NAASR Marks Its 35th Anniversary

The acquisition of the new headquarters building in Belmont and the plans to establish an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research have aroused new enthusiasm and support for NAASR’s programs and activities.

The enthusiasm was evident during the 35th Anniversary celebrations, which began on Friday evening, Nov. 3, with an Open House and tour of the new building at 395 Concord Avenue; continued with the 35th Annual Assembly and Luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the First Armenian Church Hall in Belmont; and came to a climax with the Gala Anniversary Banquet held on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Charles and Nevart Talanian Hall of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge.

"The new building has revitalized the organization, as we have turned along a new path," observed NAASR Board Chairman Manooq S. Young in his report to the Annual Assembly.

Summarizing the status of the current $1.5 million fund drive, the Chairman said: "We have received a very heartwarming response, not only from our members, but from others as well who have had no previous connection with the organization but have obviously approved of our efforts."

Despite this outburst of support from the community, which has resulted in nearly $260,000 in pledges and donations during the current fund drive, there is a long way to go to raise the $1.5 million that will make possible the retirement of the mortgage on the new building and the expansion of the current $1.5 million fund drive, the Chairman said: "We have received a very heartwarming response, not only from our members, but from others as well who have had no previous connection with the organization but have obviously approved of our efforts."

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"With the drive gaining widespread momentum, it is hoped that this number will double by the end of the year," stated Board Chairman Manooq S. Young. He pointed out that the earlier the drive is completed the sooner NAASR will be able to retire the mortgage on the new building and devote more of its energy and resources to program development and establishing the Institute so that vital research and studies can get under way.

"Everyone who subscribes to NAASR's basic mission to advance Armenian studies, research, and publications has a stake in the early realization of the fund drive's goal of $1,500,000," stressed Mr. Young.

Tufts Announces Chair In Armenian Art and Architectural History

Tufts University President Jean Mayer has announced the establishment of the Arthur H. Dadrian and Ara Oartemel Professorship of Armenian Art and Architectural History.

The professorship at the Medford, Mass., campus becomes the eighth endowed chair in Armenian studies in the United States.

Dr. Lucy Der Manuelian, who for the past five years has headed the unique rotating program in Armenian art and architectural history that has been based at Tufts University and involved six universities, is the first person to be named to the new Chair. Her appointment was confirmed by the fall Board of Trustees meeting at Tufts.

Memorial Funds Set For Der Nersessian and Nersoyan

Memorial funds have been established in the name of two prominent members who played important roles in NAASR's formative years: Sirarpie Der Nersessian and Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan.

The NAASR Board has allocated $5,000 each to establish Armenian Studies Funds in their names. Additional contributions will be welcome in order to augment the funds and provide more income for the purposes of the funds.

Sirarpie Der Nersessian, who passed away in Paris on July 5, was a member for 34 years and had been elected an Honorary Life Member of NAASR.

She was Professor of Art and Architecture at Harvard University and Senior Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks Research Center in Washington, D.C., as well as a prolific scholar.

Abp. Tiran Nersoyan, a former Primate of the Armenian Church of America, who passed away on Sept. 1 in New York City, was a Charter and Honorary Life Member of NAASR. He was elected to the very first Board of Directors in 1955 and served on NAASR's National Advisory Board.

More information on page 6.

Fund Drive Total Nears $260,000

Sparked by the 35th Anniversary weekend activities, the current $1.5 million fund drive for the new headquarters building and the Institute for Armenian Studies and Research has topped $259,000 in donations and pledges as of Nov. 15.

Several major benefactor donations were announced at the 35th Anniversary Banquet. They are:

Alice Ohanian of Arlington, who has donated $25,000 in memory of her parents, Nerses and Lucia Ohanian;

Mrs. Nevart Talanian of Belmont, who has donated $25,000 in memory of her husband, Charles Talanian;

Mrs. Rose Kolligian of Winchester, who donated $10,000 in memory of her husband, Gregory Archie Kolligian; and

An anonymous contributor from Belmont who donated $10,000.

