

NAASR Newsletter

Spring 1988 (Vol. V, No. 1, Issue 15)

National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

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 (AIEA) 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 Mahé 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 in the planning of 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

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 new business and resolutions presented for the consideration of the assembled members, (3) to elect seven Directors of the Association, and (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 1, Constitution).

Members may submit in writing on 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

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, Mesrob 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,

Boston College; Prof. Dennis R. Papazian, University of Michigan, Dearborn; and NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, ex-officio. Prof. Richard N. Frye, Harvard University, is chairman of the Academic Committee.

On the Financial Committee, continuing members are Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, Bentley College; Dr. Alan K. Der Kazarian, Belmont, Mass.; and, ex-officio, NAASR Board Chairman Young and Board Treasurer Erivan Hagopian.

Members of the Permanent Funds' committees are elected by the NAASR Board of Directors for three-year terms.

Genocide Memoir Sent to Media Personalities

Copies of *Neither To Laugh nor To Weep: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide* by Rev. Abraham Hartunian have been sent by NAASR to over 200 members of the radio, television, and print media in the United States.

By making this eyewitness account of the Armenian Genocide available to members of the American media, NAASR hopes to increase public awareness in the United States of the Armenian Genocide.

The mailing, which was made possible by a special grant from an anonymous donor, complements the mailing last year of copies of the memoir to all members of the U.S. Congress and leading administration officials.

First published in 1968 by Beacon Press in Boston, *Neither To Laugh nor To Weep* was reissued by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press in 1986 in a new second edition with a Preface by Henry Morgenthau, Sr., and an Introduction by Marjorie Housepian Dobkin. The book was translated by the Rev. Vartan Hartunian, pastor of the First Armenian Church in Belmont, Mass.

Library Donations Continue

In the last six months a total of over 500 volumes and items have been donated to NAASR's Armenian Reference and Research Library by 20 members and friends. Books, booklets, pamphlets, complete sets of journals, periodicals, and newspapers as well as maps and records are included among the items on Armenian history, literature, music, culture, and related subjects.

The donations vary from single volumes to as many as 200 books, pamphlets, and records by Henry and Jessie Haroian of Lincoln, Mass. Among the other donations are those of James and Karen Beaver of Charlottesville, Va., who have given over 60 volumes; Arshag Gechijian of Belmont, Mass., over 50 books; Mrs. Alice Odian Kasparian of Belmont, Mass., over 100 books, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items; Mr. and Mrs. Levon Ohannessian of Watertown, Mass., over 25 books (in memory of their recently deceased daughter, Mary); and John Terzian of Dedham, Mass., a complete set of the *National Geographic Magazine* since 1947.

A complete listing of the donations will appear in subsequent issues of the NAASR Newsletter.

**Invest in your Armenian Heritage.
Have you included NAASR in your will?**

Teachers Workshop Rescheduled for 1989

The intensive workshop for secondary school history and social studies teachers on "The Armenian Experience" originally planned to take place under NAASR auspices at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in July has been rescheduled for 1989.

As a result of comments from teachers and department heads in over 50 public school systems in eastern Massachusetts and suggestions by educational specialists, it has been decided to review the schedule and to refine the aims and objectives of the workshop.

The unique workshop had been designed to make public school social science teachers aware of the historic and cultural development of the Armenian people during the centuries, with the hope and expectation that the teachers would subsequently integrate relevant aspects of Armenian

history into existing course material or devise new programs reflecting the Armenian experience.

The decision to reschedule the workshop was taken after it became clear that more time was needed to design a workshop that might provide a model for additional expanded workshops in the future.

The proposal for a summer teachers workshop was originally submitted to the NAASR Board of Directors by Dr. Michael G. Mensoian, Professor of Geography and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Planning has been coordinated by Dr. Mensoian, NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, and NAASR staff members Rev. Dr. Krikor Maksoudian, Director of Research and Studies, and Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, Director of Information and Publications.

Russell Honored

Continued from page 1

tenaciously, down to recent times." Prof. Russell's research on Zoroastrianism was undertaken as part of his PhD studies at the School of Oriental Studies, University of London.

