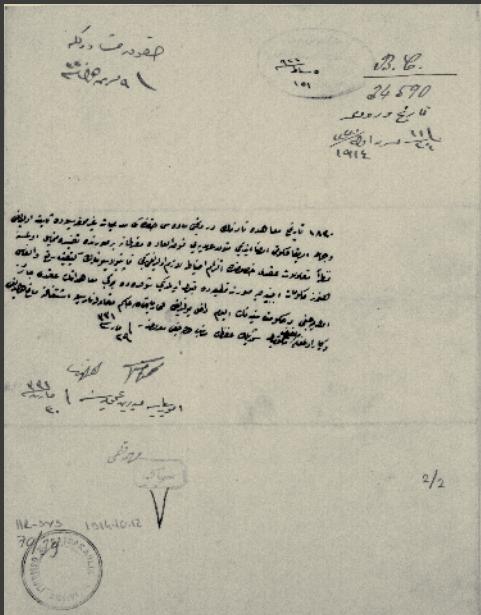


The Partnership Chronicle 200 Years of Economic Ties

Monday, February 24, 2025

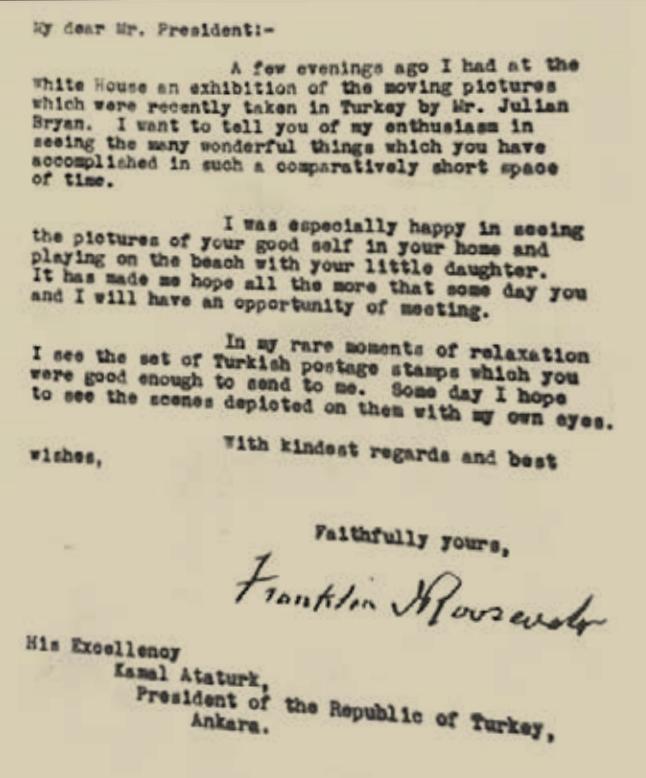
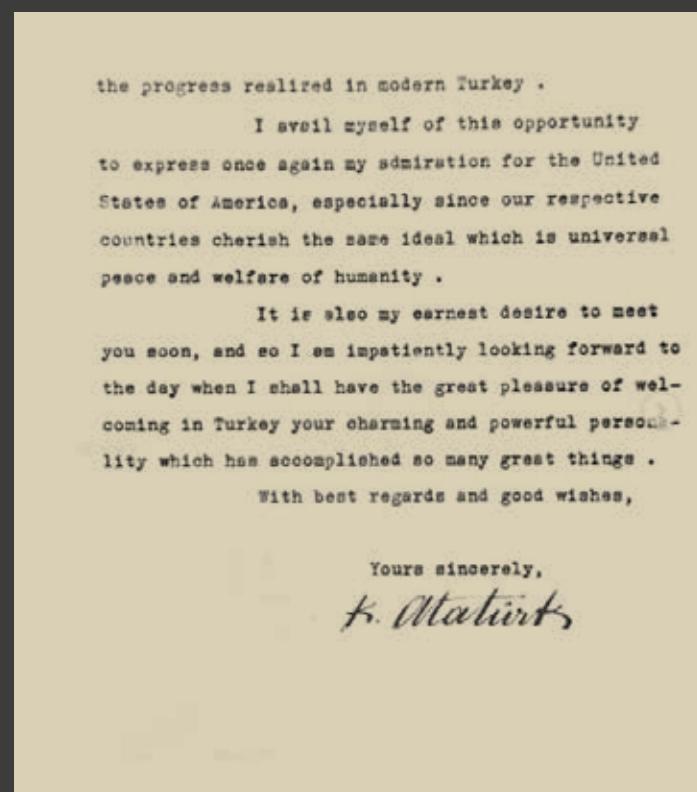
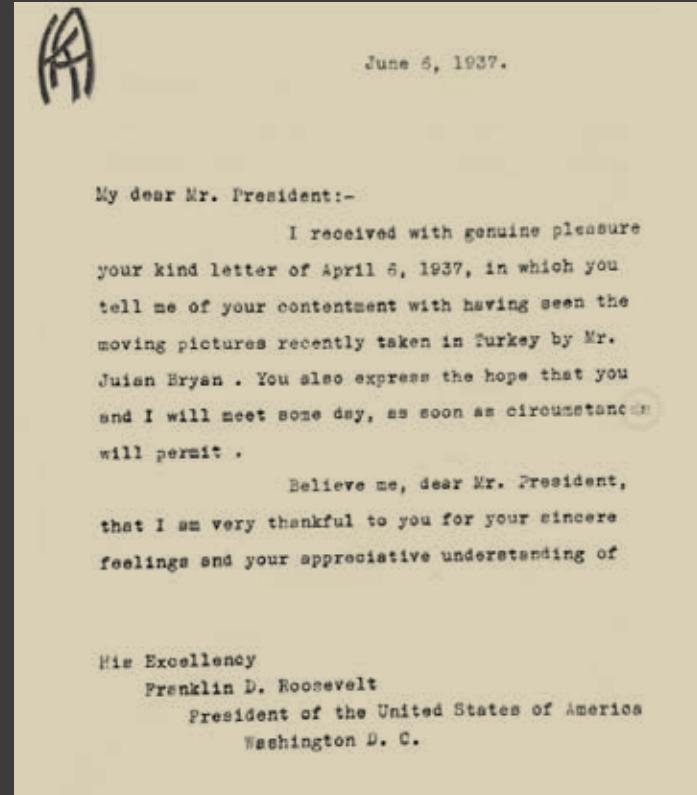
Bridging Nations: 200 Years of Trade & Trust



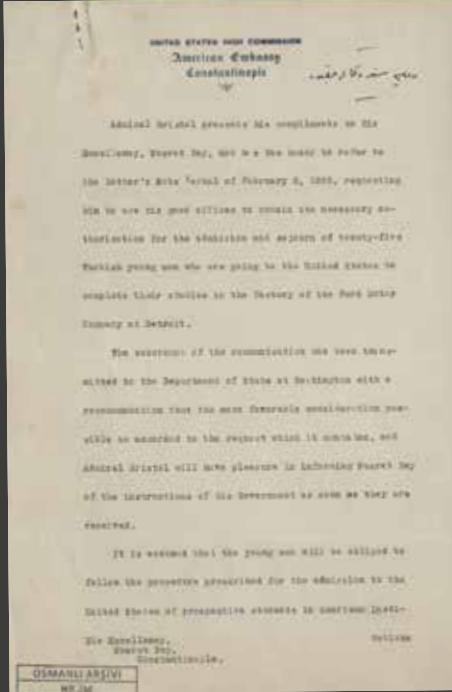
Century-Spanning Commerce: The U.S.-Türkiye Trade Story



200 Years of Prosperity & Partnership



Two Centuries, One Partnership



Bridging Continents: A Legacy of Trade



From Bosphorus to Beyond: 200 Years of Commerce



The Partnership Chronicle

200 Years of Economic Ties

How and Why Turks and Americans Have Been Working Together for More than Two Centuries?

It has been a great pleasure for me to conduct this research with the sponsorship of **AmCham Türkiye**. This research aims to put an objective spotlight on the **relations between Türkiye and the US** and I hope this will be a first step of analyzing the great potential between these two countries to share important roles for the world to be a better place in the future.

Current understanding of Turkish-American relations heavily based on the events took place after the Second World War, which disregards the long mutual history of these two nations. Although the **Treaty of Friendship and Trade** signed between the Ottoman Empire and the USA in 1830 is generally accepted as the beginning of official relations, the informal relations between these two geographically distant countries date back to 1770s starting right after American Independence.

Understanding commerce's never recognizing political boundaries, the relations between geographically two far countries owe greatly to each other much more than understood. For instance, it was the Ottoman Empire paved the way to American integration and access to the old world and it was the American trade paved the way the Turkish market got integrated into the world markets.

It was understood that it was not only trade but also two nations' positive approaches to each other paved the way for fruitful relations. According to Cevdet Pasha the American society from its determination of

progress (terakkiyât-ı azime) to science and education (fünun ve maarif) from freedom of the press (san'at-ı tabaat hürriyeti) to the values of liberal society, from government style (hükümet-i cumhuriyet) to innovation capacity (sanayi-i mütenevvia) is the pioneer of the Western civilization.

American statemen were determined to set up formal relations with the Ottomans since its independence was prevented by European states, especially by the Great Britain, super power of the age. In an archival document, dated 1820 shows the Sultan of the age, Mahmut the II's perception of the US (İngilterünün muadili bir devlet) not only reveals the Ottoman Court's motivation choosing the US as an ally but also shows the Sultan's wise estimation of the political role of the United States, the young country will hold during the forthcoming decades and centuries.

Mahmut the Second was right on his perception. There was military technology transfer from the States when Ottoman Navy was burned by British, Russian and French armies during the Greek revolt in 1826. The American politicians and organizations helped the Empire to rebuild its navy in the shipyards of the Golden Horn. Foster Rhodes was one of the ship architects trained Turkish engineers in this period to rebuilt the Ottoman Navy on 1830s.

A report on the 1851 London Technology and Trade Fair written by a Turkish bureaucrat describes the American firms' works as the best in terms of **technology and craftsmanship**. Samuel Morse/ Bill Gates of his age, tested establishing telegraph line between Edirne and Istanbul in 1847 and honored with Order of Distinction by the Sultan long before Morse was an internationally famous name.

American contribution to **agricultural and educational modernization** dates back to 19th Century, too. Cotton Plantation Experiment in Florya in 1830s, cotton production, initiated by Dr. Davis in 1846, paved the way for the foundation of Halkalı Ziraat Mektebi were the initiatives for establishment of large-scale farming. American contribution to **education** via the missionary schools was the engine of modernization of the Empire. American scientist Prof. Edward Salisbury was the Board member of the higher court of science and education / Encumen-i Danis in

1855, the origin of Ministry of Education. Similalry, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, the founder of Robert Collage in 1863 paved the way for foundation of the other western schools in the Empire.

