Great Strides and Events Mark 10th Anniversary Year

NAASR's tenth anniversary year is being highlighted by many great strides and events of unequaled importance.

It commenced in June in Boston with a four-day program featuring an International Conference on the Armenian Language, the Tenth Annual National Assembly of Members with representation from every part of the country, and a Tenth Anniversary Banquet and Celebration. NAASR-sponsored academic programs at Harvard University and the University of California - Los Angeles are making rapid strides. NAASR will also be aiding the development of a more permanent program at Columbia University. NAASR has also financially contributed to the Armenian program at the Berkeley campus of the University of California. NAASR is own endowed "Fund for the Advancement of Armenian Studies" has grown to over $120,000 in cash and pledges. With two publications already in print and a book department and mail order service in operation, NAASR's projected publication program includes books, translations, reprints, records, and other audio-visual aids dealing with Armenian language studies, history, literature, and culture. Steps are being taken to acquire a building or site to serve as a NAASR headquarters, library, and information center with full-time personnel.

The Tenth Anniversary Banquet and Celebration held on June 14 in the Grand Ballroom of Boston's Statler Hilton Hotel with a capacity audience was a never-to-be-forgotten event. Next to the Tenth Anniversary Banquet perhaps the climax of the event was the most thrilling moment for NAASR and the Armenian community. Gathered together under one roof at one time was the largest assemblage of Armenian scholars ever convened in the world and outstanding American-Armenians who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields of endeavor.

The most dramatic moment of the celebration was perhaps when three outstanding Armenologists, all from abroad and none of them Armenian by birth, spoke in perfect Armenian to the enthralled audience and be-seen the present not to let die the wonderful heritage and culture of the Armenians which they have come to love as their own and with which they are identified. Robert Godel of the University of Geneva, Switzerland; Prof. Frederic Feydut of the Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes of Paris, France; and Dr. Charles Dowsett of the University of London, England, introduced the double-tiered head table of over fifty persons. In addition to the above-mentioned three speakers, Hon. Samuel Mardian, Jr., former mayor of Phoenix, Ariz., and Board Chairman Manoog S. Young.

Consultant messages were received from President Lyndon B. Johnson, United Nations Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, Governor Endicott Peabody, Senators Leverett Saltonstall and Edward Kennedy, His Grace Archbishop Avedis A. Manoogian, Mr. A. David Manoogian of Los Angeles, Allex Manoogian and Mrs. Arax Ezerjian, Rouben Mamoulian, Lili Chookasian, and many others.

NAASR's second decade of activity will see the realization of such projects as one-week Summer Institutes in Armenian History and Culture, an International Conference on Armenian History and Archaeology, a tour of Armenian educational and cultural centers abroad, and a World Congress of Armenian Studies.

Harvard Armenian Program Moves Forward on Ten Fronts: New Courses Introduced

Harvard University's Armenian Studies Program took a great stride forward this fall with the introduction of five new courses in the curriculum so that now the program offers nine courses, with more to be added in subsequent years, to those interested in pursuing Armenian Studies on a serious, scholarly basis.

There are five language courses now available, two in Modern Armenian and three in Classical Armenian, and four courses dealing with history, literature, and intellectual history of Armenia, 5th through 10th Centuries; History of the Armenian Church, From the Beginnings to the 7th Century; Seminar in Armenian Historiography; and a Graduate Reading and Research Course in Armenian Language and Literature. In addition an intensive course in Classical Armenian was offered in the Summer School.

These courses are being taught by Assistant Professor Avedis K. Sanjian and Dr. Robert W. Thomson. Last spring as a visiting professor there was also Prof. Robert Godel of the University of Geneva, Switzerland. In the span of the last 3-4 years over 50 students, mostly on the graduate level, have pursued these courses for credit toward advanced degrees.

Harvard will inaugurate an Armenian publication series next February auspiciously with Sirapirche Der Nersessian's Aghtamar. Church of the Holy Cross, a beautiful book of 77 illustrations with four in full color. It will be followed by other monographs shortly. (Watch for detailed announcements and special rates.)

