



Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 23 (Summer 2023)

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we reflect on our upcoming conference in Beirut, Lebanon. This continues the expansion of our activities and network to engage better with the global community of people with an interest in the Levantine heritage. If you would like to host an event in your country with the LHF or to support one of our events as a local volunteer or sponsor, please get in touch.

Our activities

Upcoming LHF Events

17 November 2023

Conference: 'Beirut and the Levant: Connections and Contrasts' – Surssock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon – POSTPONED

28 November 2023, 6.30 pm

Hybrid presentation: 'Through Consular Eyes: Thomas Sandwith, British Levant Consul 1855-1891', Stephen Boys Smith, joint event with the Royal Asiatic Society – Royal Asiatic Society, London - [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

12 December 2023, 6 pm

Hybrid presentation: 'The Grand Tour in the Levant, from Athens, via Constantinople and Aleppo, to Cairo: Power, Pleasure and Scholarship', Philip Mansel, joint event with the Anglo-Turkish Society - [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

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.

Researching families STABILE, SCORDALIO, CIULASTI, VELASTI

My name is **Anna Wilson** (Stabile), I reside in Sydney Australia, originally from Malta.

I am seeking any information and contacts of my grandparents' family or friends. The information I have is from Marie Marandet's website, which was comprehensive, family tree and descendent chart, which I am very grateful for.

My grandparents arrived in Malta in 1922 with a suitcase, being evacuated from Smyrna with British passports, at least my grandfather had a British passport. I only knew my grandmother Angela Stabile, she spoke only Greek, so all communication was via my father. I think her brother and other family members ended in France. Not sure.

Angela Stabile - 1884 - 1971 father FRANCESCO SCORDIALO - mothers CALLIOPE CIULATI - no information on her mother at all

Married - Giovanni (John) Stabile - 1866 - 1941

Angela Stabile's grandparents were Antoine Scordialo 1812 - 1882 - and Anna Velasti 1817 - 1887

If anyone recalls knowing them or worked with my grandfather, maybe a distant relative or family friends, I would love to hear from you. Please contact via contact@levantineheritage.com

Seeking information for new book on EURASIAN AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS OF SMYRNA

I am researching a new book on the Eurasian and global connections of Smyrna throughout the city's history. I am particularly interested in Persian, Arab, and Chinese interactions with the city. Trade links between Smyrna and these regions are mentioned intermittently in accounts, but more precise information is tricky to find. I would be most grateful if anyone in the LHF community knew of, or had access to, any of sources on such information in the period 1600-1900. Sources may be letters, (little known) archives, newspaper articles, or stories. You may reach me directly at m.cottakis@lse.ac.uk.

Best wishes, [Michael Cottakis](#) (LSE)

Seeking information on the identity of 'M.E.R.'

'M.E.R.' visits the Whittalls in April 1882 – Gerald MacLean, Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter, July 2023

In the late 1800s, the Whittall family received a visitor identified only by the initials 'M.E.R.' Research indicates that this is most probably Mary Eleanor ROBINSON, but, alternatively, could it be Mary Elizabeth ROYDEN?

Readers of the *Levantine Heritage Foundation Newsletter* will doubtless be familiar with the Whittalls who spent most of the nineteenth century establishing themselves as the pre-eminent Levantine family trading throughout the Ottoman Mediterranean and beyond. Established in 1811 within two years of his arrival in Smyrna (Izmir) from Liverpool by Charlton Whittall (1791-1861), the firm of *C. Whittall and Co.* became so successful that, in 1883, the poet Constantine Cavafy declared Charlton's third son James (1819-1883) to be 'the wealthiest merchant of the Levant.'

Cavafy was by no means the only notable guest to be entertained by the Whittalls at what was known as the 'Big House' in Bornova. The Scottish painter David Wilkie was a guest in 1841, just months before he died, leaving behind a fine portrait of James's first son, James William (1838-1910) resplendent in oriental costume. In 1863, the Ottoman Sultan Abdulaziz, an Anglophile with a personal interest in ships and shipping, spent a day visiting the Whittalls, admiring the Big House and gardens, and later conferring the Order of the Medjdie on Charlton for his hospitality. In 1886 James's fifth son Edward (1851-1917) hosted the Prince of Wales (later King George V) at Bornova. In 1902 the celebrated traveller and diplomat Gertrude Bell stopped by to visit, later reporting that Edward, by now an eminent botanist, was also an advisor to another powerful Ottoman Anglophile, Mehmed Kamil Pasha who served as Grand Vizier several times between 1885 and 1913.