American contribution to Education of the Girls and Secularization of Turkish Society, and also Women Emancipation through introduction of various vehicles like carpet and waving work-benches and, sewing machines. The vocational training and education provided by the American schools initiated woman emancipation and brought a new human capital as work force. Skills of using those machines represent freedom to work and to be paid for the women first time in the country's history not only in Anatolia but also in the Balkans, and the Middle East.

There was a remarkable continuity of mutual relations in education from the Empire to the Republic. Prof. John Dewey, invited to Ankara for reformation of Turkish educational system in 1925 by Mustafa Kemal Pasha. His book named Democracy and Education published in 1916 translated into Turkish as Demokrasi ve Terbiye in 1928. The initiative of American financial consultancy and advice, the Five-Year Planning Development programs were produced accordingly. Roger R. Trask, the famous Business Historian notes that the US was the personification of the West for the Turks.

I hope the findings of the research which have been carried out based on the historical facts of the mutual history will privilege the develop a solid ground for decision makers and influencers. Eventually the readers of the findings of this research could reveal the following facts:

- Türkiye's being an eminently practical partner due to its geographical position being instrumented by the States for her regional interests is just a cliché,
- It can be claimed that the long history of these two nations' working and collaborating together is a result of Cultural proximity despite a solid geographical distance, common values they possess, and mutual trust they could build,
- There is a solid problem solving and reconciliation practices of Turkish and American organizations both in private and public areas.

Dr. Nurcan Özkaplan Yurdakul
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University

The Partnership Chronicle

200 Years of Economic Ties

Rediscovering a 200-Year Partnership: AmCham Türkiye's History Project

For over two centuries, Türkiye and the United States have engaged in a dynamic and evolving economic relationship, spanning trade, investment, and cultural exchange. However, much of the narrative surrounding Turkish-American relations has been shaped by post-World War II developments, often overshadowing the deep-rooted history of cooperation and shared economic ventures. Recognizing the need to fill this gap, the AmCham Türkiye (American Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye) has launched a groundbreaking history project that sheds light on 200 years of commercial and diplomatic ties between the two nations. The aim of the study was not only to analyze the historical facts but also to search for and compare similar positive trends in the past as those were clearly detected in our economic research on US investment appetite for Türkiye couple of years ago.

Why AmCham Türkiye Invested in History

AmCham Türkiye has always been at the forefront of strengthening bilateral trade and investment between Türkiye and the U.S. as we believe fostering economic and business relations will enable creation of sooner and better solutions for tensions. This project is not merely an academic endeavor; it is also a strategic initiative to reframe historical perceptions and provide business leaders and policymakers with a factual, comprehensive account of how these two nations have collaborated for more than two centuries.

The project stems from a crucial hypothesis: Turkish-American relations have long been characterized by mutual trust, shared values, and successful commercial alliances. By revisiting history with a factual, research-based approach,

AmCham Türkiye aims to highlight a legacy of cooperation that continues to drive business and innovation today.

A Legacy of Trade and Innovation

The origins of Turkish-American relations can be traced back to the early 19th century, with formal trade relations established through the 1830 Treaty of Trade and Friendship. The project reveals fascinating insights into how early American exports to the Ottoman Empire included woolen products, tobacco, and wheat, while Türkiye supplied unprocessed leather, wool, and dried fruits. By the late 19th century, American businesses were actively investing in the region, and the first American Chamber of Commerce in Türkiye was founded in 1911 as trade flourished.

One of the key findings of the project is the significant American contribution to Türkiye's modernization efforts. From Samuel Morse's early telegraph trials in the Ottoman Empire to American scientists and educators playing pivotal roles in agricultural development and industrialization, the relationship extended far beyond commerce. The foundation of educational institutions such as Robert College in 1863 further underscored the long-standing commitment of American individuals and organizations to fostering progress in Türkiye.

Beyond Trade: A Cultural and Strategic Partnership

Perhaps one of the most eye-opening revelations of the project is the continuity of Turkish-American relations despite geopolitical shifts. Over the years, economic and business collaborations have consistently evolved, with both countries finding common ground in trade, education, and technological advancements. The longstanding partnerships between American and Turkish companies have resulted in mutually beneficial developments in various industries, from finance to manufacturing and infrastructure.

The project highlights the role of cultural exchange in strengthening bilateral ties. Educational collaborations, student exchange programs, and joint research initiatives have paved the way for deeper mutual understanding. American and

Turkish institutions have continuously worked together to foster innovation and knowledge sharing, contributing to advancements in science, engineering, and healthcare. These interactions have not only strengthened economic relations but also reinforced a sense of partnership and shared progress between the two nations.

Correcting Misconceptions, Building the Future

AmCham Türkiye's history project aims to foster a more informed dialogue about contemporary economic cooperation. In today's rapidly evolving global economy, where trade partnerships are shaped by historical trust and present-day negotiations, this project offers an invaluable resource for businesses navigating the economic landscape.

The project highlights not only historical milestones but also the individuals and enterprises that played pivotal roles in shaping this enduring relationship. By leveraging history as a tool for economic diplomacy, the project seeks to inspire future collaborations and attract investment by showcasing a legacy of resilience, trust, and shared prosperity.

A Call for Continued Collaboration

As we reflect on 200 years of Turkish-American economic relations, the key takeaway is clear: While political climates may shift, the economic and commercial ties that indicate Türkiye and the United States as strong friend shores remain resilient. Through our history project, AmCham Türkiye is not just revisiting the past, but shedding light on the future of economic diplomacy.

By embracing historical relations and recognizing the strength of commercial heritage, businesses and policymakers alike can work towards a more robust and prosperous future. As the project demonstrates, understanding history is not just an academic pursuit – it is a strategic imperative for sustainable growth and global economic leadership.

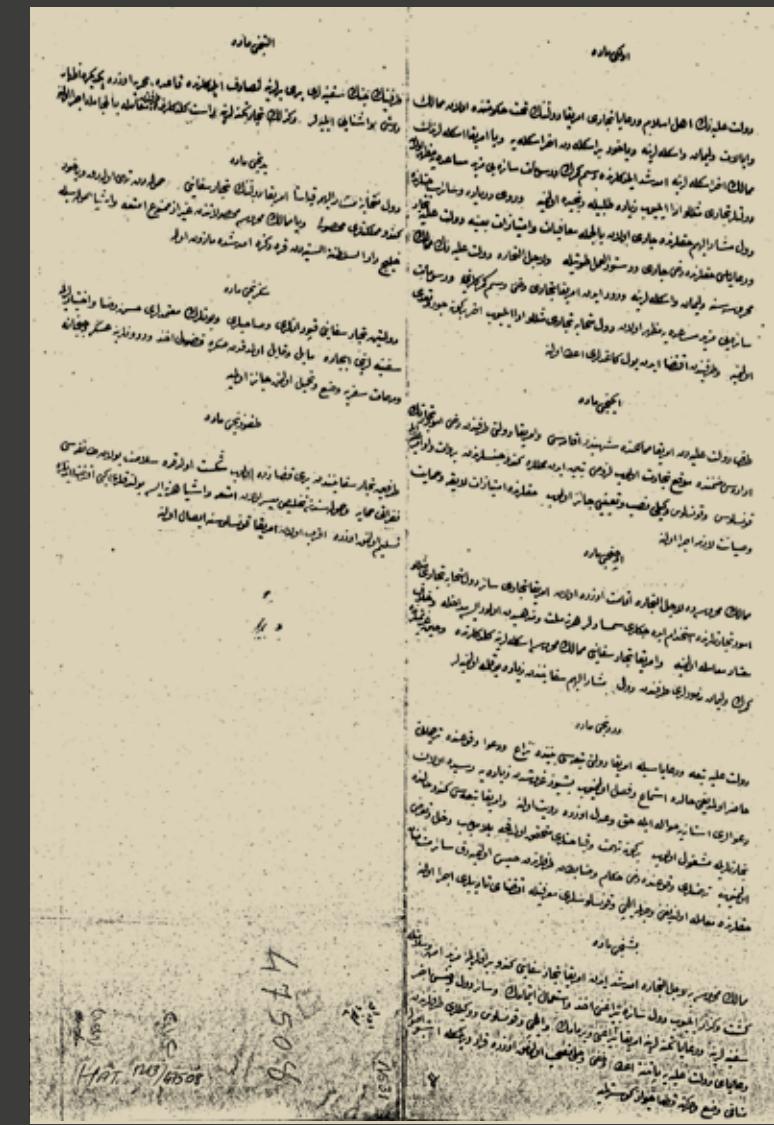
Tankut Turnaoglu, AmCham Türkiye Chair (2020-2025)

Haluk Yalçın, AmCham Türkiye Advisory Board Member & History Project Leader

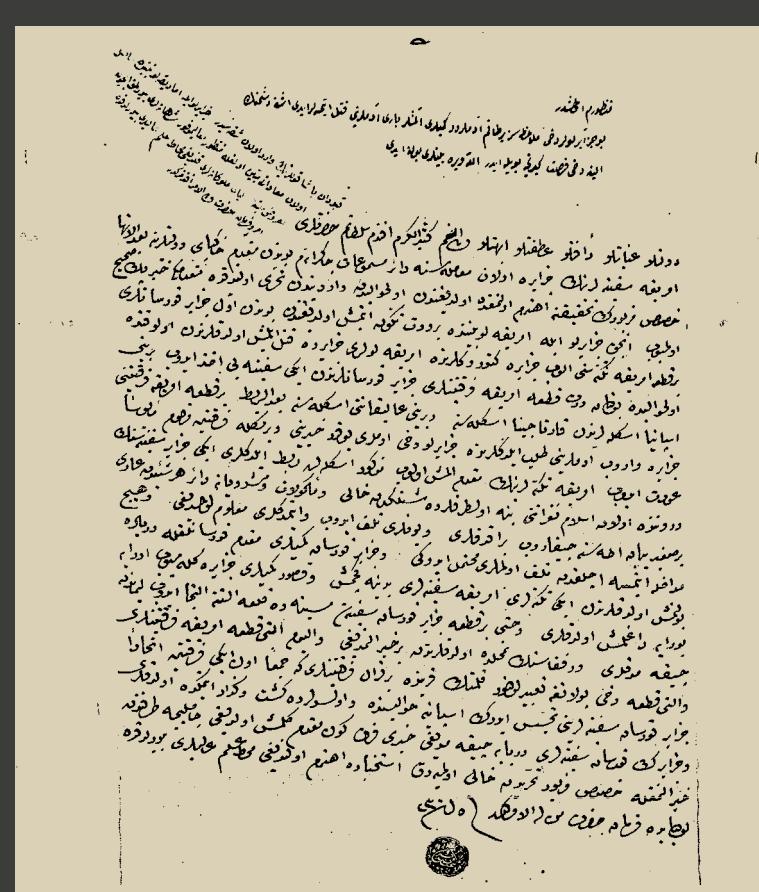
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200 Years of Economic Ties

