



Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 19 (Autumn 2021)

Welcome to our new look newsletter where we have bunched our items under headers for better organisation. With the easing of the pandemic we have had our first live event with a visit and guided tour to the exhibition 'The Romance of Ruins: The Search for Ancient Ionia, 1764' held at the Sir John Soanes Museum, London in late August & early September. We thank the museum and staff for their hospitality and time. The link for the gallery of sample images is [here](#):

We are also after a long break re-starting our live presentation events in London in November in our old haunt of the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge and also at the Royal Asiatic Society – details below. In addition we will be having 2 overseas events next year; in Paris, France 10th March 2022 (French language) and Florence, Italy on 8th April 2022 (in English). There will be more details of both events in our Winter 2021/22 edition of our newsletter due out on 15 January 2022, including programme and registration links for both events. We are looking for supporters and sponsors for these events so please step forward and contact us and we would be delighted by your contribution for us to move forwards and upwards! We are also happy to be contacted by residents of either city who are willing to give up some of their time to help us with tasks on the day such as manning registration desks. Thank you in advance for this support.

Our activities

Upcoming LHF Events

4 November 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

34th LHF live presentation with guest speaker Michael Cottakis: 'Salonica / Izmir past framing modern identities (?)', joint event with the [Royal Asiatic Society](#), at 14 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HD - [flyer](#):

16 November 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

34th LHF live presentation with guest speaker Prof Eric Dursteller: 'The Honour of the European Nation: Women and Diplomacy in the Early Modern Levant', at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF - [flyer](#): - [registration](#):

17 November 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

2nd LHF French online presentation with guest speaker Dominique Gogny: 'Archives d'Orient: Les notables alexandrins, des héritiers sans héritage (1882-1985)' - [flyer](#): - [registration](#):

8 December 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

16th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Vjeran Kursar: 'Croatian Levantines in Ottoman Istanbul - [flyer](#): - [registration](#):

13 January 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

17th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Brian VanDeMark: 'American Sheikhs: Two Families, Four Generations, and the Story of America's Influence in the Middle East' (info soon)

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.

Russian Cortazzi connection to Smyrna Cortazzis?

There is a branch of the Cortazzi family in Russia who trace their roots to the Cortazzi consuls in Smyrna in the 18th/19th centuries. Does anyone have any information about this? Lyudmila Cortazzi tells me that her great great grandfather Egor Cortazzi and his sister Clara were taken by Russian sailors from Smyrna as minors in about 1807 during the Turko-Russian war. Egor's original name is unknown and he was given a Russian name on arrival in Russia. The family assume it was George, which is the English translation of Egor. His father was apparently the last Cortazzi consul in Smyrna, and

had died shortly before Egor was taken to Russia (Odessa). Luc Francois Tricon Cortazzi was the last Venetian Consul in Smyrna and he died in 1806. So this seems to fit. Interestingly, some of Luc Cortazzi's other sons wound up in Odessa, with James Cortazzi becoming the mayor there. And Luc's widow Elizabeth Hayes Cortazzi died in Odessa. Lyudmila doesn't think there was any connection between them and Egor Cortazzi, so were they his brothers and mother or unrelated? Any information would be appreciated. You can write to me at ocarrolls35@gmail.com. Susan O'Carroll.

Help with some archive photos of Levantines of Moda – Osman Öndes



Caption is 1914 Rose Celebration (Gül Bayramı) in the priest's field (Papaz Çayırı), Moda – Held until WWI conditions in 1915 made them not possible, they were held each year 14-21 May and included a competition for best rose blooms grown in the area, though the main emphasis was a social celebration in connection with the arrival of Spring – information courtesy of Kadir Toprakkaya – Do you have similar images or additional information?



Caption is Moda tennis club, 1929. Can anybody recognise any of the characters?

Searching for information about some prominent families that lived in Alexandria, Egypt, by the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries

I was originally researching on the families of James Easton Cornish and Robert Lang Anderson. Both played important roles in the economic development of Alexandria during that time. Like many other European families they lived on a hill adjacent to the residence of the British High Commissioner in an area that was called Abu el Nawatir, today called Kafr Abdou. I lived on the land that was previously occupied by the villa of the Anderson and Cornish families, called the Cutley House. As an architect, I became very interested in the history of the place and of these families that have lived there for many years and, in some cases, for generations.