Participating in the program was Rev. Dajad Davidian, pastor of the St. James Armenian Church, who pointed to many concepts and practices of the Armenian church today which have been influenced by Zoroastrianism. Although most Armenians retain a negative image of this faith, because of the attempt by Zoroastrian Iran to convert Christian Armenia in the fifth century, its study can be interesting and positive, Rev. Davidian said.

In introducing the guest of honor, Prof. Frye referred to the great progress that has been made in Armenian studies in the past three decades. He recalled that he had embarked on the study of Armenian as a young graduate student at Harvard at the insistence of the late Prof. Blake, who had complained about the lack of students of the Armenian language. Today the situation is completely different, Prof. Frye stated, through the courses offered by endowed chairs and programs of Armenian studies throughout the United States.

The study of Iran and Armenia is particularly fruitful, Prof. Frye pointed out, because of the important links that have existed historically between the two civilizations. With scholars like Prof. Russell at work in our universities, "we can look ahead and see that our studies are in good hands," the Harvard scholar stated.

Opening and closing remarks at the reception were made by Manoog S. Young, NAASR Board Chairman, who noted that the co-publication by NAASR of *Zoroastrianism in Armenia* was one indication of the growing importance of research

and publishing in NAASR's activities. He also reminded the audience that NAASR had funded the Armenian studies program at Columbia during its first decade, and it was during that time that Prof. Russell, then a Columbia undergraduate, began his study of the Armenian language.

Following the formal part of the program, a reception was held, providing an opportunity for guests to speak with Prof. Russell informally, in both English and Armenian.

Copies of *Zoroastrianism in Armenia*, as well as another recent publication by Prof. Russell, *Yovhannes T'lkuranc'i and the Mediaeval Armenian Lyric Tradition*, were available for purchase for those who wished to have their copies autographed by the author. A selection of other recent and noteworthy books on Armenian history, culture, and related subjects was also available for purchase.

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

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are moving -- or have moved recently -- please send us your new address as soon as possible. If you do not, it can prove costly to continue to send your NAASR mail.

For example, each copy of the *Journal of Armenian Studies* returned by the Post Office costs NAASR \$1.30, in addition to the cost of remailing it to a new address. Similarly it costs NAASR a total of 90¢ for each copy of the *NAASR Newsletter* returned by the Post Office and remailed first class.

Prompt notification of your new address will also insure that you will receive NAASR mail on time without unnecessary delay.

NAASR Serves as Resource for Genocide Programs

This spring NAASR found itself called upon increasingly to supply information and material for public programs commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the Genocide of the Armenian population in Turkey.

For the past year, NAASR has been supplying information to producer Theodore Bogosian, whose television program, "An Armenian Journey," was aired on Public Broadcasting stations across the nation during April.

The program's associate producer, Cheryl Wong, spent many hours in the NAASR Library reviewing maps, books, and documents about the Armenian communities in Turkey before and during the Genocide. NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young made available some of his personal slides of the Armenian landscape, taken during the NAASR Heritage Tour to Armenia in 1967, to the producer.

"An Armenian Journey" documented the return visit to Turkey of Mrs. Mariam Davis, a Genocide survivor who was adopted by an American missionary and brought to the United States after she had lost her parents and all her relatives during the holocaust of 1915.

WRKO Talk Show

NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young talked about historical issues relevant to the Armenian Genocide in an appearance on the popular Boston-area talk show "Ted and Janet" on Tuesday morning, April 26. Mr. Young was interviewed by the program co-host, Janet Jeghelian.

Among the callers who participated in the program was NAASR Founding Member Thomas T. Amirian, who read excerpts describing the Genocide from the book *Seven Years Beneath the Crescent* by Rafael de Nogales y Mendez, an eyewitness of the events of 1915.

Response to Pro-Turkish Historian

NAASR was also called upon to respond to an article published in the *Boston Globe* on April 25 in which the revisionist historian, Justin McCarthy, attempted to minimize the significance of the destruction of the Armenian population in Turkey during World War I. NAASR members and friends called the Headquarters to protest the distortion of history in the article and to seek clarification on some of the points made by the pro-Turkish writer.