200 YEARS OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS



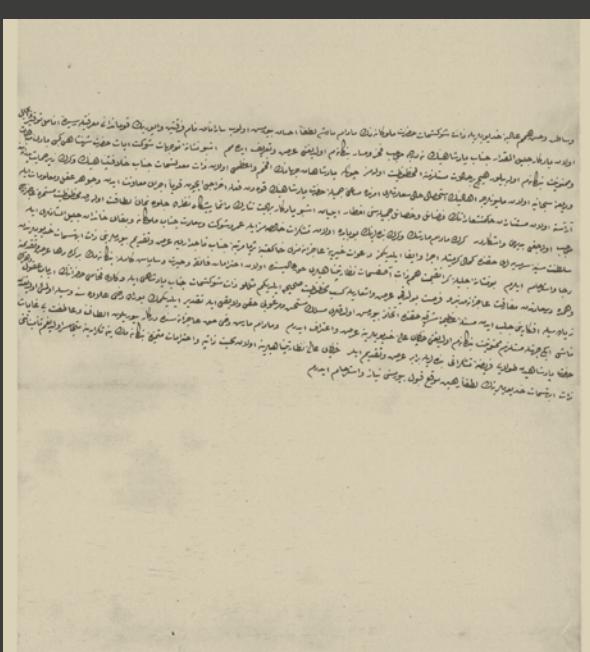
The original record of the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce (1830) kept in the Hazine-i Evrak/The Ottoman Archives at present.



The Sultan's view on the recognition of the American presence in the Mediterranean.



The royal book, including the letters written by the Ottoman sultan to the heads of other nations, contains Sultan Mahmud's letter to the American President related to the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce dated 1830.



The American Resident Ambassador's letter, expressing his gratitude for Sultan Abdülmecid's gifts, honored the Ambassador's spouse. The letter also reveals the Ambassador's admiration for the Ottoman style of administration and governance, being based on istiṣāra-yrâ—unanimity of votes—resulting from bureaucratic participation and consultation guided by wisdom and facts.

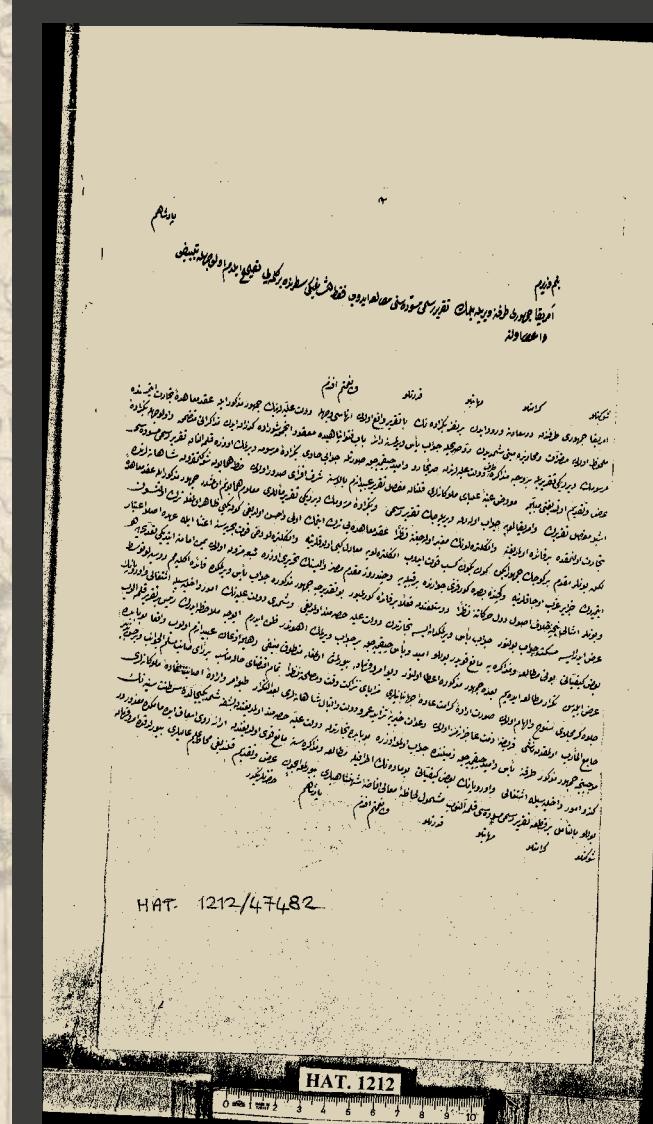


The Ambassador's wife, American poet and thinker Mrs. Caroline Crane Marsh, who was presented with a gift from Sultan Abdülmecid.

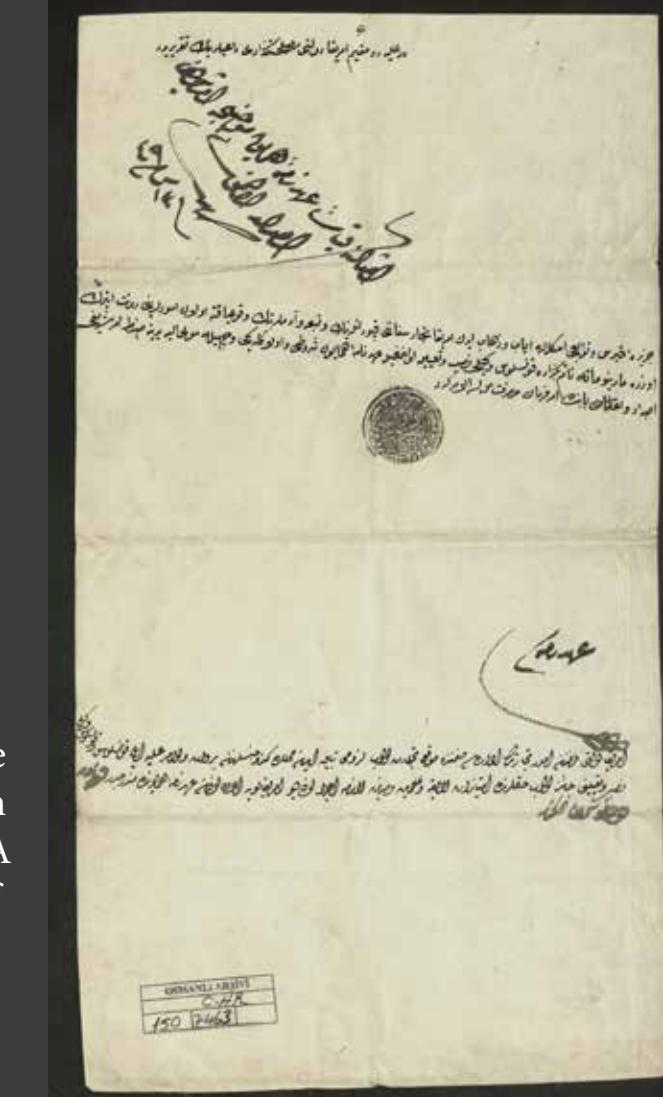
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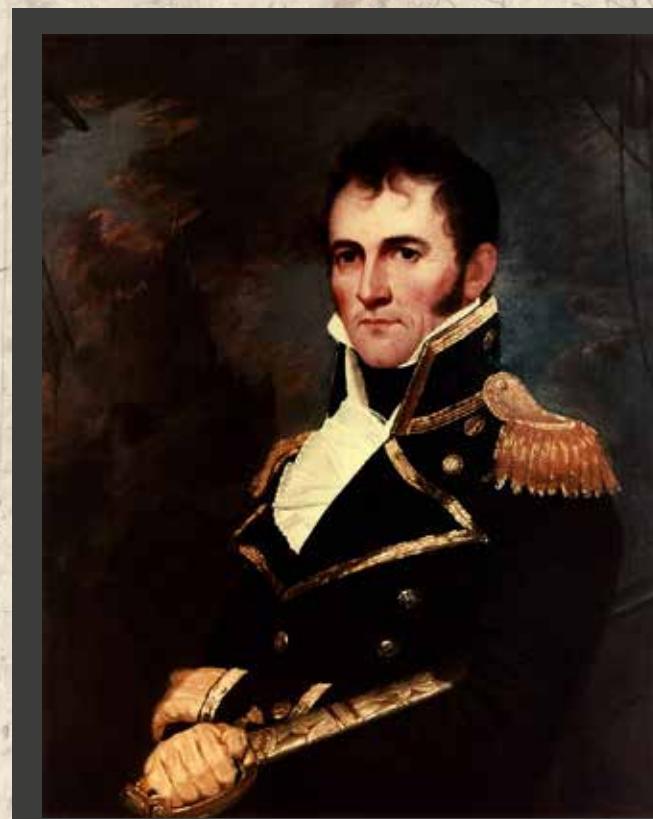
COMMERCE



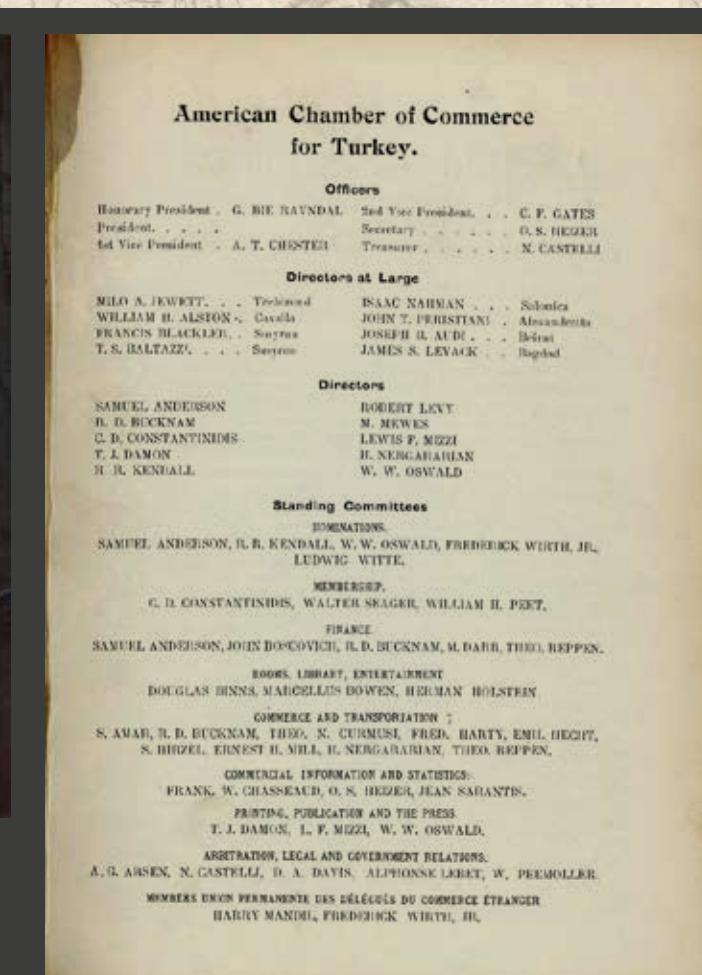
Mahmud II, the reformist sultan defines the USA as equivalent of Great Britain implying as superpower of later centuries.



