



Research - Education - Preservation

Newsletter no: 3 (Summer 2015)

News

London 2016 Conference - Call for papers

The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF) will be hosting a conference in London, 2-4 November 2016 titled 'Levant & Europe: Rethinking the Eastern Mediterranean', to be held at Europe House, Smith Square, London SW1 P3HZ and the Hellenic Centre, Paddington street London W1U 5AZ. For enquiries for the conference please contact lhf2016@levantineheritagefoundation.org

We've had an amazing response and feedback for our 2014 Istanbul Levantine Conference and hope to repeat this success in 2016 and include new researchers, supporters and friends in the city where the Levant Company was founded in the late 16th century. The connection with the Levant world has continued over the centuries. London still acts as a hub for the traffic of people and ideas in both directions.

Please help spread the word and support us in any way you can. We will soon announce what sort of help, both practical and financial we would appreciate.

20th Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner gathering

Our next talk and dinner will be on Thursday 22nd October 2015, at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London. We will have Brian Taylor giving a talk on the 18th century painter of Levant scenes, Antoine van der Steen. In addition we will have Valerie Neild talking about 'Snow in Smyrna: the travels of a portrait'. Admission to the talk is free and there is an optional dinner afterwards for a charge. Please book your tickets [here](#):



View of Constantinople and the Seraglio from the Swedish Legation in Pera. Antoine van der Steen c. 1787-80

Our last gathering on the 2nd July was a record turn-out and we were honoured to have talks from two high calibre researchers (Edward Charlton-Jones: 'White Russian Émigré Society in Constantinople, 1918-23' and George Vassiadis: 'Sacred Spaces: Greek and Levantine Places of Worship in Alexandria').



Group photo from the 19th Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner, London, 2 July 2015

Whittall family of Turkey descendants gathering, London 19 Sept 2015

Descendants of the Whittall family of Turkey are invited to the 2nd Grand Reunion in West London, Saturday 19th September 2015 12-4pm - for information and registration please e-mail: [bettymckernan\[at\]btinternet.com](mailto:bettymckernan[at]btinternet.com).

Other Events

Camera Ottomana: Photography and Modernity in the Ottoman Empire, 1840-1914

21 Apr 2015 - 19 Aug 2015

Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Information: <https://rcac.ku.edu.tr/en/content/camera-ottomana>

Intersecting Worlds: Ambassadors and Painters

The Pera Museum, Beyoğlu, Istanbul - until 31 Dec 2015

Information: <http://en.peramuzesi.org.tr/Exhibition/Intersecting-Worlds/132>

Jean-Etienne Liotard painting exhibition

Royal Academy, London - 24 October 2015 – 31 January 2016

We hope to organise a talk around this important exhibition of the artist who was resident in Constantinople for four years in the mid-18th century, painting portraits of Ottoman officials and European diplomats, as well as merchants and Levantines.



Information: <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/jean-etienne-liotard-the-story-so>

Upcoming conference: International Conference on Ottoman Studies

14-17 October 2015, Sakarya University

Information: <http://www.osmanliarastirmalari.org/>

Upcoming conference: A Civilization Destroyed: The Wealth of Non-Muslims in the

Late Ottoman Period and the Early Republican Era

20-21 November 2015, Istanbul

Information: <http://vivahiba.com/article/show/yok-edilen-medeniyet-gec-osmanli-ve-erken-cumhuriy/>

Recent Publications

The Great Fire: One American's Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide – Lou Ureneck, 2015

Information: <http://www.smyrnafire.com/author/>

Trading with the Ottomans: The Levant Company in the Middle East - Despina Vlami - I.B. Tauris, 2014

Information:

Le crepuscule des Levantins de Smyrne - Louis Francois Martini, Editions L'Harmatta, 2013

We do have a pdf version available for those who wish to reference it.

Cities of the Mediterranean: From the Ottomans to the Present Day - Edited by: Biray Kolluoglu, Meltem Toksoz, I.B. Tauris, 2014

Information:

Website developments

We have just started the process of overhauling the website and the results starting from the homepage will gradually be online before long and your feedback on the changes will be appreciated. We will always endeavour to provide the story of the Levantines from the Levantines' perspective, both past and present, showing their multiplicity of origins, place of settlement in the Levant, their varied positions and professions and naturally the resulting kaleidoscope of impressions that have come down through writings and photographs. The online database needs to be better presented, organised and more easily searchable. The web address will remain the same, but the Levantine Heritage Foundation website content will be merged with this site.

Latest additions to the website include these **interviews:** Fortunato Maresia (author of a recent book on his memories of Pera: <http://levantineheritage.com/interview10.htm>, and three academics: Vjeran Kursar <http://levantineheritage.com/interview11.htm>, Christine Lindner <http://levantineheritage.com/interview12.htm>, Frank Castiglione <http://levantineheritage.com/interview13.htm>

Articles / testimonies: Marjorie Rear <http://levantineheritage.com/pdf/Biography-of-William-Barker-Levant-Company-Merchant-Marjorie-Rear.pdf>,

Jane Spooner <http://levantineheritage.com/testi89.htm>

Richard Seivers <http://levantineheritage.com/testi90.htm>

Frances Clegg <http://levantineheritage.com/testi91.htm>

For membership: membership@levantineheritagefoundation.org

Becoming a member is easy. Our members enjoy significant advantages. Please check our link to discover them and subscribe. <http://levantineheritagefoundation.org/become-a-member.html> This will support our ongoing work.

Gift Aid: http://levantineheritagefoundation.org/pdf/LHF_Gift_Aid_Declaration_form.docx

For enquiries: contact@levantineheritagefoundation.org

For information on upcoming London 2016 Conference:

lhf2016@levantineheritagefoundation.org

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LevantineHeritageFoundation>

Craig Encer

Secretary

The Levantine Heritage Foundation

The Levantine Heritage Charitable 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: Jonathan Beard, Quentin Compton-Bishop, Craig Encer, Dr Philip Mansel FRHS, Axel Corlu, Kalliopi Amygdalou, Osman Öndeş, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari