Origins of Armenian Printing Traced

Prof. Jean-Pierre Mahé of the University of Paris (Sorbonne) provided some fascinating glimpses into a very important but little known aspect of Armenian culture: the development of printing in the early 16th century.

Speaking at the Rev. A. A. Bedikian Memorial Lecture on Sunday evening, May 5, in Watertown, Mass., sponsored by NAASR, Prof. Mahé cited the irony in the fact that the first Armenian printed material appeared in Europe at the very time when the Armenian nation was experiencing some of the darkest days in its tragic history.

It was the Armenian merchants, driven from their homeland by the successive waves of invasion and wars of the Ottoman and Persian empires, who gave impetus to early Armenian printing, Prof. Mahé said.

In his lecture, entitled "The Cultural and Economic Impact of Early Armenian Printing," Prof. Mahé noted that the earliest printed works in Armenian were designed to meet the needs of the merchants, and they reflected the loneliness, sorrow, and nostalgia of these Armenians condemned to a miserable and solitary existence far from home and family.

The first printed book in Armenian, called Urbatagirk (Friday Book), was prepared by a man called Hagop Meghapat (literally, "James, covered with sin") in 1511 in Venice; it consisted of a series of Armenian prayers and supplications.

Other books followed, most of them containing material of use to the merchants: calendars, for example, with astrological and medicinal information, or stories, fables and riddles to wile away lonely hours. Many contained prayers and chants to drive away the evil spirits, serpents, demons, or other terrors. These early works were printed in the vernacular and not the classical language, which had been up to this time the only written Armenian language.

From Venice Armenian printing spread to other parts of Europe, especially to Amsterdam, where the relatively free political atmosphere permitted the publication of books considered heretical by the Catholic Church and therefore banned in

Continued on Page 7

Univ. of Mass. Program Guaranteed for Next Three Years

The University of Massachusetts (Boston Campus) has developed a three-year plan to reestablish and expand its program of Armenian Studies.

The Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation, in Taylor, Mich., and NAASR have agreed to provide $15,000 each, over the three-year period, to guarantee the total program budget of $30,000.

Dr. Michael Mensoian, Professor of Geography at the University, has been asked to assume administrative responsibility for the program.

Under the plan, the University will offer elementary and intermediate Armenian courses each fall and spring, beginning in September, 1985. In addition, a new course on Armenian history and culture will be developed and offered in the spring, beginning in 1987.

The program will provide opportunities for guest lecturers, symposia, colloquia, and relevant exhibitions of scholarly merit as well as off-campus courses at the NAASR Headquarters.

Genocide Conference Acclaimed; Research To Be Fostered

In the wake of the widespread acclaim that greeted the National Conference on Genocide and Human Rights at Bentley College on April 18 to 20, the NAASR Board of Directors, meeting on the day following the close of the conference, made a series of decisions to foster the study of the Armenian Genocide and to disseminate curriculum material and the results of research. Details of NAASR's plans to give impetus to research and studies on the Armenian Genocide will be announced shortly.

An account of the Conference, with photographs, appears on pages 3 to 6 of this newsletter.
NAASR Library Expands To Meet Growing Needs

While NAASR librarian Daniella Jbeibian Terjanian was arranging books recently, she started looking at the shelf ends, tucked within the pages of a small volume in Armenian, the original copy of a letter written at the turn of the century by the great Armenian patriot and religious leader, Khiram Hairig. The letter had been lost, in part, in a book of memoirs written by Archbishop Yeghishe of Jerusalem, to whom it was addressed; and the original letter had been preserved in the copy of the memoirs under the title von 1913 in the NAASR library by the Tousmayan family.

The letter is one of many treasures to be found in NAASR’s Reference and Research Library, located on the third floor of the NAASR headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. When NAASR was founded 30 years ago to foster Armenian studies in institutions of higher education in the United States, there was no plan to establish a library. However, members began to bring books to the organization, material began to be forwarded from Armenia and from various institutions, and the need for an accessible library was becoming more and more evident.

