

TIMELINE

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Smyrna: Protestant minister, Rev. Alexander MacLachlan starts in Smyrna, Turkey an "American Boys' School" using the official license of an old school which other American missionaries had opened in 1879.

"In the neighborhood, it was better known as "Mrs. Bartlett's Boys' School" - previously run by Cornelia Bartlett who took an immediate liking to Alexander. He was equally touched by her God-serving demeanor and vision of a strong Christian boys' school in the area. She confided that was she suffering from a fatal disease. His taking over the school premises was an answer to her prayers. Surveying the school, the MacLachlans scanned the meager class equipment. It was not exactly his vision of a proper school but it would have to do for now."

1891

Smyrna: The name of the "American Boys' School" is changed to "American High School for Boys".

1892

Smyrna: The name of "American High School for Boys" is changed to "American Collegiate Institute."

1896

1903

Smyrna: The institution is chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the name of "International College."

A legal Board of Trustees is created in the United States. This would mark the first year the name "International College" was used.

"With a well established standard of academic achievement and general formal recognition, Alexander and his faculty now strongly felt that the Institute deserved to be placed on an officially recognized College basis. It was now, after all, a College.

Meanwhile, Alexander and his staff began brainstorming for new names to reflect a possible Charter. It had not escaped Alexander's attention that the student body of 263 and teaching staff had become truly international: American, Armenian, British, Greeks and Turks.

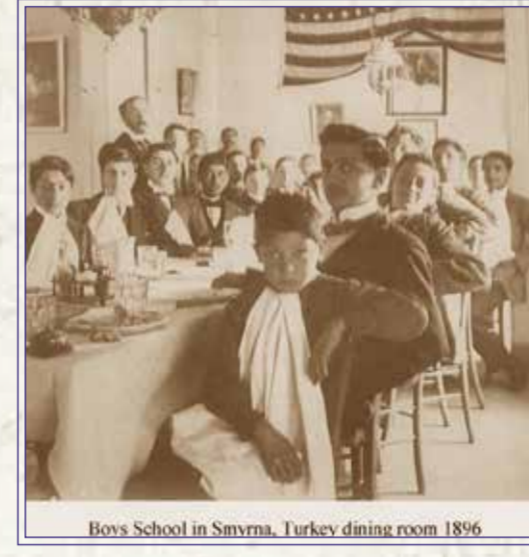
There was only one possible name: International College."



1872

Beirut: "The prep school is founded under the name "The Preparatory Department of the Syrian Protestant College".

"The prep school, was a solution to a major problem facing the university: finding students with the necessary qualifications to enter university. At first, classes were conducted in a rented space in Boutros al Boustani's, a Lebanese writer and scholar, National School, the Madrasa al Watania."



Boys School in Smyrna, Turkey dining room 1896



1913

1911
Beirut: the completion of Sage Hall

Beirut: the completion of Thomson Hall, Rockefeller Hall and the Refectory Buildings (old preschool building).

"Largely planned by William H. Hall who would become the Prep's first principal, the buildings were ready by fall of 1913. They were beautiful: a collection of turn-of-the-century style stone buildings overlooking the glittering Mediterranean sea: Rockefeller Hall, named after John Davison Rockefeller, an American oil magnate and a Protestant philanthropist, Thomson Hall, named after Dr. William Thomson, the author of the bestseller, "Land and the Book", who also discovered the lower level of the famous Jeita caves north of Beirut and a founder of SPC. Sage Hall, named after Russel Sage and donated by his Protestant philanthropist wife, Margaret Sage, after his death. The cluster also contained a refectory to accommodate the kitchen, dining room and service facilities of the school, and Martin House - purchased from a Lebanese family with funds donated by a Mrs. Martin from Vermont for the use of the school's principal."



MacLachlan Hall International College, Paradise Smyrna

1934

Smyrna: International College closes.

"IC president Cass Arthur Reed wandered around the empty idle buildings on campus. Its students had been accepted in both government institutions and in Robert College. The Turkish staff had mostly been employed in government schools, the foreign ones scattered across other parts of the world. Has all this been for nothing? No, Cass thought.



We maintained high standards. We adjusted to trying conditions. We educated a large number of able young men, many of whom already occupy positions of influence and more of whom will prove increasingly useful as the years pass. We have set standards which the government schools will continue to appreciate and seek to emulate. No, a College is not a cluster of buildings. It is a group of personalities, and we stood for ideals and helpfulness."



