



Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 31 Summer - 2026

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we reflect on our upcoming bigger events and we already in the advanced stages of planning our next conference in Paris: 'Villes de Levant', Institut du Monde Arabe, 29 October 2026. In our first joint Travellers in Ottoman Lands / Levantine Heritage Foundation conference in the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 20-24 April 2027. And finally, a conference with the provisional title of 'Dutch Levantines in the Ottoman World: Traders, networks, collections, archives' on 11-13th June 2027 in Amsterdam and Haarlem. More details below.

Our activities

Upcoming LHF Events

24 August 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Western Land on Ottoman Shores: The Austrian Lloyd Steamship Company', Prof M. Emre Kılıçaslan – [flyer](#): – [registration](#):

1 September 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

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

16 or 17 tbc October 2026, 6 pm

In-person presentation: 'Connected Lives: Mapping British Commercial and Social Networks in Late Ottoman Constantinople': A presentation by Bengi Su Ertürkmen on her sponsored project – Crimean Memorial Church, Istanbul? – [flyer](#):

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

29 October 2026

Conference: 'Villes de Levant', Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris – [provisional flyer](#): – [call for papers](#): (deadline 15 Sept 2026)

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

20-24 April 2027

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

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

11-13 June 2027

Conference at the University of Amsterdam with the provisional title 'Dutch Levantines in the Ottoman World: Traders, networks, collections, archives' – [provisional programme](#): Visits are also planned to the 'Turkish Cabinet' in the Rijksmuseum and to related collections in Haarlem.

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

Recent LHF Events

5 May 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

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

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](#):



Speaker Theodore Mould (in the centre with blue pull-over)

2 June 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

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



Speaker Aristide Chryssoulis (in green top)

16 June 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

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

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:](#) - [video:](#)



Left to right: Philip Mansel, Maureen Freely, George Galdies, George Vassiadis, Miguel Selvelli, Katia Pizzi.

30 June 2026, 5 – 8pm

Reception in celebration of the recent acquisition by the Travellers Club library of the 'Dictionnaire Francais-Arabe-Persian et Turc' by the Phanariot Prince Alexandre Handjeri, presentations by Andrew Wilson (chairman of the The Travellers Club library), Sheila Markham (librarian of The Travellers Club – in beige ensemble in the centre), Philip Mansel (author and LHF trustee), Quentin Compton-Bishop (chairman of the LHF – in red tie in the centre) - [digitised pages](#) of a similar copy of this book – [video:](#)



[click image for full view](#)

Recent Website additions

Interviews:

Ben Singer: Rediscovering the Diversity of a Levantine Family – the Jewish, German, Austrian, French and Armenian branches of one Istanbul Family – [link](#):

Semih Sefer: Levantine Enterprise in Transition: The Foscolo Family in 19th-Century Istanbul – [link](#):

Galleries:

Near East Relief activities in Constantinople – [link](#):

Orientalist paintings – [link](#):

Prokopp brewery of Smyrna – [link](#):

The American colony of Jerusalem – [link](#):

Archive aerial photographs of Smyrna – [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.

Research on the Catholic schools of Istanbul between 1918 and 1923

Submitted by Alice Offroy

I am currently conducting academic research on the Catholic schools of Istanbul between 1918 and 1923, and I am looking for photographs, archival material, personal testimonies, or any other documents that might contribute to my research. If any of you happen to have photographs of schools from this period—particularly Lasallian schools—I would be delighted to have the opportunity to consult them.

You can reach me at: aliceoffroy2@icloud.com

Projet de livre sur Joseph Euzet (1873-1961), gardien de la maison de la Vierge Marie à Éphèse.

Né en 1873 dans un petit village de l'Hérault, Joseph Euzet fût le gardien de la maison de la Vierge Marie à Éphèse jusqu'à sa mort, en 1961. C'était aussi l'oncle de mon grand-père. Dans ma famille, on l'appelait l'oncle de Smyrne.

