THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY
LARNACA
ISLAND OF CYPRUS

ITS WORK AS SEEN BY OTHERS

CHRISTIAN PRESS LARNACA...
FOREWORD

The idea of such a booklet as this has turned out to be, came suddenly last October when we were seeking an answer to the following questions:
(a) Would more people be interested in the Academy if they knew it more intimately?
(b) What would be the most effective way for those who know the Academy to tell those who do not know?

This booklet is a reply to the second question. A letter was sent to a number of persons, asking for a statement for others to read. They were asked to keep definitely in mind readers who did not have an opportunity to see the Academy at work.

Who were to be asked? The following thoughts guided our choice:
(a) They should be people who have actually observed the Academy at work, or who have been in a position to observe its results. From this point of view all the contributors are well qualified.
(b) They should be a representative group. The aim has been to include persons who have seen the Academy from many different viewpoints.

We wish to thank all those who have so generously responded. Beyond the value of such a booklet in arousing the interest of persons who have not known the Academy, it should serve as a stimulus to those directly responsible for the school, urging us to be more worthy of the confidence thus shown—a value not anticipated when the project was begun.

W. W. W.

April 30, 1911.
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The American Academy is a new type of school in Cyprus—the type which is mostly needed in the Island. It has greatly contributed to the spiritual, mental and physical development of many boys and girls, many of whom do well in the world.

In my travels in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Ethiopia I came across graduates of the Academy and it was gratifying to hear them say that what success they had in their spheres they owed to the sound training and general knowledge they received in the Academy.

I believe that boys or girls graduating from the Academy are equipped with sufficient knowledge to enable them to cope with the difficulties our business world presents, and with moral principles which will enable them to face possible temptations in their later lives.

The Academy is one of the greatest factors towards the improvement of character and mentality in the Island.

George Achilles,
Barister-at-law,
Larnaca, Cyprus.

April 3, 1901.
As a teacher in the American Academy for three years, a preacher with the Mission for twelve years, a member of the Council to which the Academy was partly responsible, I have been able to observe it closely. This school has been and is a great blessing and a true help to the Island of Cyprus.

Though it belongs, as an Institution, to a Mission or denomination, yet it stands for all the nationalities of the Island with the highest ideal, to prepare honest and Christian gentlemen and true citizens. It has been the purpose of this school to prepare its students to be the leaders for their own people and for mankind. Every year it has proved itself successful in its ideal and purpose. I had opportunities to visit some Turkish centers in the Island and talk with many Moderns, and I have rejoiced to see many of them appreciating the services rendered by the Academy and having been influenced by it.

The existence of the American Academy is a necessity for the Island. There are other schools in the Island, but none of them can fill the place of the Academy. To support this school is to support humanity.

Rev. G. Aghabian,
Pastor, Armenian Evangelical Church,
Aleppo, Syria.
December 19, 1923.

Carlyle's apologium regarding the schools of England, which ought to have been models in method for all the rest, is well known. Carlyle in his dogmatic style laid an open charge against them. He called them centres of scholasticism where the child felt anxious and dull, and the result was a loss of vitality and creative impulse.

It is an incredibly difficult task, especially for one not specialized in this line, to give in a few words his opinion concerning a school, for his present opinion is not based on the impressions of childhood nor on the memories of particular incidents in connection with his student life, but on his present more mature understanding and judgement.

Putting aside the friendly ties that bind me to the American Academy and without regard for persons, no matter how kind and pure they may have been, I believe I have learned three things in the Academy, which are the foundation of individual, family, and social life. I have been taught discipline that transforms work from mere drudgery to a privilege. I have been taught kindness that forgives the defects of others and causes that transformation within us which results in superior manhood. I have also learned the meaning of true liberty that exalts the individual and results in noble deeds.

Gheorghe Mitulescu,
Professor of Ancient History,
Salvato Commercial School,
Alexandria, Egypt.
December 20, 1923.
Your school as an Academy was always admired by me. I remember the great pleasure I always derived from your concerts and debates and the honor I felt at being asked to act as judge.

The Academy fills what would be a big gap in Larnaca, for without it, I am sure the standard of education would be infinitely lower, and the students' knowledge of our language would suffer.

And again the Sports, and the Sporting Spirit which you inculcate into boys and girls alike is worthy of the best traditions.

In years to come the great benefit derived from your system of training cannot but be of the greatest use to Cyprus.

L. S. Bartlett,
Ascension Island, South Atlantic Ocean,
(formerly Director of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Cyprus)
February 17, 1932.

It gives me an unusual amount of pleasure to write these few facts about the Academy as an old student.

