

Spring Lecture Series

ASTENE Spring Lecture Series

We are pleased to announce our Spring lecture series—taking place between the 28th January and the 1st April 2021.



ASTENE Spring Lecture Series

All events on Thursdays starting at 8 pm (GMT) and are held via Zoom. To register, visit astene.org.uk/events/

28 January -

Book launch for *Pious Pilgrims, Discerning Travellers, Curious Tourists* - with readings, music and discussion.

4 February -

'Early travellers' contributions to the first reconstructions of Egyptian history'
Aidan Dodson (University of Bristol)

18 February -

'Monument to Men Massacred in the Sinai Desert (1882): Gods, Countries, and Empires at St. Paul's Cathedral'
Maddie Boden (University of York)

4 March -

'Travel accounts by Marco Polo, Odoric and Mandeville as Natural History: strange plants, animals – and monsters'
Janet Starkey (Durham University)

18 March -

'Visiting the Cedars of Lebanon: from Gilgamesh to Edward Lear'
Paul Starkey (Durham University)

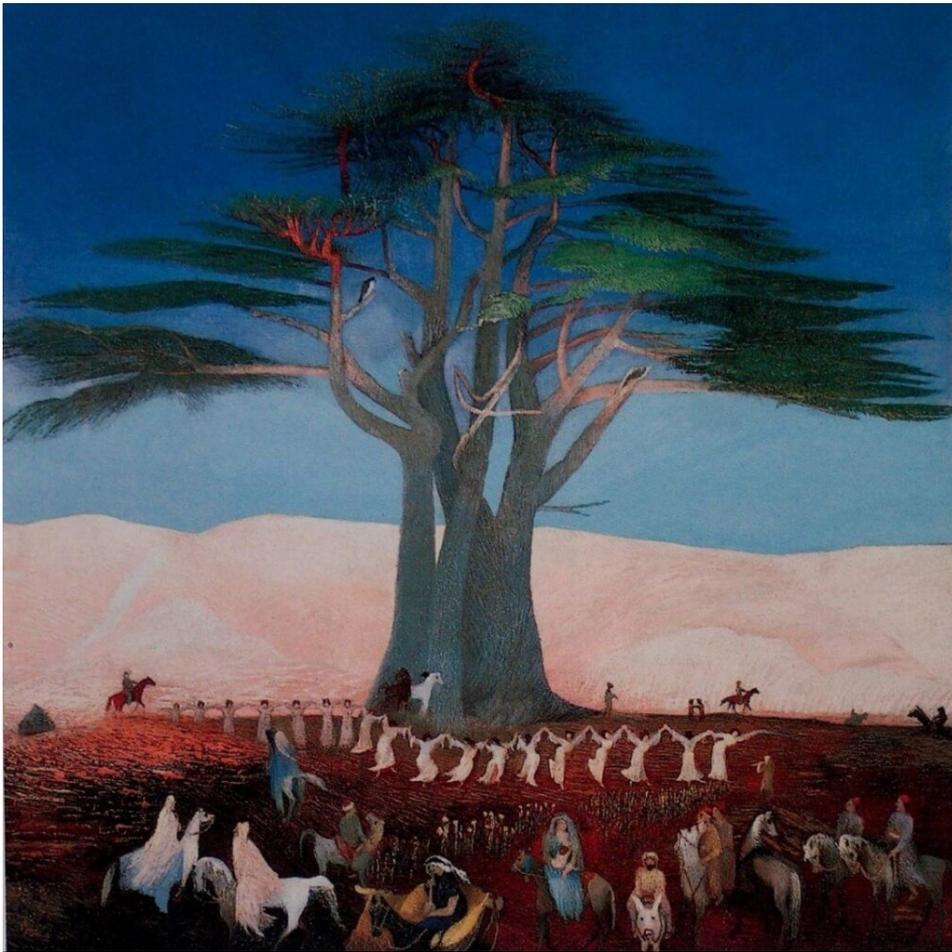
1 April -

'British Diplomatic Travellers in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul'
Gemma Masson (University of Birmingham)

All events will take place on **Thursday evening (8pm/20:00 GMT time)** and will be held via Zoom.

Please register for each event of interest below

Lecture: **Visiting the Cedars of Lebanon: from Gilgamesh to Edward Lear**
by Paul Starkey
Thursday 18th March – 8pm/20:00 (UK time)



From the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to the modern Lebanese flag, the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) has served as an icon recognisable far beyond the Middle East. Described in the nineteenth century by prominent Western travellers like J L Burckhardt, and painted by, among others, Edward Lear, the cedars make a frequent appearance in the literature of so-called ‘Orientalist’ travellers, and despite their precarious status, remain a popular tourist attraction today. This lecture offers a brief historical review of the Cedars from a literary and artistic perspective, and suggests some reasons for their enduring appeal and destination for travellers.

Booking

This event is free and open to all, but advance registration is required.

To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/online-astene-lecture-by-prof-paul-starkey-tickets-135745862529>

Instructions for joining the event via Zoom will be emailed to those that have registered approximately 48 hours before the event. If you do not already have access to Zoom, we encourage you to download the app for your phone/tablet/computer, which you can do here: <https://zoom.us/support/download>

About the speaker: Paul Starkey is Emeritus Professor at Durham University and is currently Chair of ASTENE.

Lecture: **British Diplomatic Travellers in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul**

by **Gemma Masson**

Thursday 1st April – 8pm/20:00 (UK time)



The eighteenth century in the Ottoman Empire was marked by a shift in the methods of international interaction which brought a great number of Europeans to Istanbul in a diplomatic role. There is a temptation to limit ourselves as historians to only official despatches, personal correspondence and diaries of the official ambassadors. The definition of a diplomatic traveller, however, can and should be extended to include the families, staff and whole retinue of these ambassadors and it is this wider classification that will be applied in this paper, which presents three very different travellers, all of whom came to Istanbul in the eighteenth century and formed part of a diplomatic household.

Booking

This event is free and open to all, but advance registration is required.

To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/online-astene-lecture-by-dr-gemma-masson-tickets-135746325915>

Instructions for joining the event via Zoom will be emailed to those that have registered approximately 48 hours before the event. If you do not already have access to Zoom, we encourage you to download the app for your phone/tablet/computer, which you can do here: <https://zoom.us/support/download>

About the speaker: Gemma Masson is the Assistant Editor of the Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations Journal at the University of Birmingham and holds a PhD specialising in eighteenth-century Istanbul.