The library grew gradually, by evolution, so that now it boasts an impressive collection of 10,000 books, periodicals, dance, and clippings files. Initially, a small room was rented in Harvard Square to house the library. Then, when the organization moved to its present headquarters on Mt. Auburn Street, Mrs. Terpanjian set aside a room for the library. That room soon became inadequate, and the library was moved to a temporarily renovated ground floor. Since that time the library has continued to expand, and once again it has outgrown its quarters. The library’s need for additional space is one of several considerations that is being given serious thought by the Board of Directors, as it is working on plans to expand the entire facility.

Mrs. Terpanjian is also in charge of the NAASR reference, straining the library’s holdings, and helping to arrange and catalog them. Mrs. Terpanjian holds a degree from the Simon College Graduate School of Library and Information Science; she is fluent in English, French, Armenian, and knowledgable in German, Russian, and Turkish. She received her undergraduate education in Lebanon and Belgium and worked as a librarian both in Beirut and Brussels before coming to the United States.

Mrs. Terpanjian is at NAASR in the mornings, Monday through Friday, where she is available to answer the many queries that come to NAASR by telephone and through the mail. She also assists the many students on the high school, college, doctoral and post-doctoral levels seeking help at NAASR for various research projects on Armenian topics.

Recently, Mrs. Terpanjian has been working on the possibility of compiling a data base of Armenian material. NAASR has been acquiring the necessary equipment to develop a computerized system that could be used by all libraries in the United States with substantial collections of Armenian material.

Mrs. Terpanjian is also in charge of the many document collections that have enriched the library such as the papers of the late Rev. Charles Aunskian Vertanes and those of the late Dickrass Boyajian, the noted community leader and a founding member of NAASR.

Book donations will continue to be donated to the NAASR library, straining the organization’s facilities but helping to make NAASR an increasingly valuable center for those who are acknowledging the reality of the Armenian Genocide; as they are acknowledged in a public forum, and to develop working hypotheses that might lead us to new approaches.

It is no longer possible for people to live in isolation one from the other or from the truth. Claims of the Armenians and the denials of the Turks must be resolved — otherwise this resolution can only be achieved through public awareness and honest dialogue.

As you all know, such dialogue is no easy matter. It is full of risks and requires great wisdom and courage. But this is precisely the responsibility of the international community must confront: not only public declarations acknowledging the reality of the Armenian extermination, but a genuine political commitment to compel the present government of Turkey to sit at last to a meaningful international dialogue, and a genuine political commitment to compel the present government of Turkey to sit at last to a meaningful international dialogue, and to ensure that we are acknowledged in a public forum, and to develop working hypotheses that might lead us to new approaches.

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The four scholarly and public officials with invited papers at the National Conference on Genocide and Human Rights were drawn together by the conviction that, in the words of Bennington College President Gregory H. Adamian, “an awful unmentionable lesson weighs in the human heart and mind.” Humanitarian demands that we struggle to comprehend and the reasonings, to recognize the signs, and to resist the invincibility of racial extermination.

The conference opened with a banquet on Thursday evening, during which George Wald, Professor Emeritus at Harvard University and a Nobel Prizewinning biologist, recalled his experience as a member of the People’s Tribunal in Paris in which Foreign Guilt of the Armenian Genocide, at one time he had learned much about the Armenians, Prof. Wald said, and he found the audience to continue to be admirable” that, although scattered around the world, the Armenians had managed to preserve their culture and national identity.

Genocide is a most inaudible form of the brutulism and barbarism that has come out in a particularly virile form in this century, Prof. Wald told the audience, as he read a sobering list of genocides of the 20th century, beginning with the Armenian experience.

Prof. Wald expressed his “sad realization that our own government is either unconcerned or supports governments committing Genocide,” and pointed out “that our own government is either unconcerned or supports governments committing Genocide.”

Prof. Wald attended the program at the opening session was Rep. George Keverian. Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representa­tives, who expressed his disappointment that our own government is either unconcerned or supports governments committing Genocide.

