



Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 21 (Summer 2022)

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we reflect on our first live event in Paris, and upcoming one in Venice, Italy. These continue the expansion of our activities and network to engage better with the global community of people with an interest in the Levantine heritage. If you would like to host an event in your country with the LHF or to support one of our events as a local volunteer or sponsor, please get in touch.

In addition, we are rapidly approaching an important milestone of the 1922 Great Fire of Smyrna, a time to reflect for Levantines and other communities. The historical and personal appraisal by our Chairman Quentin Compton-Bishop is a way to convey how as the LHF we see share in touches on the common loss and reaffirms the mission of the LHF to preserve and make accessible the arts, culture and broader heritage of the various communities in the Levant. We are grateful for all the contributions of information and support given by our network of friends and colleagues which makes it possible to grow and sustain the LHF.

Our activities

Upcoming LHF Events

6 September 2022, 6 pm (UK time)

21st LHF online presentation with guest speaker Joshua Shannon-Chastain: 'For Queen and Sultan: Anglo-Ottoman Advisors, Soldiers, Mercenaries and Imperial Agents in War and State (1853-1890)' - [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

28 September 2022, 7 - 9 pm

Book launch: 'Smyrna on my mind', George Galdies - Hellenic Centre London - [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

11 October 2022, 6 pm (UK time)

22nd LHF online presentation with guest speaker Michael Refalo: 'At home: Maltese British subjects in Egypt 1860s-1923' - [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

24 November 2022

Conference: 'Venice, Italians and the Ottoman Levant', Venice, Italy - [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

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.

Caroline Finkel

Some ten years ago, with Istanbul pals Nick Hobbs and Suha Ulgen, I was a co-founder of *HikingIstanbul*—a project to create a network of c.20km day-hikes in Istanbul's hinterland. My task of late has been to write short essays on the some 60 villages and suburbs we have hiked through, and also the points of interest we chanced upon. One of the most intriguing of the latter is the ruined church at former Belgrad village, deep in the Beograd Ormanı (photo here).



After much asking-around of those I thought might have answers, I have come to the conclusion that its history is poorly-known. We seem to be ignorant of when it was built, and by whom, and how and whether it changed hands between different faiths over time. The [attached](#) is a short piece summarising what I have been able to discover without more focused research; it is not exhaustive, and I hope that readers may be able to answer some of the conundrums I have been unable to resolve. BUT best of all, perhaps someone else has already unlocked its secrets, and I will find there is an article out there that makes mine redundant. Thank-you!

Recent Events

19th LHF online presentation with guest speaker Gábor Fodor: 'Changing by the Needs: The Story of the Hungarian Society in Constantinople', 5 April 2022 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#)

20th LHF online presentation with guest speakers Tom Rees, Noël Woolrych, George York: 'The English Consul – Chief of British Intelligence', 20 April 2022 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#)

3rd LHF-Istanbul tour: 'Art Nouveau Architecture in Beyoğlu', Zafer Akay, 16 May 2022 - [flyer:](#)



Esther-Miriam Wagner flanked by our trustee Philip Mansel and our chairman Quentin Compton-Bishop

2nd joint LHF / Royal Asiatic Society live lecture gathering with guest speaker Esther-Miriam Wagner: 'From Tuscany to Egypt and the Levant: 18th-c. Arabic letters in the Prize Paper Collections', 14 June 2022 - [flyer:](#) - [video:](#)

Première réunion à Paris : 'La France et le Levant', Paris, France, 30 June 2022 - [prospectus:](#) - [video:](#)

Recent Website additions

Interviews:

Michael Cottakis – Echoes of the Levant: Salonica and Smyrna in the Aegean Near East - [link:](#)

Gábor Fodor - Changing by the Needs: The Story of the Hungarian Society in Constantinople – [link:](#)

Galleries:

Foreign schools (updated) – [link:](#)

The former Caravan Bridge cemeteries of Smyrna (updated) – [link:](#)

The Vittoria "Tina" Giannetti address book – [link:](#)

Fragile Cemeteries – [link:](#)

Submissions:

Recollections of Maud Guarracino (married name Hagan) – [link:](#)

Recollections of Laura de Santo – [link:](#)

Community activities



The visit of the out-going British Ambassador Sir Dominick John Chilcott to St Mary Magdalene Church in Bornova, Izmir and the Anglican cemetery at Bornova, 10 May 2022 – [additional photos:](#)

In Memoriam

François Vuccino, age 75, passed away in the early hours of 10th June 2022 after a courageous battle with cancer.

