

25th Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner gathering in London, with guest speaker author Haydn Williams - 'Turquerie: An 18-Century European Fantasy'

With the arrival of Ottoman embassies and their elaborate entourages at the courts of Europe in the early eighteenth century, a fascination with all things Turkish took hold among royalty and aristocracy that lasted until the French Revolution. Turbaned figures appeared in paintings, as ceramic figures, and on the stage; tented boudoirs became the rage; and crossed crescents, palm trees, and camels featured on wall panels, furniture, and enamel boxes.

Haydn Williams, an expert on the decorative arts, shows how it was a theme that sparked varied responses in different places. Its most intense and long-lasting expression was in France, but its reach was broad—from a pavilion built by Catherine II in Russia to the Turkish tents erected along the Elbe to celebrate a royal marriage in Dresden in 1719; from an ivory statuette of a janissary created for King Augustus II of Poland to the costumes worn for a carnival celebration in Rome in 1748.



Jean-Etienne Liotard (Swiss-French artist, 1702-1789) Portrait présumé de Laura Tarsi en habit à la turque

24 April 2017, 6pm start, talk 7 pm, dinner 8pm
Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London
booking essential: <https://25th-lhf-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk>