**Harvard Fund Exceeds One Million Dollars**

The total value of Harvard University's funds for Armenian Studies now exceeds $1 million, according to the financial report issued by the University last December. The figures include all interest and transfers as of June 30, 1988.

The largest portion of the funds consists of the endowment for the Mesrob Mashtots Professorship, at $694,344; followed by the Calouste Gulbenkian Fund, at $173,024; the Sarkis and Vosgitel Mugar Fund, at $86,629; and the Helen and Edward Mar- digian Fund, at $70,115. Taken together, these funds at Harvard total $1,024,112.

The income from the funds is used to support Armenian Studies at Harvard, particularly the Mesrob Mashtots Professorship now occupied by Dr. Robert W. Thomson, as well as to promote the publication of scholarly works and to enhance the Harvard Library's Armenian collection.

The Professorship in Armenian Studies at Harvard was established in 1959 as a result of NAASR's successful effort to raise the $300,000 then needed for the endowment. (The total amount raised at that time was $888,000.)

The program was initiated at Harvard in 1957 when Dr. Avedis K. Sanjian, now Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles, was appointed Research Fellow in Armenian Studies. Since that time a number of courses have been offered on the Armenian language (both classical and modern), literature, history, and related subjects.

The program has sponsored visiting scholars, graduate fellowships, lectures, and publications in the Harvard Armenian Texts and Studies series and has stimulated the initiation of Armenian Studies programs in other universities in the United States, including the UCLA Chair for which NAASR also spearheaded the fund drive.

"The establishment of the Harvard Chair and NAASR's activities during the past 34 years have resulted in the virtual spawning of a worldwide movement which has contributed significantly to the Armenian cultural renaissance and intellectual reawakening throughout the diaspora," said NAASR Chairman Manoog S. Young.

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**NAASR Acquires New Headquarters; $1.5 Million Fund Drive Launched**

A new $1.5 million fund-raising drive for the purchase of a larger headquarters building in Belmont, Mass., and for the establishment of an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research was launched at NAASR's 35th Anniversary Progress Report Dinner on Thursday evening, April 27.

The announcement of the acquisition of a new headquarters building by NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young came as a surprise at the dinner, which was held at the Oakley Country Club in Watertown. The announcement was accompanied by a slide presentation and was greeted with sustained applause.

According to Mr. Young, NAASR has signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire a three-story, 10,000 square foot office building located at 395 Concord Avenue in Belmont.

The new building, which is almost four times larger than the present headquarters building in Cambridge, will provide the space and facilities for NAASR's planned Institute for Armenian Studies and Research. It will also provide sorely needed additional space for NAASR's Armenian Reference and Research Library and other entities as well as warehouse facilities for the Armenian Book Clearing House.

A portion of the facility will be occupied by other Armenian organizations with space needs. Negotiations are currently under way with two such organizations, Mr. Young said.

The new building, consisting of two floors plus a full finished basement, is conveniently located on public transportation lines and in close proximity to Cambridge and the Armenian communities in Belmont, Watertown, Arlington, Waltham, and other Boston suburbs. It contains ample parking facilities (33 spaces) and is next to the U.S. Post Office. The First Armenian Church is across the street.

The building will be funded through the sale of NAASR's present headquarters at 175 Mt. Auburn Street in Cambridge and through internal borrowing of NAASR funds and a mortgage.

The success of the $1.5 million fund drive is crucial for NAASR's future programs and projects. It will permit not only the rapid retirement of the mortgage, but will fund the projected Institute and other NAASR programs.

NAASR expects to move into its new location by July 1, Mr. Young said. It has occupied the existing headquarters building for more than 20 years.

*Continued on page 4*

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This issue of the NAASR Newsletter was delayed in order to include news of NAASR's new headquarters.
Pilgrims, Computers, and Bible Stories

By Michael E. Stone

The following is the slightly condensed, of the talk given at NAASR’s 34th Annual Armenian Language Conference, held in Boston, Mass. The conference was titled “Armenian Literature and the Maccabean War: A New Perspective.”

The talk dealt with the role of the Maccabean War in Armenian literature, specifically focusing on the use of the biblical narratives in Armenian apocryphal literature. The author explored how these narratives were translated into Armenian and their influence on the development of Armenian literature.