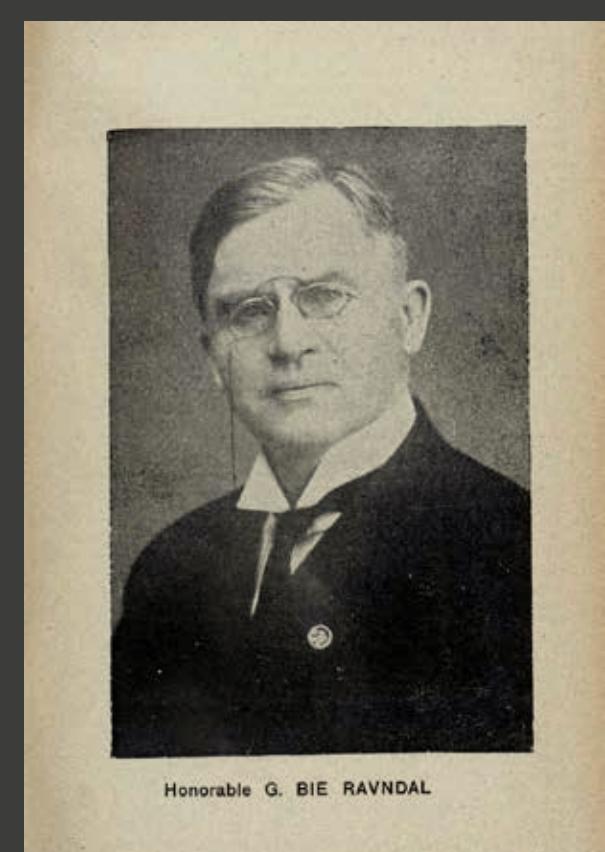
The stamp of Commodore David Porter, who played a key role in establishing the first Ottoman-American trade and diplomatic relations. He was appointed as Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to the Ottoman Empire.



The portrait of Commodore David Porter as the very first founder of Ottoman-American commercial and diplomatic relations.



Officers, Directors and Committees of the American Chamber of Commerce.



The Honorary President of the Chamber, Gabriel Bie Ravndal.

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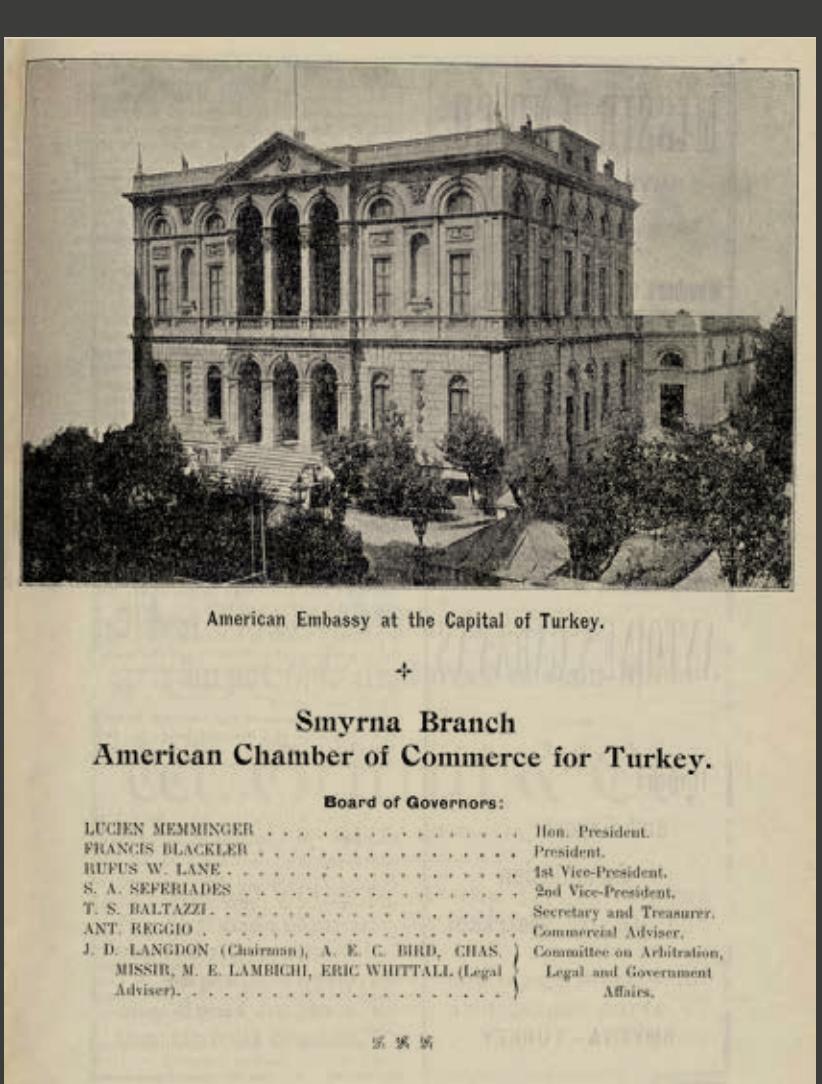
COMMERCE

CLASSIFIED LIST OF MEMBERS
American Chamber of Commerce for Turkey
(PLEASE REPORT ANY INACCURACIES TO THE SECRETARY).

Summary of Members by Districts.

Albania	2	Holland	1
Aleppo	24	Jerusalem	28
Baghdad	30	Mersine	20
Beirut	2	Roumania	2
Bulgaria	1	Salonica	53
Constantinople	96	Smyrna	51
Cyprus	1	Trebizond	26
England	1	Tripoli-in-Africa	6
Germany	1	United States of America	68
Greece	6		
Harput	2	Total	422

Number of AmCham Members by district in the Ottoman Empire. The fact that 96 companies operate in Istanbul, the highest number among all cities, highlights its status not only as a diplomatic hub but also as the largest commercial center.



American Chamber of Commerce premises in Izmir which has been a central port of American-Ottoman commerce since the very beginning of 19th century.



The Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in 1916.

The Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in the province of Salonica, hometown of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

