



Research - Education - Preservation

Newsletter no: 18 (Summer 2021)

Upcoming LHF Events

26 August 2021, 10.30 am

Dr Louise Stewart guided tour Search for Ionia exhibition, Sir John Soane's Museum, London - **LHF members only** - [registration](#):

2 September, 3 pm

Dr Louise Stewart guided tour Search for Ionia exhibition, Sir John Soane's Museum, London - **LHF members only** - [registration](#):

2 September 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

13th LHF online presentation with guest speaker David Whittall: 'The Whittalls of Turkey: Migration, Diaspora, and Cultural Identity' - [flyer](#): - [registration](#):

7 October 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

15th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Dr Ozan Ozavci: 'Dangerous Gifts: Imperialism, Security, and Civil Wars in the Levant' - [flyer](#): - [registration](#):

Chairman's note

As we edge towards the new normal of living with COVID-19 in our communities, I would like to share a little on how it has impacted the Levantine Heritage Foundation and our plans for the future.

When the LHF started almost 11 years ago, its strengths were the remarkable website that Craig Encer, our founder and General Secretary, had built and the small gatherings he had started to organise for people to share their family histories and research interests. Since then, the meetings have grown into larger talks, symposia and international conferences. These were rewarding for the sharing of research that provided context for independent and family researchers, and for the informal networking with people with a common interest.

For me, for example, there was the occasional exciting discovery of cousins who, while many times "removed" genealogically, seemed much more closely connected given our shared Levantine history.

Over the past 18 months or so, the website has continued to develop and expand, thanks to Craig's efforts and the generous collaboration of contributors to submissions, interviews and other content. The home page has been simplified and re-designed and we will gradually extend this through the site as time and resources permit. Its steadily growing archive of knowledge attracts numerous researchers, publishers and even filmmakers throughout the year who go on to seek further information and access to material from our network.

However, COVID put a stop to our in-person meetings, with the last in the UK being in January 2020. This has impacted the informal networking that many have enjoyed and benefited from over the years.

In response, we switched to online talks. Our friends and colleagues in Turkey set up the Association of the Levantines as an independent group and with the LHF's support also launched a series of Zoom talks in Turkish. Since November, together we have hosted 25 talks on a wide variety of subjects. They have attracted a good number of new speakers and participants and expanded our collective network internationally.

We are now planning for the future. We are keen to return to in-person talks as soon as conditions allow and to build in a stronger networking element around talks and themes. However, we will continue the programme of Zoom talks also. They bring together people from around the world at little or no cost and enable those who cannot easily travel into central points to participate in the LHF's activities.

Reflecting our international make-up, we will be less UK- and Turkey-centric and will support more events in other countries as resources allow. Historically, we have organised or participated in events in Athens, Turin,



Washington DC and Geneva, but there are several others places where members of the Levantine diaspora live and where academic research is centred. Next spring, we aim to organise an event in Paris. Others on our wish list include Amsterdam, Rome, Venice, Alexandria, Thessaloniki, New York, Marseilles and Beirut. If you are interested in helping coordinate an LHF event in your city or region, please get in touch so we can discuss a theme, venue and timing.

Our social media presence is growing on Twitter and Facebook, but there is more we could do to build awareness of the LHF as a leading organisation for knowledge on the heritage and culture of the Levant. We have yet to venture onto Instagram, for example. We have a rich collection of information and images we can use for social media posts, which would further the educational part of the LHF's mission. We are keen to hear from volunteers who would like to help, perhaps around a theme or a particular platform.

COVID-19 has been relatively neutral for our finances. Our costs are lower due to no travel or in-person events. But so too is our income, with fewer donations and limited membership subscriptions. The LHF receives no grants and is entirely reliant on the interest and generosity of its members and audiences. To grow and be able to fund new and bigger projects, we need to raise funds on a much greater scale. This needs focused effort, plus the support of those who can help open doors and perhaps even represent the LHF in presenting our story and case for funding. If you can help, please let me know:

chairman@levantineheritage.com.