The talk also discussed the role of technology in the preservation and dissemination of Armenian literature, particularly in the context of the Armenian Relief Society and the Armenian Missionary Association of America. The author highlighted the work of Dr. Merguerian and the importance of the computer-aided translation of Armenian religious texts.

The talk concluded with a call for continued support for the Armenian language and literature.

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Yerevan Vice-Maya at NAASR

This is a 12-member Cambridge/Yerevan Sister-City delegation headlined by Yerevan Vice-Mayor Zuhair Varzanyan. It was held in Armenia in January, NAASR Headquarters were used for the group’s orientation session, and members of the delegation later visited again. Consisting of prominent officials in the fields of government and business, this visit engaged trade opportunities with the Armenian counterparts in the United States and met with President Bush in Washington and Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis in Boston. Shown, left to right, are: Dr. Robert Mirak of Arlington, NAASR’s Director of Information and Publications Barbara J. Springer, Vice-Mayor Varzanyan, and NAASR Board Chairman Manos S. Young.

NAASR BRIEFS

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR INVITED TO LECTURE

In response to requests for presentations about the Armenians, Barbara J. Merguerian, Director of Information and Publications, delivered two lectures in the Greater Boston area recently.

On Sunday, Feb. 26, Dr. Merguerian spoke on “Armenia: The Past Is Always Present” to an Adult Education group at Temple Emanuel in Haverhill.

At the request of Miroslav Kerner, who has been coordinating student travel to Armenian History at Harvard University’s Institute for Learning in Retirement, Dr. Merguerian made a presentation to a group of retired academicians and professionals on the topic: “Who seeks me, seeks Armenia?” on Wednesday morning, March 22.

On May 20 Dr. Merguerian participated in a symposium at the University of California at Los Angeles on “Armenian Women in History and Literature.”

TOUR TO ARMENIA RESCHEDULED TO 1990

As reported in the last issue, the massive earthquake that struck Armenia in December forced NAASR to reassess its plans to sponsor a Heritage Tour to Armenia in 1989.

Because no word had been received from Armenia about the availability of tourist facilities for this purpose, the Committee decided reluctantly last month to postpone the 1989 tour.

However, as a result of the continued appeal, we are now going to press. Approval was received for the NAASR tour: nevertheless, due to the lack of time to properly organize the tour and to notify members and friends, it has been decided to reschedule the tour for the summer of 1990.

It is planned to have the tour leave Boston in late June 1990; included will be at least seven days in Yerevan as well as an additional day in Leningrad, Moscow, and Tbilisi. Armenian Dedekian of Pioneer Travel Service in Arlington is responsible for the arrangements.

FUND-RAISING FOR EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA

The NAASR’s efforts, a total of $1,635 was raised to benefit the victims of the earthquake which struck northeastern Armenia in December.

Of that total amount, $435 was raised in an evening of the Armenian Relief Society, sponsored jointly with the Armenian General Benevolent Union of the Greater Boston area. An additional $1,200 was raised at the 12th Annual Art Show at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Armenian Museum of America for the benefit of Armenia in December.

The last candle on the menorah at the Hanukkah observance in Belmont, Cantor Sheila Cline, and Cantor Mike Baidin, were lighted in memory of the earthquake victims.

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This sort of question led me to an interest in inscriptions. If we do not have very ancient manuscripts, perhaps inscriptions on stone have survived longer. Lady Luck dealt me good cards, and I was able to discover a number of Armenian inscriptions. These are generally rather short and are written on rocks, in the middle of the desert. After a number of survey trips, we have discovered about 120 inscriptions, which were notable, indeed, because the oldest of them should be dated into the third or perhaps even the second century. These inscriptions form something of a fascinating phenomenon became evident. A number of such apocryphal writings in biblical cultures and topics which are not to be found in biblical literature. I started off looking for material, which would contribute to our knowledge of ancient Judaism. Indeed, I found quite a lot of material that fitted into that category. How did it come about? Through translation, works which were originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek came to be written in Armenian. But some works written at the time of Christ? Here I discovered, over the years, many writings from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals, I find only in works that might be direct translations from ancient Jewish originals.

