



Smyrna by H. A. Chatelain, c. 1700

Levantine Heritage

The story of a community

Levantine Heritage is an informal, non-political research group and discussion forum for people interested in the heritage of the communities of the former Ottoman Empire. It comprises both academic researchers and descendants of those communities.

We use the term 'Levantine' to describe the people of Western European origin, whose long term domicile was in the Eastern Mediterranean, within the former boundaries of the Ottoman Empire. Our research is on every aspect of their culture, including genealogy, cuisine, architecture and economic history.

Our web site, www.levantineheritage.com, is the hub of our research group with a growing range of personal submissions, photographic records, diaries and memoirs, academic papers and links to genealogical information, histories and other reference works.

In November 2010 we had a successful Symposium in Izmir, Turkey and this cemented our group with meetings and exchanges. The Symposium proceedings were recently published and are available on our website. In addition we have meetings at regular intervals both in London and Izmir.

An invitation to participate in a group research project

If you would like to join our network and share in our research, please get in touch.

We are expanding our body of knowledge through various activities, including videoing personal testimonies, rediscovering and documenting the locations of historical buildings and communities and tracing family connections. We plan to hold more conferences in the Levant, collaborating with local academic and other institutions that share our interest in discovering the region's past. We welcome your proposals for research papers, informal contributions, events, interviews and any other suggestions that add to our network of information and contacts.

In support of this work, we will shortly be setting up our own charitable foundation to elicit donations, direct research and dispense funds.

For more information or to propose new research areas and events, please contact:

Craig Encer, Coordinator for Levantine Heritage

[craigencer\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:craigencer[at]yahoo.com)

www.levantineheritage.com