Lastly, we wish to develop this newsletter. It contains a lot of information about events, additions to the website and others' publications. It is also a way for researchers to publicise their work and seek input from others in the LHF's network. But we wish to add more short articles and reviews. If you would like to write an article or a book review or have any other suggestions, that would be very welcome. Please contact Craig Encer, who is also the newsletter's editor, to discuss your ideas. secretary@levantineheritage.com

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and we look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions.

Quentin Compton-Bishop

Chairman

Current research

If you are seeking help with research, please write to Craig Encer who will endeavour to point you to sources of material or connect you with people in the LHF network who may be able to help. Additionally, we can post requests for assistance in our newsletter.

Kaleb Herman Adney – [academic page](#):

Kaleb Herman Adney seeks to collect primary-source materials on the Ottoman tobacco trade in Kavala and the nearby villages of Drama, Serres, Xanthi, and Genisea. He would also welcome any materials on companies operating out of Salonica, Istanbul, Trieste, Munich, or Vienna with connections to Thracian and Macedonian tobacco. His research is on the commercial networks, financial institutions, and socio-political organizing tactics of the region's tobacco merchants and cultivators. Many of the families who operated out of Kavala enjoyed European extraterritorial privileges and some of the most prominent among them were not subject to the same regulations and customs expectations that most merchants (and smugglers) were. The political connections, financial resources, and commercial networks of specific merchants therefore played a significant role in who succeeded and who did not with the late Ottoman tobacco trade.

Some of the particular names of individuals and companies that Herman is seeking further documentation on include (but are not limited to) the Allatini Brothers (especially Solomon) and their Salonica Cigarette Company as well as the Commercial Company of Salonica Ltd., John Jack (Djekis) Abbot, the Herzog Company and Tabacus, Juda Perahia, Petros Bulgarides, Haim Feraggi, Hasan Alif Pasha, Anton Velhikov, Elias Eliades, Kyros Anastasiades, Ismail Hakki Kobakizade, Lukas Grigoriades, Kiazim Emin, the murder of Hadji Georgiev (1909), the Kavala Tobacco Congress of 1911, and the Drama Tobacco Congress of 1910. In particular, if any members of the Levantine Heritage community who have access to business papers or personal correspondence about regional tobacco production, finance, and commercial firms in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, references would be most welcome. Correspondence sharing potential leads would of course also be of use as would conversation via zoom, skype, or telephone.

Alexander Chabert – do you recognise any of the faces?

This image is from my grandmother’s photo album, 1910-1915 in Smyrna but probably not from the area of ‘the Pointe, Punta’ where the Chabert tennis courts were situated till 1922 as a large building is visible on the side. Please contact me if you recognise any of the faces from your ancestral albums.



[full sized image](#)

Denny Hatton – Seeking help on information on the Rigo family

I am trying to learn more about one of my family lines. Their last name is Rigo. All this time we were under the impression they were French, either from Alsace/Lorraine, or Marseilles. The first Rigo to come to America was my great great grandfather, Francois Rigo, born 3 Aug 1859 in Constantinople. The family legend was that his father, Pierre Rigo, was a French diplomat on assignment to the Ottoman Empire when Francois and his brothers (Matthew, Alexander, Pierre, and Paul) were born. However, I cannot find any information about the father Pierre nor the mother, a Gabaret Calotian. In his naturalization petition to the United States I was able to find, Francois listed his citizenship as Turkish. In discussions with an expert on the French in the Ottoman Empire during that period, there is no record of Francois nor any of his brothers or father in the French consulate during that time. She also told me the Rigos were likely from Tinos, as that was a common name on the island.

I have no records of any of these Rigos other than Francois and his brother Paul, who also emigrated to the United States. The family story is that the mother, Gabaret Calotian, died in Constantinople in 1865 shortly after the birth of her last son, and with the father away in Izmir, the children were sent to a Catholic monastery.

