

March 7, 2018

To whom it may concern:

Rabbi Yehonatan Elazar-De Mota, MA has specialized as an ethnologist in the study of populations with a Jewish background in the Caribbean. Currently he is active in a number of areas with respect to the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish diaspora. I supervised Rabbi DeMota during his graduate work at Florida International University. I witnessed how he developed expertise in utilizing various tools, including historical records, genetics, genealogies, oral traditions, and Jewish law to determine the Jewish origins of a particular community. Throughout his work he demonstrated appropriate academic rigor. Rabbi DeMota has the unusual distinction of being able to employ science, history and Halacha (Jewish Law) to assist him in arriving at his findings. He has a very considerable knowledge of many aspects of contemporary Sephardi Jewry.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tudor Parfitt M.A. (Oxon) D.Phil., FRSA, FRGS, FRHistS
Distinguished Professor in the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs; Academic Director at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU; Director Global Jewish Studies Program; President Navon Professor of Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies, Florida International University; Senior Fellow, Academie Royale des Sciences d'Outre Mer/Koninklijke Academie voor Overzeese Wetenschappen, Belgium; Alumni Fellow Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University; Senior Associate Fellow Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University; Emeritus Professor of Modern Jewish Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.