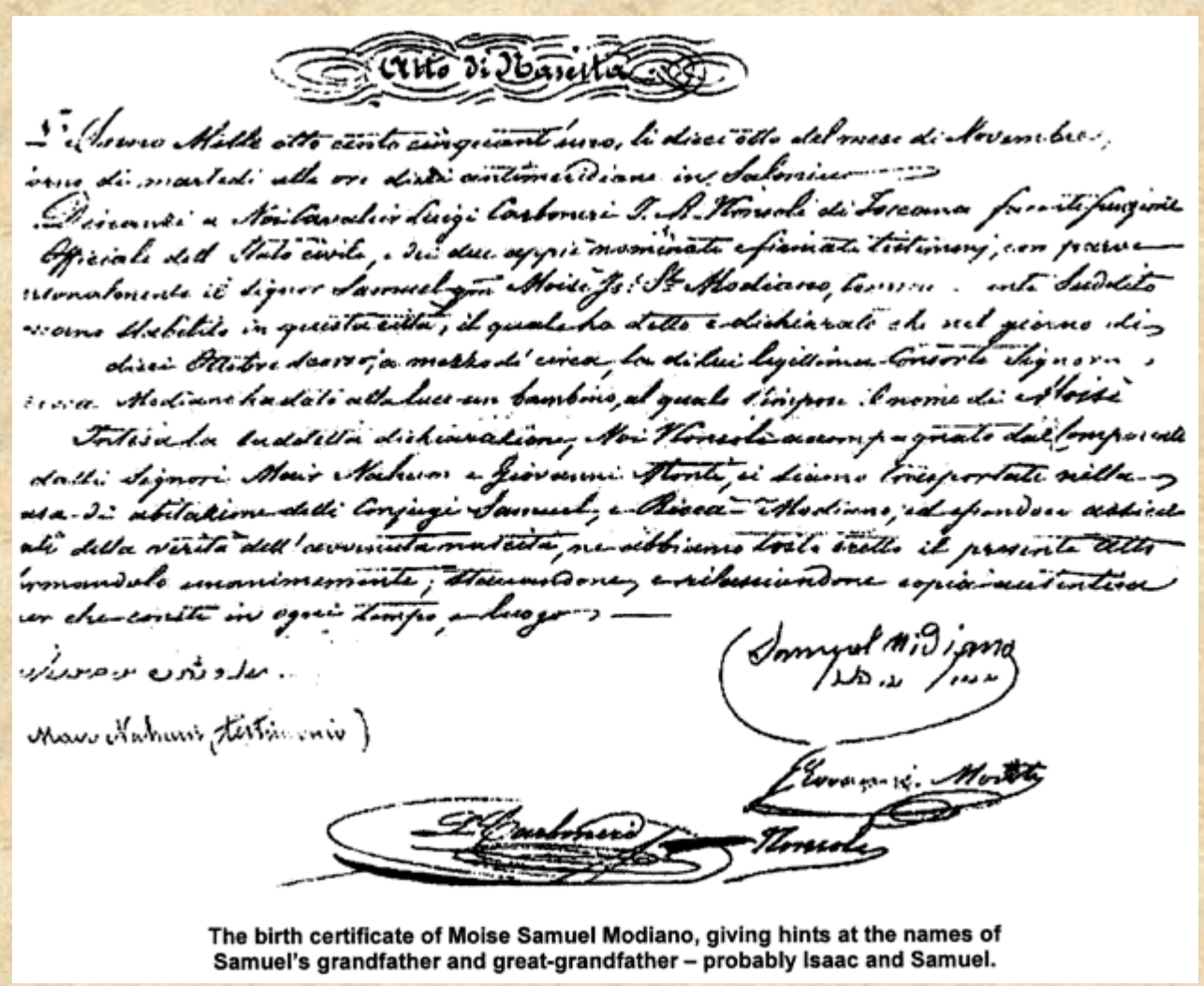
The 1833 *Matricola* of the Consulate of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in Salonika, page 2.

Diplomatic and Historical Archives, Italian Foreign Ministry, Rone



Above – the entry for Josua Modiano in the Tuscan *Matricola* of 1833; the letter "l" in Moliano was corrected to read "d" for Modiano. Below: Josua's signatures before and after 1834.

