



Değerli Üyelerimiz,

1968 – 2000 yılları arasında 32 yıl boyunca Derneğimizde Yönetim Kurulu üyeliği görevinde bulunmuş ve Merkez Deniz Acenteliği ve Tic. A.Ş. firmasının Kurucusu ve Yönetim Kurulu Başkanlığı görevini yürüten, denizcilik sektörünün ve eğitiminin gelişimi için çok değerli katkıları bulunan, denizcilik sektörümüzün duayenlerinden, beyefendiliğin timsali değerli büyüğümüz Sayın Charles Frederick WILKINSON' un vefatını derin üzüntülerimiz ile öğrenmiş bulunmaktayız.

Cenaze merasimi 05.07.2026 pazar günü saat 13.30'da Feriköy Protestan Mezarlığı'nda gerçekleştirilecektir.

Başta kederli ailesine, yakınlarına, dostlarına ve camiamıza başsağlığı ve sabır dileriz.

Saygılarımızla,
VAPUR DONATANLARI VE ACENTELERİ DERNEĞİ
YÖNETİM KURULU BAŞKANI
Recep DÜZGİT



Charles Frederick Wilkinson of Moda By Osman Öndeş

I paused upon receiving an announcement of his death, and my sadness led me to my memories of Charles Frederick Wilkinson, a man of utmost kindness, courtesy, and a rich family culture.

Charles Frederick Wilkinson, who served as a Board Member of Turkish Ship-chandlers and agency association for 32 years and was the founder and Chairman of the Board of Merkez Deniz Acenteliği ve Tic. A.Ş., passed away. His funeral service was held on Sunday, July 5, 2026, at the Feriköy Protestant Chapel, after which he was laid to rest in the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery.

And I think I imagined the İnebolu Street of Ömer Avni Neighborhood in Kabataş Setüstü, 40 years ago.... In those years, I remember my dear friend **Aldo Campaner** and his sons **Gino Campaner** and **Mario Campaner**, symbols of unparalleled gentlemanliness, running the Near East Maritime Agency, which later continued from Veli Alemdar Han in Karaköy to Ekemen Han. Further on, in the Palanduz Apartment building, was Omur Marin, founded by **Captain Emre Omur** (after his death, his son-in-law **Recep Hakan Şen** successfully continued it today as Med Marin Holding AŞ). Walking a little further, before the Aktan Business Center, I remembered **Captain Oktay Sönmez**'s "Sönmez Denizcilik" and **Sema Yerlikaya**'s Yerlikaya Law Office, and a little further on, in the 45th Poyraz Apartment building, **Uğur Mengenecioğlu**'s Um Denizcilik, and on the potentially steep slope turning left upwards, **Captain Ferit Biren**'s Yedi Deniz house.

Some time after the death of **Nuri Cerrahoğlu**, the founder of Cerrahoğulları Deniz Nakliyatı TAŞ, the Cerrahoğulları family moved to their buildings at the top of this hill, and the company was under the management of their son-in-law, **Saied Raab**. At the very end of the road was **Bursalioğlu Denizcilik**, headed by Süleyman Bursalioğlu.

I would climb that steep hill and, turning left at the very end, I would reach the building where Charles Frederick Wilkinson's Central Shipping Agency was located..

I read the current address as "Şişli, Esentepe Neighborhood, Yüzbaşı Kaya Aldoğan Street."

However, I remember Charles Frederick Wilkinson from many years ago and, through his writings,

I want to commemorate him once again with respect;



They named him after his grandfather, Charles Frederick Wilkinson.

The Charles Frederick Wilkinson I knew was from Moda.

The stone building on Moda Street, which once served as the Lausanne Club, has long been demolished and replaced by an apartment building (Moda Residence). The owners of this building were the La Fontaine family. The La Fontaine family previously lived in a four-story wooden house on Şükran Street (Osman Zeki Üngör Street), which was is perpendicular to Fazıl Paşa Street in Moda.

The house number was 13. An apartment building now stands in its place.