My research led me to Emmeline Mary Cornish whose brother James was the owner of the Cutley house (he was married to Hilda, the daughter of Robert Lang Anderson who built the house and lived there first). Emmeline Cornish was married to Sir Henry Edward Barker, a prominent business man who was head of the British Community in Alexandria. His grandson, Henry Michael Barker was forced, like many others, to leave Egypt in 1956 after the Suez Canal crisis, marking the end of an era that is considered as the golden age of modern Alexandria.

So any information about these families and possible descendants that are still living, more particularly the Lang Anderson, the Easton Cornish or the Barker families, would be much appreciated. I am particularly interested in photographs or old maps of the hill of Abu el Nawatir (also referred to as Mustapha Pasha or Rushdy Pacha) since such information is very rare and would probably only be found in private collections.

Thank you and best regards

Rafik Salama, Architect, Montreal, Canada

Email: rafik.salama@mail.mcgill.ca

Recent Events

13th LHF online presentation with guest speaker David Whittall: 'The Whittalls of Turkey: Migration, Diaspora, and Cultural Identity', 2 September 2021 - [flyer](#):

14th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Ian Lyster: 'The Lyster family in Constantinople/Istanbul 1884-1980, 28 September 2021 - [flyer](#):

1st LHF / [Medici Archive Project](#) joint online presentation with guest speaker Özden Mercan: 'From Constantinople to Livorno: Merchants, Migration, and Transfer of Technologies', 30 September 2021 - [flyer](#):

Recent Website additions

Interviews:

Giorgia Taoussi - [link:](#)

Houssine Alloul - [link:](#)

Ian Lyster - [link:](#)

Galleries:

Oriental belles - [link:](#)

Reboul pharmacy of Pera history - [link:](#)

Trade / Club tokens / Commemoration medals - [link:](#)

Submissions:

Lillian Epik - [link:](#)

Community activities

Sister organisation news

Izmir



Gathering as part of the launch of the collaborative heritage project 'Bornova Culture Island' encompassing the celebration and preservation of the Yeşilova tumulus, the Homeros valley and caves and the Levantine houses of the region, in a tour leg stop, here in the [Edward Whittall garden](#), Bornova, 15 October 2021 – [gallery:](#)

Left to right: Altan Altın (local historian), Ahmet Altan (Izmir Mayor chief advisor), Giuliano Maria Cristiano Gloghini (president Izmir Levantine Association), Can Ersoy Dider (World City Izmir Association Vice President), Gülper Şahin Ergün (president of the Service Industry Employees Association), Tunç Soyer (mayor of Izmir), Mustafa İduğ (mayor of Bornova), Enriko Filipuçi (Izmir Levantine Association).

Istanbul

Former LHF-IST volunteers group as well as independent members are in the process of establishing a legal entity in Turkey. The entity will be officially called "Levanten Kultur ve Mirasini Koruma Dernegi" (LKMKD). Application for official recognition will be submitted in early November 2021. Offices will be based in Istanbul, in the heart of the Beyoğlu district. An official website will be launched in early 2022 if not before. Although independent, LKMKD will maintain a close relationship with the LHF for organizing international projects that aim to preserve and promote Levantine culture.

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the recent passing of site contributor of [Erika Lochner Hess](#) of Urla on 14th of October 2021, may she rest in peace.

In addition we are also sad to report the passing of site contributor [Lilian Epik](#) of Izmir on 25th of September 2021, may she rest in peace.