Österreichisches Staatsarchiv



Atto di Nascita

L'Anno Mille otto cento cinquant'uno, li dieci otto del mese di Novembre, anno di martedì alle ore dieci antimeridiane in Livorno.

Avanti a Noi Cavalier Luigi Corbonari R. Notaro di Toscana funzionante Ufficiale dello Stato civile, e dei due appiè nominati e spiegati testimonj, è comparso personalmente il Signor Samuel figlio di Moise fu Sr Abdiano, bottaio, domiciliato suddetto nostro Stabile in questa città, il quale ha detto e dichiarato che nel giorno dieci Ottobre decorso, a mattina circa, la di lui legittima Consorte Signora Rosa Modiano ha dato alla luce un bambino, al quale ha imposto il nome di Abdè

Tratta da tale dichiarazione, Noi Notaro suddetto accompagnato dalli Signori Mair Nahum e Giovanni Monte, ci siamo trasportati nella casa di abitazione delli Coniugi Samuel e Rosa Modiano, ed assicurati della verità dell'avvenuta nascita, ne abbiamo tratto il presente Atto, rimandolo immediatamente, sottoscrivendolo, e richiedendone copia autentica ove occorrerà in ogni tempo e luogo. —

Samuel Modiano

Mair Nahum (testimonio)