That well developed spirit known to all students, both old and new, as the "ACADEMY SPIRIT" of brotherhood and co-operation which used to work miracles in games and sports, does surely help one in business too, to be in harmony with one's fellow workers and have that never tiring spirit of looking forward in progress.

It was the Academy largely that gave birth to games, sports, and athletics in the island of Cyprus. Without the Academy, Cyprus a small island with very little contact with the rest of the world, would have been years behind modern civilization. The Academy trains young men in such a surprisingly all-around-way which one notices after he leaves school and goes abroad to face the world with all its difficulties - as I experienced it myself. Every time I climbed a step in the business world I had to thank the Academy for it.

Leaving the Physical and Technical side of the Academy System of Training, I would like to say a few words about the moral and religious side of it which has been steadily progressing in face of strong head winds ever since I left school. I follow with great interest the news I get through the "HERALD" about the Summer Camps which we did not have in my days. I know what such camps mean as I have been in the Y.M.C.A. camps here and wish everybody to just try and see for himself.

I wish the Academy continued success.

H. Chelios,
Marketing Instructor, Superintendant
Secretary-Y.M.C.A. Camps
November 28, 1921
Alexandria, Egypt.
During the last five years of my stay in Larnaca, I have watched the excellent work of the American Academy with ever growing interest and pleasure.

The school is run on sound modern educational lines, and the standard of scholarship attained is a high one.

Considerable effort is expended in developing the pupils’ character, confidence and “team” spirit.

The Academy has excellent debating teams, and it has been my privilege on several occasions, to act as one of the judges at the debates which form part of the Literary Society’s programmes. The debaters are Turkish, Greek, and Armenian, and their speeches are in English. The wide range of subjects chosen is in itself ample evidence of the way in which the students are trained.

A girls’ department which was started a few years ago, is proving a splendid success. Modern education, in its wider sense, has so far been denied to girls in Cyprus, and it says much for the personality of the Director and his staff, that they have been able to overcome the many obstacles in their path.

Now the girl students take their part in debate and athletics, and enjoy the advantages of happy school life.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the splendid work done by the Academy for the boys and girls of Cyprus, and our future citizens.

Mrs. L. A. Bullock Smith,
January 31, 1881.
Larnaca, Cyprus.

I have had plenty of opportunities to see and appreciate something of the work and activities of the American Academies, both at Larnaca and at Nicosia, and I have no hesitation in expressing my admiration for them and my wishes for their success.

These Schools are open to students of all races and religions, and therefore provide an educational atmosphere different from the schools of any one race in Cyprus. This difference, which is not the least valuable part of the Academy’s contribution to Cyprus, may at first puzzle the observer, but he can have no doubt that the ultimate good of all forms which the Academy education takes is the sound training of character, intellect and body.

The Cypriot student learns here that religion and morality are inseparably connected and that education is intimately associated with both; that character is more important than brains and may be learnt and shown as well on the football field as in the classroom; and that a man with a college
education is in no way degraded by hard manual work. He learns to be loyal to his school not because it is his school but because it deserves his loyalty and because he has himself been taught to increase its worthiness.

The curriculum of both Academies is essentially practical, the methods of teaching intelligent and stimulating, and the incidental accompaniments to learning—art and literature, editing a paper, public speaking, camping, and similar school activities—receive an attention accorded to them in few other schools of the Island.

In athletics the Academies maintain a tradition of keen sportsmanship which has a valuable effect on the young generation. The fact that these influences do not cease with school life is shown by the vigour of the "Alumni Association."

Education in Cyprus has often had a political bias and been viewed with approval or disapproval according to its relations with Government and with the politics of the moment. The American Academies stand outside politics and in this should lie their strength. Whatever changes in the education of Cyprus the future may hold, it is certain that there will always be room for independent schools whose outlook differs from the prevailing system but does not conflict with it. Such a school can go straight ahead towards its goal, and in doing so will
receive what encouragement Government can give towards an enterprise that, while preserving many distinctive features, is ready to co-operate disinterestedly in the physical, moral and intellectual progress of the Island.

T. E. Colloen,
Director of Education,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

February 14, 1871.

In the capacity of mayor of this town, I gladly accepted the kind invitation of the esteemed management of the American Academy to be present at this dedication and unveil the tablet to the memory of J. French Carithers. I am especially glad because I believe that sharing in the bestowal of honour, on men who labour in behalf of virtue, is a duty.

It is evident, from what has already been said, that French Carithers became, by his life, worthy of this high honour. Those who appreciate the attainments of the man could not I believe, more fittingly have shown their sentiments regarding him than by promoting the educational aims which the American Academy pursues.

I cannot conceal the pleasure that I have when I observe the course along which the present management of this institution is directing it, as was
so elegantly and vividly described to us a few moments ago. I trust heartily wish that the American Academy may continue without deviating from the course, which, reflecting the broad American spirit, cannot but receive general approval.

D. N. Diamantides,
Larnaca, Cyprus.

Reprinted from the pamphlet "In Memory of French Catharines," by the kind permission of Mr. Dimitriadis, now retired from Municipal service.

The work of the Academy is threefold:

a. To develop a sound body by teaching to the students that, "the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit."

b. To develop a sound mind and clear thinking in the students by directing them to think "whosoever things are true, whosoever things are honest, whosoever things are just, whosoever things are pure, whosoever things are lovely and whosoever things are of good report."

c. To develop a healthy spiritual life among the students, by providing to them the true Gospel and holding before their eyes the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world.

The future of the Academy is very bright, and it is one of the best means at the present in Cyprus, to advance the Kingdom of God in the Island.

Y. Diamantides, B.A.,
Pastor, Armenian Evangelical Churches in Cyprus,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

For many years graduates of the American Academy at Larnaca have been coming to the American University of Beirut. In the Freshman Class at Beirut they are obliged to maintain academic standards, which are fixed by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. They are also required to study side by side with class-mates, who come from over forty different preparatory schools.

Graduates of the Academy, who have completed the work of the Freshman Class during the past eight years, have received grades that form an average of 74.24%. Thus they have done satisfactory work and proved that their college preparation has been conducted in an efficient way.

Numerous boys from the Academy have come to the Lebanon for athletic contests and religious conferences. They have made an excellent impression and given their school an enviable reputation. Members of the University faculty, who are interested in educational and religious work, have a very high
opinion of the Academy.

As the island of Cyprus is ruled by the British and as its principal industries are copper and asbestos mines, operated by American and English companies, there is evident need for citizens who speak English. As religion is too often mixed with political agitation on the island, there is also a need for an institution, which can give the young men a conception of religion, which is purely spiritual and practical.

The greatest need of the island is for men, who appreciate the importance of integrity in government affairs, of honesty in business and the professions, and of helping rather than exploiting the peoples.

The American Academy is organized to train men of this type and thus to render a service of tremendous importance to Cyprus.

Bayard Dodge,
President of the American University of Beirut, Beirut, Syria.

November 20, 1933.

I like to look back on what I remember to be the spirit and purpose of the Academy. It may be that the ten years which have passed since my direct contact with you have dropped out of memory some of the less desirable characteristics and have tended to emphasize some of the more desirable ones. On the other hand it seems to me that these ten years have witnessed a very considerable advancement on the part of the Academy. I glance at the last copy of the Academy Herald which I have just received and I am pleased with the evidence of this progress. You have just chosen a debate team and the question for debate, Resolved that "The Present Nationalistic Movement in Germany is Justifiable," a subject of present day import that contrasts favorably with some of the subjects that engaged our attention ten years ago. Just across the page is the record of the loyalty of a former student of the Academy who now resides in South Australia and I am impressed with the ever-widening influence which the Academy is exerting, an influence which as this article suggests, is very definitely tied up with the spirit of the Academy. On the same page is reference to prizes given to the best kept dormitories. When you speak of the dormitories in the main building I find myself back again going over in memory some very interesting experiences; but when you speak of the dormitories in Carithers Hall I realize that you have developed in a physical way. The first paragraph on the next page announces that the Biennial Conference will be held in Beyrouth this year and the words of appreciation which accompany this announcement suggest
how much we missed ten years ago because our boys did not then participate in such conferences. In the next two columns are items from the Academy for Girls at Lamarca and at Nicosia, indicative of an advance which could not have been imagined ten years ago.

One cannot but be impressed by these evidences of progress along with many others, and with these things it seems to me that I sense a spirit of brotherhood and service which many of our home institutions would do well to emulate.

R. W. Graupe Ph. D.,
Professor of Psychology,
Tarble College,
Tarble, Missouri.
February 11, 1921.

As an old resident of this town I feel it a duty to say in writing that for many years I have been in a position to observe the work of the American Academy at Lamarca, having served for seven years as Commissioner of Lamarca District, and since my retirement in 1926 I have resided in Lamarca and have been in close touch with the school. I do not hesitate to say that the Academy is a God-send for the youth of this town and District. The good that the Academy has done and continues to do, both in scholarship and sports is too great to be mentioned in mere words. The general character of the school is excellent and many of the graduates found employment in the government service of the Island and in different firms both in the Island and elsewhere.

