



Research - Education – Preservation

Newsletter no: 29 Winter- 2025/26

Welcome to our latest newsletter where we reflect on our upcoming bigger events, the joint School of Advanced Studies / Levantine Heritage Foundation symposium: 'The Languages of the Levant', Maureen Freely, Miguel Selvelli, George Vassiadis, chaired by Katia Pizzi and Philip Mansel - Senate House, University of London on 24th June 2026 and already in the advanced stages of planning the First joint Travellers in Ottoman Lands / Levantine Heritage Foundation conference in the University of Western Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, 20-24 April 2027. More details below.

And congratulations to our friends in Istanbul (Rinaldo Marmara) and Izmir (Giuliano Gloghini) for being recipients of awards by the Italian Government for their hard work in the development of friendship, cultural cooperation, and mutual relations between Italy and Turkey. More details below.

Our activities

The Levantine Heritage Annual Review 2025

The Levantine Heritage Foundation made good progress in 2025. As ever, our programme of events and the Levantine Heritage website were our main activities.

We had a busy year for events, organising 14 talks. While none were physically presented outside of the UK, most were online or hybrid in-person events. There were over 500 registered participants from around the world, of whom over half were new to the LHF. Those events held jointly with the Anglo-Turkish Society, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College, London, and the Anglo-Hellenic League were particularly fruitful.



5th joint LHF / Royal Asiatic Society live lecture gathering with guest speaker Dr Nil Palabiyik (in the centre with dress): 'Silent Teachers: Turkish Books and Oriental Learning in Early Modern Europe', 24 April 2025 - [flyer](#).

The topics ranged from the broad to the niche and spanned the physical and cultural geography of the communities of the Ottoman Empire. We are very grateful to our speakers and joint hosts for their contributions and support. A list of the events and links to recordings and speaker interviews are available [here](#):

The [Levantine Heritage website](#) provides the backbone of the information gathered over the last 15 years and provided free in support of our mission to preserve the arts, culture and heritage of Levantine communities for posterity and to support research and education in Levant studies. Over the last 12 months, we added 8 new submissions alongside new image galleries, newsletters, texts and links to third-party resources. This work is entirely down to the efforts of our indefatigable General Secretary, Craig Encer, to whom we owe enormous thanks.

The website is probably the largest in this subject area and attracts many visitors and enquiries. In 2025, we received 60 new enquiries in support of academic and genealogical research and for use of images from our galleries.

We continued to add new items to the Levantine Heritage Library, building on the [Jacques Caporal Collection](#) of some 1,600 books and sets of church and other records. The catalogue system we use is quite flexible and we will start adding other types of items, such as the tokens mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. To see what is in our Library, you can search the catalogue here [LHF Library | TinyCat](#).

Finding a permanent home for our physical collection is a priority over the next 2-3 years. As, too, is digitising records which are not already publicly available for research. We are seeking experts and potential partners for these projects. If any reader would like to get involved to help us develop this resource and make it accessible to the community, please get in touch via chairman@levantineheritage.com.

The LHF is still very much a volunteer-run organisation, funded by the generosity of our members and donors. Membership is a good way to support our activities and if you are not already a Member, I encourage you to consider subscribing. You get free access to our talks (or a discount if we have to charge to cover venue costs) and priority support for research projects. To join or renew, please visit <https://www.levantineheritage.com/join-us.html>

Or please consider making a donation to support our work. You can do so [here](#). Please also consider making a gift in your will towards the Foundation to support the preservation of our mutual heritage. If you have family archives, images, objects and other records, the LHF can provide a permanent home for them for future generations.

Looking ahead, we have a number of events in planning both in London and in various other European cities – Amsterdam, Paris, Rome are on the cards. Please save the date for our next symposium on 24 June in London, "Languages of the Levant" 4pm-8pm at the Senate House, University of London, Malet Street. A joint event with the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies of the School of Advanced Study, we have an excellent panel of speakers: [Maureen Freely](#), [Luis Miguel Selvelli](#), [George Vassiadis](#). And chairing the panel will be [Katia Pizzi](#) and our trustee [Philip Mansel](#).

We have provisional dates for a major conference next year in Thessaloniki 20-24 April 2027 to explore the history and cultural heritage of that great city. This will be in partnership with the group Travellers in Ottoman Lands which has organised some excellent events in Edinburgh, Sarajevo and Istanbul. We look forward to proving more details in the next few months.

We welcome your suggestions for new events and activities. And if you would like to volunteer your expertise and some time, we would love to speak with you. We are looking for people who have experience in digital archiving, supporting membership groups, social media and in being champions for all things Levantine in their region.

Wishing you all a happy and productive 2026.

Quentin Compton-Bishop, Chairman LHF

Upcoming LHF Events

10 February 2026, 5.30 pm

Joint In-person presentation: 'What have the Ottomans ever done for us? The Ottoman Empire and Europe, from Mehmed the Conqueror to Ataturk', Philip Mansel - Old Speech Room Gallery, Harrow School, Harrow-on-the-Hill, HA1 3AP – Registration essential: for details, please contact: andrew@ballingal.com

[Flyer:](#)

10 March 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Networks of Influence: Levantine Agency and Italian Business in the Early Turkish Republic (1923–1939)', Dr. Mehmet Dođar – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#)

12 May 2026, 6.30 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'In Search of Phillipos: An Armenian Horse Trader between Aleppo and London', Theodore Mould – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#) The talk will be followed by a glass of wine.

