



SVENSKA ORIENT LINIEN

GOTHENBURG  
SWEDEN

Telegrams: "ESOEL"

|s

Founders Day, 1946.

No one can point to a definite day and hour when Robert College was born. It was born in the minds of certain men before it ever took shape in stone. This is the way of all great enterprises. First comes the creative thought, and then the realization of that thought.

In 1853, towards the close of the Crimean War, an American tourist, Mr. Christopher Robert, visited this city, as tourists ~~did~~ <sup>had done</sup> before and have done ever since. He came as others came, to see this city, beautiful in its superb situation and interesting because of its historical associations.

Few cities contain so many monuments which commemorate events of great importance in the history of the world. One day in 1853 there occurred another not unimportant event. We have in English a well-known saying, a saying from the Old Testament: "Cast thy bread upon the waters and it shall be returned unto thee", meaning that a generous ~~gesture~~ deed will often bring its reward in time to the doer.

One day Mr. Robert saw a boat laden with what looked like American bread, because whiter in color than Turkish, crossing over to Usküdar. Thinking it a strange thing he made inquiries about it. He found that it was made by Dr. Hamlin of Bebek, who was supplying the British Hospital at Usküdar, where the pioneer of women nurses in hospitals,



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Florence Nightingale, was working for the sick and wounded from the Crimea. A man who was a baker as well as a hundred other things struck the visitor as a curiosity not everywhere to be found and he sought out the curiosity. The baker proved also to be an enthusiastic educationalist. Mr. Robert was captivated and won over to the idea of establishing a college in the capital of the Ottoman Empire. The bread on the water of the Bosphorus had been returned a thousand fold to Dr. Hamlin.

In looking through files

of old letters and <sup>other college papers</sup> documents  
 of years long past, I came  
 across a most interesting  
 document. It is in Dr.  
 Hamlin's own handwriting. It  
 is of interest in that it gives  
 reveals the ideas of the founders  
 on the purpose and nature of the  
 work of the College. The document  
 is undated but it was <sup>obviously</sup> written  
 before the opening of the College in  
 1863 as it is entitled

"Historic Statement of the Origins of  
 the Proposed College" and it  
 continues:

"This college enterprise originated  
 in the visit of C. P. Robert, Esq. of  
 New York to this capital.

He is a wealthy merchant  
 of great enterprise and benevolence  
 who has done much for education  
 in America.

He was impressed with the  
 necessity of a common general



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college of a high character for  
sound scientific education  
but under no distinctive sectarian  
organization ~~like the schools of~~  
~~all the Pope and Protestant missions.~~

In 1858 Mr. Robert proposed  
to me to take the charge of founding  
such an institution and though I  
repeatedly declined I at length  
yielded to his pressing solicitations,  
But it was not until 1860  
that I was able to visit  
New York and study the plan  
and nature of the proposed  
institution.

A number of distinct objects

are proposed in it.

One is that it should be to a certain extent a College for the study of the general principle of law. Another is to promote the study of the natural sciences especially as applied to the useful arts. Another is to give a sound education in Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, Mathematics, Logic, History, etc.

As such an institution must of necessity have a common language which in this case must be English there will be a preparatory department in which the students will learn English and their education will be completed in that language.

This plan has been laid before the most distinguished institutions of learning and the most distinguished



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men in America and has received their warmest ~~admiration~~ approbation.

Among the distinguished men who have taken a special interest in it are Hon. Edward Everett, L. L. D., Hon. J. A. Andrew, Gov. of Mass., President Felton, L. L. D., President of Harvard University, --- Prof. Agassiz, the celebrated Naturalist, the Hon. H. Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States, and many others of similar character and standing.

Among the institutions the American Academy of Sciences and Arts have strongly approved it and will contribute liberally to its library. I have already received a



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Just recently discovered in  
the College files another document  
the writer of which typifies  
the internationally-minded citizen  
whose interest in the people of this  
country made Robert College  
a reality. It is a short letter  
from an extraordinary man  
who was a portrait painter by  
profession but who made a  
scientific invention which has  
done more than any other scientific  
device to enable ~~between~~ the  
peoples of the world to know each  
other better. It is from  
Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor  
of the electric telegraph.  
It is addressed to Dr. Hamlin and



dated  
is ~~from~~ New York May 15th. 1863.

"My dear Sir,

By Mr. Perkins who sails tomorrow  
for the Levant, I take great pleasure in  
sending you a set of my Telegraphic Instru-  
ments, in duplicate, furnishing two  
termini complete, and consisting of two  
Registers, two Receiving Magnets and two  
Keys, handsomely mounted on walnut  
platforms. Accept them from me for  
your College, hoping they may be acceptable  
to Government, the Officers of the Institution, and the  
pupils, and be an agreeable appendage to your philo-  
sophical apparatus. I the more readily make this  
donation to an institution in the Turkish Empire, since  
I am proud to say that the first Honorary acknowl-  
edgement of the value of my invention from a  
European Government, was received <sup>through</sup> the late  
amiable Sultan, Abduhl Mejid Khan, being  
Nishan Iftichar in diamonds, which honor  
has been since refused, from other sovereigns, in the  
bestowment of four several orders of knighthood.

May God bless you and prosper your efforts  
to promote his glory and the highest happiness of man.  
With sincere respect  
Your obedient Servant, Sam'l F. B. Morse

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~~Mr. Morse~~ The famous Mr. Morse was not one of the large benefactors of this College. He is, however, typical of the scores and hundreds who gave ~~both~~ large, as well as small contributions to the building and operating of the College. Why did they give their money to founding Colleges in far-distant Turkey? They gave because they believed in education and in the liberal arts college as an institution which prepares young men for life and citizenship. They they believed intensely in the brotherhood of man, in the promotion of international understanding and sympathy, in the rule of peace in the hearts of men

and in the relations between  
nations.

**Boğaziçi Üniversitesi**

**Arşiv ve Dokümantasyon Merkezi**

**Kişisel Arşivlerle İstanbul'da Bilim, Kültür ve Eğitim Tanıtı**

**Scott Ailesi Koleksiyonu**



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