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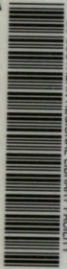
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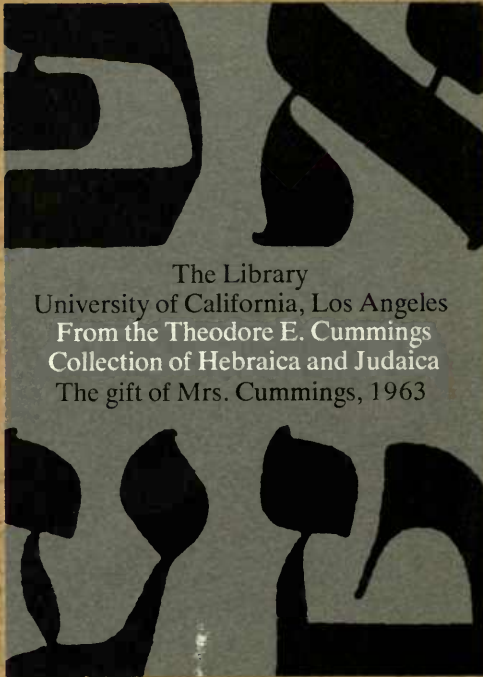
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# LAWS

OF THE

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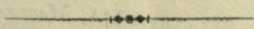
FOR

# ADMINISTERING THE AFFAIRS

OF

שחִיטָה

ESTABLISHED 5364—1804.



LONDON:

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1880.

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34A, Moorgate Street, E.C

## Secretary.

MR. HENRY HARRIS,

22, Great Prescott Street, E.

## P R E F A C E .

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**T**HE pious Israelite has, at all times, been impressed with the importance of the dietary precepts inculcated with such solemn emphasis by our Divine Law. He has ever acknowledged that the observance of these ordinances has mainly contributed to preserve our distinctive nationality; that it has engendered those habits of moderation, temperance, and sobriety, which so eminently characterize our race, and endowed us with that vitality and resistance to climatic influences which have elicited the admiration of learned authorities on the subject.

We can, therefore, readily understand that, when our fathers, both Sephardim and Ashkenazim, began to settle again in this country, towards the end of the seventeenth century, they did not rest satisfied with the erection of houses of worship and the establishment of schools for the education of children. They also made arrangements for faithfully carrying out the various laws relating to the supply of Kosher meat. Shochetim were appointed, and, as the number of Jews in this country increased, and new congregations were formed, each Synagogue elected its own officers to fulfil the functions of Shechita. But it was found that, owing to the multiplicity of officials, no proper supervision could be exercised, and that much time and money were needlessly wasted. It was, therefore, determined, in 1792, to make some attempt at concerted action.

It was then proposed to establish a special institution to deal entirely with the question, and each of the three German Synagogues in the City deputed two representatives to a conference to discuss the matter. The late Lyon de Symons proposed a plan for the foundation of a joint Board, in which all the London Jewish congregations should be represented and for the construction of a Hall for the sale of meat.

The Secretary of the great Synagogue, Bing, drew up a scheme which was submitted to the Spanish and Portuguese community, accompanied by plans and estimates. The Hall to be built was intended to contain twenty shops, to be let to the butchers, and it was represented that the Sephardim would not only save £100 per annum, expended in providing Kosher meat, but would actually obtain a yearly profit. The Sephardim were willing to join a general body for the management of the Shechita, but declined to accept the scheme of the Central Hall. They alleged that the building would be useless if erected; that it would be inconvenient for families living at a distance; that on Sundays it would prove a scandal to Christian neighbours, and that non-Jewish butchers would refuse to pay the tax to be levied upon them. The Ashkenazim declined to separate the two parts of the scheme, and declared their intention to proceed alone. Vain efforts were made to raise funds to build the Hall, which has remained an unfulfilled project to the present day.