Après son séminaire chez les Lazaristes à Paris, Joseph Euzet fut envoyé en mission à Smyrne en septembre 1892. Peu de temps après, le 15 novembre, sœur Marie de Mandat-Grancey, fille de la Charité et responsable de l'hôpital français de Smyrne, devint la propriétaire de la maison de la Vierge Marie, découverte en 1891. Avant sa mort, en 1915, elle légua le sanctuaire au R.P. Eugène Poulin, supérieur du collège du Sacré-Cœur de Smyrne. Au décès de ce dernier, en 1928, Joseph Euzet en hérita. Cependant, il ne devint officiellement propriétaire qu'en 1932, suite à de nombreuses péripéties et à un long procès.

Mon projet est d'écrire sa vie à Smyrne tout autant que l'histoire de ce sanctuaire millénaire pour chrétiens et musulmans. Je suis donc à la recherche de témoignages ou documents pouvant m'aider à écrire l'incroyable mission de Joseph Euzet.

Pierre-Olivier SAUVAIRE

monsieurfelixeditions@gmail.com

Book project about Joseph Euzet (1873-1961), keeper of the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus.

Born in 1873 in a small village in south of France, Joseph Euzet was the keeper of the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus until his death in 1961. He was also my grandfather's uncle. In my family, he was known as "the Uncle from Smyrna."

After completing his seminary studies with the Lazarists in Paris, Joseph Euzet was sent on a mission to Smyrna in September 1892. Shortly afterward, on November 15, Sister Marie de Mandat-Grancey, a Daughter of Charity and head of the French hospital in Smyrna, became the owner of the House of the Virgin Mary, which had been discovered in 1891. Before her death in 1915, she bequeathed the sanctuary to Father Eugène Poulin, superior of the Sacred Heart College in Smyrna. Upon his death in 1928, Joseph Euzet inherited it. However, he did not officially become its owner until 1932, after many twists and turns and a lengthy court case.

My project is to write his life in Smyrna as well as the history of this age-old sanctuary revered by both Christians and Muslims. I am therefore looking for testimonies or documents that could help me write the incredible mission of Joseph Euzet.

Pierre-Olivier SAUVAIRE, monsieurfelixeditions@gmail.com

Looking for information on my ancestors the Alianak family, Armenian Catholics originally from Georgia.

My grandmother's family was Armenian from Georgia, Roman Catholic and lived at 14 Zenberek Sokak in Yedikule, Istanbul. Her maiden name Alianak. She married a Croatian man (Taddee? Lujo). My mother and her sisters went to an Italian Catholic school in Yedikule (I do not know the name of this institution). I would be so grateful if I could get information pointing to where I could find their birth, death, marriage certificates. In addition, broader information on the former Catholic community of Yedikule would be most welcome.

Mireille Lafforgue, mimilafforgue6@gmail.com



Sister teachers and pupils at the Catholic school of Yedikule, circa 1916 – [full gallery](#):

Researching my ancestors from Italy, the Raccanello and Mezzacasa families

I have been conducting historical and genealogical research on the Raccanello and Mezzacasa families for many years and they are my partial ancestors. My aim is to reconstruct the story of these families' lives between the Ottoman Empire and Italy as completely as possible.

According to the official documents I have obtained so far, Giovanni Battista Raccanello and Maria Mezzacasa were married in Zonguldak on July 5, 1908. Their first child, Pietro Raccanello, was born in Zonguldak in 1909.

The family subsequently returned to Italy; their second child, Giovanna Raccanello, was born on June 10, 1912, on the deck of the steamship 'Mendax' at the Port of Catania, and her birth was registered in Catania. It is not yet known whether the family lived in Catania or Crespano del Grappa for a time after this date.

Subsequent documents indicate that the family returned to Istanbul. Their third child, Florenza (Fioranza) Raccanello, was born in Istanbul in 1916, and their fourth child, Antonio Raccanello, was born in Istanbul in 1925.

