



# NAASR NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATING  
15th ANNIVERSARY  
OF NAASR's FOUNDING

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH, INC.

175 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

**FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY.** The Fifteenth Annual Assembly of Members on June 14, 1969, and the gala banquet and reception that same evening will kick off NAASR's fifteenth anniversary year. Fourteen years ago on June 11, 1955, NAASR came into being officially following a year of preliminary meetings and preparations by the founders and charter members. During this span NAASR's progress has been characterized by a phenomenal growth, community-wide acceptance, and unimagined accomplishments.

Several dramatic announcements of major proportions will be made at the Anniversary Banquet and will serve to launch, with a tremendous push, NAASR's fifteenth anniversary year drive to reach the million-dollar goal for its permanent endowment Fund for the Advancement of Armenian Studies. With these developments NAASR will have reached its highest level of attainment to date, and Armenian studies will have achieved world wide recognition on an everlasting basis.

The banquet program will be headed by Miss Kay Armen of stage, screen, radio, and TV fame. Vice Chancellor Paul O. Proehl of U. C. L. A. and distinguished Prof. -emeritus William L. Langer of Harvard will be the principal speakers. A large committee headed by Charles Talanian, chairman, and George H. Boole, Jr., and Sahag R. Dakesian, co-chairmen, is handling arrangements.

Watch your newspapers and subsequent newsletters for details of these exciting developments and plans for future NAASR activities and programs in support of research, scholarship, and publications.

**CONFERENCE ON ARMENIAN STUDIES IN THE U. S.** The two-day conference which will be held on June 12 & 13 at the Holiday Inn in Waltham, Mass., under the general chairmanship of Prof. John Hanesian, Jr., of George Washington University will be the first such conference in the world of those who are directly involved in the teaching, research, and administration of Armenian studies on a university level. The nature, scope, and progress of the Armenian programs at the various universities will be reviewed, and ways and means of developing better coordination, liaison, and relevance in the programs will be discussed. A reception, public meeting and panel session will be held on Thursday evening, June 12.

Among those expected to attend are Profs. Avedis K. Sanjian and Richard Hovannissian, U.C.L.A.; Prof. Nina Garsoian and Krikor Maksoudian, Columbia; Prof. Robert W. Thomson and Ara Dostourian, Harvard; Prof. Louise Nalbandian, Fresno State College; Prof. Edmond Schutz, University of Budapest, Hungary, as well as scholars from other universities.

**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.** The Fifteenth Annual Assembly on Saturday, June 14, will hear reports from the Board of Directors, act on new business and resolutions, elect eight Directors of the Association, and transact any other business which may properly come before the assembly.

The present Board members are Manoog S. Young (\*), chairman; Dr. Joseph Mazmanian, first vice chairman; Dr. Alan Der Kazarian, second vice chairman; Raffi Yeghiayan, secretary; Peter Sarmanian (\*), treasurer; and George H. Boole, Jr. (\*), and Charles Talanian (\*), executive committee members-at-large. Other Board members are: Rev. A. A. Bedikian (\*), Sahag R. Dakesian (\*), Prof. Ara Dostourian, Dr. Lionel S. Galstaun (\*), Prof. John Hanesian, Jr., Prof. Robert Mirak, Stephen P. Mugar, and Prof. Helen R. Vaznaian (\*). (Asterisks denote those whose terms are expiring with this assembly.)

Following the assembly the National Advisory Board will meet with the new Directors on Sunday, June 15, in order to review NAASR's accomplishments, plans, and operations. Co-chairmen of the advisory group are Edward Mardigian of Detroit and Dickran H. Boyajian of Watertown.

ARMENIAN HERITAGE TOURS. NAASR once again has organized unprecedented and unique guided tours through both historic and modern Armenia. Famed Armenian shrines, ruins, and scenic splendors will be seen in Eastern Turkey and the U. S. S. R., and ample opportunity will be provided to visit towns and villages from whence great migrations originated after the upheavals of the latter 19th and early 20th centuries. "One's pride in his heritage will be strengthened as a result of these tours", says Dr. Alan Der Kazarian, Tour Chairman. There are still openings in the fall 3-week tour which departs on Sept. 22 and returns on Oct. 13. Make your reservations early! A deposit of \$100 will hold a place for you.

