

# NAASR Newsletter

Winter, 1985-86 (Vol. II, Nos. 3-4)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

## NAASR Receives \$100,000 Gift

A major gift of \$100,000 has been pledged by Miss Zarouhi Noorjanian of Milford, Mass., toward the \$2.5 million NAASR fund drive to support activities, programs, and functions on behalf of Armenian studies and culture.

The pledge will be fulfilled in three annual installments, the first of which has already been received. Together with previous benefactions, Miss Noorjanian's support of NAASR programs will exceed \$110,000.

According to Miss Noorjanian's wishes, the funds will be allocated as follows: 50 percent to the Zarouhi Noorjanian Library Fund, 25 percent to the Institute for the Study of the Armenian Genocide, and 25 percent to the Advancement Fund for other programs, activities, and operations.

"We are extremely grateful to Miss Noorjanian for her generosity to NAASR, particularly at this juncture in our current campaign," stated NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, "and we hope it will motivate others to make similar large donations."

See page 11 for profile of Miss Noorjanian.

## NAASR's Pace-Setting Role Lauded

America is rapidly becoming "the main, and virtually the sole, cultural stronghold of the Armenian dispersion," Dr. Arra S. Avakian of Fresno, Calif., Grand Commander of the Knights of Vartan, declared in an address to members and friends of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research at its 31st Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, Nov. 2, 1985, at the Graduate Center of Bentley College in Waltham, Mass.

Speaking to approximately 100 guests at the luncheon that preceded the Assembly, Dr. Avakian noted that, as heirs to a 3,000-year cultural continuity, Armenians today "must accept an inescapable responsibility to bequeath that culture to the suc-

ceeding generations in such a way that we ensure its perpetuation."

"To fill that role is no small responsibility," the author, scholar, educator, and a NAASR founding member told his audience in the course of a brief review of three decades of NAASR's past and a look ahead to future prospects.

The assembly weekend opened on Friday evening, Nov. 1, with a lecture by Dr. Kevork Kherlopian, Professor of History at the University of Yerevan and visiting professor this year at the American Armenian International College in La Verne, Calif. Prof. Kherlopian spoke on "Critical Issues in Armenian Studies Today" at the lecture,

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## Genocide Institute To Be Established

An Institute for the Study of the Armenian Genocide will be formed by NAASR as a consequence of last year's highly successful National Conference on Genocide and Human Rights sponsored jointly by NAASR and Bentley College.

Initial seed money for the Institute of

\$7,500 to \$10,000 will be provided by NAASR. It is estimated that initial funding of \$50,000 will be required to put the Institute into operation, and subsequent funding of \$200,000 to \$250,000 will be needed to carry out the Institute programs.

Purposes of the Institute include the following:

1. To encourage and support further study and research about the Armenian Genocide through sponsorship of multi-disciplinary research;
2. To provide scholar-in-residence grants, fellowships, and travel grants;
3. To publish original research and analysis, reprints, audio-visual material, and documentary data and information;
4. To support and assist in the development and dissemination of curriculum material;
5. To collect and expand archival material, documentation, and sources on the Armenian Genocide; and
6. To organize and sponsor seminars, symposia, and conferences on various aspects of the Armenian Genocide.

An Advisory Board consisting of prominent scholars in the field of Genocide Studies will be named soon to provide advice and assistance in the administration of the Institute, which will be under the general direction of a NAASR Director of Studies and Research to be appointed.

## Banquet and Extravaganza To Be on June 15

Year-long activities celebrating 30 years of NAASR activities and programs in support of Armenian studies and culture will be climaxed by a gala "Tribute to NAASR" Extravaganza on Sunday evening, June 15, in Harvard's Sanders Theatre. It will be preceded by a \$100-a-plate banquet in the adjacent historic Memorial Hall, the site of the 1959 thousand-person banquet marking the conclusion of the successful Harvard Armenian Chair campaign. A reception will conclude the day's activities.

Founders, charter members, directors, members, and supporters from all parts of the country are expected to attend this memorable event, which will provide an opportunity to celebrate three decades of NAASR achievements and to look ahead to future programs and prospects.

Several individuals who have contributed significantly to the growth of Armenian studies in the United States will be honored on this occasion. Noted persons in the performing arts will take part in the special program. Other prominent persons from various fields of endeavor have been invited to participate. Details will be forthcoming in future issues of the *Newsletter* and in the American-Armenian press as well as periodic mailings to the members.

A large committee has been meeting regularly to plan the programs and activities of this auspicious occasion. The subcommittee chairmen are: Daniel Adamian, Program; Armen Dohanian, Souvenir Book; Erivan Hagopian, Tickets; Nishan Goudsouzian, Publicity and Mailings; Joanne Peterson, Banquet Arrangements; and Anahid Yacoubian, Hospitality.

## Briefs

**JOURNAL ISSUED.** Publication of the NAASR *Journal of Armenian Studies* has been resumed with the printing of Vol. II, No. 1 (Spring/Summer, 1985) with articles by Hagop J. Nersoyan, John A. C. Greppin, Stephen Gero, David Marshall Lang, Ara Dostourian, and several others.

The issue has been mailed to all NAASR members in good standing. The *Journal* is also available on a subscription basis (\$7.50 for this year, or \$4.00 per issue).

The *Journal* presents both scholarly and popular articles on a broad range of subjects and is designed to meet the needs and interests of scholars, students, and others interested in Armenian history, culture, and language.

Students or scholars are invited to submit their manuscripts for consideration for publication in the *Journal*. For the present, the publication will be issued on a semi-annual basis. The quality and quantity of articles submitted for publication — as well as the level of financial support for NAASR — will determine the future size of the *Journal* and the frequency of its publication.

**STAFF APPOINTMENT.** Joanne Peterson of Brookline, Mass., has joined the NAASR staff part-time as Executive Assistant assigned to special projects. Much of her time will be spent in the NAASR Reference and Research Library, where she will work with Librarian Danila Terpanjian to organize and catalogue books, periodicals, and collections of personal papers.

A former member of the Board of Directors (1975-1981), Miss Peterson has worked on various NAASR programs and activities. Prior to coming to NAASR, she was engaged in the field of business education on the high school and college level.

**COMPUTER ACQUIRED.** The NAASR Headquarters has just acquired an IBM-AT computer with a 30-megabyte capacity and with word-processing, spreadsheet, and data-base software. As the staff becomes familiar with the use of the equipment, NAASR should be able to serve its members and the community more efficiently and expand its services and operations.

NAASR was able to acquire the computer through the special efforts of Armen Manoogian, President, and Ralph Wagner, Executive Vice-President, of MBI/Micro-Source Business Centers and with the technical assistance of Mark J. Tecca. Serving as consultants for NAASR were Tatoul Badalian and Razmik Abnous of the Armenian Computer Society, Prof. Dennis Anderson of Bentley College, and Gregory Tutunjian of Digital Equipment Corporation.

Contributions will be welcome to make possible the purchase of additional terminals for the use of the NAASR staff.

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

*The Facts of Life*

A few days before Christmas Miss Zarouhi Noorjanian informed us of her intention to pledge \$100,000 in support of various NAASR programs and to forward an initial contribution of \$30,000 before the end of the 1985 year as the first of three annual payments. This most thoughtful and generous gesture, which came as a wonderful surprise, was in response to the appeal for support of NAASR's current \$2.5 million drive to build up our endowment and current funds so that NAASR's activities and programs can go forward in response to the increasing needs and demands.

What was most gratifying about Miss Noorjanian's support was the allocation of 25 percent to the Advancement Fund "for the administrative and organizational functions and needs of NAASR." This represented a recognition of the realities of operating an organization. As much as we need and welcome funds in support of our various programs to advance Armenian studies and culture, we are handicapped in achieving our goals unless we have sufficient funds to meet our daily operating expenses (salaries, office supplies and equipment, printing, utilities, telephone, postage, insurance, mortgage, etc.).

All too many members believe that membership dues will take care of these needs. However, the reality is that membership dues take care of only 30 to 40 percent of the costs of NAASR's headquarters operations and administrative functions. In 1984 dues met just 35 percent of the operating costs.

We have to make up the rest of the operating expenses from the profits of book sales, proceeds from activities, and, most importantly, contributions specifically designated for operations. Without such additional funds we cannot carry out the functions and programs which the membership and the community at large expect us to undertake. NAASR is no different from our churches or other organizations inasmuch as none of them can exist or carry on their work with only membership dues.

That is why Miss Noorjanian's recognition of this need is most appreciated, and we hope will serve as an example to our members and supporters. She has recognized the economic facts of life. We hope you will, too, by continuing and increasing your membership support and contributing as well to the Advancement Fund.