At the banquet, 110-year-old Krikor Derderian, believed to be the oldest living Armenian and a masterly overview of the Armenian Genocide from the Berlin Daily of the British record of the Lausanne treaty of 1923. His paper was followed by two foreign policy presentations by Bar­bara Menzies of the Maghreb and the U.S. response to the Armenian Massacres of 1915 and Christopher Walker of London offered a paper on “Britain as World Policeman.”

Prof. Charny opened the session devoted to the psychological and sociological aftermath of the genocide, which featured papers by Lucy Der Manuelian of Tufts University, Donald E. Miller of the University of Southern California, psychologist Levon Z. Boyanian and Donald E. Miller of the University of Southern California, psychologist Levon Z. Boyanian and Gilbert Abcarian of Florida State University. Vartan Hartunian, pastor of the First Armenian Church presented a paper on the image of the Turk in Armenian literature, while various aspects of the Armenian Holocaust and Genocide were discussed by Mansour Moghadam, a foreign policy expert, an Armenian survivor of the U.S. Holocaust Council, Fred Wall, a Cam­bridge public school teacher and Frank Stone, of the University of California, who provided a special insight into the Armenian Genocide and Hitler. A lawyer, John Loftus described the link between the Armenian Genocide and Hitler. A lawyer, John Loftus expressed his disappointment that crimes of torture have no statute of limitations, which has not yet been implemented.

Legal and Other Steps

There are also legal steps that can be taken against the victimizers. In a fascinating talk on genocide and deterrence, author of the book, "Genocide and Deterrence," authors Donald E. Miller and Richard Abcarian, described the link between the Armenian Genocide and Hitler. A lawyer, John Loftus pointed to a ruling that crimes of torture have no statute of limitations, which has not yet been implemented.

The last victim of genocide is truth," Prof. Charny said, quoting from a recent Senate debate on the Armenian Genocide. At the conclusion of the session on political implications of the Genocide, along with Dickson Charny of Tufts University and Prof. Charny, Gerald Lapidus, a former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, observed that the Armenian political activists on the eve of World War II. Two genocide survivors who provided a special insight into the Armenian Massacres of 1915 and 1916 in their presentations were also discussed.

One theme that emerged from the conference was the importance of continuing education and scholarship and the need for international efforts to control the evil. Beyond such activities, Sen. Proxmire noted the paradoxes inherent in carrying the responsibility for the Armenian Genocide and warned that mankind is poised on the edge of a disaster unless a way is found to halt the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Loftus ended the session with a paper analyzing current Turkish attempts to refute the Armenian Holocaust and Genocide.

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Supporters of National Conference on Genocide and Human Rights

Manoogian Foundation and 8 Others Co-Sponsor Conference

The Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation of Michigan helped to guarantee the success of the conference with a contribution of $5,000 and served as a Co-Sponsor along with eight other donors who contributed $1,000 or more. In addition, 105 other donors from 16 states joined them as Patrons with contributions ranging from $5 to $450.

Donations received subsequently will be listed in the proceedings. Details of the activities will be announced shortly.

MALHE LECTURE

Continued from Page 1

English, the French Armeconologist particularly delighted the audience by extensive remarks in Armenian about his interest in the language and literature and his two years spent teaching and studying in Yerevan.

The lecture was designated as the Rev. A. A. Bedikian Memorial Lecture, in honor of the late Rev. A. A. Bedikian, who passed away in June 1986. The lecture was originally announced as the "40th Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, November 2, and by a series of events marking the Armenian Genocide Curriculum Project.

Malhe Lecture Continues

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Priorities, Programs, Activities, and Needs (Over a Period of Three Years)

National Center for Armenian Studies and Culture

New Hampshire: The permanent activities marking NAASR’s 30th anniversary, will be held on Sunday, November 3, at Memorial Hall and the Mugar Library at the University of Cambridge, Mass.

The conference will be preceded by the NAASR Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, November 2, and by a series of events marking the establishment of a new program in the field of Armenian scholarship, research, and publications.

A banquet and the opening of a new program of lectures and exhibits will be opened shortly.