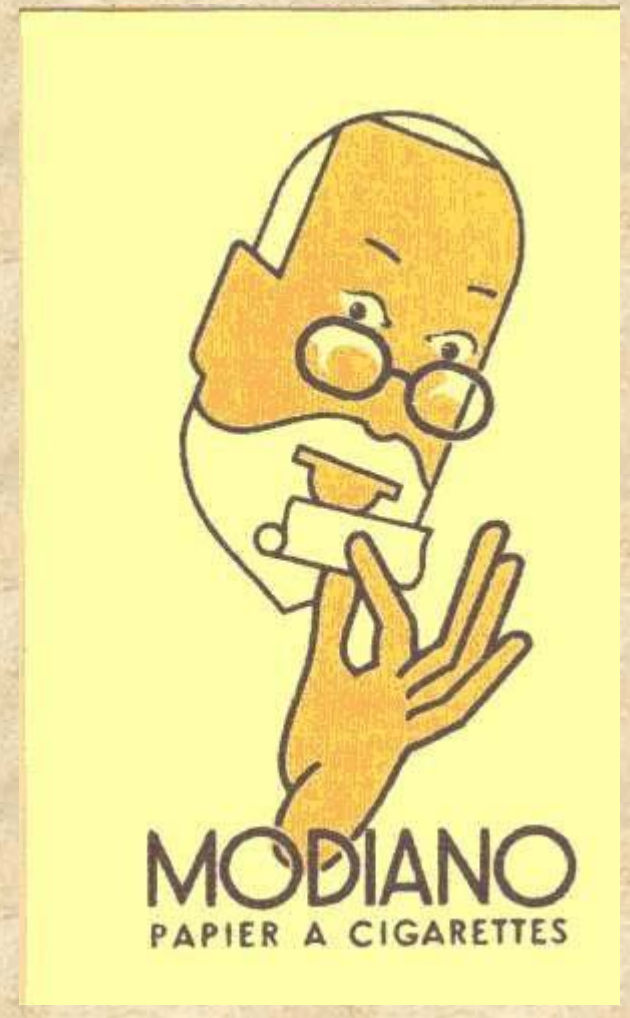
Giovanni Monte

L. Corbonari Notaro

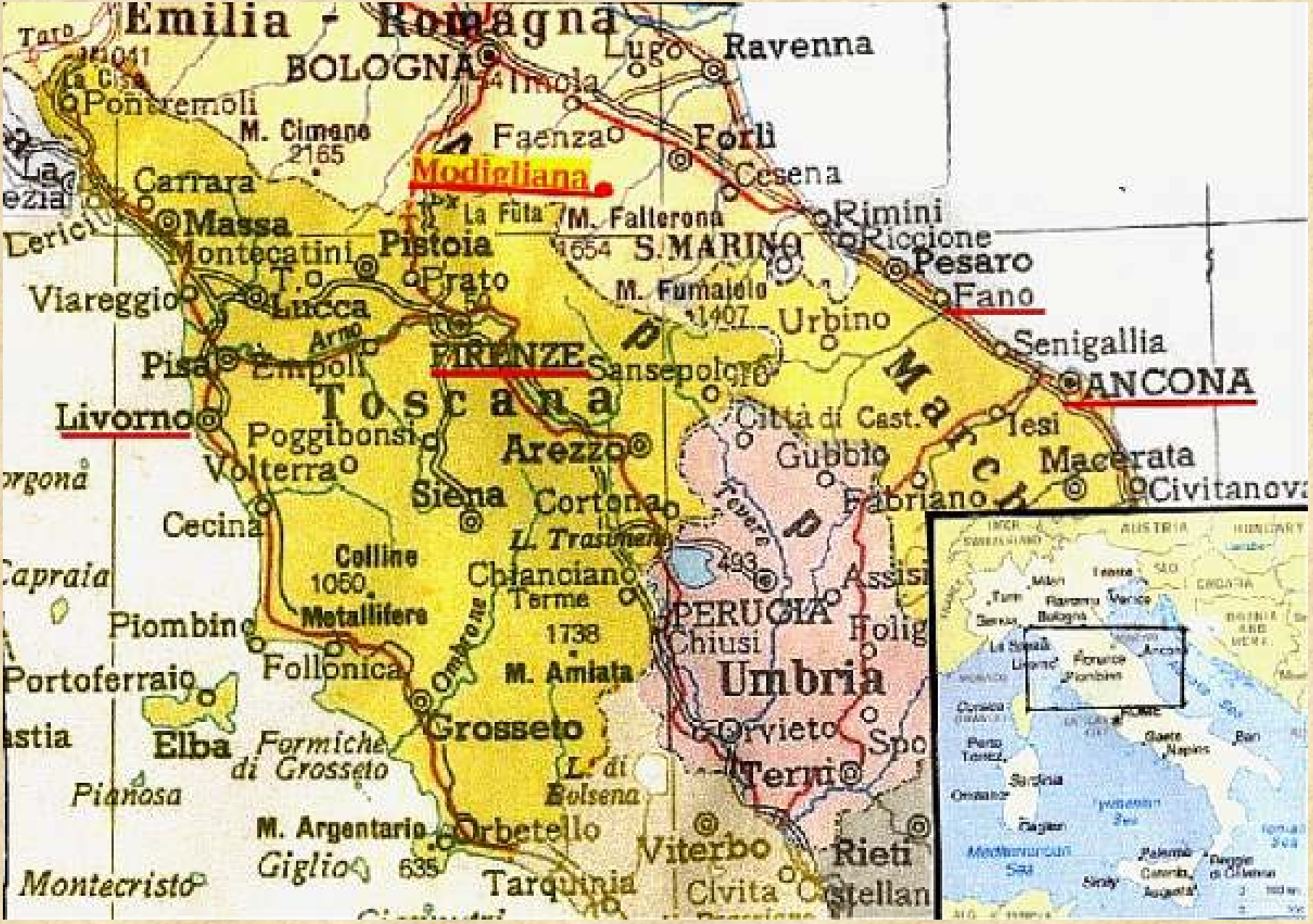
The birth certificate of Moise Samuel Modiano, giving hints at the names of Samuel's grandfather and great-grandfather – probably Isaac and Samuel.

(Livorno Municipal arichives)

Franz Lenhart's celebrated drawing for a Modiano cigarette paper ad (1935)
Originals fetched up to £1,200 at a Christie's auction in 1991



Modiano cigarette paper ad (circa 1926).



Livorno-Ancona section map showing the location of Modigliana

APPENDIX

1. Professor Michele Luzzati's scenario
2. Modilhano - Sample family tree
3. The Modiano logo in Florence
4. Credits and Acknowledgements
5. The Author about himself

Prof. LUZZATI'S THEORY

Michele Luzzati, professor of Medieval History at the University of Pisa, who is an expert on the Jewish presence in the Italian peninsula during the Middle Ages, has found the earliest known mention of the surname "Modiano" in the State Archives of Ferrara. Two notarial documents dating from 1499 refer to Raffaele de Modiano, who was a member of a Jewish family with financial interests in Modigliana since the mid-15th century.

