

## Prof. Mahé Offers Three Lectures

Dr. Jean-Pierre Mahé, Professor of Classical and Modern Armenian at the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and visiting professor at Harvard University for the fall 1987 term, is presenting three lectures in English on Armenian subjects this winter under NAASR auspices.

The lectures, which are open to the public free of charge, are:

"Napoleon and the Armenians," the story of Napoleon's acquaintance with Armenians in Italy and Egypt as well as in France, his interest in Armenian studies and culture, and the impact of his foreign policy in the Middle East on Armenia and Armenians. Wednesday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. James Armenian Church Hall, 467 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, Mass.

"The True Meaning of Narekatsi," an analysis of the writings of this tenth century mystic poet as revealed in his *Book of Lamentations*, a collection of elegies which, after the Bible, has been the most sacred and valued book in every Armenian home through the centuries. Sunday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Armenian Church, Nahigian Hall, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass.

"Armenian Village Life," a study of the themes of modernity and resurrection in Khachadour Abovian's novel *The Wounds of Armenia*, in which the noted Armenian literary figure deals with the condition and life of Armenians in the villages. Sunday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Shahé Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass.

Editor of the *Revue des Etudes Arméniennes*, Dr. Mahé has authored numerous articles and books and has visited Yerevan and Tbilisi to lecture and conduct research.

### BOOK ON ZOROASTRIANISM

A book by James R. Russell on *Zoroastrianism in Armenia*, has just been released by NAASR and the Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

More information about this new publication may be found on page 8.

## Assembly Hears Plan for Teachers' Institute

At the 33rd Annual Assembly of NAASR members, meeting at the Graduate Center of Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., on Saturday, November 7, Board Chairman Manoog S. Young made several important announcements about the Association's programs for the advancement of Armenian studies.

Chief among them was the announcement that the Rev. Dr. Krikor H. Maksoudian has been appointed Director of Studies and Research at NAASR. The appointment is on a limited part-time basis at present but will expand to full time during the course of the next year or two.

Chairman Young also made the following announcements:

- An innovative Social Studies Institute for secondary school teachers on "The Armenian Experience" will be held next summer at the University of Massachusetts (Boston). The eight-day intensive workshop is being planned by Dr. Michael Mensoian, coordinator of the Armenian program at the University.

- Another Heritage Tour to Armenia and

the Soviet Union will be offered next summer, in late June or early July, in view of the success of last summer's tour.

- A series of three lectures by Prof. Jean-Pierre Mahé, visiting professor of Armenian at Harvard University this fall, dealing with various aspects of Armenian history and literature will be sponsored this winter in the Greater Boston area.

- A new publication, *Zoroastrianism in Armenia*, by Prof. James R. Russell of Columbia University, has just been released. The book was published jointly by NAASR and the Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

- A celebration of the 20th anniversary of the acquisition of the NAASR Headquarters building near Harvard Square, Cambridge, is being planned for next Spring.

### Importance of Medieval Studies

At the Annual Luncheon preceeding the meeting, NAASR members and their guests heard a brief address by Prof. Mahé about the importance of the study of medieval Armenian literature. *Continued on page 3*

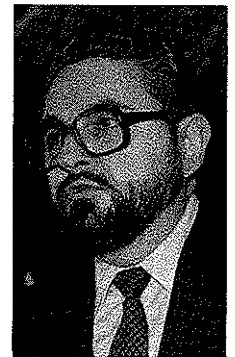
## Dr. Maksoudian Named Director of Studies

The Rev. Dr. Krikor H. Maksoudian has been appointed Director of Studies and Research at NAASR, according to an announcement made at the Association's Annual Meeting.

In this new position, Dr. Maksoudian will oversee research activities within NAASR; coordinate studies and research activities with outside educational institutions; be responsible for the NAASR library's further organization and development; plan seminar series, scholarly conferences, and congresses; review manuscripts for publication; and assist students and scholars utilizing NAASR resources.

A former Assistant Professor of Armenian at Columbia University, Dr. Maksoudian is the author of several studies in classical and medieval Armenian literature. His most recent publication is a translation and commentary of the *History of Armenia* by the tenth century catholicos and historian Yovhannes Draxanakertci.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Paken Maksoudian, Dr. Maksoudian is a graduate of Harvard College (with an AB in classics and ancient history), Boston College (with an MA in classics), and Columbia University (PhD in Armenian Studies and Byzantine History).



Dr. Maksoudian

Dr. Maksoudian has taught at Harvard Summer School, Rutgers University, Hunter College, and Tufts University, as well as Columbia for ten years and has been a consultant for the Armenian Architectural Photographic Archives Project. An ordained clergyman in the Armenian Apostolic Church, he is editor of the Diocesan publication *The Armenian Church*.

## Armenian Studies in Historical Perspective

*Excerpts from the Board of Directors Report delivered at the 33rd NAASR Annual Assembly by Chairman Manoog S. Young.*

As NAASR enters its 33rd year of activity and as we consider our future direction, we should look back in history and in NAASR's development as the pioneering organization for the promotion and advancement of Armenian studies in America. Such a review will give us a clearer perspective of the direction in which we should be heading in the future, in the short term as well as the long term.

The Armenians have an enormous history spanning 3,000 years. They are one of the oldest peoples in Christendom. Armenia has been the virtual cradle of civilization.

The Armenians have impacted on almost all the major civilizations. Their interaction with other peoples and cultures has shaped significantly the history of the Middle East, the development of Christianity, the evolution of Gothic architecture, the outcome of the Crusades, the rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire, the relations of the Mongols with the West, the spread of commerce and trade during the Middle Ages to Europe and the Far East, and indeed the course of all history, science, art, literature, and Western civilization by virtue of their strategic geographic location and their culture and tenacity as a people.

The study of the history and role of the Armenians through the centuries is therefore important to the understanding of the course of history, the background of important events in the past, and even the shaping of future history and the course of mankind, especially in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Russia.

### NAASR Accepts the Challenge

To do this in an objective, continuous, and everlasting manner was the challenge which was before the Armenian community over 30 years ago and which was accepted by NAASR. To not have done so would have been a disservice not only to the Armenians but to all who recognize that to ignore or overlook the past would doom mankind to repeat the failures of the past.

Thus, in developing a long-range program to foster the study of Armenian history, language, and culture through America's outstanding institutions of higher education and through a program in support of scholarship, research, and publications, NAASR is making a far-reaching and even worldwide impact on all fields of study and in the process is bringing greater and lasting understanding and recognition of the history, role, and contributions of the Armenians in the past 30 centuries.

This is the meaning and importance of NAASR's pioneering accomplishments.

Thirty-two years ago we started as a single-purpose organization — to create a center of learning and research in Armenian studies at America's oldest and foremost university, Harvard — and today we are a multipurpose and multifaceted organization.

To assure continuous and everlasting study of the history, language, and culture of the Armenians, we embraced the concept of endowed professorships or Chairs of Armenian Studies. The first two chairs, at Harvard and UCLA, have now proliferated to ten chairs, and programs have been instituted at over twenty other colleges and universities, the majority of which are still in existence; and altogether over 35,000 students have studied at these institutions of higher education from single courses on an adult-education level to full-scale PhD programs.

### Programs Are Expanded

From this fundamental approach and foundation, NAASR has branched out into many other areas and levels of activity in order to assure the progress and development of Armenian studies and research.

NAASR has created a permanent endowment Fund for Armenian Studies, an Advancement Fund, the Armenian Book Clearing House, the Armenian Reference and Research Library, the Armenian Information, Education, and Documentation Center, and the Armenian Heritage Press.

In addition to these activities and programs on the higher education level, NAASR's involvement in the preparation of teaching materials on the junior high and high school level about the Armenian Genocide continues. This material is being utilized now by over 30,000 teachers throughout the country and reaches probably over 700,000 students each year. Soon over one million students in this country, Canada, and Great Britain — and even Germany — will be learning about the Armenian Genocide as a result of this program which NAASR supports financially and through library and staff resources. So far we have expended over \$40,000 in support of this program.

Along with these existing entities and programs, there needs to be established an independent Institute for Armenian Studies and Research through which we can promote and support research and investigation in all aspects of Armenian history and culture according to a master plan which will be responsive to the needs and interests of the Armenian people and which at the same time will aid and complement the work and studies at the outstanding American institutions of higher education where Armenian programs are currently in existence.

### Vital Programs Depend on Support

All these vital programs, activities, and plans will require the expansion of our staff and facilities. There is an immediate need

of \$100,000 (for staff expansion and publications) and a three-year need for \$2,750,000 to carry out this vital and urgent program. Already, of this required amount, there is on hand in cash, securities, equity, and disposable assets a total of over \$1.5 million of which about one-half million is in our endowment and quasi-endowment funds. To conclude this campaign successfully, we need to raise at least \$1.5 million, which will be matched on a 1 to 5 basis by Mr. Edward Mardigian of Detroit and thus will bring NAASR another \$300,000.

Therefore, what can you do to help? You can, first and foremost, maintain your membership support and, if possible, increase your annual support to \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000. You can also make, in addition, a long-term financial commitment to the Permanent Endowment Fund and the Advancement Fund. And, finally, you can participate on a local level to rekindle interest in NAASR and to bring more support to its programs and activities so that NAASR's work can go forward unabated and undiminished and advance as planned.

NAASR's pioneering efforts have been instrumental in guaranteeing that the role and contributions of Armenians to world history and civilization will be increasingly recognized, understood, and appreciated on an everlasting and worldwide basis. It has not only given unparalleled impetus to the advancement of Armenian studies, culture, and heritage in this country as well as abroad during the past three decades, but has virtually spawned a worldwide movement which has contributed significantly to the Armenian cultural renaissance and intellectual reawakening throughout the diaspora.

### Rededication

Now, I ask you: Will you rededicate yourself to this noble effort? Will you stand up and be counted? Will you have the satisfaction of knowing that, as in the past, you have helped give substance and stimulus to a grand plan which in the end, in addition to the stated objectives of NAASR, will help overcome the twin scourges of assimilation and the concerted efforts of the Turkish Government and the Turcophiles to rewrite Armenian history?

Your support and encouragement will ensure in the long run that the Armenians will achieve justice, that the truth will prevail, and that, through the immortality which the Armenians will attain as a result of the everlasting programs fostered by NAASR, the world will never again forget the Armenians.

*Note: Chairman Young's report dealt in greater detail with the activities, programs, and needs of NAASR's various entities as well as its functions, operations, and other organizational and academic programs and plans.*

# Annual Assembly Approves Reports, Elects Board Members

Continued from page 1

Despite the small size of their country, Prof. Mahé noted, the Armenians were a feared adversary of the great powers of the ancient world, creators of a literature that is rich and expressive, builders of some of the most magnificent monuments of the Christian Near East, and in general important participants in world history.

In his own study of ancient and medieval Armenian literature, Prof. Mahé said, he has been constantly amazed by the wide variety of genres to be found, the freshness and color of the writing, and the important works of Western literature that would have been lost were it not for their Armenian translations.

Prof. Mahé's talk was followed by a report, illustrated with color slides, by Board Secretary Charles S. Sahagian about NAASR's 1987 Armenian Heritage Tour to Armenia and the Soviet Union. Mr. Sahagian showed scenes of interest in Moscow, Leningrad, Rostov-on-Don, Tbilisi, and Armenia and described meaningful contacts and frank discussions between the tour group members and Armenian and other Soviet citizens.

## Elections and Awards

NAASR members at the Annual Meeting elected to the National Board of Directors the following: Greater Boston — Armen Dohanian of Belmont (reelected after a two-year absence), Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian of Winchester, Dr. Elizabeth A. Gregory of Arlington, and Prof. Aram S. Karakashian of the University of Lowell; Middle West — Prof. Dennis R. Papazian of the University of Michigan, Dearborn; and West Coast — Richard Ashton of Fresno and Albert Armen Erkel of Los Angeles.

To enhance the Association's programs on the West Coast, Mr. Young announced the appointment of Prof. Avedis K. Sanjian of UCLA and Everett Berberian and Varnum Paul of the San Francisco area to the NAASR National Advisory Board, and as Regional Representatives Deron Petoyan for Southern California and Michael Kilibian for Northern California.

