



Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 30 Spring - 2026

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we reflect on our upcoming bigger events, the joint School of Advanced Studies / Levantine Heritage Foundation symposium: 'The Languages of the Levant', Maureen Freely, Miguel Selvelli, George Vassiadis, chaired by Katia Pizzi and Philip Mansel - Senate House, University of London on 24th June 2026 and already in the advanced stages of planning the First joint Travellers in Ottoman Lands / Levantine Heritage Foundation conference in the University of Western Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 20-24 April 2027. More details below.

Our activities

Upcoming LHF Events

5 May 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Mysterious M. Falkowski: Railways and informal imperialism in the Ottoman Syria and Iraq', Darina Martykánová – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

12 May 2026, 6.30 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'In Search of Phillipo: An Armenian Horse Trader between Aleppo and London', Theodore Mould – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#) The talk will be followed by a glass of wine.

2 June 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Life in the Principality of Samos, 1834-1912', Aristide Chryssoulis – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

16 June 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Levantine Enterprise in Transition: The Foscolo Family in 19th-Century Istanbul', Dr Semih Sefer – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

24 June 2026, 5 – 8.30 pm (UK time)

Second joint hybrid School of Advanced Studies / Levantine Heritage Foundation symposium: 'The Languages of the Levant', Maureen Freely, Miguel Selvelli, George Vassiadis, chaired by Katia Pizzi and Philip Mansel - Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#) - The talk will be followed by a drinks reception.

1 September 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Online presentation: 'The Levantine Frank community in Athens under Ottoman rule', Nicolas Nicolaides – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

29 October 2026

Conference: 'Villes de Levant', Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris

Please "save the date" and feel free to approach us for help/sponsorship/registration of interest.

20-24 April 2027

First joint [Travellers in Ottoman Lands](#) / Levantine Heritage Foundation conference in the University of Western Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece – [preliminary flyer:](#)

Please "save the date" and feel free to approach us for help/sponsorship/registration of interest.

Recent LHF Events



10 February 2026, 5.30 pm

Joint In-person presentation: 'What have the Ottomans ever done for us? The Ottoman Empire and Europe, from Mehmed the Conqueror to Atatürk', Philip Mansel - Old Speech Room Gallery, Harrow School, Harrow-on-the-Hill, HA1 3AP - [flyer:](#)

10 March 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Networks of Influence: Levantine Agency and Italian Business in the Early Turkish Republic (1923-1939)', Dr. Mehmet Dođar - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#)

Recent Website additions

Submission:

Samuel Crawley (1705-62) – British Consul at Smyrna, Ann Hudson, 2026 - [link:](#)

Galleries:

Stone armorials of St Antoine de Padua Church Istanbul - [link:](#) - we are seeking experts who can identify some of these and more photos to come in the summer.

Church plaques / tablets - [link:](#)

Insurance certificates (updated) - [link:](#)

'Lost and found' priests' photos of Izmir - [link:](#)

Current research

If you are seeking help with research, please write to Craig Encer who will endeavour to point you to sources of material or connect you with people in the LHF network who may be able to help. Additionally, we can post requests for assistance in our newsletter. We give priority support to research requests from subscribing LHF Members. If you are not a Member, our support is free, but may take a little longer. Please consider making a donation to the LHF [here](#) to help us maintain this free service.

In Search of the Mackertich and Panossian Families of Smyrna

Submitted by John Baish, Berkshire, England

My mother was from an Armenian family on both sides, and the city of Smyrna is at the heart of the story I am exploring.

My great-grandfather, Leon Mackertich, was born in 1850 in New Julfa, Persia. By 1881 he had established himself as a merchant in Smyrna, running an export business in partnership with a man named Curajies Malcolm. He married

Takouhi Panossian, later known as Reine, in Smyrna in 1886. She was born in Smyrna in 1865, daughter of Stephan Panossian and Rose Chavekeli. Both families were Armenian Apostolic and it seems likely that the Panossian family had made the same journey from New Julfa to Smyrna at some point.

