



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner gathering

Our next talk and dinner will be on Thursday 28th April 2016, at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF, starting at 6 pm.

The theme for the evening will be Aleppo, a city currently losing its fabric, people and its heritage in the ongoing civil war.

Philip Mansel, '**Aleppo: World City to War Zone**'.

Dr. Philip Mansel describes Aleppo's rise under the Ottoman Empire, and its survival as a Levantine city under the French Mandate and the Syrian Republic, until the present catastrophe. Philip Mansel's latest book is *Aleppo: Rise and Fall of a World City* (IB Tauris), the first history of the city in English. Published in 2016, it marks the five hundredth anniversary of the conquest of Syria by the Ottoman Empire. It is his third book on cosmopolitan cities of the Middle East, after *Constantinople: City of the World's Desire* (1995); and *Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean* (2010) on Smyrna, Alexandria and Beirut. Philip Mansel has written twelve books on the history of France or the Middle East. For more information, see [www.philipmansel.com/](http://www.philipmansel.com/)

Dr Simon Mills will speak on **Trade, Religion, and Scholarship between England and Aleppo, 1620-1760**, focussing on the intellectual interactions which took place in this international city.

Dr Simon Mills is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the University of Kent. He has held fellowships at the Council for British Research in the Levant, Freie Universität Berlin, and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge. He is currently finishing a monograph exploring the links between overseas trade and early modern science and scholarship, showing how English commercial and diplomatic expansion in Ottoman Syria fostered new directions in oriental, antiquarian, and natural-historical studies. Other articles and projects include work on the history of biblical scholarship, "sacred geography" in the eighteenth century, and the knowledge of Arabic in the foreign merchant communities.



View of the imposing gate of the Aleppo citadel, late 19th century

The talks themselves are free but you are invited to the optional dinner – Eventbrite link for bookings: <https://lhf-22nd-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please note the venue has a strict dress policy for gentlemen, jacket and tie please.

[www.levantineheritage.com](http://www.levantineheritage.com)

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