FALL TO MARK BEGINNING OF INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN FOR MEMBERSHIP AND HARVARD CHAIR

This fall will witness the beginning of the most intensive campaign undertaken to date by NAASR. To be conducted on a nationwide scale it will be a two-pronged drive: (1) to increase the fund for the establishment of the endowed Chair of Armenian Studies at Harvard University to more than $100,000 and (2) to increase the present membership of NAASR more than two-fold to 2000 members.

The Harvard Armenian Chair campaign will be spearheaded by a series of eight banquets in as many different communities this fall and winter. The first one is scheduled for Detroit on October 27. Members of the Board of Directors and of the Harvard faculty and administration will be present at these functions along with local notables in order to give a full presentation of the purpose and scope of NAASR’s singular program for the advancement of Armenian studies and research in America.

The membership drive will be undertaken through a series of nationwide mailings from the national office to over 5000 individuals to be followed up by activities on the local level by the various section committees in 16 communities. With the cooperation and support of all members both goals can be reached.

**SCHEDULE OF BANQUETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Detroit, Mich.</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Niagara Falls, N. Y.</td>
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<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
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<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Washington, D. C.</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Hartford, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>New York City</td>
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<td>Jan. or Feb.</td>
<td>Troy, N. Y.</td>
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SECOND ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTED BY BANQUET AND CONFERENCE ON ARMENIAN STUDIES

Highpoint of the year's activities, the Second Annual Assembly of Members paved the way for an intensive campaign to begin in the fall for the establishment of an endowed Chair of Armenian Studies at Harvard University.

Held on the Harvard campus June 8, 9, and 10, the Assembly completed action on the constitution, re-elected five members and elected three new members to the Board of Directors. Through a series of other decisions and resolutions it geared the organization for the increased period of activity in the fall and winter.

The Assembly was attended by members and friends from such distances as London, England; California, Milwaukee, Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York City, Troy, and Niagara Falls, as well as from New England.

In honor of the Second Annual Assembly, Harvard’s Widener Library featured a special exhibit of rare Armenian books and manuscripts from the collections of the Hartford Seminary Foundation, William Bentinck-Smith, and Philip Hofer.

An inspirational series of talks by eminent authorities in various fields of study and research highlighted the Assembly’s conference, "Searchlight on Armenian Studies: Areas and Problems of Research," Reading the list of noted scholars were Professors Sirarpie Der Nersessian of Harvard’s Dumbarton Oaks Research Library; Arthur Jeffery of Columbia University; and Joshua Whatmough of Harvard.

Chaired by Prof. Richard N. Frye, Associate Director of Harvard’s Center for (Continued on Page 2)
Middle Eastern Studies, the conference cited the immediate need for a center of Armenian studies as envisioned at Harvard and the new horizons which could be opened up once a permanent program of research and studies is undertaken.

Other participants projecting the needs and problems of research in Armenian studies into their own particular fields included Prof. Carleton Coon, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Robert M. Marshall, Brown University; Dr. Paul Bedourian, American Numismatic Society; and Dr. A. O. Sarkissian, Library of Congress. A detailed conference report will be sent to all members at a later date.

The Saturday evening banquet at the Harvard Club of Boston was well attended. Featured speaker was Dr. Sirarpie Der Nersessian, Professor of Byzantine art and archeology. She stressed the vast importance of Armenian art and the deep cultural values of Armenian life as being principal factors in perpetuating the Armenian heritage among our present generation. Representing Harvard was William Bontinck-Smith, assistant to President Pusey. He brought the greetings of the University and its president and pledged again Harvard’s full support and cooperation in the Association’s venture.

At the banquet it was announced that the Harvard Armenian Chair fund had gone well over the $10,000 mark with several large donations made on the occasion of the Second Annual Assembly. The organization’s public thanks were extended to all those who have supported the campaign. In particular, the following were singled out for special thanks for having contributed or pledged $1000 or more to date:

Fred B. Avakian
Judge N. Barsumian
Miss Azniv Beshgeturian
Dr. Mihran Chapian
George Egavian
Charles Kazrossian
J. Mark Kolligian
Daniel Kendakjian
Edward Margdigan
Dikran Missirlian
M. J. Najarian
Gen. Sarkis Zartarian

Also extended special recognition were the volunteer office staff members for

(Continued on Page 5)
CONTRIBUTORS TO NAASR'S FUND
FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Special thanks to the generous donors below who have contributed or pledged to the Association's fund for administrative & organizational expenses.

