

GATEWAYS TO THE PAST

HOUSES AND GARDENS
OF
OLD BOVINOVA

By

Loelyn Lyle Kileas

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BİLGEHAN MATBAASI — BORNOVA, 1978

İZMİR

Dedicated with love and gratitude
to Irene, Yvonne, Tina and Ali

Photographs by IRENE WILSON and E. L. KALÇAS

LA CAPTIVE

Smyrne est une princesse
Avec son beau chapel;
L'heureux printemps sans cesse
Repond à son appel
Et, comme un riant groupe
De fleurs dans une coupe
Dans ses mers se découpe
Plus d'un frais archipel.

VICTOR HUGO

— Les Orientales, Paris, 1829

ABOUT THE BOOKLET

I wish to thank the U.S. Consul-General, Mr. J. Moffat, who very kindly placed the U.S. Archives at the Izmir Consulate at my disposal, and also the many residents, and friends who have so readily supplied relevant details.

As several books have been written by Bornova family members about their history, it is not my intention to encroach on this subject. My main desire is to describe some of the remaining historic houses and to give thumb-nail sketches of their owners.

The seed for my own interest in Bornova was sown twenty-five years ago by a chance meeting on a Turkish ship plying between Izmir and Istanbul. I met there two of the Canadian descendants of the Whittall family, Barbara and Noreen Jackson of Montreal, who had been visiting relatives in Bornova.

Having come to live in Izmir seven years ago, I, one spring day, found myself exploring the old streets of Bornova and photographing some of the charming gardens. It was rather frustrating to discover that no information about them was to be had from passers-by. Not until two years later, when Irene Wilson came to live in Bornova and joined me in my fascinating quest, was I able to link up ownership with photographs. By a happy chance we encountered Mrs Phyllis Charnaud, Bornova's oldest resident, and Yvonne Winterhalter, and to both of these we give special thanks for opening to us the gateways of Bornova's past.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The legendary 'Land of the Golden Fleece' is said to have been Asia Minor, the Turkey of today, but no fabled treasures could ever rival those which, through the ages, have been products of this country.

Although Istanbul was the largest city in Turkey and then the capital, with commerce attracting so many ships that the name Golden Horn was given to the waterway below the slopes of the old city, there gradually grew up in the far west on the Aegean coast another great commercial centre - old Smyrna, the Izmir of today.

In the course of time more and more caravans from Persia, laden with luxury goods, which had previously gone to Aleppo, came in to deposit their goods at the port of Izmir. Besides the fabulous silk goods from Persia, Smyrna became the collecting centre for the mohair produced by the curly-fleeced goats roaming the highlands of Asia Minor; for the cotton which was being more extensively cultivated year by year; the silk from the valleys lush with mulberry trees, and turpentine from the famous terebinthus trees.

By 1649 the volume of trade at Smyrna is said to have surpassed that of the Sublime Porte as Istanbul was so often called.

The Western powers gradually came to recognize that Turkey had great possibilities as a trading center, especially the port of Smyrna, which was easy of access. There, trade rapidly expanded, largely due to the good harbour and the fact that the Christian traders enjoyed greater freedom and security than in the interior.

The French were the first of the Western powers to establish political and trade relations with the Turks. These agreements, or 'capitulations' were first obtained from the Sultan-

Suleyman the Magnificent, in 1535. Then, owing to internal wars in France, trade declined. and not until 1623 did it recover for the French Consulate at Smyrna to increase its staff.

Both the Dutch and the English were keen competitors in trade with the Levant, as the region was then called. The English had secured capitulations from the Sultan in 1580, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth who was an enthusiastic supporter of this big commercial enterprise.

In 1581 the Levant Company came into being and had a great effect on the course of English history in the Elizabethan age. England imported raw cotton from Smyrna to be used by Dutch and Flemish weavers who had sought refuge in England from religious persecution in the Netherlands, thus founding the great cotton industry of Lancashire. The wool trade in Yorkshire was built up, wool coming from the Levant, and we read of currants and sultanias being in demand. Coffee-houses were established, for the first one is reported from Oxford in 1650. During the following fifty years coffee-houses came to play an important part in the literary, social, political and even religious life of the nation, just as today in Turkey, the coffee-house plays a somewhat similar role.

What is remarkable is that the first chaplain of the Church of England was appointed to the Levant Company in Smyrna in 1636, soon after the establishment of England's state religion.

Members of the Levant Company were called 'Factors', meaning merchants who bought and sold goods on commission, and they formed an association called a 'Factory' for the protection of their interests.

During this British trade boom at Smyrna, for every ship that went to Constantinople, ten came to Smyrna. Smyrna had definitely become the commercial capital of the Ottoman Empire. In 1816 the city had both a British Consul and a Vice-Consul.

In 1825 all Consuls were taken over by the British Government and the Levant Company surrendered its Charter.

The great Levant Company had been in existence for 224 years, having had an enormous impact on commercial enterprise and a considerable influence on the course of history.

Dutch merchants traded under the French flag until they secured their own capitulations, or agreements, in 1601, and a Dutch consul was appointed in 1651. There followed a boom in Dutch trade which surpassed that of other nations. The Dutch chapel stands today as a solitary reminder of that period when many Swiss, Huguenots, and other continental Protestants joined with them in services. This building may be seen today in a tiny enclosure almost opposite the Children's Hospital, and its garden is full of gravestones and tablets of white marble. On these the names may be seen of numerous Dutch merchants and their families, some being ancestors of present day residents in Izmir and environs.

All Europeans in Turkey were called Franks, probably because the French were the first of the Western powers to establish political and trade relations with the Turks.

In Smyrna a Frank quarter sprang up near the quayside where all mixed freely. Here the Westerners made the best of conditions and eventually built the finest houses in the city. These residences were all in one street called Frank Street, which backed onto the water, and was a thoroughfare so narrow that it could be closed at night.

A small section of Frank Street, with its reddish paving stones still visible, may be seen to the present day, and is shown by the courtesy of the incumbent of the Church of St. Polycarp (built in 1630) beside which it lies. It is now difficult to imagine the sea extending so far inland.

This street was lined with warehouses of Frankish merchants who had their dwellings above them, with gardens at

the rear. Here each Western nation flew its own flag, competing even with the height of the gilded flagstaffs. The only languages then spoken in the Frank quarter were French, English and Dutch. The quarter, because of the cosmopolitan atmosphere, soon became known as 'Petit Paris'. However, for most business purposes, the lingua franca of the Smyrna merchants was mainly Greek, as the Franks apparently did most business with the Jews, Armenians and Greeks, who dominated the business world rather than with their Turkish rulers. Then with the advent of many Italian merchants, especially from Chios, Italian was also used.

Social life was considerable amongst the Franks and cabarets were open day and night. All Franks joined in an annual festival known as Papegai, when they elected a carnival king.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the English merchants had even introduced packs of hounds and could enjoy their favourite pastime of hunting.

Because of the frequent recurrence of summer epidemics, several of the more wealthy Frankish families bought land outside the city, on the outskirts of villages such as Bornova, Buca, Cumaovasi and Hacilar. There they built large homes and started beautiful gardens. These families usually lived in great style, with huge retinues of servants who were like family retainers. Another incentive for the building of homes far out in the country was to escape from the repeated raids of pirates, and many are the tales that are told of brigands who kidnapped local residents, some being Frederick Charnaud, Frank Whittall and Dr. J. McCraith.

Homes in Smyrna itself were retained for the winter social season which was gay with entertainments.

Bornova, or Bournabat, as it was then usually referred to, was often termed the 'French Village', although many English and other foreign families also had summer homes there. Another name was the 'Ville d'eau'.

Buca, or Boudjah, was situated out beyond Mt. Pagus and the old Roman aqueducts that span St. Anne's Valley, while nearby was a hamlet called Paradise, now Şirinyer.

Boudjah was developed mainly by the Dutch, British and Greek merchants, with a few Americans.

Any record of the commercial life of Smyrna would not be complete without mention of the homes and gardens that were the summer retreat for members of the foreign merchant colony.

LET'S MEET THE FAMILIES

A few gateways to the past may still be seen in Bornova today. Passing through them, we have the chance to meet descendants of the old merchant colony. The names of three families in particular come immediately to mind, for they were practically the pioneers in this foreign merchant colony of old Smyrna: the Girauds, the Whittalls and the La Fontaines.

Some details of their arrival should make an appropriate addition to any story of the various properties.

One of the first arrivals to be recorded was that of Jean Baptiste Giraud, who came possibly not later than 1780. Of Royalist leanings, he had left France and had come to Smyrna to become a merchant of eminence, trading as J.B. Giraud et Cie. He occupied a leading position in the French community till his death in 1811. He is buried in St. Polycarp.

The Giraud family came to live in Bornova in the late 1800's. The present William Giraud's father erected the first cotton factory in Turkey.

The La Fontaine family in Smyrna was established by James, who was born in Geneva, but who became a naturalized British subject in 1731 by special act of Parliament. He became a member of the Levant Company and transferred to Smyrna at an unrecorded date, carrying on business as the firm-Hayes, La Fontaine and Co. He married here in 1797. Members of the La Fontaine family are said to hold a remarkable record of service to their country and to the Turkish Government.

Charlton Whittall, who became J.B. Giraud's son-in-law, arrived in 1809, founded the firm of C. Whittall and Co in 1811, and in 1812 was admitted to the Freedom of the Levant Company. This firm flourished for well over a century, and a Whittall firm exists today in Izmir. In 1820 an English passport

issued to Charlton Whittall was worded in Italian. He was the owner of what was known as 'The Big House' in Bornova, and many are the records of distinguished visitors entertained there.

On his death in 1867, Charlton Whittall bequeathed to the English Community of the Village of Bournabat by deed of gift the Church and Churchyard now known as the Anglican Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

Richard, a member of one of the last big Whittall families, brought the first automobile to Turkey in 1905.

There was considerable intermarriage among members of these families in almost every generation. Families were also extremely large in those days. It is thus possible to trace connections between nearly all the older families of Bornova to the present day.

Bornova had, apparently, become popular very early with the foreign merchant colony, as a site for summer residences.

Possibly its accessibility was a point in its favour, for many residents made use of the Bayrakli iskelesi to make the daily journey to Smyrna by sea. Then by 1863, Bornova had a rail link with Smyrna. A Turkish record describes the usual reaction among local Turks in the term "Tren gavur icadidir." - "The train is an invention of the infidel".

South of the town of Bornova, or Bournabat, as old residents still call it, was the old European quarter. Little now remains of the winding lanes paved with cobblestones and bordered by high stone walls relieved only by impressive gates.

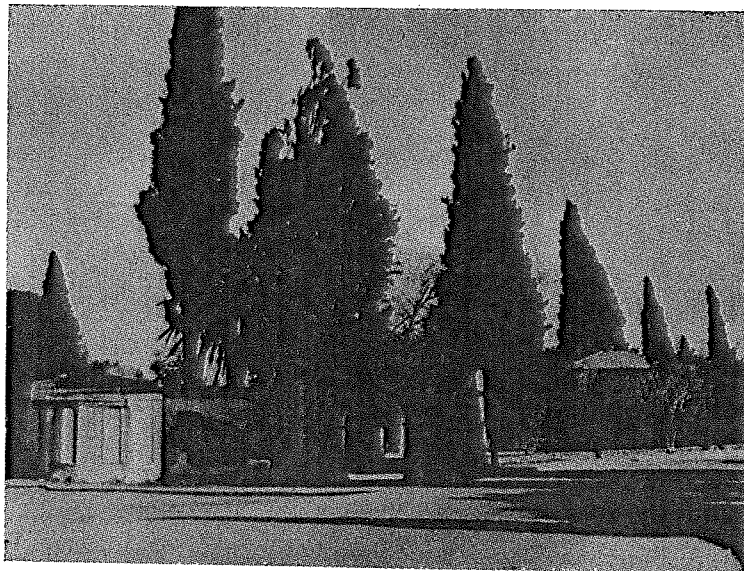
Almost hidden by these walls were gardens full of ornamental trees and shrubs of all kinds, surrounding houses that were built in the early nineteenth century. Within this verdant setting were to be found houses that were originally summer residences for the European merchant families, who spent the winters in their Alsancak homes in the heart of Smyrna.

