

Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 15 December 2020, 6.00 pm

Speaker: Philip Mansel

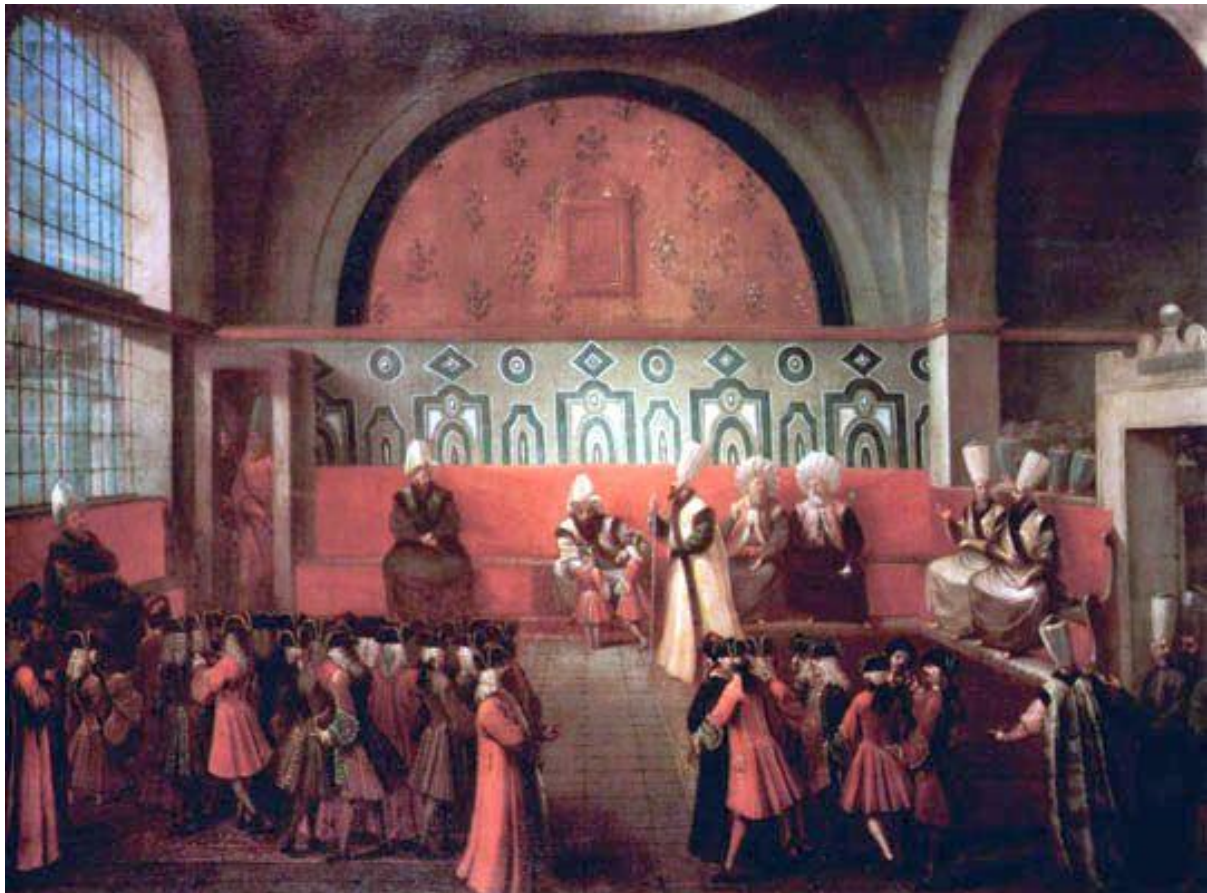
Platform: Zoom with link provided to those who register

Title: The Lily and the Crescent: Louis XIV and the Ottomans, Culture, Commerce and Crusades

Using the unpublished correspondence of Louis XIV with his ambassadors in Constantinople, Dr Philip Mansel shows the strength of the alliance between France and the Ottoman Empire. Louis XIV put saving the Ottoman Empire from Austrian attacks before preventing William III's invasion of England. Marseilles boomed, and coffee became a fashionable drink, thanks to trade with the Levant. Wheat from the Ottoman Empire helped save France from starvation in 1709. Cultural links were as close as trade links: the royal library acquired Ottoman and Arabic manuscripts and the 1001 Nights were translated into French. Over 100 illustrations include many unpublished views of Ottoman ports, drawn by the King's naval officers in 1686, with a view to seizing them in case of an Ottoman collapse.

Booking essential: <https://philip-mansel-lecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

Contact: contact@angloturkishsociety.org.uk



Reception of the French ambassador the Vicomte d'Andrezel and his sons, by the Grand Vizier, 1724, painting by Jean Baptiste Vanmour



photo: Neil Spence

Dr Philip Mansel's (www.philipmansel.com) books include Constantinople: City of the World's Desire (1995); Aleppo: the Rise and Fall of Syria's Great Merchant City (2016); and King of the World: The Life of Louis XIV, (2019). He is president of the Scientific Council of the Research Centre of the Chateau de Versailles and a co-founder of the Society for Court Studies (www.courtstudies.org) and the Levantine Heritage Foundation (www.levantineheritage.com).

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