Assembly Elects Seven New Directors; Bardakjian Speaks at Luncheon Program

Seven new members were elected and four incumbents reelected to the NAASR Board of Directors at the Association’s 36th Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, Nov. 17, at the First Armenian Church in Belmont, Mass.

Dr. Kevorik Bardakjian, Marie Manougian Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, gave the Luncheon address on the topic “Glasnost, Perestroika, and Armenian Studies: Impact and Future Directions.”

Dr. Bardakjian has been a frequent visitor to Armenia, most recently for ten weeks last summer as director of the University of Michigan’s Armenian Language Summer Institute in Yerevan, and is therefore well acquainted with the scholars and the academic institutions there.

Board Chairman Manoog S. Young reported on the new challenges facing NAASR as a result of the changing situation taking place in Armenia both on the governmental level and in academic circles. The organization’s move to its new Headquarters building near Belmont center provides the facilities NAASR needs to respond, but it also imposes new financial obligations that must be met, he said.

Art Exhibit, Lectures, and Open House

Mark Celebration of New Headquarters

A series of cultural events this fall have marked NAASR’s celebration of the first anniversary of the acquisition of the new Headquarters building in Belmont center.

The events included a talk on “Armenia in International Studies” by Col. Moorad Mooradian, consultant, writer, and former professor of International Relations and History at the U.S. Military Academy, on Nov. 15 and also a Video Presentation and Talk on “The Lost Armenians in Turkey” on Nov. 10 by Armen R. Aroyan, an engineer by profession, who has traveled in the interior of Turkey and interviewed “lost” Armenian families living in the ancestral homeland.

Robert O. Krikorian, a native of Worcester, Mass., who has worked with relief agencies in Armenia for over a year, gave a talk and led a discussion on Nov. 23 on “Armenia Today: An Inside View of Life, Politics, and Culture as Observed by an American-Armenian.”

The NAASR commemorative events began on Sept. 21 with the opening of an exhibit of paintings by artist Esther Agabian, which continued on display through the month of October.

The celebration continued with a full-day Library Open House and Book Fair on Saturday, Sept. 29, an author’s reception honoring Dr. Robert W. Thomson, Mesrob Mashots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, on Oct. 5, and a lecture on “Perestroika and the Arts in Armenia and the Soviet Union” by Dr. Levon Hakhverdian, director of the Institute of Fine Arts of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, on Oct. 25.

NAASR Headquarters were officially relocated to the new building on Sept. 1, 1989. The Belmont facility provides much needed space for NAASR’s Armenian Book Clearing House, Armenian Reference and Research Library, and other programs to advance Armenian Studies. The new Headquarters also makes possible the implementation of NAASR’s plans to establish an Institute for Armenian Studies and Research.

Details on the events celebrating the acquisition of the new Headquarters building can be found on pages 2 and 3.

New Directors

Newly elected NAASR Board Members from the Greater Boston area are Gerald Ajemian of Dover, Robert D. Bejoian of Watertown, and Mrs. Shushan M. Teager of Belmont; reelected are Armen Dohanian of Belmont, Dr. Elizabeth A. Gregory of Arlington, and Prof. Aram S. Karakashian of the University of Lowell.

Other new Directors are: from the Middle Atlantic states, Col. [Ret.] Moorad Mooradian of Springfield, Va.; from the Middle West states, Mrs. Helen Mardigian of Birmingham, Mich., and Anna Marie Narekhad of Evanston, Ill.; and from the West Coast, Antranig K. Manougian of Los Angeles. Richard Ashton of Fresno was reelected a Director from the West Coast.

Reporting as chairmen of the Assembly committees were Charles S. Sahagian, Nominating; Aram S. Karakashian, Constitution and Rules; and S. George Jigarjian, Auditing.

Dr. Barbara J. Merguerian, NAASR’s Director of Information and Publications, gave a brief report of her participation in the International Symposium on ‘Armenia and the Bible: Tradition and Text’ last July in Heidelberg, Germany.

Details of the Annual Assembly will be printed in the next issue of the Newsletter.
**Arts Director Cites New Soviet Dynamic**

The powerful new dynamic unleashed in Soviet life by President Mikhail Gorbachev is having an effect on all of the arts in the Soviet Union according to Dr. Levan Hakobverdian, Director of the Institute for Armenian Sciences in Yerevan.

Speaking on the topic "Perestroika and the Arts," Dr. Hakobverdian addressed the NAASR Headquarters on the evening of Oct. 25. Dr. Hakobverdian began with a scathing attack on the dogmatism that has been understood and interpreted by the Soviet government for seven decades and stifled artistic expression.