Although some architectural features varied there was a certain similarity between these houses, for many were built in what could be termed a light Colonial Classical style. A few of the houses show elegant Palladian lines, and others were built in what was called the Orthonian style, as it was termed in Greece about 1830-1860.

General structure was solid and the overall plan was of a typical Mediterranean character. Most possessed porticos that made attractive façades with their slender Tuscan columns topped with capitals of either Corinthian or bracket designs. Opening from the portico there was usually a large, airy reception room at the entrance with bedrooms opening off it. Kitchens were often detached, for servants were numerous. Roofs were gay with red Roman tiles.

One distinctive feature shared by most old houses of Bornova was the black and white pebble mosaic used for paths and patios. Called Rhodian mosaic, as it is common to the islands of the Aegean, the designs which can be classical or floral, are most attractive. Today few of these pathways remain complete, but the finest example is perhaps that leading from the front entrance to the Charnaud House.

LET'S VIEW THE OLD HOUSES

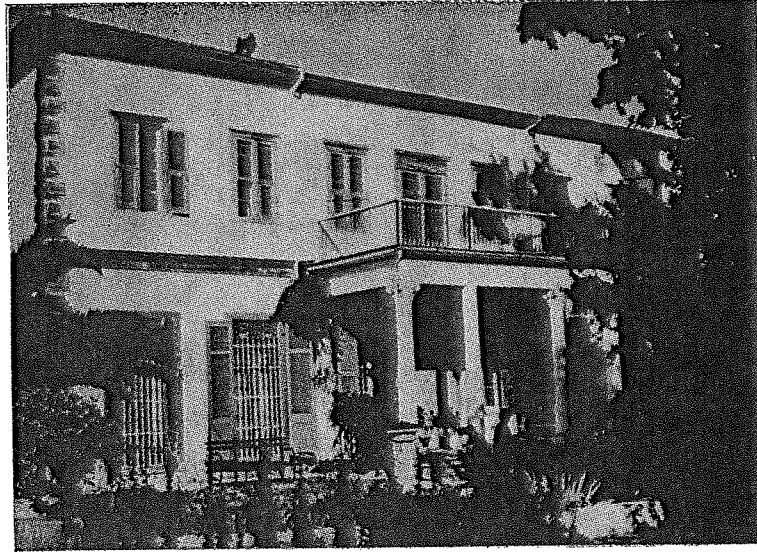


Gatehouse and Gateway

THE STEINBÜCHEL HOUSE

Known for many years as the Wood-Paterson house, the Steinbüchel home has an interesting history. For the passerby along what was recently called Hürriyet Caddesi, the lovely lines of the Steinbüchel entrance gateway are an instant attraction, especially in spring when the pink-toned arch is festooned by the lilac tresses of wistaria blossom.

Originally built by an Englishman, John Maltass, the house was inherited by his daughter Eugenie Wood, wife of Dr.



The Steinbüchel Portico

Charles Wood who had been sent out to Smyrna by the Duke of Richmond to practice at the hospital. One of his eight children Lucy, was the grandmother of Mrs Renée Steinbüchel, the present owner. Lucy lived in this house with her sister Hortense who was a great feminist as well as being a poetess, a composer and a gifted painter. She had taken piano lessons from Franz Liszt.

In addition, Hortense was an admirer of Kemal Atatürk, and had written to congratulate him on his successes. In September, 1922, on his arrival in Smyrna as General in Chief of the Turkish army, Atatürk enquired where Hortense Wood lived.

The Wood house, which has changed but little since those days, was then taken over as Atatürk's Headquarters. Though

all his staff could not be accommodated there, Atatürk occupied the room of a son, Ernest, while Ismet Paşa and others were stationed in neighbouring houses.

The house was the scene of many staff meetings, and Atatürk often played chess with a nephew, Fernand De Cramer. The General vouched for the safety of this house for all heirs in perpetuity.

A precious document at present owned by the Steinbüchel family is a *laissez passer* in French, which was used as a passport prior to the passport era. This *laissez passer*, dated 12 August, 1863, is signed by the then Austrian Ambassador to France, Prince Richard von Metternich Winneburg, son of the great statesman and Chancellor of Austria, Klemens Werzel Lothar, Prince von Metternich.

It was issued to Norbert De Cramer, then a student and an Austrian count, who was a grand-uncle of Renée Steinbüchel.

Several descendants of the De Cramer family are present residents of Bornova. They are the three sisters, Mrs E. Stower, Mrs C.C. Wilkinson and Miss Yola De Cramer; while Mrs Gherda De Cramer, who is Dutch, and her husband Richard, the head of the last branch of the De Cramer family in Turkey, now live in Izmir.



THE CHARNAUD HOUSE

One of the most attractive houses, architecturally, is that still known as the Charnaud House.

The arched gateway, which has been but recently demolished owing to road construction, opens onto a pathway paved with black and white Rhodian pebbles, one of the finest to remain. In one section of this pebble work the date 1831 can be seen. This is taken to be the date of construction, when it was built by a member of the Gypsy family. It was subsequently in 1919, sold to Harold Charnaud.

Unlike most of the other large houses of Bornova, the Charnaud home is of a bungalow type, but has been greatly altered to turn it into a residence suitable and comfortable for winter living. The façade is still a typical Bornova one, with slender Tuscan columns, a feature shared with many another house in the area.

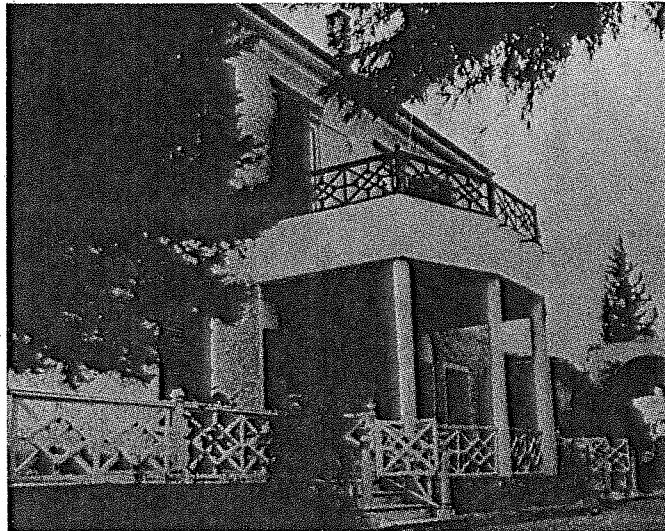


The Rhodian Pebble Pathway

The Charnaud family was of French origin and came from a small town in the east of France. When the Edict of Nantes was repealed by Louis XIV in 1685, the Charnauds, who were a Protestant family, fled with many others from France where they were being deprived of all civil and religious rights. Crossing the frontier they settled in Switzerland at Neuchatel. Later they were able to obtain British citizenship by naturalization. One member of the Charnaud family, with his wife, came to Smyrna and settled as a business man in the late 1700's.

The Charnaud House has once again changed ownership, having been purchased recently from Mrs Phyllis Charnaud, who at over ninety, is the oldest member of the original Bornova community.

It now belongs to an English family named Clarke. Mr. Clarke's grandfather came to Smyrna as postmaster-general, for, at that time, the mid-1800's, each nation ran its own postal services, and had its own jurisdiction, until the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923.

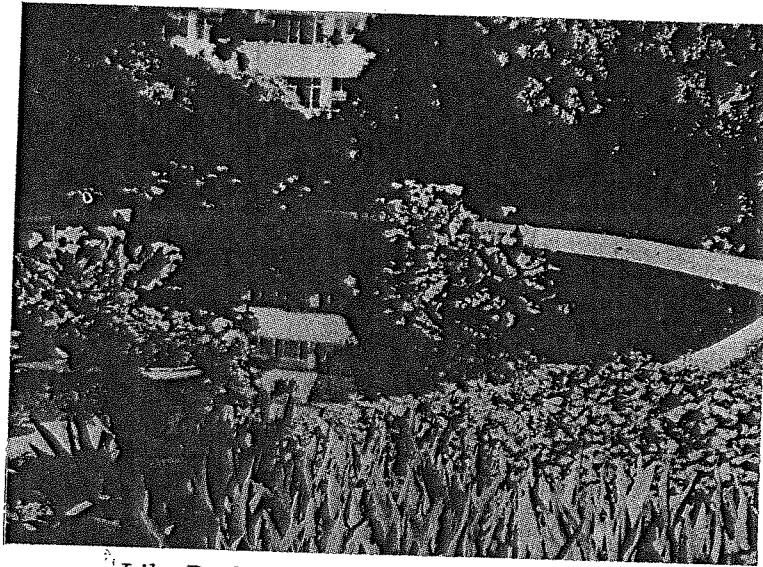


THE GODFREY GIRAUD HOUSE

Godfrey Giraud's garden has been through the years the show place of Bornova, and it has been quoted as such in the French almanac. Even today, despite the disappearance of the large hothouses, the orchard, the vegetable garden and stables owing to expropriation, the garden is still beautiful and outstanding.

The exact date of building seems to be unknown but the original owner is said to have been a Frenchman who came at the time of the French Revolution. There is no record of his name. However, it is known that the Duc de Rovigo, one of Napoleon's generals and chief of police, lived there from 1816 to 1819 after he had escaped to Smyrna from internment in Malta.

The property was next bought by the Corsi family, who also owned the nearby house and garden at No 5. Purchased from them by one called Perkins, we hear that he was respons-

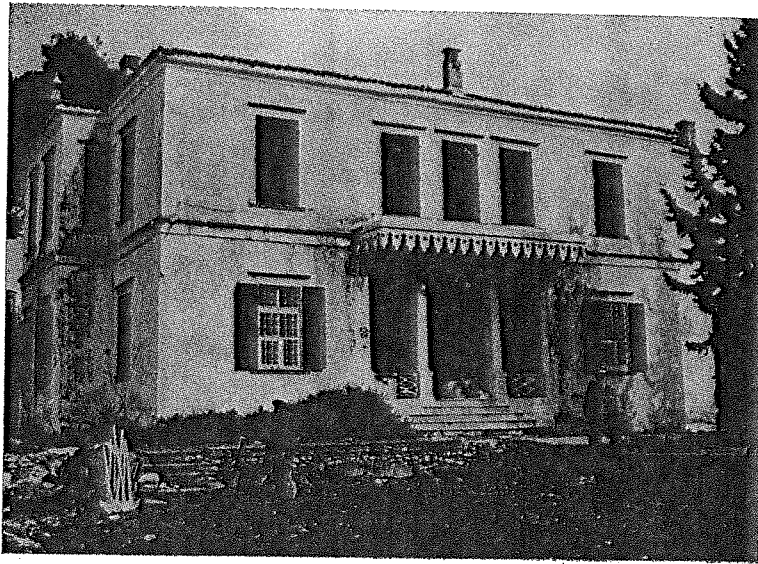


Lily Pool in Godfrey Giraund's Garden

ible for the planting of the superb collection of trees and shrubs. Bari (or Barry) is also mentioned as a one-time owner.

