Major Conferences on Armenian Studies Planned

A major conference focusing on the growth of modern Armenian nationalism and the development of the Armenian question within the context of international relations will be sponsored by NAASR in the spring of 1990.

"Armenia in World Politics from the 17th Century to the Present" will be the theme of the conference. Major scholars in modern Armenian history, politics, and international relations will be invited to give papers and to organize panels.

NAASR is also engaged in discussions with the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) and the Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes (AIFA) for the joint sponsorship of a World Congress of Armenian Studies to be held in the United States in 1992.

A number of scholars, including Jean-Pierre Mahâ of the University of Paris, Robert W. Thomson and Richard N. Frye of Harvard, Avedis K. Sanjian of the University of California at Los Angeles, and Kevork Bardakjian of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, are among the initial group who have been approached to participate and to help plan the Congress.

Currently engaged in discussions about the organization of the Congress are Prof. Michael E. Stone of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Robert H. Hewsen of Glassboro State College, Dennis R. Papazian of the University of Michigan at Dearborn, Dickran Kouymjian of California State University at Fresno, and Manoog S. Young of NAASR.

The participation of the three major scholarly organizations in sponsoring the Congress is expected to insure an outstanding and historic congress which will give Armenian studies added recognition and impetus.

Further details about both conferences will be announced in future issues of the NAASR Newsletter and in the Armenian-American press.

Prof. Russell Honored at NAASR Reception

James R. Russell, Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, spoke about the influence of Zoroastrianism in Armenia at a reception in his honor on Sunday evening, May 8, at the St. James Armenian Church Hall in Watertown, Mass.

The reception was sponsored by NAASR, which published Prof. Russell's pioneering study, Zoroastrianism in Armenia, last fall jointly with the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of Harvard University. The publication is Volume Five of the Harvard Iranian Series.

Prof. Russell was introduced by Richard N. Frye, Aga Khan Professor of Iranian at Harvard University, editor of the Harvard Iranian Series, and a NAASR Founder and current Board Member.

In his remarks, Prof. Russell stressed the importance of Armenian sources in providing information about the practice of Zoroastrianism in the pre-Sasanian period and, more generally, about the Parthian Arsacid empire in Iran. Zoroastrian teachings concerning eschatology - the end of time, resurrection of the dead, judgement, and redemption - influenced the other great religions of the Mediterranean basin, including Christianity, Prof. Russell noted.

"But Zoroastrianism in Armenia was not a fossil," Prof. Russell observed: "In my research I found that its rites, moral values, symbols, and beliefs survived, subtly but

Elections Held for NAASR Permanent Funds' Members

Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Robert W. Thomson, Mesrobi Mashtots Professor of Armenian at Harvard and Director of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library in Washington, D.C., have been reelected to the Academic Committee of NAASR's Permanent Fund.

At the same time Walter Guleserian, President of the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, was reelected to the Financial Committee of the Fund.

Continuing members of the Academic Committee are Prof. Michael J. Connolly, Kevork Bardakjian, UCLA; Marie Manoogian, University of Michigan; Robert W. Thomson, Harvard University; and the three ex-officio members are Prof. Richard N. Frye, Harvard University; Dr. Alan K. Der Kazarian, Bentley College; and Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Bentley College.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Annual Assembly of Members

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Assembly of Members of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Inc., will be held on Saturday, November 19, 1988, at 12 noon at Bentley College, Graduate Center, Beaver and Forest Streets, Waltham, Mass., for the following purposes:

1. To receive and discuss reports from the Board of Directors.
2. To act on any new business and resolutions presented for the consideration of the assembled members.
3. To elect seven Directors of the Association.
4. To transact any other business which may properly come before the assembly.

All members in good standing, having paid their dues for the current fiscal (calendar) year, have the right to attend, be heard, and vote at the Assembly of Members (Article IV, Section I, Constitution).

Members may submit in writing or before October 1 matters which they wish to have the Annual Assembly consider.

By order of Board of Directors,

Charles S. Sahagian
Secretary

June 15, 1988
School and social studies teachers were reminded that NAASR had funded the Armenian studies program in California during its first decade, and it was also reminded the audience that NAASR would be of assistance in the on-going research on the Kurdish diaspora at the Academy of Sciences.

Karlen Chachanyan (Chachani), a Kurdish scholar at the Academy of Sciences in Yerevan, who accompanied a group of 11 Armenians visiting Cambay, is part of a tour of the United States. The visit was one of a series of representatives of the Soviet republics sponsored by the organization Friendship Force.

NAASR, The Armenian National Association for the Study and Research of the Eastern Question, is dedicated to NAASR, has awakened a great deal of interest in the Armenian community in the United States.

