

About the author

Miles Saltiel lives in London, England. He retired as an investment bank director in 2002 and now serves as a Senior Fellow of the Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think-tank.

In 1970 he celebrated his graduation from Oxford University with a road-trip across the US. This took him to a diner in Walsenberg, Colorado, where he first read of the Cotopaxi colony while leafing through the Labor Day supplement of the *Pueblo Chieftain*.

Since 1992 Miles has played a leading part in reuniting the Saltiels, an ancient Sephardic clan, now dispersed throughout the world. He served three terms as Secretary of the family's International Association, led a family delegation to Brazil to restore contact with long-lost cousins, and advised the Spanish authorities on constitutional amendments to offer nationality to the descendants of expelled *Sephardim*.

In 1996, the Saltiels were chosen as an emblem of the Jewish Diaspora in a film marking the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of the State of Israel. The film brought Miles back to Colorado, after which he realised that the generally accepted account of the colony didn't hold water. In 2005, he collaborated with Professor Jeanne Abrams of the University of Denver in an article for the *Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Notes*. This debunked the notion that Emanuel Saltiel orchestrated the failure of the Cotopaxi colony to promote a pool of sweated labour for his mine.

In early 2015, Miles launched a new round of research on the colony. This turned up the documents underpinning "the Cotopaxi Papers", assembled on this website and printed in a limited edition of fifteen for universities, libraries and other interested parties in California, Colorado, Florida, New York and Jerusalem.

Miles has reached out to descendants of the colonists. His ambition is to reconcile them with the Saltiel family on the basis of shared understanding.