However the property was subsequently bought by Edward Whittall (1851-1917), who was a keen botanist. He continued to beautify the garden by the addition of many rare trees. Over a hundred years ago he grew bananas and pineapples there. After the visit of a well-known botanist from Kew Gardens, Edward Whittall's collection was mentioned in the archives of Kew. Edward Whittall was a collector and cultivator of wild flowers of Asia Minor, and one at least that he discovered, a wild tulip, has been named in his honour. More than one hundred kinds of trees were said to be growing in this magnificent garden. There are two lovely lily-filled pools, one of which used to be covered on occasion by a dance floor. There was much entertainment in this old home and many famous visitors stayed there.

On the death of Edward Whittall in 1917, the property was bought up by one of his heirs, Ruth Giraud (née Whittall), the mother of the present owner, Godfrey Giraud.



THE LANE HOUSE

This old home was demolished in 1973 and a Turkish elementary school was built on the site.

It was first called the Psyachi House as Mr Lane's mother was a Psyachi. Mrs Psyachi had inherited the house, but her son lived there for some time. Mrs Lane's mother was a member of the famous Greek Ralli family.

At one time the Turkish Sultan was expected to pay a visit to the Psyachi House which was especially redecorated for the occasion. Even the mattress for the bed was covered with a rare silk brocade. A golden replica of the house key was made for presentation to the Sultan by Mrs Psyachi, who was veiled for the occasion.

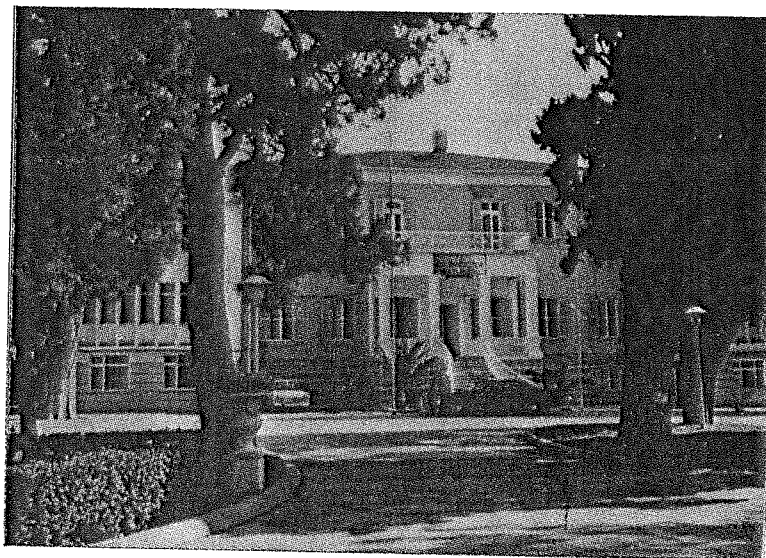
Marie, a Psyachi daughter, inherited the house and married Rufus Lane, an American in the U.S. Consular Service in 1898. A lovely portrait of Mrs Lane may be seen today in Richmond, Virginia, where her grandson John Lane lives in retirement. All Lane descendants now live in U.S.A.



THE EDMUND GIRAUD HOUSE

The demolition of this attractive corner property took place in 1974, and in 1976 blocks of two high-rise apartments were built on the site.

The house had an attractive façade with an Italiane balustrade entrance. Many old and lovely trees were to be seen in the large garden, but little seems to be known about their planting.



"THE BIG HOUSE"

THE CHARLTON WHITTALL HOME

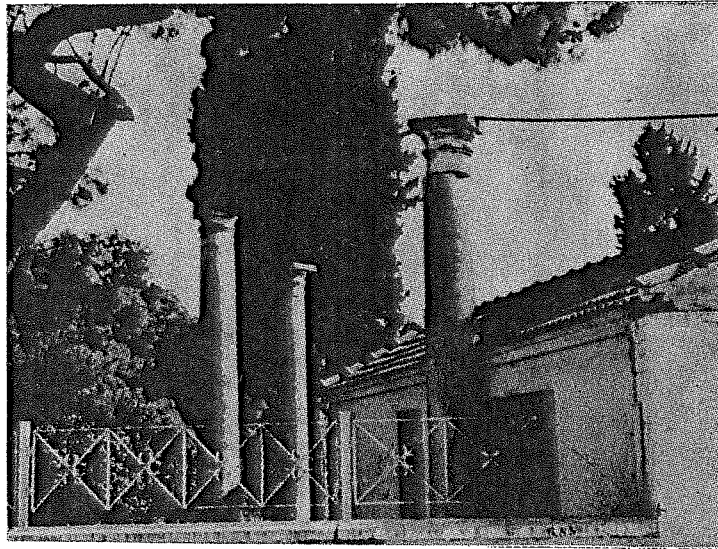
Originally built and used as a convent for Dutch nuns, this well-preserved building is at least two hundred years old.

At the time when it was a convent a double row of cypress trees was planted in the form of a cross, with the house as a focal point. Some of these trees still remain, indicating the position of the cross, and extending as far as the nearby church and the Wilkinson garden.

Now known as the Rektörlük, the building is owned by the Ege University and used as the official headquarters of the Rektör, or Chancellor of the University.

Following on the convent days the mansion was locally called 'The Big House' and was the home of Charlton Whittall, the founder of the renowned Whittall firm, C. Whittall and Co.

The house and lovely grounds were the scene of much entertainment, for Charlton Whittall received many a famous visitor to Bornova, including Turkish royalty. The Whittall family, as were so many at that period, was extremely large. Their descendants lived at the Big House until it was sold to a Giraud. The property was next bought by the Turkish Government.



THE WELL HOUSE

Beside a building once part of the Charlton Whittall estate and later used as the English Club, several stone columns may be seen still standing. These belong to what was called the Well house, where at one time a horse paced round to rotate the bucket wheel that drew water up from the well.

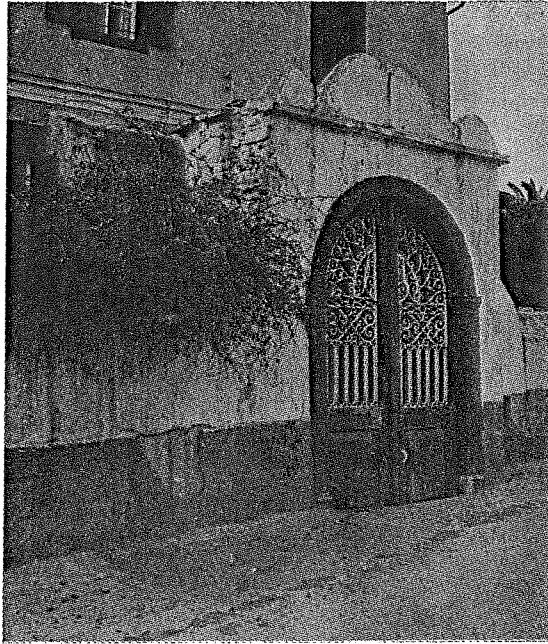
The English Club was very popular with the Bornova English community. The building is now owned by the Ege University and occupied by its library. At the entrance, remains of what was a fine pebble mosaic paving may still be seen.



THE VICTOR WHITTALL HOUSE

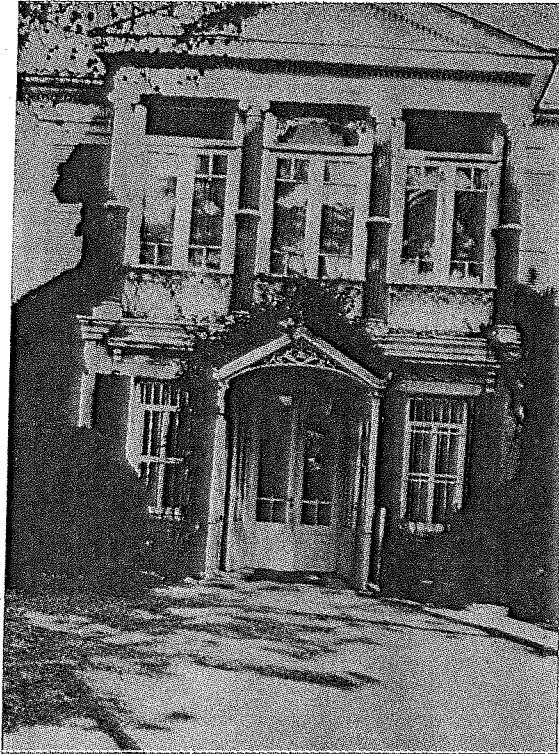
The Victor Whittall home was built just after the Crimean War, 1854-56. It was owned successively by Douglas Paterson, Edwin Charnaud, De Zandonati, James Gout and finally bought in 1949 by Victor Whittall. It is now occupied by his widow - Mary Whittall.

Most of the children of Edwin Charnaud were born there, and Mrs Phyllis Charnaud, now over ninety, lived there at the age of nine.



Gateway of the Victor Whittall House

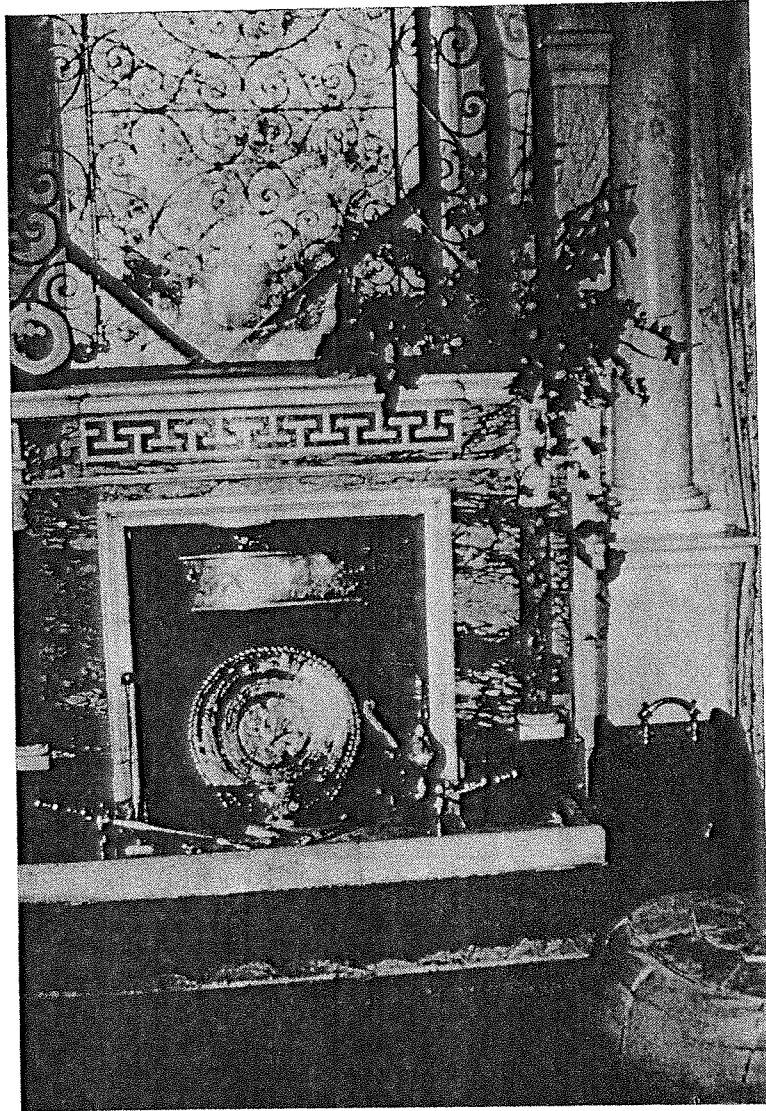
The original attractive gateway was demolished in 1973 for street widening, but the charming garden still remains.