In 1893 Leon applied for Austrian citizenship, because the Persian merchant community in Smyrna found itself in increasing difficulties. He reported that Persian consular officials there were not paid fixed salaries but depended entirely on fees collected from Persian subjects, meaning they could charge whatever they wanted. Making things worse, a limitation had recently been introduced on the trade in tumbeki, a tobacco specialty that had previously been an important source of income exclusively in the hands of Persian merchants. Leon, who appears to have had considerable involvement in legal matters before the Turkish courts, wanted to exchange what he saw as costly and unreliable Persian consular protection for the more effective protection of Austria-Hungary.

Later that year Austrian citizenship was granted to Leon, his wife Takouhi, and their two daughters, six-year-old Béatrice Marie, and my grandmother Vartouhi, later known as Mathilde, aged two. Leon took the oath of citizenship in Korneuburg, near Vienna, on 2 September 1893.

His case had consequences. The Austrian authorities were uncomfortable that citizenship had been granted to a Persian subject living in Smyrna with no intention of settling in Austria, and in September 1894 the Ministry of the Interior issued a formal decree to all provincial political authorities across the empire, using Leon's case as the direct trigger, instructing them to apply much stricter scrutiny to future applications of this kind and to refer them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before any citizenship was granted. Leon Mackertich's application thus inadvertently changed Austrian citizenship policy across the Habsburg Empire.

Leon and Takouhi had three daughters. Béatrice Marie later moved to Geneva where she married Henri Delarue, Curator and Director of the Bibliothèque publique et universitaire de Genève. My grandmother Vartouhi/Mathilde married Gregor Gregory, son of the New Julfa priest Mesrope George Gregory, in Surabaya in the Dutch East Indies in April 1925. The third daughter died aged about ten. She is known within the family only by her pet name, Za-Za. I do not know her real name.

A family memory describes the Mackertich home in Smyrna as a beautiful white house overlooking the bay. Swiss household census records confirm that Henri Delarue visited the Mackertich family in Smyrna in October 1913, but no address is given. Vartouhi/Mathilde's first language was French, and I've concluded she probably attended one of the several French language schools serving Smyrna's Armenian and Christian communities at this time.

Both surviving daughters left Smyrna for Geneva before the catastrophe of 1922, Béatrice in around 1910 at the time of her marriage to Henri, and Vartouhi in the early months of the First World War. Leon and Takouhi themselves left Smyrna soon after the war and eventually settled in Paris, where Leon died in 1932. Takouhi/Reine survived him by 24 years, dying in London in 1956, having spent her final decades with Mathilde's family (my mother and grandparents) in Putney.

Amongst the photographs passed down to me are two formal portraits of Armenian priests, known in the family as "The Grandfathers", with my mother never quite knowing whose grandfathers they were. I've assumed they are from the Gregory / Mackertich / Panossian families in New Julfa or Smyrna in the late 19th century. Another photo shows young Za-Za dressed as an angel. The sad circumstances of her early death meant that children in the family were never to dress as angels from that point on.

I would be most grateful to hear from anyone who:

- Recognises the Mackertich or Panossian family names in connection with Smyrna
- Can shed any light on the given name of the child known only as Za-Za, probably born between 1893 and 1910
- Can identify either of the priestly Armenian "grandfathers"
- Has knowledge of the Mackertich family's home or business premises in Smyrna
- Has information about the Panossian family or the Chavekeli name in Smyrna or New Julfa
- Has knowledge of the Persian merchant community in Smyrna in the late 19th century, and in particular the tumbeki tobacco trade and its impact on Persian merchants there
- Has knowledge of French-medium schools in Smyrna serving the Armenian community in the early 20th century which my grandmother may have attended.

Please contact John Baish at john@baish.net – [view gallery](#):

Seeking additional information on Serafim Sr., a prominent Galata banker in the late Ottoman period, by his descendants

My name is Ekaterina Batzoglou, and I am writing together with my husband, Serafim Batzoglou. We recently came across your remarkable website while conducting research for the forthcoming second edition of *Peripeteia* (the first edition was [published in 2025](#)), a memoir authored by Serafim's grandfather, Serafim Batzoglou Sr. – [foreword of the second edition](#):

Serafim Sr. was a Greek from Sille (near Iconium/Konya) who became a prominent figure in the late Ottoman Empire. Among his many commercial activities across Anatolia and Constantinople was the establishment of several banking operations under his own name. Notably, he founded a bank in Constantinople (Galata), which, according to his account, operated in direct competition with the Imperial Ottoman Bank and handled substantial deposits and transactions across major cities of the empire.

