



## Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 27 Summer - 2025

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we reflect on our upcoming campaign to find a secure and accessible home to the Levantine library whose core was provided by the late Jacques Caporal. If you would like to know more, assist us financially or through depositions to build this resource of over 1,600 volumes, please get in touch. More details below.

### Our activities

#### Upcoming LHF Events

29 July 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Lives Between the Lines: Reflections on Levantine culture and its meaning today', Michael Vatikiotis – [flyer:](#) – [registration:](#)

23 September 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Continuity and change in the British diplomatic service in the Levant: The 'Levantine' question and the lure of antiquities', Lucia Gunning – details soon

7 October 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Suleyman the Magnificent', Christopher de Bellaigue – [flyer:](#) – [registration:](#)

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#### Recent LHF Events

17 June 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Created By a Magic Wand: the city of Odesa, its myths, stories, and real importance', Julian Evans – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)



Julian Evans in light blue shirt

14 May 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Camera and Female Empowerment: Italian Photographer Elisa Zonaro in Ottoman Istanbul', Alev Berberoğlu – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

24 April 2025, 6.30 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Silent Teachers: Turkish Books and Oriental Learning in Early Modern Europe', Dr Nil Palabiyık, co-hosted with the Royal Asiatic Society – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)



Dr Nil Palabiyık in the centre in dress

22 April 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Émigré Artists from the Former Russian Empire in Istanbul: Myths and Realities', Ekaterina Aygün, co-hosted with the Anglo-Turkish Society – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#) – [interview:](#)

15 April 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Pera/Galata: Neighbourhoods and Churches of late medieval Genoese city', Selma Somer – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

1 April 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: "'A Permanent Danger to All Her Neighbours": Persia and the Cultural Politics of Cholera', Erik Blackthorne-O'Barr – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#) – [interview:](#)

18 March 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Thomas Burgon in Smyrna: A Merchant's Tale of Travel and Classical Collecting in the Early Nineteenth Century', Dr Alexia Petsalis-Diomidis, co-hosted with the Anglo-Turkish Society – venue: Royal Anthropological Institute, London – [flyer:](#)

11 March 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Revisiting George Bethune English in the Ottoman World', Eric Covey – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

12 February 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

In-person presentation: 'The "Second Phanar": Constantinople Greeks and Ottoman Sultans, 1821 to 1914', Philip Mansel, co-hosted with the Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Anglo-Hellenic League – venue: King's Great Hall, KCL Strand campus, London – [flyer:](#) – [slides:](#) – [video:](#) – [interview:](#)



From left: Philip Mansel, Craig Encer, Quentin Compton-Bishop

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## Recent Website additions

### Submission:

Perillustrissimo Rodolfo Braggiotti (1720 c. - 1796) – Fabio Tito, 2025 – [link:](#)

Olivia Solari: The recollections of a Bornova senior (1929-2025) – [link:](#)

### Galleries:

La Centrale School, Izmir – [link:](#)

Liotard paintings – [link:](#)

Selection of tombs of the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Istanbul – British Section – [link:](#)

### Interviews:

Philip Mansel – [link:](#)

Erik Blackthorne-O'Barr – [link:](#)

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## 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.*