$100.00
Haik Kavookjian (NYC)
Edward Mardigian (Mich.)
Stephen Pilibosian (Pa.)
Sarkes Tarzian (Ind.)
$75.00
Sarkis Manoogian (Pa.)
$50.00
Mini Chamian (Gr. Bos.)
Setrag Daglian (R.I.)
Detroit Armenian Women's Club
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Richard Malkasian (Gr. Bos.)
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Dr. Armen Mesrobian (Gr. Bos.)
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Dr. Mihan Missirlian (R.I.)
Aram B. Sarkisian (Gr. Bos.)
Paul Sivadjian (Canada)
Mrs. Mary Tarzian (Ind.)
Harold G. Zulalian (Gr. Bos.)
(Continued Next Issue)
For the Establishment of an Endowed Chair of Armenian Studies and Research

New Contributions and Pledges

April 16 - August 15, 1956

HARVARD UNIVERSITY ARMENIAN STUDIES FUND

WHO'S WHO AMONG NAASR BOARD MEMBERS AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS


NOTE: Asterik (*) denotes an increased total over previously reported amount.

(See April 1956 issue of NEWSLETTER for Who's Who of other Board members.)
ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH NAASR SECTIONS

This first full year of activity culminating with the 2nd Annual Assembly witnessed the growth of NAASR from a predominantly New England organization to a nationwide organization. Nearly 60% of the present membership of 900 now comes from outside of New England. There are 16 functioning section committees in the major Armenian communities east of Mississippi. Steps are underway now to organize committees also in the distant states of Florida and California. Seven of the eight banquets scheduled to date for this fall and winter will be outside of New England--further testimony of the nationwide character and acceptance of NAASR. Here follows a brief run-down of these eight local section committees.

The Cleveland, Ohio, committee is headed by Asst Prof. Hoosag Gregory of the Case Institute of Technology, ably assisted by vice chairman Elizabeth Kalousidian, secretary Ann Chobanian, and treasurer Richard Demirjian. Also planned are cultural meetings and discussion programs on Armenian topics. Detroit, Mich., by far, has one of the most active groups. Headed by the young and energetic industrialist Edward Mardigian, the committee also includes Kirk Horigian and Howard Atesian, vice chairmen; Hasmig Berberian and Rosalie Papazian, secretaries; and Sooren Yavruian, treasurer. The banquet committee chairman is Armen Ovanesian. Spearheading its membership drive to get 200 members are Arthur Matthews and Mrs. Howard Atesian.

The Hartford, Conn., section committee chairman is Prof. H. N. Dadourian, professor-emeritus of Trinity College. Its other officers are Juan Nazarian, vice chairman; Mrs. Lucy Knapelian and Arden Giligian, secretaries; and Harry Badrigian, treasurer. Heading the banquet committee are Suzan Parnakian and Ed K. Kaprelian. Mrs. Alice Swaringen and Arusiag Tarpinian are respectively membership and publicity chairmen. Advisors are Dr. Nerses Y. Matossian and Paul Donchian. The Greater New York City committee is headed by attorney Alan Fenner as chairman and Armine Dikjian as secretary. Other active committee members include Dr. Paul Bedoukian, Rose Marie Dirhem, Arthur Hambarian, Shaque Hampar, and Ave Yeghennian.

The honeymoon city of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has proportionately more members than many of our large communities thanks to the untiring efforts of an excellent group of committee members headed by Dr. Max M. Boudakian. Vice chairmen are Karnik Sarkissian and Leo Dardarian. Secretary and treasurer are Pauline Ghogasian and Peter D. Boudakian, respectively. In Philadelphia, Pa., much-travelling Harry Avrigan, an industrial consultant, is chairman. Other officers are Menas Maloumian, vice chairman; Sarkis Manogian, treasurer; and Misses Rose and Sara Sarian, secretaries.

In Troy, N. Y., recent elections have made Mary Tashjian chairman, Dr. Kourken Erzurumlu vice chairman, John Kochian treasurer, and Peggy Kochian and Rose Harmacian secretaries. In Washington, D. C., Prof. Sirarpie Der Nersessian heads a committee composed of Mrs. Alice O. Kasparian, vice chairman; Mrs. Doris Ohanesian and Srpouhie Essefian, secretaries; and Dr. A. O. Sarkissian, treasurer.

2nd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (Cont. from Page 2)

their conscientious devotion and as well generous contributions to the campaign.

First Vice Chairman Dr. Arra S. Avakian of the Board of Directors acted as toastmaster. Other speakers were Chair­man Manoog S. Young, Rev. A. A. Bedikian, and Prof. Richard N. Frye, of the NAASR Board; and Richard Ashton of Milwaukee, Wis., newly appointed regional director for the Middle West. Musical selections were presented by the Armenian National Choral Society of Boston.

In addition to adopting the constitution and electing members to the Board of Directors (see page 2), the Assembly in its business sessions voted for an increased operational budget, an inventory of writers, scholars, teachers and students in the field of Armenian studies, and, as well, of unpublished current and completed research in Armenian and related studies. It also favored publication of the talks presented at the confer­ence and a world congress of Armenian scholars at Harvard.

In charge of Assembly arrangements were co-chairmen Jack Guveyan and James Koun­dakjian. Heading the other Assembly commit­tees were Gen. Sarkis M. Zartarian, Nominations; Hag Der Manouelian, Constitution and Rules; Richard Malkesian, New Business and Resolutions; and Martin Martinian, Audit.