The staff cannot be too highly spoken of; one and all by their efforts have brought the Academy to its present state of perfection.

I have been present at the literary meetings and sports of the school and was greatly impressed by the knowledge shown by the students, especially at the debates with the English School. Their sports were conducted in a sporting spirit.

In conclusion I can safely say that the school is meeting a great need in the Island, and that the continuation of it will be ensured, for many years to come, to the rising generation.

In concluding this letter, I feel that I have not said half that could be said of the immeasurable work done by the Academy.

T. J. Greenwald, L.N.O.
Larmer, Cyprus.
March 17, 1921.
I am always glad to speak a word for the American Academy. It will soon be six years since I left Larnaca and returned to the United States. Although my work in the meantime has taken me to many parts of the world, Cyprus still claims a large place in my interest and affections.

As a teacher in the Academy for nearly five years, I learned much more than I taught. The years spent there were filled with rare content and happiness. I enjoyed my work for it was rich in satisfactions. I recognize a debt to Cyprus. I like to think that work in Near East institutions such as the Academy is in some measure a payment of an obligation to that ancient land that has given us our Christian heritage.

Cypriot students are of many nationalities and religious beliefs and the American Academy has found, and will continue to have, a unique opportunity to touch the lives of thousands of young people with an outward Christian impulse. Former students are now scattered throughout the world and most of them are grateful for the training they received in the American Academy. The Academy has set a high standard in Cyprus and her Christian influence is known and felt throughout the island.

I shall always have a deep and abiding interest in the work of the American Academy at Larnaca.
I. 

Cyprus. May she continue in the future, as she has done in the past, "To Grow And To Serve."

R. W. Howell,
Bermuda-Biltmore Hotels Travel Service, Inc., February 6, 1933, Los Angeles, California.

Now that the Christmas season is approaching, I want you to extend greeting to all the acquaintances I have there on the Island. Particularly all those who were so kind to me during my siege of typhoid fever. I am feeling fit again and able to work with the same old spirit.

When my thoughts are of you folks, I realize more than ever that you should be congratulated on the splendid work that the Academy is doing. for the individual students as well as the Island generally. I can now readily understand the numerous obstacles our American missionaries must overcome to bring about a working institution such as your school.

It was a source of extreme pleasure to visit with some of your graduates whom I had the pleasure to meet in other foreign lands: each and everyone was an enthusiastic booster for the Academy and what it stands for. So, the effort your school is making to enlighten the boys and girls in that
particular section of the world is more far-reaching
than I ever anticipated.

W. P. Henderson,
First Secretary,
Second National Bank Building,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
December 14, 1933.

I am really very happy to have the opportunity
to express my opinion regarding my old school.
Out of personal experience, and after following
the Academy closely for a number of years, I am
in a position to state, unreservedly, that it is the
ideal school in Cypus, which builds up the charac-
ter and lays the foundation for success in life.
Its experienced management and faculty, the
healthy and excellent situation of its premises, the
parental care that is taken of all students (daystu-
dents and boarders), the facilities given to poor people,
and the modern and up-to-date system of teaching,
in combination with literary meetings, sports and
games, gives the Academy the first place among
schools in Cyprus. On the other hand its numerous
alumni with their responsible positions throughout
the island and abroad, speak very eloquently of the
contribution of the Academy to society.

A. S. Argyroudi,
Accountant and Assistant Manager,
Ottoman Bank,
Larnaca, Cyprus.
April 3, 1936.

I graduated from the Academy in 1921 and since
then have been going ahead daily in my undertak-
ings with the help of the education I received in
this institution, in which I owe all my success. I
always feel an indebtedness towards this institution
and its supporters.

In this poor island of Cyprus, where education
is limited, the Academy has proved to be a model
school in every phase of education, satisfying the
requirements of students belonging to different classes,
nationalities and religions.

Its graduates are holding responsible posts in
Cyprus and abroad, which is a proof of the devoted
efforts of this institution in training up efficient
and capable young men.

Nestor K smashing,
Vice-Counsel for the Netherlands,
Larnaca, Cyprus.
April 2, 1933.

We here are strongly in favour of the American
Academy of Larnaca. One of our graduates was a
very successful teacher here for a number of years
and taking him as a fair sample of your graduates
you have no reason to be ashamed of the work you
are doing. I consider the opportunity the Academy
gives is quite equal, if not superior, from the point
of view of bringing the Gospel to bear on heart and
life of the young inhabitants of the Island, to any other
form of Evangelistic work. I do not for one moment
admit that our educational work is merely of edu-
cational value, but I consider it one of the best means
of propaganda, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these
Near Eastern lands. I hope the Academy will get
the financial support and the prayers and sympathy it
fully deserves, from the Church in America. I con-
sider the strengthening of the Academy a matter of
supreme importance in the work of evangelizing the
Island, and the adjacent parts of the mainland, the
North Western section of Syria.