Just around the corner of the slope that branches off to the left towards the end of Setüstü İnebolu street, you'll find Captain Ferit Biren's "Yedi Deniz Evi"[Seven Seas House], and on the right, where once stood the Cerrahoğulları Stone House. If you climb further up and turn left, you'll reach the address of Charles Frederick Wilkinson.

I had asked my friend Charles Frederick Wilkinson, whom I had known for years, about the family ties between the La Fontaine and Wilkinson families. His company was located in Kabataş Setüstü. He was the founder and president of the Central Maritime Agency.

Charles Wilkinson was born in Bornova, İzmir in 1933. His father, Richard A. Wilkinson, served as the British Consul General in İzmir. To introduce the Wilkinson family, I will draw a picture by going back to their roots:

The Wilkinsons' story in Turkey goes back to the marriage of Jane Whittall and Richard Wilkinson, who was born in 1842. Jane Whittall was the third daughter of James Whittall and Magdalen Giraud. She passed away in Bornova in 1928.

This family had six children. He named his first son after himself. His son, Richard Wilkinson, eventually emigrated to Sierra Leone instead of İzmir and became the governor-general there. His wife's name was Edith Baird. Their second son, James Wilkinson, married Jane Whittall, daughter of Charlton Whittall and Helen La Fontaine. However, a tragic fate awaited them; he died during their honeymoon. Their third son, Charles Wilkinson, was the grandfather of Charles Frederik Wilkinson. He married Madeleine La Fontaine. Their fourth son, Frederick Edgar Wilkinson, was born in Bornova in 1891. He married Margaret Williams, daughter of Robert Williams, who had settled in Shanghai. This family had five children. Their fifth child was a girl; Frederick Whittall, son of Helen Wilkinson, Charlton Whittall, and Helen La Fontaine, married in 1902.

Charles Wilkinson and Madeleine La Fontaine, defying the tradition of having many children, had only one child. Thus, when their only son, Richard Edward Wilkinson, married Thelma de Cramer, Richard A. Wilkinson and Charles Frederick Wilkinson were born.

His father, Richard A. Wilkinson, was a member of the Chamber Maritime Pour Etrangers (Chamber of Maritime Commerce for Foreigners) from his time.

Charles Frederick Wilkinson was sent to England by his family for his education, and he returned to İzmir in 1951. A year later, he came to Istanbul to live with his relatives, the Giraud family.

The Girauds in Moda were related to the Giraud family in İzmir, who are the grandparents of Caroline (Giraud) Koç today. He initially worked for British European Airways, but his employment there lasted only a few months. Every morning, he would travel from Moda to Karaköy on a paddle steamer that departed at eight o'clock. This steamer attracted the attention of many foreign families, and as an Englishman, he had a great fondness for the Halas, a paddle steamer built in Glasgow in 1890 that had been in operation for sixty years.

The business figures of Moda used to travel on the upper deck of the ferry, where almost everyone had a familiar seat, and everyone respected this arrangement.

In the evenings, they would come to Kadıköy by ferry and return to Moda by tram.

Charles Frederick Wilkinson joined Gilchrist Walker & Co., a company founded in 1887, in mid-1952. After working there for nearly five years, he left with extensive agency experience. However, at Gilchrist Walker & Co. shipping agency, he had undertaken tasks in the Black Sea, Marmara, and Aegean ports, each of which could be considered a life experience. Again, in Çanakkale, he gained his first experience in tourist cruise shipping by swiftly completing the customs and port procedures for a tourist cruise ship they represented.

This ship continued its journey from Çanakkale to Istanbul.

In 1958, he married Denise Giraud, the daughter of Edmond Giraud. Their child, born in 1959, was named Alan Charles Wilkinson. The family separated in 1965. Charles Frederick Wilkinson later married Seta Tabekoğlu, and their daughter, born on June 9, 1971, was named Carol Ann Wilkinson. Charles Frederick Wilkinson, who said that life in Moda was always spent among friends and familiar faces, described his youthful memories as follows: "Moda meant refinement, friendship, and beauty. Each building was an aesthetic symbol, and there were never concrete buildings leaning on each other in Moda.