The inability or unwillingness of the government to institute basic socioeconomic reforms has created chaos, as the old system has collapsed and there is no new system to replace it, the Armenian scholar stated. "Now we have freedom of expression but not food, but soon we will have food," Dr. Hakobverdian predicted.

Indeed, so powerful is the new dynamic that it will take some time for the arts to catch up, he continued. The atmosphere today encourages artists, publicists, and writers who deal with important current issues; serious artistic creation will come after that, he said. Dr. Hakobverdian's remarks at NAASR were translated from Armenian into English by the author Halapoo Karapetian.

Dr. Hakobverdian has been on a one-month visit to the United States in the United States as part of the IRREX (International Research Exchange Project) program. The major purpose of his visit was to finalize plans for the Sixth International Armenian Conference of Art, which will take place in Yerevan in 1991. Dr. Hakobverdian is researching the activities of Armenian theatrical companies in the United States as part of his major research on the History of Contemporary Armenian Theatre.

**Mooradian Calls for Realism in Foreign Policy**

Col. (Ret.) Moorad Mooradian called upon Armenians to confront the problems and the disposes to approach foreign policy issues with realism. There is a general trend to adopt a more realistic attitude in dealing with other nations.

Speaking at a meeting of NAASR headquarters on the evening of Nov. 15, Col. Mooradian, a consultant in international relations and history at the U.S. Military Academy, characterized Armenian foreign policy as one of "nostalgia." He said it is time to adopt a more realistic attitude in its dealings with the Turkish Republic.

Under these circumstances, Armenia must adopt a "realistic" foreign policy, as the recognition of the Genocide and the admission of Kahrabagh [Artsakh] if it is the wish of the people must be mentioned.

"Are we going to hold Armenia hostage to the Genocide issue?" he asked. "If so, we may add more to the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in 1915."

A lively question-and-answer period followed this hard-hitting presentation.

In introducing the speaker, NAASR Board Chairman Young said, in view of the importance of the question of Armenia's role in international affairs, NAASR is planning a conference on this topic and Col. Mooradian has agreed to play an active role in the planning.

**Viewing the "Lost" Armenians of Turkey**

Engineer and traveller Armen R. Aroyan of Monrovia, Calif., presented a fascinating view of the Armenians of Turkey who are the ancestral homeland in Turkey during a video presentation and talk on Saturday evening at NAASR Headquarters.

During several recent trips into the interior of Turkey, he has interviewed elderly Armenians living in the Greater Bosporus area. She is a life Member of NAASR.

**Tushar Thomson Discusses His Most Recent Translation**

An author's reception for Dr. Robert W. Thomson, Mesrob Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, was held at NAASR Headquarters on Oct. 5. The occasion was the publication of his English translation of a 13th century Armenian source, The Historical Compilation of Vardan Arewelci.

The translation of Vardan Arewelci reflects Prof. Thomson's broader interest in medieval Armenia and the history of this period. It has been understood and interpreted by the Armenian community of the world.

He was originally drawn to this subject Prof. Thomson said, when he translated from Armenian several historical classical works, such as R自如's History of Vardan Arewelci and Moses Khorenatsi's History of Armenia.

The Historical Compilation of Vardan Arewelci records the history of Armenia from the time of the Creation until the year 1267. The book contains 400 pages, a preface, introduction, text, notes, and bibliography, and was published in the Duke University Press, Durham, N.C. (1989, Number 43) and has been made available by NAASR as an opieet.

As in his other translations of Armenian sources, Prof. Thomson focuses on the intellectual and scholarly framework within which the Armenian writers and historians worked. In conclusion that Arewelci's work is "an important witness to the scope of medieval Armenian culture and to the range of knowledge available in his time in Armenian centers of learning."

Prof. Thomson is currently engaged in a study of the Armenian adaptation of the geographic name Garabagh and the term "Armenian Heartland." He is preparing a paper for presentation at NAASR.

The crew was headed by Robert Dole and Rep. Charles Pashayan in California, while the former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, was given a tour of Armenian centers in the surrounding areas.

In the United States Armenians must face the fact that even in 1989 and early 1990, when Turkish influence was at a nadir as the Soviet Union was dissolving, Congress was unwilling to pass a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

In light of the efforts of the Armenian National Government, and the government of Turkey, Turkey has received a good measure of praise of progress in a country that is a reliable and valuable ally of the United States in the confrontation with Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

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**Building Institute Fund Drive Exceeds $554,000**

In little over a year more than $554,000 in pledges and contributions was raised to fund the new NAASR Headquarters building and the Institute for Armenian Studies, which will be housed in it.

The $554,000 came from 26 states and five foreign countries have participated in the drive as of November 15, 1990. Fifty percent of those who contributed were members of the institute, raising the total contributed by members of the institute to $277,000.