Francois and Paul Rigo were devout Catholics, and claimed to be French. But at this point I don't know if they were actually French, or maybe they came to the Levant from France generations earlier, or even that they were never French at all, but rather raised/educated in the French manner by the Church? Were they Greek? Italian? Other? Were they from a family of Levantine merchants? Quite a mystery, and I would love to solve this if

possible.

I am looking for any information on Rigos living in Constantinople during the mid-19th century, or the Calotian family (Armenian perhaps?) – dennishatton[at]gmail.com

Murat Cengiz – Seeking information on D.C. Ralli and his piano shop in Smyrna

A family heirloom piano, built around 1905. The piano has the engravings of 'D.C. Ralli, Smyrna'. D.C. Ralli had a shop in Rue Franque, Passage Youssuff No 26, Smyrne, as seen in the bottom lettercover in this [gallery](#): - alimuradcengiz[at]gmail.com



Recent Events

8th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Turgay Tuna: 'San Stefano'nun Levantenleri', [The Levantines of San Stefano], 2 May 2021 - [flyer](#):

8th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Kaleb Herman Adney: 'Portfolio Habits: Commercial Networks, Oriental Tobacco, and Extraterritoriality in the Age of International Finance', 2 May 2021 - [flyer](#): - [video](#):

9th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Dr. Malte Fuhrmann: 'Port Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean: Urban Culture in the Late Ottoman Empire' - [flyer](#) - [video](#):

9th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Frederick De Cramer: 'Osmanlı İmparatorluğunda Oryantal Tütünün Sigara Sanayisinde Rolü', [The Role of Oriental Tobacco in the Cigarette Industry in the Ottoman Empire], 30 May 2021- [flyer](#): - [video](#):

10th LHF online presentation with guest speakers Özge Ertem – K. Mehmet Kentel: 'The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures', 23 June 2021 - [flyer](#): - [video](#):

10th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Dr. Yonca Erkan: 'İngiliz Levantenler ve Moda Semtinin Kentsel Gelişimi', [Anglo-Levantines and the urban development of Moda quarter], 27 June 2021 - [flyer](#):

11th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Bengi Su Ertürkmen-Aksoy: 'Prinkipo Regattas as Urban-Social Activity in 19th century Istanbul', 13 July 2021 – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

12th LHF online presentation with guest speakers Valerie Kennedy, Patrick Hart & Dora Petherbridge: 'Editing & Interpreting the Liston Papers: Explorations in the Turkish Embassy Archives', 22 July 2021 – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

External Upcoming Events

until 5 September 2021

Exhibition: The Romance of Ruins: The Search for Ancient Ionia, 1764 – Sir John Soanes Museum, London – [link:](#)

16 September 2021, 5.30 pm (UK time)

Online lecture: From Ottoman Smyrna to Georgian London: Travel, excavation and collecting of Levant Company merchant Thomas Burgon (1787-1858), Dr Alexia Petsalis-Diomidis - British School of Athens – [link:](#)

24-25 September 2021

Virtual Workshop+: Turkey and the Mediterranean: linkages, connectivities and ruptures – CEST Virtual + Naples 2021 – [link:](#)

until 6 November 2021

Exhibition: The Eye of a Stranger: Henrietta Liston's travels – George IV Bridge, Edinburgh – [link:](#)

Recent Publications

Diplomatic Cultures at the Ottoman Court, c.1500–1630 - Tracey A. Sowerby, Christopher Markiewicz, Routledge, 2021 – [link:](#)

French Encounters with the Ottomans, 1510-1560 - Pascale Barthe, Routledge, 2019 – [link:](#)

Tussen Constantinopel en Holland: Het Dragomannen-en Diplomaten geslacht Testa [Between Constantinople And Holland: The Dragoman and Diplomat Family of Testa] - Hans Krol & Mehmet Tütüncü, 2021 – [book cover:](#) – [link:](#)



Book launch of book in the presence of the Turkish Ambassador to Holland, Saban Disli (centre) and direct descendant Andre Testa (in white suit), 7 July 2021- [full sized image:](#)

Dangerous Gifts: Imperialism, Security, and Civil Wars in the Levant, 1798-1864 - Ozan Ozavci, Oxford University Press, 2021 – [link:](#)

