**Jacques Sardas**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Jacques Sardas is the author of *Without Return: Memoirs of an Egyptian Jew 1930–1957* (Thebes Press, 2017), an inspiring story about his life as a Sephardic Jew in Egypt during the last years in which Jews, Muslims, and Christians lived peacefully side by side and the determination that drove his immigration to the United States and his rise to a successful business career.

Jacques was born in 1930 in Alexandria, Egypt, the youngest of four children in a Sephardic Jewish family. Money was scarce: Jacques’s father sold fabrics from door to door, and business was unsteady. When Jacques was ten years old, the family moved to Cairo, where he attended l’École Cattaui and l’École Sybile. Afterward he held a variety of jobs, including accounting clerk at a department store, Maison Gattegno. An avid sportsman, Jacques played on the Maccabi team that won the Egyptian national basketball championship in 1956.

In 1956, Jacques married Esther Pesso, whose family had roots in Lithuania and whose maternal grandparents, aunts, and uncles had all been killed in the Holocaust. Following the wave of anti-Semitism that swept Egypt in the wake of the Suez Crisis, most of Jacques’s family opted to immigrate to Israel. But before their first anniversary, he and Esther, who was pregnant with their first child, boarded a ship bound for São Paulo, Brazil. Three days after their arrival—with no knowledge of Portuguese or English and housed in a barely habitable refugee camp—Jacques landed a job at a bank, and three months later, he was hired at Goodyear, where he would remain for the next thirty-three years. In São Paulo, he rose from file clerk to sales manager; he was then transferred to Paris, where he rose from sales director to president of Goodyear France; after his transfer to Akron, Ohio, he eventually became second in command of the entire corporation. During his tenure there he initiated and spearheaded the development of the Aquatred tire.

After leaving Goodyear in 1991, Jacques became CEO of Sudbury, Inc., a Cleveland-based holding company that had just filed for chapter 11 protection. In 1997, following a successful turnaround at Sudbury, he became the CEO and Chairman of Dal-Tile, a Dallas-based manufacturer of ceramic tile. Subsequently he joined AEA Investors, from which he retired in 2008. He lives in Dallas and enjoys spending time with Esther and their four daughters and eight grandchildren.

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