*Manoog S. Young, Chairman  
NAASR Board of Directors*

**VISITORS.** Recent visitors to the NAASR headquarters have included:

Mrs. Ruth Yardumian of Bryn Athyn, Penn., widow of the late composer Richard Yardumian; and Aram Gharabekian, founder and music director of the Sinfonova Chamber Orchestra of Boston;

General Aram Karamanoukian, a retired highly-decorated officer in the Syrian Army, who has served in the Syrian Parliament and the Constituent Assembly and is a recognized scholar in the field of international law;

Betsy Gregory of London, England; Arman J. Haser, President of Consolidated Grouping Operations of Toronto, Canada; and Prof. J. K. Hassiotis, Chairman of the Department of History at Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece;

Also, Rose Akgulian of Racine, Wisc.; Col. Victor Arzoomanian of the Diocese of the Armenian Church; Board Member Richard Ashton of Fresno, Calif.; Florence Chakerian of Albuquerque, N.M.; and Diana Markarian of Daly City, Calif.

**NECROLOGY.** Two former members of the NAASR Board of Directors passed away recently. Both had played an important role in NAASR's development and successes and maintained an active interest in NAASR until their untimely passing. They were as well active members of numerous Armenian and other organizations.

Dr. James Etmekjian of Newton, Mass., on Jan. 3. A popular lecturer and scholar as well as community leader, he was the author of several books, including *The French Influence on the Western Armenian Renaissance* and *A Graded West Armenian Reader*. He was among the first six founders of NAASR and served on the Board of Directors from 1955 to 1962.

Carl H. Surabian of Saugus, Mass., on Jan. 15. A businessman and realtor-developer, he served on the NAASR Board for ten years from 1971 to 1981. He was assistant treasurer for several years. He had just recently been appointed to NAASR's National Advisory Board and was an active member of the Fund-raising Committee.

## NAASR: A Thirty-Year Retrospective and Future Directions

*The following is the edited text of the talk given by Dr. Avakian at the NAASR Annual Assembly Luncheon at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., on Saturday, November 2.*

We are celebrating a birthday — an anniversary. Human anniversaries have a peculiar quality to them, not altogether pleasant. Oh my, we say, we are growing old! Institutional anniversaries don't suffer from being so unpalatable, so objectionable. In fact, they are downright gratifying. The older, the better.

So here we are, celebrating NAASR at 30 years. How did we get here? Where are we now? Where are we going? And where will we be in 30 more years, in 60 years? I daresay that there may be a few here who will witness the centennial. I do see some young people here; some of you will surely make it.

In the beginning, when we were choosing a name and came up with NAASR, there was another Nasser on the world scene. He held the reins in Egypt. We joked then. We would outlast him, we said. Well, we did that easily.

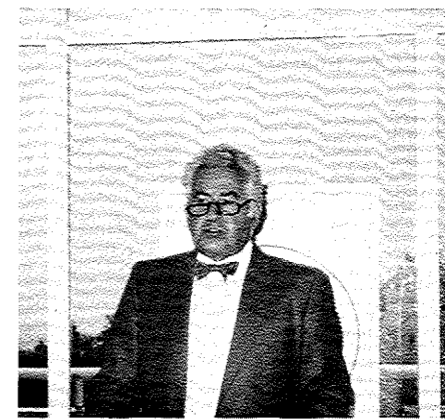
I remember the first public NAASR meeting. I believe that I was the first to address the crowd assembled. It was at Harvard's Phillips Brooks House. I was going to introduce Manoog, who was chairman then. For the fun of it I made Manoog Young come out Manoogian.

First there were three, Manoog Young, Tsolag Amirian, and myself. Then there were nine, and then 15. And then NAASR began to take off.

A bit more on the name. We needed a name in Armenian. Yeghishe Chrakian came up with *Hamazgayin Hayagitakan Miuthiun*.

In those days the stated central objective was to establish a Chair for Armenian Studies at Harvard University. That idea was so seductive that people called us the "Harvard Chair," instead of NAASR. Professors Richard N. Frye and William L. Langer, at Harvard, were very necessary to us, to give credence to the whole idea, a kind of official sanction from Harvard that the University would indeed establish a Chair, if we endowed it. Those two were needed to give us credence. That they did, and effectively.

I remember a few years later, there was to be a banquet at Memorial Hall. The word had leaked out. I don't know who leaked it. It doesn't matter. The word had



*By Dr. Arra S. Avakian*

leaked that we had hit our goal of \$300,000, and that it would be announced at that time. At the banquet hall there was room for 1,000 people. People were afraid that they might not get in. They feared that they would miss out on the great event. Would you believe it! Two hours before the banquet was scheduled to start the hall was virtually filled. Two hours ahead of time! And this with Armenians?

Well, enough of the earliest events. What is more important is what happened next. You see, there could have been a graceful exit, without shame, without loss of face. Mission accomplished. The Harvard Chair established, in perpetuity. No more need for NAASR.

But that is not what happened. The dedication and commitment of one man led him to pick up the banner, give the call, and lead the advance. This rugged individualist, Manoog Young, had vision and courage. He was fearless. He was endowed with a pioneering spirit.

Many shook their heads. Some even abandoned him for his reckless — no, call it bold — plans for the future. But I see that many who did abandon him, at one time, are back. You might say they went AWOL.

**Perpetuating Armenian Culture**

Our present concern is, of course, with Armenian matters. We are talking about Armenian studies, Armenian research, Armenian scholarship. It follows quite obviously that we would never bother about such matters if we did not have an abiding faith in the future of Armenian scholarship.

I do not think that this is a trivial observation. All this intellectual toil and sweat,

as well sometimes as physical toil and sweat, in perpetuating Armenian culture would not be taking place if we did not have that abiding faith that this activity was here to stay.

But I want to present the picture in a different light.

We can easily defend a claim that we Armenians are today heirs to a 3,000-year cultural continuity. As heirs we must accept an inescapable responsibility to bequeath that culture to the succeeding generations in such a way that we ensure its perpetuation. To fill that role is no small responsibility. Indeed, it is an exceedingly heavy responsibility.

It turns out that it is even a heavier responsibility than we might have thought in the past.

I should like to tell you why.

Our nation, the Armenian nation, is at the present time, and will remain for the foreseeable future, composed of two parts — the fatherland or homeland, and the dispersion.

Each part depends upon the continued existence of the other. That is, each part nourishes the other. Each part receives sustenance from the other. It is a two-way relationship, one that is absolutely essential if our divided nation is to survive. Remove one part of this dual relationship, either one, and the other will cease to exist within a lifetime or two.

I am absolutely certain of this. It is my positive conviction.

But today we are in a period of revolutionary change in the structure of the Armenian dispersion. Until about 20 years ago the Armenian dispersion had been in a relatively stable situation since the great upheaval in the early part of this century. Strong cultural centers existed in several regions throughout the world, in Beirut, in Constantinople, in Tehran, in Venice, in Jerusalem. These strong centers kept the cultural heritage of Armenians viable. These centers were endowed with national institutions such as schools, colleges, seminaries, publishing houses, music academies, athletic unions, dance schools, political organizations, social clubs, eleemosynary societies, compatriotic unions, art schools, business complexes, hospitals, welfare organizations, rest homes, retirement homes, research and study centers, museums, dramatic societies, writers' unions, book stores, etc.

These institutions formed a bulwark of defense — to defend Armenian culture. From these national institutions came our writers, our musicians, our artists, our clergy, our political leaders, our social leaders. These leaders gave the Armenian dispersion the strength to survive, to grow, and to develop. They were the life blood of our nation's cultural vitality.

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*"In this way NAASR became the vanguard of the now-growing panoply of a new class of cultural institutions in America...NAASR paved the way and set a pattern for other institutions of the same genre."*

**HARVARD.** A new course, "Of Life and Death: Literary Reactions to the Armenian Genocide in 1915," was given by Dr. Kevork Bardakjian at the Harvard University Extension School this fall. The objective of the course was to examine the effect of the Armenian Genocide on individuals, using eye-witness accounts and memoirs. Dr. Bardakjian is also teaching language courses in classical and modern Armenian at Harvard.

Also at Harvard, the Russian Research Center is sponsoring a series of seminars on "The Nationalities Factor in Soviet Society and Politics: Current Trends and Future Prospects." Participants to date have included Roman Szporluk (University of Michigan), Marc Raëff (Columbia University), Robert Conquest (The Hoover Institution), Richard Pipes (Harvard), Murray Feshbach (Georgetown University) and Paul Goble (U.S. Department of State). The speaker at the Jan. 13 session, on "Nationalities and Soviet Foreign Policy," was Prof. Vernon Aspaturian (Pennsylvania State University), who cited numerous examples of the role Armenians played in Soviet foreign policy developments.

**UMASS/BOSTON.** Course offerings for the spring term include Elementary Armenian II and a new course, Historic Background up to World War I. During the fall term, a one semester course on Armenian Art and Architecture was presented by Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian. According to Prof. Michael G. Mensioian, former chairman of the Department of Geography and Earth Science, who is directing the Armenian studies program, a special Armenian Heritage Lecture Series is being planned for March, 1986, featuring Armenian scholars and performers.