2 June 2026, 6.30 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Princes of Samos of the nineteenth century, Aristide Chryssoulis – details coming soon

24 June 2026, 6.30 pm (UK time)

Second joint School of Advanced Studies / Levantine Heritage Foundation symposium: 'The Languages of the Levant', Maureen Freely, Miguel Selvelli, George Vassiadis, chaired by Katia Pizzi and Philip Mansel - Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU – [flyer:](#) - [registration:](#) - The talk will be followed by a drinks reception.

20-24 April 2027

First joint [Travellers in Ottoman Lands](#) / Levantine Heritage Foundation conference in the University of Western Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece – [preliminary flyer:](#)

Please "save the date" and feel free to approach us for help/sponsorship/registration of interest.

Recent LHF Events



5 January 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'The Last of the Dragomans: Ferdinand Schirza of Galata (1924-2012)', Steven Richmond – [flyer:](#)



18 November 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Samuel Crawley (1706–62), British Consul at Smyrna', Ann Hudson – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

10 November 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Protestants, Gender, and the Arab Renaissance', Dr. Deanna Ferree Womack – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

7 October 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Hybrid presentation: 'Suleyman the Magnificent', Christopher de Bellaigue – [flyer:](#)

29 September 2025, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'Continuity and change in the British diplomatic service in the Levant: The 'Levantine' question and the lure of antiquities', Lucia Gunning – [flyer:](#) – [video:](#)

Recent Website additions

Submission:

Documentary work on Ereğli Şirket-i Osmaniyesi-Société d'Heraclée-Bender Ereğli Company and its coal supplier (Bunker Supplier) Albert Cazes & Co., Baron Robert De Nervo, shipowner and miner Artin Karamanyan Vasiloglou and Panos Michail (Mikael) Courtgis - Osman Öndeş, 2025 – [link:](#)

Galleries: Old photos of Smyrna – [link:](#)

Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey photographs of the Levant – [link:](#)

Ovide Curtovich paintings – [link:](#)

Trade / Club tokens / Commemoration medals (updated) – [link:](#)

Interviews: Efe Erünal & Alexandra Koumpouli, November 2025 – [link:](#) - [review of presentation:](#)

Current research

If you are seeking help with research, please write to Craig Encer who will endeavour to point you to sources of material or connect you with people in the LHF network who may be able to help. Additionally, we can post requests for assistance in our newsletter.

Research into a series of Victorian era family photos by Janet Packer

I have very little information behind these photos as there is no annotation and not sure which branch of my family these have come from. They were retrieved from the house of my late grandfather, from the Freeman family, but there is no guarantee they came from his paternal ancestry, so perhaps an un-named female line, such as his mother? Perhaps other descendants I am distantly related to may recognise faces and together we can place names and meaning to this small collection.

My grandfather was William Kendall Freeman (1891-1976) d. Rugby, Warwickshire, England. He was the youngest son of Charles Freeman, a farmer and grazier in Leicestershire, descended from at least two generations of farmers in Leicestershire. The families were quite large and there are photos of siblings and second and third cousins related to the family. The males were mostly farmers, but there were some clergy and a number of chemists (one manufactured Freeman's Chlorodyne). I have few references to anyone living outside of the UK or even with connections abroad. One example is Rev Alexander Freeman 1838-1897. he married Eva Elizabeth Paterson, born in Paris (1855-1942), daughter of Col James Paterson (1802-1860), 3rd Buffs, served in Sebastopol, granddaughter of General Sir William Paterson. There is some resemblance between James Paterson & the European gentleman, but the photo is not sharp enough to be sure, and I think the photo might be too recent for that. Eva and Alexander's son, Evelyn Alexander Freeman (1888-1937), served in the Shropshire Light Infantry which included active duty in Palestine in the early 1920s. Other surnames associated with the Freeman cousins are Palmer, Kendall, Johnson, Gelsthorpe, Hunt, Griffiths, Clapperton, Beacroft, Turpin, Forryan and Ford. Another possibility (depending on the age of the photographs) is that one of my grandfather's spinster sisters worked for a family who had been based abroad. They were born between 1877 and 1888 and worked as Ladies Companions and Governesses with various families before WW2.



[View full collection:](#)

In search of my ancestors Gibdor and Fortunata Weinberg

My name is Nicolas Weinberg, a French national living in Canada. I actually try to piece together the history of my family, and I try to find out what happened to my great-great-uncle and aunt Gibdor and Fortunata Weinberg, who both were born in the Ashkenazi community in Istanbul. Below is the information I managed to gather so far.

Thank you for your help and time! Merci, Nicolas.

- Isidor Weinberg was my great-grandfather. He was born in Istanbul on December 7, 1866. His brother and sister were also born in Istanbul: Gibdor (born in 1868) and his sister Fortunata (or Fortunée, born on July 1, 1870) in Istanbul. This information was confirmed by the Ashkenazi Synagogue Foundation Istanbul. Their parents were Yosef Weinberg (born in Odessa) and Louise Weinberg (born Glück, unknown place of birth).
- According to unverified data, Isidor Weinberg birth is recorded under No. 2029 in the protocol, and under No. 85 in the register of the Ashkenazi community in Istanbul.
- In Istanbul, the Weinberg family had a business selling glass goods manufactured in Gablonz/Neisse, now Jablonec-na-Nissu, in the Sudetenland, near Reichenberg (Liberec).