After being in abeyance for more than ten years, the question of a Shechita Board was revived in 1804. The trouble and expense of divided counsels and partial arrangements, became more apparent; and steps were taken in a vigorous way to bring the matter to a successful issue. The Portuguese Mahamad held a



Conference on the first Jyar, 5564 (12th April, 1804), at which all the City Synagogues were represented. Five delegates from the Bevis Marks Synagogue met three delegates from the Great Synagogue, and an equal number respectively from the New and the Hambro' Synagogues. At this Conference, after much discussion, the Shechita Board, as we have it now, was formally constituted. Among the Sephardim who took part in the movement, we find the well known names of Isaac Mocatta, Alexander Lindo, and Gabriel Israel Brandon, whilst amongst their Ashkenazim colleagues figure Moses and Samuel Samuel, Levy Solomons, and Lyon de Symons. The whole arrangements for providing Kosher meat for the Jews of London were placed under one management, and the new Board was deputed to superintend the dispositions for slaughtering and inspecting animals according to Jewish law. The religious supervision was confided to Dr. Hirschell, the German Chief Rabbi, and to Dr. Meldola, the Portuguese Haham, and points of Jewish law have, at every subsequent period, been referred to the spiritual authorities of the two communities.

The Board of Shechita found no easy task in reducing chaos to order, in reforming abuses, and in suppressing irregularities. Soon a beneficial system was initiated; the public were spared much inconvenience and annoyance, and the Synagogues effected a considerable saving.

After the Board of Shechita had been in existence a very short time, it began to accumulate funds. The surplus in hand, resulting from the sums received during the first fifty-two weeks of its establishment, was invested in 3 per cent. annuities, in the names of David Abarbanel Lindo, Eleaser I. Keyser, Levy Salomons, and Raphael

Harris. These gentlemen were requested to sign a deed of trust, declaring the stock to be held by them for the Portuguese and the three German congregations already mentioned, in the ratio of one-fourth part each. The surplus profits derived from the Shechita are still divided in the proportion of one quarter to the Sephardim and three quarters to the United Synagogue.

The Secretaries of the Bevis Marks and of the great Synagogue, De Castro and Bing, officiated at first as joint Secretaries of the Board, and their services do not appear to have been rewarded at a high rate, from the fact that, between Tishri, 5566, and the same month in 5568, the remuneration allotted to those two officials for that period, only reached the modest sum of £40.

The constitution of the Board for administering the affairs of Shechita has not been materially altered since the day of its establishment, but the administration has been modified so as to render its rules suitable to the wants of the day. While our ecclesiastical authorities are called upon to decide questions of religious observance, the secular administration is entirely in the hands of the representatives of the Spanish and Portuguese and of the United Synagogue. The duties of the Board have been difficult and onerous. Its members are anxious that every Jewish resident in London, who desires it, should be supplied with Kosher meat. They have to watch, that the various regulations relating to the preparation of such meat be scrupulously observed; they have to consult the convenience of households, and the interests of a numerous body of tradesmen licensed by them, and have also to superintend a large number of employés.\*

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\* At present ten שוחטים and seven שומרים are in the employ of the Board of שחיטה; eighty-five butchers and twenty-five poulterers are licensed by the Board.

The Board had long felt the inconvenience resulting from the want of a code of laws to guide it in its deliberations and administration.

It was therefore suggested by Mr. Samuel Montagu, in November, 1879, that a Constitution of the Board be drawn up. A sub-Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Henry Solomon, S. Montagu, M. Castello, I. Pariente, H. A. Israel, I. Pick, M. Samuel, J. Goldhill, and D. Davis, was accordingly appointed for this purpose. The sub-Committee was aided in its labours by the experience of Dr. Asher, Secretary of the United Synagogue, and of Mr. E. H. Lindo, Secretary of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation. The Laws were submitted to the Board at a Meeting held on the 17th of March, 1880, and adopted by them. It is confidently anticipated that these Laws will contribute to uphold the pious object, for which the Board of שחיטה was originally constituted.



## TITLE AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1.—This Association shall be called “The Board for Administering the Affairs of שחיטה” and shall take cognizance of, and administer the affairs of the שחיטה in the Metropolis.