**MICHIGAN-DEARBORN.** The Rev. Vahan Tootikian has been appointed as lecturer in the Armenian language at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for the 1985-86 academic year.

A graduate of Aleppo College and the American University of Beirut, Dr. Tootikian holds advanced degrees from the Near East School of Theology, Hartford Seminary Foundation, and Andover Newton Theological Seminary. He is currently the pastor of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit.

Other courses relating to the Armenians being taught this year include a history course on Armenia and the Near East by Dr. Dennis R. Papazian, a history course on Holocaust by Dr. Sidney Bolkosky, and a sociology course on Genocide by Dr. Florence Mazian.

**CSUF.** Barlow Der Mugrdchian has been named lecturer in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and is teaching the introductory and intermediate Armenian language courses this year. A graduate of CSUF, Der Mugrdchian holds an M.A. degree from UCLA and

## UCLA Program in Its Twenty-Fifth Year

The Armenian Studies Program at UCLA is now in its 25th year and comprises the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in the United States from the point of view of course offerings, degree programs, and enrollments.

The program is anchored in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Culture, where Dr. Avedis Sanjian is the occupant of the endowed Grigor Narekatsi Chair in Armenian, and in the Department of History, where Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian holds a tenured professorship.

In the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA undergraduates may choose Armenian as a field of concentration for an interdisciplinary B.A. degree in Near Eastern Studies. For the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, students may concentrate in language or literature but must complete work in both, as well as in other Near Eastern languages and in Armenian history. To date, seven M.A. degrees have been awarded and five students have been advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. in Armenian.

In the Department of History, undergraduate courses include surveys of Armenian history and society from ancient to modern times. Candidates for the M.A. degree in Armenian history must have reading proficiency in Armenian, and for the Ph.D. degree in two additional languages. To date, sixteen students have received the M.A. degree in Armenian history, nine have passed the qualifying examinations for the Ph.D., and two have completed dissertations and have been awarded the Ph.D. degree.

Resources to support the program are found in the UCLA library which with 18,000 volumes holds the largest fund of Armenian materials in the United

States. The collection was established by Dr. K. M. Khantamour, a dentist, who donated more than 1,000 volumes, and it has been enriched by the acquisition of the 10,000-item Caro Minasian library from Isfahan, Iran, in 1968. The librarian for the Armenian collection, Gia Aivazian, has introduced several innovations in the treatment of Armenian materials in American libraries and serves as a consultant to libraries across the country.

Undergraduate instructions in the Armenian language and history began in 1960 with the strong support of the Near Eastern Center's first director, the late Gustave E. von Grunebaum, the then Chancellor Franklin P. Murphy, and Dean Paul Dodd. During the first years courses were offered by visiting faculty Kevork Sarafian, A. O. Sarkisian, and Louise Nalbandian. In 1969, through the efforts of NAASR, the Narekatsi Chair in Armenian was endowed; that same year a new tenured position in Armenian history was established.

Located in a major Armenian center in the United States, UCLA cooperates in outreach programs in Armenian studies in the community. The Armenian Student Association, an independent body, provides cultural, social, and political activities for Armenian students on campus. Special fellowships are available for students engaged in Armenian studies.

With solid undergraduate and graduate curricula in two departments, the UCLA Armenian studies program attracts students from many countries and, aside from majors, serves individuals whose primary field may be anthropology, archaeology, art, comparative literature, folklore, Indo-European studies, linguistics, music, political science, or sociology.

**Tololyan, Professor of English at Wesleyan University; Harut Sassounian, editor of the California Courier newspaper; Rev. Vartan Kasparian, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Yettam; and filmmaker Dr. J. Michael Hagopian.**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY.** University Extension is featuring an evening class on Armenian literature from the first century to the 11th, with focus on the Armenian epic and particularly the saga *David of Sassoun*. The ten-session class, led by poet and critic Vahe Oshagan, will consider the origins, content, and literary value of the epic, as well as its

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## Genocide Curriculum Mandated In California

Gov. George Deukmejian has signed into law a bill directing the California Department of Education to develop a model public school curriculum for the study of human rights issues, with particular attention to the inhumanity of genocide.

The law requires the model curriculum to be offered by all school districts in California as part of their mandatory courses of study beginning with the 1986-87 school year.

The legislation, the result of a bipartisan effort, was co-authored by two Los Angeles area Assemblymen with strong ties to the Armenian community: Mike Roos and Charles Calderon.

A seven-member advisory committee will be appointed to oversee the development of the curriculum by the Department of Education. The legislation sets a deadline of June 30, 1986, for the preparation of the curriculum so that it will be ready for use in the following school year. The sum of

\$25,000 was appropriated for the curriculum development.

The model curriculum will be used in grades 7 through 12 and will be incorporated into existing history or social studies courses without any increased level of services or lengthened school days.

NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young has addressed letters to California Governor Deukmejian and Education Department Superintendent Bill Honig suggesting that the educational approach developed by the Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation be made the basis for the California program.

Mr. Young pointed out that the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum had been widely acclaimed as a means to teach adolescents about painful events in history such as the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide that are often avoided by teachers. The curriculum, which raises basic issues about peer pressure, conformity, and the role of the individual

in a complex society, has been successfully used in a wide range of settings, including public and private secondary schools, universities, and adult education classes in over 400 communities across the nation. The segment on the Armenian Genocide is the most extensive of any curriculum in use in the United States on the subject of genocide.

The Joint Dissemination Review Panel of the U.S. Department of Education last year recertified the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum for its exemplary status. The curriculum was first accredited by the U.S. Department of Education in 1981.

Research on the segment of the curriculum dealing with the Armenian Genocide was made possible through grants from NAASR totaling over \$35,000. NAASR's staff has collaborated in the preparation of the Armenian section of the curriculum, and NAASR's resources and library facilities have been used extensively.

## Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity

A commemoration of one thousand years of Christianity in the Ukraine (988-1988 A.D.) is being scheduled by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University and by the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

Plans include the re-publication of ancient Ukrainian writing, the preparation of an encyclopedia of church history, and organization of an international conference on the Christianization of Kiev-Rus.

Among the topics to be explored are the contacts and relations of the Ukrainians with other Christian peoples, including the

Armenians, who had established the first Christian nation in the early fourth century. Ukrainian scholars have determined that the Armenian religious and cultural tradition influenced the early Kievan-Rus state. Armenian colonies on the Black Sea littoral date to the 11th century, and strong Armenian communities existed in several Ukrainian cities beginning in the 14th century. Some Armenians and Ukrainians entered into a religious union with Rome and maintained joint institutions, such as the seminary of Lvov.

The Ukrainian scholars also point to modern parallels in the history of the two peoples. In the 20th century, both have undergone national tragedies: the Turkish massacres of the Armenians in 1915-23 and the famine in the Ukraine in 1932-33. Both peoples have seen portions of their homelands become republics of the Soviet Union, and both have diasporas scattered through North and South America, Europe, and Australia.

Many articles about various topics in Armenian history appear in the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, a publication of the Ukrainian Research Institute.

## Armenian Studies

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aesthetic and moral value as a reflection of the temperament of the Armenian people. The course runs from Feb. 5 to April 9 at the UC Extension Center in San Francisco.

**AAIC.** The American Armenian International College in La Verne, Calif., in conjunction with the University of La Verne, is offering several degree programs for Armenian school teachers, administrators, and other educators. These programs lead to a B.A. degree in Armenian Studies, a B.A. Degree with Armenian Emphasis, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential with Bilingual/Cross Cultural Emphasis, and a Certificate in Armenian Studies. Classes are offered in Glendale/Pasadena, La Verne, Los Angeles, Montebello, or the San Fernando Valley. Special financial aid is available for teachers and school administrators.

## Society for Armenian Studies Meets

The Society for Armenian Studies sponsored three panels this year in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) meetings in New Orleans. The panels were held on Sunday, Nov. 23.

The first panel, on Medieval Armenian Medicine, featured papers by John Scarborough of the University of Kentucky-Lexington on "Greco-Roman and Greco-Arabic Medicine and Pharmacy," John L. Guerguian of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration on "Amirdovlat of Amasya," and John A. C. Greppin of Cleveland State University on "The Armenian *Galen* Dictionary."

The second panel, on the Armenians During Their Last Decade in Anatolia, consisted of papers by Vahram Shemmashian of UCLA on "The Exodus of the Armenian Remnants from Anatolia into Syria, 1922 to 1924," by Stephan Astourian of UCLA on "The Role of the Armenians in the Economy of Cilicia at the Turn of the Century," and by Levon Marshlian of Glendale Community College on "Population Statistics on Ottoman Armenians in the Context of Turkish Historiography."