I started out with the talk given at NAASR’s 34th Annual Armenian Language Conference, held in Boston, Mass. The conference was titled “Armenian Literature and the Maccabean War: A New Perspective.”

The talk dealt with the role of the Maccabean War in Armenian literature, specifically focusing on the use of the biblical narratives in Armenian apocryphal literature. The author explored how these narratives were translated into Armenian and their influence on the development of Armenian literature.

The talk also discussed the role of technology in the preservation and dissemination of Armenian literature, particularly in the context of the Armenian Relief Society and the Armenian Missionary Association of America. The author highlighted the work of Dr. Merguerian and the importance of the computer-aided translation of Armenian religious texts.

The talk concluded with a call for continued support for the Armenian language and literature.
Armenia, who has spent the current year in the United States for research, has attended four sessions of the American-Armenian Exchange in the Caucasus, particularly in the region of Armenia and Georgia and to develop the major source area for obsidian located in Armenia and Georgia. "Satan's stone") has been the technical means (laboratories and computers) to conduct sensitive analyses.

The collaborative archaeological project is one of the largest and most ambitious archaeological projects in the world, involving the participation of hundreds of researchers from around the globe. The project is focused on understanding the prehistoric patterns of exchange in the Caucasus, which is a region that is known for its rich archaeological history.

In presenting a check for $100,000 to the Armenian University, Raymond Orbeck, the university's president, stated: "It is my hope that our exchange program with the Armenian University will help to build a new foundation for the future of the community, so that all students in Armenian studies at UCLA may receive the best possible education.

At current rates, the Bob and Nora Movil Fellowship will generate an annual fellowship of about $8,000 to help support a graduate student.

The symposium, which was repeated on April 15 in Los Angeles on the UCLA campus, was co-sponsored by the Armenian National Educational Foundation and the California State University, Sacramento. It included a panel of distinguished speakers, including Richard G. Hovannisian, professor of Modern Armenian History at UCLA and organizer of the symposium, who chaired the conference.

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Necrology

Martin H. Halabian, who served for many years as NAASR's Secretary, Informatics, Research, and Publications, passed away on April 1, 1989, after a long illness. He was 75 years old.

Dr. Halabian had a long association with NAASR. As a member, he served on the Board of Directors for 12 years from 1976 to 1988 and on numerous committees, including the planning committee for the 1985 Conference on Genocide and Human Rights. He was the first recipient of a NAASR grant for research, and lectured both for NAASR and other organizations on many topics in Armenian history and culture.

A respected educator, Dr. Halabian held the planning position in several Boston-area educational institutions, including lecturer in Islamic History at Boston University, lecturer in Ancient and Modern Near and Middle East Studies at the University of Massachusetts, and professor of History and Social Sciences at Massachusetts Bay Community College. For many years he was special assistant to the Curator of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University. A native of Chennai, Dr. Halabian received his undergraduate degree from Harvard, his JD degree from Brandeis University Law School, and MA in Near Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. His particular field of interest was Armenian history, and it was the project for an Armenian National Home. He was the immediate past NDW-I and particularly the role played by the prominent British-Armenian statesman, James Grant, in 1976.

In 1967 Dr. Halabian played a leading role in the Armenian Bicentennial Commission, an organization, which sponsored a number of activities highlighting the role of the Armenian community in America. He was active in the campaign to have April 24 recognized in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Armenian Martyrs Day. He made a successful effort to install an Armenian Plaque at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, and in planning the annual commemorative programs at the State House during the month of April. He was a member of the Middle East Institute, American Friends of the Middle East, and the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

Dr. Halabian's primary loyalty was to help students with their research projects, his unfailing patience in dealing with other people, his consistent dedication to the advancement of the interests of the Armenian people. His constant good humor will long be remembered.

Dr. Halabian is survived by his wife, Helen, in lieu-of-flowers donations have been designated to NAASR or to the St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, Mass. A special endowment fund in memory of Dr. Halabian has been established through the NAASR Board of Directors in honor of whose income research projects in Armenian studies will be supported.