While exploring your website, we were intrigued to find a [reference](#) to an address that also appears in the memoir: "Eustathopoulo, Nap. & Son, **Kara Mustafa Sokak, Ali Ekber Han, Galata**". Given this overlap, we felt encouraged to reach out to you.

Although we have not yet been able to locate independent archival records confirming Serafim Sr.'s banking activities, we do possess:

- detailed primary material from his memoir (which has been referenced in reputable Greek scholarship, including works by Takis Salkitzoglou) – [excerpts](#):
- a surviving bank letterhead (referenced in the attached memo), and
- a research memorandum (based on the memoir translation) summarizing his financial and banking operations in Constantinople, along with other relevant information (attached for your review).

We are also enclosing the Foreword to the second edition of *Peripeteia*, which outlines the origins of this project and the broader research journey, together with a photograph of Serafim Sr.

Any guidance, suggestions, or archival leads you may be able to offer would be much appreciated.

Ekaterina & Serafim Jr. Batzoglou



Serafim Batzoglou Sr.

Seeking information on my ancestors: Jasper Chasseaud and Eugénie Pourrière

I'm sending you a message because I've recently discovered that my grand-father's grand-mother (Antoinette Eugénie Truilhier) was born in Beirut. Pushing further my research I've discovered that her mother, Héroïse Fanny Chausseaud, was also born in Beirut. Héroïse Fanny was the daughter of Eugénie Pourrière and Gaspard Chasseaud as he is referred in the Archives of Marseille (Décès: 1E2296 archives de Marseille). While continuing to conduct my investigation on geneanet, I came across this [family tree](#): which mentions that Jasper Chasseaud is Fanny's father. Gaspard Chausseaud would be Jasper Chasseaud in French spelling. Her mother, Eugénie Pourrière is in fact Félicité Sébastien Etienne Eugénie Pourrière, called Eugénie. She was born in Marseille on November the 28th of 1806 and grew up in Lebanon where her younger brothers and sisters were born. Clair Marie Antoinette Pourrière, who is one of her sisters, who was born in 1808 in Marseille and married one of Jasper Chasseaud's brothers, Gabriel Chasseaud. There is a lot of information about the Pourrière family in the [French diplomatic archives](#):

But I am missing important information: I have not found the marriage certificate of Félicité Eugénie Pourrière and Jasper Chausseaud, nor the birth certificate of Fanny Chasseaud (born around 1835 in Beirut). Fanny appears in the French archives because of her Roman Catholic marriage to a merchant from Marseille (Jean-Baptiste Marie Eugène Truilhier). While Félicité Eugénie Pourrière disappears from the French archives due, certainly, to her marriage to Jasper Chasseaud who did not have French nationality. I would like to know if it was an Orthodox or Anglican marriage. I also wonder if little Fanny was baptized in a branch of Christianity other than Catholicism. Finally, I have one last question: It is written in all the documents concerning the consul Jasper Chasseaud that he was born in 1780. However, his mother Maria Abbott was born in 1771, so there is a problem. Is Jasper Chasseaud really Maria Abbott's son or did Peter Philip Chasseaud have another wife before?

Here is a link to my family tree on [geneanet](#) to access the information mentioned and more:

Thank you in advance for any advice or information you can give me.