Rev. S. H. Kennedy
British Mission
Acre, Palestine.
December 1, 1923.

The American Academy, founded 21 years ago
in an insignificant corner of the Island of Cyprus,
has ever since been developing and growing more
and more in importance.

I had been a student of the Academy for seven
years when I graduated in 1927. I surely did appreci-
ate as a student the life, and the privileges offered
by the Academy, but now that six years have elapsed
since my graduation I feel myself in a better posi-
tion to express my feelings and ideas as regards the
true value and the far-reaching effects of the Acad-
emy.

It is true that the Academy provides no more
than the elementary education at such as Science
and Mathematics are concerned. But her Commu-
nications and Language courses may well stand in com-
parsion with those of better educational institutions,
while her special efforts along the ethical and spiritu-
als development of her children can never be over-
estimated.

Unfortunately a great majority of educated people
look down upon manual labor and bear a sense of
shame as regards such - which fact has certainly
been an element of failure in education. The Acad-
emy fights hard against that sort of detrimental or
rather unconstraining attitude, and I remember very
clearly the special efforts of our director along this
very line. Hence we see many Academy graduates
just as ready to take up a gardener's or a farmer's
work as they are to hold government or business
offices esteemed high in the opinion of the public
in general.

The Academy includes within her campus repre-
sentatives of different nationalities, teaching them
through her principles and activities to live together
with a feeling of sincere brotherhood and the spirit
of disinterested service to common ends.

It is hardly necessary to go farther to show what the Academy has meant to the Island of Cyprus and what it might still mean if given greater support and a wider field of activity. Academy graduates engaged in responsible positions throughout the whole Island as government officials, employees in various business concerns, teachers and managers in schools, and furthermore as independent business men joining in a world wide commerce stand as a living testimony to the sound and practical education of the Academy.

The American Academy, is constantly endeavouring to lead her children to that noblest ideal of life implied in her motto - "To Grow and to Serve". And that is, after all, the true aim and the ultimate end of a sound education.

Hapgo Kompaoudjian,
Calendar in the Central Office,
Government Survey Department,
Beirut, Syria.

December 5, 1933.

For the past ten years I have been meeting with some graduates of the American Academy, Cyprus. In every case I have found them young men of exemplary conduct, and in most cases men of definite Christian character. Those of the graduates with whom I have been most intimately associated have frequently mentioned the benefit they got from the moral and religious teaching they received at the Academy. It has been my privilege also to meet from time to time with the Director of the Academy and other teachers, when we discussed the work which the school is seeking to do and the aim it has set itself. One of our young men from here has also been to the Academy for a year. Through him I also learned a lot about what is being done for the young men who attend. From what I have thus learned of the work of the Academy I have no hesitation in saying that I believe its doing as fine a piece of missionary work as any institution of its kind in the Near East. So long as it continues to keep its high standard of education and at the same time presents Christ to its pupils as their Saviour and their only hope of victorious living I feel it should have the warm support of all true Christians. It is drawing young Cypriots many of whom are to be leaders and administrators. Who can deny the supreme importance of such young men having the training which the Academy gives? To me it would be a great tragedy in the history of the Kingdom of Christ in Cyprus should the work of the Academy be hindered, and
crippled at this time through lack of funds to maintain and develop its present usefulness.

William Lyth.

Passur, 4 P. Mission.

Antioch, Syria.

December 15, 1932.

Just before retiring and as I say good-bye, I want to let you know my sincere appreciation of the keenly interesting work you are directing with so much competence and devotion. For many years I have had on my service former students of the American Academy. I have always appreciated a great deal their knowledge, their love of work, their respectful attitude towards their superiors, all of which characteristics you know to inculcate in them.

I want to congratulate you for this and strongly wish your estimable Institution a more and more brilliant future and continued success.

S. Macnishian.

Director, Ottoman Bank.

February 22, 1944.

Lawton, Cyprus.
I have certainly been put in a position to form a solid opinion on the value of your school. The teacher you sent us touched high water mark for faithful effective work. His subject was the subject that Syrians find most difficult, that is mathematics, but he had good success with his Syrian pupils. Besides that he was always about his Master's business, and his influence for good was immense. His being permanently laid aside by illness is one of the hardest blows our school has ever had. In the five years of his service with us he did great good.