- It seems that at some point, the family left for Athens. Their address was Athens, 84 Liossiou. They might have changed their name for Wainberg and/or Bainberg.
- According to unverified sources (family archives), the whole family (Yosef and Louise, and their children Isidor, Gibdor and Fortunata) were citizens of Corfu (Greece).
- Isidor Weinberg went to Praha (Czechoslovakia) married Rosa (born Grimm, born December 26, 1873 in Braunau, Bohemia) and had a son (my grandfather Viktor) and daughter (Elisabeth). Isidor and Rosa Weinberg were deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp on January 5, 1943 where they were murdered on October 6, 1944 (source: Arolsen archives, Teresienstadt camp records).
- I could not find any information about Gibdor and Fortunata.

Looking for photography studio adverts in editions Indicateur Commercial of Smyrna:

As part of my the exhibition I have organised currently on display in Apikam Izmir titled '[İzmir Fotoğrafhanesi-Görsel Hafızanın İnşası \(1840-1922\)](#)' [Izmir Photography Studio - Building Visual Memory (1840-1922)].

I and our team are currently working on the publication that will follow this exhibition and are need of adverts of some of the photography studios of old Smyrna. We believe these exist in some of the almanacs published locally at the time, under the title of 'Indicateur Commercial de Smyrne' and in particular looking for the edition of 1898-1899 and if any descendants or researchers hold a copy (the libraries checked in Turkey do not have this edition) then a scan or photo of these would be greatly appreciated and their contribution will be acknowledged in the resulting book.

Aybala Yentürk [aybalayenturk@gmail.com], researcher and curator of exhibition

Community activities

Upcoming Carnevale by the LKMKD (Levantine Heritage Protection Association of Istanbul) - [link](#):





Ceremony at the Istanbul Italian Consulate (Venetian Palace) for the awarding by the Italian Government of the 'Cavaliere' awards, 15 January 2026 to Mr Giuliano Gloghini of Izmir and Rinaldo Marmara of Istanbul – [gallery](#):

External activities

External Upcoming Events

10 February 2026, 5.30 pm

In-person presentation: 'What have the Ottomans ever done for us? The Ottoman Empire and Europe, from Mehmed the Conqueror to Ataturk', Philip Mansel - Old Speech Room Gallery, Harrow School, Harrow-on-the-Hill, HA1 3AP - Contact andrew@ballingal.com - [flyer](#):

Until 20 February 2026

Exhibition: 'Ottoman Europe: A History on Rails' - Paris Institute for Critical Thinking, École nationale des ponts et chaussées, Champs-sur-Marne, Paris, France - [flyer](#):

3 March 2026, 6 pm (UK time)

Online presentation: 'From Post Office to Afterlives: The Architectural Biography of a British Building in Galata', Liana Kuyumcuyan & Murat Tülek - Anglo-Turkish Society - [flyer](#):

Recent Publications

Christian Networks in the Ottoman Empire: A Transnational History, eds Yura Konstantinova, Eleonora Naxidou – Routledge, 2024 – [link](#):

Gateway to the Mediterranean: An Environmental History of Late Ottoman Izmir, Onur İnal, Cambridge University Press, 2025 – [link](#):

The Hundred Days' Island & Levantine Tales, Gilbert D'Andria (translated into English by Bernard D'Andria), Oxford Book Writers, 2025 – [link](#) - [press release](#):

Plan d'Izmir 1933: Jacques Pervititch, Prof Dr Çınar Atay, 2024 – [review](#):

Empire of Officials: Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Bureaucracy, Abdulhamit Kirmizi, Bloomsbury, 2025 – [link](#):

Visualizing Egypt: European Travel, Book Publishing, and the Commercialization of the Middle East in the Nineteenth Century, Paulina Banas, The American University in Cairo Press, 2025 – [link](#):

British Mail in the Levant: The Beirut Postal Hub (1836–1914), Semaan Bassil, 2025 – [link](#):

İtalyan Mimar, Plancı ve Heykeltıraşların Türkiye'ye Katkısı (1923-1973) / Architeti, Progettisti, Scultori Italiani in Turchia / I primi 50 anni della Repubblica (1923-1973), Editör / Curatore: Ali Cengizkan, İtalya Büyükelçiliği, Ankara / Ambasciata d'Italia in Turchia, 2025 – [link:](#)

Foscolo Family of Venice Patricians and Aristocrats: (A Genealogy), Dr Mike Foscolos, 2024 – [link:](#) - [excerpt:](#) - [article:](#)

The War That Made the Middle East: World War I and the End of the Ottoman Empire, Mustafa Aksakal, Princeton University Press, 2026 – [link:](#)

Hebrew Orientalism: Jewish Engagement with Arabo-Islamic Culture in Late Ottoman and British Palestine, Mostafa Hussein, Princeton University Press, 2025 – [link:](#)

The Great Betrayal: The Struggle for Freedom and Democracy in the Middle East, Fawaz A. Gerges, Princeton University Press, 2025 – [link:](#)

The I.B. Tauris Handbook of the Late Ottoman Empire: History and Legacy, Hans-Lukas Kieser, Khatchig Mouradian – Bloomsbury, 2025 – [link:](#)

Italo-Ottoman Relations in the Age of the Congress of Paris: Mirroring the 'Other', 1856-1871, Giorgio Ennas – Bloomsbury, January 2026 – [link:](#)

Aleppo and the Levantine Trading Company Fratelli Poche, 1853-1880, Mafalda Ade – Isis Press, 2024 – [link:](#)