New NAASR Members

Since the last issue of the NAASR Newsletter 36 new and reinstated members, as listed below, have been applying for membership approved by the Executive Committee of the NAASR Board of Directors. This brings the total number of members who have joined since the 34th Annual Assembly of Members from November 1987 to 34. Of this latter number 36 are from Massachusetts, 13 from California, 20 from 14 other states, and 4 from foreign countries. An asterisk (*) denotes reinstated membership.

From Massachusetts: Noorab Aykanian, Brookline; Bruce H. Bagdasarian, Boston; Dervin E. Bagdasarian (joint), Woburn; George Bagdasarian, Lexington; Mrs. Louise E. Homer (*), Stoneham; Dr. Maryrose Losaian, Cambridge; Mrs. Andrea E. Movsesian, Waltham; Peter Papazian (Student), Woburn; Varazken Goulabian (*), Woburn; Mrs. Alice Pahigian (*), Woburn; No. Andrea; Arevig Paparian, Belmont; Mrs. Helen Shushan, Belmont; Nanci Z. Sporran, Brookline; Janette Sarafian, Waltham; Mrs. Lucy A. Tashjian (*), Lewiston.

From California: Jack Abadjian, Pasadena; David P. Kazarian (*), San Francisco; Professor Dr. Hakopyan Komoutjian, California State University, Fresno; Mrs. Yvonne T. Movsesian, Watertown; Helen A. Minasian, Watertown; John A. Ohanian, Reseda; Mrs. Katherine A. Papianian (*), Reseda; Seren Petrosian, Northridge.

From other states: Vartan Akjianian, Harrisville, VA; Arman S. Carapietian, Dallas, TX; John R. Dian, Clifton, NJ; Lillian A. Goulabian (*), Kansas City, MO; Dr. John Goudjian, Detroit, MI; George H. Garabedian, Las Vegas, NV; Mrs. Tamar Hakopian, San Diego, CA; Dr. Hovsep Kavonian, Glendale, CA; Mrs. Sruna Kazarian, Austin, TX.

From foreign countries: Agnesh Agh, Arlington, VA; Guy F. Manoukian, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

New Life Members

Since the last listing through December 1987 the following members, having been good standing 10 or more consecutive years and having remitted at least $1,857 with their last membership, have been voted life members by the Board of Directors. This brings the total to 23 Life Members.

Edward Madigan, Brookline, Mass.
Mrs. Nevatil Takanian, Belmont, Mass.
James Surafian, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Sponsorship Support Increases by 50% in 1988

For the 1988 fiscal (calendar) year the number of members who voluntarily increased their membership support to $500 or more was substantially increased. As a result, Sustaining, Sustaining, or Sustaining Plus members grew to 215 in 1987. This represents a 25% increase over the 1986 rate to date of 174. The renewal rate to date of the Sustaining category is 96%. With 200 in good standing to date, the net overall increase is 50%. The geographical distribution of these members shows Massachusetts in the lead with 101 members, the top next with 32, New Jersey 17, and 16 other states with 5 or less members – 39. There were, also, 4 members from 4 foreign countries.

This significant increase of membership support has helped to meet the constantly rising costs of NAASR's programs, and to help to increase their membership support so that NAASR's programs, functions, and services will continue to expand and expand.
Recent and Selected Titles of Note

The NAASR Armenian Book Clearing House's most recent and noteworthy additions appear below. Figures in parentheses represent discounted prices for NAASR members in good standing.

A short list of over 175 recent and selected titles is available free of charge by sending NAASR a self-addressed stamped large [#10] envelope; a complete short-title catalog of books offered for sale by the Armenian Book Clearing House is available for $2.50 (to cover postage and handling).

Postage is paid by NAASR on all prepaid orders. Special discounts are available for libraries and booksellers.


The Armenians: A People in Exile, by David Marshall Lang [Unwin Paperbacks, London]. A new, paperback edition of this concise and insightful survey of the Armenian people written by the now retired professor of Caucasian Studies at the University of London and former British diplomat in Tabriz. With chapters on the Genocide, the relations of Armenians with other peoples, and Armenians in the arts. H358p. $9.95 ($8.50).