It is understood that the family lived between Istanbul and Zonguldak for many years and had ties, in particular, to the Zonguldak coal mines. Maria Mezzacasa passed away in Istanbul on February 14, 1929; her funeral service was held at the Santa Maria Draperis Church, and she was buried in the Feriköy Latin Catholic Cemetery. Unfortunately, the location of her grave cannot be identified today.

Giovanni Battista's father, Giovanni Raccanello, passed away on September 23, 1926, at the Italian Hospital in Istanbul. However, the location of his grave and the church from which his funeral service was conducted remain unknown.

Documents indicate that the family returned to Crespano del Grappa in 1936, but their daughter, Giovanna Raccanello, remained in Istanbul.

To date, I have accessed numerous documents from official archives in Turkey, Italy, and Belgium and have also established contact with some surviving family members. Nevertheless, there are still many gaps in the information.

For this reason, I hope to reach individuals who knew the Raccanello and Mezzacasa families, are related to them, or possess photographs, letters, family records, cemetery details, documents regarding their professional lives, or family memorabilia. Any information—particularly concerning Istanbul, Zonguldak, Catania, Trieste, and Crespano del Grappa—would make a valuable contribution toward filling in the missing pieces of this research.

Hasan Orhun Kerpiçi, orhun_1989@hotmail.com

Seeking sponsorship for a project: Social and Cultural Life in Istanbul in the Light of Levantine Newspapers (1875–1900)

by Semih Sefer

The primary objective of this project is to present a comprehensive picture of Istanbul's social and cultural life through Levantine newspapers published in the final quarter of the 19th century, and to assess the contribution these publications make to Ottoman urban history. As part of the study, news items, announcements, advertisements, cultural and artistic events, social activities, municipal practices and content relating to daily life featured in Levantine newspapers will be systematically examined; Istanbul's multicultural urban life will be analysed from various perspectives.

The research also aims to reveal how the Levantine press represented Istanbul, how it interpreted the process of modernisation, and how it contributed to the formation of the Ottoman capital's image in the international public sphere. [Read more:](#)

Researching Jean (Giovanni) Brindesi and the Artistic Environment of Nineteenth-Century Pera

by Zeynep Alara Karagöz, Ankara

I am currently writing a master's thesis on the life and artistic career of [Jean \(Giovanni\) Brindesi](#) (1826–1888), a Levantine painter who lived and worked in Istanbul during the nineteenth century. Brindesi is particularly known for works such as *Elbise-i Atika – Musée des Anciens Costumes Turcs* and *Souvenirs de Constantinople*. I am also examining his illustrations published in the French periodical *L'Illustration* in order to further investigate his artistic production and his connections with international publishing circles.

Despite having received notable recognition, such as the Order of the Medjidie, during his lifetime, and despite the considerable number of his surviving works, remarkably little is known about his personal background. Therefore, a major objective of my thesis is to reconstruct Brindesi's biography as comprehensively as possible. In addition to bringing together the existing information on his family, professional relationships, and career, I am also seeking primary sources that may not yet have been identified.

Another important aspect of my research concerns Brindesi's studio in Pera. While attempting to locate his studio and understand its context, I am also investigating the broader artistic environment of nineteenth-century Pera and the artists who were active in the district during this period. Through this research, I aim to consider Brindesi's work not only in relation to his own artistic production, but also within the wider cultural and social environment of nineteenth-century Istanbul.

I am particularly seeking information about the Brindesi family. Documents, photographs, letters, or family records preserved in private archives would be extremely valuable for reconstructing Brindesi's biography. I would also be very interested in connecting with scholars, independent researchers, and local historians who have previously worked on Brindesi or are currently researching the artistic life of nineteenth-century Pera and Levantine communities in Istanbul.

If you have any documents, photographs, information, or leads to sources that may not yet have been examined concerning Brindesi, the Brindesi family, his studio in Pera, or the artistic environment of nineteenth-century Istanbul, I would be very grateful to hear from you at alarakaragoz@hacettepe.edu.tr. Any contribution, regardless of scale, could help shed further light on Brindesi's life and the artistic environment of nineteenth-century Istanbul.