In order to answer some of the questions and concerns raised, NAASR staff members Rev. Dr. Krikor Maksoudian, Director of Studies and Research, and Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, Director of Information and Publications, prepared a critical analysis of the Justin McCarthy article, pointing out the distortions and misconceptions. The NAASR analysis was sent to 100 Armenian and non-Armenian publications in the greater Boston area and around the country.

NAASR staff members are now engaged in the preparation of a more detailed analysis of the article, complete with scholarly references.

Teaching Workshop

Also during April, Mr. Young and Dr. Merguerian attended the Fourth Annual "Facing History and Ourselves" Human Rights and Justice Conference at the Gutman Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. One of the sessions was devoted to "Teaching About the Arme-

nian Genocide." Participants in the session were teachers now offering holocaust and genocide units in their classrooms who were looking for resources and methodology to make the lessons of the Armenian Genocide more meaningful.

Chairman Young is a member of the "Facing History And Ourselves" Board of Directors; and NAASR has provided support, both financial and staff, for the Armenian segment of the curriculum since its inception over 10 years ago.

Aram Khachaturian's Nephew Heads List of Soviet Armenian Visitors

With the proliferation of exchange programs and visits between the Soviet Union and the United States, a number of Soviet Armenians traveling in the United States have visited the NAASR Headquarters in recent months. Among these are the following:

Composer **Karen Khachaturian** (nephew of Aram Khachaturian) and cellist **Vagram Saradjian**, who came to NAASR on March 31, accompanied by Armen Dadekian, instructor of Russian at the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge. Meeting with NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, Publications Director Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, and Hye-Lites TV producer Lorraine Alexander, the visitors engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of contemporary issues in the field of music and the arts, *glasnost* and the current reform effort in the Soviet Union, and the demands in Yerevan to annex Karabagh to the Armenian Republic.

These two Soviet artists were in Boston for the month-long American-Soviet Cultural Exchange Festival, "Making Music Together," sponsored by the Boston Opera Company.

Mr. Khachaturian, who is currently the secretary of the Soviet Composers' Union, recalled his father Suren, founder of the Armenian Drama Studio in Moscow (forerunner of the Sundukyan Theater in Yerevan), and his uncle Aram (his father's youngest brother), who would take the young Karen to concerts and to the theater.

Both musicians were pleased to learn of NAASR's plan to establish a collection of Armenian music, including works by composers in Armenia and the diaspora, and promised their cooperation in this project.

Other Visitors

Karlen Dallakian, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad (SPIURK Committee), who was on a tour of the United States sponsored by the Armenian Assembly of America. This was Mr. Dallakian's second visit to the NAASR Headquarters, and he conferred with Board Chairman Young on ways to foster cooperation between

scholars in Armenia and the United States and discussed ways in which NAASR can be of assistance in the on-going research on the Armenian 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 Cambridge as part of a tour of the United States. The visit was one of a series by representatives of the Soviet republics sponsored by the organization Friendship Force.

Dr. Chachanyan donated to NAASR several publications, including his recently published study, "The Role of the Armenian Intellectuals in the Development of Kurdish Culture" (in Armenian). In a meeting with Board Chairman Young and Prof. Richard N. Frye of Harvard, he discussed Kurdish-Armenian relations, Kurdish studies in Armenia, and the Kurdish independence movement in the Middle East and its implications for the Armenians.

A Kurd by nationality but born and brought up in Yerevan, Dr. Chachanyan conversed in a flawless Armenian.



Soviet-Armenian musicians visit NAASR: left to right, NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, Administrative Director Sandra L. Jurigian, cellist Vagram Saradjian, NAASR Publications Director Barbara J. Merguerian, and composer Karen Khachaturian.

The Influence of Zoroastrianism in Armenia

By James R. Russell

The following is the text of remarks made by Prof. Russell at the NAASR reception on the occasion of the publication of his book, "Zoroastrianism in Armenia."

Prof. Mary Boyce of the University of London first suggested to me at Oxford in 1975 the investigation of Zoroastrianism in pre-Christian Armenia; subsequently she directed my doctoral work at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and the book now before you is a revision of my London thesis.

Until the discovery in Chinese Turkestan of the Manichaean texts in Parthian, the excavation of Nisa in Soviet Turkmenistan, and various smaller finds such as the Avroman documents, it was the evidence of the Armenian language and of ancient Armenian institutions that provided the main Near Eastern source for our knowledge of the Parthian Arsacids -- the longest-lived but least known of the three great pre-Islamic Iranian empires.