The two largest benefactors to date are Edward and Helen Meridian of Kansas City, Mo., and Boca Raton, Fl., with $100,000, and the children and grandchildren of the late Kanar and Kalar Hogopian of Whitinsville, Mass., with $78,000.

Other major donors include Alice Ohanesian of Arlington and Mrs. Nochay Hakobian of Belmont, both of Massachusetts, with $25.00 each. Contributions of $100.00 each have been made by Dr. Gregory H. Adamian of Welham, Armen D. and Helen B. Karapetian of Beverly, Mrs. Alice Oktan Kasaplian of Belmont, Mrs. Rose Koliigian of Winchester, and Mrs. Norayr Aram of Somerville, Mia., Mrs. Gregor Kasapian of 1315, and Mrs. and Mr. Hrand Joseph Tulip, all of Massachusetts, and Mrs. Orma Asksoutchets and Mrs. and Mr. Harold Joseph Tulip, all of California. The four appropriate areas in the new headquarters building will be named according to donors, with the appropriate areas of the institute.

The next major issue of the NAASR Newsletter will carry a complete listing of donors who have contributed to the NAASR. Please note that the last list was published in the second quarter of 1990.

As the驱动 fund is to retire the first mortgage, which now has a balance of $25.00, in order to reduce the burden on the institution and to be able to channel the bulk of the funds to further Armenian studies, research, and publications.

**NAASR Directors Elect Officers**

The NAASR Board of Directors elected its officers immediately following the annual meeting of Members in Nov. 17. They are: Chairman, Ma­ noog Young; First Vice-Chair, Steve Couch; Assistant Chairman, Aram S. Kasakian; Sec­ retary, Raymond T. Tonger; Treasurer, Arman Bohakian; and Assistant Treasurer, Nancy R. Koliigian; and Assistant Secretary, Edward A. Kazanjian, Jr.
By Roger W. Smith

The international scholarly conference on "The Genocide of the Armenians: History, Theory, and Political Responsibility" took place at the Academy of Sciences, April 17-20, 1990, on the 75th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Some 200 historians and social scientists from six continents gathered to present the most comprehensive account of the events of 1915. The conference was organized by the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

The conference began with a powerful keynote address by Roger W. Smith, Columbia University, and was followed by a panel on the "History of the Armenian Genocide." The panel was attended by participants from 16 countries, including Armenia, Turkey, the United States, and the Soviet Union. The conference was attended by some 700 persons. The conference was sponsored by the Armenian Academy of Sciences and the US Department of State.

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Necrology

Nvart Hampikian Alexanian, a long-time member of AGBU, was born in Detroit in October. Born in 1898 in Silivri, a small town near Istanbul, in the Ottoman Empire, she received her early education in Istanbul, where her family had moved. While continuing her studies in Paris, she met her future husband, Suren D. Fejsian. The couple lived in Marseilles, France, and in the United States, Canada, and other countries, where she was a former Member for 30 years, will retire as Fred Champion Chair in Civil Engineering.
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 and related subjects appear below. Figures in parentheses represent discount prices for NAASR members in good standing.

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

**Anatolian Suite: Travels and Discursions in Turkey** by Little Brown, Toronto. One of Canada’s best-loved writers describes his experiences during a recent extensive tour of Turkey, from Ephesus, Smyrna, and Istanbul to Bozorus, Constantine, and Bursa, always keeping in mind the history of the area. Includes material about the Armenians and the Genocide. H407. $14.95 ($12.75).


**Back Notes: Armenia** by Y. T. Nercissian (Special Publication No. 6, Armenian Numismatic Society, Los Angeles). A record of the paper money which circulated in Armenia from 1918 to the late 1920s, including notes issued by the Republic of Armenia and by the successor Soviet government before the abolition of local currencies in 1924. With 192 pages of black-and-white reproductions, historical background, a signature matrix, concordances, and a summary in Armenian. A210. $38.00 ($32.50).

**The Cilician Armenian Ordeal**, by Paren Kazanjian (Byron). A belated compilation of 42 eye-witness accounts by survivors of the several massacres which struck the Armenians of Marash, in Cilician Turkey, from 1895 to 1923. Taken from earlier publications or from oral history tapes specially transcribed and translated for this publication, the accounts chronicle the Cilician Armenian government to destroy its Armenian population. Includes photographs and maps. X264p. $35.00 ($32.50).

**Conversations with Contemporary Armenian Artists**, by Jackie Abramian (Amana Books, Brattleboro, Vt.). A collection of interviews with 20 contemporary Armenian artists, including writers, poets, playwrights, photographers, filmmakers, musicians, conductors, composers, painters, and sculptors. With black-and-white photographs. X251p. $12.50 ($10.50).