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

2.—The Board shall consist of twenty Members, to be elected in manner following : five Members shall be elected by the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, and fifteen Members shall be elected by the Council of the United Synagogue.

3.—The elections shall take place at such times as the above-named Synagogues shall determine, and shall be held biennially. The persons elected as Members of the Board shall take office at the first Meeting of the Board. In the event of a vacancy by death, resignation, or other cause, the Synagogue in whose representation there is a vacancy, shall be requested to fill up the same, and the gentleman then elected shall serve for the unexpired term.

## GOVERNMENT.

4.—A President and Vice-President (both of whom shall also act as Treasurers), shall be elected by ballot from the Members of the Board biennially, at the first Meeting held after the elections by the Synagogues.

5.—The President and Vice-President shall be *ex officio* members of all Committees.

6.—All religious matters connected with שחיטה shall be under the control of the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue and of the United Synagogue.

7.—The said Ecclesiastical Authorities shall be invited to attend all Meetings of the Board (and, if necessary, Meetings of the Executive Committee) for the purpose of deciding upon all religious questions.

#### COMMITTEE.

8.—There shall be an Executive Committee for general purposes, consisting of five Members of the Board, to be elected at the same Meeting at which the President and Vice-President are elected.

9. — The Executive Committee shall meet once in every month, and at such Meetings three shall form a quorum.

10.—The Executive Committee shall, *inter alia*, investigate all complaints against Butchers, Poulterers, and Employés of the Board, referring all matters involving religious questions to the Ecclesiastical Authorities. The Committee, or the Ecclesiastical Authorities, shall have power to temporarily withdraw any license or temporarily suspend any employé of the Board from the performance of his duty; and should the gravity of the offence neces-

sitate, in their opinion, permanent withdrawal of license, or dismissal, they shall at once report to a Meeting of the Board, to be immediately convened for the purpose.

### MEETINGS

11.—The usual place of Meeting of the Board shall be the Vestry Room of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

12.—The Board shall meet once in three months. The President or Vice-President shall call Special Meetings when he may deem it necessary, or when requested to do so by a requisition signed by five Members of the Board.

13.—The President, and, in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all Meetings; and in the absence of both, the Members of the Board present shall elect a Chairman from amongst themselves.

14.—All acts, matters and questions to be done, determined and decided by the Board, shall be done, determined and decided by a majority of persons present at a Meeting of the said Board. Elected Members of the Board only shall be entitled to vote at all Meetings thereof, five of whom shall form a quorum at any Meeting of the Board.

15.—The Chairman shall be entitled to speak and vote on all matters, acts, and questions, in addition to having the casting vote in cases of equality of votes.

16.—The ruling of the Chairman on all points of order shall be conclusive.

17.—The Secretary shall read the minutes of the preceding Meeting, which shall be confirmed if they have been correctly recorded, and upon the motion to confirm such minutes being put from the chair, no discussion thereon, except as to their correctness, shall be allowed.

18.—A notice of the time for holding a Meeting of the Board, with particulars of the business to be transacted, shall be forwarded to every Member of the same at least seven days prior to a Meeting, unless the urgency of the business necessitates shorter notice.

19.—Any resolution passed at a Meeting relating to a matter of which notice has not been given in a summons convening the same, must be ratified or rejected at the next ensuing Meeting; notice of such proposed ratification or rejection being given in the summons convening the said next ensuing Meeting.

### TRUSTEES.

20.—No Trustee shall be appointed except on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

21.—All real and funded property of the Board shall be conveyed to, or invested in the names of, the Trustees.



22.—Each Trust-property shall be invested in the names of not less than four Trustees.

23.—No person shall be eligible as Trustee unless he be a Member of the Board at the time of his appointment as Trustee.

24.—The Board shall have power, by resolution, to remove any Trustee; and notice in writing shall be given by the Secretary of such resolution to the Trustee so removed.