In the fall of 1991, NAASR's Armenian Reference and Research Library had been opened to the public as a result of the NAASR Armenian Reference and Research Library, a project of the NAASR, which was established in 1986 in a new second edition with a Preface by Henry Margenathan, Sr., and an Introduction by Marjorie Husseinian Dobkin. The book was translated by the Rev. Varst Hartunian, pastor of First Armenian Church in Belmont, Mass.

Library Donations Continue

The donations vary from single volumes to entire libraries of books and other materials. The donations can be included among the items on Armenian history, literature, music, culture, and related subjects.

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In introducing the guest of honor, Prof. Russell W. Goodenow, Director of the Armenian Studies Program, observed that he had been in Armenia in the past decade and that he had been impressed with the existence of a lively scholarship, which was supported by an active community of scholars and students.

An edited version of the text of Prof. Russell’s remarks on the influence of Armenia in Eurasia appears on page 4.

Russell Honored

Continued from page 1

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Continued from page 1

(continued)
The Influence of Zoroastranism in Armenia

By James R. Russell

The following is the text of remarks made by Prof. Russell in connection with the occasion of the publication of his book, "Zoroastranism in Armenia". The event was held at the University of California, Northridge.

Prof. Mary Boyce of the University of London first suggested to me at Oxford in 1975 in the investigation of the pre-Christian Armenian religion and literature, that I might organize a symposium in which I would present the results of my research. The symposium then became an integral part of my doctoral work at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and the book now before you is a revision of my London thesis.

But Zoroastrianism was not a fossil; in my research I found that its rites, morals, values, symbols, and beliefs survived, subtly but tenaciously, down to recent centuries. In some important respects, Zoroastranism and Christianity are twin structures: my identification of Zoroastrian survivals, as for instance in the persistent religious imagery of light, are sometimes devotionally more convincing to me than any of the doctrines of Zoroaster.

Preserving a Separate Identity

Had Armenia not become Christianized, it would have been interesting to study the fate of Media-Atropatene, modern Azerbaijan. Study the works of the Medes and Armenians there, and you will be impressed by the fact that they had identical religious practices. The last Zoroastrian temple in Azerbaijan was destroyed in 1930, but the religion continued to survive in the memories of its adherents until the 1970s.

Zoroastrans

This policy required, again, that local Zoroastrian communities in Armenia and elsewhere, not only to truth and the harmony of all good, but also to the fulfillment of the will of the Creator. These matters of sentiment have more effect, over the years, than the teachings of an ancient faith that have been converted into dogma.

A typical Zoroastrian village life near Media-Atropatene, modern Azerbaijan. The village is generally acknowledged that Armenia, unlike Media, had for centuries, and probably it is of little use to point out that the monasteries of Armenia were more to the proud Medes gave up their language and adopted an Iranized form of Turkish, Armenians, unlike Medes, neither in all the classes. By any means welcomed by the devotees and poets; and poetic andprobably it is of little use to point out that the monasteries of Armenia were more sacred to their inhabitants, themselves, or that the religion Armenians and millions of other non-Jews follow today in a Jewish sectarian movement founded by a carpenter's son from Nazareth.

In the last years of the nineteenth century, when European nationalism was looking for a prototypic identity, many Armenians started competing songs to the national anthem. One of these songs, "Ararat," is said to suggest that baptism had made Armenian warriors wiser. This is nonsense, of course, but, in a climate of anti-Semitism, it was used to show the transcendence of Light. The influence of Gregory Nazianzenus on Armenia is evident, as is the influence of Chalcedonian theology.

Symposium on Byzantium and the Caucasus Attracts Renowned Scholars

Fifteen scholars, many of whom world renowned, submitted papers dealing with various topics on Armenian religious, cultural, and political history at an international symposium on Byzantium and the Caucasus at Harvard University’s Dumbarton Oaks, and Dr. Nina G. Carrie, professor of Armenian at Columbia, organized the symposium, which was sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at NAASR, presented papers dealing with various topics on Armenian religious, cultural, and political history. Among the foreign scholars present were Vlada Arutunian-Filatov of Moscow, who gave a paper on "Ethno-confessional Self-consciousness of Armenian Chalcedonians in the 10th and 11th Centuries"; Robert Edwards of the Catholic University of America, who presented a paper on the influence of Gregory Nazianzenus on Armenia's culture.

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

Armenian Art Courses at University of California, Northridge

Two courses on Armenian art were offered at the University of California during the spring semester, "Armenian Art and Architecture" and "Medieval Armenian Manuscripts." The courses were given by Helen Evans, visiting instructor in Art for the semester. A research assistant in the medieval department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, Ms. Evans is completing her PhD dissertation on "A 13th Century Armenian Manuscript in the Freer Gallery of Art" for a degree of Byzantine art from New York University.