Upcoming Publications

Ottoman Mobilities in the Global Nineteenth Century: Transnational Approaches to Culture, Edited by: Belgin Turan Özkaya and Sibel Zandi-Sayek – De Gruyter Brill, April 2026 – [link:](#)

Fashion in Late Ottoman Istanbul, Nancy Micklewright – Bloomsbury, 2026 – [link:](#)

New External digitisations

Cosmopolitan Ottomans: European colonisation put an abrupt end to political experiments towards a more equal, diverse and ecumenical Arab world – aeon.com, Oct 2019 – [link:](#)

Residues of the British Informal Empire: The Smyrna–Aydın Railway's Punta Square as the Future Centre of "Colonial" Smyrna, Isilay Tiarnagh Sheridan Gun & Erdem Erten, 2025 – [abstract link:](#)

Europe and the Black Sea Region: A History of Early Knowledge Exchange (1750-1850), Dominik Gutmeyr, Karl Kaser (eds.), LIT VERLAG, 2020 – [link:](#)

Image of the Turks in the 17th Century Europe: Changing images - Günsel Renda, Sabancı University, 2005 – [link:](#)

The "Séminaire Pontifical Saint Louis de Péra" and the Making of Catholic Clergy in Nineteenth-Century Constantinople: Recovering Institutional Memory through a Previously Unconsulted Archive - Buğra Poyraz, Toplumsal Tarih Akademi, 2025 – [link:](#)

Mediterranean Mobilities: Between Migrations and Colonialism - edited by Gabriele Montalbano, University of Bologna, 2024 – [link:](#)

Towards a social history of modern Alexandria – Khaled Fahmy, 2004 – [link:](#)

Cosmopolitanism on the Move: Port Said around 1900 – [link:](#)

Interview with Sami Brown: The music of Wojciech Bobowski / Ali Ufki – Anglo Turkish Society, January 2026 – [link:](#)

The Last Dragomans: Teaching Oriental Languages in Late-Nineteenth Century Venice, Tommaso Munari, 2025 – [link:](#)

Between the King and the Sultan: The Romanian Colony in Constantinople at the End of the 19th Century, Silvana Rachieru - Radovi: Zavod za hrvatsku povijes, 2019 – [link:](#)

British Workers and Ottoman Modernity in Nineteenth-Century Istanbul - Akın Sefer, Cambridge University Press, 2020 – [link:](#)

Addition of the 1882 'Indicateur Ottoman Illustré. Annuaire-Almanach du Commerce de l'industrie, de l'administration et de la magistrature' – SALT Research, 2026 – [link:](#)

New Podcasts

Parcours sonore : LES PASSAGERS DE PÉRA–SAISON 3 – Institut Français Turquie – [link](#):

New Thinking: East West artistic connections, Dr Adam Sammut, Dr Nil Palabiyik, Dr Sarah Jilani – Arts & Ideas, BBC Radio 4, 27 May 2024 – [link](#):

A British Burlesque Artist in Belle Époque Cairo, Gwendolyn Collaço – Ottoman History Podcast, 9 January 2026 – [link](#):

New Videos

The Fall of the Ottoman Empire Through One Man’s Eyes | Slice History | Antoine the Fortunate, At the Crossroads of Empires (2021), Nefin Dinç - Point du Jour, Les Films du Balibari, EPO-Film & Anemon Productions – [link](#):

Brotherhood Across the Mediterranean: Italian Freemasonry and the Ottoman Mission of 1910, Miguel Luis Selvelli, 28 October 2025 – Anglo-Turkish Society – [link](#) - [interview](#):

Troya’yı Kim Buldu? | Calvert Ailesi ve Çanakkale Halk Bahçesi’nin Unutulan Hikâyesi [Who Discovered Troy? | The Forgotten Story of the Calvert Family and the Public Garden of Çanakkale] - Onyedi Tivi, 8 Jan 2026 – [link](#):

‘Diplomatic, Commercial and Family Networks in the early Modern Aegean: The Brest Family Archive from the island of Milos’, Anna Athanasouli, Maria Georgopoulou, Fr. Markos Foskolos, Alexandre Massé, Eleftheria Zei, 19-1-2026 - The Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies at Athens – [link](#):

Ephemera

Ottoman era rental contract dated 1902–1903, written in French and Ottoman Turkish, concerning a property located in the Pera / Teşvikiye district of Istanbul, presented by Efehan Pulatlı (efekanpulatli@gmail.com)

The document mentions three Italian citizens who lived in Istanbul at that time:

- Domenico Ricci (landlord)
- Natale Tomassino (tenant)
- Adolfo Ruta (guarantor)

The contract includes handwritten signatures, monthly payment records, and the address ‘Rue Sarandi No. 21, Pera’, on the second page it is written as “Rue Suruli (= Sururi) Chikmas (Çıkmazı) Sarandi No. 21”. ‘Sarandi’ may be the name of a building on that street.

Mr Pulatlı aims to trace the descendants or relatives of these individuals to deliver this unique historical document to their family. It offers a glimpse into the life of the Italian community in early 20th-century Istanbul.

