

# Call for Contributions: Documenting the British Footprints in Late Ottoman and Early Republican Istanbul



## Commerce, Culture and Society: Contributions of the British Community in Late Ottoman Constantinople and Early Republican Istanbul (1868–1945)

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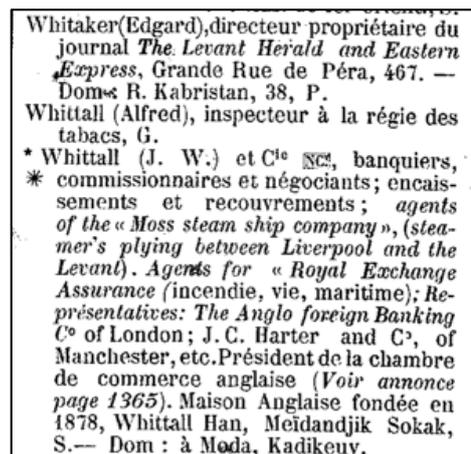
Coordinated by: The Levantine Heritage Foundation (LHF)

Funded by: The British Community Council in Istanbul (BCCI)

We are currently undertaking a research project aimed at documenting and sharing with the public **the historical legacy of the British community** in late Ottoman Constantinople and early Republican Istanbul.

This project seeks to shed light on the significance of British individuals and institutions that shaped the city's economic, cultural, and social landscape. Rather than presenting a generalized portrait of the community, our aim is to build a narrative centred on **real individuals**, focusing on their biographies, networks, and spatial traces. We are particularly interested in those who were not only active in commerce and diplomacy but also contributed to fields such as architecture, sports, journalism, literature, education, the military, and other areas of public and cultural life.

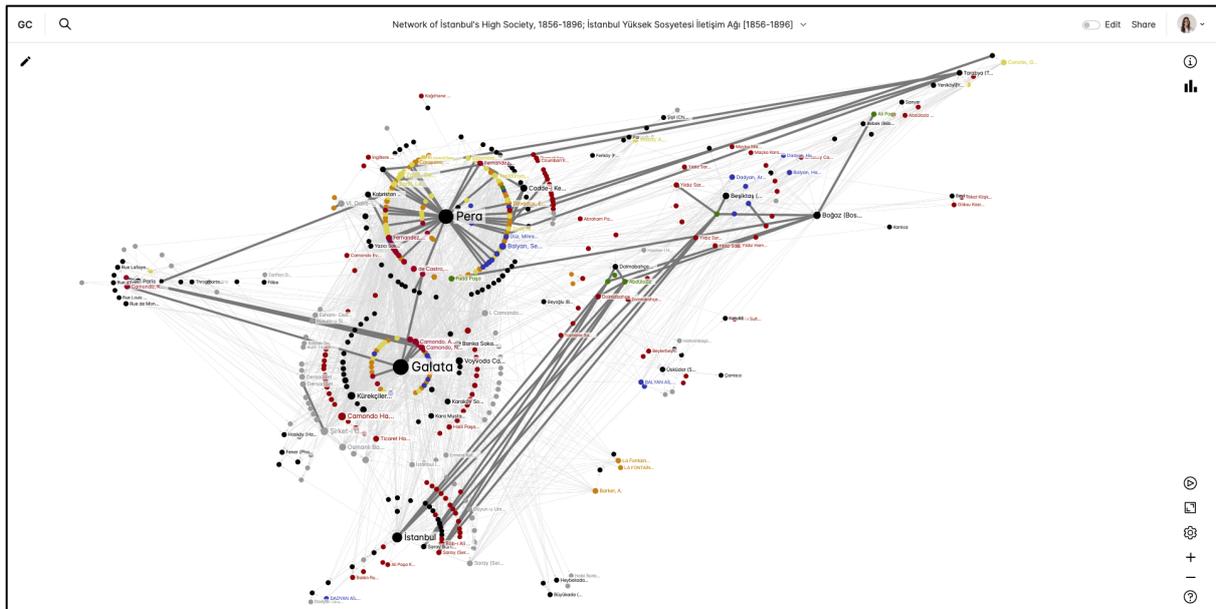
The project will begin by compiling a **lexicon, a biographical dictionary**, based on individuals identified primarily through trade yearbooks such as *Annuaire Oriental*. This lexicon will serve as the foundation for developing **in-depth narratives around selected figures** who played prominent roles in the city's intellectual, cultural and public life. The lexicon, which will be made accessible through the website of the Levantine Heritage Foundation, will be progressively enriched and updated as new information emerges throughout the research process.