**The Decline of Medieval Hellenism in Asia Minor and the Process of Islamization from the Eleventh through the Fifteenth Century**, by Speros Vryonis, Jr. (University of California Press, Berkeley). In this major historical work, a foremost Byzantine scholar examines the transformation of the largely Christian population of Anatolia into an Islamic society in which Christianity continued to be an active and a passive role. Includes a great deal of information about the Armenians. H404p. $20.00 ($16.95).

**The Dividing River, The Meeting Shore**, by David Heredian (Lotus Press, Santa Fe, N.M.). Forty-two poems by this Armenian-American poet with roots in the Midwest and a sensibility that is Armenian. Written in memory of Michael Kaelin and touching on themes of life, friendship, and death. Cloth, T162c. $12.95 ($10.95); paper, T162p. $8.95 ($7.50).

**The Autobiography of Boghos Jafarian**, with supplementary chapters by Claire Mangasarian and edited by Leon Mangasarian (privately printed, Madison, Wis.). The author of these memoirs was born in Kharpert in 1880, escaped from Turkey to the United States following the 1895 massacres, returned to Kharpert seven years later, went into hiding during the 1915 Genocide, and managed to escape to America. His eyewitness story is supplemented by background information provided by his granddaughter and by family and other historical photographs. Cloth, X270c. $21.50 ($18.50); paper, X270p. $14.00 ($12.25).

**Folk Art in the Soviet Union**, by Tatyana Razirra, et al. (Harry N. Abrams, New York, and Aurora Art Publishers, Leningrad). A kaleidoscopic survey of folk arts and crafts of the various peoples who comprise the Soviet Union. The chapter on Armenia describes stone carving, pottery, rug weaving, needlework, metalwork, jewelry, and wood carving. This profusely illustrated work includes maps as well as 1,430 illustrations, 705 of which are full-color plates. A209. $49.50 ($42.50).

**Fresco Country, the 20th Century: From 1900 to the 1980s**, vol. II, by Charles W. Clough, et al. (Panorama West Books, Fresno). A large-format chronicle of the development of Fresno county in which the roles played by the many ethnic groups who settled in the area are highlighted. The Armenians, who formed the backbone of the agricultural industry in the county, numbered over 20,000 by the 1980s. With over 500 black-and-white photographs. H399. $39.95 ($35.00).

**From Istanbul to Aghtamar: An Armenian Pilgrimage**, by Hagop Nersoyan (Ashod Press, New York). A personal memoir of a trip with the late Patriarch Sharrkash to the interior of Turkey, a region once rich with Armenian traditions and life, but now stripped of all but occasional artifacts. H411p. $10.00 ($8.50).

**The Historical Monuments of Nakhichevan**, by Argam Ayyazian, translated by Krikor H. Makouzian (Wayne State University Press, Detroit). A comprehensive survey of the historic Armenian region of Nakhichevan, now an autonomous republic within the Azerbajian SSR. A brief socio-economic history of the several districts in the region precedes the description of the present-day topography, condition of the major buildings, and listing of the major characteristics of the over 30 known scriptoria which flourished in the area from the 14th to the 18th centuries. With black-and-white photographs. A212. $35.00 ($29.95).

**Jerusalem: The Holy City in the Eyes of Chroniclers, Visitors, Pilgrims, and Prophets from the Days of Abraham to the Beginnings of Modern Times**, by F. E. Peters (Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.). A collection of firsthand accounts of Jerusalem as it appeared through the centuries to a variety of visitors, from pilgrims to warriors and merchants, with a connecting narrative commentary by the author. With material about the Jews, Greeks, Armenians, Muslims, Crusaders, and European travellers, extensive notes, bibliographical information, and black-and-white photographs. H400. $39.50 ($33.50).


**Resistance and Revenge: The Armenian Assassination of the Turkish Leaders Responsible for the 1915 Massacres and Deportations**, by Jacques Derogy, preface by Gerard Chadapt, translated by A. M. Berrett (Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, N.J.). A study of Nemesis, the secret operation planned and carried out after World War I by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation to assassinate the Armenian leaders responsible for the Genocide of the Armenian population of Turkey. Details about the planning of the assassination of Talat Pasha and several others are included. H933. $20.95 ($22.50).

**In Search of the Indo-Europeans: Language, Archaeology, and Myth**, by J. P. Mallory (Thames and Hudson, London). A British scholar sifts through the evidence concerning the origins and expansion of the Indo-European peoples and assesses the recent conflicting theories about the location of the Indo-European homeland. The role and position of the Armenians is an integral part of the discussion. H408. $35.00 ($29.95).

**Songs of Bread, Songs of Salt**, by Diana Der Hovanessian (Ashod Press, New York). A collection of recent poems by this Armenian-American poet who has been acclaimed for her translations from the Armenian as well as for her original poetry. Most of the poems have