THE ALIBERTI HOUSE

The Aliberti House was built in colonial style by the Wolf Brothers, who were wealthy English merchants. Dated from just after the Crimean War, 1856, the property had a large garden with a tennis court, and an orchard. It was known for some time as the Sidney La Fontaine home, but the family sold it to the de Zandonati family who owned it until about 1940.

At present the property is owned by another well-known Bornova family, that of Count Enrico Aliberti. Mrs. Daphne Aliberti is English by birth and a grand-daughter of Mr. Edward Whittall. She has restored the garden to its former beauty, for it was sacked during the war of 1922. The garden has a fine collection of trees and lovely oleanders of various colours that have been imported from Italy.



The Scenic Window

A unique feature in this house is the scenic window set in the wall above the fireplace. With an attractive ironwork grill and flanked by two well-proportioned columns, this window looks out onto a garden scene of special beauty.



The William Giraud House

THE GIRAUD HOUSES

The two houses on Fevzi Çakmak Sokak, that almost face onto the central square of Bornova, were built about 1860 by one Marcopoli, a Greek. In its early days before the coming of the foreign colony, Bournabat was essentially a Greek village.

These houses stand almost side by side, with a large and beautiful garden stretching behind them. Over twenty years ago the sea was said to be visible from this garden.

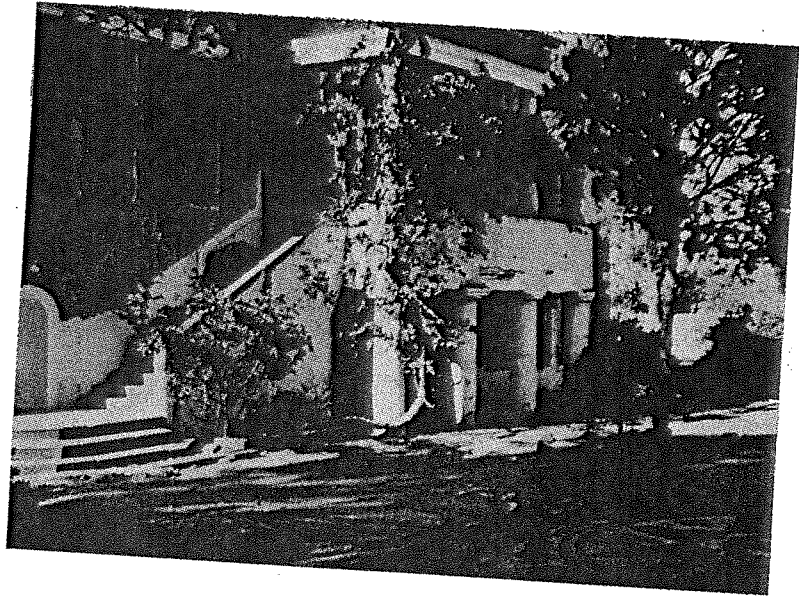
The houses are now occupied by members of the Giraud family, that on the right retaining its original form. The other, where William Giraud and his wife Gwen, who is a descendant of the Patterson family, live, was rebuilt by Harold Giraud about seventy years ago. The attractive portico was then added and the house still retains much of its spacious beauty.



A Giraud House - built in 1860

One of the most valued items in the Giraud home is a painting of Jean Baptiste Giraud, the original founder of the Giraud family and firm in Smyrna in the seventeen hundreds. Another painting is that of Jean Baptiste's father-in-law, Lui Cortazzi, who held the position of last Consul of the Republic of Venice in Smyrna.

W. Giraud's father erected the first cotton textile factory in Turkey.



THE BALTACI HOUSE

The present Reşit Yelpar home is a fine old building in excellent condition. It has been standing for more than 200 years, but there seems to be no record of the original builder or owner.

The family of Reşit Yelpar has occupied it for almost fifty years, ever since they arrived from Crete.

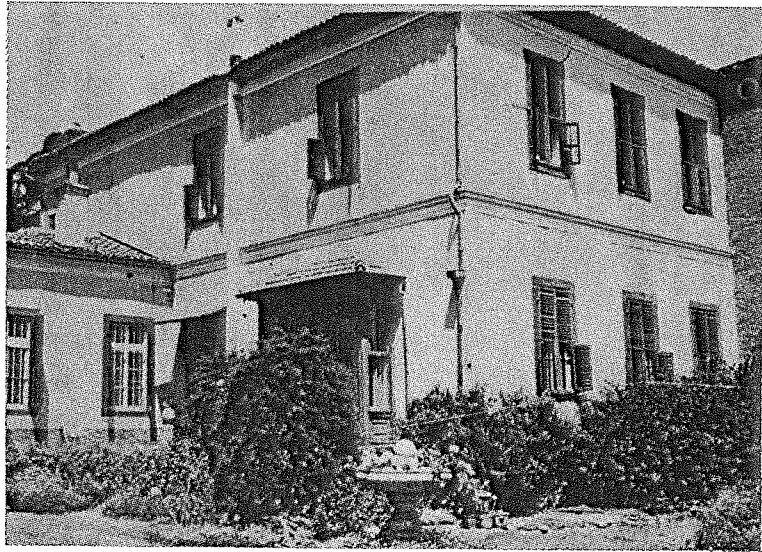
Reşit Yelpar's father was professor of Asiatic languages at the University of Leningrad and also at Baghdad.

Mosaic paving, of the familiar Rhodian pebble type, is conspicuous as it stretches from the front gate to the marble columns supporting the portico. This also provides a border for the entire rear of the house.

Known previously as the Baltaci House, this is connected with one of the most mysterious episodes to occur in Europe in the 1880's.

The Baltaci, or Baltazzi family was originally Venetian.

Like many others they came from Chios to settle in Smyrna where one member at least became the Italian consul. In addition to the Bornova property, the Baltaci family had a country home in Ali Ağa, where the old primary school stood. At both places the Consul received as a guest a young relative, the Baroness Maria Vetsera of Vienna, whose mother was a Baltaci. Though she spent some months here it did not deflect her from the course she was pursuing, for Maria, shortly after her return to Vienna, featured as one of the chief participants in the notorious Mayerling Tragedy in January 1889.



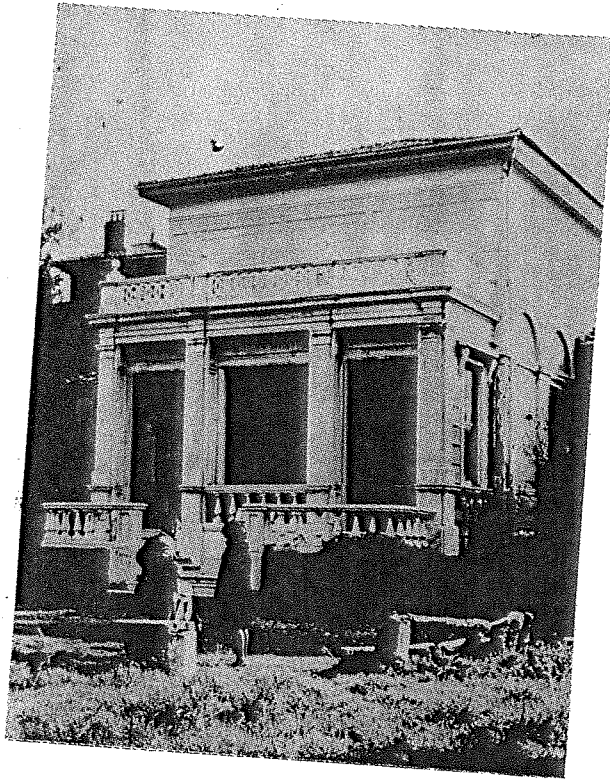
THE WILKINSON HOUSE

The Wilkinson house was built by Herbert Whittall, son of Charlton, on part of his large property for his daughter Jane, who married a Wilkinson. It still remains in the same family, for it is now occupied by Mrs C.C. Wilkinson, widow of Mr. E. Wilkinson, and her sisters, Mrs. E. Stower and Miss Y. de Cramer. The site was formerly used for the stables of Herbert Whittall's property.

Mr. E. Wilkinson, a descendant of the Whittalls, was the last British Consul to hold office in Izmir. He died in 1972. He was a descendant of Richard Wilkinson, who had been secretary in Paris to the Duc de Rovigo, Napoleon's chief of police at the fall of the Empire. Owing to the difficulties attending his posi-

tion after the fall, the English minister, Lord Canning, posted Richard Wilkinson as British Consul to the Cyclades. He resided at Syros.

Richard's wife was French, a daughter of the French Consul at Chios who was one of the well-known Clary family, silk merchants of Marseilles. She was thus closely related to the Clary sisters, Desirée - Queen of Sweden, and Julie - Queen of Spain.



THE PATERSON HOUSE

The original owner, John Paterson, was a corn merchant from Leith, Scotland. He established himself in Smyrna and was connected with a number of business enterprises by 1859, that of mining being particularly remunerative. John Paterson is said to have been the first to discover chrome in Turkey, in the Fethiye district.

The Paterson house was really a showpiece with thirty-eight rooms built on a property of about 133 acres, half of which

was used for racehorse stud purposes. John Paterson had a mania for alteration and the façade of the house as shown in the photograph, was altered no less than seven times.

Most of the once attractive wooded garden with the surrounding parkland is being transformed for sub-division into building blocks. At the time of writing, remains could still be seen of two greenhouses, the larger one being backed by what appeared like a battlemented wall near the former piggery.

One unusual feature of the garden that still remained was the Gazebo, a typical retreat in gardens of the last century. In appearance it is merely a pile of stones built into a somewhat pyramidal shape. This was ascended by means of an iron ladder and was surmounted by seats sufficient for several persons. At a height of about fifteen feet and being surrounded by shady trees, it was a cool summer retreat.

In the 38 rooms there were many special features, the materials of most having been imported from England. The two huge crystal chandeliers worth 75,000 Turkish liras apiece at the time of demolition, have been presented to the local mosque. The iron stair balustrade worth 500,000 liras, had also come from England, and the stairwell itself was lit by coloured lead-light windows set with odd pieces of antique English 'bottle-glass'. The glass in the large double doors was fully one inch thick.

To the right of the stairs was a large ballroom decorated with lovely pastel-toned corniches typical of that period, but it was the dining-room that really caught the eye. Here the walls were covered by a wallpaper of a gleaming gold-embossed design.

