



## 21<sup>th</sup> Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner gathering

Our next talks and drinks and canapes reception will be on Wednesday 27th January 2016, at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF, starting at 6 pm.

Our first speaker for the evening is Briony Llewellyn, an independent scholar who has published extensively on British artists' depiction of the Near and Middle East. The title of the talk is: The Ambassador's Artist: Luigi Mayer (c.1750-1803) and Sir Robert Ainslie, British Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire (1775-93).

Briony Llewellyn is an independent scholar specialising in British artists' depictions of the Near and Middle East, and has written and lectured extensively on the subject. In 1985-88, she was co-author of the catalogue of the Searight Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum. She has contributed to numerous catalogues and publications including the exhibitions of *Edward Lear*, 1985, *Amadeo Preziosi*, 1985, *David Roberts*, 1986 and *Black Victorians*, 2005. In 2008 she was loans consultant for Tate Britain's exhibition, *Lure of the East*. She has researched and published extensively on John Frederick Lewis and is currently compiling a *catalogue raisonné* of his work. She is also engaged in research on a large private collection of European views of Istanbul for a forthcoming publication.

On Luigi Mayer, she built on the pioneering research begun by Rodney Searight in the 1970s and early 1980s, and catalogued a collection of over 100 of his watercolours acquired by the dealers, Eyre & Hobhouse, in 1983. In 1990 she published the first substantial article devoted to his life and work. She has brought this up to date in a forthcoming article in *Cornucopia*.



View of Constantinople and Eyüp as seen from Okmeydanı, Luigi Mayer late 18th century

Our second speaker will be Thora Ray giving a talk on 'A Millwright's Tale; Life in Menemen during WW1', based on the diaries of Spencer Whiteman kept between 1915-19. Spencer Whiteman was Ms Ray's maternal great-grandfather who owned a cotton mill in Menemen, a market town situated around 30 km north of Izmir, Turkey. This factory was occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 and he was held there as an enemy alien. The diary was kept so that his children would know what happened to him.



The former Armenian (Surp Sarkis) Church of Menemen

The talks themselves are free but you are invited to the optional drinks and canapes – booking via Eventbrite [here](#).

Please note the venue, Royal Thames Yacht Club (60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF) has a strict dress policy for gentlemen, jacket and tie please.

[www.levantineheritage.com](http://www.levantineheritage.com)

[contact@levantineheritagefoundation.org](mailto:contact@levantineheritagefoundation.org)