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FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

PROVIDENCE BOOK FAIR TO HEAR ABOUT

WALTERS ART GALLERY ARMENIAN MANUSCRIPTS

The First Armenian Book Fair to be held on Sunday, November 18, 1973, at the Egavian Auditorium, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, R. I., will feature talks about recent books in English dealing with various aspects of Armenian history and culture.

Talks on Recent Books

The most recent book, "The Armenian Manuscripts in the Walters Art Gallery", will be the subject of an illustrated talk by Edward P. McCracken, administrative officer of the gallery. The other recently published book is "The Lions of Marash" by Dr. Stanley E. Kerr of Princeton, N. J. Dr. Kerr will be present to talk about his book and to autograph copies which are purchased at the book fair. The busy schedule for the book fair will also include a talk by Prof. Vartan Artinian of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He will speak about ways to make learning Armenian easy for American-born individuals.

Armenian Manuscripts Collection

The catalog of the Armenian manuscripts, just published this month and now in transit from England, is a detailed study by the world renowned art historian Sirarpie Der Nersessian, Henri Focillon Professor of Byzantine Art and Archaeology, Emerita, of Harvard University. It will contain nearly 500 photographs in both color and black-and-white from eleven illuminated Armenian manuscripts, dating from the 10th to 19th centuries, in the gallery's collection.

The publication of this work has been made possible by a grant of over \$21,500 by the National Endowment for the Arts and by matching contributions by individuals, foundations, and organizations in the American-Armenian community. The Walters Art Gallery, located in Baltimore, Md., is one of the major museums in the United States and the Armenian manuscripts form an integral part of the museum's collection of masterpieces of art ranging in date from 3,000 B.C. to the 19th century.

Eye-Witness Account

Dr. Kerr's book, published this past summer by the State University of New York Press, is an eye-witness account of the tragic events which resulted in the

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annihilation of the Armenian population of Marash in Central Anatolia following World War I and dramatically affected the course of Armenian and Turkish history during the period of 1919 - 1922.

Dr. Kerr served as an American Near East Relief official at that time and subsequently taught at the American University of Beirut for forty years until his retirement in 1965 with the rank of Distinguished Professor. He was also decorated by the Republic of Lebanon in recognition of his service.

#### Film and Slide Presentation

The book fair will also feature two showings of the hour-length color film "Yerevan" with English sound track, a continuous slide presentation on "Historic and Modern Armenia", an exhibit and booths featuring over 150 books in English on various aspects of Armenian history and culture, and an "Armenian Oasis" of Armenian food and delicacies which will be on sale.

The book fair's theme will be "Armenia: First Christian Nation" and will feature displays originally prepared for the Boston Globe Book Festival last week. Organized by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the book fair is being presented in association with the Knights of Vartan Arax Lodge of Rhode Island.

The book fair will open at 1:00 p.m. and continue through 10:00 p.m. and will take place in the auditorium and adjacent hall of the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church. A nominal donation of \$1.00 will be asked of all who attend, but children under twelve will be admitted without charge. Book prizes and bonuses will be available to book purchasers.

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Cambridge, Mass.

November 8, 1973