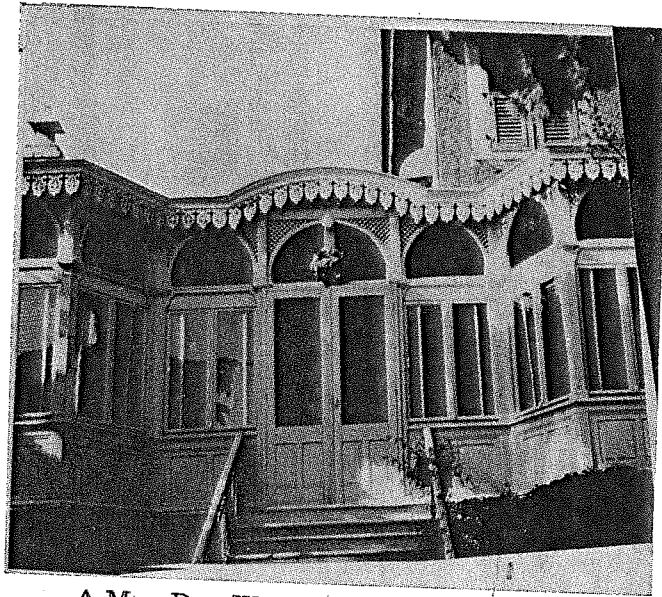
One living room had a unique fireplace of iron, set with six or eight adjustable doors. Bedrooms were equipped with marble wash-basins, each set in a corner on a base of moulded iron, and had a lovely tile surround of water-lily design. The

kitchen was really enormous, one entire wall being taken up by a huge range bordered by Dutch tiles, having a central control and a built-in grill.

Though the house has not been lived in by members of the Paterson family since 1963, as four of the last members now reside in England, grand pianos -four of them one a Steinway and one a Broadwood- remained in the mansion until 1972.

The last occupants of the house were members of a Nato force whose office it was for about five years, and who installed a central heating system in their quarters.

In 1973 this mansion of 38 rooms was in the course of partial demolition and conversion into a carpet factory owned by the Süsler firm. At the time of the writer's visit, heavy machines were being installed in second floor rooms and the striking thing was that the original flooring of eighteen-inch wide boards was apparently still strong enough to carry the great weight of these machines.



A May Day Wreath over Entrance Door

THE DE ANDRIA HOUSE

About 1830 the Gypsy family of Bornova built a house in 80 Sokak. Its distinctive feature is the lacy border around the eaves.

Much later the house was sold to Richard Mattheys, director of the Credit Lyonnais Bank, who sold it to Charles Ballardur about 1928. Denise De Andria inherited it from her father and resided there with her husband Remo De Andria, until her death in 1973.

The De Andria family, who are connected with the carpet trade, came from Karsiyaka to settle in Bornova.

The attraction in the garden is the special garden furniture of white iron in a fernleaf design. Called Colebrookdale, this was made in the Midlands, England, possibly in the last century.

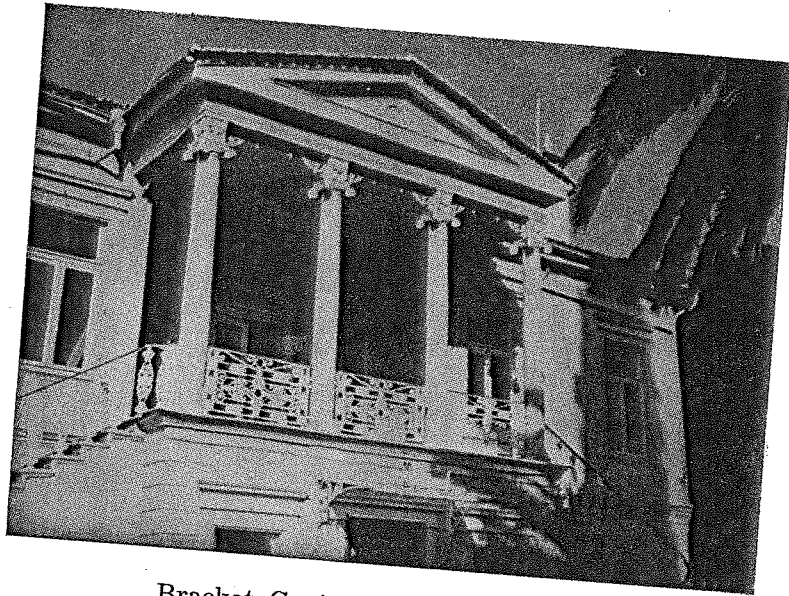


THE BELHOMME HOUSE

What is now in use as Bornova's court-house was previously called the Belhomme or Xenopoulou house. It was built in 1880 by an English architect named Clark, who also constructed the Aliberti house.

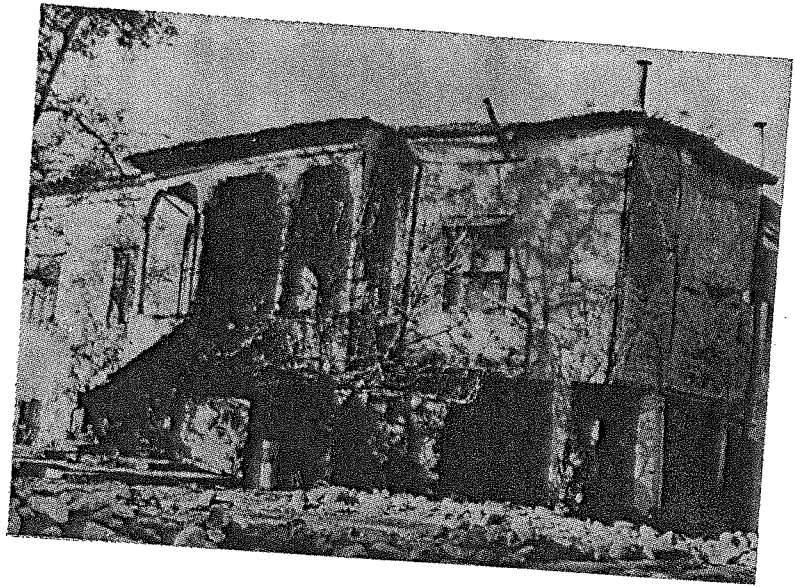
The first owner appears to be one Xenopoulou, from whom it was bought by the grandfather of the last owner, Mme. Héléne Armand, who recently retired from work with the UNESCO in Paris. Her mother was one of the Belhomme family.

The house has an attractive façade, showing columns topped with fine bracket capitals.



Bracket Capitals top the Columns

There is a connection between the Belhomme and the Wilkinson families. In 1869 Joseph Belhomme married Alice Helen, one of the daughters of Dr. James McCraith and Héléne Wilkinson. Dr. McCraith was a well-known figure in Smyrna for many years until his death in 1901. Dr. McCraith, when an officer on H.M.S. 'Magpie', called in at the island of Syros, where he became acquainted with Richard Wilkinson, British Consul to the Cyclades. When Dr. McCraith retired from his naval duties, he married Héléne Wilkinson and the young couple left for Smyrna, where he prospered.

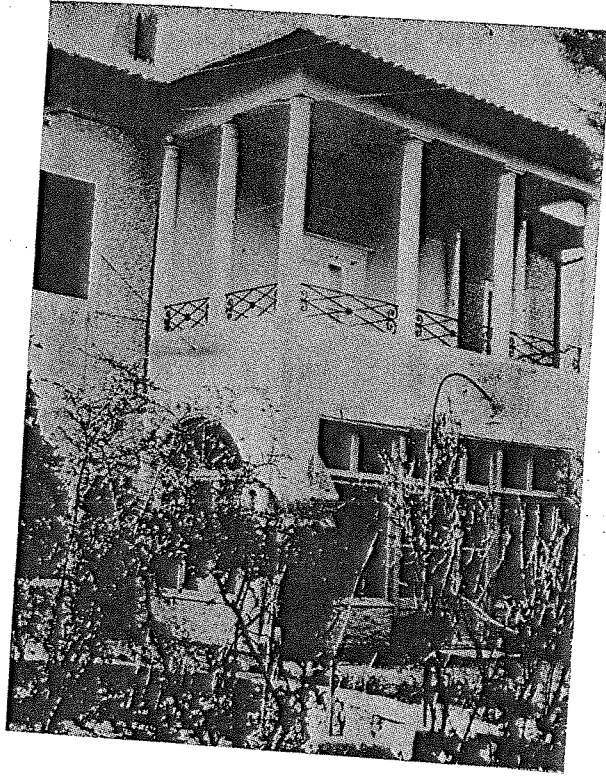


THE RAGGIO HOUSE

The name Reggio, or Raggio, is of an old Italian family, nobility who came from Genoa in 1360, and were established first in Chios, then in the 1800's in Smyrna, for business reasons.

The building once owned by the Reggio family was clearly seen from the Bornova bus terminal, but it is at present demolished. The fine old gateway remains intact and shows signs of having been built with bricks of Byzantine or Roman type.

In former times this house is said to have been called the Atodi House, but there is some doubt about this, although a d'Atodi is reported to have married a Reggio.



THE RAYMOND PAGY HOUSE

One of the oldest French families existing today in Bornova is the Pagy family. The first to come out to Smyrna was the Sieur Gabriel Pagy. He came from Marseilles in the early 1700's being empowered by the Chamber of Commerce of that city to survey the trade to and from France. He was chosen for his integrity and sent out with full credentials which are cherished by the family. One condition of the contract was that he was not permitted to marry in Smyrna.

The firm Gabriel Pagy established is still operating today and is one of the leading private firms for the handling of cotton.

The Pagy house had an open staircase at the entrance that is now enclosed. Right up to this was a drive of pebble mosaic. It was formerly a Whittall house.

The interior is spacious, with ceilings of the attractive 'kundafari' woodwork that is so often seen in mansions of the district. Formerly the arched gateway was flanked by two exterior seats in the old style, as can be seen today at the entrance of the Steinbüchel property. It was the custom of residents to sit on these in the cool of the evening and exchange news with passing friends, a custom probably developed because of the high walls surrounding each property preventing any casual contact.



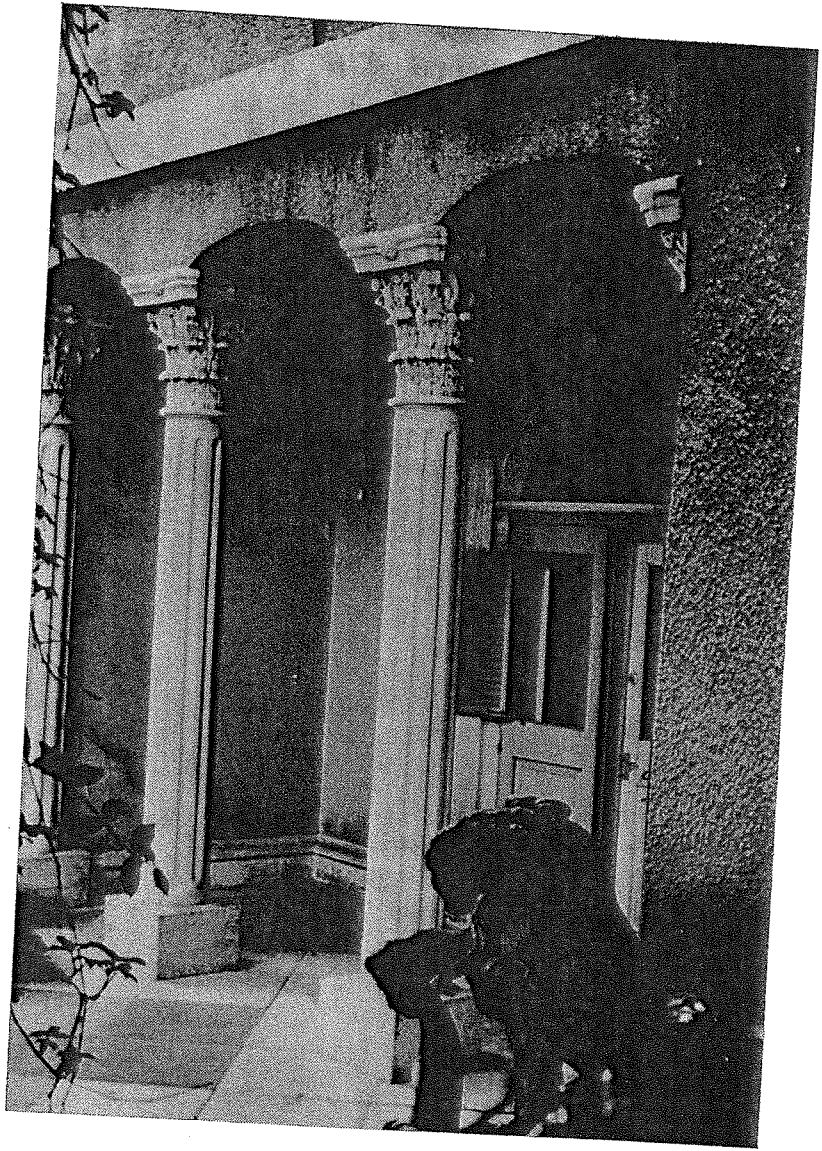
THE BIONI HOUSE

When one looks at the central square of Bornova today, it is almost impossible to imagine a section as part of a Kula, or large walled farm estate such as may be seen in Yugoslavia.