25.—In the event of the removal, death, incapacity, unwillingness to act, or resignation of a Trustee of the funded or other property of the Board, or if any such Trustee shall go to reside permanently abroad, the Board shall, at the next Meeting after the vacancy shall have been brought to the notice of the President, proceed to elect a new Trustee in the place of the Trustee so removing, dying, becoming incapable, or unwilling to act, resigning, or residing permanently abroad.

26.—Notice of the intention to remove a Trustee or appoint a new Trustee, shall be given in the summons convening the Meeting at which the election is to take place.

27.—At the Meeting succeeding the election of a new Trustee a report shall be made to the Board by the President, whether all necessary acts have been done for vesting the property or fund in the Trustees for the time being.

28.—The Resolutions of the Board shall be a sufficient authority and indemnity to a Trustee for any act done by him in pursuance thereof.

29.—At the Biennial Meeting for election of Honorary Officers, the list of Trustees shall be examined by the Board, and all steps necessary for keeping the property and funds invested in accordance with the foregoing Resolutions shall be adopted.

### AUDITORS.

30.—Two Auditors shall be appointed by the Board, who shall from time to time inspect the books and investigate the accounts of the Board, and shall, as soon as possible after June 30 and December 31 in each year, examine the Treasurer's Balance Sheet, so that, when duly vouched by the signature of the Auditors, it may be presented to the Board at its Meeting in תמוז and טבת. When the 30th of June or 31st of December does not fall on Thursday, the accounts shall be made up to the preceding Thursday.

31.—A banking account, at such Bank as the Executive Committee shall determine, shall be kept in the names of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

32.—All moneys received by the Board shall be paid into this account, and all payments shall be by cheque only, to be signed by any two of those in whose names the account stands.

33.—So much of the surplus balance of the current account as may be determined by the Board, shall be paid over half yearly to the Spanish and Portuguese and United Synagogues, in the proportions of one-fourth to the former, and three-fourths to the latter Synagogue; the balance, after such apportionment, shall be invested and added to the funds of the Board.

### SECRETARY AND INVESTIGATING OFFICER.

34.—A person who understands Shecheta shall be elected to act as Investigating Officer and Collector to the Board by the Members thereof, by whom his salary and duties shall be regulated; his whole time shall be at the disposal of the Board.

35.—It shall be the duty of the Investigating Officer immediately to report to the President, Vice-President, or Chairman of the Executive Committee, any dereliction of duty on the part of any employé of the Board.

36.—The Investigating Officer shall, subject to the instructions of the Board, Executive Committee, or Honorary Officers, arrange the duties of the שוחטים ושומרים; he shall take care that the regulations of the Ecclesiastical Authorities and of the Board are observed; he shall immediately report to the Ecclesiastical Authorities any infraction of the religious regulations on the part of any one licensed or employed by the Board; and shall take especial care that the necessary preparations for slaughtering are conducted as humanely as possible.

37.—The Secretary shall have charge of all documents and papers belonging to the Board. He shall issue notices for Meetings, and keep minutes of the proceedings at such Meetings in a book to be provided for that purpose.

38.—The Secretary shall keep proper books of accounts to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.

39.—The Secretary shall find and maintain security in £200 to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.

#### COLLECTOR.

40.—The Board may appoint a Collector who shall collect all moneys due to the Board, and pay the same into the Treasurer's account at the Bank; he shall furnish to the Secretary weekly a statement of the moneys so collected and paid into the Bank.

41.—The Collector shall find and maintain security in £200 to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.

#### DUTIES AND EMOLUMENTS OF שוחטים AND שומרים

42.—The Board shall elect and employ such שוחטים for cattle and poultry, and such שומרים, as in the opinion of the Board may be necessary.

43.—Every candidate for employment under the Board of שחיטה shall furnish proof of his not being above the age of 40 years, and shall produce a medical certificate of his being in sound health and physically competent to undertake the duties of the office which he solicits. He must also produce a certificate of his fitness from the Ecclesiastical Authorities, and of his ability to perform the duties required of him. That the qualification respecting age may be dispensed with upon the special recommendation of the Executive Committee.