ARMEHAN STUDIES

PROGRAMS

MICHIGAN (DEARBORN)

The Knights of Varsen have donated $100,000 for the establishment of an Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. The Center, headed by history professor Dennis Papazian, will be located in the University Library. It will house a multimedia, a data base containing oral tapes, memorabilia, and artifacts. (MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR)

An effort is underway to fund a professorship in Modern Armenian Language and Literature to complement the work of existing Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History.

The solicitation of Armenian studies for the 1985-86 academic year at Ann Arbor will include a lecture to be taught by Prof. Ronald G. Sany, of the chair, Modern Armenian History; "Soviet Nationalities in the Press of Modern Armenia" (in the July and August 1986) and "History of the Armenian People from Prehistoric to Modern Times" (in the spring 1986). The lecture will be in Armenian.

MICHIGAN (ANN ARBOR)

Armenian language courses will be taught by Aved Mosesyan, lecturer.

SAN FRANCISCO

The birth and growth of modern Armenian literature is the subject of a 10-session evening course which begins June 19 at the University of California Extension Center, 55 Laguna St., San Francisco 94117.

The course follows the development of the poetic tradition and the impact of the novel on the course's story by tracing the impact of the French Revolution and European literature. Courses are taught by Louise L. C. Sheng, a lecturer, and she will conduct the course for the next few months, and stopped in Boston on his way back to France.

Although his lecture was delivered in English, the French Armeconologist particularly delighted the audience by extensive remarks in Armenian about his interest in the language and literature and his two years spent teaching and studying in Yerevan.

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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 parenthesis represent reduced prices for NAASR members in good standing. A complete list of recent titles is available upon request.


Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature, by Y. T. Nercessian (Armenian Numismatic Society, Los Angeles). A comprehensive (729-page) listing of books and articles dealing with Armenian coins through the ages, with brief abstracts in both English and Armenian, of each entry. Includes publications in several languages, a list of reviews, as well as subject and author indices. A132. $50.00 [$42.50].

**Ararat** (Editions Erebouni). A series of dramatic color photographs of the symbol of Armenian national consciousness, Mt. Ararat, taken at various seasons of the year by Sargs K. Hambartsumian and accompanied by short verses in Armenian, about Ararat and Masis written by several famous poets. A135p. $10.00 [$9.00].

**Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire: The Functioning of a Plural Society**, edited by Benjamin Braude and Bernard Lewis (Holmes & Meier, New York). Papers by several scholars of the Middle East touching various topics of religion and community, including articles on the Armenian Patriarchate in Constantinople by Kevork B. Bardakjian and on the Amira class by Hagop Barsoumian. 2 vols. H216 $85.00 [$77.50].


**Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia**, Volume 9 (Academy of Sciences, Armenian SSR, Yerevan). This comprehensive work includes information about a variety of Armenian and non-Armenian persons, places and objects, with pictures, diagrams and maps, covering words beginning with the letters cha (չ) through ra (ռ). In Armenian. X98i, $25.00 [$21.95].

**Treasures of Etchmiadzin** (Holy See of Etchmiadzin/Editions Erebouni). An album of colored photographs of the buildings of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin and the treasures in the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum there, including khachkars (stone crosses), coins, metalwork, woodcarving, rugs, needlework, and painting. In Armenian, Russian, and English, with foreword by Sirarpie Der Nersessian. A134 $60.00 [$54.00].

Rugs Exhibit Opening
In Worcester, Mass.

The exhibit "Weavers, Merchants and Kings: The Inscribed Rugs of Armenia" will be on view at the Worcester Art Museum on 55 Salisbury Street from July 13 through September 15.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Worcester museum will offer a number of programs on Armenian culture which are open to the public, including a traditional Armenian picnic on July 13; a slide-illustrated lecture on the rugs by Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian on July 21; a free rug clinic conducted by specialist Arthur T. Gregorian on August 10 and 11; a concert by organist Berj Zambokhian on September 14; and a family day on September 15.

Fulbright Scholar Awards
To Soviet Union Available

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) has announced the opening of competition for the 1986-87 Fulbright Scholar Awards in university lecturing in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Research awards are also available in some countries. Fulbright Awards are granted in many disciplines, and scholars in all academic ranks are eligible to apply.