The third panel, on Turkish-Armenian Cultural Relations in the 19th Century, featured papers by Leonardo Alishan of the University of Utah on "Alliance and Encounter in the Wasteland," by Kevork Bardakjian of Harvard University on "Hagop Baronian's *Tiyatro*," and by Vahe Oshagan of San Francisco on "Turkish-Armenian Literary Relations in the 19th Century."

Next year's meetings of MESA and the Society for Armenian Studies will take place in Boston, Mass., on Nov. 22-23, 1986. NAASR has been asked to participate with an exhibit on Armenian books.

## Annual Assembly

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which took place at Harvard University's Divinity School and was designated the J. Mark Kolligian Memorial Lecture in honor of one of NAASR's early founding members and its first treasurer.

At the luncheon Dr. Avakian was made an Honorary Life Member of NAASR in recognition of his role as one of the three principal founders of the organization 30 years ago. Similarly honored as a founder was Thomas T. Amirian of Brookline, Mass., structural engineer, Armenian stamp and coin collector, and lecturer on Armenian history as well as community activist. The honorary life memberships were bestowed on behalf of the Board of Directors by the third member of the founding triumvirate, Manoog S. Young, Board Chairman since NAASR's inception, who had been elected previously an Honorary Life Member of the Association.

In making the presentations, Mr. Young noted the coincidence that all three founders are alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and recipients of a practical education. "It's good to be visionary, it's good to be imaginative, but you won't get ahead unless you are practical," Mr. Young declared in explaining the success of NAASR while other prior attempts at giving impetus to Armenian studies in the United States had failed.

At the same time, recognition was made of the contribution of Gregory S. Kolligian, NAASR Board Member and Managing Director of Selame Design Group in Newton, Mass., for the preparation of a new logo and corporate image for NAASR. Mr. Kolligian was presented with a framed colored photograph of Mt. Ararat, which is depicted in a modern stylized version in the logo.

At the luncheon, certificates were presented to individuals who have been

## Ruth Thomasian Receives Jack H. Kolligian Award

NAASR's Jack H. Kolligian Award for meritorious achievement in Armenian studies and culture has been presented to Ruth Thomasian of Watertown, Mass., founder and director of Project SAVE.

Ms. Thomasian was honored for her untiring efforts, through Project SAVE, to preserve Armenian history and culture by collecting and documenting photographs of the Armenian people.

In accepting the award, which was presented by NAASR Board Chairman Young at the Annual Assembly Luncheon in November, Ms. Thomasian expressed thanks to the Kolligian family and to NAASR for providing funds to support the work of individuals involved in Armenian research. At the same time, she emphasized the importance of collecting, identifying, and preserving photographs before the older generation of Armenians passes from the scene.

The need to place Armenian projects on a professional basis, which requires adequate funding, was also stressed by the award recipient.

Ms. Thomasian is now devoting most of her time to processing the many hundred photographs she has borrowed from Armenians during the two-year span of her exhibition *A Look at Ourselves: Armenians*

members of NAASR in good standing for 25 consecutive years. Present to receive their 25-year certificates were: Haig A. Agababian, George H. Boole, Jr., Mrs. Kayane Jelal, Anna Medzorian, Gladys Medzorian, Mrs. Satenig Parsekian, Mrs. Mary Shadbegian, and Raffi P. Yeghiayan, all from the Greater Boston area.

Special guests at the luncheon included Dr. Kherlopian, who, as a member of the presidium, brought the greetings of

*Through the Camera's Eye*. The stipend of \$500 from the Kolligian Award will be used to make copy negatives for a considerable number of these photographs.

The Jack H. Kolligian Award was established by the Kolligian family and friends as a means of recognizing individuals who have made a contribution to Armenian studies and culture. It memorializes the late Jack H. Kolligian of Winchester, Mass., a prominent business and community leader. Among his many activities, Mr. Kolligian was co-founder with his brother Archie of the Distributor Corporation of New England, a director of the Century Bank and Trust Company, and trustee of the Perkins Institute for the Blind.

A graduate of Tufts University, he was a naval aviator in the Pacific Theater during World War II and earned the Air Medal for an air-sea rescue mission.

Previous recipients of the award include Prof. Robert W. Thomson of Harvard University, poet Diana Der Hovanessian of Cambridge, Prof.-emerita Sirapie Der Nersessian of Paris and Harvard University, Bridgett Kendall of Oxford University, Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian of Tufts University, and Dr. Kevork Bardakjian of Harvard University.

Armenia's Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad.

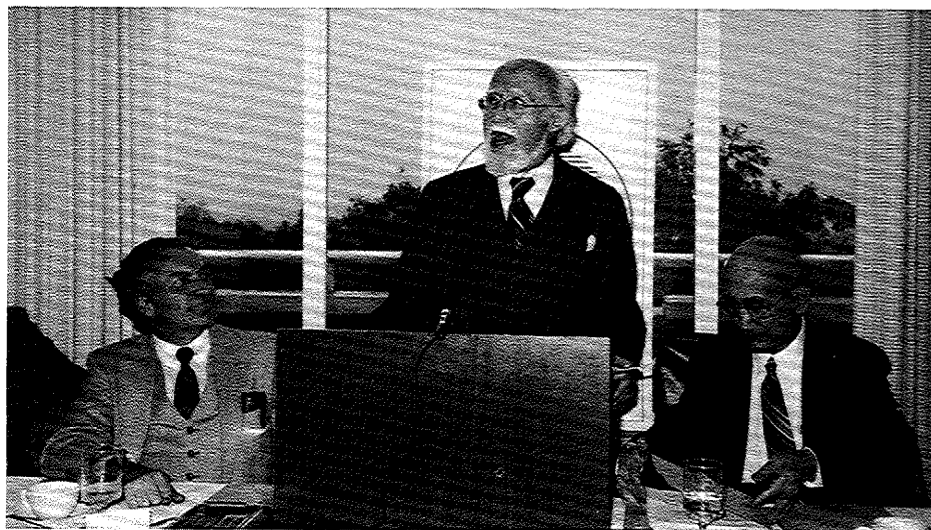
Also, Rev. James Karnusian of Geneva, Switzerland, founder of the World Armenian Congress, who was on a visit to the United States, made brief but eloquent remarks in which he stressed the need for Armenians of the diaspora to work together on common concerns.

### Chairman's Report

In his annual report to the Assembly, Board Chairman Young pledged that the organization would continue in its fourth decade with the diversified programs of the past with greater intensity in order to meet the continuing and increasing needs in Armenian studies and culture. These will include increased support for Armenian programs in institutions of higher education, expansion of the library and reference facilities, an expanded publications program, and continued offerings of books in English on Armenian subjects for sale to the public.

Mr. Young noted that NAASR has acquired assets totaling an estimated \$1.2 million and that 1984 budget outlays for activities, projects, and operations were nearly \$70,000. These figures "reflect the stability and growth of NAASR, which is entering its fourth decade in a strong financial position," Mr. Young asserted. But demands on the organization are growing at an even more rapid rate, Mr. Young

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Thomas T. Amirian, one of the founders of NAASR, making remarks at the 31st Annual Assembly of Members. Seated are NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young (right) and First Vice-Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan.

## Prof. Kherlopian Traces Development of Armenian Studies

An emphasis on the positive achievements of the Armenian people, rather than an obsession with the tragedies and suffering of the past, is essential in order to build a new and strong generation of Armenians, according to Dr. Kevork Kherlopian, Professor of History at the University of Yerevan, Armenia.

"We often exaggerate the sufferings of our history and indirectly create such an atmosphere that the new generation hears about our negative aspects and identifies the Armenian image with tears and massacres," Prof. Kherlopian stated in a lecture at Harvard University's Divinity School on Friday evening, Nov. 1, 1985, which opened the NAASR 31st Annual Assembly weekend.

"This cannot create a strong feeling of belonging" for the new generation, Prof. Kherlopian continued. In addition to learning about the tragedies of the past, the Armenian youth should also be taught "the great achievements we have registered through the ages," the noted scholar said.

Prof. Kherlopian's remarks were made in the course of a comprehensive and systematic paper on the topic "Critical Issues in Armenian Studies Today," in which the lecturer traced in a scientific manner the gradual evolution of Armenian scholarship from its origins in the fifth century to the present time.

Prof. Kherlopian, who is a visiting professor this year at the American Armenian

International College in LaVerne, Calif., noted that the first component of Armenology was the study of the Armenian language, which began in the fifth century when Mesrob Mashtots examined the phonetic and morphological structure of the Armenian language in order to create the Armenian alphabet and translate the early manuscripts.

