



39th Levantine Heritage Foundation / Anglo-Turkish Society hybrid presentation in London with guest speaker Ann Hudson, 18 November 2025 6 pm (UK time)

venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, Fitzrovia, London W1T 5BT

Samuel Crawley (1706–62), British Consul at Smyrna

How did the younger son of a London lawyer get to be the Levant Company's Consul at Smyrna? Like many consuls he began in the merchant trade, but unusually this was in Messina in Sicily rather than in the Levant. Study of many printed and manuscript sources, including the Levant Company archives and personal correspondence, has shown how family background shaped Samuel Crawley's career, and a vivid picture has emerged of his character and his life among the small English community in Smyrna where he was Consul for twenty years. At his sudden death in 1762, leaving a widow and young family, the Ambassador in Constantinople described him as 'one of the best men I have known, and the more to be regretted both in private and publick life, in this degenerate age.'

Samuel Crawley is notable for his interest in the ancient world. This began when he was in Sicily, then just starting to be a popular destination for antiquarian travellers. It developed further in Smyrna, where he entertained visitors such as the Homeric scholar Robert Wood, and James 'Athenian' Stuart and Nicholas Revett, authors of *The Antiquities of Athens*. His wife Marie Dunant from Constantinople, whose pastel portrait by Liotard is still in Crawley hands, was a strong character who married the Dutch Consul Daniel Jean, Comte de Hochepped after Samuel's death and had a second family. While Samuel's two sons went to England, most of the other children from both families remained in Smyrna and married into the English and Dutch communities there, where they had many descendants.

Booking is essential: <https://ann-hudson-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>



View of Smyrna, 1779. N Knop. Rijksmuseum. Public Domain Dedication (CCO 1.0)



A professional indexer of books and journals, Ann has had a life-long interest in history and archaeology and has published articles in various journals. She has been researching the life of Samuel Crawley, her direct ancestor, for many years, and wrote his biography for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

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