Sincerely,

Bérénice Dreux-Gerphagnon

Recent community events

Carnevale by the LKMKD (Levantine Heritage Protection Association of Istanbul), 7 February 2026. The LKMKD organised a third successful Carnival party for the Levantine community in Istanbul on. Please follow the link to see images of the event – [gallery](#):



Presentation by Prof Dr Seza Sinanlar Uslu: Tanzimat'dan Cumhuriyet'e Resim Sanatı [Visual Art from Tanzimat to the Republican Period], 14 Feb 2026 - İşbankası RHM Black Box, Beyoğlu, İstanbul – [gallery](#):



Conference: Bir sađlık kent olarak antik Smyrna [Ancient Smyrna as a City of Health], Doc Dr Murat Tozan with Enrico Filippucci, 25 February 2026 - İl Halk kütüphanesi, İzmir - [gallery](#):



Presentation: İzmir'de Çok Kültürlü Yaşam [Multi-cultural life in İzmir], Enrico Filippucci, 5 March 2026 - Konak Atatürk İl Halk Kütüphanesi, İzmir - [gallery](#):



T.C. KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM
BAKANLIđI

İzmir Atatürk İl Halk Kütüphanesi Müdürlüğü



İzmir Turist Rehberleri Odası
işbirliđi ile

Profesyonel Turist Rehberi Enrico Filippucci ile

**İzmir'de Çok
Kültürlü Yaşam**

YETİŞKİN

📅 05.03.2026 Perşembe

🕒 14:00

📍 Konferans Salonu





Presentation of the book 'Segni di Diplomazia. Gli edifici della rappresentanza italiana in Turchia' [Signs of Diplomacy: The Italian Embassy Buildings in Turkey], edited by [Mario Magnarelli](#) and [Luca Orlandi](#), 31 March 2026, at Özyeğin University. Istanbul – [info on event in Italian](#) – [book link](#) - [article in Italian](#), [interview](#) in Turkish with Luca Orlandi – [article in English:](#) - [gallery:](#)



In addition Luca Orlandi & Mario Magnarelli will be leading a 3 day workshop project soon to begin titled 'Rethinking Memory: Survey and Micro-Intervention Workshop' within the historic setting of the Feriköy Catholic Cemetery of Istanbul, 8-10 May 2026 – [information flyer:](#)

Recent documentary 'Thank you God: for my spoiler' and its awards

Producer: Orlando Calumeno, directors: Cihan Güngören and Mustafa Seven – [gallery:](#) - [interview in Turkish:](#)



The opening of the 'Grand Staircase' exhibition and restoration project, Het Loo Palace, 10 April 2026 – [gallery:](#)



Ottoman Mobilities and Interactions Symposium, 13-15 April 2026, Minerva Han, Sabancı Üniversitesi, Istanbul – [gallery:](#)



Visit of the members of the Izmir Levantine Association to the offices of His Holiness Timoteos Samuel Aktaş, Metropolitan of the Mor Gabriel Monastery in Midyat, Turabdin region, of the Orthodox Syriac community, 3 May 2026, part of a wide tour of the SE region of Turkey by this group – [gallery:](#)



External Upcoming Events

Hybrid presentation: 'Beyond the Myth of Independent Journalism: Agah Efendi, Tercüman-ı Ahvâl, and British Influence', Muratcan Zorcu, 19 May 2026, 6 pm (UK time) – Anglo-Turkish Society – [flyer](#):

Hybrid presentation: 'Princess Nazlı Fazıl (1856-1913): Trans-imperial Networks and the Press', Elif Yumru, 1 June 2026, 6 pm (UK time) – Anglo-Turkish Society – [flyer](#):

Online presentation: 'Protestant Missionaries to the Jewish Communities of Istanbul, Salonika and Izmir 1820-1914', Leah Makovetsky, 15 June 2026, 6 pm (UK time) – Anglo-Turkish Society – [flyer](#):

Recent Publications

Latin and Eastern Catholicism in Ottoman Anatolia: Social, Economic, and Religious Inquiries from 14th-20th Centuries, edited by Vanessa R. de Obaldía, Radu Dipratu, Anaïs Massot and Padraic Rohan - Isis Press, 2025 – [link](#):

İstanbul, 1914-1922: War, Collapse, Occupation and the History of Resistance, edited by Ohannes Kılıçdağı - HDV Publications, 2025 – [link](#):

Ottoman-Era Documents from the Cairo Genizah, Jane Hathaway – Open Book Publishers, 2026 – [link](#):

Becoming Ottoman: Converts, Renegades and Competing Loyalties in the Early Modern and Modern Ages, eds Yavuz Köse, Petr Kucera, Tobias Völker – Bloomsbury, 2024 – [link](#):