Recent community events

The Seasons and Cycles: Ceremonies of Celebration and Commemoration in Anatolia symposium, ANAMED, Istanbul, 17-18 March 2026

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Research Centre of Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), and in celebration of ANAMED's long-standing contribution to scholarship on Anatolia, this year's Annual Symposium focused on the themes of cyclical, seasonality, and festivity. In this closing session, the moderators of each session convened to highlight the underlying themes of historiography that stood out throughout two days of talks. –

[recording:](#)



His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I, accompanied by the esteemed members of the Patriarchal Synod, visited ANAMED's current exhibition, 'All Phanar Is Here: Household, Neighbourhood, Court, and the City', guided by the exhibition's co-curator, Haris Theodorelis-Rigas, 9 July 2026.





[Chris Sembroski](#) (in dark blue shirt) is an astronaut who flew to space aboard the Inspiration4 mission in 2021. This was the first all-civilian orbital space mission. Chris was in İzmir attending youth programs at Space Camp Türkiye in Gazimur, İzmir. Mr Sembroski talked movingly after the Eucharist about the experience of going to space, and the incredible fundraising that has resulted – \$240 million for the Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis Tennessee.

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the passing of Mr Charles Wilkinson, a contributor to the [website](#), who died on the 3rd July 2026, aged 93, originally from Bornova, Izmir, later Istanbul where he continued working in business and the maritime trade till 2007, after 57 years of work. He was buried in the Ferikoy Protestant cemetery after a service in that chapel on the 5th July 2026. May he rest in peace. [Obituary](#) courtesy of Osman Öndeş: - in [Turkish](#):



Monsieur Louis-Armel Pelâtre was born on May 12, 1940, in Pancé, Ille-et-Vilaine, France. He was ordained as a priest in the Assumptionist Congregation on September 15, 1962. He was ordained as a priest in La Rochelle on May 24, 1969.

He came to Turkey on October 4, 1970. After a short preparatory period in Ankara, he began his service in the Moda-Kadıköy congregation in Istanbul. Between 1980 and 1989, he was responsible for the Assumptionists order in Turkey; in 1990, he became the General Vicar of the Apostolic Vicarate of Istanbul.

On July 9, 1992, he was appointed Titular Bishop of Sasima and Apostolic Vicar of Istanbul by Saint John Paul II. He received his episcopal ordination on September 13, 1992, at the Holy Spirit Cathedral in Istanbul. He served as the president of Caritas Turkey; as an advisor and later a member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. From 1995 to 2001, he served as the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Turkey. Pope Francis accepted his resignation, submitted due to age limits, on April 16, 2016. During his more than fifty-five years of service in Turkey, he dedicated himself to the pastoral care of the Catholic community, to Christian unity, and to interreligious dialogue. After enduring long suffering with great faith, Monsignor Louis Pelâtre returned to the Father's house on August 20, 2026, at the age of 86. The funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Holy Spirit Cathedral in Istanbul.

External Upcoming Events

Exhibition: 'Routes, Ruins and Reconnaissance', archaeological and geographical work of Gertrude Bell, 3-24 August 2026 - Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR – [link:](#)

Hybrid presentation: 'From Merchant Consuls to the Caliph's Representatives: The Transformation of the Ottoman Consulates in Liverpool and Manchester, 1891-1914', Prof Muhammed Hasanov, 14 September 2026, 6 pm (UK time) – Anglo Turkish Society – [flyer:](#)

Exhibition: 'France, Sweden and the Ottoman Empire: Artistic Alliances', 12 June – 1 November 2026 - Institut suédois, 11 rue Payenne, F-75003 Paris – [link:](#)

Exhibition: 'Levantines of Istanbul & Istanbul of the Levantines', LKMKD, 8 October – 8 November 2026 - İstiklal Art Gallery, Beyoğlu, Istanbul – [link:](#)