External activities

External Upcoming Events

until 6 November 2021

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

25 November 2021, 6.30 pm

Lecture: 'Egypt's Foreign Policy in time of Crisis and Witness to War and Peace' – HE Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, The British Egyptian Society – [link:](#)

9 December 2021, 7 pm

Lecture: 'In the Footsteps of Lord Byron: John Frederick Lewis in Greece and Albania' – Briony Llewellyn & Charles Newton, The Hellenic Centre London – [link:](#)

14 December 2021, 7 pm

Lecture: 'Levantine Alternatives: Greeks in Constantinople, Smyrna and Alexandria after 1821' – Dr Philip Mansel, The Hellenic Centre London – [link:](#)

Recent Publications

Cyprus from Colonialism to the Present: Visions and Realities: Essays in Honour of Robert Holland - Edited By Anastasia Yiangou, Antigone Heraclidou, Routledge, 2020 – [link:](#)

The Greeks and the British in the Levant, 1800-1960s: Between Empires and Nations - Edited By Anastasia Yiangou, George Kazamias, Robert Holland, Routledge, 2019 – [link:](#)

Chios dicta est...et in Aegeo sita mari: Historical Archaeology and Heraldry on Chios - Ioanna N. Koukouni, Archaeopress, 2021 – [link:](#)

Britain's Levantine Empire, 1914-1923 - Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal, Oxford University Press 2021 – [link:](#)

French Women Orientalist Artists, 1861-1956: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Depictions of Difference - Mary Kelly, Routledge, 2021 – [link:](#)

Lives Between the Lines: A Journey in Search of the Lost Levant - Michael Vatikiotis, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2021 – [link:](#)

Croatian Levantines in Ottoman Istanbul - Vjeran Kursar, Isis Press, 2021 – [link:](#)

Les Tramways Belges Dans L'empire Ottoman - Roland Dussart-Desart, Trama, 2021 – [link:](#)

The Last Muslim Conquest: The Ottoman Empire and Its Wars in Europe - Gábor Ágoston, Princeton University Press, 2021 – [link:](#)

Remembering the Great War in the Middle East: From Turkey and Armenia to Australia and New Zealand - Hans-Lukas Kieser, Thomas Schmutz, Pearl Nunn, Bloomsbury, 2021 – [link:](#)

German Jerusalem: The Remarkable Life of a German-Jewish Neighborhood in the Holy City - Thomas Sparr, The University of Chicago Press, 2021 – [link:](#)

Lives of the Great Languages: Arabic and Latin in the Medieval Mediterranean - Karla Mallette, The University of Chicago Press, 2021 – [link:](#)

Im Schatten Homers. Kaiserin Elisabeth in Griechenland - Stefan Haderer, 2021 – [link](#):

The author Stefan Haderer carefully researched the close bonds and fascination of Empress Elisabeth of Austria (Sisi) with Greece and the Greek culture at the end of the 19th century. In this book of 253 pages, which so far is only published in German, we follow Sisi on her first escape to the island of Corfu in her marriage crisis and accompany her on her long voyages on board the steamer “Miramar”. With her mentor Alexander von Warsberg, the Consul of Corfu, Sisi visited the ruins of Troy and Mycene, Izmir, Santorini, Alexandria and the Red Sea. Back to Corfu Elisabeth decided to have her own Greek palace built - the Achilleion, a magical refuge and her own “Mount Olympus” with many ancient sculptures and pieces of art in a lush Mediterranean park facing the blue sea and the distant mountains.

Sisi’s love and adoration for Greece went even further. The Empress learnt Ancient and Modern Greek and hired ten readers or tutors, most of them in their twenties, to travel, make conversation and spend time with her. For the first time the author explores those young men’s special relationship with the Empress thanks to his research in Greek archives, contemporary newspapers and personal diaries. Some of the readers were poets, writers, sportsmen, or even fought in the war against the Ottoman Empire. One was Frederic Barker, a descendant of the famous English-Greek diplomatic Barker family.