[> read full text:](#)

Recent Events

23rd online presentation with guest speaker Mike Wagner: 'Guns, Money and Lawyers: The English Chartered Trading Companies', 24 January 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#) - [interview:](#)

24th online presentation with guest speaker Ben Singer: 'Rediscovering the Diversity of a Levantine Family – the Jewish, German, Austrian, French and Armenian branches of One Istanbul Family', 26 February 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#)

25th online presentation with guest speaker Prof. Uri M. Kupferschmidt: 'Department Stores and Luxuries in the Levant: The Spread of Western Consumption Goods in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries', 21 March 2023 - [flyer:](#)

3rd joint LHF / Royal Asiatic Society live lecture gathering with guest speaker Dr Gemma Masson: 'Upstairs, Downstairs: British Diplomatic Travellers in 18th Century Istanbul', 28 March 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#) - [interview:](#)

26th online presentation with guest speaker Enno Maessen: 'Urban life in Twentieth-Century Beyoğlu', 8 May 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#) - [interview:](#)

27th online presentation with guest speakers Gillian Mueller & James de Wesselow: 'George Baker: From London Waif to Merchant Mogul of Constantinople, 1848-1905', 13 June 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#)

28th online presentation with guest speaker Reem Haddad: 'From Smyrna to Beirut: The Story of International College', 3 July 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#) - [interview:](#)

29th online presentation with guest speaker Chloe Metz: "'A Thoroughly Mongrel Race" in a "Faraway, Gaslit World": Levantine Liminality and Legacy in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Port Cities', 25 July 2023 - [flyer:](#) - [external review:](#) - [interview:](#)

Recent Website additions

Submissions:

'The winged nun of Ano Syros' by Lienke and Anke van Nugteren – [link:](#)

Palazzo Corpi - Gillian Leavitt Mueller, 2023 – [link:](#)

Interviews:

Roland Dussart-Desart interview – Belgian trams in the Ottoman Empire – [link:](#)

Viorel Panaite interview – Western European Merchants in the Eastern Mediterranean in 16th-17th century Islamic-Ottoman View – [link:](#)

Michael Wagner interview – Guns, Money and Lawyers: The English Chartered Trading Companies – [link:](#)

Gemma Masson interview - Upstairs, Downstairs: British Diplomatic Travellers in 18th Century Istanbul – [link:](#)

Enno Maessen interview - Urban life in Twentieth-Century Beyoğlu – [link:](#)

Reem Haddad interview - From Smyrna to Beirut: The Story of International College – [link:](#)

Vera Constantini interview - Venice, Italians and the Ottoman Levant – [link:](#)

Chloe Metz interview - Levantine Liminality and Legacy in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Port Cities – [link:](#)

Galleries:

Rubellin photos – [link:](#)

Haifa German colony – [link:](#)

Foreign hospitals – [link:](#)

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

Images open for investigation – [link:](#)

Diary:

MODA – A Record with reflection from the day gone by - Hugh McKinley Whittall – [link:](#)

Community activities

In Memoriam

We are extremely sad to hear the recent (12 March 2023) passing of Briony Llewellyn, an independent scholar specialising in British artists' depictions of the Near and Middle East who has written and lectured extensively on the subject. She gave a [lecture](#) to our organisation in 2016 as well as compiling an information gallery of [Luigi Mayer and Clara Barthold](#):

We are also sad to report the passing of one of our contributors, [Willem Daniels](#), to our project who also took part in our Levantine Symposium held in November 2010 in Turkey on 16 July 2023, just shy of his 89th birthday, in Amsterdam.

