



Levantine Heritage Foundation in-person presentation in Istanbul with guest speaker Bengi Su Ertürkmen, 16 (?) October 2026, 6 pm (?)

venue: TBC

## **Connected Lives: Mapping British Commercial and Social Networks in Late Ottoman Constantinople**

Drawing on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century trade annuals, this talk explores how networks of commerce, culture, and society shaped the British presence in Istanbul through shared institutions, professional affiliations, and everyday urban connections. Beginning with the identification of prominent individuals, families, institutions, and associations appearing in the annuals, the research examines how memberships, professional ties, and institutional relationships contributed to the formation of interconnected British networks across the city.

Through the examination of trade annuals alongside archival and secondary sources, a lexicon of individuals, families, institutions, and associations was gradually formed, making it possible to trace relationships established through shared social, professional, and institutional environments. These connections were subsequently visualised through network mapping, while the residential and commercial addresses recorded in the annuals were mapped in order to reveal the spatial distribution of these networks across the city. The resulting maps and network visualisations reveal not only institutional relationships but also the spatial patterns through which British social and professional life became embedded within the urban fabric of Istanbul. Rather than attempting to reconstruct the entirety of the British presence in Istanbul, the talk offers a partial yet connected reading of a community shaped through overlapping lives, places, and institutions.

This talk presents the research process and outcomes of the project *Commerce, Culture and Society: Contributions of the British Community in Late Ottoman Constantinople and Early Republican Istanbul*, coordinated by the Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF), and conducted by Bengi Su Ertürkmen.

Booking is essential: Link to follow soon

The collage includes several distinct sections:

- PHOENIX FIRE OFFICE**: COMPAGNIE ANGLAISE D'ASSURANCES CONTRE L'INCENDIE. FONDÉE À LONDRES EN 1782. Les primes annuelles s'élevaient environ à L. St. 1,000,000. Pertes payées jusqu'au 31 Décembre 1890 L. St. 18,000,000. Agents Généraux pour Constantinople, la Bulgarie et l'Asie Mineure. **H. SWAN & C<sup>o</sup>** 11 et 12, SANDALGI HAN, GALATA.
- QUEEN'S INSURANCE**: A circular logo with a queen's profile and the text 'CONSTANTINOPLE 128900 RUE 1-17'.
- MAISON ANGLAISE D'IMPORTATION ET COMMISSION**: Fondée en 1863. Machines à vapeur agricoles à percer, Tours, Foyes, etc., etc. Coutureux. Garniture à piston. Asbestos. Courroies en cuir, soies et singles. Manomètres. Salinomètres. Lubrificateurs, etc., etc. Fer en barres. Tôles à chaudières de Low-Moor. Best Best et ordinaire. Acier. Rivets, Boulons. Cuivre rouge et jaune. Tuyaux à gaz noir et galvanisé. Tuyaux de chaudière. Viroles. Chaines noir & galvanisé. Marteaux à moulin. Meules à aiguiser, etc., etc.
- LAUGHTON & CHISNELL**: Négociants en Fer et Métaux. GALATA.
- ANNUAIRE ORIENTAL (ANCIEN INDICATEUR ORIENTAL) DU COMMERCE**: DE L'INDUSTRIE, DE L'ADMINISTRATION ET DE LA MAGISTRATURE. CRÉÉ PAR **RAPHAËL C. CERVATI** ET PUBLIÉ AVEC L'AUTORISATION DU MINISTÈRE IMPÉRIAL DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE. 17 JUIN 82. Bureau de Poste.
- FRANCIS MEMORIAL BUILDING**: R. Coulé, près du Consulat Anglais, Galata. — **British Literary and Mechanic's association.** Président, Sir W. A. White, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.M.G., ambassadeur d'Angleterre. Comité: Tarring (Charles J.), juge-adjoint et consul d'Angleterre, président. Henderson (Rev. J.), vice-président.
- FRANKPO YACHT CLUB COMPANY LTD.**: 4 Prinkipo (Ile des Frères). Président d'Honneur, S. E. Président, Pears (Dr Edwin). Vice-Présidents, Pangri Boy (S.E.A.), Rambers (L.).
- THE BRITISH INSTITUTE LIBRARY**: AT THE FRANCIS MEMORIAL BUILDING, R. Coulé, près de l'Hôpital Anglais, Galata. Trustees, Clemow (D-F. C. M. D.), Ferguson (Frank), Thompson (M. A.).
- THOMAS G. TUCKER**: 17, Rue Zulfarissé, 17, Vie-à-vis la Banque de Constantinople, GALATA, CONSTANTINOPLE. REPRÉSENTANT DE Plusieurs Fabriques Anglaises. IMPORTATION DE toutes sortes de machines agricoles, etc. FERS BLANCS, MÉTAUX, etc., etc.
- BOND & C<sup>IE</sup>**: MÉCANICIENS CONSTRUCTEURS 3 et 5, — Rue Aralik Iskelesi, — 3 et 5. à KIBRETCI-CAPOU. Fabrication et réparation de toute espèce de machines, chaudières, moules, moutures à vapeur, presses à imprimer, etc. SPÉCIALITÉ: — Importation et installation de moules à farine complets. Presses hydrauliques, etc. Machines à vapeur et Chaudières. ME ROND et C<sup>o</sup> ayant installé des arrangements spéciaux avec quelques maisons les plus renommées de l'Europe, peuvent importer des machines pour tous métiers.
- CHRIST WALKER & C<sup>o</sup>**: 14 à 17 Fralanzéan Han, GALATA. SHIP-BROKERS AND COAL MERCHANTS.
- Arsenal Impérial de Haskuey**: Harty (Henry) Bey, inspecteur mécanicien. Macintyre (Hugh), maître chaudronnier. Granowsky (Abolphe), chef ingénieur de la fabrication des bateaux torpilles. Ferguson (Georges), ingénieur en chef. Newman (H.), maître chauffeur. Rand (Henry), chef du département des constructions. Flucker (Peter), chef du département des bateaux torpilles.
- L'hôpital Anglais, Constantinople**: Helene Jourdanoff, Sée. Editeur: Max Fruchtermann, Constantinople.

\*Image produced by Bengi Su Ertürkmen with AI assistance using visuals from trade annuals and LHF website



**Bengi Su Ertürkmen, Ph.D.**, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at Gazi University. Her research focuses on architectural and urban history, late Ottoman and early Republican urban culture, everyday life, modernity, gender, and non-Muslim communities. Her work has been published in internationally recognized journals on topics including urban modernity, leisure culture, sports and public space, and the spatial histories of Istanbul and Ankara. In 2021, she received the VEKAM Research Award for a collaborative project on leisure practices and urban space in early Republican Ankara, and in 2023 she was awarded the Scott Opler Emerging Scholar Fellowship by the Society of Architectural Historians.

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