“Im Schatten Homers” is a wonderful blend of scientific research, colourful images (of postcards, photographs and portraits) and includes some of the most beautiful poetry Sisi wrote in and about Greece. If you would like to order the book directly from the author, please contact: stefan.haderer@posteo.de

“Tussen Constantinopel en Holland” Het Dragomannen- En Diplomaten geslacht Testa [“Between Constantinople and Holland” The Dragomen and Diplomats of Family Testa] - Hans Krol And Mehmet Tütüncü - Sota / Researchcentre Fot Turkish And Arabic World, 2012 - sotapublishing@gmail.com

Part One

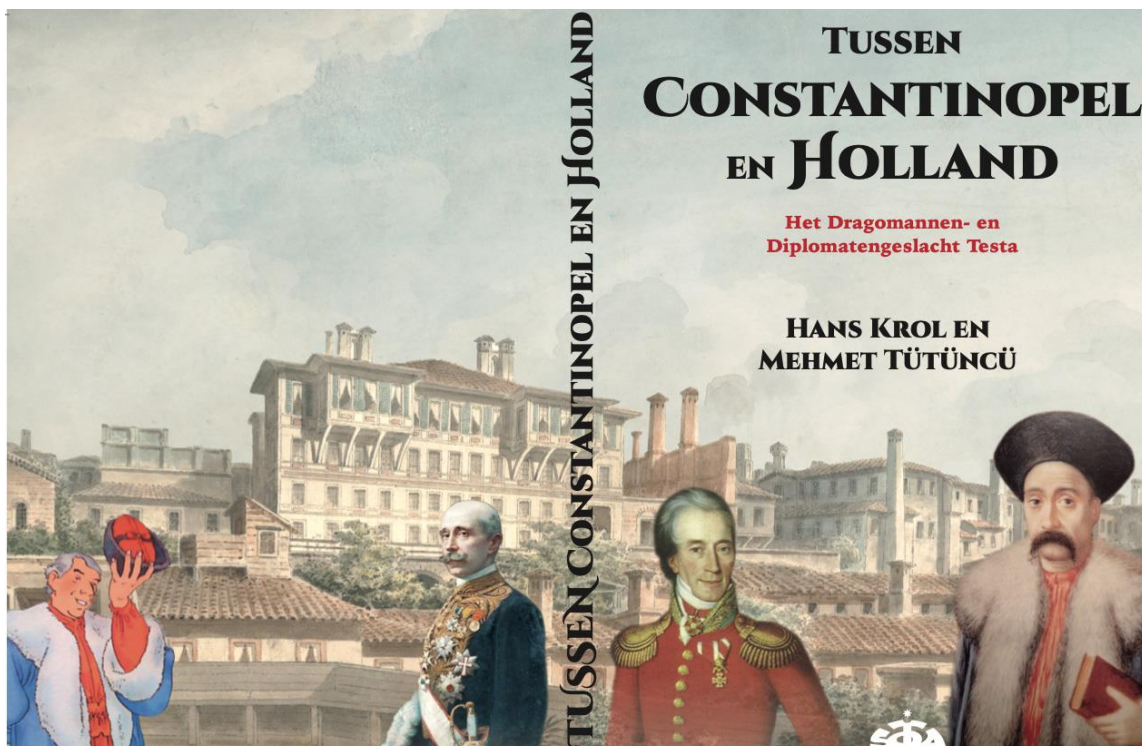
Relations between the Netherlands and Turkey , from Cornelis Haga and Adriaan Pauw upto 2021

Part Two

The dragoman and diplomatic family Testa, from Genova via Turkey to the Netherlands

The authors brought together and comments on the many interesting documents, paintings, engravings, books, *berats*, *firman*s and newspaper-clippings etc. In a context that illustrates the more than 400 years of relations between the Netherlands and Turkey and they focus on the contributions of the Testa Family in these relations and also they provide much information of the history of the Testa Family.

Hans Krol is a Historian, Archivist, Librarian – [link](#) - Mehmet Tütüncü is a historian who specialises in the history of the Ottoman Empire – [link](#):



On the cover from the left to the right: Jhr Drs Andre Testa 1942 (in the uniform of a Dutch dragoman); Charles de Testa 1753 dragoman; Gaspard Baron Testa 1770 dragoman and minister plenipotentiaries for Holland in Constantinople; in the background of the cover : the old ‘Palais de Hollande’.