44.—No person shall, in future, be engaged to kill poultry unless he be competent to kill cattle.

45.—The שוחטים shall, as far as practicable, in rotation, perform their duties at such places and at such divisions of the Market as shall be appointed by the Investigating Officer.

46.—There shall be a Chief שוחט appointed yearly, whose duty shall be to officiate in a division of the Whitechapel Market as at present. He shall, in the absence of the Investigating Officer, have the general supervision of the שוחטים and שומרים, and shall, if required by the Ecclesiastical Authorities, assist in examining provincial and other שוחטים as to their duties in שחיטה ובדיקה.

47.—The duties of the שוחטים at Whitechapel Market or at Deptford, shall daily commence at

Whitechapel,	from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m.
Deptford,	„ 10.30 „ 6 „
„ on Sunday „	9.15 „ 3 „

They shall also attend for the performance of their duties, if required, on מוצאי שבת וי"ט.

48.—The Poultry שוחטים shall attend daily at the appointed place for killing poultry,—

Sunday	from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday	„ „ „ 7 „
Wednesday	„ „ „ 7.30 „
Thursday	„ „ „ 8 „
Friday,	from 8 a.m. till one hour before Sabbath.
On the day before	ע'יט from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m.
On ע'יט	from 7 a.m. till one hour before the time of evening service.

49.—They shall attend for the performance of their duties on **מוצאי שבת וי"ט**, and such other time as they may be directed.

50.—They shall attend at such poultry shops as the Investigating Officer may direct.

51.—They shall kill poultry except on the delivery of a ticket.

52.—The resident **שוהט** must officiate at all times on production of a ticket.

53.—Every **שוהט** shall after killing at a poulterer's shop, hand an account of all birds killed to the poulterer and to the Secretary. *Investigating Officer*

54.—Every **שומר** must be able to purge both fore and hind quarters.

55.—The **שומרים** shall commence their duties at 9.45 a.m.; but one of the **שומרים** in rotation shall also attend at Whitechapel Market at the following hours:

From 5.30 a.m. till 8 a.m. between March 1 and Oct. 31.  
 „ 5 „ till 8 „ „ Nov. 1 and Feb. 28.

One **שומר** shall attend daily from 7 to 9 a.m., and one shall commence his daily duties at 9 a.m.

56.—Such of the שומרים as may be required shall attend for the performance of their duties on מוצאי שבת ויו"ט

57.—In case of emergency, the שומר who attends from 5.30 till 8 may be called upon to return to his duties at 9 instead of 9.45 a.m.

58.—The שומרים shall seal all meat which is pronounced כשר by the שוחטים; shall purge the hind quarters; and shall especially see that no טרפה meat is taken from the Market by Jewish butchers or purveyors.

59.—A שומר, to be called the Foreman שומר, who shall receive five shillings per week extra, shall be annually elected by the Board. He shall be on duty, from March 1st to October 31st, at 5.30 a.m., and from November 1st to February 28th, at 5.30 a.m. until 6 p.m., and shall not leave the Market except one hour in the morning for breakfast and one hour for dinner. His duty shall be to keep a strict watch over the whole Market, and to report to the Secretary any neglect or dereliction of duty by any employé of the Board.

60.—The Foreman שומר shall furnish any Butcher requiring hind quarters or any of the other portions of the animal, with a ticket stating the quantity and parts required; such ticket shall be given up to the Divisional שומר upon the removal of the meat, etc., and no hind quarters or any part of the animal shall be taken from the Market

without the delivery by the Butcher of such ticket. The penalty of twenty shillings shall to be paid by any Butcher transgressing this law.

61.—All employés shall daily enter the time of their arrival at the Market in a book provided for that purpose, under penalty of a fine of sixpence; and any employé arriving a quarter of an hour after his appointed time, shall also be subject to a fine of sixpence.