Exhibition: Constantinople to Istanbul: One City, Two Empires, 7 November 2026 onwards - Galleries 38 and 39, V&A South Kensington, Cromwell Road, London – [link:](#)

Recent Publications

The New Byzantines: The Rise of Greece and Return of the Near East, Sean Mathews – Hurst, 2025 – [link:](#)

Italo-Ottoman Relations in the Age of the Congress of Paris: Mirroring the 'Other', 1856-1871, Giorgio Ennas – Bloomsbury, 2025 – [link:](#)

The Role of Italian Presses in Early Arabic Printing, Edited by: Octavian-Adrian Negoită and Ioana Feodorov, De Gruyter Brill, 2026 – [link:](#)

Britain and the Ottoman Maghreb, 1662–1712: Merchants, Consuls, and Cultural Exchange, Nat Cutter, Oxford Academic 2026 – [link:](#)

Orientalism and the Making of Turkology in the Age of the Enlightenment, Despina Magkanari, Boydell and Brewer, 2026 – [link:](#)

Swedish Slavery, Diplomacy, and Culture in the Early Modern Mediterranean, Joachim Östlund, Springer Nature, 2026 – [open access 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

Intra-European Litigation in Eighteenth-Century Izmir: The Role of the Merchants' Style, Tijl Vanneste – Brill 2025 – [link:](#)

Breaching the Bronze Wall: Franks at Mamluk and Ottoman Courts and Markets, Francisco Apellániz – Brill 2020 – [link:](#)

A Mutual Project: Architecture and the Imperial Foundations of American Missionaries in Nineteenth-Century Beirut, Yasmina El Chami, 2024 – [link:](#)

Muslim-Christian Interactions in the Mediterranean Basin: An Education Guide Developed From The Discover Islamic Art Virtual Museum, Museum with no frontiers – [link:](#)

The Venetian Inquisition and Aspects of "Otherness": Judaizers, Muslim and Christian converts (16th-17th century) - Giorgios Plakotos, 2004 – [link:](#)

Dragomans of the Dubrovnik Republic: Their training and career - Vesna Miović - Perić, 2001 – [link:](#)

The mercantile experience of Ottoman Pera in the century after 1453 – Taylan Gungor, 2022 – [link:](#)

The Education That Built a Nation: Missionary Education and the Making of Modern Lebanon - Charles H. al-Hayek, nowlebanon.com, 1 April 2026 – [link:](#)

Drawing the Catastrophe: The Massacres of 1860 in Mount Lebanon and Damascus Through the Illustrated Press - Charles H. al-Hayek, nowlebanon.com, 17 July 2026 – [link](#):

The Establishment of the Catholic Churches of the Levant in The Ottoman Empire - Samee Hasan, 2025 – [link](#):

‘Le monde est un logement d’étrangers’: François Savary de Brèves (1560–1628), diplomatic agent in the early modern Mediterranean - Darren M. Smith, 2022 – [link](#):

Mr and Mrs Barker and Family: Franks in the Levant - Deborah Manley, Archaeology & History in the Lebanon, 2002 – [link](#):

Richard Pockocke in Lebanon, 1738 - John R. Bartlett, Archaeology & History in the Lebanon, 2002 – [link](#):

The Durighello Family - Michel G. Klat, Archaeology & History in the Lebanon, 2002 – [link](#):

Two Sisters in Lebanon and Syria - Margaret Clarke, Archaeology & History in the Lebanon, 2002 – [link](#):

Richard Francis Burton: British Consul in Syria and Lebanon 1869-1871 - Mary S. Lovel, Archaeology & History in the Lebanon, 2000 – [link](#):

Role and activities of the dragomans. The Austrian branch of the Testa family in the second half of eighteenth and the beginning of nineteenth century: abstract - Donika Tsanovska-Schneeweiss, 2024 – [link](#):