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Middle East and North Africa, Trevor Mostyn, executive editor, and Albert Hourani, advisory editor [Cambridge University Press, Cambridge]. A reference aid describing the land, peoples, history, culture, and religions of the Middle East and North Africa, from earliest times to the present-day, written by academics and journalists who are international experts in their fields. Contributors include Kevork B. Bardakjian of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Vahe Petrosian [privately printed, Southfield, Mich.]; and Christopher Walker, journalist, London. With maps, photographs [many in color], charts, and suggestions for further reading. X288. $49.50 ($42.50).

The Economic Challenge of Perestroika, by Abel Aganbegyan [Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis]. A candid analysis of the problems facing the Soviet economic system and a blueprint for the economic restructuring currently under way, written by the chief economic advisor to Mikhail Gorbachev. With an introduction by Alec Nove. H356. $18.95 ($16.25).

Emperors, Tsars and Commissars, by A. Chalabanian [privately printed, Southfield, Mich.]. A treatise on the relationship of the ruler with its neighboring great powers [the Byzantine Empire, Tzarist Russia, and Soviet Russia]. With 2 maps. H348p. $5.00 ($4.25).

Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior, Annotated Bibliography, edited by Margaret Drew [Widener Library, New York]. Descriptions of selected books that best explore the wide range of human responses to the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian and Cambodian Genocides, including an extensive overview of both children’s literature and adult materials. Part IV deals with the Genocide of the Armenian people. H346. $15.95 ($13.50).

General Andranik and the Armenian Revolutionary Movement, by Antranig Chalabanian [privately printed, Southfield, Mich.]. A biography of this famous Armenian military hero who played such an important role in Armenian history of the early 20th century. Written for a popular audience and condensed from the original Armenian text with new material added. Contains black-and-white photographs. Cloth, H349c. $40.00 ($37.50); paper, H349p, $30.00 ($28.00).

Gharabagh, Vol. 19 of Documents of Armenian Architecture [Oenmue Editionen, Milan]. The latest volume in this outstanding series prepared jointly by scholars at the Faculty of Architecture of the Milan Polytechnic Institute and the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR. The text consists of a brief history of Karabagh (1918-1992) by Zarin Manoukian, a summary of architecture in Karabagh by Maria Adelaida Lala Commono, a concise catalogue of the religious monuments of the historical region of Artsakh by Paolo Cuneo, and color photographs, maps, plans, and charts. In English and Italian, with a summary in Armenian. A159p. $32.00 ($27.50).

A History of the Crusades, by Steven Runciman [Cambridge University Press, Cambridge]. This three-volume study, considered one of the classics of English historical writing, now reissued in paperback form. Includes a great deal of information about the relations between the Crusades and the Armenians of the Middle East. Complete set of 3 paperback volumes, H361p. $42.95 ($39.95).


Images: National Currencies and Stamps of Armenia, 95 BC-1920 AD [Megahect Publications, Chatsworth, Calif.]. A 1989 calendar with reproductions of the coins of Tigranes the Great (1st century BC) and King Levon I (12th century AD) on the front and back covers, respectively, and enlarged photographs, in color, of the banknotes and stamps issued by the Armenian Republic, 1918-1920. H345p. $10.00 ($8.50).

Edward Issabekian: An Album [privately published, Watertown, Mass.]. A 1989 calendar with black-and-white sketches of some of the leading tourist attractions. X244p. $5.00 ($4.25).

The Peoples of the Soviet Union, by Viktor Kozlov [Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis]. Statistical information about the differences of natural growth, ethnic interrelations, levels of urbanization, international relations, and the use of languages among the many national groups that make up the present-day Soviet Union, written by a leading Soviet ethnographer. H355. $37.50 ($31.95).


Sahak Sahakian: An Album [Sovietan Grogh Publishers, Yerevan]. Reproductions, in both color and black and white, of the folk sculpture, statuettes, clay and bronze jug, trays, paintings, dolls, chess pieces, and wooden carvings (doors and windows) by this contemporary artist whose works are based on Armenian tradition or on characters from folk literature and popular fiction by Armenian authors. With an introduction by Mariam Aivazian. In Armenian, Russian, and English. A195. $15.95 ($13.50).

NAASR Newsletter

ISSN 0890-3794

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