### Seeking information on genealogical research of the Italian-Levantine Rosa Family from Izmir

The Levantines have had a long presence in the eastern Mediterranean. They managed to cultivate a distinct culture and made a living in the many multicultural cities and international trade hubs of the region. One such Levantine family was the Rosa family of Smyrna (modern Izmir), which had originated from Livorno and was gradually hellenized over the years. The first of these Rosas was Francesco, born in 1851 to Giovanni Rosa (from Livorno, died probably in Smyrna before 1871) and Saveria Bullul (born in 1822 of Maltese origin). He had a sister named Maria Rosa, and he was a blacksmith, having worked in the construction of the Greek ship Georgios Averoff, which was created by the Orlando Shipyards, themselves based in Livorno. He may have also had significant property near the hippodrome in Buca for a time. He was married to a Greek woman, Elena Vuzza (who was previously married to one Jorghaki, her father was named Stavros Vuzza), and they had a few kids together. One of these was Casimiro Antonio Rosa, born on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1881 in Smyrna as a Catholic, who was a cobbler. In the early 1910s, he married Evanthia Eustathia Gemelas, a Greek Orthodox woman from the island of Icaria, but he had to convert to Orthodoxy himself in order to do it. Nevertheless, he managed to maintain his Italian citizenship, while also having a few children with Evanthia, those being: Pari (1914), Xantippe (1914-1974), Giovanna (1916-1993), Giovanni and Angelica (+1971). The Rosas were also present in Smyrna during the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-1922, but they left the city for Athens just one year before it was engulfed in flames. It was there where Antonio would have two more children: Mizzo and Michele (24/3/1921-20/7/1998), the latter being my maternal grandfather. They would all go on to live their lives there, but Antonio would end up dying in his 60s during the Axis Occupation of Greece and Francesco managed to live until the grand age of 104.

This was a very brief history of the Levantine Rosas from Smyrna that I am partial descended from. I have been researching this part of my family but with no results, until I contacted the Levantine Heritage Foundation, whereupon I was brought into contact with Marie Anne Marandet, a genealogist who has a page on all the Rosa families of Levantine origin, and who is still conducting research upon them. She was indeed able to uncover a lot of information which was previously unknown to me, and as a matter of fact, a substantial amount of the information presented here about this specific Rosa family of Smyrna was unknown to me until she was able to discover the said information. As such, I am grateful to her and the Levantine Heritage Foundation for helping me so much in my genealogical ventures. However, there is still some information missing. More specifically, I was able to find through Mrs. Marandet that Casimiro Antonio Rosa had siblings, but because I only learned of their existence through this research and not preceding family knowledge, I virtually know nothing about them and their lives. Their names were Giovanni Antonio Giuseppe and Emmanuele Policarpo. Additionally, I would also like to learn about Elena Vuzza's mother Giovanni Rosa's parents, if that's somehow possible. In any case, if you have any such information or anything else that may be useful for this research, please contact me Nikos V. on: [enviousuniacc966@gmail.com](mailto:enviousuniacc966@gmail.com).

### Request for information on the Łepkowski family from Constantinople, Turkey

Recently I have been building my family tree, and have been looking into my great-grandfather, Jan Anton Łepkowski (1876-1955), and his father, Anton Łepkowski. Anton permanently settled in Constantinople in 1855, following a trip there with the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz. He married Maria Svein, of Constantinople, and Jan Anton was the first of their 7 children, legitimised by their marriage. Jan Anton married first to Clotilde Marchetti, of Italian-Armenian descent, having had four children, but unfortunately she died in 1928 whilst they were wed. He then remarried to my great-grandmother, Anna Mattich, of Polish descent.

Anton is said to have been an insurgent of the November Uprising in Poland in 1830 and was supposedly a co-founder of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum in Istanbul, however I can't find any physical proof of this. Jan Anton worked for the Ottoman and Crédit Lyonnais Banks. Generally, they were said to be a well-off family, and my grandmother recalls living quite comfortably as a child and growing up. The family was Catholic, and frequented Saint Maria Drapéris and St Esprit Cathedral. I do not have many documents, most of the knowledge collected is family oral tradition. This [link](#)

contains information on Jan Anton, as well as his family, collected and collated by a contact. If anyone has any further information I would be interested in hearing about the work and life of my two ancestors. Please make contact me through my email, eabalinovitch@gmail.com. Thank you, Elizabeth Balinovitch.

### **Request for information on Iphigénie Zipcy-Dupont, an Armenian female painter born in Bornova**

I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in the Department of Art History at Hacettepe University, and as part of my thesis research, I am focusing on Iphigénie Zipcy-Dupont, an Armenian female painter born in Bornova, who represented the Ottoman Empire at the Paris Universal Exhibitions in 1867 and 1889.