RESEARCH GRANTS. Two grants totaling \$1500 have been made from the income of NAASR's permanent endowment fund. The NAASR Academic Committee headed by Prof. Richard N. Frye of Harvard, chairman, and Prof. Robert W. Thomson of Harvard, secretary, is now accepting applications for the 1970-71 academic year. Further details will be announced shortly. Other committee members are Prof. Nina Garsoian, Columbia; Prof. Frank M. Cross, Jr., Harvard; Dr. A. O. Sarkissian, Library of Congress. Corresponding members are Prof. Avedis K. Sanjian, U. C. L. A., and Prof. -emerita Sirarpie Der Nersessian, Harvard.

HEADQUARTERS RENOVATIONS. NAASR acquired its own headquarters building in 1967. An eleven-room house beautifully situated overlooking the Charles River and within walking distance of Harvard University and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Center, the building has been undergoing extensive renovations for the past two months under the capable direction of Board member Charles Talanian. When completed shortly, it will have new heating and lighting systems and will be completely redecorated and refurnished. It will then be ready for full-scale activities with planned programs, conferences, seminars, and meetings and will serve as an office, reference library, and information center. Your dues and administrative donations will help offset the operating costs and meet the mortgage payments.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS. Unsolicited gifts of books for our reference library are being made even before any public appeal. Two significant collections have been donated by Rev. A. A. Bedikian of Leonia, N. J., (bound volumes of Gotchnag from 1912 to 1968) and Haig Der Manuelian of Belmont, Mass., (bound volumes of Hairenik Monthly from 1922 to 1934). Books, periodicals, collections, unpublished works, and personal papers will all be welcomed, and are invaluable materials for research. A distinctive bookplate is being designed so that the donor's name can be included. Gifts of books are deductible for income tax purposes.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER-DANCE. A departure from the usual type of activity was an anniversary dinner-dance held last February in the plush suburban Sidney Hill Country Club in Chestnut Hill, Mass. It was organized to help promote fellowship among NAASR members and friends and to raise funds for operating and administrative needs. It succeeded on both counts (over \$5000 was raised!), and it may become an annual event. Thanks must go, in particular, to committee chairman Peter Sarmanian and co-chairmen George H. Boole, Jr., and Dr. Alan K. Der Kazarian.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. No sooner had NAASR's new book list been issued in December, 1968, than several more titles became available. Books on Armenian topics in English are proliferating, and we are happy we are having difficulty keeping up with them. Hopefully a consolidated and up-to-date catalog will be issued this fall. In the meantime, here are the newest titles available through NAASR (prices in parentheses are member prices): The Paulician Heresy - Nina G. Garsoian (Mouton & Co.), \$15.50 (\$13.50); New Julfa: The Armenian Churches and Other Buildings - John Carswell (Oxford Univ. Press), \$14.00 (\$13.00); History of Eastern Christianity - Aziz S. Atiya (Univ. of Notre Dame Press), \$13.50 (\$12.25); Uartian Art and Artifacts: A Chronological Study - Guitty Azarpay (Univ. of California Press), \$12.50 (\$10.50); Experiences - Arnold Toynbee (Oxford Univ. Press), \$8.50 (\$7.00). Publications scheduled for 1969-70 include The Colophons of Armenian Manuscripts, 1301 - 1480 - Avedis K. Sanjian (Harvard Univ. Press); The Teachings of Gregory - Robert W. Thomson (Harvard Univ. Press); and The Armenians - Sirarpie Der Nersessian (Thames & Hudson, Ltd.).

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS. A series of new popular publications, brochures, announcements, and more regular issues of the Newsletter and Bulletin of Armenian Studies are in various stages of preparation. During the summer, following the 15th Annual Assembly, many of these will be going to press and will be sent to all members in good standing. You will receive detailed news of the assembly, banquet, and conference. You will get financial reports, and future plans and activities will be outlined. Payment of your dues will assure receipt of these publications and informational materials.