



34th Levantine Heritage Foundation gathering in London with guest speaker Prof Eric Dursteler

“The Honour of the European Nation”: Women and Diplomacy in the Early Modern Levant

While diplomacy has often been depicted as primarily a man’s game, in the early modern Levant women often played a critical, non-institutional role as intermediaries and information brokers. Drawing on family and social networks, women used patronage, hospitality, gift-giving, social visits, and correspondence to gain access to unique and valuable sources of information and influence that were inaccessible to men. Using the experiences of the women of the famous de Hochepped family, as well as others, this lecture will show ways in which women’s gender and status served as a passport rather than a barrier to their participation in early modern Levantine diplomacy.



Women of the Ottoman Empire, painted and drawn in Constantinople by Swiss Jean-Étienne Liotard and the second from right by a follower of Jean Baptiste Vanmour.



Eric Dursteler (Brown, 2000) is Professor of History and former department chair at Brigham Young University. His research focuses on the entangled history of the early modern Mediterranean, in particular gender, language, food and identity. His publications include *Venetians in Constantinople: Nation, Identity and Coexistence in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (2006), *Renegade Women: Gender, Identity and Boundaries in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (2011), (ed.) *A Companion to Venetian History, 1400-1797* (2013), (with Monique O’Connell) *The Mediterranean World: From the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Napoleon* (2016), and *In the Sultan’s Realm: Two Venetian Ambassadorial Reports on the Early Modern Ottoman Empire* (2018). He is currently completing a book on food and foodways in the Mediterranean. His work has been supported by, among others, the Fulbright Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the European University Institute, and the Folger Shakespeare and Huntington libraries. He is the editor of *News on the Rialto*.

16 November 2021, 6.30 pm 6.00 pm start (meet in the Britannia Bar), talks start 6.30 pm, ending 8 pm, event end 10 pm

Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF

Booking is essential: <https://34th-lhf-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk>

Optional informal wine and canapes after the lectures in the venue where guests pay via booking, but for numbers please still register even for lecture only, which are free for members. For gentlemen jacket and tie is required in this venue.

Wine and nibbles tickets costs £27 for LHF Members, £30 for non-Members, plus Eventbrite booking fee.

Talks only non-members £5, plus Eventbrite booking fee.

Please support these events by becoming a sponsor. We provide these talks for free as part of our mission to preserve and promote the research and public understanding of Levantine heritage. Sponsoring the talks helps cover the LHF’s costs in arranging these talks in central London. For sponsorship packages, please contact chairman@levantineheritage.com. All sponsors will be recognised at events and on our website.