Harvard's Armenian Studies Program is moving ahead as well on six other fronts: 1) intensive research activity on both graduate and professional levels, 2) a public lecture series with internationally known scholars giving lectures open to both the academic and Armenian communities, 3) a continual enlargening of its collection of Armenian books and periodicals making it still the largest in the world, 4) acquisition of museum holdings, 5) establishment of exchange programs with Armenian academic centers and institutions abroad, and 6) closer inter-departmental relations and cooperation with NAASR.

SPECIAL MESSAGES TO NAASR

"As you observe the Tenth Anniversary of your fine organization, I am pleased to extend hearty greetings to the members and friends of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. I wholly applaud your scholarly activities of years past and I wish you a productive and rewarding future."

-- Lyndon B. Johnson

"My heartfelt congratulations to the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research on its Tenth Anniversary.

I have the highest admiration for your successful preservation of an old and treasured culture, which the world could not afford to lose. We hope some day all men will be brothers but never familiars of each other. Our diversities are therefore precious, and the rich and varied foundations of the past will help us to build the future."

With my best wishes,

-- Senator Edward M. Kennedy

-- Adlai E. Stevenson

President Johnson

December 1964
The International Conference on Armenian Language, held on June 10 and 11, 1964, at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under NAASR's sponsorship and direction, was the first international academic conference ever held on any phase of Armenian studies and has drawn world wide attention through the participation of noted European scholars and extensive foreign radio and newspaper coverage.

Under the able direction of Prof. V. Lawrence Parsegian of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the conference brought together seventeen scholars and over 125 participants who examined the Armenian language from the historical, classical, and comparative points of view. Following formal presentation of specially prepared papers, panels discussed related questions and explored current research and areas for future work as well as problems, methods, and needs for the teaching of Armenian. One highlight of the conference was the reading of papers specially prepared and sent to the conference by scholars at the Academy of Science in Erevan, Armenian S.S.R.

Through the Voice of America radio broadcasts and reports in newspapers and journals on the proceedings, the conference has already received international coverage. Inquiries have been received at the NAASR office from scholars, students, libraries, and universities in this country and from foreign countries as far distant as Australia. The complete proceedings of the conference, including discussion from the floor, will be published in special monograph form by NAASR.

Participating in the conference, besides the European scholars, were Prof. Roman Jakobson, Prof. Richard N. Frye, Dr. Robert W. Thomson, and Michael E. Stone, all of Harvard University; Prof. Nina Garsoian and Hapog Nersoyan of Columbia Univ.; Prof. James Etmekjian, Queens College, N.Y.; Abp. Tiran Nersoyan, St. Nersess Armenian Theological School; Rev. A. A. Bedikian, L. A. Armenian Chair was made to Dean Franklin P. Rolfe of College of Letters and Science in the amount of $15,980.84.

In Los Angeles a special public reception was held on Nov. 5 at the U.C.L.A. Alumni Center where a formal presentation of NAASR's first installment towards the U.C.L.A. Armenian Chair was made to Dean Franklin P. Rolfe of College of Letters and Science in the amount of $15,980.84. Prof. Gustave von Grunebaum, director of the Near Eastern Center, presided and gave an inspiring presentation of NAASR's accomplishments and to aid the campaign to enlarge its endowed Fund for the Advancement of Armenian Studies and to establish a second Chair of Armenian Studies at the University of California - Los Angeles.

The banquet featured Vice-Chairman Foster H. Sierwood of U.C.L.A., Pres. Paul Dodd of San Francisco State College, Prof. Fredric Feydit, Prof. Roman Jakobson, Conductor Haig Yaghjian, Gen. Serob Ohannessian, Center of the Armenian Church, 1964, $5.00; Rose Baboian's Armenian American Cook Book, 1964, $2.00; Earle W. Stevick, Columbia Press, 1958, $5.00; America - An Abridged Historic Outline of Its Church and People, Diocese of the Armenian Church, 1964, $2.00; The French Influence on the Western Armenian Renaissance by James Etmekjian, Twayne Publishers, 1964, $6.00 ($5.00 for members). All orders must be accompanied by a remittance. Postage and handling charges are prepaid.

There are many ways in which you can help support NAASR's program and activities, but none is more important than your membership. If you are not a member, join now. If you are, please renew your membership faithfully each year.