To date 284 members and friends from 22 states have contributed to the current fund drive, which is only in its fourth month. Massachusetts leads with 149 contributors followed by California with 44, New York and New Jersey together with 33, and Rhode Island with 12.

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35th Anniversary Celebrated Aid Voluntary Effort

Kurkjian Spotlights The Media’s Role in Politics

The Rev. Vartan Hartarian (left) receives a token of appreciation for his assistance in acquiring NAASR’s new headquarters.

Students, Renaissance Associations Share New NAASR Headquarters

Two Armenian-american organizations, the Armenian Student Association of America (ASA) and the Armenian Renaissance Association (ARA), will share space in NAASR’s new building for their national headquarters.

The leaders of the two organizations were on hand at NAASR’s 35th Anniversary Banquet to extend their greetings.

Dr. Michael G. Mesaros, Chmians of the Board of Trustees for the ASA, expressed the hope that ASA’s move into offices on the second floor of NAASR’s headquarters would help forge a lasting and integral association between the two organizations.

He noted out that the ASA, in celebrating its 60th this year, is the oldest major Armenian organization founded in the United States, it grants in excess of $60,000 annually to students.

The ARA, founded ten years ago to advance Armenian education and culture in America, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The ARA is looking forward to a new building on Belmont, NAASR anticipates that its headquarters will become a true community educational and cultural center.

REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of the 34th Annual Assembly Minutes are available free of charge from NAASR. They can be obtained by anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with 25 cents in postage affixed.

Teresa Tserinyan (center) of the Armenian Renaissance Association (ARA) manages the banquet, while Mrs. Neviolent (right) of the Armenian Student Association (ASA) looks on.

Sonia Adalian Calls for Research that Looks to the Future

Armenians in Armenia and the Armenians in the diaspora, Adalian pointed out. While the Armenian youth in Armenia are working to rebuild, let alone to respond adequately to current events, we must assume a more active role and take a critical attitude about who they are, Armenians in Armenia and the Armenians in the diaspora—partly out of a fear of the future and the uncertainties of the present.

"We live in a world and a society which looks forward and not a society that looks back.," Adalian said. "We are Armenians, a people of great antiquity. It’s very important to look back over 3,000 years of history.

How about looking ahead for 3,000 years? That’s more difficult." Adalian said. In order for the Armenian knowledge that has developed in Armenian studies, the facts that are being unearthed, the discoveries that are being made, in order to find the tools, the knowledge, which is a new, the concepts, the ideas which will keep us who we are, but with greater fortitude, for tomorrow.

35th Anniversary Celebrated Aid Voluntary Effort

The newly elected directors are: from left, Pauline Dohanian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee; the committees of the members were: James James,ngen; John Nersisian; Merriit Agabian, and Raffi Surpilian.

Assembly Elects New Board Members

At the business session following the luncheon, 12 members were elected to the Board of Directors, which has been expanded from 20 to 27 members as a result of an action taken at last year’s Assembly and ratified by the membership after referendum in September to give greater power to the Board of Directors.

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In the field of Byzantine and medieval studies, the role of Armenia and the Armenians is increasingly recognized and appreciated, according to Prof. Robert W. Thomson, Mason professor of Armenian at Harvard University.

Greeting the guests at NAASR’s 35th An­niversary Banquet, Prof. Thomson sum­marized some of the highlights of his three completed five-year tenures as Director of Harvard’s Dumbarton Oaks Research Center in Washington, D.C.

Armenian topics were prominent in three major conferences held at Dumbarton Oaks during his tenure. Thomson pointed out that the 1966 International Con­gress on Byzantine Studies was held in cooperation with the Armenian National Cilicia and his is the historical analysis of Byzantine history by Prof. Robert W. Thomson, Mason professor of Armenian at Harvard University.

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The Importance of the Study of Medieval Armenian Literature

By Jean-Pierre Mahe

Delivered at NAASR's 33rd Annual Assembly Luncheon in November 1987 at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., Dr. Mahe is professor of Armenian literature and linguistics at the University of Paris (Sorbonne).