The Rev. Papken Maksoudian, Pastor Emeritus of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, was given a special award as a founder and incorporator of NAASR and a member since 1955. In the absence of Father Maksoudian, the award was accepted by his son, Rev. Dr. Krikor Maksoudian.

Prof. Jean-Pierre Mahé was given a NAASR Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding achievements in the field of Armenian studies which have helped to bring about a better understanding and appreciation of Armenian history and culture.

Twenty-five-year membership certificates were given to the following members in absentia: Caro M. Carapetyan, Dallas, TX; Rev. Dr. George A. Egan, Red-

way, CA; George David Krikorian, Cambridge, MA; John M. Malkasian, Sacramento, CA; Dr. Nikit Ordjanian, Fresh Meadows, NY; Dr. Vazken L. Parsegian, Troy, NY; and Mrs. Maritza Tsaggos, New York, NY.

## Financial and Other Reports

In presenting the financial report, Board Treasurer Erivan Hagopian reported total receipts for 1986 of \$266,089, compared to \$241,612 for 1985. Total disbursements for 1986 were \$270,118, of which \$81,713 was for Administrative and Organizational Expenses, compared to a total of \$241,404 for 1985, of which \$70,162 was for Administrative and Organizational Expenses.

Mr. Hagopian also reported NAASR's total assets at \$1.76 million, consisting of \$430,000 in Cash and Funds, \$76,000 in Stocks and Bonds, \$140,000 in Pledges Due, \$700,000 Equity in the Headquarters Building, \$41,000 in Loans Receivable, \$140,000 in Book Department Inventory and Accounts Receivable, \$200,000 in Library Holdings, and \$28,000 in Furnishings and Equipment. These assets are offset by \$109,000 in liabilities, resulting in a net worth of \$1.65 million.

The membership unanimously adopted a motion submitted by Dr. Gregory H.

Adamian, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Fund for Armenian Studies, regarding the capitalization of yields of NAASR Endowment Funds in order to maintain the real value of the funds in the face of inflation or other monetary factors. The motion authorized the Board of Directors "to capitalize (reinvest) a portion of the yield of the endowed and memorial funds, not exceeding one-fourth in any one given year, in order to preserve the real future value of these funds."

Serving on the various committees for the Annual Meeting were the following:

**Nominating:** Erivan Hagopian (Chairman), Edna Bogosian, Haig Harotunian, Edward A. Kazanjian, and Charles S. Sahagian.

**Constitution and Rules:** Aram S. Karakashian (Chairman), William Aznavourian, Sonya N. Babayan, Edna Bogosian, Alice Kalustian, Edward Karian, and Michael Mensoian.

**New Business and Resolutions:** Raffi P. Yeghiayan (Chairman), Thomas Amirian, Paul T. Boghosian, Ara Gelenian, George Nersessian, Harry Surabian, and Jeanne Yeshilian.

**Auditing:** S. George Jigarjian (Chairman), Linda Aintablian, and Sahag Kalashian.

## Recent Donations to NAASR Library

Mrs. Karen Anderson, Winchester, Mass., and her brothers Gregory and Ronald Kolligian -- Collection of 22 books in Armenian on history, geography, language, and literature from the collection of their late father, Koren Kolligian, who was a Charter Member of NAASR.

Araxie Anjorian, Watertown, Mass. -- A copy of *The Massacre of Kharpert* (1937, in Armenian) by N. Piranian.

Jack and Barbara Bousian, Westport, Conn., and Selma, Calif. -- Bound copy of Vol. 36 of *The National Geographic Magazine*, July-Dec. 1919, containing several articles on the Armenians during and after the massacres of 1915.

Levon Der Hohannesian, Jamaica Plain, Mass. -- Collection of six Armenian books and three issues of the *Hairenik Monthly* of 1922-23.

Levon S. Fabrikajian, Aleppo, Syria -- Copy of his book *Caravan on the Road of Death* (1985, in Armenian).

Miriam A. Gargarian, Boston, Mass. -- Bound copy of her PhD thesis for a Doctorate in Music from Indiana University, "A Descriptive Analysis of the *Suite* and the *Six Pictures for Piano* by Arno Babajanian."

Erivan Hagopian, Lexington, Mass. -- The Sept. 1919 issue of *Veradznootun*, published in Boston; seven issues of *Areg*, published in Vienna, Austria,

1923-24; a copy of *Socialism and Fatherland* (1916, in Armenian) by S. Sapah-Gulian, published by Yeridasart Hayasdan, Providence, and a pictorial publication, *Our Homeland* (1935).

Sidney Heitman, Colorado State University, Fort Collins -- Copy of his recent study, "The Third Soviet Emigration: Jewish, German, and Armenian Emigration from the USSR Since World War II."

Prof. L.K. Khacherian, Los Angeles, Calif. -- Copy of his comprehensive and critical study in Armenian, *Grigor Pahlavouni, the Magistrate, 985-1058: His Life and Works*, published this year.

Haig Nargizian, Flushing, N.Y. -- Nine video tapes on Armenian historical subjects, including *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, *Historical Armenia*, and *Strangers in a Promised Land*.

Mrs. Alice Muggerditchian Shipley, Phoenix, Ariz. -- Two books: *From Turkish Toils: The Narrative of an Armenian Family's Escape*, which is her mother's story translated from Armenian, and a copy of her father's book, *The Massacres in Dikranagerd Province and the Ferocity of the Kurds* (in Armenian), an eyewitness account published in 1919 in Cairo by her father, Tovmas K. Muggerditchian, the former English vice-consul in Dikranagerd.

## Alice Stone Blackwell: Friend of the Armenians

*Alice Stone Blackwell's translations of Armenian poetry into English marked a pioneering step in the effort to make Armenian culture known to the American public. A strong foe of oppression in all its forms, she was the daughter of 19th century feminist leader Lucy Stone and the niece of the first woman doctor in the United States, Elizabeth Blackwell, and the first woman ordained minister in America, Antoinette Browne Blackwell.*

*The following article about this prominent friend of the Armenian people is taken from a lengthy report by M. C. Gismegian which appeared in Armenian Affairs (Spring 1950).*

Miss Blackwell devoted her mind and soul to the culture and cause of the Armenian people from that day when the patriotic and talented Russian-Armenian student Hovhannes Khachumian arrived in the United States from Germany with Isabelle C. Barrows, who had met him at the University of Leipzig in 1890-1891.