François was born on 16th May, 1947 in Istanbul. Son of Raul and Nazime Vuccino and brother of Andrée Vuccino Hürcan. His mother Nazime was also known as the granddaughter of Bozcaadalı Hasan Hüsnü Pasha, Ottoman Admiral (1832 -1903). François went to Saint Michelle French school and was married to Eleni Katsikadelli.

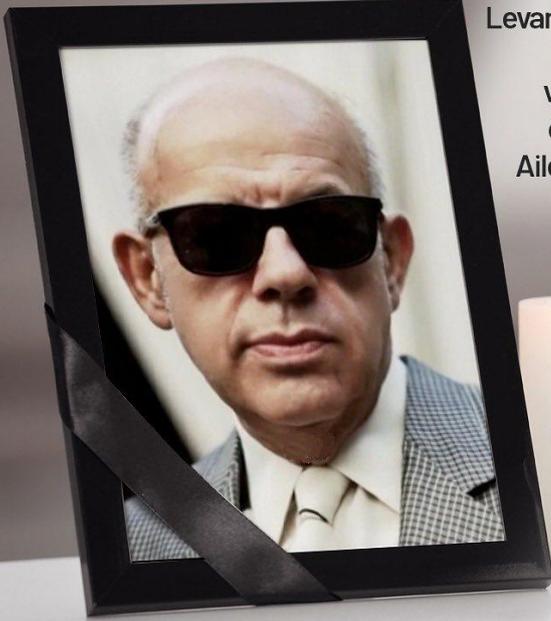
He was very well known in his career as an antique dealer, a heritage from his father, and had an antique shop called Ampir Antika. He will always be remembered for his generosity and passion, and his vast knowledge in history.

He will be greatly missed by his family and loved ones. Especially by the antique community in Istanbul.

A memorial will be held on the 18th of October 2022 at 10:30 am, in the Latin Catholic Cemetery at Pangalti.

Zeynep Hürcan (niece)

ACI KAYBIMIZ FRANÇOIS VUCCINO



Levanten camiasının sevilen yüzü
François Vuccino'nun
vefat haberini üzüntü ile
öğrenmiş bulunuyoruz.
Ailesinin ve tüm sevenlerinin
başı sağ olsun.



LEVANTEN
KÜLTÜR VE MİRASINI KORUMA DERNEĞİ
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We are also sad to report the passing of Jacques Caporal passed away on 22 August 2022 in Geneva it is a great loss for our Levantine community. [Further info:](#)



Jacques Caporal with Marie-Anne Marandet (centre) at our Athens conference: 'The Levantines: Identities and Heritage', 2-3 November 2018

External activities

External Upcoming Events

10 September 2022, 2 pm (UK time)

Online Symposium: Assessing The Ethnic Groups of the Late Ottoman Empire Through a Decolonial Lens – The University of Florida - [flyer:](#)

15-17 September 2022

Conference: The First World War in the Middle East: Aftermath and Legacies - In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, Belgium - [info:](#)

20 September 2022, 6 pm (UK time)

Online lecture: Prisoner of the Infidels: The Life and Adventures of Osman Agha of Timișoara, An Ottoman Muslim in 17th-Century Europe, Giancarlo Casale – Anglo-Turkish Society - [flyer:](#)

21 September 2022, 7 pm

Book launch: Apollo Cokkinis: Proud Greek, Proud Briton: From Odessa and Smyrna to London and Dorking – The Hellenic Centre, London - [info:](#)

until 30 September 2022

Exhibition: The Fossati Brothers: Swiss Architects from Morcote to Istanbul – St Pierre & Paul Church, Galata Kulesi sk. 26, Beyoğlu, Istanbul - [info:](#)

Recent Publications

Une famille Française dans L’Empire Ottoman, Albert Chartier - Honoré Champion, 2022 – [link:](#)

The Sultan’s Italian Court Painter Fausto Zonaro, Erol Makzume - Edizioni Polistampa, 2022 – [link:](#)

Latin Catholicism in Ottoman Istanbul: Properties, People & Missions, Edited by Vanessa R. de Obaldía and Claudio Monge, Isis press, 2022 – [link:](#)

The Caravan Bridge: The point where trade began in Izmir, Erkan Serçe, İzmir Ekonomi Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2021 – [link:](#)