The professor made this announcement in an address before the First International Reunion of the Modiano Family in Florence on June 25, 2005. He presented an alternative scenario to the theories proposed in earlier editions of this book concerning the origin of the Modillano/Modiano family of Salonika and its surname.

Prof. Luzzati listed several factors that contributed to the formation of Jewish toponymic surnames (based on geographical origin) in medieval Italy in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. He stressed that surnames were changed frequently, usually when a person changed his city of residence or of business. At that time mobility among the Jews was quite high.

CASE HISTORY

The family studied by Prof. Luzzati to illustrate this point was that of Vitale da Recanati and his descendants. Vitale had a son named Allegro (Simha in Hebrew). "Magister" Allegro was a physician and his presence had been recorded in Padua in 1397, in Venice in 1408, and in Vicenza in 1409.

Documents dated between 1432 and 1466, show that to a certain Allegro from Vicenza, then a resident of Imola, a son was born and was named Vitale. The professor believes it can be safely assume that this is the same Allegro, considering first the rarity of his Allegro's name, the fact that his son was named Vitale, after Allegro's father, and finally that he originated from Vicenza.

Vitale, son of Allegro, had at least three sons: Salomone, Davide and Raffaele. Their names were noted frequently in official documents because they also carried their father's surname of "da Vicenza", even though they were registered in Imola between 1458 and 1495. Imola lies north of Modigliana, the township that gave the Modillano/Modiano their name.

In a document of 1468 Salomone was already referred to as the son of the late "*Vitalis de Vincentia*". This particular reference identified him as "*habitator Bononie* (Bologna)" but this probably referred to the fact that Salomone had taken for wife Anna, sister of the famous Jewish physician of Bologna Santo di Rubino da Sforno.

In fact, this eminent physician had used his influence on the Duke of Milan as well as on the ruler of Imola, Taddeo Manfredi, in 1465, in order to obtain for his brother-in-law Salomone a permit to exercise the profession of moneylender in that city. In 1473 this permit was renewed in the name of Salomone as well as of his brother Raffaele.

MONEY-LENDING IN MODIGLIANA

Now, singling out Raffaele, there is testimony about him since 1462 because at that time he was given a sentence for some offense committed in Imola. We can assume that this is the same "Raffaelo of Vitale, Jew from Imola" who was granted on 16 November 1465 the money-lending concession for Modigliana, which is not far from Imola, but lies within the jurisdiction of the Florentine State.

This concession had earlier been awarded by the authorities to one Josef, son of Abramo da Velletri. Although it was valid for five years from 11 July 1463, da Velletri transferred his money-lending rights in Modigliana to Mose (or Muise) son of the late Abramo of Prato from May 1, 1464. In turn, Mose relinquished those rights in November 1465 to Raffaele, son of Vitale “da Imola” or “da Vicenza”, and his partner, Abramo of Manuele da Cremona, who was also a resident of Imola.

Raffaele and Abramo had, in a way, been partners before. On October 20, 1464, they had obtained from the Duke of Milano a safe-conduct in which they were described as “friends and sympathizers” of the Duke. This permit was probably granted because of Raffaele’s family links with the master physician Santo di Rubino da Sforno.

There is evidence that Raffaele had chosen Anna, daughter of the late Salomone of the Tuscan money-lending family de San Miniato, to be his son Isacco’s wife.

According to the *ketuba*, the dowry was a modest 165 gold florins, but the couple divorced 18 months later, and Anna granted, through proxies, a legalized receipt to Isacco and his father Raffaele certifying that her dowry had been duly returned.

Raffaele was still a resident of Imola although it is quite probable that he continued to make day trips to Modigliana to manage the bank there too. This family’s link with Modigliana continued until at least the end of the 15th century even the beginning of the 16th.

“DE MODIANO”

In a deed made in Ferrara dated 30 January 1499, Raffaele who was involved in legal dealings with the da Norsa family of Mantua, is referred to as “de Vicentia alias de Modiano”. This compares with a document of 28 August 1499 where Raffaele again is mentioned as “de Modiano.”