CONTRAT DE LOCATION

Le bailleur *Mons Domenico Ricci* موجر
Sujét Italien
 Le locataire *Mrs Natale Comassini* مستأجر
déclare être sujet Italien تبعي حائز اولاد يعني بيان ايدر
 Les lieux loués *1 un Maison* مأجور
 Quartier *Agnoli - Chusme* محله
 Rue *Surville Chitmas Sarani N° 21* رقم دسي
 Durée du bail *1 an expirée 1902 au 1903* مدت ايجار
à partir 12/25 Octobre 1902 au 1903 اعتباراً
 Le prix du bail *Dix huit dit deux 18* بدل ايجار
payable Anticipai 1/2 dit deux وقت وصول تاديهي
au 162 Pas en fait - 162
 Les copropriétaires *il declare être payai* مشترك حصه دارل
sans aucune difficulté

ART. 1. Le bailleur ayant délivré l'immeuble en bon état de réparations de toute espèce, le locataire doit le rendre tel quel.

برنجي ماده — موجر ماجوري هرگونه تعميرادن وارسته و مڪمل حاله اوله ارق تسليم اولدني جهته مستأجر دني حيث استئجاره ماده ايتمه مجوردر.

ART. 2. Le locataire ne peut faire aucun changement dans la division intérieure de l'immeuble sans l'autorisation écrite du bailleur.

ايتمه ماده — مستأجر موجر دن تجريراً رخصت آلدنجه مأجورك تقسيمات داخله سي هيچ روجهه تغير وتبديل ايدمن

ART. 3. Le locataire répond des dégradations et des pertes qui arrivent pendant la durée du bail, à moins qu'il ne prouve qu'elles ont eu lieu sans sa faute. Il est également tenu de celles qui arrivent par le fait des personnes de sa maison ou de son service.

اوجني ماده — مدت ايجارده مأجوره هر نه كونه خسارات و ضايعات وقوعولورسه انلك كندني تدي وتضرندن تولد اتمه ايتمه مستأجر اثبات اتمه كنه تقصيرنه مجوردر كذلك عالهسي حلق و خدمتده بولان كسانك فمتندن تولد ايدن خسار و ضايعاتدن مسؤل اولوب انلري تقصيرن ايدمجهكدر.

ART. 4. Sont à la charge du locataire les réparations de menu entretien, et, entre autres, celles à faire aux âtres et cheminées, au badigeonnage des murailles, aux pavés des cours, aux vitres et croisées, aux portes et serrures.

درنجي ماده — مأجورك اوفق تفك تعميراتي وبالخاصه اوجانوره و ديوارلرك ايدنه. و حولي طاشلر ايه جام و چرچيو مل و قيو و كليدره اقتضا ايدمجهك تعميرات مستأجره عالددر.

ART. 5. Le bailleur est tenu de faire toutes les réparations qui peuvent devenir nécessaires, autres que celles énumérées dans l'article précédent.

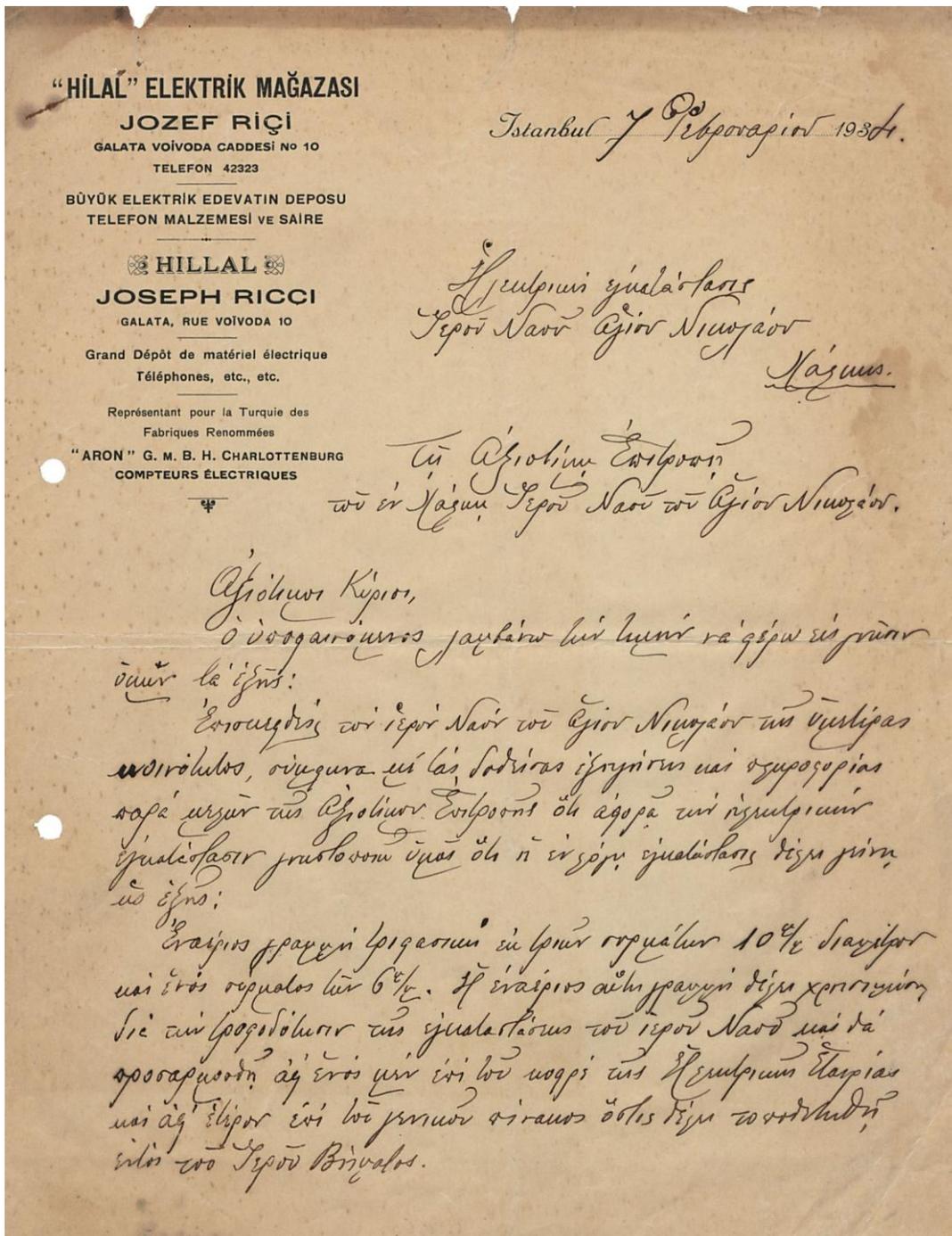
بشني ماده — ماده سابقهده مجرر تعميرادن ماعدا مأجوره اقتضا ايدمجهك ترمات سائره موجره عالددر.