It is generally acknowledged that Zoroastrian teachings concerning eschatology -- the events of the end of days, including resurrection of the dead, judgement, and redemption -- entered or at least colored other religions of the Mediterranean basin around or just before Arsacid times. So the history of religion in Iran in this period is of general importance.

The Arsacids, to whose royal house belonged the Armenian Arshakuni kings, were overthrown in Iran in 226 AD by the Sasanians, a noble clan from the southwestern Iranian province of Pars that gives its name to Persia. The Sasanians, in their efforts to establish a centralized state, reduced the powers of local rulers, including Armenians, many of whom they co-opted, but more of whom they alienated. They also used a newly-centralized Zoroastrian priesthood as an arm of both social control and self-legitimization.

This policy required, again, that local jurisdictions in matters of religion be curtailed, and the predictable pretext was that Arsacid Zoroastrianism had not been altogether orthodox. The Sasanians consigned Arsacid religion to virtual oblivion in central Iran; and evidence of it remained thereafter in the language and records of peripheral regions of the Iranian empire, especially Armenia.

Preserving a Separate Identity

Had Armenia not become Christian, it would probably have shared the fate of Media-Atropatene, modern Azerbaijan. Strabo says that the Medes and Armenians had identical religious practices. The language of this northwestern Iranian province, called Parthian by early Muslim writers, has the characteristic features which identify it as the source of the vast majority of the Middle Iranian words which comprise most of the Armenian vocabulary.



James R. Russell

After the Islamic conquest of Iran in the seventh century, Media followed the rest of the country in adopting the faith of Muhammad over some three centuries. With the Turkic migrations across northern Iran into Anatolia, most of the descendants of the proud Medes gave up their language -- though dialects still survive in the region -- and evolved an Iranized form of Turkish, Azeri. Armenia, unlike Media, had for centuries before the Sasanians alternately fought and allied itself with Rome, its western neighbor; and since ancient times travellers had come up into Armenia from Syria and Mesopotamia to the south.

Christianity came to Armenia, then, quite naturally; but it also served the useful purpose of preserving for the Armenian royal house an identity separate from the insidious Sasanians. Much of what the country possessed of old Parthian Zoroastrianism was eradicated by the destructive zeal of the new Christian clergy, who were not by any means welcomed by the devotees of the beautiful creed of light and wisdom. What remained was frozen, unlike in Iran proper, more or less in its form at the point of conversion.

Zoroastrian Survivals

But Zoroastrianism in Armenia was not a fossil; in my research I found that its rites, moral values, symbols, and beliefs survived, subtly but tenaciously, down to recent times. In some important respects, Zoroastrianism and Christianity are kindred faiths; my identification of ancient survivals, as for instance in the persistent religious imagery of light, are sometimes and admittedly conjectural. But other living Armenian traditions are Zoroastrian beyond doubt: the Melet fire of Teardaraj, for example.

I think Prof. Boyce was particularly happy to read, as the thesis took shape, of survivals; for she has a warm interest in living Zoroastrianism, a faith thousands in Iran and India and around the globe still follow, and has studied traditional Zoroastrian village life near Yazd. In the

fifth century AD, Yazdagird II attempted to force the Armenians to accept Zoroastrianism -- a strange policy for a faith that does not allow conversion and cannot point by name to a single non-Iranian proselyte in its entire history.

In the martyrology and collective memory of Christian Armenia, Zoroastrianism came to be the prototype for religious oppression by any big, powerful neighbor; and resistance to the Sasanians was sanctified in terms borrowed from the Biblical books of the Maccabees. Armenians who retained their older faith were openly branded as traitors -- Meruzhan Artsruni, Vasak Siuni, etc. -- in pious histories composed by monks; or else, like the children of the Sun, they practiced the religion clandestinely, in a form probably vastly impoverished.