I have always been saddened by the fact that the Moda tram was destroyed. Among the people I was closest to were Hazel Whittall and her husband, Zeki Rıza Sporel and his family. Zeki Rıza Sporel was a very close friend of Celal Bayar during his presidency. When Celal Bayar came to Istanbul, an excuse would be created, and Hazel and Zeki Sporel and their family would come to our house.

The Gilchirst Walker & Co. company merged with the Edward La Fontaine company in 1957. I worked as assistant general manager in this company alongside my great-uncle Hugh La Fontaine. Edward La Fontaine had been a board member of the Shipowners and Agents Association for many years. I also served there from 1969 onwards... I served as an accounting member until 2002.

Until 1960, cargo ships sailing to Istanbul would be moored stern-to-shore at the Sirkeci pier, and cargo would be unloaded from the ships onto barges or transferred from the barges back onto the ships. If there wasn't enough space on the docks, the ships would be moored to buoys in the Galata Bay, and the same process would continue there.

I would start work early every morning. I would go to the ship in the port belonging to the Ellerman company we represented by a small boat and chase after cargo and documents until evening. Usually, there would be three or four ships belonging to the companies our firm represented in the port. However, the unloading of cargo was done in such a primitive way that a ship whose cargo could be unloaded in a maximum of one day under today's conditions would sometimes remain in the Istanbul port for three or four weeks. Especially in those years, due to the very high import regime applied in Turkey, there were congestions at the ports.

I will never forget a Scottish captain, with whom I was very close, who was extremely frustrated by this waiting and every evening... He would disembark, walk from the Tunnel to Beyoğlu, go to Le Bon pastry shop, sip his tea, and while enjoying the exquisite Le Bon pastries, he would gaze at the elegant girls of Beyoğlu, deriving great pleasure from the alluring scenery that seemed to fall upon his eyes.

In 1975, following the death of my great-uncle Hugh La Fontaine, Gilchrist Walker & Edward La Fontaine Shipping Agency ceased operations. The company's name was changed to Merkez Deniz Agency, and I became its largest shareholder, as well as its chairman and general manager. Merkez Deniz Agency had been the general agent for BP, P&O Cruises Co., and Ellerman since the 1930s. In 1996, we convinced the authorities to renovate general warehouses number 1 and 2 at the Salıpazarı Wharves, belonging to the Turkish Maritime Enterprises, so that tourist ships could dock there, at least partially accommodating tourist passenger traffic. Old, unused railway-mounted cargo cranes stood on the docks. Yet, luxurious tourist cruise ships docked at these docks, and even then, the scene presented a primitive, unfavorable image for Turkey. Our efforts finally yielded positive results, and the cranes that had been standing idle on those docks were dismantled and removed. Furthermore, by increasing the sea depth in front of these docks from ten to thirteen meters, Princess Cruises, a symbol of luxury in the world of tourist cruise shipping, began making voyages to Istanbul with thousands of wealthy tourists.



Charles Wilkinson's family; Edward Augustus John La Fontaine (1848-1899), son of Edward La Fontaine and Lydia Maltass, Blanche Magdalen, daughter of James Whittall, and their children. The young girl among the parents is Charles Wilkinson's grandmother, Madeline La Fontaine (born 1879), who married Charles Wilkinson in 1910. Source: Charles Wilkinson archive, Levantine Heritage Foundation.

Our family roots

My mother, Thelma Mary “Thelma de Cramer,” was the daughter of Frederick de Cramer and Mary Whittall. They immigrated to Izmir in 1921. She met my father, Richard Edward Wilkinson, in Izmir and they married in 1924, settling in Bornova. My mother lived in a mansion resembling a palace with thirty-three rooms in Bornova until her death in 1985. This mansion was next to the Protestant Church.

My father’s greatest passion was archaeology. He donated his library, consisting of thousands of books on archaeology collected throughout his life, to Ege University. The head of the Ege University Archaeology Institute was Ord. Prof. Dr. Ekrem Akurgal. The university awarded him honorary membership and presented him with the university's golden key as a gift. My father, Richard Edward Wilkinson, whose tenure as British Consul from the 1960s to the 1970s ended with his retirement, passed away in Izmir. My mother's family came to Izmir from Crondon, a town near London, in 1921. My grandfather, Charles Wilkinson, worked as an accountant at the Whittall company in London. I don't know the exact date of their arrival in Izmir, but it might have been 1891.