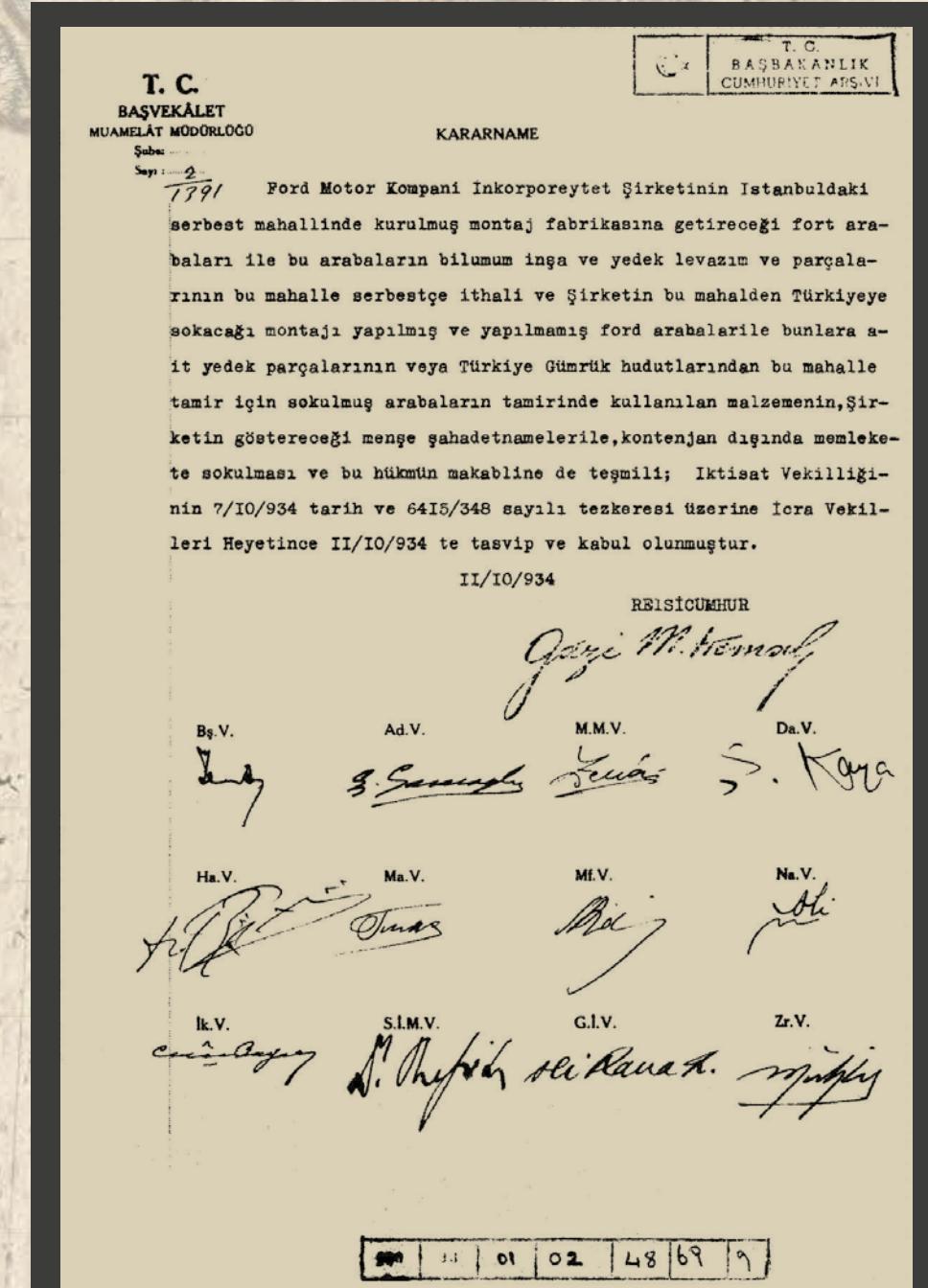


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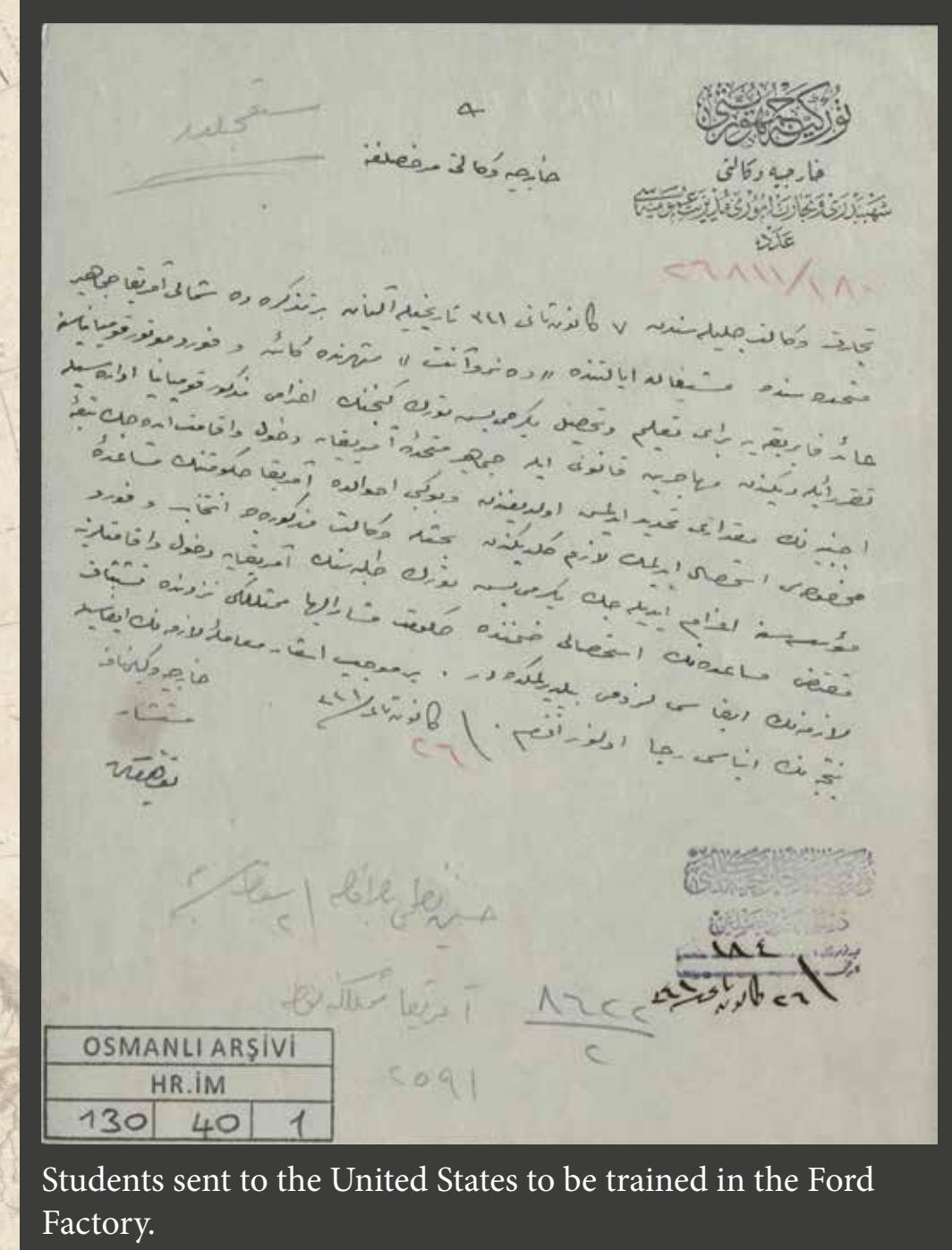
INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY



Portrait showing Nasreddin Hoca driving Ford Car.



The decree signed by His Excellency Gazi Mustafa Kemal Paşa regarding the cars to be brought to Istanbul for the Assembly Factory.



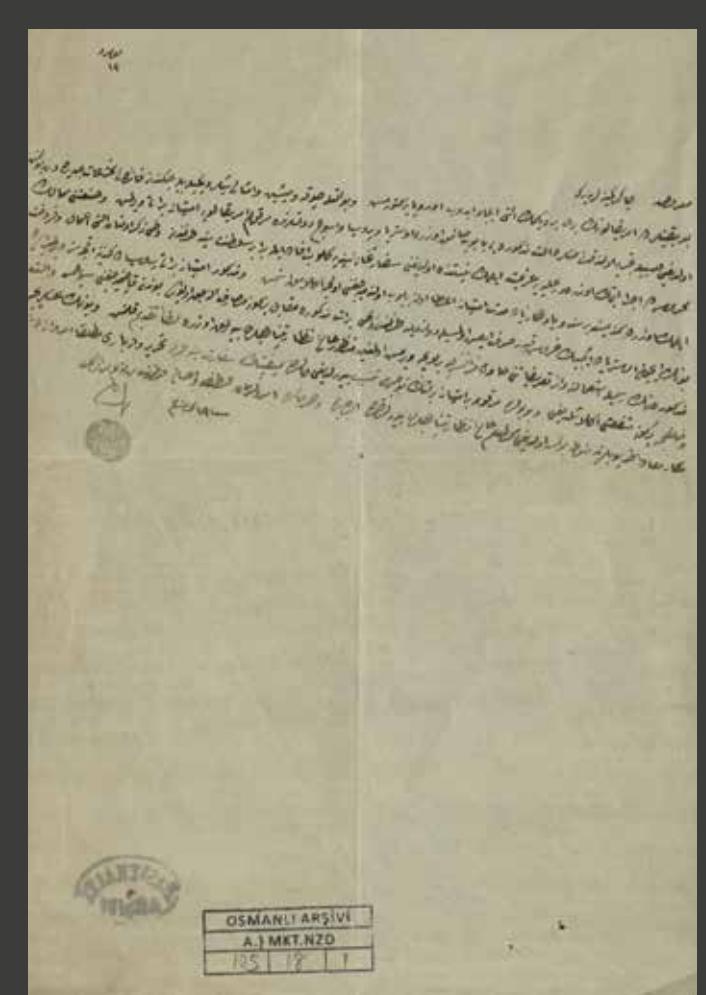
Students sent to the United States to be trained in the Ford Factory.



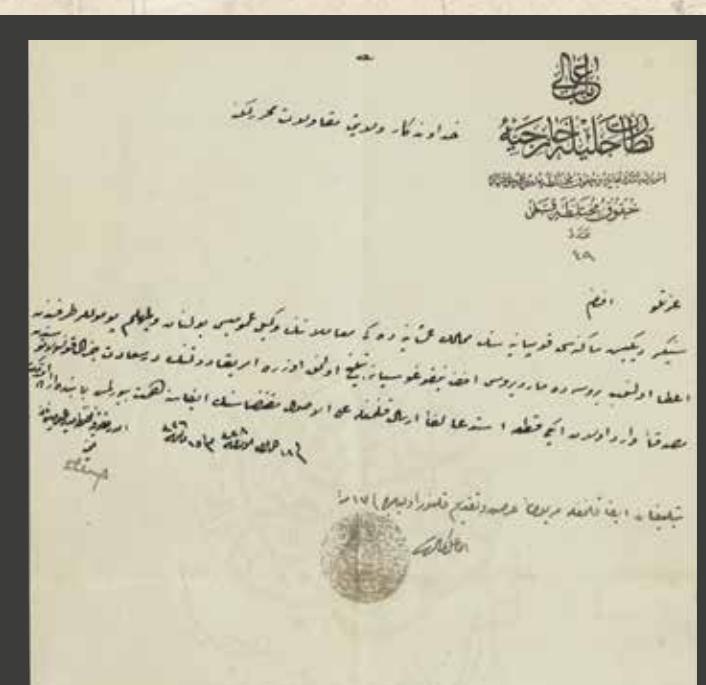
The advertisements of various cars produced and sold by Ford.

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INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY



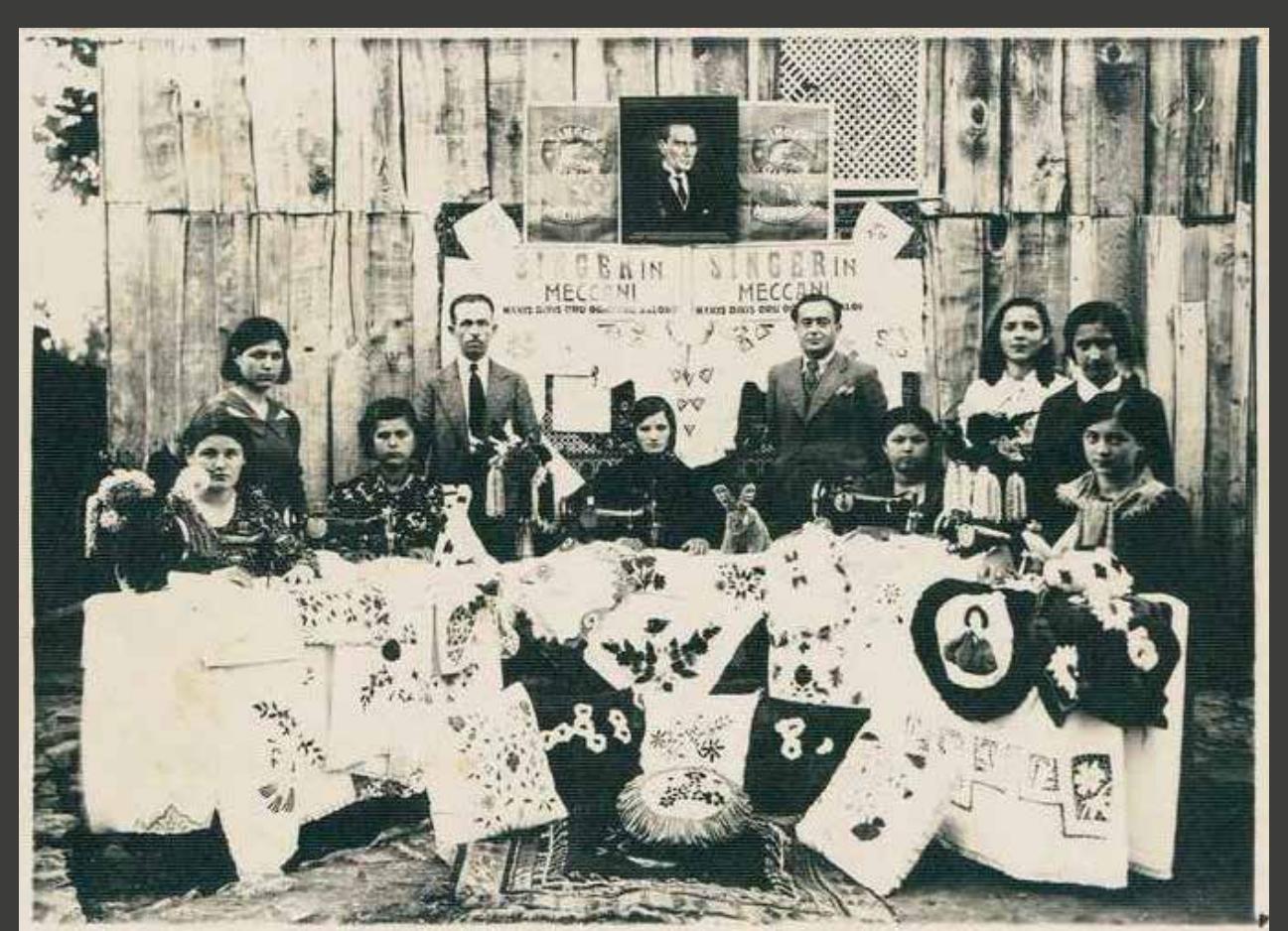
The letter concerns the installation of the American sewing machine in the Empire's Royal Factory (Fabrika-i Hümayun) just four years after its invention. The sewing machines, which were later introduced and used in boarding schools for girls, marked a revolutionary moment for women's labor and skills.