The mention of Zoroastrianism in Armenia even today can evoke some dissatisfaction, as though to ascribe to Armenians a faith brought from abroad detracted from the distinct national identity preserved over the centuries at such cost. These matters of sentiment have more to do with recent history than with the teachings of an ancient faith that have delighted and inspired philosophers and poets; and probably it is of little use to point out that Zoroaster lived in remote Central Asia and that his creed was in a certain sense foreign at first to the Persians themselves, or that the religion Armenians and millions of other non-Jews follow today is a Jewish sectarian movement founded by a carpenter's son from Nazareth.

Restoring a Heritage

In the last years of the nineteenth century, when European nationalists were looking for their pagan roots, some Armenian writers started composing songs to the *yazatas* -- Vahagn and Anahit -- or suggesting that baptism had made Armenian warriors weak. This is nonsense: a weak people should have vanished from the Transcaucasus ages ago -- and Zoroastrianism, a religion devoted above all to truth and the harmony of all good creatures, would be a particularly ill-chosen vehicle for the type of strident nationalism these people spoke of, though it has not escaped such abusive usage in history.

The future is a matter entirely of character; and we are judged, Zoroastrians believe, for our deeds. What one does confessionally with the discovery of Zoroastrian doctrine is an individual matter. But the past is different: by describing Zoroastrianism in Armenia I change nothing -- I assert what has been, which is thereby, ineluctably, part of what now is.

Much of my book is turgid and full of strange words; but perhaps by reading it you will have the pleasure of discovery, and, better still, of rediscovery of a part of yourselves.

Armenian Art Courses at University of Chicago

Two courses on Armenian art were offered at the University of Chicago 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 in Byzantine art from New York University.

Language Courses Funded at Univ. of California, Northridge

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 between university administrators and the Armenian Students Association at CSUN over the sponsorship of the classes.

Armenian 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 37 students. However, the CSUN Armenian Students Association was unable to meet its obligation to raise the \$1,200 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 decision to fund the language course came after the Armenian Students Association and its friends contacted several California legislators, including Senator William Campbell and Assemblymen Tom Bane and Mike Roos.

Fresno Announces Fall 1988 Courses

The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, will offer a full complement of Armenian language, history, and art classes during the Fall 1988 semester. The program is directed by Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, assisted by lecturer Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

The courses include: Armenian IA (the first of a two-semester language sequence in Modern Western Armenian), Armenian

111A (Armenian Composition and Conversation), History 108A (Armenia from earliest times to the 13th century), Armenian 120T (Armenian Art through architecture and miniature painting), and Armenian Studies 10 (an introductory survey of Armenian history and culture). A Saturday class surveying Armenian literature in English translation will also be offered.

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 in Yerevan sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The Institute will take place from July 6 to August 20 and will be directed by Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan.

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.

Symposium on Byzantium and the Caucasus Attracts Renowned Scholars

Fifteen scholars, many of them world renowned, presented papers dealing with various topics on Armenian religious, political, and cultural history at an international symposium on Byzantium and the Caucasus at Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Center in Washington, D. C., on April 29 through May 1.

Dr. Robert W. Thomson, Professor of Armenian at Harvard and Director of Dumbarton Oaks, and Dr. Nina G. Garsoian, Professor of Armenian at Columbia, organized the symposium, which was subtitled "Confrontation and Interaction between the Empire, Armenia, and Iberia." Over 150 scholars, students, and interested

observers attended the three-day conference consisting of five sessions.

Among the foreign scholars present were Viada Arutiunova-Fidianian of Moscow, who gave a paper on "Ethno-confessional Self-consciousness of Armenian Chalcedonians"; J.-M. Thierry of the University of Paris, who spoke on "Archaeological Evidence on the Armenian Occupation of Eastern Cappadocia in the 10th and 11th Centuries"; Jean-Pierre Mahé of the University of Paris, whose paper dealt with "Armenian Attitudes to Byzantium in Narekatsi's *History of the Holy Cross of Aparank*"; and Bernard Coulie of the University of Louvain, who traced "The In-

fluence of Gregory Nazianzenus on Armenian Literature."

Rev. Dr. Krikor Maksoudian, Director of Research and Studies at NAASR, presented a paper on "The Chalcedonian Issue and the Early Bagratids."