The Gentle American: George Horton’s Odyssey and His True Account of the Smyrna Catastrophe, Ismini Lamb & Christopher Lamb, Gorgias Press LLC, 2022 – [link:](#)

Representing Modern Istanbul: Urban History and International Institutions in Twentieth Century Beyoğlu - Enno Maessen, Bloomsbury, 2022 – [link:](#)

Piracy in the Eastern Mediterranean: Maritime Marauders in the Greek and Ottoman Aegean - Leonidas Mylonakis, Bloomsbury, 2021 – [link:](#)

Americans at War in the Ottoman Empire: US Mercenary Force in the Middle East - Eric Covey, Bloomsbury, 2020 – [link:](#)

Under the Spell of a Myth: Empress Sisi in Greece - Stefan Haderer, Taschenbuch, 2022 – [link:](#) - [flyer:](#)

New External digitisations

The Precarious Life and Slow Death of the Mixed Courts of Egypt - Nathan J. Brown, International Journal of Middle East Studies, 1993 – [link:](#)

Entangled Confessionalizations? Dialogic Perspectives on the Politics of Piety and Community-Building in the Ottoman Empire, 15th–18th Centuries - Edited by Tijana Krstić & Derin Terzioğlu, Gorgias Press, 2022 – [link:](#)

Les juridictions du consul : une institution au service des marchands et du commerce ? Introduction - Guillaume Calafat, 2017 – [link:](#)

For queen and sultan Anglo-Ottoman advisors, soldiers, mercenaries and imperial agents in war and state (1853-1878) - Joshua Shannon Chastain, 2016 – [link:](#)

Saint Polycarpe et son tombeau – le Pere Jean-Baptist, Capucin, 1911 – [link:](#)

The Catholic Communities of the Aegean Archipelago during the Greek Revolution, 1821–1830 - Dimitris Kousouris, 2021 – [link:](#)

Churches at War: The Impact of the First World War on the Christian Institutions of Jerusalem, 1914–20 - Roberto Mazza, 2009 – [link](#):

New Podcasts

Galata and the Early Modern Mediterranean World, with Fariba Zarinebaf, Ottoman History Podcast, 23 July 2021 – [link](#):

Moriscos and the Early Modern Mediterranean, with Mayte Green-Mercado, Ottoman History Podcast, 27 March 2022 – [link](#):

New Videos

Enslaved Icelander Describes Horror of Ottoman Slave Market (1627), Diary of Ólafur Egilsson - Voices of the Past – [link](#):

İzmir Levantenlerine Dair / Can Ersoy ile İzmir Gündemi [*On Izmir Levantines / Izmir Agenda with Can Ersoy*] - Enriko Filipuçi, 8 April 2022 – [link](#):

Mary Mills Patrick's Cosmopolitan Mission and the Constantinople Woman's College - Professor Carolyn McCue Goffman, American Research Institute in Turkey, 21 Jun 2021 – [link](#):

Archives, Empire, and Community: Ottoman Paper in Catholic Spaces - Ana Sekulić, 29 April 2022 – [link](#):

Tarihin Fotoğrafçıları Sébah & Joaillier / Cep Hikayeleri – Ekstra - Fabrizio Casaretto, 21 July 2022 – [link](#):

'A Failed Success: American Naval Engineers in Istanbul, 1831-1842' - Ayşegül Avcı, 6 July 2022 – [link](#):

'The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montagu: Scientist and Feminist' - Jo Willett, 13 July 2022 – [link](#):

The Economic Activities and the Political Ambitions of Bankers and Merchants in Greece and the Ottoman Empire during the Crisis of the 1870s - Christine Philliou, 29 June 2022 – [link](#):

Diplomatic perceptions and survival strategies at the royal legation of Romania – Silvana Rachieru, 1 July 2022 – [link](#):

Ephemera

The Map That Created The Modern Middle East - Matthew Wills, Daily Jstor, 13 May, 2016 – [link](#):

Dr. Cyrus Hamlin and the manuscript presented to him prior his departure from Istanbul in 1873 – Erol Makzume, 6 March 2022 – [link](#):

Tom Young à la recherche de la mémoire - Sheimaa Oubari, icibeyrouth.com, 10 May 2022 – [link](#):

L'image de la Grèce : Smyrne – Fred. Boissonnas, Genève, 1919 – [link](#):

On being cosmopolitan – Sara Dowse, Inside Story, 22 October 2021 – [link](#):

News

The sale by auction of the painting 'Pietro Longhi, The Procession of the Venetian Bailo Francesco Gritti in Constantinople, Venice, signed and dated 1731' on 30 March 2022 by Sotheby's for £214,200 – [details](#):

The architect, the church and the city - Monica Fritz, Cornucopia, 10 January 2022 – [link](#):

Our requests

Supporting our upcoming Europe based gathering

We are happy to report that we are planning an event in Venice, Italy on 24 November 2022 - 'Introduction to Venetian / Italian – Ottoman connections' - [flyer](#): This and others in the future will have both an academic focus and a networking gathering with our friends in those countries. Please contact us if you can help in ways such as securing low-cost venues, event organisation or partial sponsorship of these gatherings via chairman@levantineheritage.com.