Mrs. Barrows, editor of the *Christian Register*, a Unitarian weekly published in Boston, had brought Khachumian to the United States with the approval of Catholicos Khrimian to represent the Armenian Church at the World Congress of Religions in Chicago in 1893. The other member to represent the Armenian Church was Minas Tcheraz, the well-known Armenian patriot and editor of *L'Arménie*, published in London.

Mrs. Barrows introduced Khachumian to Alice Stone Blackwell, then editor of the *Women's Journal*, which had a wide circulation among women intellectuals. Miss Blackwell was inspired by Khachumian's sincere and devoted personality and his patriotic utterances, and became deeply interested in the life and cause of the Armenian people. She became acquainted with Armenian intellectuals and students, and in the midst of her busy life this talented lady started transcribing Armenian poetry into English verse on the basis of the verbatim English prose of Khachumian and others.

Despite his many activities, Khachumian, who had studied a year at Harvard University, found time to establish relations with Armenian students and intellectuals who had come to the United States and organized an Armenian student forum. With his presence, patriotism, enthusiasm, and candor, he inspired the student emigres. They met once a month, and one of them presented a paper on a national, historical, or political theme, which was followed by a discussion. He hoped to establish relations between them and the Armenian students in Leipzig, Germany, as well as with the body of Russian intellectuals.

Gradually the Armenian students in the United States, whose revolutionary,

patriotic ideals of freedom and independence had been reinforced in this country, took up the task of introducing Armenia to the Americans. The answer to their dream they found in Miss Blackwell, who had by this time made the support of the Armenian question her aim and had decided to place her gifts at its service. The translation of Armenian poetry into English, an excellent medium of orienting America with the political aspirations and cultural achievements of the Armenian people, was close to their hearts. It was also found to be very dear to Miss Blackwell.

The first poem translated was probably R. Patkanian's "The Banks of the Araxes River." Henry B. Blackwell, Miss Blackwell's father, pronounced Mihran Damadian's "Talvorik" the most beautiful poem in the collection. The Armenian poets and literary masters wrote of their people's sufferings, love of freedom, and determination to end their oppression.

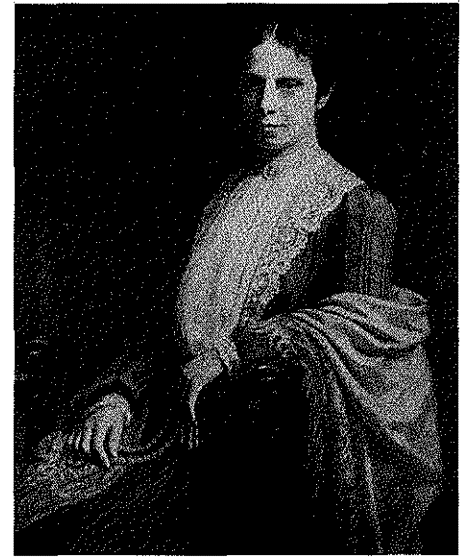
Miss Blackwell first published these poems, written by both eastern and western Armenian writers, in important American newspapers and periodicals. Later, in 1897, she published them as a separate volume, which was republished in 1917. Influential newspapers, individuals, and reviewers were in high praise of Miss Blackwell's translations.

As a result of the efforts of Khachumian and other Armenians in America, the "Friends of Armenia" Society was organized under the presidency of Julia Ward Howe. It was sponsored by and received the active support of outstanding intellectuals, governors, senators, and publicists who were frequently present at meetings of public protest and fundraising.

After the great massacres of 1895, when the number of needy Armenians swelled by the thousands of orphans and widows, Miss Blackwell put her entire effort into the task of helping them. Wherever a public meeting or campaign for funds was on, she was there with her moral support and her material contributions.

Upon learning of the serious illness of Hovhannes Khachumian, who had returned to Germany, Mrs. Barrows and Miss Blackwell left for Europe in the hope of seeing him once more before his death. But while they were yet on board the ship, the news of Khachumian's death arrived. After reaching Germany, Mrs. Barrows attempted to secure the books and papers of Khachumian. She succeeded only through the aid of the American embassy, as the Russian ambassador had already taken an interest in his belongings, Khachumian being a Russian subject.

The two American ladies then returned to England, where they met James Bryce and other distinguished Englishmen friendly to the Armenians. They also visited Mihran Damadian and other Armenian



*Alice Stone Blackwell. 1879-1950  
Portrait painted by K. Ekserjian*

revolutionary leaders who had succeeded in escaping from the Turkish hell by the skin of their teeth.

After collecting much information, books, and official documents relating to the Armenian question, Miss Blackwell returned to the United States and redoubled her efforts in the interest of the Armenian cause.

On May 30, 1904, the Armenians in the United States organized an honorary dinner on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Miss Blackwell's activities on behalf of their cause, under the presidency of Bishop Hovsep Sarajian, on which occasion she was presented with a portrait of herself painted by K. Ekserjian. The portrait was later donated to her alma mater, Boston University.

The Catholicos, Khrimian Hairig, in appreciation of her great service to the Armenian people, had sent from the seat of the Armenian Church in Etchmiadzin an encyclical of grace together with a necklace of amber, which Miss Blackwell afterwards wore on special occasions and at public functions.

In 1917, when the Armenian question and a United States mandate over Armenia became important issues of the day, it is difficult to imagine the enthusiasm of Miss Blackwell for the new day which seemed to be on the verge of dawning for her beloved Armenians.

An Armenian who visited her in 1938, when she was living in Cambridge, reported that she had grown old and her eyes were weakened, but she kept in her mind the brightness and vitality of her youthful days. She revealed with grief that the necklace of amber had been stolen, and then added, "Although they have stolen it, the blessing of Khrimian Hairig still rests upon me."