### "Encyclopedic Group"

At the same time, Ezrik Koghbetzi made the first attempt to study the history of Armenian thought and, at the end of the century, Movses Khorenatsi compiled a complete history of the Armenian people, using a variety of folkloric, geographical, and linguistic data. In the following centuries, studies were made of Armenian liturgical music, Armenian geography (Anania Shirakatsi), and law (Hovhan Otsnetsi), according to Prof. Kherlopian.

Gradually Armenians turned to other fields of study: literature, education, linguistics, and the natural sciences, so that, by the 15th century, Armenologists had become an "encyclopedic group" interested in a wide variety of subjects.

In the 17th century, a period of cultural reconstruction took place, which was accompanied by a revival of the national heritage and a tendency to learn from other nations. The 18th century marked an emphasis on the study of the Armenian language and the compilation of dictionaries; the 19th century resulted in an

explosion of publications and periodicals. In this century a major focus has been on the origins of the Armenian people.

The rise of the liberation movements and the circumstances of the Armenian Genocide have been high on the list of priorities of modern scholars, Prof. Kherlopian asserted. The study of the Genocide is now being carried out in the context of the human rights of all peoples and with an emphasis on preventive measures that may be adopted to prevent future occurrences.

### Culture Internationalized

Although the Armenian diaspora has existed for centuries, there is a new consciousness of its existence and an analysis of its role. The effect of the diaspora has been, on the one hand, the internationalization of Armenian culture as progressive and humanistic elements in other cultures have been incorporated into Armenian thought. On the other hand, an increasing awareness of Armenian culture has been felt in world civilization, Prof. Kherlopian noted.

The Armenian today is faced with the challenge to preserve his national heritage and to identify at the same time as a member of world civilization.

"To be a member of the Armenian diaspora means to have a broad outlook, a deep insight, an international mission, and a high spirit of national continuity," Prof. Kherlopian concluded.

## Board Members and Officers Elected

Nancy Kolligian of Winchester, Mass., was newly elected to the NAASR Board of Directors at the 31st Annual Assembly of Members.

A high school teacher of Spanish, Miss Kolligian "represents the younger generation who will be gradually assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in NAASR and have a voice in its deliberations," said Manoog S. Young, NAASR Board Chairman.

At the same time, three Board Members from the Greater Boston region were re-

elected: Dr. Gregory H. Adamian of Waltham, President of Bentley College; Dr. Richard N. Frye of Arlington, Aga Khan Professor of Iranian at Harvard University; and Raffi P. Yeghiayan of Lexington, engineer and community leader.

Sonia Bogosian of Flushing, N.Y., Chairperson of the DeWitt Nursing Home in New York City, and Dr. Pergrouhi N. Svajian, Professor of Education at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, were reelected from the East Coast region, and Dr. Hagop J. Nersoyan, Pro-

fessor of Philosophy of the University of Dayton, Ohio, was reelected from the Middle West region.

Subsequently, at its organization meeting, the Board elected new officers as follows: Chairman, Manoog S. Young of Belmont, Mass.; First Vice Chairman, Raffi P. Yeghiayan of Lexington; Second Vice Chairman, Aram S. Karakashian of Waltham; Secretary, Charles S. Sahagian of Needham; Treasurer, Erivan Hagopian of Lexington; Assistant Secretary, Nancy Kolligian of Winchester; and Assistant Treasurer, Rose A. Hovannessian of Arlington.

## Annual Assembly

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pointed out, and require continued emphasis on fund-raising in order to meet the urgent needs.

In particular, Mr. Young noted the need for larger headquarters to house NAASR programs and entities and explained that a search for a new building continues, in cooperation with the Armenian Library and Museum of America and other compatible organizations in the Greater Boston area with whom NAASR hopes to share a large facility which would become a ma-

major cultural and educational complex.

The Board Chairman also referred to the need for funds to be used to expand Armenian studies programs in universities — Harvard and the University of California in Los Angeles in particular need funds to compensate for the ravages of inflation over the past several years — and to introduce programs in additional institutions. Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, is the latest to express interest in establishing an Armenian studies program.

NAASR has now established a Documentation Center as part of its Information and

Education Center, Mr. Young reported, and the success of the Genocide Conference last spring has led to plans for an Institute for the Study of the Armenian Genocide. Both of these projects need to be funded beyond the initial available seed money, he said.

Reports were also given by Erivan Hagopian, Treasurer, and by the chairmen of the various Assembly committees: Aram S. Karakashian, Nominating; Walter G. Vartanian, Constitution and Rules; Raffi P. Yeghiayan, New Business and Resolutions; and Edward Der Kazarian, Auditing.

## Armeno-Belgian Relations From Early Christian Times

Adapted from an article by Gevork Abgarian in *Kroonk* (No. 11, 1984), a publication of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad, Yerevan.

In days of old a legend persisted in Europe according to which the peoples of that continent were the descendants of Japheth, the son of Noah. In the sixth century a "List of European Nations" based on that legend and other relevant sources was compiled in Latin, to which Nennius had recourse in writing his *History of Britons*. The 17th chapter of that *History*, available in ninth-tenth century manuscripts, informs us that Alan was the first of Japheth's sons to have come to Europe, together with his three sons—Hessizion, Armenon, and Nohveh. These are fictitious names, the roots of which are Hessiz, Armen, and Noh. Since the legend comes from the Bible, we can presume that Armen is the generic name of the Armenians, while Noh is identified with Noah whose ark rested on the summit of Mount Ararat in Armenia.

In ancient times Armenia and the Armen (Armenians) were familiar names across the world. In Europe they are mentioned in Greek, Latin, and other sources. We should also bear in mind that the medieval peoples were quite familiar with the biography of St. Gregory the Illuminator, the founder of the Christian religion in Armenia.

### 4th Century Armenian Belgian

It is likely, therefore, that certain legends in Belgium should be associated with the Armenians and their names. In any case Latin manuscripts mention a fourth century Armenian Belgian whose name was recorded in Latin as Servatius (Servats, in French), which must be a version of the Armenian Serovpéh. In a work entitled *Belgium and the Armenians* that appeared in Vienna in 1937, A. Saroukhan writes: "In a central quarter in Brussels the Belgian faithful erected a superb church the facade of which is ornamented with the statue of a bearded bishop in oriental vestment....That oriental bishop came to Belgium in the fourth century, at the dawn of Christianity, where he preached, accomplished a great many miracles, and passed away in neighboring Holland. Numerous ancient sources and modern historical studies attest that that wonder-working bishop... was of Armenian stock, at least according to the legend....A poem on St. Servatius composed by a German author has perpetuated his memory among the Germans."

Latin records refer to another eminent Armenian, Archbishop Makarius (Makar). This high-ranking cleric, who held the office of Primate of Antioch and was well-versed in Syriac, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and other languages, abandoned the bishopric to travel to Asia and Europe. In

1011 he arrived in Belgium via Germany. A year later, during the plague that raged in that country, Makar treated and saved many patients, but eventually he was afflicted with and fell victim to the epidemic. As a savior he was posthumously rated among the saints endowed with supernatural power. In 1067 his ashes were transferred to a more prominent site, with Philip I, King of France, attending the funeral service. St. Makarius' name is entered in the official Latin calendar, and every year on April 10 his name is mentioned in Belgian and many European churches. The Latin biographers honor him with the titles *Armeniae Flos* (Flower of Armenia), *Gloria Flandriae* (Glory of Flanders), and other equally eulogistic designations.

### Armenians in Bruges in 14th century

Thus the history of Armeno-Belgian relations originates from legends testifying to the presence of friendly ties. The medieval chroniclers also illuminate the amicable relations established between Belgium and Cilician Armenia in the 12th to 14th centuries.

Jacques de Vitri, a European who lived in the 13th century, conveys interesting information about the Armenians in his book *History of the Orient*. We are indebted to C. Cannuyer, a contemporary Belgian scholar, for information gleaned from that book, his study appearing in the *Révue des études arméniennes* (No. 17, 1983). *History of the Orient* by Hetoum (known in Europe by the name Hayton the Armenian), an Armenian chronicler of Cilicia, was translated into Middle Dutch. Originally written in French, that history was translated during the 14th and 15th centuries into nearly all the European languages—Latin, German, English, Italian, and Spanish as well as into Dutch, the spoken language of Belgium.

### Belgian-Cilician Armenian Relations

In Belgium Armenology gained wide currency particularly through the medium of the "Armenian House" founded in the 14th century in Bruges—a notable port in Flanders. The old records of St. Obert Monastery of that town mention the name of an Armenian who had been of great help to the Belgians: Nicolaise der Hermerier (Nicolas, the Armenian). In a manuscript preserved in the National Library in Paris we come across mention of Cilician Armenia among the countries that maintained commercial relations with Bruges. Armenians who came to Bruges in 1340 had brought along varieties of Armenian fruits, spices, dyes, carpets, etc.