Regrettably, I have been able to locate only a limited amount of information regarding her. Therefore, I am seeking any resources or relevant information that could contribute to my research.

Demet Kahraman, Master's Student, Department of Art History, Hacettepe University - kdemetk@hotmail.com

### **Seeking information on how the Levantine community of İskenderun navigated the political and social upheavals of the early 20th century.**

My name is Michele Erik Manni, and I am currently preparing a PhD project that will explore how the Levantine community of İskenderun navigated the political and social upheavals of the early 20th century. Specifically, the study will examine how Levantines sustained or redefined their presence amid shifting sovereignties. It will focus on institutional and legal adaptations, efforts to preserve communal cohesion within the urban fabric, and the evolution of collective identity in response to changing political and social realities.

At its core, the project seeks to answer one central research question:

How did the Levantine community of İskenderun experience, respond to, and reshape itself amid the legal, political, social, and spatial transformations of the late Ottoman and post-Ottoman Eastern Mediterranean?

To address this overarching question, the study will explore the following sub-questions:

1. What roles did the Levantine community play in İskenderun's economic, social, and political life during the late Ottoman period, and how did these roles evolve as the Empire declined and new state powers emerged?
2. How were everyday practices – such as language use, religious observance, and education – mobilised to maintain communal cohesion, and how did these adapt under political and cultural pressures?
3. What functions did communal institutions, i.e. churches, schools, clubs, consulates, serve in shaping collective identity and fostering resilience during periods of transition and uncertainty?
4. How did shifts in legal status, citizenship, and foreign protections impact the Levantine community during the transitions from Ottoman to French Mandate rule, and subsequently to Turkish governance?
5. In what ways did new political and administrative classifications affect the visibility, categorisation, and perceived legitimacy of the Levantine presence in İskenderun?
6. What cultural, diplomatic, or legal strategies did the Levantines employ to assert their rights and maintain their presence in an era of growing nationalism and state centralisation?
7. How did demographic changes and urban redevelopment influence the spatial distribution and visibility of the Levantine community in the city?
8. How did the experiences of Levantines in İskenderun compare with those in larger centres such as Izmir and Istanbul, particularly in terms of demographic trends, institutional adaptation, and responses to political and legal shifts?

I am reaching out to ask whether any of you might be willing to share material that could support this research – be it archival references, family records, personal testimonies, or other forms of historical memory. Any guidance on archives to explore, or willingness to share experiences – either your own or those of your family – would be deeply appreciated - micheleerik.manni@gmail.com

### **Request for information on the Galani family of Constantinople**

My father Antoine / Antonis / Anthony Galani/Galanis (with an "s" in Greek) was born on the 10/11/1926 in Istanbul. His father John (middle initial "A") was born in 1889 in Istanbul. His mother Celestine / Ourania Privilegio was from Smyrna, probably Bournabat. Her family is mentioned on your site [under](#) during a research exercise from when we had commissioned a book for my elderly father. They were forced to leave Istanbul around 1929, first for Athens, then for France, settling in Paris.

My grandfather was a shipowner and ran an agency in Istanbul, I include an advert from the Levant Trade Review from the early 1920s.

I also found additional tiny pieces of information on my grandfather in the Turkish History of "Steam-owners and Agencies" naming him as "John Albert Galani, Merkez Rihtim Han, Galata'da".

Both my father, and his father, were "αρχοντας". "Αρχοντες" (arkhontas or archon) are not ordained clergy, but they play a crucial role in the church's life by supporting the clergy and contributing to the well-being of the Christian Orthodox Church.

I would so like to trace my roots and would willingly engage a specialist should there be one, johnag007@yahoo.co.uk

American hosiery, suiting, shoes, cotton piece goods, lamps, glassware, crockery, light-weight buggies, automobiles, solid rubber carriage tires, rubbers, medicines, and many other products will find a ready market in Teheran.

