



2nd joint event Levantine Heritage Foundation with the Centre for Hellenic Studies & the Anglo-Hellenic League at King's College London with guest speaker Philip Mansel
12th February 2025, 6 pm - King's Great Hall, KCL Strand Campus, London WC2R 2LS



The 'Second Phanar': Constantinople Greeks and Ottoman Sultans, 1821 to 1914



After the revolution of 1821, some Greeks continued to serve Ottoman Sultans in such positions as doctor, banker or photographer to the Sultan, or as diplomats. The Ecumenical Patriarch, who had anathematised the Greek revolution of 1821, continued to be part of the Ottoman hierarchy. Members of the Aristarchi, Mavroyenni, Musurru and Zarifi families, among many others, preferred to live in Constantinople and serve the Sultan, rather than to reside in the kingdom of Greece. Abdulhamid II (1876-1909) had a Greek doctor Spiridon Mavroyenni, a Greek banker Giorgios Zarifi whose nephew's memoirs will be quoted, while the Hamidiye mosque beside his palace at Yıldız was designed by his Greek architect, Nicolo Vasilaki. The title of Prince of Samos could be awarded by the Sultan to Ottoman Greeks as a reward for their services, as the titles of Prince of Wallachia or Moldavia had been awarded to Phanariots before 1821. The nineteenth century was an age of multinational empires as well as nation states. Many people preferred the former to the latter.

Booking essential: <https://p-mansel-second-phanar-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>

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Alexander Mavroyenni, Ottoman minister to the United States 1887-1896, Prince of Samos 1902-1904



Dr Philip Mansel's books include *Constantinople, City of the World's Desire* (1995) on the Ottoman capital between 1453 and 1924, and *Levant, Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean* (2010) on Smyrna, Alexandria and Beirut after 1600, both of which have been translated into Greek; and *Aleppo: the Rise and Fall of Syria's Great Merchant City* (2016). He is a founding committee member of the Society for Court Studies and the Levantine Heritage Foundation, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Society of Literature. He is currently working on *The Power of Courts*, a new history of Europe 1814-1918, from the perspective of its ruling dynasties.

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