A few years later, in 1508, after Raffaele’s death, his son Vitale who had been named after his grandfather and his great-great-grandfather was known as “de Mutiliana”, although he was still a resident of Imola.

“Modiano” appears to have been a variation of “Mutilianum”, “Mutiliana”, “Modigliana” or “Modigliani”, all surnames that stabilized in the early 16th century in the form of “Modigliano” or “Modigliani”.

The professor’s purpose in outlining the history and genealogy of the da Recanati family was to show that within one century its members became known in turn also as “da Vicenza”, then “da Imola”, and finally as “da Modigliana”.

The factor that influenced most the choice of a toponymic surname by the Jews in medieval Italy, was mainly internal migration, considering that the economic activities then allowed to Jews (such as small-scale consumer lending on interest) were subject to permits from the local or state authorities.

There were also cases in which moneylenders formed partnerships in order to control banking activities in more than one locality. This was facilitated by the acquisition of more than one toponymic surname.

Professor Luzzati said that genealogical trees such as the one he outlined could be reconstructed more or less with precision for many families that had a financial interest in Modigliana between the 15th and the mid-16th centuries.

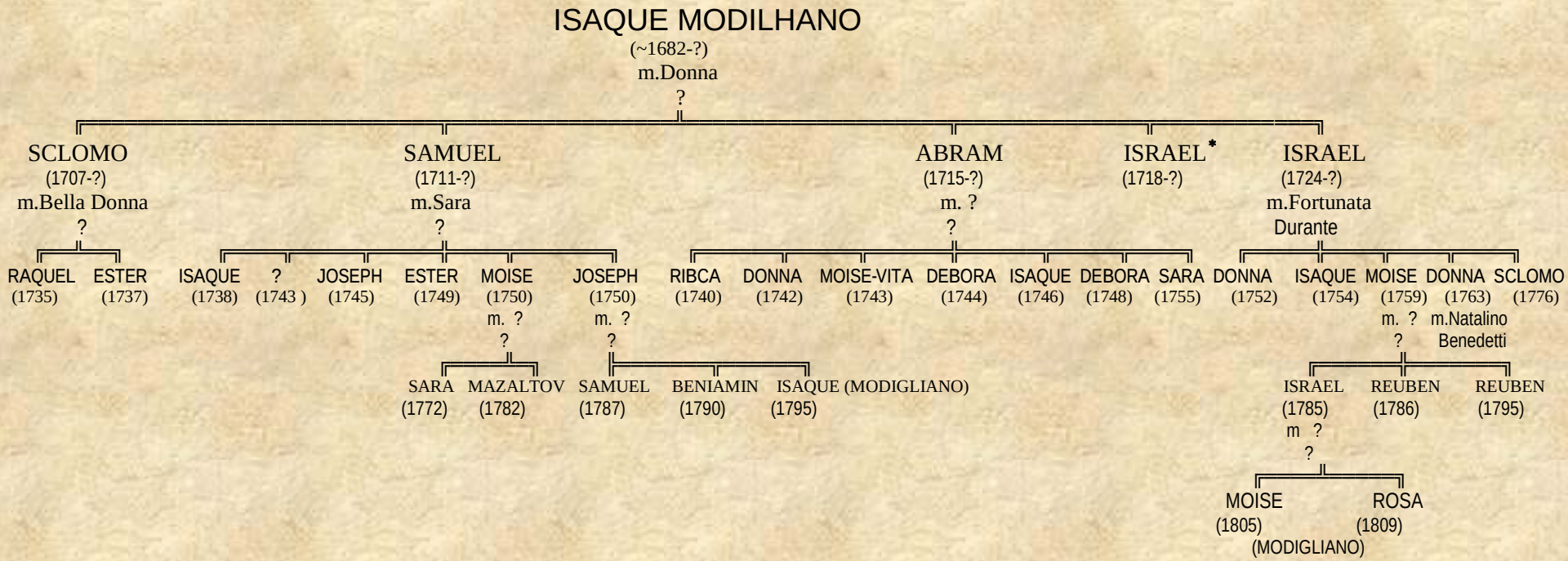
Referring to the hypotheses concerning the origins of the Modigliano/ Modiano family, he put forward the following arguments:

- that those bearing the toponymic surname “Modigliano” did not necessarily issue from a single ancestor – in fact, the opposite is almost certain;
- that all the assumptions about the origin of the Modigliano-Modiano nucleus that moved to the Balkan peninsula, are valid, as long as one can verify that the family head actually resided in Modigliana for a relatively long period of time;
- that the theory that Moise from Fano was head of the family cannot be ruled out, provided that further research can produce evidence that he or his children had used the surname “Modigliano”. Let it be noted at this point that Moise from Fano who was active in money-lending in Modigliana, might be the same “Moise da Fano, ebreo” who had moved from Fano to Pesaro in 1563; and finally
- that the hypothesis that the Modiano had Sephardic roots cannot be completely ruled out.

———————————

Sample Family Tree

FAMILY TREE OF ISAQUE MODILHANO



* A high child mortality rate explains why newborns were given the same name as older siblings that had died young.

Is it a Coat-of-Arms, a Shield, an Emblem or a Logo?

You have just seen the emblem created for our family reunion in Florence.

What would you call it? Is it a coat-of-arms? Good Heavens, NO! We are not warrior people.

Is this a shield of nobility? Yes, if you wish, but only the nobility of wit, cash and intellect.

Is it usual for Jewish families to have coats-of-arms?

The answer is yes. The earliest known example is from Forli (not far from Modigliana) in 1383: it was the coat of arms of Daniele di Samuele, according to a manuscript in the British Museum. It carried a helmet and a lion.

But this is even more interesting:

The marriage contract of Menahem Modigliani and Stella daughter of Abramo Costantini dating from the mid- 18th century shows the arms of the two families impaled: on a mound of three hillocks a rooster holding a palm in its beak and a star for Modigliani, a crowned lion holding a sword for Costantini. The motto in Hebrew is: the Lord's name is a tower.

In our own emblem you see at the crest the lion of the Guidi family, the rulers of Modigliana. Just under it there is a symbol for Modiano bankers and merchants – banker's scales and accounting books for the merchants. The name of Modigliana is there to make the link between the early and later bankers.

In the centre of the shield there are three meaningful symbols for Modianos: the first is for engineers and architects; the second is for the medical profession; the third is for writers and academics.

Salonika, the cradle, and Livorno, the protector, are marked at the bottom of the logo. 'Firenze 2005' Was added to honour this memorable Reunion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am particularly indebted to the late Dr. Ing. **Guido Modiano** of Milan for the invaluable help he provided to further this genealogical research. Guido financed the very thorough screening of the Livorno archives by **Fabrizio Bedarida**, a young and talented law student at the time. I express my gratitude to him. The search revealed vital aspects of our family history. Guido personally visited Modigliana, in the province of Forli, in search of ancient documents showing this to be (geographically) the Italian springboard of our family. He visited the State Archives of Vienna where he pried out of a mountain of uncatalogued dossiers, valuable documents that shed light on the changes in the name of the Modiano dynasty. Sadly, he died in 2005 shortly after organizing our very successful first worldwide family reunion in Florence.

I owe much to my brother, **Lelo Modiano**, whose eager and steady support coupled with solid sense and knowledge of the Italian language, enabled us to obtain from Salonika and Rome the consular records from the days of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and the period after Italy's unification in 1861. **Anne-Marie Rychner-Faraggi**, a fellow-researcher from Neuchâtel, Switzerland, who published an excellent report on the genealogy of the Mallah family and is pursuing her search on the Faraggis and the Amars, gave me enormous help by bringing to my attention crucial facts concerning the Modiano family and always being on the look-out for more. I thank both for valuable observations after reviewing the original manuscript.

I am grateful to **Laurence Hazan-Abensur** of Paris, founder (with her husband Philip) of ***Etsi***, the Association for Sephardic Genealogy and History, which publishes the quarterly review of the same name. I was flattered to be asked to write the preface for her erudite book on the genealogy of the Pontremoli family of Smyrna. But above all, I thank her on two more counts, first, for inviting me to present my findings before the 5th Jewish Genealogical Seminar held in Paris in July 1997. It gave me an opportunity to make extremely useful contacts. Secondly, for her pains in searching the French Foreign Ministry's archives for elements relating to the French consular protection extended to the Modianos of Salonika. The results were fascinating and her work was spontaneous and generously offered.