The merchant of Teheran has been in the habit of buying from Russian and other European agents or commission merchants, the terms being delivery at store. When the Caucasus route was open to transit and Russian trade, this method of delivery in Teheran was possible to sales agents established in that city. Also, the other route through Baltic ports, via Baku and Caucasus, thence via the Caspian Sea, is also closed. However, at present this is impossible or nearly so, and the only route open for imports is via Persian Gulf ports, the nearest of which is a caravan journey of over 45 days. The merchants are awaiting the return of normal conditions, meanwhile doing

little or no importing so that the market lacks all sorts of merchandise. Some of the merchants who did try importing over the caravan route from the south made good profits, but others lost because, according to report, of the bad faith of receiving and forwarding agents at the Persian Gulf ports. Some merchants imported goods from the United States, ordering from catalogues; but as a rule this method was unsuccessful because of a lack of knowledge of true conditions on the part of both importers and exporters.

For instance, a manufacturer in an interior point of the United States receives, in answer to a prospectus or advertisement in a trade journal, an order from a merchant in Teheran with part payment made in advance. The merchant in due time receives a letter stating that the goods have been shipped and an express receipt is enclosed. Or the Teheran merchant in giving shipping directions might

## JOHN A. GALANI

### CONSTANTINOPLE.

General Importer & Exporter Merchant

SHIPPING AGENCY

Forwarding, Warehousing and Custom-House Clearances

Offices, GALATA, Merkez-Richtim Han 18-20.

Telegrams, "JOGALANI" Constantinople

Telephone, Pera 1784.

Community activities

Second annual Carnevale Ball



Organised by the Levantine Culture Heritage Association ([LKMKD](#)), 22 February 2025 – Pera Palas Hotel, Istanbul - [gallery](#): - [video](#):

### Conference: 'From Port to Influence: The Levantine Impact on Maritime Trade'



Henryk Drowniak (holding flowers on the right) & Hugh Jonathan Beard (holding flowers on the left), Levantine Culture Heritage Association ([LKMKD](#)), 9 July 2025 - Palais de Hollande, Dutch Consulate in Istanbul - [flyer](#): - [gallery](#): - [video](#):

## News of documentary award

'[Giovanni's Smyrna](#)', an urban documentary focusing on the historical and cultural richness of Izmir from 2024, directed by Ragip Taranç won the best documentary feature in the South Sinematographic Academy Film & Arts award in March 2025 - [gallery](#):

## Report on our Chairman's visit to Broomhall House

In May, I visited Broomhall House, home of the family of Bruce. Broomhall House is a significant building in the history of Scottish architecture and one of Scotland's grandest houses. It has been a private family home for more than 300 years and continues to be lived in and cared for by the family of King Robert the Bruce.

Broomhall contains an internationally important collection of fine art, artefacts and historic records, including several relating to the time of Thomas Bruce, the 7th Earl of Elgin, as British Ambassador in Constantinople (1799-1803).

Lord Bruce kindly showed me the architectural drawings for the original Pera House. Before Lord Elgin's appointment as ambassador, the British Embassy was in a dilapidated, rented house in Pera. Elgin determined that the Embassy needed a permanent and more fitting home. With a large site in Pera donated by Sultan Selim III, he commissioned a substantial building from architect Vincenzo Ballestra.

Broomhall House has a wealth of other art, objects, photographs and documents which show the history of the Bruce family and their widespread travels over several centuries. If you are interested in a group tour, please let us know and the LHF would be happy to coordinate a visit, subject to achieving minimum numbers and available dates.

<https://broomhallhouse.com/our-home/> > [read more](#):



## In Memoriam



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Olivia (nee Edwards) Solari born 1929 died 2 April 2025, may she rest in peace. [Announcement flyer](#):



It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors of [Rhodes RICHES](#) was informed of the passing of Zoë Hélène Rees, born on 23 May 1930 in Alexandria, who died on 1 April 2025 in London.

