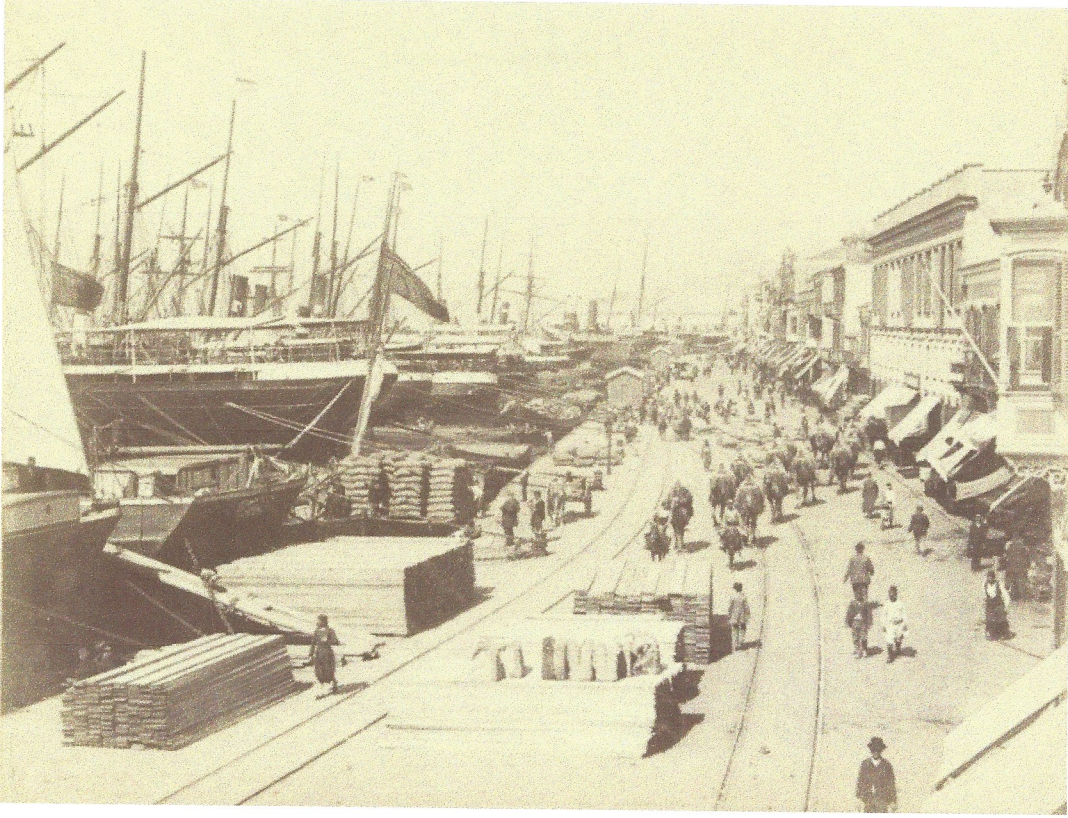


Geçmişten Günümüze  
**Levantenler**

**Levantines**

From the Past to the Present



Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> İzmir Levantine Symposium  
3 November 2010

Sponsored by the İzmir Chamber of Commerce



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by

The Levantine Heritage Foundation  
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*The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF) is a non-profit membership association, established to advance research, preservation and education in the heritage, arts and culture of the different ethnic and religious communities of the wider Levant region of the former Ottoman Empire.*

*The Ottoman Levant comprised most of 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, including Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians and Jews. They were joined over the centuries by traders and diplomats from every part of Europe, from Britain to Dalmatia, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, 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 cosmopolitan world of the Levantines is still in its infancy, and much remains to be discovered about their way of life and their legacy.*

*For more information, please visit [www.levantineheritage.com](http://www.levantineheritage.com)*



## FOREWORD

This book is a reprinting of the proceedings of a remarkable symposium on the heritage and legacy of the Levantine community of Izmir. It brought together international and Turkish academics, descendants of Levantine families from all over the world and the present-day municipal and business community of Izmir. It was a fascinating reflection of the cosmopolitan city of historic Smyrna, made relevant in the context of the modern and vibrant city that Izmir is today.

The symposium itself was part of a week of events in a programme called “The Levantines: Past - Present – Future” that took place 2-8 November 2010. There were organised visits to places where Levantines used to live and work, and the cemeteries where they were laid to rest, in and around Izmir: Alsancak (“Punta” to the Levantines), Bornova (Bournabat), Buca (Boudja), Karsiyaka (Cordelio). Other visits included the Izmir Museum and a trip to Ephesus.

The symposium, visits and the social interactions resulted in a number of initiatives. This included a digital reconstruction of the old Smyrna Quay area and the publication of “A Smyrneika Lexicon” by George Galdies, Alex Baltazzi and George Poulimenos, explaining and illustrating the language of Smyrna.

“The Levantines: Past – Present – Future” also stimulated the establishment of the Levantine Heritage Foundation with its mission to support the research, preservation and education in the arts, culture and heritage of the Levantine communities.

We are indebted in particular to the Izmir Chamber of Commerce, the late, distinguished Levantine Alex Baltazzi of Karavan Travel, George Galdies, Craig Encer and also to those many others who helped plan, coordinate, host and support the Izmir Symposium and other events.

We thank the Izmir Chamber of Commerce for its kind permission to reproduce these symposium proceedings which, alongside many other complementary sources of Levantine records and research, are available on the Levantine Heritage website for the benefit of future generations.

Quentin Compton-Bishop  
Chairman  
The Levantine Heritage Foundation

18 October 2016





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Levantine  
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