



2nd Joint event Levantine Heritage Foundation with the Royal Asiatic Society  
gathering in London with guest speaker Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner

***From Tuscany to Egypt and the Levant: 18th-c. Arabic letters in the Prize  
Paper Collections***



The Prize Paper Collections in the National Archives in Kew Gardens contain an extensive and unique quantity of Arabic letters which were seized in 1759 by British privateers as part of the loot on a Tuscan ship bound for Alexandria. Virtually untouched since that time, they remain in the pristine condition in which they were archived in the eighteenth century. The lot contains business letters sent between merchants, and also a dozen letters sent by clergy between Christian institutions via the merchants.

The re-discovered Arabic letters from the Prize Paper collection present a unique opportunity to study documentary Christian Ottoman Arabic, and place it in the context of other extant letter collections of the period, such as the 18th/19th-century Judaeo-Arabic mercantile letters from the Cairo Genizah.



An oil painting by the French artist Adrien Manglard (Lyon 1695-1760 Rome): A Mediterranean harbour with stevedores unloading their ships, figures selling fish in the foreground by a fortress - though an idealised view it is from the period in question to give an essence.



Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner is the Executive Director of the Woolf Institute. After completing her doctorate on Judaeo-Arabic letters at the University of Cambridge in 2007 and postdoctoral work as a Research Associate at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Unit, she joined the Woolf Institute in 2013.

14 June 2022, 6.30 pm

Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD

Talks are free for LHF & Royal Asiatic Society members but booking essential:

Booking essential: <https://esther-miriam-wagner-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>

For Zoom link Matty Bradley by e-mail: [mb@royalasiaticsociety.org](mailto:mb@royalasiaticsociety.org)

Please support these events by becoming a sponsor. We provide these talks for free to members 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](mailto:chairman@levantineheritage.com). All sponsors will be recognised at events and on our website.