

Contents

Preface VII
Acknowledgments IX
List of Illustrations X

Introduction 1

PART 1

Books and Censorship in Theory: Disciplining a New-Born Community

1 The 1664 Censorship Article: Background and Sources 21
2 Other Imposed and Self-Imposed Censorships: The Quakers 41
3 The Evolution of the Censorship Article of the Ascarnot 47

PART 2

Variations on Censorship: The Language-Control Policy of the Congregation

Introduction 59
4 Ritual 69
5 Administration 86
6 Print and Publications 92
7 “King and Country” 97

PART 3

Books and Censorship in Practice: The “Kosher Imprimatur” in London’s Sha’ar Hashamayim Congregation

Introduction 107

8 1664–1677: Privately Owned, Imported Prayer Books 119

9 1677–1693: The Beginning of the Congregation’s Library 126

10 1677–1693: Potential Dangerous Readings: Pamphlets and
Conversionist Trends 135

11 1693–1733: The Era of David Nieto 153

1 Introduction 153

2 Isaac Abendana and David Nieto’s Calendrical Works 154

3 Nieto’s Liturgical and Ethical Works 158

4 Nieto’s Political Works 166

5 Nieto’s Theological Writings 184

6 David Nieto’s Leadership Evaluated through His Publications 191

7 After Nieto’s Death 192

12 1733–1781: Censorship at its Peak—Moseh Nieto’s Prayer Book 202

13 1781–1810: An “Expected Good End”? English Displaces Spanish 22

Summary: Language as a Censorial Criterion 237

Conclusion: The Sephardic Congregation of London as a Linguistic
Community 239

Bibliography

Archival Material 249

Printed Primary Sources 249

Research Literature 257

Index 269