



Joint event by the Levantine Heritage Foundation and the Egyptian Cultural Bureau  
33rd gathering of the Levantine Heritage Foundation in London

With guest speaker **Prof Doris Behrens-Abouseif** (SOAS)



## ***Cairo through the lens of pilgrims and explorers from the Middle Ages to Napoleon***

This talk shows how the image of Cairo and its Islamic architecture evolved in the perspective of travelogues from the Middle Ages to Bonaparte's Expedition. Although Antiquity and biblical associations were the main attractions of pre-modern travels to Egypt, medieval Cairo and its Islamic architecture attracted increasing interest over the centuries. The lecture documents with many and some rare illustrations the impact of Islamic Cairo in European travelogues and how it culminated in academic studies of Islamic art and architecture.



Nilometer by Luigi Mayer in Robert Ainslies's View in Egypt (1801)



### **Prof Doris Behrens-Abouseif**

From 2000-2014: Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology (Nasser D Khalili chair) at SOAS, University of London. Before joining SOAS in 2000: Teaching Islamic Art at the American University in Cairo and at the Universities of Freiburg and Munich in Germany.

List of publications covers a wide range of subjects from the early period to the 19th century with focus on Egypt and Syria: Islamic architecture, urbanism, waqf, decorative arts, Islamic cultural history and concepts of aesthetics. Examples of publications:

- Egypt's Adjustment to Ottoman Rule, Leiden/ New York/Köln, 1994
- Beauty in Arabic Culture, Princeton, 1999.
- Cairo of the Mamluks, London/Cairo, 2007
- The Minarets of Cairo London/Cairo, 2010

**15 January 2020, 6.30 pm start, talk 7 pm, ending 8.30 pm**

Egyptian Cultural and Education Bureau, 4 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1J 5BG

Talks are but booking is essential:

Booking essential: <https://doris-behrens-abouseif-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>