On this estate was built a palatial house which was definitely a showpiece of Bornova for many years, until demolition for city expansion.

Usually called the Bioni House, it was built by the grandfather of the Jirasouitch owner, from whom the Bruisichs bought it. The Bruisichs were the last to occupy it before demolition.

Originally the first owner resided there in winter also, the family coming from Smyrna for summer only, as he did not



Lovely Columns of Italian Marble

consider the farm a suitable residence for his wife. In time Mme Jirasouvitch came to love the place so much that she begged to live there permanently. This the whole family did, until the arrival of the Bruisich family more than fifteen years ago.

The original family of Jirasouvitch is said to have come from Dalmatia, then part of the Austrian Empire. They owned much property in the Crimea, which accounted for the presence of many furnishings of Russian type. One relic from that period is a remarkable mirror which Mrs Bruisich has now transferred to her new residence nearby. As the original owner was also a ship-owner the import of such household goods was not difficult

The carved marble columns, topped with ornate Corinthian capitals, were outstanding features of the house exterior. This marble had been transported from Italy and the timber from Trieste. Flanking the entrance were many marble statues, and just prior to demolition, only two lions of these remained near the columns. A long carriage-way of pebble mosaic led to the site of the present square of Bornova.

When Mrs Bioni (née Jirasouvitch) occupied the house she had a bee-hive set up in one of the upstairs windows, so that she could watch the bees working.

The Bruisich family was Italian, he from Genoa and she being one of the Fideo Family. Mrs Lane (of the Lane house) was a Fideo and a cousin of Mrs Bruisich. Mrs Paterson of the Paterson house was a cousin of Mr Bruisich. Other cousins of Mrs Bruisich live at present in New Canaan, Conn, U.S.A. Mr Bruisich was one of the three Izmir exporters of liquorice, and his family have lived in Bornova for five generations, while his wife's have been there for four.

Many important visitors have been guests in this lovely home. One of these was the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, later Emperor of Mexico, when he called in to Smyrna as commander of the Austrian fleet.



The Ruined Porch

THE OFFLEY HOUSE

The date when this house was originally built is unknown, but it was in the hands of the Offley family and their descendants, the Gouts, for over a century. Some of the Gouts occupied the house until 1946.

The first Offley to own the house was David, the second U.S. Consular representative to be appointed to Smyrna. In September, 1823, David Offley received his commission as Consular Commercial Agent at Smyrna from the U.S. Department

of State. He died in office in 1830 and was succeeded, first by his son David W, and then by the second son Edward S. Offley.

David Offley was a member of a Philadelphia Quaker family who had established himself as a merchant in Smyrna.

The Offley house was of two storeys, built on an unusual plan with one of the largest reception rooms to be seen in Bournabat (Bornova). Through siting this room to one side of the house, the architect had no difficulty in fitting it into a symmetrical front elevation even though the windows are a foot or two out of line. This is said to be not the fault of the original plan, but a variation typical of the carefree workmanship of the local builders of that period. This reception room was rather low in proportion to the rest of the building because of the upper storey. Its excellent floor was of red and cream tiles of a quality not seen in modern times.

The Offley house was famous for its extravagant furniture and gold ornamentations, all of which were stripped in 1922. There was said to be a grand piano of ivory and gold, much valuable crystal and an ormolu clock surmounted by a figure of George Washington.

The heavy shuttered balcony and the corner capitals of the front porch were shot away in 1922, and today the building is rapidly falling into decay.

ANOTHER OFFLEY HOUSE

Donald Giraud's home was built by David Offley for his son. David Offley, U.S. Consul, as previously mentioned, apparently owned various properties in Bornova.

THE DOUGLAS WHITTALL HOUSE

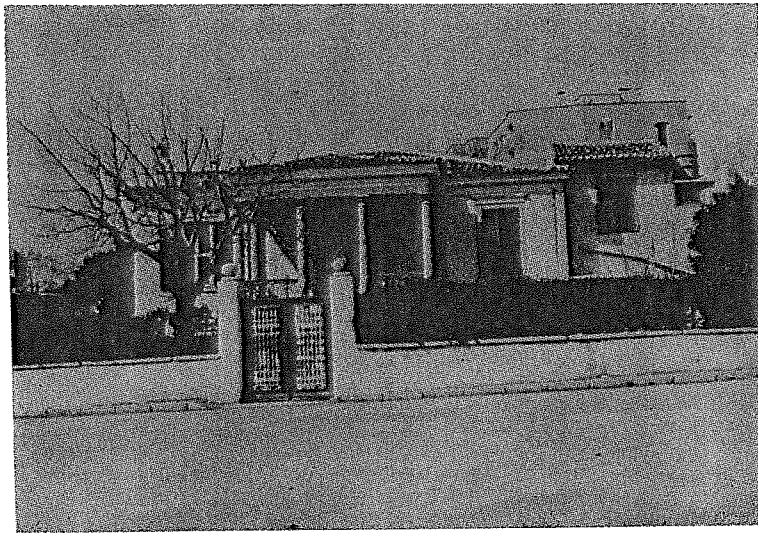
Owned until 1977 by Douglas Whittall, this house formerly No 4 Uzun Sokak, was built by the Lochner family as a summer residence. The site was the vineyard of the property owned by

David Offley, the U.S. Consul. It is said that Herbert Whittall once lived there.

THE OFFICERS' CLUB

The present building known as the Officers' Club, on the main street entering Bornova, was built by an American named Davy. He married a Miss Gout of Bornova, who was connected with the Offley family.

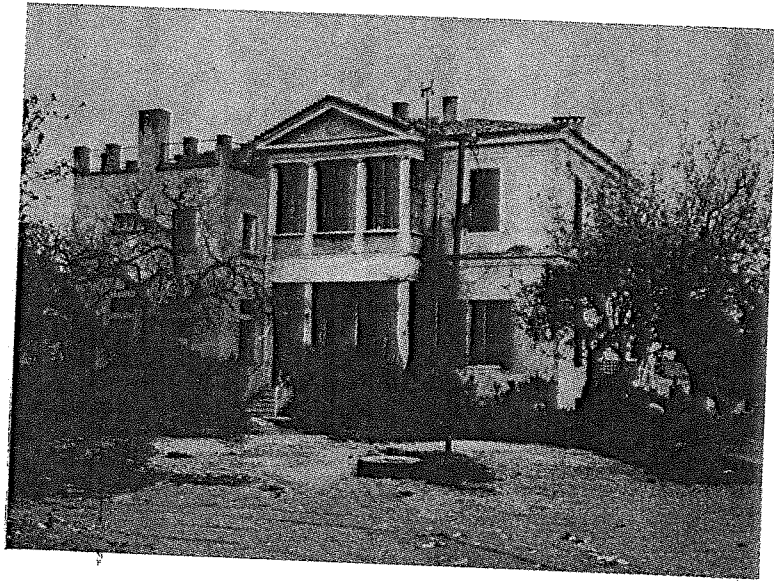
Occupied for several years by Rahmi Bey, then Vali or Governor of Izmir, the house was later requisitioned by military authorities and put to its present use.



THE MALTASS HOUSE

Situated in what was once Uzun Sokak this house has been occupied since the early sixties by Audrey Maltass, widow of Geoffrey Maltass and one of the La Fontaine family.

The house is about a hundred and twenty years old and was formerly called the Marre House as it was lived in for many years by the Marre sisters.



THE KANALAKI HOUSE

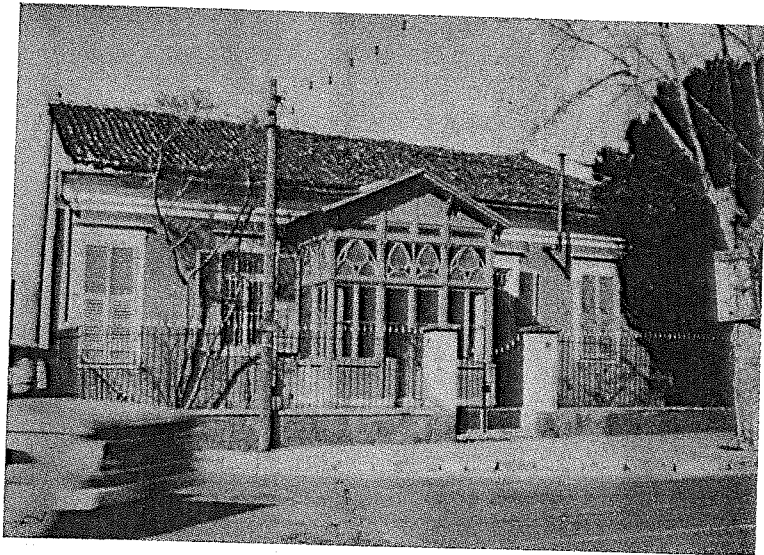
The reason for the obviously Cretan name of this house is rather puzzling, as it was built by a Russian woman in 1840. She was always called a princess and her family name was Kanalaki. The Bornova residence was her summer one as she resided in winter on Atatürk Caddesi in Izmir.

The Princess was very wealthy and owned about twenty acres of property in Bornova, which included the present golf links. She had six servants.

The Kanalaki property was a fine estate with five gateways. In 1973 a stone-paved carriage way could still be seen leading to one gate that was said to be the phaeton entrance. This has now been demolished and the fine Palladian façade cannot be seen from the Manisa highway.

There is no record of whether the Russian owner had died or had left the country, for the house was empty when taken over by a Cretan family who arrived in the exchange of population over sixty years ago. The present owner Kemaliye Akdolu, who was a teacher, is a grand-daughter of Arap Ibrahim Sulu who had been a landowner in Crete before his arrival in Bornova.