Among the other scholars who presented papers on Armenian topics were: Speros Vryonis of the University of California at Los Angeles, on "The Absorption of Armenians in Byzantium"; Alexander Kazhdan of Dumbarton Oaks, on "Some Aspects of Interrelations between Byzantium and the Armenians in the 11th and 12th Centuries"; Robert Edwards of the Catholic University of America, on "Hamsen: An Armenian Enclave in the Byzantine-Iberian Pontos"; Thomas Mathews of the Institute of Fine Arts in New York, on "The Gospel of King Gagik of Kars, Jerusalem, St. James 2556"; and Milos Velimirovic of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, on "Western Knowledge of Armenian Music."

Other scholars presenting papers on Armenian subjects were Gabriele Winkler of St. John's University, on "Peculiarities in the Armenian Creeds before and after Chalcedon"; Peter Cowe of Columbia University, on "The Armenian Opposition to Chalcedon: The Case of Paul of Taron"; and James Russell of Columbia, on "Gregory of Narek: His Forerunners and Byzantine Contemporaries."

Prof. Thomson's paper was on "Byzantine Literature in Armenia" and Prof. Garsoian spoke on "Armenia and Chalcedon: The Historical Evidence."



Scholars at the Dumbarton Oaks Symposium on Byzantium and the Caucasus.

Coming Events

ARMENIAN EXHIBIT AT BALCH INSTITUTE

An exhibit of antique Armenian rugs, accompanied by photographs, documents, and artifacts reflecting the experience of Armenians in America, will open on August 17 at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia.

The exhibit, entitled "Armenian Rugs: The Fabric of a Culture," will illustrate the determination of Armenians to maintain the culture of their ancestors through centuries of foreign rule and their efforts to preserve the roots of their ancient identity even while building a new life in America.

Made possible by a grant from the William Penn Foundation, the exhibition is co-sponsored by the Armenian Rugs Society. It will be on view until October 29.

ETHNICITY CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE

The National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) has issued a call for papers and panel proposals for a seminar on "Ethnicity in America: Interdisciplinary Approaches" to be held at its 17th annual conference, March 2 to 5, 1989, in Seattle, Washington.

Conference organizers hold a broad interpretation of the theme and encourage proposals that include the arts, humanities, social and biological sciences, education, women's studies, government, and politics.

Further information about the conference is available by contacting Prof. Johnella E. Butler, Department of American Ethnic Studies, GN 80, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

Open to interested persons or institutions, NAES serves as a forum for its members in the areas of research, study, curriculum design, publications, and advocacy.

SEMINAR ON RACE AND NATIONALITY AT NYU

New York University has announced a seminar on "Race and Nationality in Modern America," conducted by History Professor David M. Reimers, on consecutive Fridays in the Spring 1989 Semester (Jan. 27 to May 5). Seminar participants will explore with Dr. Reimers major patterns of immigration to the United States since the mid-nineteenth century and their implications for contemporary race and ethnic relations.

Morning discussions will review current historical scholarship on immigration, lunch sessions will feature guest speakers from a variety of disciplines, and afternoon sessions will look at works in progress of seminar participants.

The seminar is open to full-time faculty from undergraduate institutions in the Northeast, including scholars from the fields of history, sociology, anthropology, political science, and literature.

Offprints in NAASR's Library Collection

The following offprints and articles have been added to the NAASR Armenian Reference and Research Library collection recently.

NAASR's Director of Studies and Research, Rev. Dr. Krikor Maksoudian, in preparing this collection of articles in the field of Armenian studies, has been including current publications as well as important articles published in the past. Scholars are urged to send in copies of their published articles, which will then be made available to students and scholars who might not otherwise have access to these publications.

Avdoyan, L. "Prolegomena to the study of ancient and mediaeval Armenian history in the United States," *Bulletin de la Société d'Archéologie Copte* XXVII (1985).

Dadrian, Vahakn N. "A Theoretical Model of Genocide: With Particular Reference to the Armenian Case," *Sociologia Internationalis* 14:1-2 (1976). 99-126.

Dekmejian, R. H. "Soviet-Turkish Relations and Politics in the Armenian SSR," *Soviet Studies* XIX:4 (April 1968). 510-525.

Der Nersessian, Sirarpie. "An Illustrated Armenian Gospel of the XIV Century," *The Hartford Seminary Foundation Bulletin* 19

(Summer 1955). 1-7.