Mr. William Paul Muller as representative of Singer Sewing Machine resident in Empire.



The Singer Sewing Machines which are widely used in all over the world not only by the tailor and shoemakers but also used by the families were promoted bringing daily life convenience and elegance.



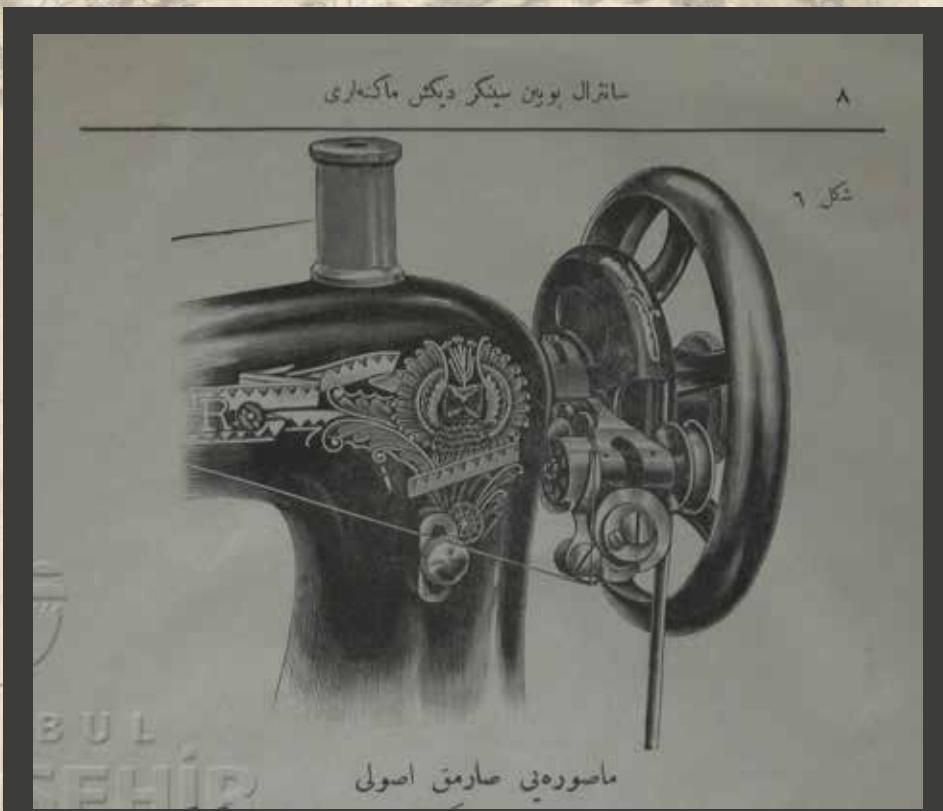
The trainees in Düzce/Akçakoca participating into the courses run by Singer Company.



An advertisement of Singer Sewing Machine in the cover page of Annuaire Orientale du Commerce published in 1912.



The female trainees at a sewing course.



The book published by Singer Machine Company covers the usage, repairment, and maintenance instructions of the machine not only for professionals but also for female operators.



Two pictures representing American support for rebuilding of Ottoman Navy which has been burned in Navarin.

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INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY



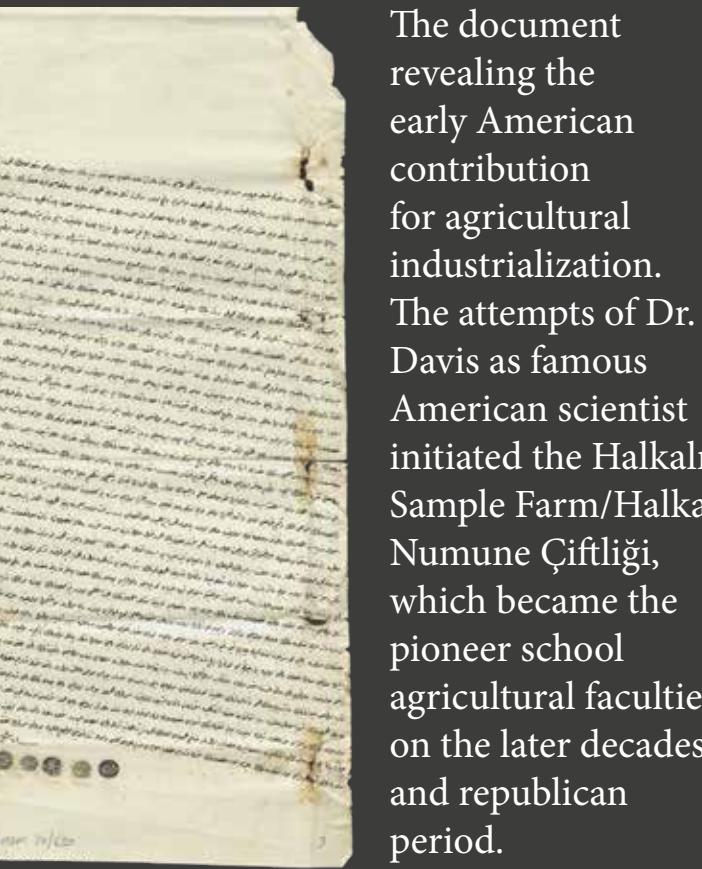
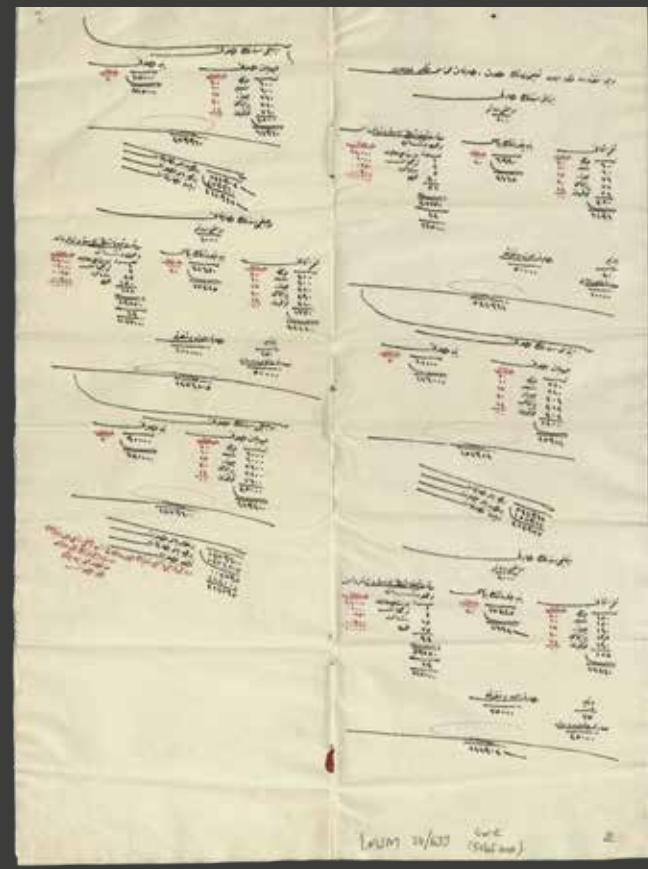
An advertorial published in a women's magazine introduced private banking to Ottoman society while also describing the American lifestyle, the privileges enjoyed by American women, and the conveniences of modernity.



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AGRICULTURE



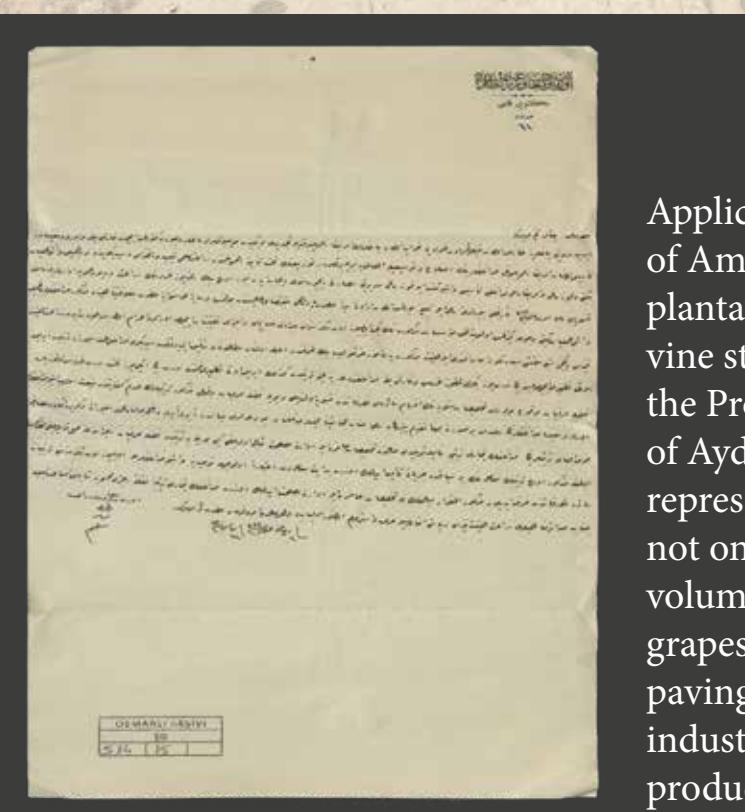
The document revealing the early American contribution for agricultural industrialization. The attempts of Dr. Davis as famous American scientist initiated the Halkalı Sample Farm/Halkalı Numune Çiftliği, which became the pioneer school agricultural faculties on the later decades and republican period.