With her death, those who care for heritage of Rhodes and RICHES loses one of its first and most dedicated supporters; and Rhodes loses one of its most devoted residents.

With the loss of Life, it closes a chapter of more than a century and a half of the presence of the Rees family around the Aegean Sea. [More](#) on this family past from this group online presentation from April 2022.

## External activities

### External Upcoming Events

28 October 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Brotherhood Across the Mediterranean: Italian Freemasonry and the Ottoman Mission of 1910', Luis Miguel Selvelli - Anglo-Turkish Society - [flyer](#):

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### Recent Publications

The Island of the Pope: Catholics in the Aegean Archipelago between Empire and Nation-State, 1770-1830 - Dimitris Kousouris, Berghahn, 2025 – [link](#):

Constantinople occupée, 1918-1923. Une histoire Culturelle - Frédéric Hitzel & Timour Muhidine, Cnrs Eds, 2025 – [link](#):

Paris en lettres arabes – Coline Houssais, Actes Sud, 2024 – [link](#):

The Other Europeans: Levantines in the Early Nineteenth Century - Ufuk Özsesmer, Libra Kitap, 2025 – [link](#):

Dominique Valéry et L'Informatiom D'Orient - Rifat N. Bali, Libra Kitap, 2025 – [link](#):

Two Months on the Nile: Thomas Sandwith's Nineteenth-Century Egyptian Journey - Stephen Boys Smith, Bloomsbury, 2025 – [link](#):

The Baker Chronicles: The remarkable story of George Baker and the creation of a Levantine trading family - James de Wesselow, 2025 – [link](#):

Venice, the Ottomans, and the Sea (1381–1517) - Stefan K. Stantchev, Oxford University Press, 2025 – [link](#):

The Ambassador's Notebook: Western Merchants, French Diplomacy and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean c.1600 - Viorel Panaite, Brill, 2025 – [link](#):

Istanbul and the Ottoman Empire in Romantic and Victorian Culture: The Sultan's City, 1800-1876 - Piya Pal-Lapinski, Bloomsbury Academic, 2025 – [link](#):

Life of an Enslaved African in the Ottoman Empire and Iran: The Autobiography of Mahboob Qirvanian - Mahboob Qirvanian and Behnaz Mirzai, University of Toronto Press, 2025 – [link](#):

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## Upcoming Publications

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

Italo-Ottoman Relations in the Age of the Congress of Paris: Mirroring the 'Other', 1856-1871 - Giorgio Ennas, Bloomsbury Academic, 2026 – [link](#):

Gateway to the Mediterranean: An Environmental History of Late Ottoman Izmir – Onur İnal, Cambridge University Press, 2025 – [link](#): - [flyer with discount code](#):

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## New External digitisations

Continuity and change in the British diplomatic service in the Levant: The 'Levantine' question and the lure of antiquities - Lucia Patrizio Gunning & Despina Vlami, Journal of the History of Collections, 2023 – [link](#):

Holding High the Hanseatic Cross in the Levant: Andreas David Mordtmann and the Diplomatic Milieu of Istanbul - Tobias Völker, The International History Review, 2021 – [link](#):

A window on Muslim traders in the Mediterranean through Maltese archives – 1530-1565 - Joan Abela, 2024 – [link](#):

Levantine Joint-Stock Companies, Trans-Mediterranean Partnerships, and Nineteenth-Century Capitalist Development - Kristen Alff, 2018 – [link](#):

The Evolution of Commercial Institutions and Business Networks in the Ottoman Empire: British Merchant Families and Individual Merchants in the Levant Trade in the 18th Century - Üzeyir Serdar Serdaroğlu, 2018 – [link](#):

An English Merchant in Ottoman İzmir (Smyrna): William Barker (1731-1825), Miyase Koyuncu Kaya, 2020 – [link](#):