For hundreds of years, a French Aramologist, the present state of Ar-menian studies in America is amazingly good. Indeed, a number of powerful states, western bank of the upper Euphrates, near the city of Mardin, the Assyrians subjugated the kingdom of Urartu and invaded the powerful kingdom of Assyria, where they have been studying Armenian literature and history for the past half of the 11th century AD. Since then, the most magnificent monuments of the Christian Near East and creating one of the most varied and imaginative tools of linen, the history of Armenia has shrunk to the size of a small country in the 19th century. Indeed, it has never been more auspicious for the nation in the Armenians to have lived for two years. However, I think that this kind of study is most necessary not only from the point of view of historical truth and for the study of the Armenian nation, but even more so for the Armenians on the whole. Let me remind you of Pavlos Rustand's story about Vasil Mamikont, the valiant Persian general, who, when he had taken and taken to King Shapur of Per-sia, the king began scouring at him because of his small stature. "You were no more than an inch fox and you gave us so much trouble! How were you able to hold out against the host of the Persians?" Vasil Mamikont said, "You have no idea, sir, you call me a fox. But thus far I have been able to be a fox and have been a great one. I have been a giant, with one foot on the top of one mountain and the other foot on the top of another. You were the first mountain, and the second was a giant, so that I have been able to make a giant of me, like a giant." The Real Measurement of Armenia

The National Geographic: The Education of Armenian Women

The Glory of Armenian Women's Education: The Education of Armenian Women in Europe, 1750-1923. Patricia Constantin, "Mamikhtch Pahu:
The Custom of Marrying Armenian Women at the Turn of the Century (1890-1923)." "To Be or Not to Be an Armenian Woman: The Question of Identity in Contemporary Armenia." "The Problem of Marriage Among Armenian Students in the United States." "Liberation of Armenia, the glorious image Armenia deserves The Education of Armenian Women in India, 1750-1850." Patricia Constantin, "Mamikhtch Pahu:
The Custom of Marrying Armenian Women at the Turn of the Century (1890-1923)." "To Be or Not to Be an Armenian Woman: The Question of Identity in Contemporary Armenia." "The Problem of Marriage Among Armenian Students in the United States." "Liberation of Armenia, and the Armenians, and I trust that all the efforts will be in the direction of a blossoming of Armenian studies around the world, and the works of one's kurzian, i.e. parents and ancestors. In this meaning of the word, we may consider liberty to studying this kind of na-ture. I belong to France, a nation whose fate is much happier than Armenia's, and I keep in mind that the French even though they should say most of all when I speak of the Armenian literature and language, and the Armenians, and I trust that all the efforts will be in the direction of a blossoming of Armenian studies around the world, and the works of one's kurzian, i.e. parents and ancestors. In this meaning of the word, we may consider liberty to studying this kind of na-ture. I belong to France, a nation whose fate is much happier than Armenia's, and I keep in mind that the French even though they should say most of all when I speak of the Armenian literature and language, and the Armenians, and I trust that all the efforts will be in the direction of a blossoming of Armenian studies around the world, and the works of one's kurzian, i.e. parents and ancestors. In this meaning of the word, we may consider liberty to studying this kind of na-ture. I belong to France, a nation whose fate is much happier than Armenia's, and I keep in mind that the French even though they should say most of all when I speak of the Armenian literature and language, and the Armenians, and I trust that all the efforts will be in the direction of a blossoming of Armenian studies around the world, and the works of one's kurzian, i.e. parents and ancestors. In this meaning of the word, we may consider liberty to studying this kind of na-ture. I belong to France, a nation whose fate is much happier than Armenia's, and I keep in mind that the French even though they should say most of all when I speak of the Armenian literature and language, and the Armenians, and I trust that all the efforts will be in the direction of a blossoming of Armenian studies around the world, and the works of one's kurzian, i.e. parents and ancestors. In this meaning of the word, we may consider liberty to studying this kind of na-
New NAASR Members

With the 42 new and reinstated members listed below, the total number of NAASR members for the 2019-2020 year is now 279, including those who attended the 34th Annual Assembly in November 1989 at the age of 85.

