



Information and Call for Papers

Dutch Levantines in the Ottoman World **The Levantine Heritage Foundation Conference**

11-13 June 2027

Venue University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

In 11-13 June 2027, the Levantine Heritage Foundation in association with friends based in Amsterdam is organizing its fifth international conference, "Dutch Levantines in the Ottoman World", in Amsterdam and Haarlem.

Building on the success of our earlier conferences in Istanbul in 2014, London in 2016, Athens in 2018, and Venice 2022, this conference will emphasize the theme of the Dutch in the Levant as a vital force in the creation of a Levantine world, with complex socio-economic networks giving rise to social, cultural, political, and material exchanges with resonances lasting till today.

Topics of consideration for the proposals will include, but not be limited to:

- Dutch trade networks, including links to Dutch colonial outposts and legal institutions.
- Dutch diplomats, consuls, and consular agents / dragomans; Dutch/Ottoman diplomatic relations
- Dutch companies and other institutions in the Ottoman domains and the Ottoman presence in Dutch lands.
- Transnational families serving the Netherlands, including Dutch, Jews, Italians, Huguenots, and their family networks.
- Religion and nationality, 'mixed marriages', methods of retaining 'home' languages and cultures.
- Shipping lines, agencies, major industrial investments.
- The history of the Dutch Levant company and its later incarnations.
- Flows of technology and later Belgian capital inflow into Ottoman world.
- Artistic and technological influences of the Dutch in the Ottoman Empire and Ottoman influences to the Netherlands.
- Collections, archives, diaries and early Ottoman studies in the Netherlands.

We invite proposals for panels as well as individual presentations. Proposals should include title and abstracts (limited to 400 words) and provide the name(s) of the presenter(s), institutional affiliations where applicable, mailing address, telephone number, and email address. Presentation duration is 20 minutes with 10 minutes allocated for a follow-up Q&R session. The language of presentations will be English.

The deadline for sending the proposals is **31 December 2026**. All correspondence, including the proposals, should be directed to [contact\[at\]levantineheritage.com](mailto:contact[at]levantineheritage.com).

All proposals will be blind reviewed by members of the LHF Conference Committee. Notifications will be sent to applicants on **31 January 2027**.

The delegate registrations for this conference will open on the 1st February 2027 and will include a fee to cover transport, museum admissions, tea / coffee and lunch.

The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF), UK, is a non-profit membership association, which promotes research, preservation and education in the heritage, arts and culture of the different ethnic and religious communities of the wider Levant region of the Ottoman Empire between the 17th and 20th centuries. 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 England to Dalmatia, both Catholic and Protestant, 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 "Levantine". 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. This conference helps to fill some of the gaps in that knowledge by concentrating on the Dutch element of the Levantine world.

For further information please visit: www.levantineheritage.com

For enquiries for the conference please contact [secretary\[at\]levantineheritage.com](mailto:secretary[at]levantineheritage.com)



members of the Dutch/French origin Hohepied family and friends at the entrance of their house at Sevdikoy near Smyrna, Turkey, 30 April 1922.