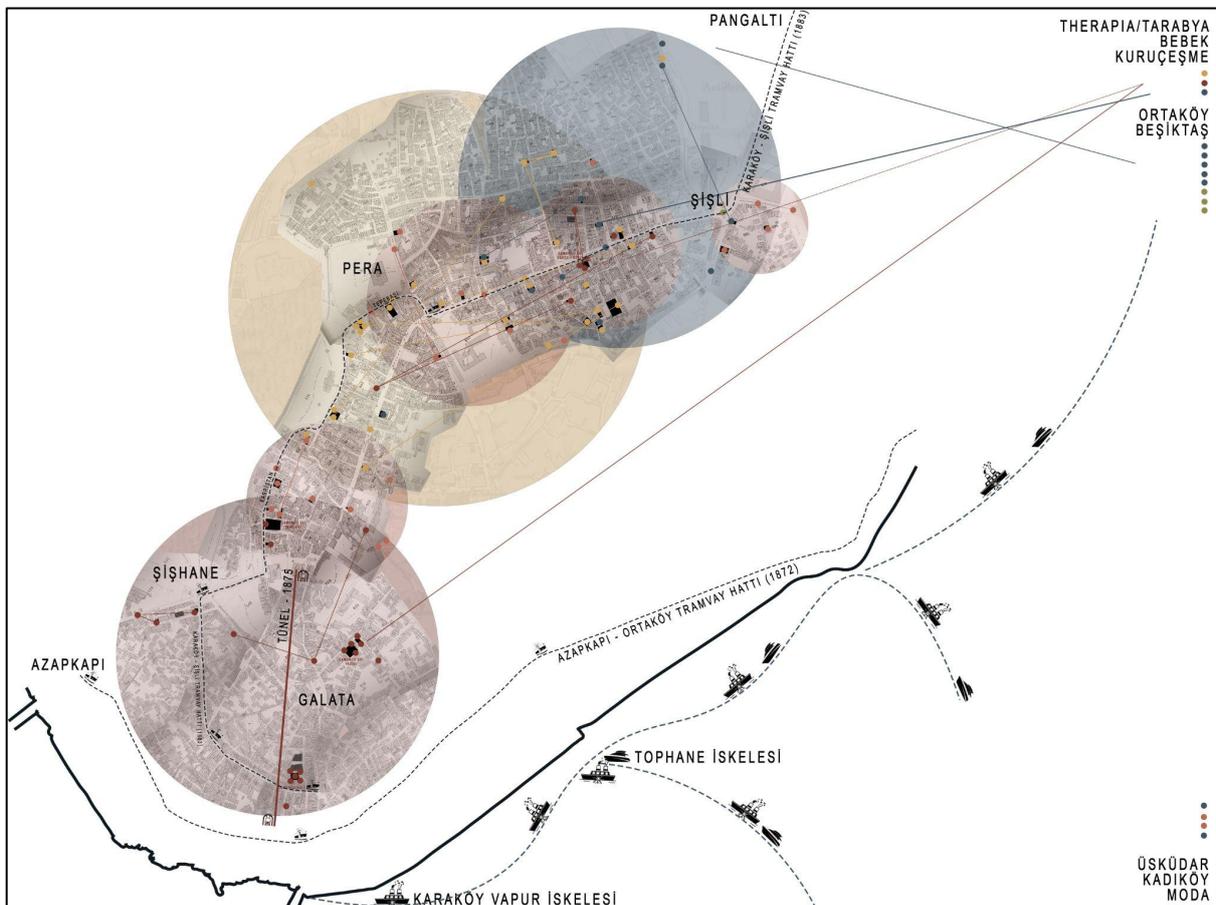
	NAME	INFO	AU 1893/94		
			AU 1893/94 - INFO	AU 1893/94 - ADDRESS	AU 1893/94 - DOM
W	Whitaker, Edgard Whittall (Alfred)	BCC Whittaker	directeur propriétaire du Journal The Levant Herald and Eastern Express inspecteur à la régie des tabacs	Grande Rue de Péra, 467 C.	Dom: R. Kabristan, 38, P.
	Whittall, J.W.		Whittall, J.W., president; Baker, G. vice-president; Nowell, Sidney, treasurer; Barker, Alfred, Clibthorpe, C., Marshall G.B., La Fontaine, E., Tucker, T.C., Thomson, J.R., membres; Gulbenkian, Badig S.S., Sevastopoulos, C.S., Souvazoglou, Basile, membres étrangers; Mountan, H.E., secrétaire; Secrétaire honoraire et trésorier: a) Smyrne, Whittall, E.; Secrétaire honoraire pour le Nord de l'Angleterre, Thomas, George, 26, Desingate, Manchester.		
	Whittall (J.W.) et Cie	* + BCC Whittall & Co J.W. LHF-WP = chairman of BCC 1887-1905; Mr. Charlton Whittall set up the first Whittall company (C. Whittall and Co.) in Izmir, in 1871. Sir William, born there in 1838 founded J.W. Whittall and Co. in Istanbul, in 1876. This Company: importers, exporters, Lloyds Agents, shipping and insurance agents, is today an voluntary foundation but several of its offshoots are still in business. [ ] it had forged links by marriage (and in business) with the Huguenot La Fontaines and with the French Grays, who were also long established in Izmir and Istanbul.	NCT, banquiers, commissionnaires et négociants, encaissements et recouvrements, agents of the Moss steam ship company, (steamers plying between Liverpool and the Levant). Agents for Royal Exchange Assurance (incendie, vie, maritime). Representatives: The Anglo foreign banking Co of London; J.C. Harter and Co of Manchester, etc. Président de la chambre de commerce anglaise (Voir annonce page 1365). Maison Anglaise fondée en 1878.	Whittall Han, Meidandjik Sokak, 5.	Dom: a Moda, Kadiköy.
	Whittall, William (Sir: K.B.) Whittall, Kenneth, E.	LHF-WP = chairman of BCC 1934-36, 43-49 LHF-WP = chairman of BCC 1987, [ ] within the present [1987] Council of the BCC, Mr. Desmond S. Whittall is a great, great nephew of the founder and Mr. Sidney E.P. Nowell. O.B.E. also has Whittall family links.			
	Whittall, Desmond				