Segni Di Diplomazia. Gli Edifici Della Rappresentanza Italiana in Turchia [Signs of Diplomacy. The Italian Embassy Buildings in Turkey], editors Mario Magnarelli, Luca Orlandi - Ege Yayınları, 2025 – [link](#):

Levant'ta Bir İngiliz Konsolosu Richard Francis Burton [A British Consul in the Levant: Richard Francis Burton], Sinan Çakar – Kitapevi Yayınları, 2026 – [link](#):

Michał Jerzy Wandalin Mniszech'in İstanbul'a Seyahati ve Rûznâmesi (1755-1756) [Michał Jerzy Wandalin Mniszech's Travel to Istanbul and His Notes (1755-1756)], Emre Mutlu, Kitapevi Yayınları, 2026 – [link](#):

Finance et Diplomatie dans le Levant;Un Recueil D'articles Sur l'histoire Financière et Diplomatique Ottomane [Finance and Diplomacy in the Levant; A Collection of Articles on Ottoman Financial and Diplomatic History], Onnik Jamgocyan, Kitapevi Yayınları, 2024 – [link](#):

Upcoming Publications

Ottoman Mobilities in the Global Nineteenth Century: Transnational Approaches to Culture, Edited by: Belgin Turan Özkaya and Sibel Zandi-Sayek – De Gruyter Brill, 2026 – [link](#):

Fashion in Late Ottoman Istanbul, Nancy Micklewright – Bloomsbury, 2026 – [link](#):

Infrastructured Landscapes: Spatial Histories of Early Ottoman Railways, Elvan Cobb – Brill, August 2026 – [link](#):

Constantinople to Istanbul: One City, Two Empires, Tim Stanley – V&A publication, October 2026 – [link](#):

New External digitisations

Levantine Economic Life in Pera: The Case of the Foscolo Family - Semih Sefer, 2025 – [link](#):

The "Han"s of Galata - Based on the Sadettin Fidan Collection, this exhibition explores the emergence and development of the han as a modern commercial space in Galata between 1850 and 1950, 2022 – [link](#):

Architecture as silent diplomacy: Memory, restoration, shared heritage – Luca Orlandi, 2026 – [link](#):

Occupied City: Politics and Daily Life in Istanbul, 1918–1923 (11 January 2023 - 27 April 2024) - 3d walkthrough exhibition – [link](#):

Transformation of 19th century İzmir's harbour zone and its urban fabric via morphological approach – Nil Nadire Gelişkan, 2022 – [link](#):

Diplomats, Emissaires and Agents – Beyond Diplomacy the Cosmopolitan World of the Levantine Dragomans of Constantinople (Eighteenth - Nineteenth Centuries), Paul Cernovodeanu, 2005 – [link](#):

The Eastern Telegraph Company in the Ottoman Empire at the End of the Nineteenth Century: A History of Imperial and Foreign Technology, Pauline Lewis – Studies in Ottoman Science, 2023 – [link](#):

New Podcasts

Parcours sonore : LES PASSAGERS DE PÉRA–SAISON 3 – Institut Français Turquie – [link](#):

New Thinking: East West artistic connections, Dr Adam Sammut, Dr Nil Palabiyik, Dr Sarah Jilani – Arts & Ideas, BBC Radio 4, 27 May 2024 – [link](#):

A British Burlesque Artist in Belle Époque Cairo, Gwendolyn Collaço – Ottoman History Podcast, 9 January 2026 – [link](#):

The Armenian Architects of the Ottoman East, with Alyson Wharton-Durgaryan, 4 February 2026 – Barakat Trust – [link](#):

New Videos

Presentation: ‘İstanbul’un Levanten mimarisi’ [Levantine Architects of Istanbul], Doç Dr Luca Orlandi, 26 December 2025 - Terra Santa, Beyoğlu, Istanbul - [poster](#): - [presentation video](#) in Italian: - wider presentation with also Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hatice Adıgüzel and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Seda Kula in Turkish [video](#):

Stockings for Sale: Enslaved Muslim Makers and Textile Trade in Early Modern Italy, Federica Gigante, 10 March 2026 - The Medici Archive Project – [link](#):