The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montagu, Jo Willett – Pen & Sword, 2021 – [link:](#)

Les Français à Constantinople de François Ier à Bonaparte – Anne Mézin, Catherine Vigne, éditions Geuthner, 2020 – [link:](#)

The Sultan's Court Painter: Fausto Zonaro - Erol Makzume - Istanbul Yayinevi (soon to be published) – [cover:](#)

New External digitisations

The Definition and the Development of the Religious Protectorate of France in the Ottoman Lands - Bugra Poyraz, 2021 – [link:](#)

The Reports of Venetians and Pilgrims on Ottoman Palestine in the Italian Sources (XVIth-XVIIth Centuries) - Eros Calcara, 2021 – [link:](#)

Information on Ottoman Shipbuilding and on the Moves of the Turkish Fleet to the West (1522-1547) - Allain Servantie, 2011 – [link:](#)

Breaching the Bronze Wall: Franks at Mamluk and Ottoman Courts and Markets - Francisco Apellániz, Brill, 2020 – [link:](#)

New Video productions

Hello Anatolia: Documentary Film - Chrysovalantis Stamelos, 25 Jun 2021 – [link:](#)

Erik Blackthorne-O'Barr online lecture: 'Epidemiologies: The Discourse of Disease in Victorian Britain and Late Ottoman Istanbul', 16 February 2021 – [link:](#)

Dr Mike Hinton online lecture: 'The cemetery at Haidar Pasha, Istanbul, with reference to those providing medical care during the Crimean War', 3 June 2021 – [link:](#)

Christine Philiou: 'Phanariots, Ottoman governance, and the Greek Revolution: New perspectives on life before the Tanzimat reforms', 8 July 2021 – [link:](#)

Plague, princes and political 'embarras': Henrietta Liston's Constantinople – Dora Petherbridge & editors of 'Henrietta Liston's Travels: The Turkish Journals 1812-1820', 5 November 2020 – [link:](#)

'A kind of journal I sometimes write': Henrietta Liston in Turkey - Dora Petherbridge, 15 July 2020 – [link:](#)

Casa Garibaldi. La Società Operaia di Mutuo Soccorso in Costantinopoli [Casa Garibaldi.The Workers' Mutual Aid Society in Constantinople] – Francesca Faiella, 2021 – [link:](#)

New external calls for papers for books on Levantines

The Italians of Izmir before and after the big fire of 1922: personalities, culture and institutions of a Levantine community – [link:](#)

Levantines of the Ottoman World – [link:](#)

Ephemera

At The Soane Museum: 'The Romance of Ruins' - Josephine Quinn – [link:](#)

New news articles

Constantinople Greeks: The Cosmopolitans of the Byzantine Capital, Matthew John Hadodo – Greek Reporter, 27 June 2021 - [link:](#)

New podcasts

Galata and the Early Modern Mediterranean World, Fariba Zarinebaf - Ottoman History Podcast, 23 July 2021 – [link:](#)

Ottoman Port Cities of the Modern Mediterranean, Malte Fuhrmann - Ottoman History Podcast, 1 April 2021 – [link:](#)

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the passing of Pelin Böke on 3 June 2021, site contributor and long-term researcher on

Latest Website additions

Submission:

Biography: Stephen “Steven” Alphonse Reggio (1887-1941), Stefanie Reggio Fell – [link:](#)

Three Generations of Italians in Izmir: A Brief History of my Family, Anna Laysa Di Lernia (updated) – [link:](#)

Photo galleries / analysis:

Daleggio decoration (updated) – [link:](#)

Luigi and Clara Mayer paintings – [link:](#)

The French benevolent foundation of Constantinople celebrations (updated) – [link:](#)

Interviews:

Malte Fuhrmann interview – [link:](#)

Bengi Su Ertürkmen Aksoy interview – [link:](#)

Announcement

We have been contacted by a legal firm that has investigated some of the unclaimed real-estate on or near the Izmir Kordon and amongst the family names indicated are some Levantine ones though we do not know the specifics of these real-estates and we realise some of these family names have different and disconnected family branches. The surnames listed include Farrugia, Timoni, Mulino, Clarke, Olympia, Rahel, Depollo. We are happy to provide the full names indicated in these archive title deeds as read by the lawyers’ declaration and connect people descendant from those families to this legal team, if they so wish.