ART. 6. Si le bailleur l'autorise par écrit, le locataire peut, à ses propres frais, introduire et installer dans l'immeuble l'eau de Derkos ou une autre eau, dont la consommation reste au

النجي ماده — مأجورك تجريراً رضامتي اهرق مستأجر مصارفاتي كا ملاك كندونه عالد اولوق اوزره تر قوس يا خود ديكر برصوبي اخذ و مأجورك درونسه ادخال ايدمجهك ايسبو صوبك صرفاتي بدلي عالددر.

Le tchortchop est à la charge du *Locatier*

تنظيفات رسمي عالددر



Domenico Ricci maybe related to Joseph Ricci, shown in this headed letter from 1934, owner of an electric and telephone components shop in nearby (~1.5 km) Galata.

Claims of Modernity: The Building of the Ottoman Imperial Bank in Istanbul, Fabian Steininger – Global Urban History, June 2016 – [link](#):

Travel, Pictures and a Victorian Gentleman in Greece, Deborah Harlan – Hesperia 78 (2019) – [link](#):

The Smyrna Quay: The History of a Symbol, Achilles Chatziconstantinou – The National Herald, 24 September 2022 – [link](#):

The 19th-Century Inventories of the Museo Egizio, Turin: How to Get Lost in Them and How to Find Your Way Back, Beppe Moiso, Tommaso Montonati - Rivista Del Museo Egizio, Turin, 8 May 2024 – [link](#):

British Seamen’s Hospital and British Post Office Galata, Istanbul, Cem Ozmeral – Istanbulite.com, 2024 – [link](#):

Levantine Istanbul – Petraki Place Apartments a century ago, Julia -Istanbulplace.com, 2024 – [link](#):

‘The Terrorist of Malta’ – [link](#):

The Wardrobe of the Envoy: Hungarian Clothing Traditions of Habsburg Diplomatic Missions at the Sultan’s Court, Michael Portmann & Zsuzsanna Cziráki - Hypotheses.org, 14-1-2022 – [link](#):

The ‘Possidhon Affair’, Michael S. Clark – [link](#):

New exhibitions

A Meeting of Empires: Celebrating the West Meets East redisplay, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford – [link](#):



The Exchange of the Ottoman Ambassador and the Imperial Ambassador, Hans Ludwig von Kuefstein, between Szony and Almasch on the border of the Empires, 26 September 1628, c. 1630-1640, oil on canvas.

Attributed to Franz Hermann, Hans Gemminger & Valentin Mueller, c. 1630-1640, oil painting, one of six paintings depicting landscapes and portraits showing the European fascination with the Ottoman Empire, recently on show – [view another image:](#)

Thanks to the generosity of the late Mrs Mica Ertegun CBE, the Ashmolean's West Meets East gallery has been rehung. At its centre are six prominent paintings depicting one of the most fascinating diplomatic encounters of the seventeenth century: the 1628-29 Habsburg embassy to Constantinople.

These remarkable works, attributed to Franz Hermann, Hans Gemminger and Valentin Mueller, were created after the embassy's return, based on drawings on the spot. They document not only the splendour of the journey, but also the European artists' fascination with Ottoman life, filtered through the imperial gaze that invites us to reflect on the process of 'Othering'.

In July 1628, Hans Ludwig von Kuefstein, an Austrian nobleman, was dispatched Vienna at the command of Emperor Ferdinand II to negotiate a renewal of the Peace of Zsitvatorok with Sultan Murat IV. The mission was not only politically sensitive – it sought to extend a fragile peace along a tense frontier – but also perilous. Kuefstein admitted his reluctance in his memoirs, noting the likelihood of death and referring to "the arrogant nation" of the Ottomans. Yet duty prevailed.

His embassy was vast, numbering over 100 people, including Jesuit chaplains, physicians, cooks, a barber-surgeon, a dentist, trumpeters, grooms, and crucially two court painters. Their task was clear: to record the journey in pictures. These artists, Franz Hermann and Hans Gemminger, created on-the-spot drawings of ceremonies, audiences, punishments, banquets, funerals, wrestling matches, dervish rituals, and intimate scenes of women's gatherings, which were later transformed into the oil paintings now on view.