I know several other men who were pupils of the larvae school, and it made them as different as could well be from the rank and file of the young men of the Levant even among the educated class. One was a Turk, who was able to help me out of a difficulty at the cost of a lot of trouble to himself, and who helped me - a perfect stranger - gladly because he knew that I was a friend of those in charge of his old school.

I am sure there are many men who believe, against all that their life elsewhere has taught them, that purity and uprightness are possible, just because they have seen purity and uprightness in the Academy.

(Miss) Evangeline Metheng, Principal, British Mission School, Alexandria, Syria.

November 1, 1918.
I have known many graduates of the American Academy who are not merely good but excellent members of the community in every aspect of their individual and citizenship life. If this is the real test of the work of a school, as I believe it to be, the American Academy has offered in the past and is offering at the present a very good service to Cyprus in the education of the youth, and the continuation of its work I am sure is destined to offer more services in the future.

G. Mitritha, Prof. of Science,
Anogyra School,
Nicosia, Greece.

December 2, 1933.

The contribution of the American Academy to the youth of Cyprus and particularly to those of Larnaca has been very great and deserves every appreciation.

Education at the Academy is conceived of in its broadest sense - the result being the development of young people with a good basis, as regards ability and character, for their work.

It is an educational institution that may very rightly be called an ideal modern school: just the sort of school that Cyprus needs.

The education I received at the Academy has been the greatest help to me in my career.

M. N. Pay
Clerk, District Court,
Larnaca, Cyprus.

March 7, 1934.

I have known and esteemed the American Academy of Larnaca for more than 20 years as friendly rivals of my own school especially in games and sports which have brought us in close contact three times in each school year. I have been particularly impressed by the out-of-school activities provided for the occupation and culture of the students and by the devotion of the masters who give up so much of their time to foster these activities. This cannot fail to have an important influence for good on the character of those who pass through the course of the school.

Rev. Fr. J. P. Nardetto,
Director of the English School,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

February 8, 1934.
Reading the last prospectus of the Academy, I was really elated to see the progressive changes which have taken place in the school's system since my student days of only a decade ago.

As you will, perhaps, recall, I left the Academy on graduation and registered at the Law School of New York University during the same year. My only "pre-law" preparation was my training at the Academy. I found no difficulty whatever making a success of my studies in law and passing the Bar Examinations of New York State. I have been practicing law in New York City ever since my admission to the New York Bar. The training and especially, the knowledge of the English language necessary for the study, as well as the practice, of law is by no means ordinary. In my case, the Academy has given me all that was indispensable for my career. I therefore believe that I am qualified to say that for the purpose of preparing for a professional course in a university, the Academy is at least, as good as any other institution of its type in the United States or elsewhere.

In so far as Cyprus and the Near East are concerned, the Academy, in my opinion, is unique, not only by reason of its efficiency and results shown, but also because of its type, organization and operation. Following the example and model of the schools at home, the Academy pioneered in establishing a students' council for self-government by the student body, students' social, literary and athletic clubs and libraries. I have recently visited Athens, Constantinople, Smyrna and Beirut and took the opportunity to compare the organization of the Academy and its student body with those of various other American schools in the Near East and I find that the Academy's organization and efficiency are by far the best for schools of its type and grade. Much to my satisfaction, I noticed during my recent visit to Cyprus that a number of other schools throughout the island are copying the Academy's organization of student activities.

I earnestly hope that the Academy's good work and progress in the past, will be kept up at the same pace in the future.

C. George Peters,
Law Offices, 84 William Street,
New York City.

January 6, 1911.
As a teacher at the Academy for over seven years, I have had opportunity to study conditions here and the type of student she sends out into the world.

A school must ultimately be judged by the type of student it produces. With this criterion I may say that the Academy is not only my own opinion but in that of many others, a success. To say that all the boys and girls who have attended the Academy have added lustre to her name would be obviously untrue. No school but has its black sheep, and ours is no exception. Nevertheless, the great majority of her students, especially those who have spent several years at the school and have finally graduated, have in their various spheres of employment in Cyprus and abroad established a reputation for real worth, of which the Academy is justly proud.

The source of this healthy influence in the Academy is the Director. A man as all-round as Mr. Weir is rare among schoolmasters, combining as he does the athlete, thinker, and spiritual leader. His greatest satisfaction comes from the realization of his dreams, boys making good in the world; his greatest dependency from seeing some students go down hill after leaving the Academy. Many students coming from the severer external discipline of other schools, at first find the Academy where stress is laid on internal self-discipline, apparently lax. Some cannot learn to rule themselves, and immediately blame the school for their failures. But there are others who do learn and become a source of the "Academy spirit" wherever they go. These students who learn how to live on a high level, become men and women the Academy is proud of.