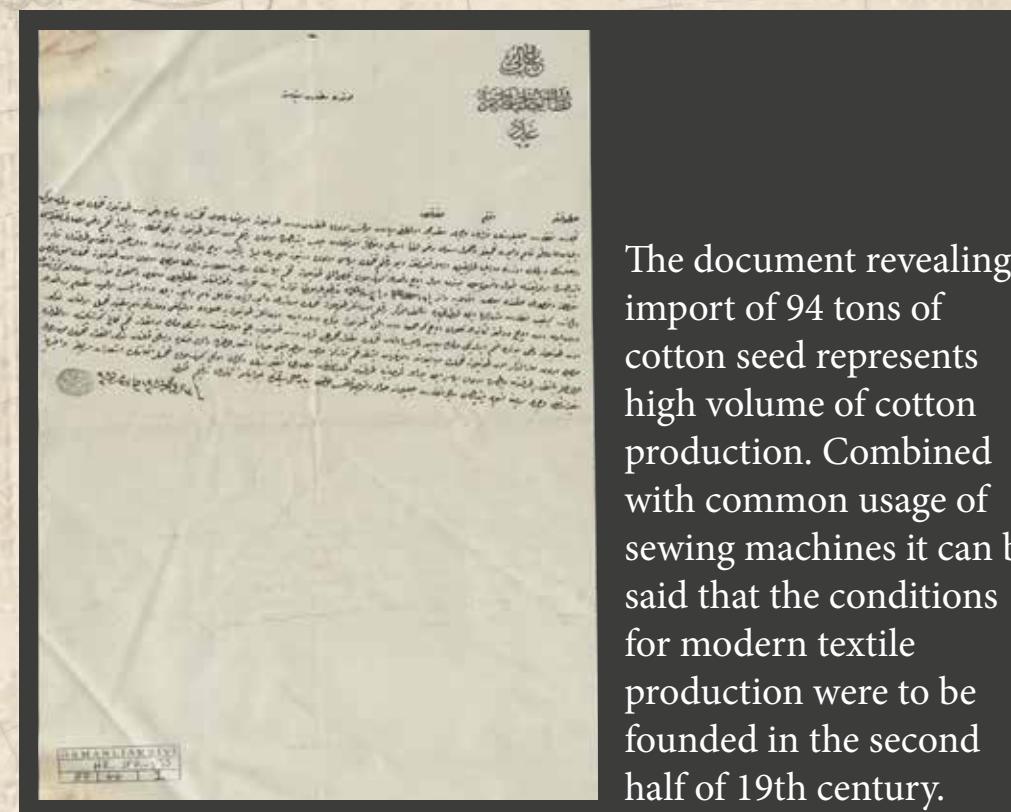
Angora goats exported to the US.



Some of the many books about Angora goats exported to the US.



Application of American plantation of vine stem in the Province of Aydin, representing not only high volume of grapes but also paving way to industrial wine production.

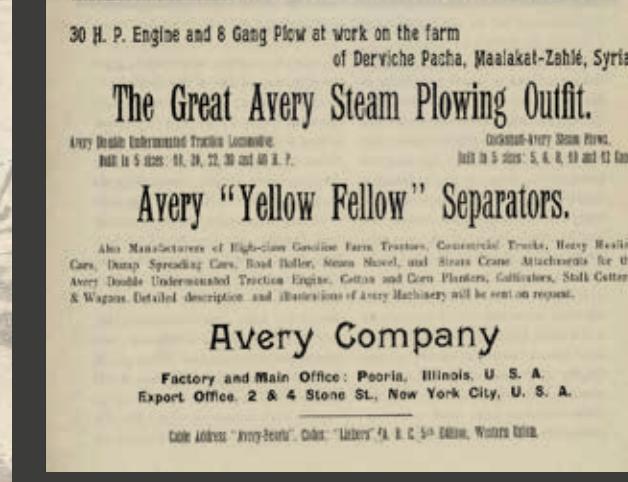
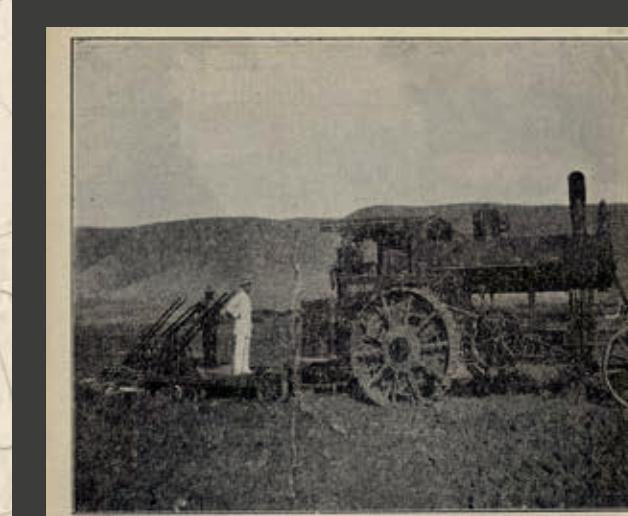
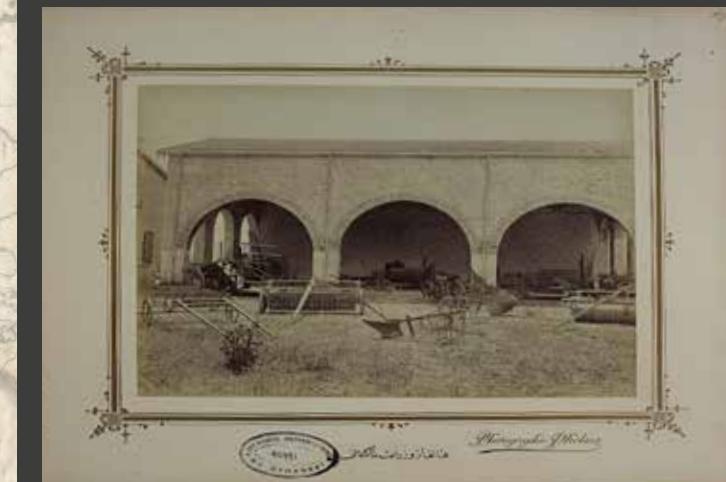


The document revealing import of 94 tons of cotton seed represents high volume of cotton production. Combined with common usage of sewing machines it can be said that the conditions for modern textile production were to be founded in the second half of 19th century.

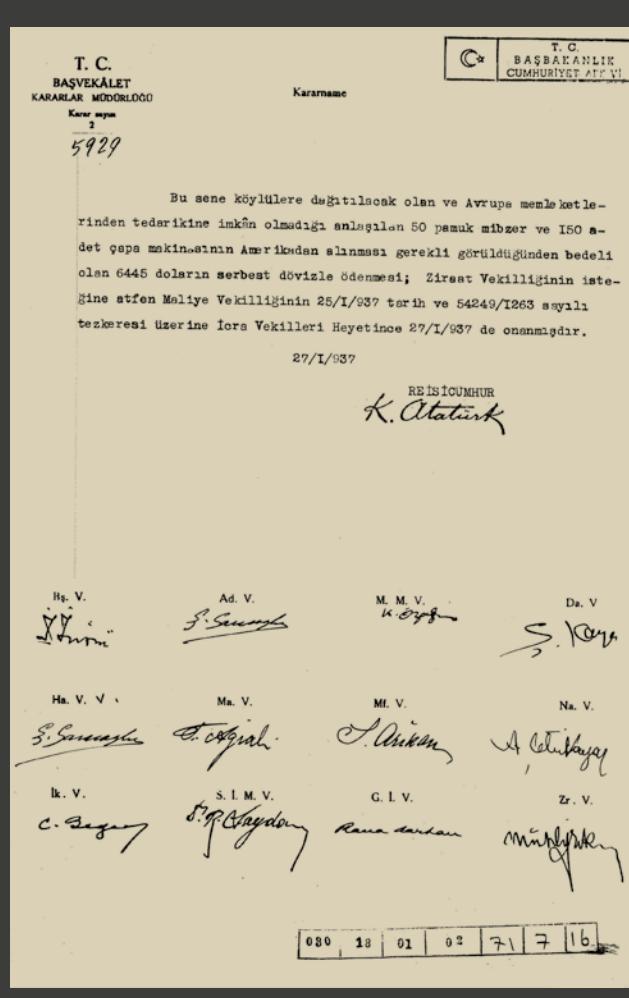
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AGRICULTURE



The ad published in Trade Review advertising the American agricultural machinery in 1911.



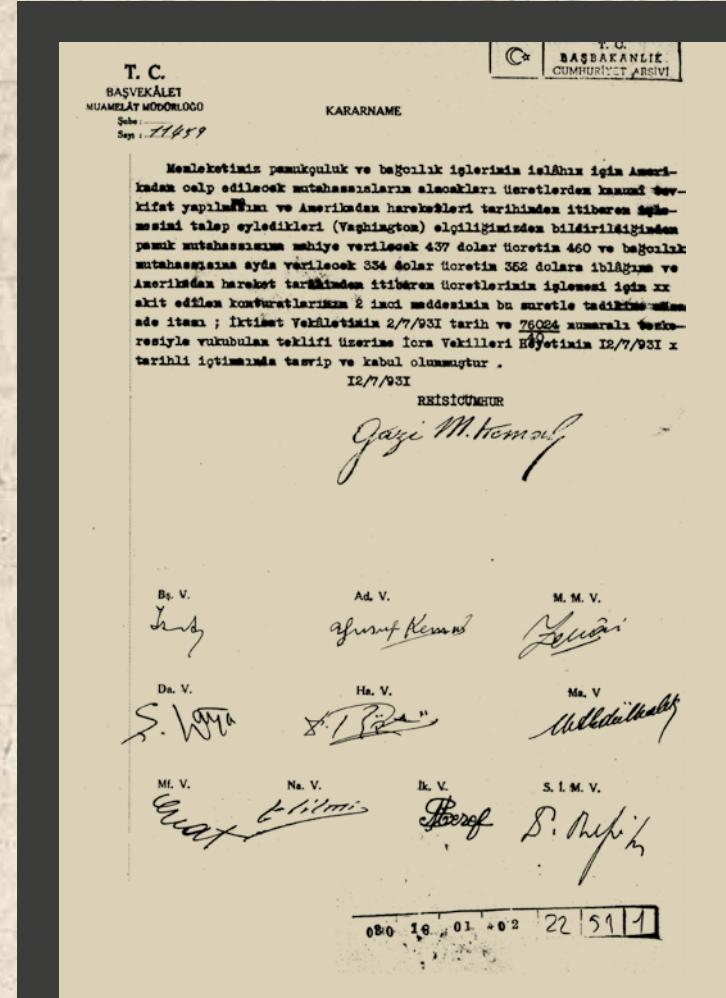
A document about agricultural machinery ordered from the United States to be distributed to the village farmers signed by Atatürk.