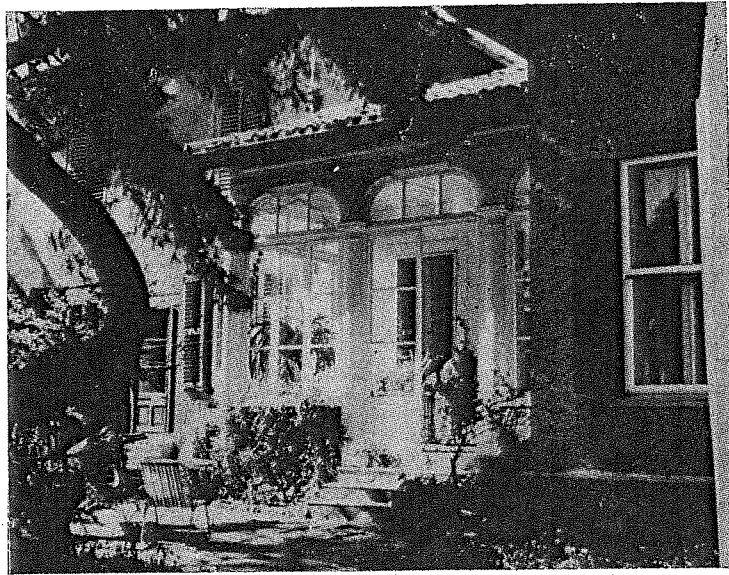
The old house has been divided into four apartments, two on each floor, with two handsome balconies. Bases of marble columns have been retained and used as stepping stones in the garden path.



THE ALIOTTI HOUSE

The Aliotti family was well-known in both Bornova and Buca. The Aliottis were nobility who came from Florence to Chios in 1682 and finally to Smyrna in 1822.

The house is now occupied by Michelle Topuz, while in the adjoining house, of a somewhat similar design, resides an elderly member of the Bragiotti family. These were Venetian nobles who lived in Chios. They left that island about 1800 and established themselves in both Izmir and Istanbul.



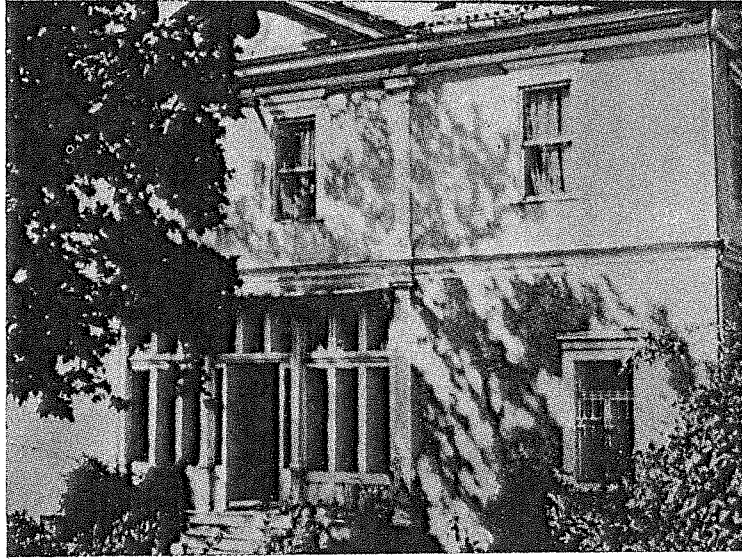
The Sun-room opens onto the Garden

THE WINTERHALTER HOUSE

The Winterhalter house is set well back in a spacious garden that fronts onto the main street which has apparently had no less than four names within the last few years. Its latest is Gençlik Caddesi.

The house has remained in the family of Yvonne Winterhalter since it was built, and she owns the original deed of sale, inscribed in the old Turkish script and dated 1294, that is, 1878. The sale was made by the heirs of Pierre Corsi, son of Joseph, to Herbert Reggio, son of Ignace. Yvonne's great grandfather was a Reggio of Genoa, and he lived in the acquired property with his two daughters, one of whom was Yvonne's grandmother. Her mother was a Charnaud.

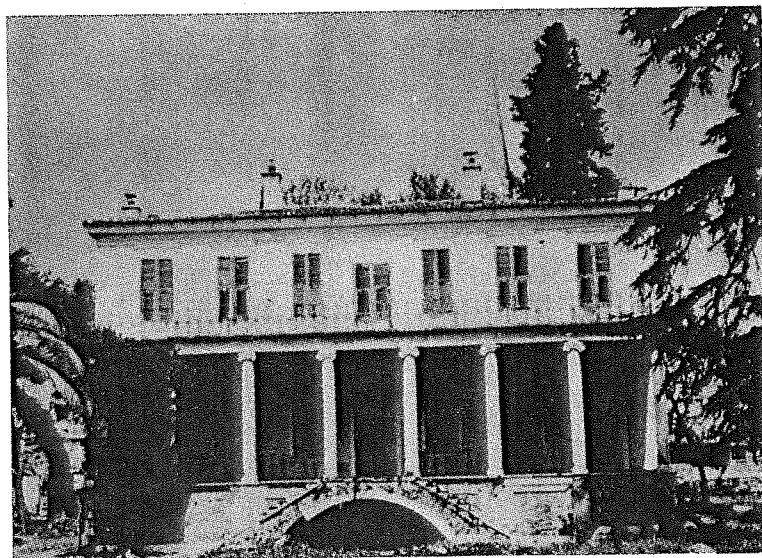
An interesting feature in this house, as well as in many another old Bornova one, is the tandır, which is used for winter heating. It closely resembles the Japanese hibachi, for it consists of a brazier of coals (now at times electrified) set in a square frame over which is thrown a warm quilt or kilim, for the purpose of retaining the heat. The tandır was very comfortable when one sat near it and put the feet beneath the quilt. It also acted as a kind of table, and was a useful addition in the old homes that had such spacious living rooms.



THE DONALD GIRAUD HOUSE

Now the property of Ege University, this once fine house was previously owned by Donald Giraud.

Before that it belonged to Yvonne Winterhalter's grandfather, C. Ballian, and, after his death, his widow sold it to Charles Giraud.



THE MURAT HOUSE

What is known as the Murat House, situated opposite the Anglican Church, was once a beautiful mansion. Uninhabited for the last thirty years or so, it is fast falling into decay, and the fine iron railings on its street frontage are disappearing one by one.

It was built by one of the Edwards, an English family, in 1880, and said to have been lived in by Bari, or Barry, before the Edwards sisters occupied it for a time. It was later sold to the Murat family, a daughter of whom now lives in Athens.

A picture seen by a Bornova resident when she visited the home of one of the Edwards family at Lausanne, shows the house with a lovely garden in which the entire Edwards

family is seated. Little of the garden, only some fine cedars and a few palms, can now be seen. Even the stork which used to nest annually on top of the largest cedar has recently deserted the site. In a corner of the garden a private hamam is still recognizable.

The house was of recent years used as a barracks by an Italian team of workmen setting up a high tension cable over the Manisa mountain to the Central at Mersinli.

The Murat House is said to be haunted by a maid carrying a tray. There is no record of the origin of the ghostly maid, or as to how many appearances she has made on the scene.

However, the ghost has apparently no effect on the squatters who now occupy parts of that once magnificent mansion.



THE PAGY HOUSE

This was built by Monsieur Fontan d'Escalon in the early 1800's. He was a nobleman who fled from France at the time of the French Revolution. His daughter Louise married a La Fontaine and their daughter Helen married E. Charlton Whittall. Descendants of this family, Sheila and Cecil Whittall, sold out to William Giraud, who then sold it to the present owner. It is occupied by a Pagy daughter, Mme Furcken.

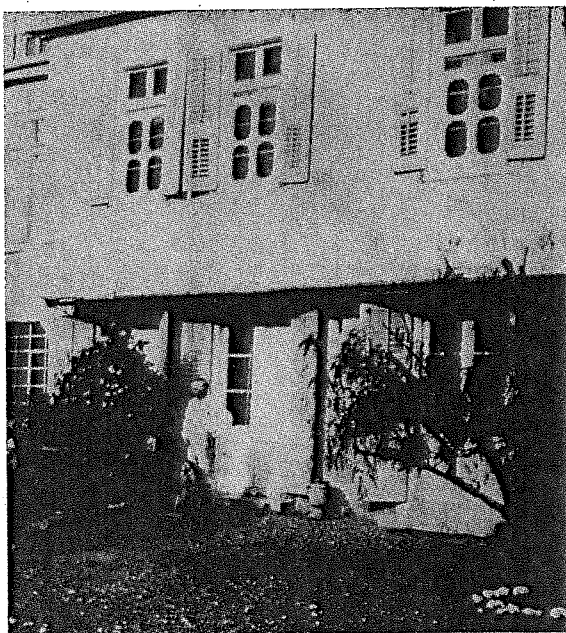


THE BARI HOUSE

Little is known about this house on the corner of the highway and the main street into Bornova. It is now Ege University property.

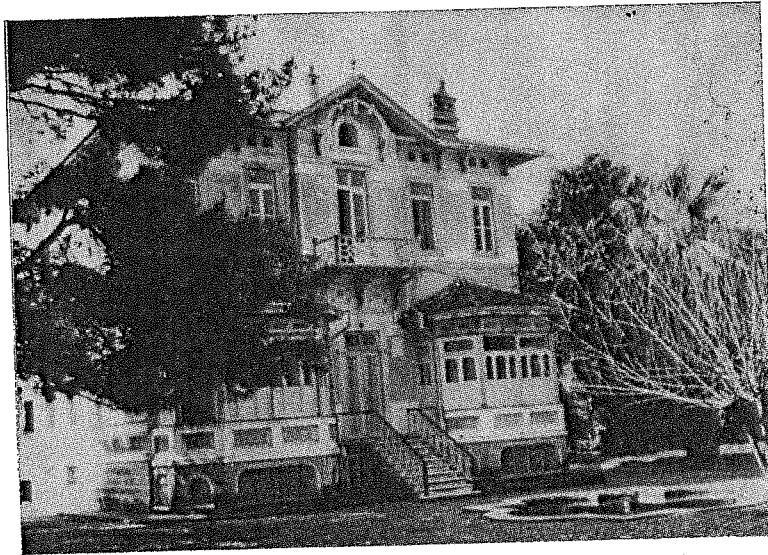
The oldest known connection is the name Bari (or Barry), a person who is known to have been associated with a number of other houses in Bornova. Then a Lawson appears to have lived there.

According to Yvonne Winterhalter, the family living there in her youth was Pasquali, for she recalls taking piano lessons from a Miss Pasquali.



THE JOHN CHARNAUD HOUSE

Bornova's oldest resident, Mrs Phyllis Charnaud is at present living, together with her son John and his wife, in another of the old Bornova houses. It is thought to be over a hundred years old, but few details are known. The windows of the upper story are of an unusual design. The house is set in a large and well-cared-for garden.



THE PANDESPANIAN HOUSE

This fine building is kept in good repair, being part of the University property across the railway from Bornova station. The grounds are still attractive with trees and a pool.

It was owned and presumably built about 1880 by the Pandespanian family, nearly all of whom now reside in France.



The Von Cramer Tombstone

THE DE CRAMER HOUSE

The De Cramer family has a record of over 200 years' residence in Turkey. De Cramer and von Cramer are members of the same family.

The first of the family to come was Alphonse von Cramer, who was Austrian Consul in Smyrna and great-uncle of the last member to reside in Bornova. His family liked the region so well that all remained to live in Turkey.

The house at No I. Çiçek Sokak, Bornova, was the De Cramer home for four generations until recently demolished for street extension. It was the usual type of that period, with an open reception hall, which was later closed in, and smaller rooms off this. In those early years the Bornova climate was said to have been much warmer than at present, so there was no heating.