Teachers and students come and go, text-books change, classrooms are altered, new buildings are added, but the essential Academy, which is none of these separately yet includes them all, grows steadily, rooting year by year more deeply and branching more widely in this Cyprian community.

The Academy motto "To Grow and to Serve" expresses her aim. Many schools provide sound instruction, and among them is the Academy. But its life reliability, character count equally with knowledge. And so long as the Academy provides thorough instruction together with character training, in a word, builds men, so long will she flourish. There is a need in Cyprus for such a school as the Academy, and the Academy satisfies that need.

H. G. Pypchenko,
Head of the English Department,
April 13, 1931. American Academy, Lavrion, Cyprus.
I am more than happy to write my opinion of the American Academy situated at Larnaca, Cyprus. I feel quite capable of passing judgment, having spent six weeks on the island of Cyprus during the spring of 1932, which time constituted a part of my two-year study-tour of the world in its various educational, cultural, and historical aspects.

First of all, I was surprised to find an American Educational Institution on this off-the-beaten-track island. And I was more surprised at the wholesome influence that the graduates of this school had exerted and were exerting on the lives of many people in the thirty-three or forty villages I visited while in Cyprus.

I had the privilege of mingling with the boys and girls at the Academy, and from these contacts I realized with refreshing delight what a tremendous amount of good this American school was doing, for a people who were not so fortunate as we, with its democratic American ideas of practical helpfulness and spiritual upbuilding. Many of these boys told me they were going back to their underprivileged villages to help build a finer community; and to build along the utilitarian line taught by the teachers at the American Academy. One can realize what this would mean when he learns from where these lads came—Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Asia Minor, etc.—all more or less backward countries. Truly a
great work, I would say, that this American Institution is doing.

Herbert A. Smith, L.L.B., D.A.
128 South Phillips Avenue.

December 14, 1931.

On graduating from Geneva College in 1910 I was offered a position as a short term teacher in the American Academy at Larnaca, Cyprus, and I had the privilege of serving there for two terms, one of three years and another of two years with a two year interval.

Although I have been away from the school for years now, yet I am very keenly interested in the school and have been able to keep in touch with it through correspondence with members of the staff and by regularly reading the Academy Herald.

I believe that the Academy has done much for the Island along the following lines:

1. The school has always tried to offer a practical curriculum that has fitted the boys for going out and taking up work on leaving school.

2. Much attention has been paid to character building. This has been possible through the close contact that the teachers have had with the students. The teachers had this matter at heart and by being able to live in the same building with the boys, and
having a chance to play in the games regularly with them, their efforts bore fruit. The fact that the school has had a regular supply of short termers, bringing new life into the school activities, has greatly helped along this line.

3. The students have been given a much broader outlook on life than they were getting from other schools in the Island. This was due to the fact that so many of the teachers were from other parts of the world and had had a good education. They had also come to do all that they could to help the boys of the Island to make the most of themselves. As the school catered to boys from all communities the students benefited by rubbing up against boys not of their own sect only. Many boys also came to the school from Syria and Asia Minor, either from Mission Schools or as refugees.

4. Through the introduction of regular sports and competition with other schools in sports, the health of the boys has been greatly improved. In the early days the great outdoor sport of the young blood was to doll up and parade on the pier and Main Street. The indoor sport was to sit on a chair in some coffee shop to smoke, play cards and to gossip. Now the young men belong to athletic clubs and often compete against the Academy teams. Ideals of clean sportsmanship have been held up before the boys and that means a lot towards cleaner sports in the clubs.

5. The school has been a great help to some of the boys from our Mission schools on the mainland for they were able to do higher work at the Academy. Usually picked boys were sent over. Armenian and Syrian refugees, built during and before the World War, found the Island to be a haven of refuge and the school a fine place to educate their boys.

6. We believe that the school has been able to present Christianity in truer colors than anything that the Island was used to previously. The boys of all faiths have been able to see Christianity lived as well as taught.

7. And, last of all, the school has meant much to the many short termers who have given of their best for the youth of the Island. The Academy gave them good teaching experience, a chance to rub up against several nationalities, a chance to learn new games and new languages, and a load of rich experiences of all kinds that will be useful many times in later life. Then there are many happy memories to carry away that will always bring great joy.

Long live our old American Academy in our wish and prayer.

Chloe, J. Neveart,  
Principal, High School, 
Dharest, Punjab, India.

January 4, 1934.
So far as my experience as a student is concerned, I feel sure that the American Academy of Larnaca was the first to reveal to me the true spirit of school life. And if I were to contrast it with the different schools I have so far known I would not hesitate to say that it excels them all in many respects.