# Recent Conferences and Meetings

## COMPARATIVE DIASPORAS - QUEENS COLLEGE

An international conference on "Diasporas in Comparative Perspective," with a focus on the Jewish, Greek, and Armenian Diasporas, was held at Queens College of the City University of New York on October 21 to 23, 1987.

Presenting papers on the Armenian diaspora were Khachig Tololyan (Wesleyan University); Gerard Libaridian (Zoryan Institute and Tufts); Nikola Schahgaldian (Rand Corporation) and Nora Nercessian (Zoryan Institute and Harvard).

Israeli scholar and statesman Abba Eban and writer Amos Oz spoke about the Jewish diaspora, along with Howard Sachar (George Washington University), and Amos Funkenstein.

On the Greek diaspora, papers were presented by Theodore Pangalos (Alternate Foreign Minister of Greece), Ioannis K. Hasiotis (Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki), and several others.

Ernest Schwarcz, dean of the Queens College School of General Studies, was the conference chairman, and M. Hratch Zadoian, assistant dean, was the co-chair.

## AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION - NEW YORK CITY

A gathering of social scientists of Armenian background was held in New York City on August 31, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the 62,000-member American Psychological Association.

Honored guests were Dr. Levon Melikian, for over 30 years a seminal researcher and teacher of psychology in universities across the Middle East, now residing in Ontario, Canada, and Dr. Levon Chorbajian, a sociologist at the University of Lowell.

Conveners for the gathering were Dr. Hagop Pambookian (Elizabeth City, N.C., psychology), Anny Bakalian (Columbia University, sociology/anthropology), Dr. Richard H. Tashjian (New York University, social statistics), Dr. Haikaz Grigorian (Rutgers Medical School, social psychiatry), and Mardo Soghomian (Columbia University, political science).

## MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSOCIATION - BALTIMORE

A one-day colloquium on November 14 at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., was co-sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Baltimore.

Four themes illustrative of the ways in which Byzantium and Armenia interacted were discussed by a number of scholars: Religion — Nina Garsoian on "The Problem of Chalcedonianism in Armenia;" Art — Thomas Mathews on manuscript painting and Slobodan Curcic on architecture; Literature — Peter Cowe, with special emphasis on translation of Greek into Arme-

nian, and Robert W. Thomson, with special emphasis on Armenian into Greek; and Social Structure and Cultural Mix — Speros Vryonis on "Questions of Religious Polemic" and Alexander Kazhdan on "The Ethnic Term *Iberos* in Byzantine Sources."

A panel on "Armenians in Turkey and Iran," sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, was held in Baltimore on November 15. The papers dealt with the Adana massacres and with events taking place in Tabriz during the same period.

## LITERARY CRITICISM - UCLA

An International Symposium on Armenian Literary Criticism was held on November 20 to 22 at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Participating in the symposium were eleven well-known literary critics from around the world: Edward Jerbashian, Hrand Tamrazian, and Vazgen Gabrielian of Armenia; Krikor Beledian and Marc Nishanian of Paris; Bishop Norvan Zakarian of Lyon, France; Chake Minasian of Montreal, Canada; and Haroutune Berberian of Beirut, Lebanon.

From the United States the participants

included Vahe Oshagan of San Francisco, Khachig Tololyan of Wesleyan University, Conn., and Leonardo Alishan of the University of Utah.

Dr. Avedis K. Sanjian, Narekatsi Professor of Armenian at UCLA, was the conference chairman.

## GENOCIDE AND DENIAL - CUNY

Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian delivered a paper on "The Armenian Genocide: Remembrance and Denial" on November 13 at a one-day conference at the City University of New York on mass killing in the twentieth century.

Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Genocide and the Academy of Humanities and Sciences, the conference opened with a speech by U.S. Congressman Bill Green (R-Manhattan). The program included papers by Dr. James Mace (U.S. Government Ukraine Famine Commission), Dr. Helen Fein (Institute for the Study of Genocide), and workshops on contemporary and post-World War I situations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, East Timor, the Bahai in Iran, and Indians in Paraguay and Guatemala.

## Recent Conferences in Armenia

### DIASPORA COMMUNITIES

An international symposium on "Armenian Communities in the West and Third World Countries," held in Yerevan October 5-7, attracted a large number of participants from the United States, Canada, Lebanon, and the Soviet Union as well as from Armenia itself.

American scholars participating in the symposium included: Kevoork Bardakjian, Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, who spoke about his book *Hitler and the Armenian Genocide*; Hagop Der Garabedian of La Verne College, who compared the Armenian community in Los Angeles with that of Beirut; Richard G. Hovannisian, Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles, who discussed the future of the Armenian community in America; Isabel Kaprielian of Toronto, Canada, who described ethnicity in the Canadian Armenian community; and Robert Mirak, adjunct professor at Boston University, who spoke about the development and future prospects of the Armenian community in America.

A paper by Harold Takooshian of Fordham University on "Immigration of Armenians to the United States from the Middle East," originally prepared for NAASR's 1984 Conference on Ethnicity and Assimilation, was read in an Armenian translation.

The symposium was sponsored jointly by the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad (SPIURK) and the

Center for the Study of the Armenian Communities in the Diaspora (Armenian Academy of Sciences).

### ARMENIAN LINGUISTICS

A conference on Armenian Linguistics, sponsored by the Linguistics Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, took place in Yerevan in September. About 20 scholars from the United States and Western Europe joined Soviet experts in presenting papers on linguistic topics.

Attending from the United States were: John A.C. Greppin of Cleveland State University, Eric Hamp of the University of Chicago, and James R. Russell of Columbia University. NAASR Board Chairman Manoug S. Young was invited but was unable to attend.

### ARMENIAN WOMEN

A conference of Armenian women, the first of its kind, took place in Yerevan on October 13-14. Approximately 75 women from all parts of the world, comprising journalists, sociologists, academicians, musicians, and community activists, were present for the conference, sponsored by the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad (SPIURK).