New documents regarding the spread out of the English trade into the Ottoman domains: The memorandum of the board of trade, London, 1828 - Nilgün İsmail, 2012 – [link](#):

US Mercenary Encounters with the Ottoman World, 1805-1882 - Eric Dean Covey, 2014 – [link](#):

Interaction and boundary work: Western merchant colonies in the Levant and the Eastern Churches, 1650–1800 - Cornel Zwierlein, 2020 – [link](#):

A Culture of Trust: Ottoman Merchants and Venetian Notaries in the Early Modern Period - Maria Pia Pedani, 2018 – [link](#):

Luigi Mongeri: a reformist and expert on "oriental insanity" in the nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire - Cihangir Gündoğdu, 2022 – [link](#):

Approaching Constantinople as a gateway to the east: Henrietta Liston, Lady Anne Blunt and the making of an explorer – Donna Landry – [link](#):

Marginal Diplomacy: Alexander Knesevich and the Consular Agency in Gaza, 1905–1914 - Dotan Halevy – [link](#):

Forty-Eight Years in Ottoman Service: General Inspector of Quarantines Dr Bartoletti Efendi and His Activities [1840-1888] - Özgür Yılmaz, Journal of Ottoman Civilization Studies, 2024 – [link](#):

Raisins d'état: trade, politics, and diplomacy in the history of the Levant Company - Martin Devecka, 2015 – [link](#):

Cultural exchanges between the Ottoman world and Latinate Europe - Robert Born, Michał Dziewulski, Guido Messling, exhib. cat., Brussels, Centre for Fine Arts, 2015 – [link](#):

Early Nineteenth-Century British views of The Levantines in the Ottoman Empire - Ufuk Özesmer, 2025 – [link](#):

Literary Representations of Alexandria: Cosmopolitanism and History in Lawrence Durrell, André Aciman, and Ibrahim Abdul Meguid - Banan Hameed AlJahdali, 2020 – [link](#):

A Land of Opportunities: Foreign Engineers in the Ottoman Empire - Darina Martykánová and Meltem Kocaman, De Gruyter Brill, 2018 – [link](#):

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## New Podcasts

Travellers: Ida Pfeiffer - Human Intelligence, BBC Radio 4, 27 March 2025 – [link](#):

Empress Elisabeth and Greece: How Sisi fell in love – Mark Aden, 11 April 2025 – [link](#):

The Baron Hotel: Uncovering roots – 21 April 2025 – [link](#):

Ottoman Passports, İlkey Yılmaz – Ottoman History Podcast, 5 September 2024 – [link](#):

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## New Videos

The Dervish Bowl: The Many Lives of Arminius Vambergy, Anabel Loyd – Royal Asiatic Society, 19 March 2025 – [link](#):

Antoine the Fortunate: At the Crossroads of Empires – [trailer](#): - (Slice Who) – part 1 – [link](#): - part 2 – [link](#): - part 3 – [link](#):

The French in Egypt, from Louis XIV to Louis XVI, Philip Mansel - Spotlight Lecture: Consuls, Travellers, Spies - The Egypt Exploration Society, 5 November 2024 – [link](#):

Pirates of Barbary: Corsairs, Conquests and Captivity in the 17th-Century Mediterranean, Adrian Tinniswood – Anglo-Turkish Society, 3 March 2025 – [link](#):

Constantinople in Olympia: How the nineteenth century Eastern Question was transformed by spectacle, song and dance, Andrew Finkel – Anglo-Turkish Society, 27 May 2025 – [link](#): - [interview](#):

The Muybridge Albums in Istanbul: Photography as Diplomacy in the Ottoman Empire, Emily Neumeier – Anglo-Turkish Society, 3 June 2025 – [link](#):

[Frenk Mahallesi'nde Bir İtalyan: De Virgili, 1846](#), Efe Yelbuğa- 35Punto.com, Casa Italia, Izmir, 3 May 2025- [video](#) /[photo](#):