Between protection by international law and credit networks: The security strategies of European merchants in the Levant around 17001 - Cornel Zwierlein, 2025 – [link](#):

New Podcasts

A Confederate General in the Ottoman Capital, Elizabeth Varon – Ottoman History Podcast, 3 March 2026 – [link](#):

Inside the Royal Harems of the Ottoman Empire: Betwixt the Sheets – BBC History Hit Podcast, 9 January 2026 – [link](#):

New Videos

Sean Mathews: ‘The New Byzantines: The Rise of Greece and Return of the Near East’, a discussion - Hellenic American Union Athens, February 2026 – [link](#):

Samuel Cox House, Büyükkada, Istanbul, Ibrahim Akgün & Korhan Gümüş, 4 Oct 2024 – [link](#):

Mrs. Despina and the Mansion of Halki, Ibrahim Akgün, 13 Jul 2025 – [Part 1](#): – [Part 2](#):

Annie Pertan’s House and Life, Ibrahim Akgün, 28 Mar 2026 – [link](#):

Prof. Dr. Curt Kosswig House, Bebek, Istanbul, Ibrahim Akgün, 20 Jun 2024 – [link](#):

Letters from Baghdad, BBC 4 TV, 15 July 2026 – [link](#):

Bobovius (Ali Ufki) and his manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Agata Pawlina, 8 June 2026 – [link](#):

The Uses of Oppression: The Ottoman Empire through its Greek Newspapers, 1830–1862, Marina Lady Marks, 24 Apr 2025 – [link](#):

Baghdad Bus: The Crazy 1930s Off-Road Desert Bus with a Kitchen & Beds, Calum Raasay, 31 May 2024 – [link](#):

Louis Dupré’s ‘Voyage à Athènes et à Constantinople’ (1825), Shapero rare books, 2026 – [link](#): - [view pages](#):

Voyage pittoresque de Constantinople et des rives du Bosphore by Antoine Ignace Melling (1819), Shapero rare books, 2026 – [link](#): - [view pages](#):

David Roberts’s ‘Egypt & Nubia’ (1846-1849), Shapero rare books, 2026 – [link](#): - [images](#):

Dr Melanie Gibson on Frederic Leighton: A Victorian Traveller and Collector in the Middle East, Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, 26 March 2026 – [link](#):

Pietro Canonica and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Assoc. Prof. Dr Luca Orlandi & Dr Paolo Girardelli – ANAMED, 7 July 2026 – [link](#): - [event page](#):

Opening Panel: All Phanar Is Here: Household, Neighborhood, Court, and the City – ANAMED, 12 March 2026 – [link](#):

The Dragoman: The Ottoman Period with Antonis Hadjikyriacou, 4 June 2025 – [link](#):

The first Photographers in Aleppo During Late Ottoman Period, Jad Moussalli, 20 Jan 2025 – [link](#):

Ephemera

A Journey of a German Family with the Orient Express From Vienna to Constantinople in 1903, Wolfgang Wiggers, 2018 – [link](#):

Permanent exhibition: Ottoman Turkish Tents at Wawel Royal Castle, Krakow, Poland – [link](#):

Loosening the Tongue: Language Learning among Early American Missionaries to the Ottoman Empire, Jennifer Manoukian – Commonplace Online – [link](#):

French Mission Schools and Education of Ottoman Armenian Women Topic of Talk at ACF, Dr. Paulette Houbouyan-Coutant - The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 2023 – [link](#):

Dragomans – tourist industry experts of the nineteenth century, Rachel Mairs, 2022 – [link](#):

EU-funded Project Helps Sustain Jewish Heritage in Izmir – EEAS, 23 Jan 2024 – [link](#):

A Dutch Family in the Ottoman World: Microhistory through the Case of the Keun, Berken Vis - Netherlands Institute in Turkey, 2025 – [link](#):

Reconnecting Europe by Rail: How an Ottoman Railway Archive Became an EELISA Classroom Without Borders, 2026 – [link](#):