Photographing Ephesus in the Railway Age, Alexandra Solovyev, 17 November 2023 - Virtual Islamic Art History Seminar Series – [link](#):

Türkiye’de Levanten olmak | Rinaldo Marmara anlatıyor [Being Levantine in Turkey | Rinaldo Marmara tells the story], Medyascope TV, 6 Feb 2025 – [link](#):

Ephemera

The Visual Bard: A British Artist’s Testimony of the “heroic individuals confronting war machines”, Doaa Khalifeh – The Bard and Rawi Magazine, 3-2-2026 – [link](#):

Dilettanti: The Antic and the Antique in Eighteenth-Century England, Bruce Redford – J. Paul Getty Trust, 2008 – [link](#):

Istanbul as Spectacle – IstanbulElsewhere – [link](#):

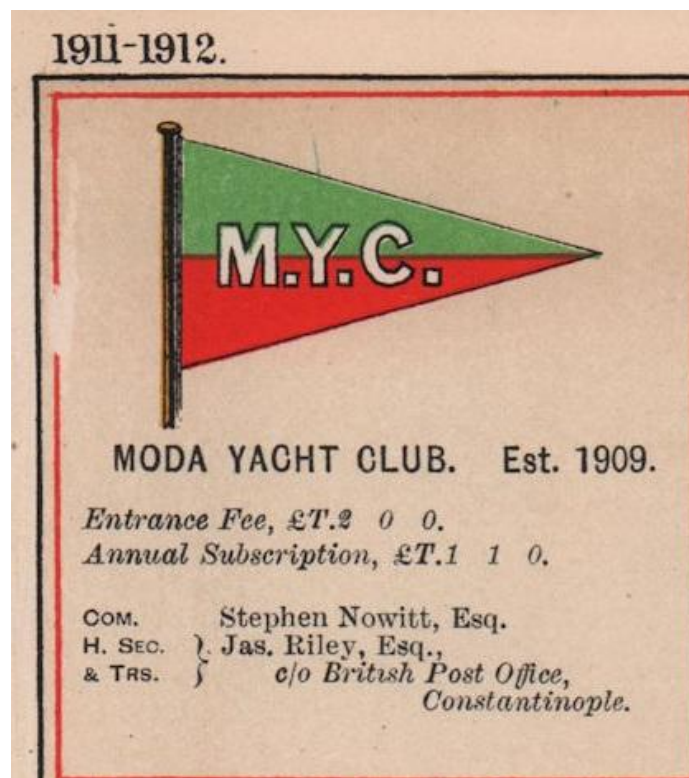
From Spolia to Showcase: A 1st-Century BC Decree in Motion, Nicolas C. Nicolaidis - Destins d’objets, 2026 – [link](#):

Paper Trails: A Trans-imperial Legal Quest for the Franco Family’s Citizenship in the 19th Century, Antonis Nasis - Destins d’objets, 2025 – [link](#):

How Antoine-Ignace Melling conquered Constantinople — then became the darling of Paris – Christies 2023 – [link](#):

Catholics reflect on Pope Leo’s visit to Istanbul cathedral - Romy Haber / ewtnvatican.com, 29-11-2025 – [link](#):

Loosening the Tongue: Language Learning among Early American Missionaries to the Ottoman Empire, Jennifer Manoukian - Common-place: The journal of early American Life, 2022 – [link](#):



The flag (burgee) of the Moda Yacht Club, Constantinople, established in 1909 detailing the chief officers and fees, image taken from a catalogue book [page](#). We would appreciate additional information on these named officers of the club and any images pertaining to that club.

Upcoming exhibition

Turbans, Carpets, and Rembrandt: Persian, Ottoman and North African Presence in Dutch Art - Museum Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 25 September 2026 - 3 January 2027 - [link](#):

Constantinople to Istanbul: One City, Two Empires – Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 7 November 2026 – 9 May 2027 – with a [book](#) to accompany, to be published October 2026

New website / project

Mapping Ottoman Epirus – Stanford University – [link](#):

Dragoman Renaissance Research Platform – [link](#):

Généalogie de Polycarpe Joaillier – [link](#):

News of upcoming events by partners

Confirmed exhibition: 'Levantines of Istanbul, Istanbul of Levantines' – LKMKD, 2026

We would like to inform you about the next initiative of the Association Levanten Kültür ve Mirasını Koruma Derneği ([LKMKD](#)), the 'Levantines of Istanbul, Istanbul of Levantines' Exhibition that will take place on 8 October – 8 November 2026 at the exhibition hall of the Beyoğlu Municipality on İstiklal Street.

