

Research - Education - Preservation

Newsletter no: 17 (Spring 2021)

Upcoming LHF Events:

2 May 2021, 2 pm (UK time)

8th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Turgay Tuna: 'San Stefano'nun Levantenleri' - flyer:

14 May 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

8th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Kaleb Herman Adney: 'Portfolio Habits: Commercial Networks, Oriental Tobacco, and Extraterritoriality in the Age of International Finance' - flyer - registration:

20 May 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

9th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Dr. Malte Fuhrmann: 'Port Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean: Urban Culture in the Late Ottoman Empire' - flyer - registration:

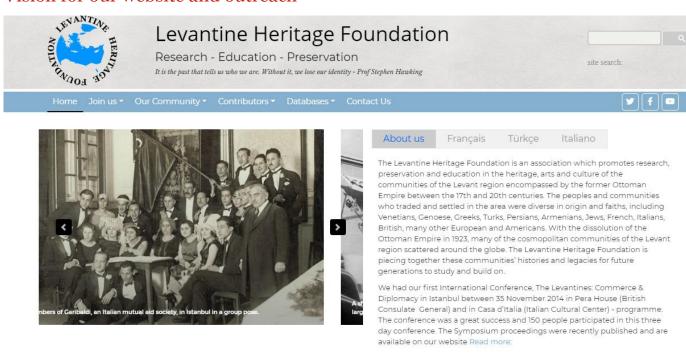
23 June 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

10th LHF online presentation with guest speakers Özge Ertem – K. Mehmet Kentel: 'The Characters of Yusuf Franko: An Ottoman Bureaucrat's Caricatures' - flyer - registration:

26 August 2021, 2.30 pm

Dr Louise Stewart guided tour Search for Ionia exhibition, Sir John Soane's Museum, London - LHF members only - registration:

Vision for our website and outreach



We have just launched a new look to the home page of our website which we hope will make for an easier navigation experience by our readers and improve connections with individuals and organisations who share a similar vision to us. Feel free to provide your feedback and suggestion as we aim to present the considerable body of work that has been entrusted to us and hopefully will inspire the next generation to continue the work on Levantine studies.

Next year is the 100th anniversary of the Great Fire of Smyrna in September 1922 and we as LHF would like mark with a suitable tone this critical moment both for the city and its diverse communities. Your ideas are welcome and will guide us as we move forward to remember, foster

understanding and research in the future.

There are other opportunities to support the LHF by becoming a member, making a donation, sponsoring a gathering or contributing your time. If you wish to contribute in some way towards the activities of the LHF, please contact Quentin Compton-Bishop at chairman@levantineheritage.com.

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.

Request for information by Damien Dessane - Jean D. Contaxis or C.D. Contaxis postcard editor

Around the 1900's came out a series of postcards about Ayvalık (Aïvaly) which are very valuable to understand the former urbanism, architecture and lifestyle of the city. Contaxis appeared on several of his postcards with a round hat and a cane. If you have more information or suggestions of archives to consult on his origins, birth date, life and family, please contact me at damdes(at)hotmail.com.





Request for information by Houssine Alloul - Belgian individuals and/or families active and resident in the Ottoman lands

I am working on a book manuscript that examines the relations between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Ottoman Empire. Those relations were not only political/diplomatic in nature, but represented considerable economic interests too, especially from the 1880s onward. Belgian financiers (and engineers) were involved in (or monopolized) the construction and operation of trams and public utilities in cities such as Istanbul, Salonika, Beirut and Smyrna. Some were involved in real estate and others in banking. The economic links between the Kingdom and Empire go back much further, however. Traders from the Southern Netherlands/Belgium had been exporting cloth, weapons and other manufactured goods to the major port towns of the empire since at least the eighteenth century. I recently gave a talk on this subject for the Foundation – see below.