62.—Any Officer absenting himself from his duties without the permission of the ~~Secretary~~ *Investigating Officer*, shall forfeit his salary during the period of such absence, unless prevented from attending by illness, duly certified by a registered ~~medical practitioner~~ *Investigating Officer*. Notice shall be given to the ~~Secretary~~ *Investigating Officer* before 9 a.m. on the first day of absence.

63.—All employés of the Board shall follow the directions of the ~~Secretary~~ *Investigating Officer* in matters relating to their duties.

64.—The whole of the time of the employés shall be at the disposal of the Board.

65.—The Board shall have power, in such cases as they may deem necessary, to grant a superannuation allowance to any of its Officers, or make an allowance to his widow.

66.—Any person desirous of being taught the duties of שוחט or שומר must apply to the Board in writing; and when such person is approved of by the Ecclesiastical Authorities, the Board may, from its funds, expend such sum for his tuition as they may think fit.



## LICENSESES.

67.—No person preparing or selling meat or poultry for the use of Jews shall be recognized by the Board or by the Ecclesiastical Authorities as being authorized so to do in the Metropolis, unless holding the license of the Board.

68.—Applications for leave to sell meat or poultry must be made in writing to the Board, and shall be placed before the first Meeting of the same.

69.—A license, signed by the Investigating Officer or any Honorary Officer of the Board, shall be issued to every applicant approved by the Ecclesiastical Authorities and by the Board, such license to be revocable, if deemed necessary, by the Board.

70.—No Butcher or Poulterer shall have meat or poultry killed or porged by persons other than those who are in the employment of the Board, and have been empowered by the Ecclesiastical Authorities, under penalty of forfeiture of his license.

71.—Should the Ecclesiastical Authorities decide, for religious reasons, that any person licensed by the Board is unfit longer to hold such license, the Board, on the representation of the Ecclesiastical Authorities, shall revoke the license issued to such person.

72.—Whenever the supervision of a שומר is required in the shop of a Butcher or Poulterer, such Butcher or Poulterer shall pay to the Board the sum of 30s. per week for the services of the שומר.

## APPENDIX.

The following shall, in future, be the Scale of Salaries per week paid to the שוחטים and שומרים of the Board.

	<i>Shochetim.</i>	<i>Shomerim.</i>	<i>Poultry Shochetim.</i>
First year ...	40s. per week.	30s. per week.	30s. per week.
Second „ ...	45s. „	35s. „	35s. „
Third „ ...	45s. „	35s. „	35s. „
Fourth „ ...	50s. „	40s. „	40s. „
Fifth „ ...	55s. „	45s. „	40s. „
Sixth „ ...	55s. „	50s. „	42s. 6d. „
Seventh „ ...	60s. „	50s. „	47s. 6d. „
Eighth „ ...	65s. „	55s. „	47s. 6d. „
Ninth „ ...	70s. „	55s. „	47s. 6d. „
Tenth „ ...	70s. „	60s. „	50s. „
After 10 years ...	80s. „	70s. „	60s. „

Carcass butchers to the Board, and shall be collected weekly: For each ox slain and found כשר . 4/3  
 „ calf „ „ „ . 1/6  
 „ sheep „ „ „ . 6d.

No fees shall be charged for affixing seals to the various parts and pieces. The following charges shall be paid for the killing of poultry:—

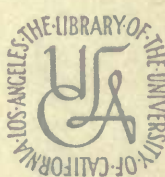
By the public - 2½d. for every turkey or goose.  
 „ - 1½d. for every other bird.  
 By the trade - 2d. for every turkey or goose.  
 „ - 1d. for every other bird.

Should any Butcher or Poulterer be more than one week in arrear in payment of his charges, no שחיטה shall be performed for him till such arrears of charges be paid.

In addition to the above, Carcass Butchers at Deptford who have שחיטה performed for them, shall pay 5s. per week to the Board.

שוחטים ושומרים officiating at Deptford shall be allowed 10s. per week extra from the Board in lieu of travelling expenses, and Assistants 1s. per day each for the same.





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