

# The Jews of Kaifeng, China: History, Culture, and Religion. 9780881257915. KTAV Publishing House, Inc., 2003. 197 pages. Xin Xu, Rivka Gonen. 2003

[SUMMARY]: This extremely rare account of the dramatic history of an ancient Jewish community in China is in good condition. Price. \$60.00. View more books, in related categories: Asian and Far Eastern History & Literature Diaspora Jews Jewish History Middle Ages - Judaica Signed Books. Homepage About us Advanced Search Contact Us Help! 6 Shatz St. (26 King George st. corner) Jerusalem Near the Artists' House and Betza'el Academy. E-mail: info@bookgallery.co.il. TEL: +972-2-6231087 (02-6231087). Some claim that the Jews of Kaifeng are descendents of the Ten Lost Tribes. Others theorize that they came to China in the second century following the downfall of the Jews in the Bar Kokhva revolt (132-135CE). Most of the researchers, as well as the Kaifeng descendents themselves, tend to suggest that the original Jews in China were merchants from Persia that came by way of the Silk Route (in today's southern Turkey) to the city of Xian in central China. Historical references and archaeological findings have proven that the Persian Jews first arrive in China in the eighth century; and since t Most Jewish-themed tours of China skip Kaifeng, focusing instead on the immigration of persecuted European Jewry, in cities like Shanghai, Harbin, Tianjin and Beijing. Thanks to American, Israeli and European support of places significant to their own past, Harbin and Shanghai, for example, enjoy a regular flow of tourists to museums and sites of synagogues, restored though no longer used for prayer. Xu Xin's authoritative book "The Jews of Kaifeng, China: History, Culture, and Religion" (Ktav, 2003) is worth reading. To explore Jewish Kaifeng, you will need a guide. Shi Lei (jewishchinatours.com) is licensed, charming and experienced. Guo Yan (yisrael-kaifeng@hotmail.com; 86-387-115-2704) has built a mini-museum of her own and is happy to take you to a Sabbath gathering. China's Jewish communities have been ethnically diverse ranging from the Jews of Kaifeng and other places during the history of Imperial China, who, it is reported, came to be more or less totally assimilated into Chinese culture, to 19th and 20th century Baghdadis, to Indians, to Ashkenazi Jews from Europe. The presence of a community of Jewish immigrants in China is consistent with the history of the Jewish people during the first and second millennia CE, which saw them disperse and settle throughout the Eurasian landmass, with an especial concentration throughout central Asia.[2] By the nin