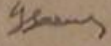
Ege Üniversitesi Arkeoloji Enstitüsü Muhabir Üyelik Belgesi

Dost İngiltere'nin İzmir Başkonsolosu Ekselâns Mr. R. E. Wilkinson'ın, Ege Üniversitesi Arkeoloji Enstitüsü Kütüphanesine kıymetli kitap bağışlarında bulunarak bu Enstitü'nün gelişmesi hususunda gösterdikleri yakın ilgiyi şükranla karşılayan ve Ege Bölgesi arkeolojisinin çeşitli problemleri üzerindeki ihtisaslarıyla tanınmış bir şahsiyet olmalarını nazarı itibare alan Enstitü Yönetim Kurulu, kendilerine

"Ege Üniversitesi Arkeoloji Enstitüsü Muhabir Üyeliği"ni

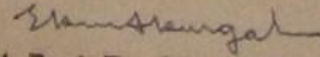
tercihe karar vermiştir. 18 Mart 1964

Ege Üniversitesi Rektörü



Prof. Celâl Sarac

Enstitü Yönetim Kurulu Başkanı



Ord. Prof. Dr. Ekrem Akurgal

A certificate of 'Corresponding Membership of the Ege University Institute of Archaeology' was awarded to the British Consul General in Izmir, R.E. Wilkinson, by the Chairman of the Institute's Board of Directors, Ord. Prof. Dr. Ekrem Akurgal, for the works he donated to the Ege University Library..

Memories from our family's life in Izmir

I would like to recount a memory from my time in Izmir: During the War of Independence, as Mustafa Kemal Pasha's armies approached Izmir, the Greek army, which had occupied Anatolia, was also retreating towards Izmir in disarray. As they approached, many villages and towns along their route were set ablaze. The colony in Izmir was assembled, and a decision was made to evacuate, starting with the spouses. Some buried some of their most valuable belongings, even their gold, in their gardens. However, others, having no time left, fled with only what they had. The abandoned houses were looted.

My grandfather was the first to return to Izmir. He was greatly surprised to see the looted houses. But when he visited the Bedesten (covered market) in Izmir, he saw that almost all the looted goods were being offered for sale there. However, in the wartime conditions, many valuable items were being sold for next to nothing. My grandfather bought almost all of them at those ridiculously low prices and brought them home. Then, when they started returning to Izmir, they would invite their neighbors, and if they had any property, they would give it to them for whatever price they had salvaged it for.

My grandmother, Madeline La Fontaine, was the daughter of Edward Augustus John La Fontaine and Blanche Magdalen Whittall. We lived in a house at number 13, Şükran Street, in Moda. It was a four-story wooden house. I can never forget our life in Moda.

Most members of the La Fontaine and Whittall families lived in Moda. The houses were surrounded by very large gardens. I remember the gardens being so full of flowers that they resembled a forest of trees. The Whittall mansions, with their gardens stretching to the sea, were like palaces in themselves. Boats were moored along the coast towards the Marmara Sea...



Charles Wilkinson passed away on July 3, 2026.

All that remains of him are the vast memories of the respect and love that surrounded his life. He was laid to rest in the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery after the service at the Feriköy Protestant Church on Sunday, July 5, 2026.

I saw a photograph of the wreath sent by Recep Düzgüt, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Maritime Commerce and President of the Shipowners and Agents Association, to Charles Wilkinson, out of a sense of responsibility and loyalty. I looked at it for minutes and remembered the poem by [Hugh McKinley Whittall](#) from Moda:

They say the past is someone who has died - but it is not so much.

Perhaps we have only now learned all that we once knew.

The past may be a name - perhaps a girl.

A necklace that flutters around her neck, each one like a pearl.

As she withdraws her hands, she says her name is 'Past'.

And 'Now' holds a precious stone and will last forever."

He neither counts each new pearl that slips away from his grasp,

Nor does he wish to witness the fading of ever-increasing beauty.

The names, the names we remember, have vanished once more.

Still preserving their eternal vitality with their most mysterious stories,

From faded dreams, recalling ancient times.