We are sad to report of the death in Istanbul of one of the foremost jockeys of Turkey, Aldo Baldini (1948 - May 2023) whose gr-grandfather came from Trieste in Italy. He was for many years a language teacher and the cultural attaché at the Italian Consulate in Istanbul and won over 400 prizes in his long jockeying career – tribute [video1](#) – [video2](#) – [video3](#):

External activities

External Upcoming Events

17 October 2023, 5.30 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: Becoming Catholic in the Middle East: Early Modern Fantasies & Modern Myths, John-Paul Ghobrial - German Historical Institute London – [info:](#)

until 26 December 2023

Exhibition: Occupied City: Politics and Daily Life in Istanbul, 1918–1923 - İstanbul Research Institute – [info:](#)

Recent Publications

Rereading Travellers to the East: Shaping Identities and Building the Nation in Post-unification Italy, Edited by: Beatrice Falcucci, Emanuele Giusti, Davide Trentacoste - Firenze University Press, 2022 – [link:](#)

From Khartoum to Jerusalem: The Dragoman Solomon Negima and his Clients (1885–1933) - Rachel Mairs, Bloomsbury, 2007 – [link:](#)

Inventing the Middle East: Britain and the Persian Gulf in the Age of Global Imperialism - Guillemette Crouzet, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022 – [link:](#)

Du pillage à la conscience patrimoniale en Grèce et dans l'Empire ottoman : le rôle des Français et des autres Occidentaux (XVIIIe-XIXe siècles) - Irimi Apostolou et Alessia Zambon, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, 2022 – [link:](#)

Losing Istanbul: Arab-Ottoman Imperialists and the End of Empire - Mostafa Minawi, Stanford University Press, 2022 – [link:](#)

Levantine Architectural Heritage in Mersin: Traditional Houses, Commercial Buildings and Churches - Nur Umar & Tuğçe Darendeli, Eliva Press, 2022 – [link:](#) - [abstract:](#)

Silent Teachers: Turkish Books and Oriental Learning in Early Modern Europe, 1544–1669 - Nil Ö. Palabıyık, Routledge, 2023 – [link:](#)

Borders, Boundaries and Belonging in Post-Ottoman Space in the Interwar Period - Editors: Ebru Boyar and Kate Fleet, Brill, 2023 – [link:](#)

Traversées méditerranéennes: Jeux d'espace et mobilités au xix^e siècle - Marie-Carmen Smyrnelis, Classiques Garnier, 2023 – [link:](#)

I Am IC: A School's Journey from Smyrna to Beirut, Reem Haddad - Librairie Antoine S.A.L, 2019 – [link:](#)

Narrating the Dragoman's Self in the Veneto-Ottoman Balkans, c. 1550-1650 - Life Narratives of the Ottoman Realm: Individual and Empire in the Near East- Stefan Hanss, Routledge, 2023 – [link:](#)

Multilingualism and History - Aneta Pavlenko, Cambridge University Press, 2023 – [link:](#)

Anglophone Press in Constantinople: The Levant Herald & Eastern Express (1859-1878) - Burhan Çağlar, 2020 – [link:](#)

Following Miss Bell – Travels Around Turkey in the Footsteps of Gertrude Bell - Pat Yale, Trailblazer Publications, 2023 – [blog:](#) - [review:](#) - [podcast:](#) - [interview:](#)

The Mercantile Effect: Art and Exchange in the Islamic World during the 17th and 18th Centuries, edited by Sussan Babaie and Melanie Gibson - Gingko, 2019 – [link:](#)

New External digitisations

The connected world of intrigues: the disgrace of Murad III's favorite David Passi in 1591 - Elif Özgen, Leiden University, 2012 – [link:](#)

Western Diplomatic Sources and the Early Modern Ottoman Empire - Michael Townsend, Institute of Historical Research, 2021 – [link:](#)

"Of a Piece with Their Habitations": Phanariots and Their Houses on the Phanar Waterfront - Namık Erkal & Firuzan Melike Sümertaş, 2022 – [link:](#)

Projections of Xenophobia: The Capitulations, Employment, and Anglo-Turkish Relations in the 1920s - Orçun Can Okan, 2022 – [link:](#)

Bell Ringing in Latin Pera: Sounds and Silence - Alex Rodriguez Suarez, 2022 – [link:](#)

Representing Occupied Istanbul: Documents, Objects, and Memory - Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal & Gizem Tongo, 2022 – [link:](#)

What Russian-Language Publications Tell Us about Refugee Life in Occupied Istanbul - Ekaterina Aygün, 2022 – [link:](#)

Van de Bosporus naar de Zuiderzee [From The Bosporus to the Southern Sea Travel book from 1793 by Gaspard Testa] - Mehmet Tutuncu, 2022 – [link:](#)

'The Smyrna Quay: A Digital Reconstruction' – George Poulimenos contribution for the Symposium 'The Port of Izmir from Past to Present', held in Izmir, 7April 2022 – [link:](#)