Among the participants from the United States were: Rita Balian of Washington, D.C., Lousig Melikian and Sonig Vayejian of New York, Cecile Keshishian of Manchester, N.H., Ruth Thomasian, Director of Project SAVE in Watertown, and, from California, Dr. Vartivar Hovannisian, Manoush Kevoorkian, Ankiné Mouradian, Mary Najarian, and Shoushan Vartanian.

## Columbia Holds Lectures On Armenia's Neighbors

A series of three lectures on the immediate neighbors of Armenia has been scheduled by the Armenian Center at Columbia University.

The first lecture, on the eastern neighbors of the Armenians (the Caucasian Albanians and Azeri Turks) was delivered on November 12 by Dr. Robert H. Hewsen, Professor of Russian and Middle Eastern History at Glassboro State College in Glassboro, N.J.

On December 1, Dr. James R. Russell, Assistant Professor of Middle East Languages and Cultures at Columbia, was scheduled to speak about the Kurds and Kurdistan.

The final lecture in the series, on Tuesday, December 18, will feature Dr. Ronald G. Suny, Professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on the topic of Georgia and the Georgians.

All lectures begin at 6:30 p.m. at Columbia's School for International Affairs, 15th floor.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### Conference on Soviet Armenia

The Society for Armenian Studies and the Center for Soviet and East European Studies of the University of Pennsylvania will cosponsor a conference on Soviet Armenia in late October or early November 1988.

Scholars interested in taking part in the conference are asked to notify Dr. Thomas Samuelian, Assistant Director of the Center (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104) or Dr. Robert H. Hewsen (Department of History, Glassboro State College, Glassboro, NJ 08028).

### Research in Social Policy

Papers and detailed abstracts are being solicited for Volume II (1988) and Volume III (1989) of the Annual Series *Research in Social Policy: Critical, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*.

This peer-reviewed annual focuses on theoretical rather than practical analyses and encourages studies of historical as well as contemporary cases of social policy developments and implementation. Studies which stress unconventional interpretations of social policies (e.g. Marxist, phenomenology, psychohistory, critical theory, politics of underdevelopment, and internal colonialism) are particularly welcome.

Papers, no more than 40 pages in length (Chicago Manual style), and paper abstracts of at least four pages should be sent to: Prof. John H. Stanfield, II, General Editor, *Research in Social Policy*, Department of Sociology, P.O. Box 1965, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

## 3 Armenians Granted Fulbright Awards to Teach in Yerevan

Three Armenian-American scholars have been awarded Fulbright awards to be scholars-in-residence at Yerevan State University, Armenia, during the 1987-88 academic year, under the program administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) in Washington, D.C. They are:

Dr. Hagop Panossian, engineer, supervisor of the Department of Research and Development, H.R. Textron, Valencia, California, for the fall semester;

Dr. Rebecca Der Simonian, mathematician, of Yale University, for the spring semester;

Dr. Harold Takooshian, lecturer and researcher at Fordham University, whose doctorate is in Social-Personality Psychology, for the fall semester.

Last year four American scholars, three of them of Armenian descent, spent a semester as scholars-in-residence at Yerevan State University: Dr. Levon Chorbajian, University of Lowell; Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, California State University, Fresno; James Speer, Stephan F. Austin State University in Texas; and Dr. Kennel Touryan, Colorado School of Mines.

## New NAASR Members

Since October 1, NAASR's Executive Committee has approved 14 more members who have joined for the first time or reinstated their membership. The total since October 1, 1986, is now 123 new members. The states with the highest numbers of new and reinstated members are: Massachusetts, 45; California, 38; New York, 14; and thirteen other states and Canada, each with three or less, totalling 26 new and reinstated members.

In this latest group of members, one joined in the Sponsor category and five joined as Supporting Members; two are students. In the list below an asterisk (\*) denotes reinstated membership.

From Massachusetts: *Mrs. Joyce Barsam*, Belmont; *Harry M. Haytayan, Jr.* (Supporting), Boston; *Rev. Dr. Krikor H. Maksoudian* (\*), Arlington; *George Nersessian*, Dedham; *Mrs. Anita H. Shamgochian*, Watertown; *Mrs. Georgine Chacran Symes*, Bradford; *Mrs. Nevart Talanian*, Belmont.

From other states: *Zaven A. Dadekian* (Sponsor), Saddle River, NJ; *Mrs. Louise Dingilian* (Supporting), New York, NY; *Mrs. Irma Guevrekian* (Supporting), Manhasset, NY; *Annette Gurdjian* (Student), Eugene, OR; *Monique Kendikian* (Student), Lansdale, PA; *Mrs. Lucy D. Mardian* (Supporting), Phoenix, AZ; *Mrs. Pearl Safarian* (\*Supporting), Arvada, CO.

## NECROLOGY

*Haig G. Berberian* of Modesto, Calif., on September 21, 1987, at the age of 81. A native of Kharpert whose father was killed in the Armenian Genocide, he immigrated to Boston in the 1920s and later moved to California, where he entered the nut processing business. His firm, the Haig Berberian Co., became the world's largest independent nut processor. A member of several Armenian organizations, he was a donor to NAASR's Harvard Chair fund and other campaigns to advance Armenian studies.

*Sarkes Tarzian* of Bloomington, Indiana,

on October 7, at the age of 87. A native of Kharpert, he was educated in the United States, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania. He became a pioneer in the field of radio and television, establishing Sarkes Tarzian, Inc., in 1944, a manufacturer of electronic components for radios and television. After 1980 he devoted himself to his broadcasting interests as the owner of radio and television stations. He established the Tarzian Chair in Armenian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and was a member and benefactor of NAASR.

## Volunteer Opportunities at NAASR

NAASR members and friends have been answering the need for volunteer assistance both at the national headquarters and at off-site locations in response to urgent requests, but the ongoing need is ever present especially in the areas of headquarters office assistance, mailings, and library work.

Among those who joined the volunteer group recently are Lucy Bedirian, Watertown; Edna Hovagimian, Milton; George Omartian, Watertown; Jeanne Yeshilian, Melrose; and Mrs. Sarah Yeshilian, Melrose. Among those who continue to offer their services are Mrs. Madeline Kolligian, Belmont; Mrs. Hilda Sachnovitz, Allston; and Mrs. Flora Zakarian, Watertown.