The mission set out on a flotilla of eleven boats on the Danube, eventually switching to carriages and horses as they travelled through Buda (then Ofen), Belgrade, Sofia, and Edirne, finally arriving in Constantinople on 25 November 1628. Along the way, the artists recorded key moments: Kuefstein's icy audience with the high official (the Vizier) in Buda, the ceremonial exchange of gifts (including massive silver lavabos basins, tazza cups and ingenious clocks), and their entry to Constantinople – a procession so grand that Ottoman officials ordered them to silence their music and lower their flags before entering the city gates.

The embassy's time in the capital city was equally theatrical. Kuefstein was received by the Sultan Murat IV twice – once to present his credentials, once to take leave – and dined in the Divan with the Grand Vizier (Hafiz Ahmed Pasha). The paintings immortalise not only these formal occasions but also the vivid scenes of Ottoman life that the artists observed: women dancing in private gatherings, wrestlers in the hippodrome, funerals, bustling markets and magnificent mosques.

While the paintings exude drama and detail, they also reveal how European artists and audiences viewed the Ottoman people: as exotic, distant and different. The three portraits in the Ashmolean's display – a veiled woman, a richly dressed man, and a young woman, possibly one of Sultan's daughters – isolate their subjects from context, turning them into archetypes of 'Turkishness' and reducing them to their costumes.

This fascination with Ottoman dress, ritual, and spectacle was part of a larger European practice of constructing the East as 'Other', an idea that still resonates, and troubles, today. They commemorate a journey that preserved peace, advanced careers and produced one of the richest visual records of the East-West contact in the early modern period.

Henry VIII's Lost Dagger: From the Tudor Court to the Victorian Stage – Strawberry Hill House and Garden, 1 November 2025 - 15 February 2026 – [link:](#)

Passion and Politics: Sissinghurst and Greece, 18 October 2025 - 29 March 2026 – [link:](#)

Upcoming exhibition

Turbans, Carpets, and Rembrandt: Persian, Ottoman and North African Presence in Dutch Art - Museum Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 25 September 2026 - 3 January 2027 - [link](#):

Past exhibition

Ortak Miras / Shared Heritage - Bıçakçı Han, Konak, Izmir, 2 December 2025 - 31 January 2026 - [poster](#): - [gallery](#): - [magazine](#):

News of upcoming events by partners

Confirmed exhibition: 'Levantine of Istanbul, Istanbul of Levantines' – LKMKD, 2026

We would like to inform you about the next initiative of the Association Levanten Kültür ve Mirasını Koruma Derneği ([LKMKD](#)), the 'Levantine of Istanbul, Istanbul of Levantines' Exhibition that will take place on 8 October – 7 November 2026 at the exhibition hall of the Beyoğlu Municipality on İstiklal Street.

This exhibition will showcase the Levantine community's cultural, social, and economic impact between 1850 and 1950, offering the first holistic narrative of its heritage. The exhibition will highlight key contributions to the community in the fields such as architecture, art, commerce, and diplomacy, culminating in a meaningful historical story.

This exhibition also lays the groundwork for the next project, the "Levantine Library & Museum".

The association is in the phase of inventory collection. Anyone who is interested in sharing information about documents, photographs, objects, etc. that can contribute to this exhibition, either in digital or physical form, can contact the exhibition project team by sending an e-mail to levanten@levanten.org.

News of recently completed monograph by a friend of LHF – Tom Rees

The booklet with the title 'British Vice Consul in Chios & Head of MI6 and MI9 in Izmir 1941-1945: Escape, evasion and espionage in Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean' follows from the group presentation online to the LHF in April 2022 with other Rees descendants of this remarkable man, Noel Carlisle Rees OBE RNVR, whose story has never properly been told before – [flyer](#): – [video](#):

The booklet is viewable in pdf format [here](#) but for those wishing to purchase a hard copy, a limited number are available from the author via tomrees@tbrees.com for £10 + p & p. of £2.40.

Mystery item



A token of 'testimony of satisfaction' to a religious establishment 'Maison Notre Dame des Anges', from Boudja, which is the Levantine word for the Buca neighbourhood of Izmir where there was a significant Levantine presence. This was

probably the 'Catholic Nuns' School "Notre Dame des Anges" (1850-1936) as recorded by N. Kararas' and translated by the late [Alex Baltazzi](#) and may have also been a place for a temporary stop for pilgrims to Ephesus and other nearby holy sites and cities, and purchased to help in the finances of the institution by the visitors who were 'satisfied'. Additional information would be welcome as well as any holders out there of similar pilgrim or [trade / club tokens](#) from the Levant they are willing to share.

In Memoriam



Sad to report the death of Prof.Dr. İnci Kuyulu Ersoy on 12 Oct 2025, a veteran researcher on Levantine culture and their architectural heritage and a contributor to the website, such as '[The Cultural Contributions of the Levantines of Izmir](#)' as well the organiser / moderator for various conferences and lectures over the years such as, 'Antenati a Costantinopoli', Luis Miguel Selvelli – [flyer](#):



Sad to also report the passing of Noel Micaleff (born 1935) on 3 January 2026. He was the founder of Kristal Yağ company ([article](#) on its history) and for many years the president of the *Meryem Ana Derneği* (Association of the House of the Virgin Mary – [news article from 2024](#)) as well as a founding member of the Izmir Levantine Association (on the left in a [group photo](#) from 2015). May he rest in peace.

