

## **International Colloquium Gracia Mendes Nasi**

The Portuguese Gracia Nasi, a Spanish descent, is an unavoidable figure in the Iberian and European History of the resistance to the persecutions of the Inquisition, as well as a symbol of the sufferings and endurance of the marranos. As a woman and by the power of her generosity, intelligence and courage, she knew how to make History like few others in the sixteenth century.

The singularity of her personality and the extraordinary scope of her action are the basis of this international meeting, which will be held on the 29th of October, at Centro Cultural de Belém, in Lisbon.

In an interdisciplinary approach to which scientists from different fields will contribute, the conference will give continuity to the interest aroused by Gracia Nasi, especially in the last decades, aiming to fill some of the scarcity of analysis about her.

Among other approaches, the conference will focus on:

- the complexity of her living between the leadership of one of the largest commercial and financial empires in the sixteenth-century Europe and the continuous threat to her physical integrity and that of her family;
- the contribution of her symbolic dimension to vivify the matriarchal Jewish tradition;
- her unshakable passion in favour of human life and dignity, which made her a precursor in the defense of Human Rights and a symbol of the assertion of women in the public space;
- her relevance as an example to be followed, evident in her cosmopolitanism, diplomatic boldness, firmness of convictions and solidarity, by contrast with the selfish globalization and growing indifference, the hatred, prejudices and exclusionary walls of our time.