Language Courses Funded at Univ. of California, Northridge

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Northridge, has announced that it will fund Armenian language classes starting with the fall 1988 semester. The announcement came after a long debate within university administration about Armenian Art and Association at CSUN over the sponsorship of the classes.

The language courses were initiated at Northridge five years ago as an extension class with a volunteer teacher. Last year the course was offered for credit, and the enrollment rose to 27 students. This year, the CSUN Armenian Students Association was able to meet its obligation to raise $2,000 needed to pay the instructor's salary, and the university claimed that its budget would not allow the expenditure needed to hire a permanent instructor.

The university decided to fund the language course came after the Armenian Students Association conducted a survey of 130 students, and also several other campus officials.

UMich (Ann Arbor) Summer Language Institute in Yerevan

The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, announces the first annual Armenian language summer institute sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The Institute will take place from July 6 to August 30 and will be directed by Dr. Meruzhan Artsruni, "the father of Armenian language and literature." The language taught will be Western Armenian, and the Institute is designed for students with no prior knowledge of the language. Eight credits will be granted by the University of Michigan for successful completion of the course.

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Recent Visitors to NAASR Headquarters

Dr. Eileen Vartan Barker of London, England, member of the sociology department, and Faramaz Der Nersessian of Menlo Park, Calif., the Director of Studies and Collections of the Armenian National Association of Supplementary Relief (NAASR), will be in residence at the London School of Economics. From March 2 to 5, 1989, in Seattle, Washington, conference organizers hold a broad introduction of the theme and encourage proposals that include the arts, humanities, social and biological sciences, education, women's studies, government, and politics.

Further information and details of the conference are available by contacting Prof. Johanna E. Butler, Department of Baltic, Slavic, and Asian Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

Open to interview with the press, NAASR serves as a forum for its members in the areas of research, study, and advocacy.

SEMINAR ON RACE AND NATIONALITY

New York University has announced a seminar on “Race and Nationality in Modern History” to be held at its Washington Square Campus on Thursday, May 5, 1988.

The New York University Press has published by Michael M. Thomas, Jr., the presidential address of the American Historical Association meeting in Boston. The address, which was originally delivered at the New York University, is available at the New York University Press.

Dr. Thomas who is Professor of History and Political Science at New York University, has written extensively on the subject of race and nationality in the United States and has served as a consultant on these topics to the United States Department of Justice and the Department of Education.

The seminar will be held on the campus of the New York University Press at 11:00 A.M. and will be open to the public and the press.

Offprints in NAASR's Library Collection

The following offprints and articles have been added to the NAASR American Studies Library.


Northeast, including scholars from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe, will explore with Dr. Reimers major issues in the areas of research, study, and advocacy.

Further information about the conference can be obtained by contacting Prof. Johanna E. Butler, Department of Baltic, Slavic, and Asian Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.
Recent and Selected Titles of Note

Books on Armenian subjects in English continue to proliferate. The most recent and noteworthy additions to NAASR’s Armenian Book Clearing House holdings appear below. Figures in parentheses represent discounted prices for NAASR members in good standing. Postage is paid by NAASR on all prepaid orders. Special discounts are available for libraries and bookstores.

Armenia and the Armenians in Academic Dissertations: Supplement One, a Bibliography compiled by Anne M. Avakian (Professional Press, Berkeley, Calif.). A supplement to a first edition of 1974, listing 386 authors of MA and PhD dissertations written in Western languages. With topical index. X234p. $7.50 ($7.00).

The Armenian Question and the Genocide of the Armenians in Turkey: A Brief Bibliography of Russian Materials, compiled by H. S. Anassian (Armenian American International College, La Verne, Calif.). A listing of almost 700 books and articles in Russian dealing with the Armenian Genocide, based on material available in Yerevan, Armenia, as of 1973-75 when the bibliography was prepared. In Russian with English translation. H319p. $10.00 ($8.50).

Armenia between Byzantium and the Sasanids, by Nina G. Garsoian (Valiorum Reprints, London). A collection of articles from scholarly publications in which the author has sought to reinstate the often obscured Iranian elements in Armenian civilization and to increase thereby understanding of Armenia’s complex hybrid culture. H331. $65.00 ($53.00).

The Armenians in Rhode Island: Ancient Roots to Present Experiences, by Ara Arthur Gelenian (Rhode Island Heritage Commission and Rhode Island Publications Society, Providence). An essay on the Armenian-American community of Rhode Island, with a survey of the ancient roots of the Armenian people, their immigration to Rhode Island, and several aspects of their ethnic community life, based on newspaper files and interviews. H327p. $2.95 ($2.75).