Emil Van den Bussch, who was the state archivist of Belgium, reports in one of his studies that the Armenians "built in Bruges a magnificent Gothic-styled building in 1478 with four towers soaring on each corner of the building.... The structure was erect until the 18th century."

Froissart, a Belgian chronicler of the Middle Ages, dwells on the last sovereign of Cilician Armenia. The multivolume *History* that appeared in Brussels during 1870 to 1877 contains information about that chronicler and fresh facts about the Armenians, particularly a picturesque description of King Levon VI's visit to Belgium in 1378.

Next to Bruges, the Armenians settled in Antwerp and Brussels and were frequently mentioned in historical documents. A number of Armenian and Belgian Armenologists have scrutinized these sources. They have set forth data which they have gleaned in a monograph titled *Belgium and the Armenians*, which reads in part: "The Mother-of-God church in the famed Belgian city of Anvers (Antwerp) is one of those superb structures that the human genius has created to glorify the Creator. Its proportions, sumptuous architecture, and particularly its majestic tower secure this monument a place of honor in the few marvels of art. It is before the main altar of this marvellous church that Archbishop Thomas Nourijanian of Vanand is interred."

### Armenological Activities in 17th Century

The Archbishop in question is the eminent Armenian printer Tovmas Vanandetsi, who founded a printing establishment in Holland in 1695 and published Moses Khorenatsi's *History of the Armenians* and the first Armenian map, as well as other material which gave an impetus to Armenology in Europe. He toured several European countries, conducted negotiations to establish Armenian presses in those countries, and fostered Armenological studies. He also planned a Latin-Armenian school in Europe which would train Armenologists for Armenia as well as for Europe, raised funds, and sought support for his project. At the age of 90 he decided to return to Armenia but on his way he took ill and passed away. His body was entombed in the Antwerp church, where visitors can still see the blue-white tombstone under which the Bishop lies buried. During his stay in Belgium, that conspicuous figure in Armenian printing met with scientists, spoke of his preoccupations, and familiarized them with Armenia. Some of his collected works appeared in *Acta sanctorum* of the Bollandist society founded by the Belgian Jean Bolland.

In their quest for data for the collection, the members of the Bollandist society came across a Greek manuscript in the Medici Library in Florence that narrates the story of Gregory the Illuminator of the Armenians. It was an old translation from the Greek by the fifth century chronicler Agathangelos. J. Stiling, a prominent

*Continued on page 9*

PARIS WORKSHOP. Problems in modern and contemporary Armenian studies (16th to 20th centuries) will be the focus of a workshop scheduled for June 19 to 21, 1986, in Paris, France, sponsored by the International Association of Armenian Studies, in conjunction with French scholars.

The workshop grew out of earlier meetings held in Paris at the initiative of the Association, whose last Congress in September, 1984, expressed concern over the insufficient development of modern Armenian studies compared with classical and medieval studies.

Of particular concern to the scholars is the urgency placed on modern Armenian studies by the dangers menacing the chief sources: progressive destruction of Armenian monuments, the death of individuals who could provide oral histories, the inaccessibility of archives or their poor state of preservation, and the dispersal of material. The scholars raised questions of finance and the possibility of dividing responsibility to avoid duplication of effort.

The theme of the Paris meeting will be "The Armenians Facing the West (16th to 20th Centuries) and the Questions of Modernization." Members of the organizing committee include Dr. K. Kevoonian and Dr. Claire-Seta Mouradian of Paris.

VENICE SYMPOSIUM. An international three-day symposium on "The Armenians: Image of a People," sponsored by the Lelio Basso International Foundation for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, took place in Venice, Italy, on Oct. 18 - 20.

## Belgium

*Continued from page 8*

Bollandist scholar, translated the work of the Armenian author into Latin and published it together with the Greek original in the September, 1762, volume of the collection. This marked the beginning of Belgian studies of Agathangelos, which contributed a number of valuable Armenological works in the following centuries.

Felix Nève (1816-1893), professor of Oriental languages at the University of Louvain, was one of the founders of Armenology in Belgium. He devoted nearly 40 years of his life to studying Armenian history and literature, bequeathing a scholarly heritage of 120 volumes.

Nève embarked on Armenian studies at the University of Munich in 1883, where Carl Friedrich Neumann, a leading orientalist and Armenologist of those days, taught Chinese and Armenian. Friedrich Windischmann, another well-known Armenologist, was on the tutorial staff of the same university. Felix Nève was a member of the Belgian, Russian, and Italian academies, and later was elected a

The academy is divided into 21 sections, ranging from anthropology and biology to history, philosophy, linguistics, mathematics, and psychology. The official languages are French, English, and Armenian.

Among the founding members are Dr. Agop Kerkiacharian and Puzant Yacoubian of France.

AMSTERDAM. An all-day symposium on "The Armenians in the Diaspora: Identity and Assimilation" was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as part of a three-day Armenian Festival on Oct. 25 to 28. The organizer was Prof. J. J. S. Weitenberg of the University of Leiden and the moderator was Dr. P. J. A. Idenburg of the Research Institute of Oppressed People. The invited scholars approached various aspects of the issue with special focus on the 3,500 Armenians now settled in Holland, most of them newcomers from Turkey. Among the participants were Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, and Fr. Levon Zekiyian of the University of Venice and the Academy of San Lazzaro.

An original exhibition-festival poster by artist Krikor Momdjan was prominently displayed throughout the city. Performing artists included the Ensemble de Musique Arménienne of Paris, the Sipan-Gomidias Choir of Paris, and the Navasart Folk Dance Group. A dramatic recitation of the Armenian folk epic *David of Sassoun* was given by Dutch actor Peter van der Linden.

ART SYMPOSIUM. The Fourth International Art Symposium, sponsored by the Art Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, attracted 200 historians and scholars from twenty countries to the week-long proceedings held in Yerevan, Armenia, on Sept. 11 to 17.

The symposium had four themes: Ancient Armenian Art, Folk and Applied Arts, Medieval Architecture and Art, and Contemporary Art and Architecture. A total of 164 papers were presented in all the sessions of the conference.

Included in the program were day-long excursions to Ashtarak, where the scholars visited several medieval churches, and to Yeghegnadzor, the site of the architectural complex at Horavank.

Participants from the United States and the topics of their papers were Dr. Avedis K. Sanjian, Professor of Armenian at UCLA, "The Legacy of the Scriptorium of the University of Gladzor;" Dr. Thomas F. Mathews, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, "Scriptural Iconography in Greater Armenia;" Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian, Tufts University, "Continuity in Armenian Art: Medieval Sculpture and Inscribed Armenian Rugs;" and Dr. Armen Jerejian of Demarest, N.J., whose paper was on philology and linguistics.

Participants and their topics included Prof. Francois Rigaux of the University of Louvain on "The Concept of People;" Prof. Joe Verhoeven of the University of Louvain on "The Application of the Notion of People in International Law;" Anahid Ter Minassian of the University of Paris on "The Constituent Elements of Armenian Culture — Figurative Arts and Language;" Fr. Levon Zekiyian of the University of Venice on "Armenian Philosophical Thought;" Prof. Ronald Suny of the University of Michigan on "The National Consciousness, Religion and Way of Life of the Armenian People;" and Prof. Giorgio Vercellin of the University of Venice on "The Armenian Reality in the Near Eastern Societies."

Also participating in the symposium were: Prof. Baykar Sivazlyan of the University of Milan, GianRoberto Scarzia of the University of Venice, Osheen Keshishian of Glendale Community College, author Gerard Chaliand of Paris, sociologist Agopik Manoukian of Milan, and Dr. Roupen Boghosian, international lawyer, of Aleppo.

ARARAT ACADEMY. The establishment of the "Ararat" International Academy of Sciences has been announced in Paris, France. The objectives of the new organization are to foster the development of the Sciences, Arts, and Letters through international cooperation of Armenian scholars, the organization of cultural and scientific centers and libraries, and sponsorship of international and national congresses and colloquia.

member of the Mekhitarist academy in Venice. His studies deal with the Armenian language, its alphabet, the different aspects of Armenian pagan cults, the origin of Armenian literature, the Christian monuments, Armenian hymnology, spoken Armenian, and other topics. His historical works describe the Mongolians' devastating incursions into Armenia, make public the information derived from Armenian sources concerning the Belgian crusaders, and recount the history of the Artsruni dynasty. His principal works are included in his book *Christian Armenia and Its Literature* (1886).

The French-language publication of the second series of the collection *Analecta Bollandiana* was sponsored in 1882 by the Bollandist society; the volumes allotted considerable space to Armenological issues. This was followed by another series titled *Bibliotheca hagiographica Orientalis*, comprising numerous Armenian works.

Jules Matasgne, known as the founder of the Armenian section of the Bollandist Library in Brussels, has also taken part in Armenian studies.

These were the pioneers of early Armenological studies in Belgium.