Reflection



Quentin Compton-Bishop, Chairman of LHF on Commemorating Smyrna 1922

The 100th anniversary of the tragic destruction of much of Smyrna in 1922 is a time to reflect on how that event affected the local Levantine community. It is also an opportunity for the Levantine Heritage Foundation, on its 12th anniversary, to take stock of what it has achieved to record, share and preserve the heritage and culture of the Levant.

The 1922 fire was a disaster for the city and most of its citizens. It might be considered as the critical event that triggered the diaspora of Levantines from the region. While that is largely true for Smyrna Levantines, the migration of Levantines from their established eastern Mediterranean homes to other cities and countries had started even before the First World War.

While Levantine cities were still experiencing a golden age, regional instability and insecurity caused some Levantines to seek new opportunities elsewhere. Some moved to other eastern Mediterranean cities. Others sought to make a living further afield in Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas. But 1922 turned a trickle into a flood.

The 1922 tragedy and the break-up of the Smyrna Levantine community was not the *raison d'être* for the LHF, however. The LHF's focus is on remembering and preserving the heritage and culture of the interwoven families, communities and cities of the Levant as a whole.

Smyrna, now Izmir, provided the stimulus for the foundation of the LHF in 2010. Years before, our Founder, Craig Encer, had started to assemble on his website the recollections, writings and records of Levantines and the corresponding academic community. But "Izmir 2010" galvanized others to support Craig and to expand and sustain his great project.

Izmir 2010 for the LHF means the symposium "Levantines – From the Past to the Present" held with the generous support of the Izmir Chamber of Commerce. Delegates came from across the world: descendants of Levantine families and academics from Turkish and international institutions. The event demonstrated the model the LHF strives to develop: a symbiotic community of academic and independent researchers and family historians and enthusiasts sharing their knowledge and making it available to a global public. The LHF's mission is to further research, advance education and to preserve the heritage, arts and culture of the past and present Levantine communities.

So, how should the LHF commemorate its progress in the context of Smyrna 1922 and Izmir 2010? Smyrna 1922 underlines how quickly and catastrophically rich physical, cultural and social heritage can be lost. Izmir 2010 marks the LHF's effort to redress the losses that occur over time and in signal events such as war and the passing of members of the community. We try to prevent the loss of their personal memories and, sadly, too often the disposal of their memorabilia like books, photographs, and pictures. While these are often not valued by some of the next generation in the family, they do hold a value for a wider Levantine community.

The LHF has started to stem the tide of losses. Its website is the premier reference destination for Levantine researchers and often used by academics, publishers and documentary makers for source material. Over 12 years, we have organized major international conferences in Istanbul, London and Athens, 35 smaller events and 20 Zoom talks. The website continues to develop and expand. The LHF's network numbers over 1,500 people around the world.

This has been achieved through a handful of loyal volunteers and trustees and with Craig Encer still at the heart of the organization and master of the LHF website. Of course, there is more we want to do: develop multilingual websites, create a digital archive, establish a physical archive in a Levantine building. We receive no grants and rely on subscriptions, donations and sponsorship. If you would like to contribute to the LHF's continuing development, please consider becoming a [Friend, Patron or Sponsor](#).

In commemorating Smyrna 1922, we remember the LHF's own foundation and pay tribute to the people and communities of the city and to all the contributors to the LHF and its mission.

Smyrna, Izmir, we salute you.

Our messages

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

The next newsletter is scheduled for 30 October 2022; contact us if you wish to contribute an article or place an entry / announcement.

Craig Encer

General Secretary – secretary@levantineheritage.com

The Levantine Heritage Foundation - www.levantineheritage.com

[Our Facebook page:](#) (3,067 followers) | [Our Youtube channel:](#) (544 subscribers) | [Our Twitter channel:](#) (811 followers)

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