\* Early research for the Lexicon of British Individuals, featuring an entry from *Annuaire Oriental* 1893–94 on Whittall (J.W.) et Cie (Maison Anglaise).

As the project develops, we aim to **trace the historical and spatial trajectories of these individuals** through archival research, network formation and visual mapping. These efforts will illustrate their connections, contributions, and everyday lives in Istanbul.



\* An example of network visualization from Ertürkmen-Aksoy's earlier work on Istanbul's high society in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



\* Ertürkmen-Aksoy's mapping on The Housing Density of the Istanbul's high society including non-muslim and Levantine individuals.

To support this work, we warmly welcome contributions of any kind. These may include **personal archives, family documents, letters, photographs, oral histories, or leads** that could help us better understand these individuals and the environments they shaped. With the permission of archive holders, selected materials may be included in our outputs. However, we respectfully note that not all submitted materials will necessarily be featured in the final work.

By “British,” we refer to:

1. Individuals of British nationality or those under British protection who held influence in Istanbul through commerce, diplomacy, or administration
2. British-related institutions such as companies, banks, clubs, consulates, and chambers that facilitated relationships and public activity
3. The spaces, both physical and social, where these interactions and encounters took place

**Your knowledge, recollections, and materials may offer invaluable insights into this shared history. We are grateful for all contributions, and we look forward to engaging with the broader community as the project progresses.**

If you would like to contribute or learn more about the project, feel free to reach out or share any materials with us at [bsuerturkmen@gmail.com](mailto:bsuerturkmen@gmail.com)