I conceive of my book as a socio-cultural history of these variegated politico-commercial links and networks between Belgium and the Ottoman Empire. It also tries to make sense of how Brussels aimed to stimulate those links through proactive forms of "economic diplomacy". An important element that is explored is how several non-state actors (traders, engineers, service men) tried to gain access to official, diplomatic and consular circles (and vice versa). This involves social network analysis and hence requires not only consulting state records and business archives, but also private/family archives (letters, diaries, photographs). This is a warm call therefore for any advice with regard to such archives pertaining to Belgian individuals and/or families active and resident in the Ottoman lands. These could include the following:

Jean-Joseph Lemoine – Charles-François Coûteaux – Charles Helbig – François Frédérici – Georges Nagelmackers – Jules Delecourt-Wincqz – Josse Allard – Alfred Leclercq – Pascal-François Levaux – Pierre Maus – Edmond de Lobel

I would also be greatly interested in utilizing private records from members of major Levantine families with professional links to Belgium too, such as:

David Glavany – Gustave de Hübsch – Nessim Roditi

Any lead or suggestions would be most appreciated!

Thank you in advance.

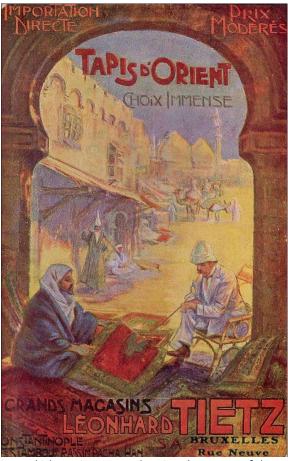


Figure "Advertising card for a Belgian Turkish rug importer, showing the owner of the company, Leonhard Tietz, negotiating the price of a rug. He had an office in Rassim Pacha Han in Istanbul." The card dates from 1911. Source: http://www.maryevans.com, accessed, December 4, 2016

Request for information by Briony Llewellyn - Luigi Mayer and Clara Barthold; Levantine society in Pera, c.1786-94

Luigi Mayer (c.1750/55-1803) was an artist from Rome who worked for Sir Robert Ainslie, the British Ambassador in Constantinople, c.1786-94. Mayer made a series of magnificent watercolours of the city and its environs, as well as diplomatic ceremonies, many of which are in the British Museum. In 1792, he accompanied three British travellers, George Graves, Charles Berners and Henry Tilson, on the Ottoman leg of their extended Grand Tour. They visited Egypt, Palestine, Syria and the south-west coast of Turkey, before Mayer returned to Ainslie in Constantinople. In 1794, Mayer accompanied Ainslie on his journey home to England through the Moldo-Wallachian Principalities. Many of his watercolours appeared as aquatints in a series of volumes, published in London, 1801-10.

Although Mayer was working within the parameters of the British Embassy, records on where he lived or his mode of living do not seem to survive. At some point during his stay, he married Clara (or Chiara) Barthold, some of whose family were dragomans. She was said to have been of either Greek or Bulgarian origin, but very little is known of her, how they met or with whom they associated. She too was an artist, possibly taught by Mayer, since her style closely reflects that of her husband.

I have researched Mayer extensively over many years, recently publishing an article on him in Cornucopia (Issue 53, 2015). Philip Mansel and I are currently planning a possible exhibition and accompanying publication. We would like to discover more about the social life of the Levantine community in Pera and Galata, within which Mayer and his wife worked. We also want to learn more about the daily activities within the British embassy under Sir Robert Ainslie. In addition I am looking for original sources where I might find further information about Luigi Mayer or the Barthold family. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact me: Briony Llewellyn, on bjl(at)btinternet.com.

Request for information by Quentin Compton-Bishop – Joly family of Smyrna

I am related to the Joly family but through their later branch in Lebanon. I would appreciate information on the Smyrna branch so I can fill the gaps in my ancestral lines knowledge. A recent e-bay sale of photos belonging to

the Smyrna branch highlighted my lack of knowledge of this branch. I am happy to share what I know of this family with other Joly descendants. chairman@levantineheritage.com



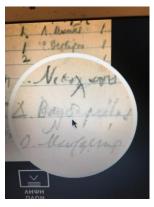
http://www.levantineheritage.com/joly-family.html

Request for information by Tony Valsamidis – Valsamidis family of Alexandria, Egypt