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## Ephemera

Ottoman Empire - Expo Paris 1867 – [link](#):

Bankalar Caddesi (Banks Street), nomadicniko, 27 February 2025 – [link](#):

British passport 1897 – Consul in Jerusalem, Tom Topol, 2016 – [link](#):

Salt Research: Romano Archive, 2025 – [link](#):

Salt Research: Union Francais, Istanbul, 2025 – [link](#):

Heritage as Civic Resistance – UrbanNext Lexicon, 2025 – [link](#):

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## New Digital Exhibitions

The 'Han's of Galata: based on Sadettin Fidan collection which explores the emergence and development of the han as a modern commercial space in Galata between 1850 and 1950 – [link](#):

Picturing the Sultan from the 16th to 19th Centuries: Discover a variety of ways in which rulers of the Ottoman Empire were represented by local artists and foreign visitors – [link](#):

Ottoman Bank Museum - A New Balance and Epilogue: "A chronological selection from the archives of the Ottoman Bank" – [link](#):

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## New Website

## News of upcoming events by partners

### Projected exhibition: ‘Levantine 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 ‘Levantine of Istanbul, Istanbul of Levantines’ Exhibition that will take place in the second quarter of year 2026 in the district of Beyoğlu / Pera.

This exhibition will showcase 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](mailto:levanten@levanten.org).

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## News of past events by partners

**The Testa family of Constantinople reliquary ceremony for its permanent display at the Co-Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Amsterdam, 30 March 2025 – [details](#):**

**Latest (Spring / Autumn 2024) issue of the ‘Ledger’, the Bulletin for *The Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative* – [link](#):**

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## Mystery image



This appears to be a kit based ‘Smyrna carpet’ home production marketing series of photos from Switzerland, 1951. Perhaps there is a Smyrna connection of this company / owner? We would welcome your insights. [Gallery](#):

## In the news

### The Closure of a 153-Year-Old Legacy: Private St. George Austrian Hospital, 14 February 2025



Official notice from the institution on Linked-in:

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the closure of Private St. George Austrian Hospital, an institution that has provided unwavering healthcare services for 153 years.

Our story began in 1872, when two nuns from Graz, Austria, treated cholera patients near Galata Tower. Their dedication and compassion laid the foundation for what would become one of Istanbul's most respected hospitals. Over the decades, we grew—opening Turkey's first Pediatric Clinic in 1893, expanding with Ophthalmology, Internal Medicine, Surgery, ENT, and Dermatology, and continuously adapting to the needs of our community.

For more than a century, we stood as a bridge between cultures, supported at times by the Ottoman Sultan and the Austrian Emperor, and later evolving through the years of the Turkish Republic. In the modern era, we expanded our capacity with new facilities, specialized clinics, and advanced medical care, serving thousands of patients with dedication and expertise.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our patients, doctors, nurses, and all our staff who have been part of this extraordinary journey. Your trust, commitment, and contributions have made this hospital more than just a medical institution—it became a symbol of compassion, excellence, and resilience.

Though our doors may close, the impact and memories of Private St. George Austrian Hospital will live on.

Thank you for 153 years of care, healing, and unwavering dedication.

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

With Researcher: Assist. Prof. Bengi Su Ertürkmen-Aksoy, 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](mailto:bsuerturkmen@gmail.com) - [read more](#):

#### The Levantine Heritage Library & Archive

The groundwork to identify a permanent physical location for the Levantine Heritage Library and Archive is underway. It is not a simple exercise as, in an ideal situation, we seek a location and space with Levantine connections, accessible to researchers and which is largely funded by benefactors and grants. In the event that we cannot achieve the ideal, the alternatives include finding a host-library for our collection and outsourcing digitisation work for the archive. We welcome the experience and advice of our readers in helping us shape a practical strategy and implementation plan.

Meanwhile, we invite to browse our online catalogue. It consists primarily of the Jacques Caporal Collection of books and genealogical records and we are adding other books donated or loaned as they become available.