We would welcome a volunteer based in Izmir who could act as a go-between to guide descendants in steps to be taken.

Become a member of the LHF

We hope you find our website and events interesting and useful. Our work is mainly achieved thanks to our volunteers and site contributors. However, we do have significant real costs in adding to and maintaining the website, funding small research projects, organising events and preparing publications and other materials. Where we charge for events, we aim to cover only the direct costs of venue hire and catering in order to make them accessible to as wide an audience as possible, including students and early career researchers.

The Levantine Heritage Foundation is reliant on membership subscriptions, donations and sponsorship. Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership. Membership is just £20 a year, or £80 for 5 years or you can become a life member for £500. Benefits include free access to our Zoom talks, priority booking for other events and discounts on LHF publications and physical events where we have to charge a fee.

In response to residents of Turkey asking us how they can join without the availability of PayPal, we have arranged for people to be able to join through Eventbrite when we have a Zoom event with an extra button allowing people to pay for annual membership with a credit card and which of course gives free access for the online events during that subscription.

You can join the LHF or renew your membership on line at <http://www.levantineheritage.com/join-us.html> or email membership@levantineheritage.com. You can also pay by cheque and send it to: The Levantine Heritage Foundation, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W8 5PG.

Donations and legacies

If you wish to make a donation to the LHF, you can also do this online at <http://www.levantineheritage.com/support-us.html>. Or request our bank details if you wish to make a direct

transfer. Or you can send cheques to the LHF at The Levantine Heritage Foundation, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W8 5PG.

If you wish to provide a legacy for the LHF in your will or if you have family archives that are relevant to Levantine research, please contact Quentin Compton-Bishop at chairman@levantineheritage.com to discuss your wishes.

Gift Aid:

If you are a UK tax payer, you can make your donation go further with gift-aid – [word](#) / [pdf](#) documents:

Corporate Sponsorship

We have a number of opportunities for sponsorship and if you would like to discuss these further please contact our Chairman Quentin Compton-Bishop on chairman@levantineheritage.com.

Purchasing copies of past LHF Conference books:

If you wish to purchase copies of conference presentations books: **First Levantine Conference in Istanbul**, 'The Levantines: Commerce and Diplomacy', held in Istanbul November 2014 - [details](#) or

Levantines Past, Present, Future Symposium, Izmir, November 2010 - [details](#):

Please refer to the pricing instructions here ([doc](#) / [pdf](#) version), and send the correct amount (including postage) through our [paypal buttons](#) (or bank transfer - details on support us page) with your address details please:

[Our Facebook page:](#) (2,765 followers) | [Our Youtube channel:](#) (416 subscribers) | [Our Twitter channel:](#) (709 followers)

Subscription to this newsletter and other LHF communications

If you wish to no longer receive our future newsletters and communications please let us know by writing to contact@levantineheritage.com. We hold your personal data securely for the purpose of providing you with information on LHF research, events, publications and membership. We will not share your personal data with 3rd parties.

Contribute to our newsletter

The next newsletter is scheduled for 30 Oct 2021; contact us if you wish to contribute an article or place an entry / announcement.

Craig Encer

General Secretary – secretary@levantineheritage.com

The Levantine Heritage Foundation - www.levantineheritage.com

Wishing our friends a good Autumn to come.

The Levantine Heritage Foundation is a non-profit association with a constitution prepared and adopted according to the guidelines of The Charity Commission for England and Wales.
Trustees: Quentin Compton-Bishop, Dr Philip Mansel FRHS, Dr Axel Corlu, Dr Kalliopi Amygdalou, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari, Jonathan Beard, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Achilleas Chatziconstantinou