Mathilde Tagger of Jerusalem was another generous mentor and valuable contributor to my knowledge of the Modiano antecedents that, because of my ignorance of the Hebrew language and script, I might otherwise never have discovered. I thank her. My gratitude also goes to **Michèle Haim** of Paris, guardian angel of Sephardic genealogists at large, for her elegant and eager support of my efforts in tracing families and obtaining their story from primary sources.

To **Dov Cohen**, the professional genealogist from Israel who went through the 17th and 18th century writings of the Modillano rabbis of Salonika, and guided me through the maze of Hebrew inscriptions, texts, sermons and practices, I am deeply grateful. I am thankful to **the Modianos throughout the world**, who were kind enough to answer my appeals for information on the history and composition of their families, requests that were often very demanding. I apologize in advance for any errors or omissions in the entries relating to their branch. They are quite unintentional.

Fred Hassid of Houston Texas who has assumed the Herculean task of putting together the genealogy of the ubiquitous Hassid family, has been extremely helpful in pointing out errors and omissions in the (web) Third Edition. Most importantly he detected the earliest Modiano in Joseph Nehama's book on the Jews of Salonika and he rendered me great service by using his hi-tech software to make most of the reproductions in Old Documents infinitely more legible and blotch-free.

CREDITS

In keeping with the finest traditions of our family, Micky Modiano, the author's nephew, who is asuccessful television producer, sponsored the publication of the printed version of this book.The author is grateful to him, but also humbly thankful to the Almighty that this generous gesture was not made posthumously in accordance, alas, with the same tradition.

The 1927 gouache reproduced on the cover of the printed version of the book as well as on the Home Page of this site, by kind permission of Gina Modiano, is a copy of the original for an advertising poster for S.D. Modiano cigarette-paper.

Ínci

Above all, I am profoundly grateful to my wife, **Inci Moran Modiano**,
for the enthusiasm with which she embraced my project,
and for her sheer enjoyment of our expeditions
that she dubbed "Modiano safaris".
During those safaris she would organize family gatherings
in Athens, Paris, London and Washington,
behaving as if she was the Modiano, not I.
She faced death from a sudden cancer on November 1, 1998,
with the same dignity and elegance that had been her hallmark in life.
She left an enormous void among all those who knew and loved her.
This work is dedicated to her everlasting memory.

ABOUT MYSELF

(The following text appeared on the back cover of the printed version)

Considering that this book is not for sale, no publisher shall sing my praise. Therefore I have to blow my own trumpet.

I was born in Salonika, Greece, in the vintage year of 1926, the second son of Sam E. Modiano, distinguished journalist and editor, and the beautiful Nella Tchenio. I bear her father's given name.

My father liked variety, so he sent my brother Lelo to the Italian school, and me to a Greek school that, thanks to the German occupation, I never managed to finish. At home we communicated in three languages: father (an alumnus of the Mission Laique Française) would speak in French to my mother and me. Both would speak Ladino to Lelo; and Lelo and I conversed in Greek.

The war played havoc with our lives: the story is told in greater detail in E2 of the Main Branches; but while hiding in a suburb of Athens, I managed to learn English. So, after the liberation in 1944, I went into the Greek Army as a Lieutenant-Interpreter.

My original dream had been to be an architect. But by the time I could realize that dream, I was too old to go to school again. So I followed in my father's footsteps. During the war the Germans had confiscated his French language newspaper, "*Le Progrès*". So he was working as a correspondent for the (then) British news agency *Reuters*. I worked for *The Times* of London and the *Economist*. Occasionally I wrote for the *New York Times*.

In 1962 I met a wonderful woman from Istanbul – Inci. She was beautiful, elegant and witty. She proved to be a good partner in life. Her loyalty and support got us through many difficult situations, especially during the 1967-74 military dictatorship in Greece.

By 1990 I had worked as a correspondent for nearly 40 years. Inci and I decided: "enough is enough". So I retired and started researching our family genealogy. This gave us the opportunity to travel far and wide, meeting Modianos wherever we went.

It is the result of that research that you now hold in your hands (or, as it were, see on your screen).