France in the Levant: Trade and Immaterial Circulations in the "Long Eighteenth Century" - David Celetti, Journal of early modern history, 2020 – [link:](#)

The Genoese Levantine colonies at the birth of Ottoman Imperial power: A framework for inquiry - Padraic Rohan, 2015 – [link:](#)

Levant Trade Review and Turkish-American commercial relations - Hasan Küçük, 2019 – [link:](#)

Turmoil in the Capital: British Publication Alarmed the Hamidian Regime - Burhan Çağlar, Belleten, 2021 – [link:](#)

News

Bernard Arkas, nouveau consul honoraire de France à Izmir – [link](#):

Newly Re-Opened, Beirut's Sursock Museum is a Survivor, Arie Amaya-Akkermans, The Markaz Review, 12 June, 2023 – [link](#):

The Istanbul orphanage souring France-Turkey relations - Nicolas Bourcier, Le Monde, 17 Aug 2023 – [link](#):

New Podcasts

An Interconfessional History of Missions in the Middle East and North Africa, with Norig Neveu, Karène Sanchez Summerer, and Annalaura Turiano, Ottoman History Podcast, 6 March 2023 – [link](#):

Ottoman Boston: Discovering Little Syria with Chloe Bordewich and Lydia Harrington, Ottoman History Podcast, 30 May 2023 – [link](#):

Shock and War: Iraq 20 Years On with Gordon Corera, BBC Radio 4, 2023 – [link](#):

New Videos

The Antiquities Trade in Late 19th Century Greece: Stories of People and Objects - Dr Yannis Galanakis, Society of Antiquaries, The Hellenic Society and Roman Society, 2 February 2023 – [link](#):

New Websites

International College of Smyrna history – [link](#):

The British Cemetery Haydarpasha Istanbul – [link](#):

Egypt in the Golden Age of Travel – [link](#):

İstanPólis Collaborative – [link](#):

Ephemera

The strange death of the Levant company (and how a clock taught me about it) - Sean Lusk, 2 June 2022 – [link](#):

200 Years of Tourism in the Holy Lands – From Mark Twain to the Digital Age - Uzi Baram, American Society of Overseas Research, September 2013 – [link](#):

Christies auction: Antoine-Ignace Melling (Karlsruhe 1763-1831 Paris): Procession en l'honneur d'un mariage turc – [link](#):

When Things Go Wrong: Smuggling Artefacts from Baghdad to London in the late 19th Century – Nadia Ghanem, SOAS History Blog, 2022 - [link](#):

Mark Sykes and Armenians - Alyson Wharton-Durgaryan, CAIA, 2018 – [link](#):

Online Exhibition: Sights of Wonder: Photographs from the 1862 Royal Tour, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham – [link](#):

Roger Bilboul: Lives in Focus Series - Sephardi Voices UK, 2020 – [link](#):

Discover the amazing world of Orientalist paintings at Islamic Art Museum Malaysia - Rouwen Lin, The Star, 30 July 2023 – [link](#):

Travels in the Caucasus – A Memoir by Frank Xavier Calleja (1922) Part 3: The Competition – Angela Fry, From Lancs to the Levant, 7 July 2023 – [link](#):

Forgetting the Ottoman past has done the Arabs no good - Mostafa Minawi, Al Jazeera, 20 Aug 2023 – [link](#):

Application Mobile – Istanbul, Sur Les Traces De Pierre Loti – [info](#):

Support our upcoming conference in Beirut

[Book](#) now to attend our conference in Beirut on 17 November 2023. For those wishing to attend in person, we have prepared a [travel guide](#) and have a tour operator who is assisting us with hotel accommodation, airport transfers and with the tours on 18 and 19 November. For those wishing to attend online, our host the Sursock Museum will provide an audio link.

The conference is free, so please donate to the LHF when booking if you are able. Your contributions are important in enabling the organisation of the event and in providing free access to students and others with limited means.

This event and others in the future will have both an academic focus and a networking gathering with our friends and colleagues in those countries. Please contact us if you can help in ways such as securing low-cost venues, event organisation or sponsorship of these gatherings via chairman@levantineheritage.com.

Our messages

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Contribute to our newsletter

These newsletters are published every 4-5 months; contact us if you wish to contribute an article or place an entry / announcement.

Craig Encer

General Secretary – secretary@levantineheritage.com

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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, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari, Jonathan Beard, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Achilleas Chatziconstantinou