

# Jews Hide Book on Jewish Ritual Murder for 92-Years

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## Paper on 'Jewish Sacrifices' for Sale

By Victoria Combe, Religion Correspondent

A MANUSCRIPT by the Victorian explorer Sir Richard Francis Burton (pictured), which claims that Jews performed human sacrifices, has been released after nearly 100 years.



The paper, written in 1877, is to be sold by the Board of Deputies for British Jews through Christie's auctioneers on June 6 and is expected to fetch around £200,000.

The manuscript, "Human Sacrifice among the Sephardine or Eastern Jews," was never published. The author's widow, Lady Isabel Burton, asked in her will for it to be burned.

This week's Jewish Chronicle discloses that the Board of Deputies obtained the manuscript in 1909 and locked it away for fear it would spark anti-Semitism. Neville Nagler, the board's director general, said it had agreed that the manuscript was now no more than an "historical

document".

Sir Richard wrote the manuscript after a spell as consul in Damascus. His claims centered on the disappearance in 1840 of a Capuchin friar and the arrest of 13 Jews accused of ritual murder. They were all acquitted.