Atatürk using a tractor in a farm.



Some pictures on American agricultural machineries usage in the fields and villages of Modern Türkiye.



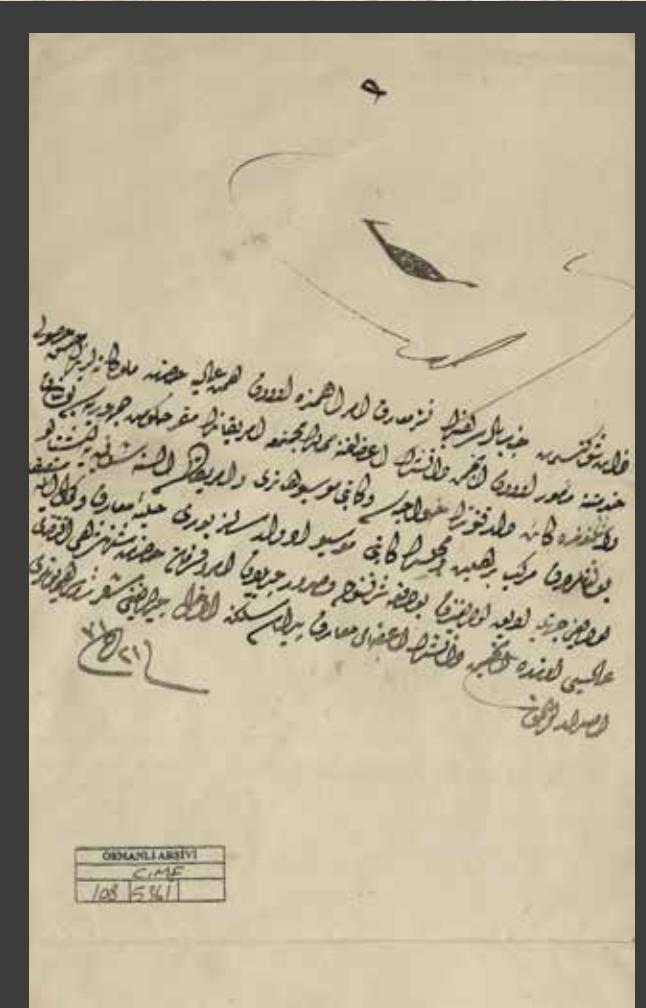
An American delegation of agricultural scientists visiting modern Türkiye for the improvement of cotton and grape farming signed by Atatürk, representing continuity from the Empire to the Republic.



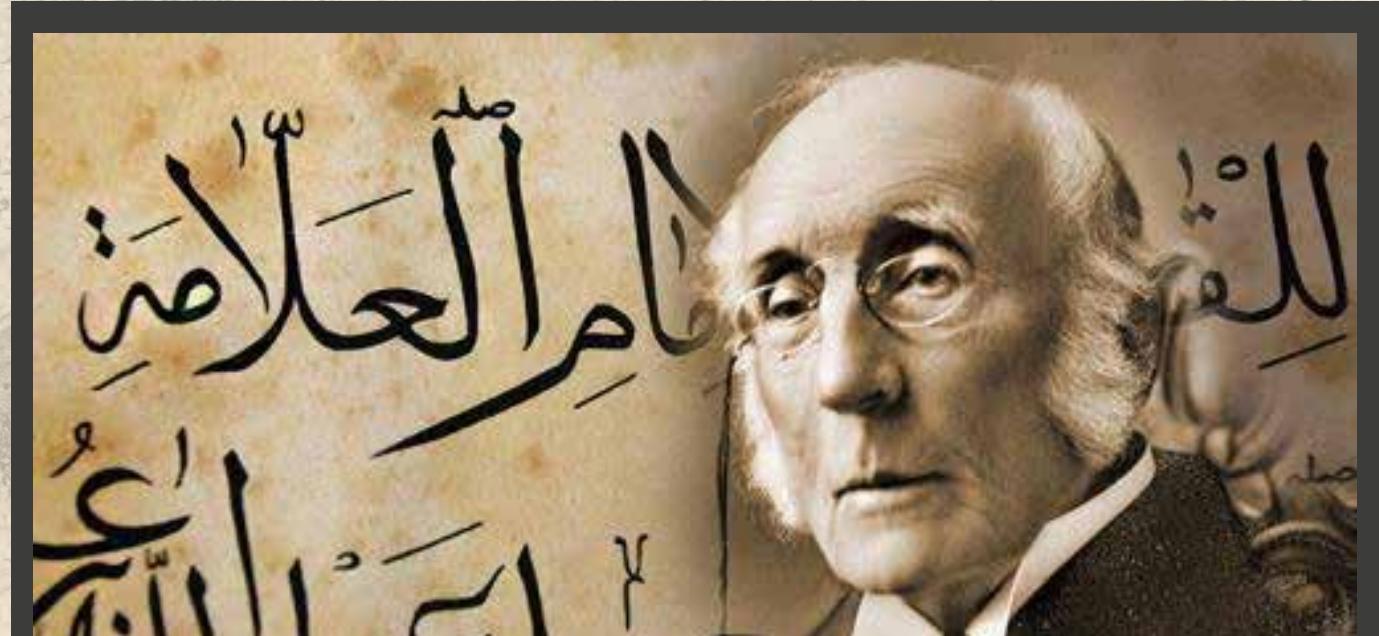
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EDUCATION



American scientist Prof. Edward E Salisbury was the Board Member of Encumen-i Danls/ the higher court of science and education and the origin of Maarif Nezareti/ Ministry of Education.



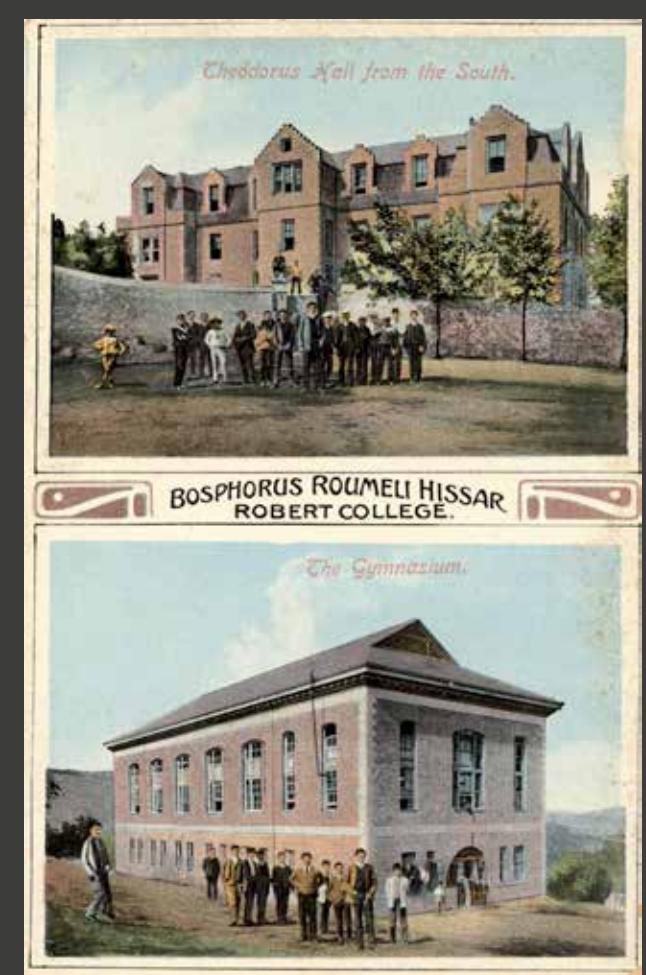
Ottoman-American cooperation also extended to fields such as science and education. A scientific delegation from America was invited to the Encümen-i Daniş. Among the delegation was Professor Edward E. Salisbury (1814–1901), a renowned scholar of Eastern languages of his time.



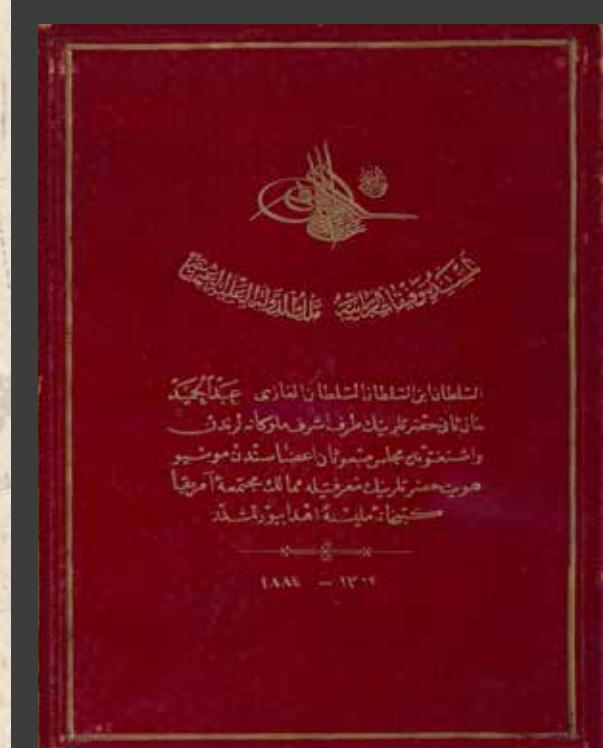
Schools in Rumelia.



Rumelia railway map.



Robert Collage in Rumelihisarı, İstanbul.



One of the covers of the books from the collection donated to the Library of Congress by Sultan Abdulhamid Khan, including various elements of Ottoman culture and Islamic art, books for adults and children.



Education of girls. Halide Edip Adıvar, one of the graduates of Üsküdar. American College and pioneer of women empowerment in Ottoman and modern Türkiye.



Various pictures representing the premises
of American consulates and schools
established in the different provinces of
the Empire.