



22nd Levantine Heritage Foundation Zoom lecture gathering with guest speaker Michael Refalo
11 October 2022, 6pm (UK time)

At home: Maltese British subjects in Egypt 1860s-1923

The Maltese migrating, and eventually residing in Egypt, were not as numerous as the Greeks and the Italians. Nevertheless, as many as 10,000 were found there in 1882. Most were second and third generation Maltese, distant enough from their island of origin to consider Egypt their home. Furthermore, as British subjects, they enjoyed the benefits (after 1882) of Britain's 'veiled protectorate' over Egypt. Even earlier, the system of Capitulations ensured that Europeans (and others) resident in the Ottoman Empire enjoyed privileges not available to the local population. In general, the Maltese like their counterparts, the Italians, the Greeks and others, succeeded in making Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said their home. Home for them was not a segregated part of town. Daily, they brushed shoulders with other Europeans, but also with Egyptians. Home, however, did not necessarily translate into harmony, nor was it crime free. Furthermore, there were those who fell by the wayside or were expelled. In short, home was a heterogeneous locality where rich and poor, criminal and virtuous, local and foreigner married, helped, quarrelled, fought, cheated, and sometimes killed each other.

Booking essential: <https://michael-refalo-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>



Michael Refalo practised law in Malta from 1979 until 2005 when Clio claimed him. He obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Malta with a thesis entitled *The Maltese Commercial Class: Business, Families, Networks 1870-1914*. Since then, Michael has published seven books and a number of papers generally dealing with Maltese 19th- and early 20th-century history. His *The Maltese Nineteenth Century Notary and His Archives*, published in 2014 won the Malta National Book Prize, 2014. Other books include *Waking the Dead. Nineteenth-century obituaries as a mirror of Maltese society 1815 – c. 1910* and *Slavery. Malta at the Crossroads. Transshipment of Slaves in the British Colony during the Nineteenth Century*. His latest book *Among Others. The Maltese in Egypt: Life, Crime and Death (1860s – 1923)* was published in 2021.