When I was a student at the Academy in 1928-29 most of the problems were being surveyed in the light of clear thinking, sound judgment, broad-mindedness and in what is best of all, the light of the recorded words and personality of Jesus Christ.

The Academy has nourished and fortified many hungry souls and equipped and satisfied the mind regarding many matters of religious experience.

When I go back in thought to the beautiful days I spent in the Academy, I always wish I had had the chance to spend not only one year but two. This wish must be largely due to the fact that I was exceedingly interested in all the activities I was then in charge of. It is that school year that has served as an inspiration and encouragement to all the school years that have followed.

In addition, the Academy was the first to attract my attention to the beautiful art of music, an art the worth of which it is impossible for me to state.

Regarding athletics, the Academy excels almost all the Syrian and Egyptian schools I have so far known. I was not an athlete during my short stay in the Academy, but it was this school that first planted within me my present love of sportsmanship.

The "Academy Herald" that the school issues once every fortnight indicates how the Academy has been carried along the road of development.

Many Egyptians have graduated from the Academy bearing with them the ideal motto of their Alma Mater "To Grow and to Serve". How highly, therefore, should the Academy be esteemed? It is a true and flower garden. To sum up, I say with a clear conscience that a single stone in its foundation is more worthy than a pyramid.

*The Academy staff is doing a very deep and searching work, and I want you to realise what a fine teaching staff you have in Larnaca as well as in Nicosia.*

Jasnael H. Trangos,
Student in the Theological Seminary,
American Mission,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

*Extract from a letter to the secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, dated May 26, 1930. Printed by kind permission of Dr. Wilder, March 5, 1931.*
nature of the splendid work which is being accomplished in these educational institutes.

Robert P. Wilder,
Yolde Station, Mt. Hazza, Norway,
Former Secretary,
Student Volunteer Movement,
Former Secretary,
Near East Christian Council.

The American Academy in Larnaca is a Christian Mission school. It has proved its worth over a period of twenty-five years of conspicuous service for the young men in the Island of Cyprus.

In the Autumn of 1937 I had the privilege of visiting the Academy and surveying its work. That visit of two weeks in Cyprus led me to the conclusion that the school is making a distinct Christian and character-building contribution directly to the life of the students and the future life of the Island.

The school is well managed, its courses of study well chosen, its faculty strong and capable, its discipline effective. The atmosphere in and about the institution is wholesome and distinctly Christian, the student body bright, earnest and interesting.

In our survey of mission work in other areas - Cilicia, Syria (North and South), and Egypt we found
former students of the Academy who were proving themselves a credit to the school in character, influence and successful living.

Gladly and highly do I endorse the Academy, and recommend it without reserve to young students, as well as to patrons who may wish to have a part in a fine piece of constructive Christian work. Such an investment now will in my judgement pay large dividends in the future.

Finley M. Wilson,
Corresponding Secretary,
Board of Foreign Missions,
210 North Marshall Street,
February 14, 1939.

My three and one-half years of teaching in the American Academy at Limassol, Cyprus, are a very valuable memory to me. I owe much to the Academy for the broadening and deepening influence which my time there was for me. The keenness of the student body and the character and quality of the fellowship of the seven different nationalities represented on the teaching staff and in the student body were a revelation to me of the reality of the Kingdom of God. The American Academy is the
one school in the island where boys and girls are offered the opportunity of a modern Christian education. The influence of the school cannot be measured as her students are scattered to the four corners of the earth: U.S.A., Africa, Syria, Persia, Greece, France, England, as well as throughout all of Cyprus, wherever they go the Academy spirit "To grow and to serve" goes with them. Dr. N. Pierce, Pres. of the International Sunday School Ass., once said: "Science has transformed the world into a neighbourhood, but it remains the task of religion to transform it into a brotherhood." This is the function which the American Academy is fulfilling by offering students and teachers an opportunity to work, play and think together.

H. Z. Wilson,  
Ekhina, West Va., U.S.A.  
*Teacher in the Academy, Dec. 1926-June 1930.

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I have your kind letter of Nov. 15th, asking my opinion regarding the American Academy at Larnaka, Cyprus. It affords me great pleasure to reaffirm what I have often stated, that this Academy is located in an important center, is on a direct Christian basis, and will continue to exert, as it has in the past, an influence for untold good in the Near East through your students.

You are at liberty to use my name in this connection, and I hope you will succeed in your future plans for the Academy and continue to make it an inspiration.

Samuel M. Zevitk
Professor in the  
Princeton Theological Seminary. (Formerly Missionary in Egypt.)