I am doing some research into my family and would be very interested to have any leads that would help me understand its genealogy better. The earliest mentions I have of the family are entries for them in the 1908 edition of the Directory of Egypt as butter and oil merchants. I know that a great uncle of mine, Dimitris, was a Professor of Classics at the Sorbonne up to his death in 1957. His signature appears on the circulation list for the issue of Cavafy's 1910 collection of poems. At least one of Dimitris' brothers also lived in Paris. My grandfather, John, attended the American University in Beirut and later worked for the British Army in Alexandria. Another member married into the Christodoulou family and one of her children, Christos, went to Athens in the 1960s. One of these Christodoulous now lives and works as a singer in Barcelona. Before Alexandria, I understand that the Valsamidis family was living in Istanbul, but I have no more information about that. Other people with the name Valsamidis that I have found are a sponge diver who founded a museum on Kalymnos, a poet in Kastellorizo, and a lift manufacturer. I do not know if we are related. In recent times, there have been two academics in British Universities with the similar name Varsamidis.

The epigraphist, P.M. Fraser, once assured me that the name had its origin in Rhodes, but others have suggested that it comes from the Pontus. If it's any help, I know that my grandfather had fair hair and blue eyes.

I'd be very grateful if you wrote to me at avalsamo(at)gmail.com with any information you have about either the Valsamidis or Christodoulou or related families.



Request for information by Stefan Haderer - Frederic George Barker

Frederic George Barker was born in 1870 in Alexandria, son of Sidney Barker and the Greek Dikaia Koutelas. Sidney was the son of Edward and became a banker and vice consul in Sweden. Frederic had 5 siblings: Alfred, Eric, Karlos (who died in England quite young), Anne Mary and Parthenopi. He joined Empress Elisabeth as a lecturer for Greek and travel companion in 1891, where he first met her in Alexandria, and became her official reader in 1897. After Sisi's death in 1898, Frederic returned to Alexandria, Egypt, where he worked as an agent/consular for the Austrian Foreign Ministry until 1903. Then he landed a job for the Egyptian Government, but I do not know as what and for how long. He also entered the Freemason Phoenix Lodge in Corfu in 1926 and became Ceremonial Master of the Rosicrucian Order in 1934. His year of death is unknown. Frederic had no children and left his entire estate to Karlos Kalogeropoulos on Corfu. The descendants of this family still know some things, but I was hoping anybody might know more details and even have details about the diaries which he wrote. stefan.haderer(at)posteo.at

Recent Events

3rd LHF online presentation with guest speaker Deniz Türker: 'The Yıldız Palace and Sultan Abdülhamid II's Flat-Pack Homes', 20 January 2021 - flyer:

3rd The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Dr İlber Ortaylı: 'Osmanlı İmparatorluğunda iki Levanten şehri İstanbul ve İzmir' [Two Levantine cities in the Ottoman Empire: Istanbul and Izmir], 29 January 2021 - flyer: - video:

4th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Houssine Alloul: 'Belgium and the Ottoman Empire: 'Transnationals' and Diplomacy in an Age of Global Capital', 17 February 2021 - flyer: - slides:

5th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Dr Viorel Panaite: 'Western European Merchants in the Eastern Mediterranean in 16th-17th century Islamic-Ottoman View. The Evidence of a Turkish Manuscript from Bibliothèque Nationale de France', 3 March 2021 - flyer: - abstract: - video:

5th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Dr Selva Suman: 'Feriköy'ün sessiz sakinleri: Latin katolik mezarlığı ve anıt yapıları', [The silent residents of Feriköy: The Latin Catholic cemetery and monumental tombs], 6 March 2021 - flyer: - video:

6th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Berna Kamay: "Frenkhâne" of Rossi: An Inheritance Story from a Port City, Smyrna', 19 March 2021 - flyer: - video:

6th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Fortunato Maresia: '1838 Artigiana ve Levantenler', [1838 Artigiana and Levantines], 28 March 2021 - flyer: - video:

1er conférence Zoom de LHF avec Philip Mansel: 'Vénitiens en Levant: de Constantinople, par Smyrne et Alep, à Alexandrie', 13 April 2021 - <u>flyer:</u> - <u>video:</u>

7th The Association of Levantines online presentation with guest speaker Giorgia Renata Taoussi: `Edebiyat ve Levantenler - Edmondo De Amicis'in Istanbul'undan, Giovanni Scognamillo'nun Pera'sına uzanan bir yolculuk', [Literature and the Levantines - A journey from Edmondo De Amicis's Istanbul to Giovanni Scognamillo's Pera], 18 April 2021 - flyer: - video:

7th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Giampaolo Salice: 'The Alexianos. A transnational Greek family', 22 April 2021 – flyer:

External Upcoming Events

5 May 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: Echo of the Journey and Adventures of My Life: Salomea Pilsztynowa – the Peripatetic Polish Ophthalmologist in the 18th Century Ottoman Empire – and Her Unusual Memoir (1760), Paulina Dominik – Orient-Institut Istanbul – link:

6 May 2021, 1 am (UK time)

Online presentation: The Jews of Ottoman Izmir: Dina Danon in Conversation with Devin E. Naar – Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington – <u>link:</u>

6 May 2021, 5.15 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: Encountering Ottomans and Mamluks in Late 15th-century Italian Painting, Dr Antonia Gatward Cevizli – Centre For Byzantine, Ottoman And Modern Greek Studies, Birmingham – <u>link:</u>

6 May 2021, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: Aleppo: from World City to Civil War, Philip Mansel - The Nomads Tent, Edinburgh - link:

14 May 2021, 6.30 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: Enlightening Europe on Islam and the Ottomans: Mouradgea d'Ohsson and His Masterpiece Tableau général de l'Empire othoman, Carter V. Findley – Ottoman and Turkish Studies Initiative at NYU – link:

19 May - 5 Sep 2021

Exhibition: The Romance of Ruins: The Search for Ancient Ionia, 1764 – Sir John Soanes Museum, London – link:

3 June 202, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: The cemetery at Haidar Pasha, Istanbul, with reference to those providing medical care during the Crimean War, Dr Mike Hinton - Anglo-Turkish Society - link:

15 June 2021, 5 pm (UK time)

Online seminar: Frankish Gravestones in the Eastern Aegean from the Medieval Period, Ergün Laflı, Maurizio Buora, Denys Pringle – BIAA – <u>link:</u>

17 June 2021

Conference: The Greek War of Independence and British Involvement (politics, diplomacy, philhellenism, philanthropy) – The Anglo-Hellenic League / The Hellenic Centre, London – link:

14-16 July 2021

Conference cfp: Education and cultural policy in Italian migrations – Department of Philosophy and Educational Sciences, University of Turin, Italy - deadline 1 May 2021 – <u>link:</u>

Recent Publications

Mary Mills Patrick's Cosmopolitan Mission and the Constantinople Woman's College - Carolyn McCue Goffman, Rowman & Littlefield, 2021 – <u>link:</u>

German Arms Trade and Personal Diplomacy in the Ottoman Empire Before World War I - Naci Yorulmaz, Bloomsbury, 2021 – <u>link:</u>

A Mission to the Medieval Middle East: The Travels of Bertrandon de la Brocquière to Jerusalem and Constantinople - Bertrandon de la Brocquière, Bloomsbury, 2021 – <u>link:</u>

Midnight in Cairo: The Female Stars of Egypt's Roaring '20s - Raphael Cormack, W. W. Norton & Company, 2021 - link:

Sınırlar Üzerinde Bir Hayat: İtalyan General Kont Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli ve Osmanlı İmparatorluğu (1679-1732) - Güner Doğan, İtalya Dostluk Derneği Yayınları, 2021 – <u>link:</u>

A Slave Between Empires: A Transimperial History of North Africa - M'hamed Oualdi, Columbia University Press, 2020 - <u>link:</u>

The Romance of Ruins: The Search for Ancient Ionia, 1764 - Sir John Soane's Museum, 2021 - link:

Archives d'Orient: Les notables alexandrins, des héritiers sans héritage (1882-1985) - Dominique Gogny, Alexandrie Moderne, $2019 - \underline{link}$:

Henrietta Liston's Travels: The Turkish Journals, 1812-1820 - Edited by Patrick Hart, Valerie Kennedy, Dora Petherbridge - Edinburgh University Press, 2020 - link:

New External digitisations

Art nouveau apartments in Istanbul - Deniz Balik Lokce, 2020 - link:

Imperial Adventures: Accounts of Izmir as the Oriental Other in British Travel Writing Tradition - Orkun Kocabıyık, 2011 – <u>link:</u>

The Stevens Family: Consuls in Malta and the Levant - Sarah Watkinson, 2018 - link:

The Definition and the Development of the Religious Protectorate of France in the Ottoman Lands - Bugra Poyraz, 2021 – link:

19. yüzyıl Büyükadası'nda regattalar ve Ada'nın dönüşümü - Dr. Bengi Su Ertürkmen-Aksoy, Dünya Mirası Adalar, 2021 – <u>link: podcast:</u>

Diplomats from the Low Countries in Istanbul: Astuteness, Pragmatism and Professionalization in Habsburg-Ottoman Diplomacy of the Sixteenth Century - Bart Severi, 2015 – <u>link:</u>

Sources of inspiration: Jean-Baptiste Vanmour and other artist-travellers in Ottoman Lands - Janet Starkey, $2019 - \underline{link}$:

British travellers approach Constantinople: First impressions - Professor Gerald MacLean, 2021 - link:

Diplomats and painters: Cultural encounters between the Ottoman Empire and Sweden - Gözde Önder, 2013 – link:

Enemy Enticements: A Habsburg Artist in Süleyman's Capital City - Mikael Bøgh Rasmussen, 2014 - link:

Visiting the 'Serraglio del Gran Signore': Medici Diplomacy and Cross-Cultural Contacts at the Time of Grand Duke Francesco I - Ulrike Ilg, $2016 - \frac{link}{2016}$

New Video productions

Frames and Fashion: Ottoman Costume Books as Material Texts - William Kynan-Wilson, 25th February 2021 – link:

Ambrosio Bembo: Visualizing Ottoman Space and Authority, The Traveler in 1671 - Palmira Brummett, 22nd October 2020 - link:

'The Lily and the Crescent: Louis XIV and the Ottomans, Culture, Commerce and Crusades' – Philip Mansel, ATS, 15 December 2020 – <u>link:</u>

'Epidemiologies: The Discourse of Disease in Victorian Britain and Late Ottoman Istanbul' - Erik Blackthorne-O'Barr, 16 February 2021 – <u>link:</u>

Mr Consta and the OCM Oriental Carpet Manufacturers - James Crowden & Antony Wynn, Royal Society for Asian Affairs, 1 April 2021 - <u>link:</u>

Whispers Across Continents: In Search of the Robinsons - Gareth Winrow, American Research Institute in Turkey, 17 April 2021 – <u>link:</u>

İzmir'de Çoğulculuk | Leyla Neyzi & Sibel Zandi-Sayek - SRI, 9 April 2021 - link:

New external calls for papers for books on Levantines

The Italians of Izmir before and after the big fire of 1922: personalities, culture and institutions of a Levantine community – link:

Levantines of the Ottoman World - link:

Ephemera

Smyrne to Lageia, Cyprus: The 106 year Journey - <u>link:</u> Marble stele, British Museum, donated by Edward Purser – <u>link:</u> / <u>info:</u>

New news articles

The Greeks of Cairo: The Fascinating Bond Between Greece and Egypt, Tasos Kokkinidis – Greek Reporter, 6 March 2021 - <u>link:</u>

Calls to get rid of Ottoman legacy emerge in Egypt – Al Monitor, 3 April 2021 – <u>link:</u>

The lost Jewish surnames of Cairo – Al Monitor, 5 April 2021 – <u>link:</u>

New podcasts

The Stage Turk in Early Modern English Drama, Ambereen Dadabhoy – Ottoman History Podcast, 4 March 2021 - link:

Mayday: The Evidence Gatherers - BBC Radio 4, 6 April 2021 - link:

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the passing of Vincenzo Lorenzo (aka) <u>Vincent Lawrence</u> - aged 94 on 16 January 2021. His father's family line was Italians that hailed back to the Byzantine intra-Mediterranean migrations to Palestine. His mother was Levantine Sicilian from Syracuse. The family became a dispossessed Italian-Arab diaspora as a result of the creation of the nation of Israel. He was also the author of a memoir book - <u>link:</u> We are also sad report the passing of Frere Pierre Caporal, born Izmir 1930, died Beirut 24-1-2021. He was a member of a long-standing French origin Levantine family and was for many years a teacher and later

administrator at the Istanbul Kadıköy Saint Joseph Lycee and later acting head at the Saint Joseph Lycee In Izmir. There now remains only one former Frere teacher alive in Turkey - <u>obituary:</u>

