

Information and Call for Papers



The Levantines: Identities and Heritage

The Levantine Heritage Foundation Conference

2 – 4 November, 2018
Venue TBC, Athens, Greece

In November 2018, the Levantine Heritage Foundation will hold its third international conference, "The Levantines: Identities and Heritage" in Athens.

Building upon the success of our earlier conferences in Istanbul in 2014 and London in 2016, this conference will introduce the Levantines to a Greek and international audience (academics and non-academics) and illustrate their role in the shaping of modern Greece. Emphasis will be given to the aspects of the Levantine world and its complex socio-economic networks which gave rise to layers of social, cultural, political, and material exchanges with resonances lasting till today.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Professor Paschalis M. Kitromilides, Director of the Centre for Asia Minor Studies, Athens
Alexander Kitroeff, Associate Professor of History at Haverford College, Pennsylvania, USA

Topics of consideration for the proposals will include, but not be limited to:

Levantine Identity

- Shifting nationalities and passports
- Consuls, vice-consuls and consular agents / dragomans
- Transnational families; transnational companies
- Trade networks and legal institutions
- Religion and identity; languages; education
- Shipping lines, agencies, and family networks

Levantine Heritage

- Western European national clubs, sports and cafes
- Levantine architecture: influences and styles
- Flows of technology, political movements and ideologies

Levantines & Greeks in the East

- Why and how did people in the Levant switch nationality?
- Comparison of Levantine and Greek expansion patterns in the Mediterranean and beyond: intercommunal relations and boundaries
- Pilgrims and refugees in the Levant
- Levantines and the September 1922 Exodus events (refugees and humanitarian relief recipients)

Levantines in Greece and the world

- The Levantine presence in Greece
- Aspects of cosmopolitanism in late 19th - early 20th century Athens and other cities
- Perception of Levantines and "Levantinism" in Greek literature and historiographical sources
- Foreign / Levantine communities in Greece and beyond – community solidarity versus assimilation
- Movement of people and ideas, establishment of immigrant and diaspora communities

We invite proposals for panels as well as individual presentations. Proposals should include title and abstracts (limited to 400 words) and a 1-paragraph biographical note of the author(s) including the name(s) of the presenter(s), institutional affiliations where applicable, mailing address, telephone number and email address. Presentation duration is 20 minutes. The language of presentations will be English.

The deadline for sending the proposals is **1 July 2018**. All correspondence, including the proposals, should be directed to LHF-Athens2018@levantineheritage.com.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the LHF Conference Committee. Notifications will be sent to applicants by **31 July 2018**.

Message from the Levantine Heritage Foundation:

On behalf of the Levantine Heritage Foundation, we are delighted to issue this call for papers for our third international conference to be held in Athens on 2-4 November 2018.

The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF) is a non-profit association which promotes research, preservation and education in the heritage, arts and culture of the different ethnic and religious communities of the wider Levant region of the Ottoman Empire between the 17th and 20th centuries.

The Ottoman Levant comprised most of the present-day Balkans, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt, and its influence extended far beyond the borders of those countries. The Ottoman Empire was made up of many different ethnic groups and faiths, including Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews. They were joined over the centuries by traders and diplomats from every part of Europe, from England to Dalmatia, many of whom settled in the region and intermarried with the local population. In recent years, it has become common to refer to these European settlers in Ottoman lands as "Levantines". However, research into the Levantines and the diverse communities of the Levant within which they worked and lived is still in its infancy. I hope this conference will shine new light onto their way of life and their legacies. We look forward to receiving your proposals for LHF Athens 2018.

*Quentin Compton-Bishop
Chairman, Levantine Heritage Foundation*

*Achilleas Chatziconstaninou
Chairman of LHF Athens 2018 Conference Programme*

For further information please visit: www.levantineheritage.com



"Bazaar at Athens", in the Ottoman Empire. Painting by Edward Dodwell: Views in Greece, London 1821