## Priorities, Programs, Activities, and Needs

(Over a Period of Three Years)

<b>National Center for Armenian Studies and Culture</b>	
New Headquarters and Center of Activities (in concert with other organizations)	\$500,000
Institute for Armenian Studies (Independent research, scholarship, and studies)	250,000
Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center (Programs and Staffing)	250,000
Armenian Reference and Research Library (Staffing, Equipment, Furnishings, Services)	125,000
Armenian Book Clearing House (Staffing and Inventory build-up)	25,000
	<u>1,150,000</u>
<b>Academic and Related Programs</b>	
Expansion and Support of Academic Chairs and Programs (including Art Consortium/Tufts U., U. of Mass., U. of Conn.)	500,000*
Scholarships, Fellowships, Research and Travel Grants, Scholar-in-residence Grants	250,000*
Lectureships, Visiting Scholars, Research Programs, Curriculum Development (including Armenian Genocide Curriculum Project)	125,000*
Conferences, Seminars, Lectures, Institutes	100,000*
World Congress of Armenian Studies (1987 or 1988)	50,000
	<u>1,025,000</u>
<b>Publications</b>	
Armenian Heritage Press (Revolving Fund for Scholarly and Popular Works, Monographs, Reprints, Translations)	100,000
Journal of Armenian Studies and Newsletter	50,000
	<u>150,000</u>
<b>Staff, Equipment, and Other Needs</b>	
Equipment (Computer/Word Processor, Typewriters, etc.) Repairs, Furnishings	30,000
Staffing (Executive and Administrative)	200,000
Miscellaneous	25,000
	<u>255,000</u>
	<u>2,580,000</u>

\* = Endowment Funds; all others are quasi-endowment or current funds.

**Total \$2,580,000**

*Invest in Your Armenian Heritage*

## Arra Avakian

Continued from page 3

### One Region Offers Hope

But today a catastrophic situation has developed. As fate would have it, virtually every one of these strong cultural centers is in political turmoil, having fallen victim to hostile forces outside of our control. It is as though our house had been hit by a hurricane. The walls have come tumbling down. World turmoil has rendered most of these centers untenable, unable to serve the Armenian dispersion as cultural strongholds. Chaos reigns in what were once cultural strongholds.

There remains only one region in the world that still offers hope, an opportunity. Armenians of the dispersion can now marshal their forces, regroup, and convert America into the main, and virtually the sole, cultural stronghold for the Armenian dispersion. That is in fact happening now.

We must in America have the full panoply of Armenian national institutions. And what is terribly important is that we cannot be content with only one of each kind. It is not enough to have one institution for Armenian historical research, or one academy of music, or one hospital, or one seminary, or one college. No, we need more than one of each. These institutions pollinate one another, they reinforce one another. They even compete and stimulate one another.

An agronomist knows that in many forms of farm products, successful crops are produced in quantity and quality only where there is cross pollination. In-breeding can bring on decline and regression.

What am I saying? I am saying that we need not one, but several, of each kind of national institutions. We should never decry the fact that there is a sameness or an overlap, in purpose or role, between institutions. We can afford to cover each

aspect of Armenian cultural life with more than one institution. We not only can afford it, we need to have it so.

How does all this relate to NAASR? NAASR embarked on its mission when the threat to the Armenian cultural strongholds of the dispersion was not discernable. There was an apparent stability. But it is as though providence called for it to happen. It was a most fortuitous event. Without, perhaps, sensing it consciously, NAASR saw the need coming, and responded.

In this way NAASR became the vanguard of the now-growing panoply of a new class of cultural institutions in America. It showed the way. The first step was the Harvard Chair. Step by step, passing milestone after milestone, NAASR became a force for Armenian intellectual power for Armenian scholarship. NAASR paved the way and set a pattern for other institutions of the same genre. NAASR has grown strong, healthy, and large.

I remember that there was the oft-repeated complaint that there were no good books in English on Armenian topics. Today, the building at 175 Mt. Auburn St. (Cambridge, for those who might think Watertown) is loaded, bulging with more books for sale on Armenian subjects than anywhere else in the world.

Here we can see a direction for future growth. I believe that one category of books is not generally available from NAASR. Those are books published in Armenia. Making arrangements for a comprehensive distributorship for such books involves many complications, not the least of which is to have enlarged quarters. But such matters have not bothered NAASR before. And I don't see why they should now.

NAASR not only sells books. It also publishes them. It is very satisfying to see a book with a NAASR imprimatur. Here, too, we can see a direction for future growth. I see no reason why NAASR cannot further marshal its material and human resources and be seriously in the activity of publishing books. Indeed, I know full well that with modern computer technology even setting up the typemasters for books (though not the printing and manufacturing) is within the grasp of relatively small organizations, or even individuals.

I've stressed the idea of the need for our cultural strongholds to boast of all kinds of national institutions. Such entities are not unlike life forms in many ways. National institutions grow. They have an infancy, a childhood, an adolescence, a youth, and a maturity. It takes time for that growth, and meanwhile there is exposure to testing, to being proved, in going from stage to stage.

I must ask rhetorically, what stage has NAASR reached?

Answer! Maturity, of course.

## PROFILE:

### ZAROUHI NOORJANIAN

Zarouhi Noorjanian, who pledged \$100,000 to NAASR recently, has spent her lifetime surrounded by books and learning.

Miss Noorjanian retired in 1976 after serving for 32 years as a seventh grade teacher and a librarian in the Milford public school system, where she taught social science and English for many years. A few years before her retirement, when federal funds became available for the purpose, she established and then directed the school library.

"I guess I've always loved books," explained Miss Noorjanian, whose lively manner and intellectual curiosity is undiminished despite the fact that she is now eighty years old.

A native of Fenesseh, a small town near Caesarea, Turkey, Miss Noorjanian came to the United States with her mother, brothers, and sisters in 1913. Her father had escaped from Turkey earlier, in 1907, and was already established in Milford when the rest of the family arrived.

Although only a young child at the time, Miss Noorjanian retains vivid memories of her trip to this country, first by covered wagon to the coast of Turkey, when she saw the sea and boats for the first time; then the long ocean voyage to the United States and the landing at Ellis Island ("I remember the nice warm bath they gave us, and the hot milk and crackers we had for breakfast"); the new dress made of a printed flannel fabric with a dark maroon

background that her mother had sewn especially for her entry to the new land; then the trip with her father to her new home in Milford.

However, tragedy struck the family in those early years in the new land. News came from Turkey of the deportations and massacres of the Armenians; among the victims were many members of Miss Noorjanian's family, including a beloved aunt, Antaram Jerahian, who is remembered with special fondness. Miss Noorjanian recalls her father discussing with his brothers the persecution of the Armenian intellectuals in Turkey and the brutal slaying by the Government of the author Zohrab and the poet Siamanto.

Then Miss Noorjanian's grandmother, who was living with the family, suffered a stroke and was taken to California where, it was hoped, the warm climate would speed her recovery. Miss Noorjanian's own mother became ill and died in 1916. Her father never remarried, and refused to place his children in an orphanage or give them out for adoption, insisting that the family should remain together.

Miss Noorjanian traces her love of books and learning to her father, a barber, who found the time to read stories regularly to his children, in Armenian, and then, to make sure they understood, insisted that they recount the plots.

She always loved school, Miss Noorjanian recalls; and with the help of her

teachers she was able to attend Emerson College in Boston, commuting by train from Milford. By the time she graduated, however, the depression had struck and it was impossible to find a job. Finally, however, again with the help of friends, she was able to obtain a position in the Milford school system, where she remained until her retirement.

As a student, she became an active member of the Armenian Students' Association and other Armenian organizations and, in 1957, a member of NAASR. She has been an active member of NAASR ever since, and took part in the Heritage Tour to Armenia in 1974. She has since returned to Armenia four times, travelling being one of her favorite activities.

"In the back of my mind, I've always wanted to do something special for NAASR," Miss Noorjanian said in explaining her gift. "Now that I am able to do so, I've decided to go ahead."

In announcing Miss Noorjanian's gift, NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young observed that it is an appropriate culmination of her love for books and learning as well as her interest in her Armenian heritage.

"Miss Noorjanian's gift will make it possible for NAASR to expand the Armenian Reference and Research Library and to help establish the Institute for the Study of the Armenian Genocide," he stated. "It will also enable us to move ahead on other important projects to further Armenian studies and increase awareness of the contributions of Armenians to world culture and civilization."

## Pianist Gargarian Featured in Babajanian Concert

Two piano compositions by the late Soviet Armenian composer Arno Babajanian received their Boston premiere in a benefit memorial concert sponsored by NAASR on Friday evening, Nov. 29, at Paine Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of Arno Babajanian, who died in November, 1983; it also served to introduce to the Greater Boston community a talented musician, pianist Miriam Gargarian.