This exhibition will showcase the Levantine way of living and culture in various aspects along with the Levantine community's cultural, social, and economic impact between 1850 and 1950, offering the first holistic narrative of its heritage. The exhibition will highlight key contributions to the community in the fields such as architecture, art, commerce, and diplomacy, culminating in a meaningful historical story.

This exhibition also lays the groundwork for the next project, the "Levantine Library & Museum".

The association is in the phase of inventory collection. Anyone who is interested in sharing information about documents, photographs, objects, etc. that can contribute to this exhibition, either in digital or physical form, can contact the exhibition project team by sending an e-mail to levanten@levanten.org.

Mystery items

Izmir branch of the Ottoman bank staff group photo



image courtesy of Marie Anne Marandet, with names added. We seek additional names, information and other similar photos – [gallery](#) of former Ottoman bank staff and branches.

Gathering of the well-heeled civilians of Smyrna by a bridge at Little Paradise (Kızılçullu)



Situated next to the Roman era aqueducts (just outside the frame, around 100 m from the bridge visible) around 3 km from Smyrna, Konak and just over 1 km from Boudja and around 5 km from Bournabat, these are the likely locations these individuals came from, no doubt a mixed population from different ethnicities with no doubt a fair mixture of Levantines. There are 3 possibilities in this photograph:

1- These are mostly Levantines returning to Smyrna from the nearby Paradiso (Şirinyer) [horse-track](#) causing a 'traffic jam' of carts.

2- Gathering to commemorate the opening of the new bridge to replace the earlier stone bridge that was there as shown on earlier photographs. The 'Hamidiye Bridge' was built in 1894 and if it is the inauguration ceremony, that dates this photo. The bridge later collapsed in 1976 under the weight of a laden lorry and still a ruin with only the buttresses standing today. The visuals of this history are below for additional context.

3- An event at the nearby International College (just outside the [frame](#) on the distant hillside), such as a sporting 'Field Day', first held in 1893 – [link 1](#) – [link2](#):

View full [gallery](#) and enlarged [image](#) - happy to receive feedback or similar images of gatherings and celebrations.



Sad to report the death of LHF friend Emin Saatçi on 18 February 2026, who was one of the founder members of the Istanbul Levantine Association (LHF-Istanbul) in 2014 that has since evolved in to the Levantine Culture and Heritage Protection Association ([LKMKD](#)). Emin Saatçi was born in Xanthi, in the Western Thrace region of Greece. He received his English language education in Scotland. Having spent a large part of his working life at the British Council in Istanbul, Emin Saatçi was a founding member of Cornucopia Magazine. He conducted research in the field of Classical History and organized special tours to Classical period settlements on the southwestern coast of Turkey and in Western Anatolia. Emin was also a member of the local organising committee for the 2014 LHF Conference in Istanbul: '[The Levantines: Commerce and Diplomacy](#)'.

Our messages

Current sponsored project: Documenting the British Footprints in Late Ottoman and Early Republican Istanbul (1868–1945)

With Researcher: Assist. Prof. Bengi Su Ertürkmen, Ph.D. (Gazi University)

We are currently undertaking a research project aimed at documenting and sharing with the public the historical legacy of the British community in late Ottoman Constantinople and early Republican Istanbul.