1914

Smyrna: Inauguration of the new campus in Paradise.

"On January 15th 1914, the day dawned bright and clear. There was no sign of the rain which seemed relentless all season. Soon special trains started bringing the crowds which included delegates from other

American Colleges in Turkey as well as the Greek Metropolitan of Smyrna, the Very Reverend of Smyrna, foreign consuls, the Grand Rabbi and heads of other religious communities. More notable dignitaries came by 'automobile' - a wonderful novelty. These included the Governor General Rahmi Bey and Pertev Pasha, Commander in Chief of the 3rd Army Corps. The rest came either by carriage or on foot. More than 2,500 arrived to the newly built campus in Paradise - all decorated for the occasion in the College's colors of red and white."



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1936

The move to Beirut: International College merges with AUB's preparatory school in Beirut.

"AUB president Bayard Dodge had recognized an opportunity when he saw one. This would be the perfect time for International College to move to Beirut and take over AUB's preparatory school and thus urged his friend, Cass, to make the move. It was a bittersweet moment for Cass Reed. The International College in Izmir was no more. Its new home was now Beirut."



1956

On September 24, 1956, IC and AUB were officially separated by a Lebanese presidential decree.



1988

The opening of the Ain Aar campus.

"It wasn't until two developers approached Acting President Edmond Tohme that he found himself intrigued with a land a few kilometers away from Bikfaya, in a picturesque village called Ain Aar. He drove up to see it. The land had breathtaking views. This was it, he thought. This would be perfect for IC. He contacted the Chairman of the Board, Bill Turner. Since the American Board members couldn't come to Lebanon, the Board had to take his word that it was indeed a good location."



1985

The purchase of the former British embassy on the Corniche - named a year later: the Alton Reynolds Hall.

"Despite the crowded conditions in Ras Beirut campus, the school managed to resume its classes. Moreover, it was functioning at full capacity. Somehow, the Ras Beirut campus which normally takes 1200 was now accommodating 2600 students - requiring still more rental space from ACS. And that was proving to be too expensive. With both Meshref and Bshamoun gone, Al was distinctly feeling the desolation of his job. How was he to keep IC going? But as things usually do, the solution suddenly materialized."



1978



The purchase of the Bshamoun campus - shuts down in 1983.

"IC president Alton Reynolds set his eyes on another campus: the British Community School in the hills of Bshamoun between 40 and 580 meters above sea level and only 8 kilometers from the city center. The school was already custom designed for elementary school students and easily accessible from Beirut."



1971



The inauguration of the Meshref campus - shuts down in 1975.

"IC president Tom Schuller walked around the \$6 million dollar, ~690,000 m² complex of arched and arcaded buildings, hailed as the largest and most modern high school in the region. He was in awe. The new campus boasted six classroom buildings, a student center building and one dormitory building for both boys and girls. In addition, there were three green football fields, three asphalted volleyball courts, three basketball courts. "And this is just the beginning," he thought, "only phase I."



1967



Girls are admitted to IC effectively making it a coed school.

"The change on campus was immediately noticeable. With much amusement, IC president Tom Schuller noticed that the usual boisterous behavior of many of the boys became subdued. They suddenly became more conscious of their manners. Furthermore, the girls tended to be studious and receptive to classroom demands setting the higher example."



2013

The inauguration of the new Elementary School (consisting of two buildings) at the Ras Beirut Campus: The Hisham Ezzat Jaroudi Building and the Talal and Maha Shair Building.



"Finally in 2009 - 10 years after the arduous negotiations began and after a last hectic week working around the clock as Board members Imad Taher and Walid Daouk in Beirut and Chairman Bill Turner and Trustee Dick Ward in New York - AUB and IC came to an agreement. Imad Taher signed the agreement on behalf of IC. AUB President Peter Doorman signed on behalf of the university. The Ras Beirut campus was now the full and legal property of IC. Seventy-three years after moving from Turkey, International College finally had a home of its own."

2019

The inauguration of the Ziadah Sawwaf Preschool Building and The Mikati Family Middle School Building.



*Excerpts from I Am IC, a School's Journey from Smyrna to Beirut, 2019, by Reem Haddad (Coming out in Fall 2019)