Also sad to report the passing of Cyril Mango who died February 9 2021, born in Istanbul 1928 a one of the foremost experts on Byzantine studies – <u>obituary:</u>

In addition sad to also report the passing of Jack Saliba - <u>obituary:</u>
Finally sad to report the passing of website contributor Roland Richichi on 29 April 2021 – <u>submission:</u>



The recently deceased HRH Prince Philip chatting in the rear with the Queen in the foreground accompanied by Peter Galdies MVO the Hon. British Consul in Izmir, in October 1971 during their Izmir leg of their visit to Turkey – photo kindly submitted by George Galdies.

If you possess additional photos or memories of this visit please contact us.

Latest Website additions

Submission:

Alexandre Vladesco - link:

Photo galleries / analysis:

Gavier family of Constantinople album - link:

Smyrna earthquakes - link:

Ottoman bill of exchange from Smyrna in 1698 - link:

Interviews:

Achilleas Chatziconstantinou and George Poulimenos interview - link:

Fabrizio Casaretto interview - link:

Requests

Become a member of the LHF

We hope you find our website and events interesting and useful. Our work is mainly achieved thanks to our volunteers and site contributors. However, we do have significant real costs in adding to and maintaining the website, funding small research projects, organising events and preparing publications and other materials. Where we charge for events, we aim to cover only the direct costs of venue hire and catering in order to make them accessible to as wide an audience as possible, including students and early career researchers.

The Levantine Heritage Foundation is reliant on membership subscriptions, donations and sponsorship. Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership. Membership is just £20 a year, or £80 for 5 years or you can become a life member for £500. Benefits include priority booking for events and discounts on LHF publications and events where we have to charge a fee.

In response to residents of Turkey asking us how they can join without PayPal, we have arranged for people to be able to join through Eventbrite with an extra button added in all upcoming events allowing people to pay for annual membership via credit cards which of course gives free access for the online events during that subscription.

You can join the LHF or renew your membership on line at http://www.levantineheritage.com/join-us.html or email membership@levantineheritage.com. You can also pay by cheque and send it to: The Levantine Heritage Foundation, 71-75 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9JQ.

We would appreciate a volunteer to help us manage our membership lists, renewals, reminders better. If you can spare the time, please get in touch.

Donations and legacies

If you wish to make a donation to the LHF, you can also do this online at http://www.levantineheritage.com/support-us.html. Or request our bank details if you wish to make a direct transfer. Or you can send cheques to the LHF at The Levantine Heritage Foundation, 71-75 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9JQ.

If you wish to provide a legacy for the LHF in your will or if you have family archives that are relevant to Levantine research, please contact Quentin Compton-Bishop at chairman@levantineheritage.com to discuss your wishes.

Gift Aid:

If you are a UK tax payer, you can make your donation go further with gift-aid - word / pdf documents:

Corporate Sponsorship

We have a number of package levels for sponsorship and if you would like to discuss these opportunities further please contact our Chairman Quentin Compton-Bishop on chairman@levantineheritage.com.

Purchasing copies of past LHF Conference books:

If you wish to purchase copies of conference presentations books: **First Levantine Conference in Istanbul**, 'The Levantines: Commerce and Diplomacy', held in Istanbul November 2014 - <u>details</u> or **Levantines Past, Present, Future Symposium**, Izmir, November 2010 - <u>details</u>: Please refer to the pricing instructions here (<u>doc</u> / <u>pdf</u> version), and send the correct amount (including postage) through our <u>paypal buttons</u> (or bank transfer - details on support us page) with your address details please:

<u>Our Facebook page:</u> (2635 followers) | <u>Our Youtube channel:</u> (356 subscribers) | <u>Our Twitter channel:</u> (602 followers)

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

Next newsletter is scheduled for 15 July 2021; contact us if you wish for an entry / announcement.

Craig Encer

General Secretary - secretary@levantineheritage.com

The Levantine Heritage Foundation - www.levantineheritage.com

Wishing our friends a good 2021 to come, and be safe...

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 Axel Corlu, Dr Kalliopi Amygdalou, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari, Jonathan Beard, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Achilleas Chatziconstantinou