Miss Gargarian, a native of Farmington, Mich., is completing her studies for a doctorate in piano performance from the Indiana University School of Music and recently opened a studio in Boston for private instruction in piano.

Writing about the concert in the *Boston Globe*, critic Arthur Hepner observed that "Babajanian's music is steeped in the quasi-Oriental melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic modes of his Armenian heritage which are also patently evident in the

works of his countryman and mentor, Aram Khatchaturian."

For this performance, Miss Gargarian played Babajanian's *Suite* and *Six Pictures*. "The music in both compositions, vital and driving, proved well-suited to Gargarian's temperament," the *Globe* critic wrote.

The evening's program also included the *Italian Concerto in F-Major* by Johann Sebastian Bach, *Thirty-two Variations in C-Minor* by Ludwig van Beethoven, and *Sonata No. 1* by Alberto Ginastera.

The concert, another of the activities planned as part of NAASR's 30th anniversary celebrations, was followed by a reception.

Charles S. Sahagian, secretary of the NAASR Board of Directors, served as chairman of the Concert Committee. Assisting him on the committee were Erivan Hagopian, Laurie Hagopian, Sandra L. Jurigian, Aram Karakashian, Nancy Kolligian, Joanne Peterson, Mary Shadbegian, and Anahid Yacoubian.



**Miriam Gargarian**  
Pianist

## Recent and Selected Titles of Note

A sampling of some recent and noteworthy additions to NAASR's Armenian Book Clearing House list appears below. Figures in parentheses represent reduced prices for NAASR members in good standing. A complete list of recent titles is available upon request.

*Across Two Worlds: Selected Prose of Eghishe Charents*, translated by Jack Antreasian and Marzbed Margossian (Ashod Press, New York). Includes diary pages, letters, essays, and excerpts from the novel *Erkir Nayiri* and the memoir *Erevan's House of Correction* by the pre-eminent modern Armenian poet who is recognized as a founder of modern Soviet Armenian literature. T118. \$10.00 (\$8.50).

*Ararat Special 25th Anniversary Issue* (Armenian General Benevolent Union, Saddle Brook, N.J.). An anthology of representative examples of the fiction, poetry, essays, and translations that have appeared in the prize-winning literary quarterly *Ararat*. With a complete 15-year index, arranged by author and by subject. X163p. \$10.00 (\$9.25).

*Armenian Costumes Through the Centuries* (Armenian Relief Society, Fresno). Recreation of traditional Armenian national costumes, modeled by contemporary Armenian-Americans and photographed in brilliant color. Brief introduction and descriptions in Armenian, French, and English, with historic sketches. A148. \$28.00 (\$25.00).

*The Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem: Urban Life Behind Monastery Walls*, by Victor Azarya (University of California Press, Berkeley). A study of life within the walls of the St. James Monastery in Jerusalem, shown against a rich and poignant historical background and with special emphasis on the relations between the monastic and lay communities. H257. \$22.50 (\$20.95).

*Armenian Victories at Khznavous and Sardarabad*, by Arthur A. Ayzazian (St. Vartan Press, New York). An account of the victories over Turkey that preserved Armenia from total annihilation in 1918, written by an eye-witness who was an artillery officer in the Russian Army and aide-de-camp to Gen. Khristofor G. Araratian. With suggestions for political action by Armenians of the diaspora and 14 pages of photographs, documents, and maps. H259. \$10.00 (\$8.50).

*The Case of Soghomon Tehlirian*, translated by Vartkes Yeghiayan (A.R.F., Los Angeles). The first English edition of the proceedings of the trial in Berlin in 1921 when Tehlirian was acquitted of the charge of murdering Talaat Pasha, a leader of the Young Turk Government that ordered the Armenian massacres of World War I; includes testimony by the defendant, witnesses, doctors, and experts such as Dr. Johannes Lepsius and General Otto Liman von Sanders. H263p. \$10.50 (\$9.25).

*A Culinary Tour of the Middle East*, by Norah Halajian Langton (Ispir Publications, Brantford, Ontario). A comprehensive collection of 350 recipes for Middle Eastern dishes, many of them devised and adapted for the contemporary cook. With sections on appetizers, soups, salads, egg dishes, fish, fowl, meat, vegetables and desserts. X169. \$19.95 (\$16.95).

*Documents of Armenian Architecture: Haghartzin*. Text by Armen Zarian and Armen Manoukian (Edizione Ares, Milan). Volume 13 of this outstanding series, published jointly by the Milan Polytechnic Architecture Faculty and the Armenian Academy of Sciences, describes the six buildings comprising the monastery complex of Haghartzin, located north of Lake Sevan. Color photographs, diagrams, chronology, and bibliography; in Italian and English, with summary in Armenian. A131p. \$12.00 (\$10.75).

*Les Grandes Puissances, l'Empire Ottoman et les Arméniens dans les archives françaises (1914-1918)*, edited and with an introduction by Arthur Beylerian (Sorbonne, Paris). A collection of documents in the French archives dealing with the Armenian Question during the period of World War I. H245p. \$42.00 (\$36.50).

*History of the House of the Artsrunik*, by Thomas Artsruni, translation and commentary by Robert W. Thomson (Wayne State University Press, Detroit). A scholarly translation of Thomas Artsruni's vivid description of life in southern Armenia under Muslim domination in the second half of the ninth century from the point of view of the Armenian nobility. Includes an account of the fall of the Sasanian dynasty and descriptions of the palaces and churches built by the Armenian kings. H261 \$30.00 (\$25.00).

*Hitler and the Armenians*, by Kevork Bardakjian (Special Report 3, Zoryan Institute, Cambridge). A comprehensive and concise examination of the evidence that the Nazi German dictator was conscious of the fate of the Armenian people during World War I and used their example, along with other events from history, to explain and justify his own policies. H264p. \$5.00 (\$4.25).

*Journey to Kars*, by Philip Glazebrook (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York). A modern-day English author describes his experiences as he follows the footsteps of the nineteenth century British travellers in the Ottoman Empire and makes some perceptive observations about the differences between "east" and "west." H260p. \$7.95 (\$6.95).

*Land of Fire: Selected Poems of Eghishe Charents*, edited and translated by Diana Der Hovanesian and Marzbed Margossian (Ardis, Ann Arbor). A cross section of poetry by this leading 20th century Armenian writer (1897-1937), with selections from his early lyrical poems, revolutionary and experimental works, satiric poetry, and unpublished poems; includes an introduction and chronology. Cloth, T119c, \$25 (\$21.50); paper, T119p, \$9.50 (\$8.50).

*Men Without Childhood*, by Andranik Zaroukian, translated by Elise Bayizian and Marzbed Margossian (Ashod Press, New York). An autobiographical work that explores the experience of thousands of Armenian children orphaned during the massacres of 1915, written by a leading Armenian author of the diaspora who founded and edited for many years the literary monthly *Nayiri*. T112p. \$10 (\$8.50).

*Odyssey of an Armenian of Zeitoun*, by Khoren K. Davidson (Vantage Press, New York). An eye-witness account of the Turkish massacres of the Armenians during World War I. The author, a native of Zeitoun, attended St. Paul's Institute in Tarsus but, with the outbreak of the War, he became a refugee in his homeland, fleeing from the authorities until, in 1920, he came to the United States. X167. \$14.95 (\$12.95).

*The Pre-History of the Armenian People*, by I. M. Diakonoff, translated from the Russian by Lori Jennings (Caravan Books, Delmar, N.Y.). A basic account of a period that has excited the attention of contemporary historians, written by a recognized expert on the subject and prepared for the general reader as well as for specialists in the field. With extensive notes, bibliography, and indices. H267. \$50.00 (\$45.00).

*The Question of the American Mandate Over Armenia*, by Antranik Masis (Proodos Printing Co., Nicosia, Cyprus). An account of Allied policy (especially British and American) in the two-year period from establishment of the Armenian Republic in 1918 to the Treaty of Sèvres in 1920; with tables and maps. H262p. \$12.95 (\$10.95).

*Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia*, Volume 10 (Academy of Sciences, Armenian SSR, Yerevan). The latest volume of this comprehensive reference work, with information about a variety of Armenian and non-Armenian persons, places, and objects with pictures, diagrams, and maps (in Armenian). X98j. \$25.00 (\$21.95).

*Willie and Varaz: Memories of My Friend William Saroyan*, by Varaz Samuelian (Panorama West Books, Fresno). A brief intimate memoir of William Saroyan by his good friend, sculptor Varaz Samuelian, consisting of a series of anecdotes of events that took place in Fresno, Yerevan, and places in between. X164. \$10.95 (\$8.95).

### REPORTS AVAILABLE

A copy of the complete minutes of the 31st Annual Assembly of NAASR members, the financial report, and the Association's constitution are available to any member sending in to NAASR Headquarters a large self-addressed envelope with 39 cents in postage affixed.

### How You Can Help:

- ▶ Join
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