Gunter, Michael M. "The Armenian Dashnak Party in Crisis," *Crossroads* 26 (1987). 75-88.

Hewsen, Robert H. "The Caucasus: A Middle East Cultural Area," *Viewpoints* VI:1 (January 1966). 3-12.

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Recent Visitors to NAASR Headquarters

Dr. Eileen Vartan Barker of London, England, member of the sociology department and Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the London School of Economics.

Mrs. Marion Der Kazarian and her son, Charles, of Worcester, who met with Board Chairman Young to discuss her work chronicling the history of the Armenian Church and community in Worcester and also the publication of the memoirs of her late husband Charles. Mrs. Der Kazarian was featured in a front-page article in the April 25 issue of the Worcester *Telegram* describing her memories of the Armenian Genocide.

Kyle Gibson of New York City, a producer for the ABC News "Nightline" television program with Ted Koppel, who reviewed NAASR's resources in connection with ABC's coverage of the demonstrations in Yerevan, Armenia, and the movement for the annexation of the Karabagh district.

Rev. Ivan Havener, acting Dean of the School of Theology, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., who was also in Cambridge for the meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature. Rev. Havener plans to edit the "Rule of Benedict" in the Armenian translation of Nerses Lambronatsi. He reported that the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library at St. John's has more than a thousand microfilmed manuscripts from the Armenian collections in Vienna and Tübingen.

Peter Najarian of Berkeley, California, author of the critically acclaimed novels *Daughters of Memory* and *Voyages*, which explore the effects of the Armenian Genocide on Armenian immigrants in America.

Tineke and Maurits Van Geel of Amsterdam, Holland, members of the *Hupsakee* folk dance group of the Netherlands, who are very interested in Armenian folk dances. They teach recreational dancing to various groups in Holland, including Armenians, and are looking forward to a tour to Armenia, where the group will perform Dutch dances and at least one Armenian folk dance.

NECROLOGY

Steven Y. Mardigian of New Hyde Park, N.Y., on Feb. 16, 1988. A graduate of Robert College in Istanbul, he was a technical writer and senior editor who published military manuals on hydraulic and electro-mechanical equipment. Active in the Armenian Missionary Association and the Armenian Evangelical Church, he was a charter member of NAASR and also a member of the Society of American Military Engineers and the American Stamp Dealers Association. He is survived by his wife Armine (Moroukian) and by two sons: Major Armen Mardigian, USAF, and James Mardigian.

Increase in Membership Support During 1987

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Dr. Paul Davis
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For the 1987 fiscal (calendar) year 132 members increased their annual support of NAASR's operations, programs, and activities by voluntarily increasing the level of their membership support. Of this number 111 are Supporting Members, 13 are Sustaining Members, and 8 are Sponsor Members.

The geographical distribution of these members is as follows: Massachusetts - 49, California - 29, New York - 14, New Jersey - 9, and 15 other states with five or less members - 30 plus one member from Spain.

These members in 1987 accounted for \$15,900 of which \$11,805 was in excess of their regular membership dues. For the 1988 fiscal year it is hoped that the total number of members who increase their membership support will at least double in order to help meet the increased operating costs of the organization because of staff expansion and increasing demands on NAASR's functions and services.

All members in the Supporting, Sustaining, and Sponsor categories receive one or more bonus books in appreciation of their increased membership support.

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Any member of NAASR who has maintained membership for 10 or more consecutive years is eligible to be voted a Life Member by the Board of Directors upon the remittance of an amount equal to 25 times the regular dues at the time of application, presently \$875. The current Life Members are:

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New NAASR Members

The number of new and reinstated members since the 33rd Annual Assembly of Members in November, 1987, has increased to 68, of which 34 are from Massachusetts, 14 from California, 13 from 12 other states, and 7 from Canada and other foreign countries.