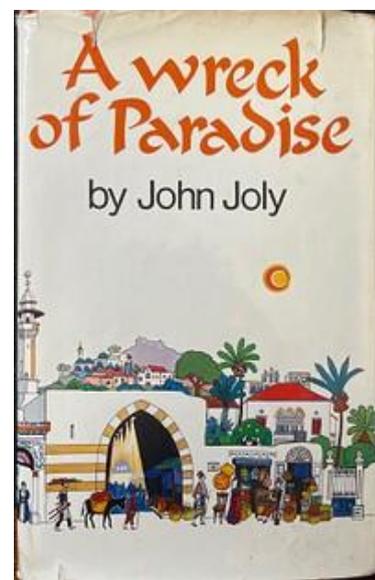
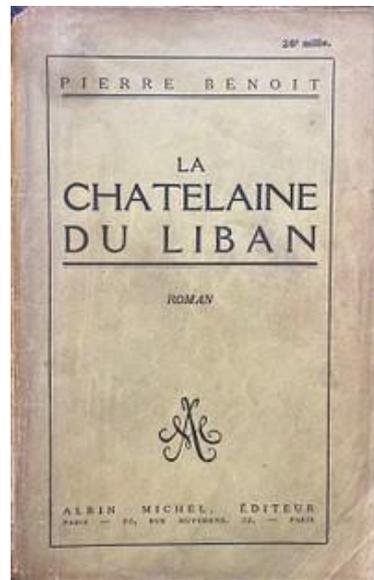
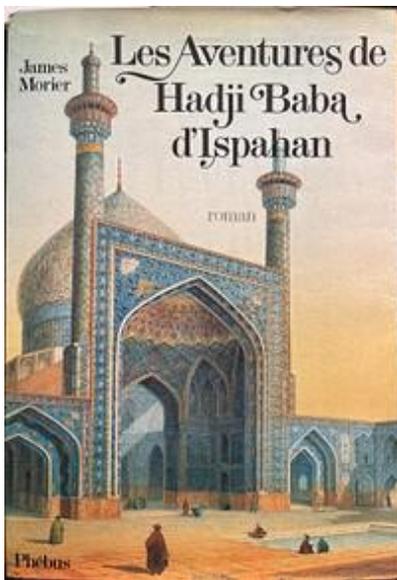
To access the catalogue, just click on this link [Levantine Heritage Library](#) which has a search box. Type in a key word and a list of items tagged with that word will appear. Much of the collection is in French, so some keywords are French.

The Jacques Caporal Collection in the Levantine Heritage Library mostly comprises books about history and travels in the Levant. However, there is also a selection of fictio; historical novels and romantic tales.

The reader may be familiar with Lawrence Durrell's "The Alexandria Quartet" and Oliver Manning's "Levant Trilogy", but there are several less well-known authors represented.

One example is a French translation of "The Adventures of Hajji Baba of Ispahan". Written in 1824 by a former British Envoy, James Morier, it is a satirical and somewhat negative tale based on his experiences in Qajar, Iran.

There are more novels from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. "La chatelaine du Liban" by Pierre Benoit is a thriller published in 1924 that achieved popular success.



John Joly's "A wreck of Paradise" published in 1975 is set in an imaginary, but recognisable, eastern Mediterranean country. The story is about one of the last-surviving, family-owned Levant companies from 19<sup>th</sup> century Smyrna and the challenges it encountered in the 1960s. Some of the novel's characters are possibly drawn from Joly's business and Levantine family background.

We are keen to add to our collection of "Levant fiction". If you have any recommendations of novels to add to our catalogue, please get in touch.

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](mailto:chairman@levantineheritage.com)

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#### **Craig Encer**

General Secretary – [secretary@levantineheritage.com](mailto:secretary@levantineheritage.com)

#### **The Levantine Heritage Foundation - [www.levantineheritage.com](http://www.levantineheritage.com)**

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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.

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