From Massachusetts: Mrs. Linda Abraham, Newton, in memory of her husband; Karen (student), Southfield, MI; Joseph Baboian, Woburn; donated membership.

From California: Mrs. Anna Bahramian, Oak Park; Mrs. Anahid Manukian, Los Angeles; Mrs. Isabelle Manukian, Los Angeles; Mrs. Mitra Raissi, Adina, in memory of her husband; Mr. Melik Khajavi, Los Angeles; Mr. Artin Aznavoorian, Los Angeles; Mr. Michael Karian, Los Angeles; Mr. Haroutunian Vagramian, Los Angeles; Dr. & Mrs. Elbert Karian*, General Motors, in memory of their parents.

From Foreign Countries: Mr. George Papian, Quebec, Canada; Mr. and Mrs. Aram Payvand, Southfield, MI; Shana Papian, Valley Center, CA; Mrs. Alice Karian, Woburn; Mr. and Mrs. Melike Baboian, Markham, Ont., Canada; Mr. Mingigian, Mississauga, Ont., Canada; Mr. Arben Petrossian, Manhattan Beach, CA; Mr. and Mrs. deserted the church in the middle of the night and installed in a spacious house in New Jersey. He had served as treasurer of the Armenian Church for a number of years and later pastor for the Armenian community in London during World War II.

Necrology

Adolf Nersesian, who served as the first president of the Armenian Church in America, passed away on New Year's Day, 1930. In addition to her doctorate at the Dumbarton Professor Richard Baboian Dawn Azadian was a pioneer in the development of Armenian Studies in the United States. She earned her doctorate at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Center in 1930. Her publications include Armenia and the Byzantine Empire: A Brief Study of Armenian Church History. She was a member of the American Historical Association and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She died in a pioneer in the development of Armenian Studies in the United States. She earned her doctorate at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Center in 1930. Her publications include Armenia and the Byzantine Empire: A Brief Study of Armenian Church History. She was a member of the American Historical Association and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She died in

Kasar and Kahir Haganian

As noted in the last issue of the NAASR Newsletter, the NAASR annual meeting will be named "Kasar and Hakanigian Haganian," in recognition of the pledge to the NAASR Ford Drive made by the Haganian family. The following biography of Kasar and Hakanigian Haganian was provided by the family.

Kasar and Kahir Haganian were 19th-century Armenian forefathers of the village of Pazmashen in Armenia and the Near East. Their story begins in 1885 when, as a result of her marriage to Kasar Haganian, Mrs. Kasar Haganian Kakanigian, the first Life Member of the NAASR, was able to support her family's needs throughout her lifetime.

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Recent and Selected Titles of Note

The most recent and noteworthy additions to NAASR’s Armenian Book Clearing House offerings of English-language publications on Armenian subjects appear below. Figures in parentheses represent discounted prices for NAASR members in good standing.

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 bookstores.

Addressing Turkish Genocide Apologists, compiled by David Davidian (S.D.F.A. Center for Regional Studies, Cambridge). Lengthy discussions carried over the international electronic information network UNIX in 1988 and 1989 concerning the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians, Vols. I-V. H380p. $48.00 ($43.00).

Armenian Art, by Jean-Michel Thierry, Principal Sites by Patrick Donabedian (Abrams, New York). Comprehensive survey of the characteristic manifestations of Armenian artists, craftsmen, cartographers, and architects through the ages. Includes 959 illustrations (173 in full color), diagrams, plans, elevations, maps, and genealogical tables. A202. $130.00 ($110.00).

Armenian Day Schools: Prospects and Challenges, Roxanne Begian, editor (Armenian Professional Society, San Francisco). A transcript of the articles and discussions held at a symposium in November 1988, with sociolinguist Guadalupe Valdes, Jewish day school principal Alison Beskin, University of La Verne psychology department chairman Hagop Der Karabetian, and others. Prof. Richard G. Hovannisian was moderator. H375p. $19.95 ($17.50).