The provenance and context of the Giustiniani Medicine Chest, Julie Ackroyd, Science Museum Group Journal, 2019 – [link](#):

Imagery of Empire: Merchantry and Folk Medicine on the Mastic Island, Tedi A. Pascarella, Hypothese 2024 – [link](#):

Sketching Life in Pera: The Selah Caricatures, Sean Swanick, BIAA, 28 July 2026 – [link](#):

Views of Constantinople: The Freshfield Album online – [link](#):

Franz Liszt: The Hungarian Virtuoso who Played for a Sultan, Ayşe Osmanoğlu, 16 August 2026 – [link](#):

From the Palace to Bayreuth: Ottoman Sultans, European Music, and Cultural Circulation Networks, Arda Tunca, 1 August 2026 – [link](#):

From the stories of the cemetery in Sulina, Romania. The case of the two lovers who died in 1868: The 'Idyll' between Margaret Ann Pringle and William Webster, by Constantin Ardeleanu – [link](#):



News of upcoming events by partners

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

We would like to inform you about the next initiative of the Association Levanten K lt r ve Mirasını Koruma Derneđi ([LKMKD](#)), the 'Levantine of Istanbul, Istanbul of Levantines' Exhibition that will take place on 8 October – 8 November 2026 at the exhibition hall of the Beyođlu 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

Ladies tennis match and audience in Moda, Istanbul from 1918



image courtesy of Sarkis Karamanik. No information apart from a date of 20th Sep 1918, almost certainly of the local Levantine community present, possibly the Moda tennis courts. We seek additional photos of sports of this era from Istanbul / Izmir and hope to build a better picture of how organised the various events and competitions were.



The white building behind is the summer residence of the British Consulate in Bornova, İzmir, taken in 1955 (during the tenure of Consul General for İzmir, David Balfour 1951-55, or the following officer in that post R.E. Wilkinson) which was pulled down during the tenure of Bornova Municipality head Naşit Kılıç (1970-1977) – [view in large format](#) – [more](#) on British Consular buildings in the city: We seek additional information or imagery on this and other consular buildings of the city.



A postcard sent 1910 showing a group of cadet soldiers protecting the British Embassy in Constantinople. This was probably connected with the 1909 counter-revolution by the pro-Sultan forces and its crushing and the restoration of parliamentary rule in April 1909. Amongst this turbulence the pro CUP forces probably saw it prudent to protect foreign missions as seen here.



A mysterious title of a group engraving, taken from the [Illustrated London News](#), 10 Dec 1881, front cover – ‘detained’ in normal parlance suggests forceful restriction of freedom. It is highly unlikely the rules in Victorian times would have allowed for such a

'reversal' of status even if the boys came from poor families and many being barefoot maybe part of the stage costume. The names of all are listed, so they were clearly of British origin, yet their attire is 'Oriental', suggesting they were semi-permanently based in Levant lands for entertainment, perhaps under the supervision of a wealthy individual of Arab ethnicity, though again this seems far-fetched? Suggestions welcome from readers for this conundrum.

New website

'Travelogues – Travellers' Views: Places – Monuments – People' - Aikaterini Laskaris Foundation – [link](#):

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 nearing the end of 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.



As part of the project, 20 trade annuals have so far been systematically examined, leading to the identification of an interconnected network of approximately 450 individuals, 95 families, 130 institutions, and 150 places. Through the relationships traced between these individuals, families, institutions, and places, the core structure of the network has now been established. With this foundation in place, the project is moving from data collection towards interpretation and visualisation. The next phase will focus on mapping these connections, both relationally and spatially, to explore how professional, familial, institutional, and social ties intersected across the city. In parallel, the biographical lexicon will continue to be developed and enriched through further archival and secondary research.

We will have the launch and presentation of this database in Istanbul in mid-October 2026, with at least one other supporting speaker (Akin Sefer - British workers in the Imperial Arsenal in late Ottoman Istanbul) and that information will feature in our website very soon.

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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](#):

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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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