This project seeks to shed light on the significance of British individuals and institutions that shaped the city's economic, cultural, and social landscape. Rather than presenting a generalized portrait of the community, our aim is to build a narrative centred on real individuals, focusing on their biographies, networks, and spatial traces. We are particularly interested in those who were not only active in commerce and diplomacy but also



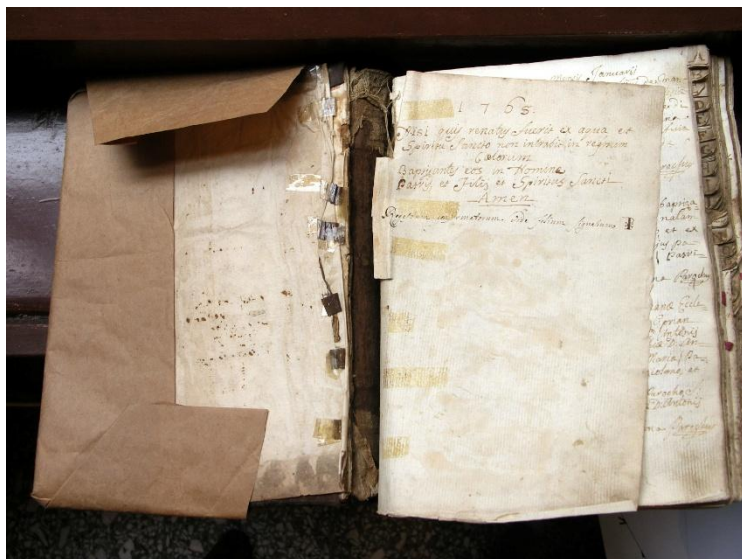
contributed to fields such as architecture, sports, journalism, literature, education, the military, and other areas of public and cultural life.

The project will begin by compiling a lexicon, a biographical dictionary, based on individuals identified primarily through trade yearbooks such as *Annuaire Oriental*. This lexicon will serve as the foundation for developing in-depth narratives around selected figures who played prominent roles in the city's intellectual, cultural and public life. The lexicon, which will be made accessible through the website of the Levantine Heritage Foundation, will be progressively enriched and updated as new information emerges throughout the research process.

If you would like to contribute or learn more about the project, feel free to reach out or share any materials with us at: bsuerturkmen@gmail.com - [read more](#): - See the [current focus pdf file](#) containing the list with only the names and nationality information. We hope to have the launch and presentation event of this database in Istanbul sometime in mid-October 2026, and that information will feature in our next newsletter and website.

The Levantine Heritage Library & Archive - Church records

We are slowly adding to the LHF Library images and registers of births, marriages, baptisms and deaths collected by the late Jacques Caporal and Marie Anne Marandet through many years of visits to churches and cemeteries in the Levant. Their researches covered most of the catholic churches in Istanbul and Izmir and beyond.



Register of baptisms 1765-1794, Santa Maria Draperis church, Istanbul

In addition, Jacques and Marie Anne compiled databases of the persons recorded in the registers based on the photographs they took of the registers. That work still continues through our collaboration with Marie Anne, making it a growing, searchable resource for family researchers. We are indebted to Jacques (whose legacy gift to the LHF was his extensive library) and to Marie Anne for their immense contributions.

If you have a collection, records, images or other items you wish to gift or leave as a legacy in your will to the Levantine Heritage Library, or if you wish to make a financial donation to support our work, please contact Quentin Compton-Bishop, chairman@levantineheritage.com

To see our catalogue, please visit [LHF Library | TinyCat](#)

Subscription to this newsletter and other LHF communications

If you wish to no longer receive our future newsletters and communications, please let us know by writing to contact@levantineheritage.com. We hold your personal data securely for the purpose of providing you with information on LHF research, events, publications and membership. We will not share your personal data with 3rd parties.

Contribute to our newsletter

These newsletters are published every 3-4 months; contact us if you wish to contribute an article or place an entry / announcement. Newsletters [archive page](#):

Craig Encer

General Secretary – secretary@levantineheritage.com

The Levantine Heritage Foundation - www.levantineheritage.com

[Our Facebook page:](#) (3.3K followers) | [Our Youtube channel:](#) (1.01K subscribers) | [Our Twitter channel:](#) (887 followers) | [Instagram:](#) (956 followers) | [Bluesky:](#) (9 followers)

The Levantine Heritage 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: Quentin Compton-Bishop, Dr Philip Mansel FRHS, Dr Vera Constantini, Dr Axel Corlu, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari, Jonathan Beard, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Achilleas Chatziconstantinou, Dr Michael Cottakis, Luis Miguel Selvelli