Whether on an occasional or regular basis, members are urged to contact Sandra Jurigian, Administrative Director, at (617) 876-7630 in order to discuss how to help in critical areas or with vital projects.

# Slides of Historic and Present-Day Armenia in NAASR Library

Among the sources on Armenian history and culture in the collection of NAASR's Armenian Reference and Research Library is a unique set of almost 1,000 colored slides of historic and present-day Armenia donated by the late Megardich Shamgochian of Watertown, Mass.

A skilled photographer, Mr. Shamgochian took the slides during NAASR's Heritage Tour to Eastern Turkey and Armenia in July 1967.

A native of Hussenig, the small village in Kharpert, Turkey, Mr. Shamgochian came to the United States in 1900 at the age of 6. He never forgot his childhood in Armenia and eagerly grasped the opportunity to revisit his birthplace on the NAASR tour. He was accompanied by his

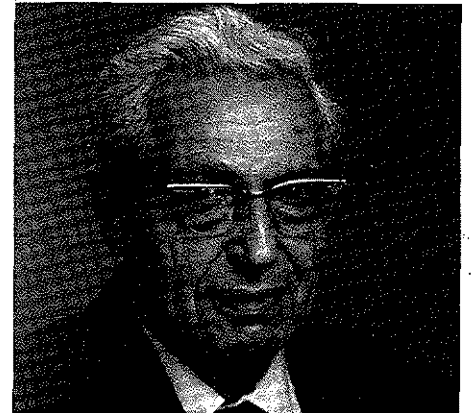
wife, Anita, and granddaughter

The slides consist of scenes from the group's tour of Turkey, where they visited the former capital of Istanbul and the present capital of Ankara and then embarked on a bus tour of the central and eastern areas that make up the historic Armenian homeland, passing through Adana, Aintab, Malatia, Kharpert, Hussenig, Moush, Tavan, Bitlis, Van, Aghtamar, Kars, Ani, and the countryside along the Euphrates River and the shores of Lake Van. In the Soviet Union the group visited Moscow, the Armenian capital of Yerevan, and the city of Leninakan, Armenia.

Mr. Shamgochian grew up during the formative years of the Armenian community in America. His father Ohan, who had

established himself in the United States before bringing his family here, represented Watertown at the Constituent Assembly of the Armenian Church of America which took place in Worcester in 1902.

Megardich Shamgochian was one of the early Parish Council members of St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, Mass., and maintained a lifelong active role in the church.



Megardich Shamgochian

A master engraver by trade, Mr. Shamgochian worked at many Boston-area newspapers, most recently the *Quincy Patriot-Ledger*. He was proud of the fact that he had trained many young Armenian Americans in the trade, donating his own time for the purpose. He was also active in real estate, purchasing buildings, renovating them, and then reselling them.

Mr. Shamgochian was a Charter Member of NAASR since 1955 and maintained his interest in and support of the Association until the time of his death. He wife recalls that he took great pride in the advancement of Armenian studies in America and in the contributions made by Armenian Americans in professional, artistic, business, and academic affairs.

Mrs. Shamgochian also recalled that her late husband was an avid reader who insisted on keeping informed of developments in the Armenian and American communities. When something aroused his admiration or concern, he would respond directly or urge others to respond, sometimes persistently contacting friends and associates until they had written a letter or made a telephone call.

He passed away at the Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge on October 10. In addition to his wife, the former Anita H. Yacubian, he leaves two daughters: Mrs. Louise Anders and Mrs. Marguerite Donnelly, both of Watertown, and six grandchildren.

His slides of Armenia will remain in the NAASR collection as a reminder of an immigrant's love for his native land and as a historic record of the lands of Ararat as they appeared in 1967.

## Recent Visitors to NAASR Headquarters

Rose Akgulian of Racine, Wisc., who had responded to NAASR's questionnaire on "Priorities and Programs" by advocating programs that could benefit Armenian Americans who do not live in the major centers of Armenian population on the east and west coasts. She suggested that conferences and seminars be held occasionally in the Midwest, where there are excellent conference facilities.

Lemyel Amirian of Palo Alto, Calif., who visited the Armenian Book Clearing House to view recent books on Armenian art, architecture, and rugs.

Dr. James Antaramian of Fresno, Calif., a pharmacist and health consultant with a PhD in Pharmacy from the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Antaramian is interested in Armenian culture, church, art, and history, and selected several recent publications to add to his Armenian collection.

Florence Chakerian of Albuquerque, N. M., who donated to the NAASR Armenian Reference and Research Library copies of a number of publications relating to the history of Armenian families who have settled in Albuquerque. Mrs. Chakerian, a strong supporter of the *Facing History and Ourselves* curriculum about the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide, discussed various aspects of the curriculum, which is being taught in the New Mexico public schools.

Michael D. Cheteyan, II, of Mars, Penn., President of Publishers Choice, who toured the NAASR facilities and discussed various NAASR publication projects. Publishers Choice printed the recently released study of *Zoroastrianism in Armenia* by James R. Russell co-published by NAASR and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and

Civilizations at Harvard.

Dr. Vatche Ghazarian, Dean of the AGBU Yervant Hussissian Armenological Institute in Beirut, Lebanon, and Editor of *Shirag* Monthly. Dr. Ghazarian visited the NAASR Library and the Armenian Book Clearing House and discussed possible cooperative efforts between NAASR and the Hussissian Institute in Beirut, which trains Armenian school teachers.

Ani Keshishian of Los Angeles, Calif., who is writing her dissertation on modern Armenian nationalism for the University of Manchester, England. Mrs. Keshishian is also interested in issues relating to Armenian women and has completed a study of the effects of the Lebanese war on women. She has been invited, along with her husband Osheen, publisher of *The Armenian Observer*, to attend a conference in South Africa, where she will deliver a paper analyzing the comparative positions of the Druze and Armenian minorities in Lebanon.

Lynda Morgenroth of *Yankee Magazine*, who interviewed NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young about various issues relating to the Armenian community in America in conjunction with an article she is writing on this subject.

