

*The Egyptian Bureau for Cultural & Educational Affairs in
London has the honour to invite you
To*

*From Mohammed Ali Pasha to King Farouk: The Rise
and Fall of Royal Alexandria*

Talk by

Dr. Philip Mansel

Using photographs, drawings and film, Dr. Mansel will show that Alexandria's role as a royal capital provided the foundations for its prosperity as a cosmopolitan Levantine trading port, once known as the Queen of the Mediterranean, linking Egypt and Europe. Mohammed Ali Pasha, founder of modern Egypt and of the Egyptian ruling family, and governor of Egypt for the Ottoman Empire, was also a merchant who accelerated Alexandria's economic development. He invited Greeks, Italians, French and English, as well as Turks and Egyptians, to build houses there, and gave sites for churches. After 1805 he himself began construction of the enormous Ottoman Italian Ras-el-tine palace, by the port, from which his great-great-grandson king Farouk left Egypt, on his royal yacht, on 26 July 1952. The departure of the King was a symbol of an exodus which had already begun. Alexandria is now a city with almost entirely Egyptian residents.

*On Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 7pm
Reception starts at 6.30pm*

*Venue
4 Chesterfield Gardens, London, W1J 5BG
Tel: 0207491 7720*



About the Speaker

Dr. Philip Mansel was born in London in 1951 and has lived in London, Paris, Beirut and Istanbul. He is a historian of France and the Middle East, focusing on courts, cities and cosmopolitanism. His books include a history of Constantinople as capital of the Ottoman Empire, *Constantinople, City of the World's Desire* (1995); a history of Smyrna, *Alexandria and Beirut, Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean* (2010); and most recently, a history of Aleppo since the Ottoman conquest in 1516, *Aleppo, the Rise and Fall of Syria's Great Merchant City* (2016). His books have been translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Greek and Arabic. He writes for *The Spectator*, *The Art Newspaper* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. He is currently writing a biography of Louis XIV, to be published in 2019.

Philip Mansel is a founding committee member of the Society for Court Studies www.courtstudies.org and the Levantine Heritage Foundation www.levantineheritage.com In 2012 he received the London Library Life in Literature award and in 2015 he was given the Order of Arts et Letters in France and the Order of the Crown in Belgium.