An asterisk (*) in the list below denotes reinstated membership:

From Massachusetts: Mrs. Elizabeth Arakelian, Belmont; Mrs. Sandra E. Basmajian, Concord; Dr. Levon Bastajian (*), Belmont; Ivan R. Bath, Cambridge; Robert Berberian (Supporting), Watertown; Laura Bilazarian (student), Boylston; Mrs. Sonia Boyajian, Watertown; Berj Chekijian, Arlington; Mrs. Martha A. Garabian (*), Foxboro; Peter A. Goolkasian (*), Foxboro; Arthur T. Gregorian (*Supporting), Newton; Gary Hovagimian, Watertown; Mrs. Anoush Kraian, West Newton; Sahag Nahabedian, Waltham; Mrs. Vartoohie Nahabedian, Waltham; K. George Najarian, Lincoln; John R. Peterson, Bedford; Anthony Seferian,

Watertown; Daniel G. Shadbegian, Malden; Diane M. Shadbegian, Malden; Natalie A. Zakarian, Watertown.

From California: Lorraine Amirian, San Leandro; Vatsche Barsoumian (Supporting), Pasadena; Mark Chentian, Los Angeles; Mrs. Ellen S. Chesnut, San Francisco; Hyant Eknayan, Pasadena; Krikor Haleblian (student), Pasadena; Dr. Ruzmig B. Madenlian (*), Whittier; Jane L. Mahakian (student), Antioch University; Francois Tumay Panosian, San Diego.

From other states: Mrs. Sandra E. Carleton, St. Paul, MN; Garabed A. Harutunian (*), Austin, TX; Rev. Karekin Kasparian (*), New Rochelle, NY; V. Rev. Shnorik G. Kasparian, Belleville, IL; Dean V. Shahinian (*), Alexandria, VA; Joseph Tumay (Supporting), Jamaica, NY.

From foreign countries: Dr. Eileen V. Barker, London School of Economics, England; George N. Shirinian (*), Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Dr. Gerard Tertzakian (*), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Maurits Van Geel, Diemen, Netherlands.

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 booksellers.

Armenia and the Armenians in Academic Dissertations: Supplement One, a Bibliography compiled by Anne M. Avakian (Professional Press, Berkeley, Calif.). A supplement to the 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 Sasanians, by Nina G. Garsoian (Valorum 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. H321. \$65.00 (\$59.95).

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 Shiites: 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, Takhtajis, Cernis, and Kizilbash 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 Baliozian, selected and edited by C. K. Garabed (Impressions, Kitchener, 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 Armenag 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 (\$15.75).

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 and Persia, Arabs, Byzantium, and the Crusaders). With synchronous tables of events, maps, and plates. H325. \$49.95 (\$44.95).

Land, Love, Century: New and Selected Poems by Gevorg Emin, translated by Martin Robbins, with a Foreword by Yevgeny Yevtushenko (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).

Madness in the Family: Stories by William Saroyan, edited by Leo Hamalian (New Directions, New York). A collection of stories by Saroyan published in *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *Harper's* during the 1960s and 1970s ranging in topics from the world of the immigrant in America to the life of the expatriate artist living in Europe, now collected in book form for the first time. T146. \$16.95 (\$14.50).

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, appendix, bibliography, and ten full-color plates. A189. \$135.00 (\$115.00).

The Road From Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl, by David Kherdian (Puffin Books, New York). A new paperback edition of this fictionalized biography of the author's mother, describing her life in Turkey before 1915, the destruction in 1915, and her survival. Winner of the *Boston Globe* Horn Book Award and a Newbery Honor Book. X90p. \$4.95 (\$4.25).

The USSR in Figures for 1986: Brief Statistical Handbook (USSR Central Statistical Board, Moscow). A collection of official government data about the population, income, industrial output, educational level, health care, and other statistics measuring various aspects of life in the Soviet Union, with some figures broken down by Union Republic. H323p. \$4.95 (\$4.25).

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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.

NAASR Newsletter
ISSN 0890-3794



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Barbara J. Merguerian
Director of Information and Publications

VOLUNTEERS * VOLUNTEERS * VOLUNTEERS

NAASR members and friends answering the call for assistance as volunteers recently include Araxie Anjorian, Watertown; Lana R. Jurigian, Waltham; Paul R. Jurigian, Waltham; Mrs. Mary Ann Kazanjian, Belmont; Mrs. Lillian Moranian, Cambridge; Mrs. Marie Nahigian, Belmont; Mrs. Araxie Orfaly, Cambridge; Adrina 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.