A treasured document held by the De Cramer family is that elevating them to the rank of nobility. Written in 1801 and signed by Francis II, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and King of Germany and of Hungary, Archduke of Austria, it runs as follows:-

..... notre cher et fidèle Consul General à Smyrne

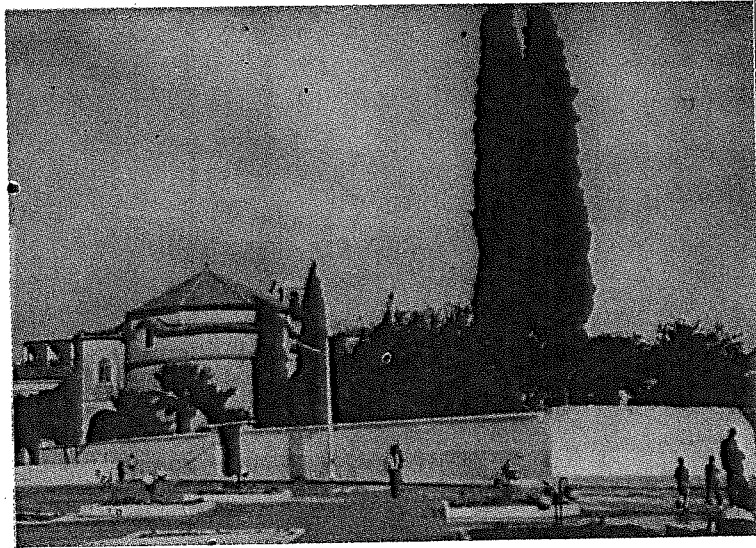
AMBROISE HERMANN CRAMER

“AUSSI avons nous après mure réflexion, bon conseil et conscience de notre pouvoir et archducal lui avons fait la grâce spéciale à lui AMBROISE HERMANN CRAMER ainsi qu'à TOUS ses descendants légitimes et aux descendants des deux sexes de les elever au grade de NOBLESSE, et le droit de pouvoir mettre avant leur nom le mot d'honneur “De” .-

One of the most interesting tombstones in the grounds of the Catholic Church Santa Maria, Bornova, is that of Ernest Adolph von Cramer. As the arms above the inscription are surmounted by a coronet, it is assumed that he was either a count or a baron. The date is 1862.

Frederic Hermann De Cramer, a banker, built the large house that is now Headquarters of the Turkish Army in that area. It was acquired from the then owner, Iplikcian, after 1922.

Members of the De Cramer family residing in Bornova are Miss Y. De Cramer, Mrs. E. Stower and Mrs. C.C. Wilkinson.

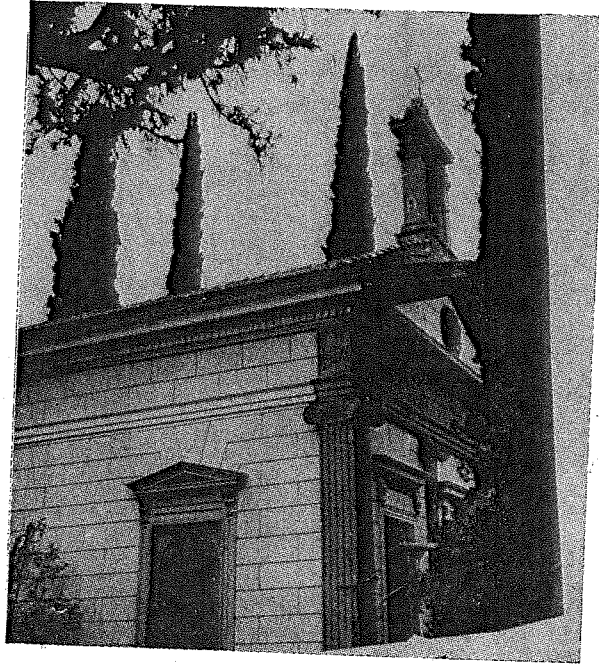


THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA BORNOVA

Adjoining the central square of Bornova, but now almost hidden by a modern shop complex, is the old Catholic Church of Santa Maria.

It was originally built of wood by the Franciscan Order in 1797, from contributions made by Roman Catholics and Armenian Catholics. In 1832 it was rebuilt in stone by order of the Sultan. Until recently the Church had a beautiful Byzantine cross surmounting it.

A reminder of Bornova's past is to be seen in the number of names of so many old families on the gravestones along the walls.



THE ENGLISH CHURCH

ST. MARY MAGDALENE

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene was built in 1857 as a gift by Charlton Whittall of Bournabat to the residents of the village. It was consecrated in 1864 by the Bishop of Gibraltar as it had been included in the Anglican Diocese of Gibraltar.

As there were several churches in the Smyrna area a system was devised to correspond to the parochial system in England. Each chaplain was held responsible for the scattered

British residents in a clearly defined area. The Chaplain of Bournabat was held to be responsible for all those living on and to the north of the Cassaba railway, as the newly opened (1863) railway to Bornova was then called.

According to an English architect, the Church was termed a thoroughly classical building. Its delicate Othonian bellcote seems to show it was built by Greek masons. Their workmanship was good, at least for the exterior. However, he goes on to say that, internally, the church goes to pieces, for the Order is far too squat and the tunnel vault too heavy.

Despite these adverse comments, the Church of St. Mary Magdelene has been a well-loved focal point for the English residents of Bornova over a hundred years.

FAMOUS VISITORS TO BORNOVA

Famous figures have passed on their way through the gateways of Bornova and Smyrna, and records of their visits still add glamour to the scene.

Perhaps the earliest on record is the warrior king, Agamemnon, who apparently took time off from the siege of Troy, and sailed south to relax at the spa that is now called the Baths of Agamemnon.

For Antony and Cleopatra it was merely a honeymoon cruise along these Aegean shores, sailing south to come to rest at the idyllic island of Sideria which lies at the head of the Ceramic Gulf near Gökova.

About 110 A.D. Smyrna was visited by St. Ignatius, then Bishop of Syrian Antioch. He was one of a group of prisoners, Christians, who were being taken to martyrdom in Rome. He was received by St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, together with Christians from Ephesus and other neighbouring cities.

Centuries later Smyrna was visited by Frederick Hasselquist, a noted Swedish traveller and botanist, who was a student of Linnaeus. He recorded that there were only thirty families in Bornova at that time, 1749.

In 1785 Jean Baptists d'Anne de Villoison paid a visit to Smyrna. He was the noted philologist who had discovered the Marcian Codex of Homer and published the Iliad in 1782.

Then from the literary circles of Europe came many visitors. One was Lord Byron who arrived on board the vessel Pylades in 1810. While staying at Buca as the guest of the Gordon family he visited Bornova. He is said to have completed the second canto of 'Childe Harold' while staying there.

Pierre Loti, Byron and Lamartine were all received at the Whittall house that is now Godfrey Giraud's.

Lamartine fell in love with the beauty of the Smyrna countryside and even purchased a tract of land nearby, in the Torbali region. He had a grandiose scheme for building a mansion, and is said to have returned to France to raise money for this, but he never returned to Smyrna.

The poem quoted at the beginning of this book was an eulogy by Victor Hugo, who viewed Smyrna with such admiration that he immortalized her in verse with the poem 'Les Orientales' published in Paris in 1829.

During the years 1816 to 1819 the house that is now Godfrey Giraud's was said to have been occupied by one of Napoleon's generals, Anne Jean Marie René Savary, Duc de Rovigo. After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, Savary wished to accompany the Emperor on the Bellerophon to exile in St. Helena, but was not permitted. Instead he was interned in Malta from which he escaped with another general, Charles Anthony Lallemand, to Smyrna. While he lived at Bornova he fought a duel with Lallemand on the Champs des Emigrés (Boz Alan), but the cause is unknown. Savary apparently became involved in certain business transactions in Smyrna, becoming bankrupt, and because of this he was considered to have brought discredit upon France.

In 1811 the H.M.S. Magpie called in at Smyrna during her term of duty when engaged in making the first charts of the Aegean.

King Otho of Greece was received by Charlton Whittall and his beautiful wife Magdalene at their Bornova home in 1833, at the 'Big House', where so many distinguished guests were entertained.

One who later became Emperor of Mexico, the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, when a young man in command of the Austrian fleet, was a visitor at the palatial Bruisich home in Bornova.

Another royal visitor to Bornova was the Turkish Sultan Abdul Mecid, when he was received at the Baltaci home, in 1850.

In 1854 Sir Joseph Montefiore arrived in Smyrna on a visit.

"On his journey from Alexandria in August 1863, the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Aziz spent a day at the country home of Charlton Whittall. His Imperial Majesty had been preceded by a host of servants, his cooks and stewards, with a string of camels carrying the food for the royal table, as well as his table equipment. This was followed by a spectacular staff, one member of which was Fuad Paşa, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Sultan took a walk through the extensive garden of his host, and, at his own request was ushered into the Anglican Church of Bournabat, St. Mary Magdalene, that had been built by his host in 1857.

Upon entering its portals the Sultan uncovered his head, thus showing an unusual mark of respect, not shown even by Greek and Armenian officials who wore their fezzes everywhere. Upon the Sultan's return to Constantinople, Fuad Paşa was sent back to Smyrna to present to each of the ladies who had received him a costly souvenir in the shape of a brooch set in brilliants and pearls". (Spun Yarn by Sir Henry Woods).

According to an entry in the Royal Archives at Windsor, Prince George of Wales (later George V) recorded in his diary, Sept. 1886, that with his uncle, the Duke of Edinburgh who commanded the Mediterranean fleet, he visited Smyrna. He wrote of going by train from there to Bornova, to a house belonging to a Mr. Whittall. It was possibly Edward Whittall. There they dined in a tent in the garden, after which there was a dance which they all attended. Was it perhaps the famous dance floor erected for special occasions over the lovely lily pool?

In the late 1880's a guest at the Baltaci home was a young relative, the Baroness Maria Vetsera, who is known to have stayed also at their Ali Ağa residence. Her mother was a Baltaci and she had apparently sent her daughter here to prevent an

incipient romance. However the girl, who was said to be impulsive and stubborn, was not to be deterred, and the result was the Mayerling tragedy in January 1889, an event that was the mystery of the era.

Gertrude Bell, writing in April 1897, describes the Whittalls as one of the most famous families: "They have the bulk of the English trade in their hands. All have immense quantities of children, the sons now Whittall business men, and the daughters very charming and gay". This intrepid Englishwoman, a noted traveller and archaeologist and an acknowledged authority on Asia Minor, was evidently attracted by life at Bornova where she was a guest.

In 1907 the Empress Eugenie, widow of Napoleon III, on her voyage to or from Constantinople, called in at Smyrna and stayed at the Villa Barff at Buca, appearing to be a rather tragic figure in comparison with her triumphal visit to Turkey when en route to open the Suez Canal in 1869.

The Whittalls of the Big House also entertained Prince Andrew of Greece, father of Prince Phillip, in 1921.

The last Turkish ruler to spend a brief time in Bornova was Kemal Atatürk, later to become father of the Turkish nation. When he was General in command of the Turkish Army he stayed at the Steinbüchel home, making his headquarters there in 1922.

Writers and archaeologists have found welcome in Bornova, and Freya Stark, Lord Kinross and Seton Lloyd have all been guests of the Victor Whittalls.

In the sixties Izmir was honoured by a visit from His Holiness, Pope Paul VI. Special services were held at the Church of the Virgin Mary at Ephesus when the Pope proclaimed the site to be considered as a holy shrine.

In more recent years, Princess Maria of Bourbon Parma, sister of Umberto, the last King to Italy, has been a guest at William Giraud's lovely home in Bornova.

Last, but not least, comes the visit in October 1971, of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, together with the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne. When in Izmir she expressed a special desire to meet all British residents of the city.