Extremist Shites: The Ghulat Sects, by Matti Moosa (Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, N.Y.). A study of the development of extremist Shiite sects in the Middle East, including the Bektashis, Takhtejas, Cepnis, and Khatibish groups in Turkey, with a particular focus on the varying pagan and Christian (especially Armenian) elements in their beliefs and practices. H326. $37.50 ($34.50).

The Greek Poetess and Other Writings, by Ara Baloian, selected and edited by C. K. Garabed (Impressions, Kitrencher, Ontario, Canada). A collection of recent works of fiction, autobiographical narrative, essays, reminiscences, polemics, and reviews by this prolific Armenian observer of contemporary life, philosophy, and literature. T147p. $12.95 ($10.95).

Illustrated Polyglottic Dictionary of Plant Names by Armanag K. Bedevian (Argus & Papazian Presses, Cairo, 1936). A compilation of plant names in Latin, Arabic, Armenian, English, French, German, Italian, and Turkish including economic, medicinal, poisonous and ornamental plants and common weeds, with 1711 illustrations and alphabetical lists of common names of plants in all of the languages. L49. $22.50 ($20.00).

The Impact of the Holocaust on Armenian Culture (Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, New York). Four articles dealing with Armenian cultural losses resulting from the Genocide, by Yervant Azadian, Ara Kalaydjian, Ronald G. Suny, and Christopher Walker. H324p. $5.00 ($4.50).

The Karabagh File: Documents and Facts on the Question of Mountainous Karabagh, 1918-1988, edited by Gerard J. Libaridian (Zoryan Institute, Cambridge). A collection of documents, maps, statistical data, chronology, and photographs on the 20th century history of Karabagh (including several documents from Armenian Republic files published for the first time), providing the context in which to understand the unprecedented demonstrations in Yerevan in February 1988 calling for the reunification of the area with Armenia. H322. $17.95 ($16.50).

The Kingdom of Armenia, by M. Chahin (Croom Helm, London). A comprehensive account of Armenian history from its origins (2500 BC) to the end of the Middle Ages, stressing its interrelations with many changing neighbors (Babylonia, Assyria, Persia, Arab, Byzantium, and the Crusaders). With synchronous tables of events, maps, and plates. H325. $49.95 ($44.50).

Land, Love, Century: New and Selected Poems by Gevorg Emin, translated by Martin Robbins, with a Foreword by Yevgeny Yevtushenkov (Three Continents Press, Washington). A selection of poetry in translation by this contemporary Armenian poet, who writes of the present situation of his own people ("We," "Little," "The Prayer of an Armenian Poet") as well as the deeper predicament of mankind without, however, sacrificing his appreciation of the beauty and wisdom to be found in the world. Cloth T145c, $22.00 ($19.75); paper, T145p, $10.00 ($8.95).


The Paintings of Arshile Gorky: A Critical Catalogue, by Jim M. Jordan and Robert Goldwater [New York University Press, New York]. The entire known production in the oil medium (nearly 400 paintings) by this leading Armenian-American artist presented in photographs, including full references to date, provenance, history of exhibitions, and citations. With introductions, index, technical preface, appendices, bibliography, and ten full-color plates. A189. $135.00 ($115.00).


FREE PUBLICATIONS

A number of publications are available from NAASR at no cost for those who mail in a large self-addressed envelope stamped 25¢ for any one item or 45¢ for two or more items.

These include a selected short-title list of about 175 books available from the NAASR Armenian Book Clearing House, a Genocide Book List of about 150 titles, a copy of "Distortion and Truth" (the NAASR rebuttal of the Justin McCarthy article in the Boston Globe), and "Remembering the Armenian Martyrs" (a commemorative program prepared by the National Conference of Christians and Jews). A complete up-to-date short-title catalog of books offered for sale through the Armenian Book Clearing House is available by sending $1.00 to cover postage and handling costs. Add 25¢ if any of the other items above are desired.

All requests should be addressed to: NAASR, 175 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

VOLUNTEERS • VOLUNTEERS • VOLUNTEERS

NAASR members and friends answering the call for assistance as volunteers recently include Araxie Anjanyan, Watertown; Lana R. Jurjivan, Waltham; Paul R. Jurjivan, Waltham; Mrs. Mary Ann Kazanjian, Belmont; Mrs. Lillian Moranian, Cambridge; Mrs. Marie Nahigian, Belmont; Mrs. Araxie Orfaly, Cambridge; Adriana A. S. Young, Belmont; Armen S. Young, Belmont; and Mrs. Barbara J. Young, Belmont.

Special recognition is due to Mrs. Anita Shamgochian of Watertown who has been working on a special project one afternoon each week. NAASR especially welcomes volunteers who are able to make a commitment on a regular schedule.

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