



24th Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner gathering

Our next talk and dinner will be on Thursday 19th January 2017, at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF, starting at 6 pm.

The evening will start with 2 guest speakers:

Jerry Brotton, **'This Orient Isle: Elizabethan England and the Islamic World'**

In 1570, Elizabeth I was excommunicated by the Pope. Jerry Brotton discusses how this was the beginning of an English alignment with Muslim powers, leading to cultural, economic and political exchanges with the Islamic world. England signed treaties with the Ottoman Porte, received ambassadors from the kings of Morocco and shipped munitions to Marrakesh in the hope of establishing an accord that would keep the common enemy of Catholic Spain at bay. By the late 1580s hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Elizabethan merchants, diplomats, sailors, artisans and privateers were plying their trade from Morocco to Persia. Jerry shows that England's relations with the Muslim world were far more extensive, and often more amicable, than we have ever appreciated, and that their influence was felt across the political, commercial and domestic landscape of Elizabethan England, even touching Shakespeare. It is a startlingly unfamiliar picture of a part of our national and international history.

Jerry Brotton is Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary University of London. He is a regular broadcaster and critic as well the author of *Renaissance Bazaar: From the Silk Road to Michelangelo*, *The Sale of the Late King's Goods: Charles I and his Art Collection* (shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction and the Hessel-Tiltman History Prize) and the bestselling, award-winning *A History of the World in Twelve Maps*, which has been translated into 12 languages.



Murad III, left, Elizabeth I, right

Zeynep Cebeci Suvari, 'Consular property records of the Italian community of Istanbul 1873-1910'

I have been working on my thesis in the department of history in Boğaziçi University under the guidance of Prof. Paolo Girardelli. My thesis title was the Italians of Istanbul between 1870-1910. When I was looking for an original and unexplored topic for my thesis, a friend directed me to a second-hand book seller. He mysteriously acquired thousands of documents that were thrown away from the Italian embassy in Istanbul. I managed to browse and scan some of these documents. But I only opened 7 bags out of the 40 he had in his possession. At that time I thought these documents would be purchased by an institution and become available to researchers. However these documents might be lost forever now. Luckily I photographed some 1200 petitions written by Italian citizens dwelling in Istanbul addressed to the Italian Consul. These pertain to property transactions, such as sales, mortgage or inheritance. On my thesis I built an alphabetical list of these petitions and I am still analysing them in detail.

After obtaining a master's degree from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Zeynep Cebeci Suvari attended Bosphorus University's history department. Mrs Suvari has been working on her Phd thesis on the Italian Community of Istanbul in the late Ottoman period. She previously taught in Ca Foscari University of Venice and Bosphorus University in Istanbul. Mrs Suvari lived in Damascus in 1999-2000 and studied Arabic.



Archive photo of the top floor of Casa Garibaldi - Società Operaia Italiana di Mutuo Soccorso [Italian workers' Society of Mutual Aid] in Pera / Beyoğlu where plays for the Italian community were performed. The restoration of the building is now nearing completion.

The talks themselves are free but you are invited to the optional dinner.

Eventbrite for bookings: <http://lhf-24th-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please note the venue has a strict dress policy for gentlemen, jacket and tie please.

www.levantineheritage.com - contact@levantineheritage.com