The Armenian Earthquake Disaster, by the editors of the Novositi Press Agency and translated by Elliott B. Urdang (Spinax Press, Madison, CT). Hundreds of dramatic black-and-white photographs describing the tidal wave of destruction that swept over Armenia on Dec. 7, 1988, the struggle of the survivors, and the massive international relief effort. With an introduction and statements by several personalities. H381p. $19.95 ($17.50).

Conversations in Silence, by Garbis Der Yeghiayan (University of La Verne, La Verne, CA). A pilgrimage to the land of his grandparents, made in 1987 by the president of the American Armenian International College. This book describes his experiences and encounters on a trip from Istanbul through Adana, Antab, Birecik, Marash, Malayta, Kharpert, Mush, Aghtamar, Van, Mt. Ararat, Kars, and Erzerum. With black-and-white photographs. X260p. $20.00 ($16.00).


The Epic Histories Attributed to P'awtots Buzand [Buzandmman Patmut'1onk], translation and commentary by Nina G. Garsoian (Harvard University Press, Cambridge). The first translation into English of this most detailed early account of the events that took place in Greater Armenia during the fourth century, with particular emphasis on the Arshakuni kings, Armenian ecclesiastical history, and the early leading personalities of Armenian House. With an introduction, commentary, five appendices detailing the proper names and technical terms found in the text, and two maps. H378. $49.95 ($42.95).


Genocide and the Ottoman Empire, 1914-1918, by Ulrich Trumper (Caravan Books, Delmar, NY). A reprint of this important historical study which was originally published in 1965 by Princeton University Press. Contains a great deal of information about German influence on the policies of the Young Turk government and Armenian attitudes (official and private) in the face of the Armenian Genocide, which took place during those years. H354. $50.00 ($45.00).

A Historical Survey of the Armenian Case, by Karsman Ahrarian, edited and with a Preface by Edmond N. Azadian, translated from the Armenian by Krikor Maksoudian (Baikar Publications, Watertown). An overview of the Armenian case, dealing with its origins, the struggle for freedom in modern times, the genocide, and political developments in the post-World War I period, written by the influential Armenian linguist, scholar, and intellectual. H365p. $12.00 ($10.95).

The Rise and Fall of the Ethnic Revival: Perspectives on Language and Ethnicity, by Joshua A. Fishman, et al. (Mouton, The Hague). A collection of studies on the ethnic revival in North America and Western Europe between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s, with particular attention to the relation between language and ethnicity. The articles raise broad theoretic questions and look at the implications of bilingualism, for example in the ethnic press and in schools. One article contrasts the ethnography of Armenian, Greek, Jewish, and French day schools. Cloth. H367c. $58.00 ($49.85); paper. H371p. $29.95 ($27.95).


Soghomun at Ararat: Poems of Armenia, compiled and edited by Gerald Papasian (Counter Productions, Los Angeles). A collection of Armenian poetry translated into English that forms the basis for the award-winning dramatic presentation by the author and his wife, actress Nora Armani. The poetry provides both an interpretative presentation of Armenian literature and an attempt to convey the spirit of one of the oldest surviving civilizations. T154p. $13.50 ($11.50).

Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia—Soviet Armenia, edited by V. H. Hampartsumian, M. V. Arzrunian, and others (Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences, Yerevan). A special supplement volume to the Soviet Armenian Encyclopedial (XIII) devoted to the Soviet Armenian Republic, including history, government, economics, and culture. Illustrated, with maps and a historical chronology. (In Armenian) X98m. $35.00 ($30.00).


PERIODICALS


CURRENT EVENTS IN ARMENIA


Soviet Life, June 1985. Special section on Armenian Earthquake. X255p. $3.50 ($3.00).

Suffering Shared By All Armenia, December 1988, compiled by Valerian Tarkhanyan (Novosti Press Agency, Moscow). A brief report, with photographs, of the Armenian earthquake. H359p. $2.00 ($1.75).

The Turbulent Years in the Caucasus: Contradictions in Nagorny Karabagh (Novosti Press, Moscow), Material from a news briefing held in Moscow to explain the background to the present dispute. H336p. $1.50 ($1.25).

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