Upcoming Publications

The Sultan’s Court Painter: Fausto Zonaro - Erol Makzume, Istanbul Yayınevi, 2022 – [cover](#):

Representing Modern Istanbul: Urban History and International Institutions in Twentieth Century Beyoglu - Enno Maessen, Bloomsbury, 2022 – [link:](#)

New External digitisations

Anglo-Ottoman Relations and William Gladstone, 1868-1880, Gül Tokay, 2009 – [link:](#)

The dark ages come to Aleppo - Philip Mansel, Los Angeles Times, 2016 – [link:](#)

American Foreign Missions to the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire: Fashioning the Model of Educated Christian Womanhood in the East in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century, Sarah Zeynep Güven, 2018 – [link:](#)

The Protestant tombs in the Orthodox churchyard of St Lazarus in Larnaca and environs, 1673–1849 - Denys Pringle, 2019 – [link:](#)

Brokering the Orient. Towards an entangled history of Belgian diplomacy in Egypt between 1830-1914 - Gert Huskens, 2020 – [link:](#)

The Role of David Urquhart within the Framework of the Ottoman-British Relations During 19th Century - Arif Uğur Gülsaran, 2020 – [link:](#)

European Trends in an Ottoman City: The Domestic Art Nouveau Buildings in Beyoğlu - Cansu İşbilir, 2019 – [link:](#)

Was Salonica a Levantine city? – Philip Mansel, 2020 – [link:](#)

The Eye of Asia: Portrait of Smyrna as a World City - Philip Mansel, 2021 – [link:](#)

Behind palace doors: Enlightening Europe on Islam and the Ottomans - Philip Mansel, 2021 – [link:](#)

After 1821: Three Ottoman Cities and Greece - Philip Mansel, 2021 – [link:](#)

New Podcasts

Giancarlo Casale on ‘Osman of Timișoara, Ottoman captive in 17th century Europe’, Turkey Book Talk, 28 September 2021 – [link:](#)

Natalie Rothman on dragomans of ‘the Ottoman Empire, between East and West’, Turkey Book Talk, 31 August 2021 – [link:](#)

Professor Odd Arne Westad - Empires Past & Present: the idea of empire, LSE IDEAS, 11 Nov 2020 – [link:](#)

News articles

“Paris–Athens: The Birth of Modern Greece, 1675–1919” at the Louvre - Greek News Agenda, 20 September 2021 – [link:](#)

An Englishman in Search for the Long Lost Levant - International Center for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma, 18 August 2021 - [link:](#)

Erik Bruns, a Dutch Rhodian - Alexander Billinis, NeoMagazine, 2016 – [link:](#)

Race against time to save Europe’s largest timber building - Eylem Yilmaz, Al-Monitor, 5 October, 2021 – [link:](#)

Ephemera

Crimea Before Cameras: How an adventurous traveller sketched the cultures and landmarks of the Crimean Peninsula nearly 200 years ago - Amos Chapple, 9 Oct 2021 – [link:](#)

Our requests

Supporting our upcoming Europe based gathering

We are happy to report that we have a gathering in Paris, France (provisional date 10 March 2022) and Florence Italy (8 April 2022) and these will have both an academic focus and a networking with our friends in those countries. We will soon release more information on these events and please contact us if you can help in ways such as securing low-cost venues or partial sponsorship of these gatherings.

Our messages



Suite au succès de la conférence inaugurale en français du Pr. Philip Mansel intitulée "Vénitiens en Levant: de Constantinople, par Smyrne et Alep, à Alexandrie", la Levantine Heritage Foundation a le plaisir d'annoncer le développement de nouveaux événements à destination de son public francophone, à Paris, en province, et en Belgique. Rendez-vous mercredi 17 novembre en ligne pour une rencontre avec Dominique Gogny autour de son ouvrage "Archives d'Orient : les notables alexandrins, héritiers sans héritage", modérée par Coline Housais, qui contribue à nos activités en France - [prospectus](#). N'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour plus d'informations à ce sujet, ou pour faire part de vos suggestions.

Coline Housais

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 January 2022; 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

[Our Facebook page:](#) (2851 followers) | [Our Youtube channel:](#) (443 subscribers) | [Our Twitter channel:](#) (103 followers)

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