ACI KAYBIMIZ



Kristal Yağları Yönetim Kurulu Başkan Vekili ve CEO'su
Sayın Christopher Dologh'u kaybetmenin
derin üzüntüsünü yaşıyoruz.

Başta ailesi olmak üzere tüm yakınlarına, sevenlerine ve
zeytinyağı sektörüne sabır ve başsağlığı dileriz.

Cenaze töreni, 31 Ocak 2026 Cumartesi günü saat 14:00'da,
Alsancak Domeniken Kilisesi'nde düzenlenecektir.

Çiçek yerine arzu edenlerin Türk Eğitim Vakfı'na bağışta bulunmaları rica olunur.



Also sad to report the passing on 28-1-2026 of Mr [Christopher Dologh](#) of Izmir, CEO of Kristal Yağ company and Honorary Consul of Hungary in Izmir.

[Listing](#) of those from the Izmir Levantine community who have passed away in 2025.

New website

Leghorn Merchants Network – Matteo Giunti – [link](#):

Our messages

Current sponsored project: Documenting the British Footprints in Late Ottoman and Early Republican Istanbul (1868–1945)

With Researcher: Assist. Prof. Bengi Su Ertürkmen, Ph.D. (Gazi University)

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.

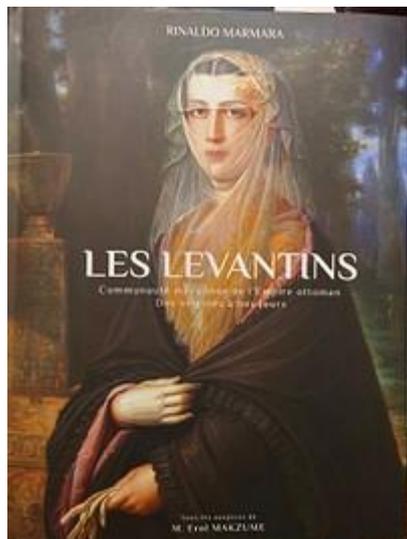
The project will begin by compiling a lexicon, a biographical dictionary, based on individuals identified primarily through trade yearbooks such as *Annuaire Oriental*. This lexicon will serve as the foundation for developing in-depth narratives around selected figures who played prominent roles in the 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.

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 - [read more](#): - See the [current focus pdf file](#) containing the list with only the names and nationality information.

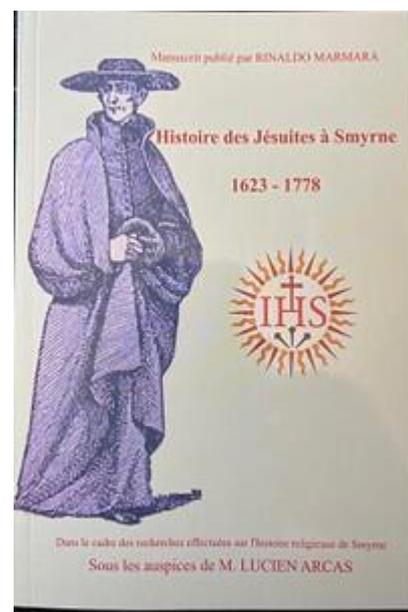


The Levantine Heritage Library & Archive - Recent Additions

One of the most prolific researchers and writers on the Levantines is [Dr Rinaldo Marmara](#). We have a dozen of his books in the Levantine Heritage Library out of the 50 or so that he has written. His focus is on the diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Holy See, for which he has privileged access to the archives of the Vatican.



A recent addition is a wonderfully illustrated introduction to the Levantines, “Les Levantins. Communauté méconnue de l’Empire ottoman. Des origines à nos jours”. Marmara covers a number of families, starting with some with the oldest, Genoese origins (Kaslawski/Peretti, Micaléff, Makzume, Calumeno) and adding many of the well-known Latin names (Giudici, Marmara, Arcas, Braggiotti, Balladur, to mention just a few). The text is combined with images of the families from the historic to the present day. The book was sponsored by the art historian, collector and bibliophile, [Erol Makzume](#).



More typical of Rinaldo Marmara's publications is "Histoire des Jésuites à Smyrne 1623 – 1778". Sponsored by another distinguished Levantine collector, [Lucien Arcas](#), this volume draws on previously unpublished documents unearthed through Marmara's research. Its publication happily coincided with the visit to Turkey in 2014 of Pope Francis 1st, himself a Jesuit.

To see our catalogue, please visit [LHF Library | TinyCat](#)

If you have a collection, records, images or other items you wish to gift or leave as a legacy in your will to the Levantine Heritage Library, or if you wish to make a financial donation to support our work, please contact Quentin Compton-Bishop, chairman@levantineheritage.com

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Craig Encer

General Secretary – secretary@levantineheritage.com

The Levantine Heritage Foundation - www.levantineheritage.com

[Our Facebook page](#): (3.3k followers) | [Our Youtube channel](#): (994 subscribers) | [Our Twitter channel](#): (133 followers) | [Instagram](#): (908 followers) | [Bluesky](#): (25 followers)

The Levantine Heritage Foundation is a non-profit association with a constitution prepared and adopted according to the guidelines of The Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Trustees: Quentin Compton-Bishop, Dr Philip Mansel FRHS, Dr Vera Constantini, Dr Axel Corlu, Zeynep Cebeci Süvari, Jonathan Beard, Nuri Çolakoğlu, Achilleas Chatziconstantinou, Dr Michael Cottakis, Luis Miguel Selvelli