Dr. Victor Rosenbaum, Director of the Longy School of Music, who headed a delegation of musicians from the Longy School on a visit to Yerevan, Armenia, under the auspices of the Cambridge/Yerevan Sister City program.

Charles Tateosian of Walnut Creek, Calif., a NAASR member for over 20 years, who toured the NAASR Headquarters and discussed with Board Chairman Young ways in which greater interest and support of NAASR can be generated in Northern California.

## Ancient Armenian Religious Beliefs Explored in New Book

A wealth of information about a little-studied topic, pre-Christian culture and religion in Armenia, can be found in James R. Russell's newly released book entitled *Zoroastrianism in Armenia*. It appears as Volume Five of the Harvard Iranian Series edited by Richard N. Frye and was published jointly by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard and by NAASR.

A revision of a thesis submitted for the PhD degree in Religious Studies at the School of Oriental Studies, University of London, the book presents extensive linguistic, literary, archaeological, iconographic, theological, and ethnographic evidence about the practice of Zoroastrianism in pre-Christian Armenia.

In dealing with the difficult issues of cultural influence, Dr. Russell, who is Assistant Professor of Middle East Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, rejects the extreme position that pre-Christian Armenia was totally immersed in Iranian culture as well as the opposite view that Armenian culture developed completely independently as the miraculous child of cultural parthenogenesis.

From the time of the conquest of Assyria and Urartu by the Medes to the fall of the Sasanian Empire thirteen centuries later, Armenian cultural development was under the linguistic, political, and religious influence of a succession of Iranian empires, Dr. Russell points out. For most of this period, the dominant religion in Iran was Zoroastrianism.

While the practice of Zoroastrianism waned in Armenia with the conversion of the Armenian court to Christianity in the

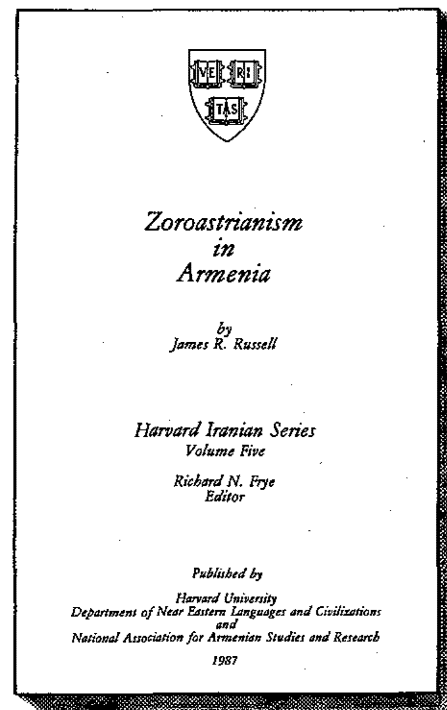
fourth century, Dr. Russell describes several aspects of Armenian Christianity which preserve Zoroastrian vocabulary, ritual, and imagery. For example, the Armenian celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple, held on the evening of February 13, has retained Zoroastrian elements.

Dr. Russell has had to piece together his picture of pre-Christian Armenia from scattered evidence in sometimes conflicting sources, including Christian texts of the fifth century which were hostile to Zoroastrianism, classical writers, and some pre-Islamic Iranian texts. Information from these sources was augmented by archaeological evidence and oral interviews.

The book begins with a survey of the development of Armenian religious beliefs and institutions, continues with an investigation of the Zoroastrian cults in Armenia, and then looks at the survival of Zoroastrian elements into the Christian era in Armenia even into modern times.

Although the book is a scholarly and academic study, Dr. Russell is not insensitive to the uneasiness experienced by many Armenians today over the recognition of pagan elements in their culture which has been so strongly defined by the conversion to Christianity in the fourth century. He writes in the preface that his hope has been "to enrich, not to diminish, the cultural heritage of the Armenians by describing their ancient faith in a great and venerable prophetic revelation and their adherence to a highly moral, uplifting religious code."

He continues: "Cannot a residue of such a proud heritage have given them the



courage, centuries later, to withstand the pressures of Islam to which so many of their neighbors succumbed?"

Dr. Russell's book presents a scholarly, well-documented study of early religious practices in Armenia, while at the same time providing thoughtful Armenians with new information to ponder as they probe the roots of their cultural heritage.

*Zoroastrianism in Armenia* by James R. Russell. Harvard Iranian Series Number Five. Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Cambridge, Mass. H315. \$39.95 (\$33.95 for NAASR members in good standing).

### OTHER NEW PUBLICATIONS

#### *Important Tenth Century History*

*History of Armenia, Yovhannes Draxanakertci*, Translation and Commentary by Rev. Dr. Krikor H. Maksoudian (Scholars Press, Atlanta, Ga.). A translation of this important primary source written by the tenth century Armenian catholicos who played a major political and intellectual role in efforts to liberate Armenia from foreign overlordship.

The pontificate of Yovhannes Draxanakertci coincided with the period when the Bagratid kings were making supreme efforts to end the Arab domination. The Byzantine court considered Yovhannes as a most useful diplomatic channel through whose intervention the Caucasian princes, constantly at war with one another, could be reconciled in order to protect themselves against the onslaught of the Arabs.

With an introduction, biography, indices, and bibliography. H316c, cloth, \$39.95 (\$33.95) and H316p, paper, \$29.95 (\$25.50).

#### *History of Early Armenian Printing*

*Catalogue des "Incunables" Arméniens (1511/1695) ou Chronique de L'Imprimerie Arménienne*, by Raymond H. Kevorkian (Cahiers d'Orientalism, IX, Patrick Cramer, Geneva). A catalogue of books printed in Armenian during the first decades of Armenian printing activity.

Following a general section on the history of Armenian printing and some of the technical aspects of early book production, the book describes each of the early printing establishments that issued Armenian books and lists the Armenian titles of each press, with a translation into French and a description of each title.

A long Preface, by Jean-Pierre Mahé, in both French and English, gives a summary of the development, evolution, and cultural significance of early Armenian printing. There are many black and white reproductions of printer's marks, title pages, and illustrations used in these early books. H310. \$87.50 (\$75.00).

### NAASR Newsletter



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