



32nd Levantine Heritage Foundation dinner gathering in London, with guest speakers Gwendolyn Collaço (Harvard University) & Richard Wittmann (Orient-Institut Istanbul)

Levantine Legacies in 19th century Asia Minor:

Prints and Impressions from Ottoman Smyrna: The Harvard Fulgenzi Album – Gwendolyn Collaço

A richly illustrated album at Harvard Fine Arts Library preserves twenty-five hand-painted engravings and lithographs from Ottoman Smyrna dating to the 1830s. Printed by the brothers Eugenio and Raffaele Fulgenzi, the collection captures a multi-faceted view of Smyrna's Levantine heritage through its renderings of the city's cultural landscapes and diverse socio-religious groups. At the same time, the album connects Smyrna to wider the Eastern Mediterranean by touching on heavily debated issues of the day that ignited presses throughout regional ports. Through their distinctive prints, the Fulgenzi brothers commented on Ottoman sartorial reform, as well as social upheavals in Egypt, Greece, and Algeria, whose leaders enjoyed considerable coverage in the press across languages. Originally purchased by Thomas Walley Langdon, a member of a prominent American merchant family in Smyrna, the album also offers a distinctive window into the world of its owner. Together, the captions and illustrations reflect Smyrna's active engagement in wider cross-currents across the Mediterranean, documenting its swiftly changing political climate and the characters that inhabited this diverse terrain.



Vue de Smyrne (1836), Fulgenzi Album, plate no.2 (Harvard)



Gwendolyn Collaço is a PhD Candidate at Harvard University's joint program for History of Art & Architecture and Middle Eastern Studies. Her dissertation explores the commercial art market for single-foleo paintings during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Istanbul. Outside of this project, her research also delves into nineteenth-century print cultures across the Islamic world. Following the completion of her dissertation this fall, she will join the curatorial team at LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art) as their newest Assistant Curator for Art of the Middle East.

## Levantine Legacies in 19th century Asia Minor:

### The Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative - Richard Wittmann

Prior to the establishment of a community cemetery at Feriköy in 1859, the Protestant dead of Istanbul were usually buried in the Frankish (European) section of the Grand Champs des Morts or “Great Field of the Dead,” one of the city’s largest cemeteries, located in Pera (today’s Beyoğlu). Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, the area north of Taksim witnessed rapid urban growth, and the Frankish graveyard lay directly in the path of expansion. Thus, land for a new burial ground at Feriköy was presented in 1857 as a gift of Sultan Abdülmecit I (1839–61) to the embassies of the leading Protestant powers of the time: Great Britain, Prussia, The United States of America, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Hanseatic Cities. Since the burial ground’s opening in 1859, approximately 5,000 individuals of all nationalities and backgrounds have been interred there. Almost detached in time and space from the modern metropolis outside its walls, the cemetery stands as a monument to Istanbul’s communal richness and diversity.

Today, the [Feriköy Protestant Cemetery Initiative](#) aims to preserve, document, and study Istanbul’s main Protestant cemetery as an important local historic landmark. It was founded in 2018 by scholars affiliated with the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT); the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT); and the Orient-Institut Istanbul, and joined in 2019 by the Hungarian Cultural Center and the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII). These five Istanbul-based research centers share the common goal of conserving, recording, and researching the site.



An archive postcard view of the central chapel and the British section of the Feriköy Protestant cemetery.



After studying law, Islamic and Turkish Studies at his native Munich’s Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität and at Freie Universität Berlin, **Richard Wittmann** obtained his doctorate in 2008 in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University with a dissertation on Christian, Jewish, and Muslim relations in the multi-confessional society of 17th Century Istanbul. Since 2011, he has been the associate director of the Orient-Institut Istanbul, a German humanities institute abroad. His research interests focus on Islamic legal history and the social history of the Ottoman Empire. Special attention is given in his work to the consideration of self-narratives as historic sources for the study of the Near East. Among Richard Wittmann’s latest publications is the coedited volume *Istanbul – Kushta – Constantinople. Narratives of Identity in the Ottoman Capital, 1830-1930* (Routledge, 2019). His involvement with the Feriköy Protestant Cemetery in Istanbul started in 2012 when the Orient-Institut Istanbul began with the digitization of the funerary records.

18 September 2019, 6.00 pm start (meet in the Britannia Bar), talks start 6.30 pm, ending 8 pm, event end 10 pm

Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF

Talks are free for LHF members but booking essential: <https://32nd-lhf-gathering.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Optional informal dinner after the lectures in the venue where guests pay via booking, but for numbers please still register even for lectures only, which are free. For gentlemen jacket and tie is required in this venue.

Dinner tickets costs £35 for LHF Members, £40 for non-Members, plus Eventbrite booking fee.

Please support these events by becoming a sponsor. We provide these talks for free as part of our mission to preserve and promote the research and public understanding of Levantine heritage. Sponsoring the talks helps cover the LHF's costs in arranging these talks in central London. For sponsorship packages, please contact [chairman@levantineheritage.com](mailto:chairman@levantineheritage.com). All sponsors will be recognised at events and on our website.