

BRIEF HISTORY--The American College for Girls

Gould Hall Sept. 26, 1952

Orientation Group

② Introduction:

The history of this unique American college for Girls on the Bosphorus, which some of you have recently joined, is full of interest and romance. Its beginnings were very modest but it has grown steadily with the years. It has weathered immense vicissitudes. After 38 years in Asia, it moved to new buildings in Europe, where it has been, (incidentally) *monstr*  
(exactly 38 years).. After having a body of students which *49*  
was very international, it now possesses one almost completely Turkish. It has never closed its doors although during its history there have been 6 wars involving Turkey, three of them major wars. It has watched the country develop from a despotism, to a constitutional monarchy, to a free republic.. It has grown along with the country in which it is situated.

I will begin by giving a very brief outline of its history and then turn perhaps to the storms, political and social, that it has surmounted, and the characters of some of the remarkable women who have been responsible for its growth.

Beginnings:

Woman's Board..Boston..Mrs Bowker  
First desire to bring education to women in the early 70s  
1871..Gedik Pasha...Armenian quarter...lessons in Arm.  
Scutari site..1875

The Home School...Bowker Building...1876  
Change to the use of English Language  
Headed by Kate Pond Williams 1876-1883 *1876*  
Arrival of the outstanding figure..Mary Mills Patrick  
Barton Hall 1882  
After 1883 Clara Hamlin and MMP co-heads  
Clara Hamlin married 1889..MMP head from then on  
till 1924

So the story of the ACFG is Dr. Patrick's story

Trustees in Boston..Caroline Borden  
Change to college status 1890

Change in character of students...Greeks, Bulgarians  
very few Turks...reasons,

Building up of curriculum...more advanced studies..  
college grade teachers and professors.

2.

The Fire of 1905  
MMP's reaction  
Goes to USA and raises money..  
New Property...W.W:Peet quote  
Raising of Funds...Building of present buildings.  
Mr. Kendall  
Removal 1914

During the First World War 1914-18  
Relations broken off...but colleges continued

The Era of Atatürk  
Dr. Patrick's dream of a Medical School  
Bingham Hall American Hospital

~~Heads~~ of the College

MMP 1883-1924 *Pres.*

Kathryn Newall Adams 1924- *Pres.*

Eleanor Burns..Dean..joined RC under Dr. Monroe  
1932-1950

Miss Elizabeth Stanton 1950- *plus 1956*

*Luyle took 1956-1958*

*Robert Hardy - 1958 +60 Mrs. Swins 1960-63*

*Miss Roming 1963-*

Difficulties in the reign of Abdul Hamid  
Prejudice against the education of Turkish girls  
Halideh Edib 2 sisters  
Nazli Halid etc

Wars and Revolutions

revolution of 1908 quote

counter revolution

Balkan Wars 1912-13

Great War 1914-18

Names:

Mary Mills Patrick

forward looking...ambitious... her book Under

Five Sultans...read last sentences:

"I had spent fifty-three years in the Turkish Empire under the  
reign of five successive sultans. How I should love to be  
there for fifty years longer, while the American College  
for Girls is steadily growing in the era of the Turkish  
Republic." very characteristic

Isabel Dodd

missionary family...archaeology..Museum

fiery..sightseeing.. visitors

Ida Prime

steady..spare..treasurer..

Florence Fensham...religious influence..great minded  
person..,

Many others...Hester Jenkins.

3.

Life of MMP called An American Ambassador in the Near East Behind Turkish Lattices

Conclusion:

(4) Since this college was founded the whole face of the world has changed. No place in the world has changed more in its <sup>costs</sup> costs, its manners, its general aspect than Turkey. The pioneering, feminist attitude of young <sup>American</sup> college graduates no longer exists. People are not as willing or as eager as they were to devote their whole lives to an idea... as Dr. Patrick and some of the remarkable American women trustees were, say 50 or 60 years ago. Still, the education of the young is a wonderful challenge; The world is becoming more and more conscious of the "way of life" which we hold <sup>precious</sup> precious. The idea of service is at the very root of the history of the college ...indeed of any college when you come to think of it, though perhaps more here in a foreign land.

When I think back to my own student days and remember the lives of some of the women I have mentioned...how rich they were, how interesting, how full of satisfactions, I can't help thinking that to teach here is an experience, in spite of strange difficulties, in spite of dark moments, full of rich rewards.

**Boğaziçi Üniversitesi**

**Arşiv ve Dokümantasyon Merkezi**

Kişisel Arşivlere İstanbul'da Bilim, Kültür ve Eğitim Tanıtı

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