Facing New Challenges in Armenian Studies

Recent developments that will have an impact on Armenian studies in the United States and around the world were highlighted by the two featured speakers at the luncheon preceding NAASR's 37th Annual Assembly on November 23.

The scheduled speaker, Prof. John Huehnergard, chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University, described in general terms the process that will be used in finding a successor to Robert W. Thomson, the Mesrob Mashots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard, who will be leaving in June to accept appointment to the Gulbenkian Chair in Armenian Studies at Oxford University in England.

The other, unscheduled, speaker, Prof. Hrachik Simonian of Yerevan, the new chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad (Spuirk Committee), outlined ways in which the political developments in Armenia during the past four years will affect Armenian studies.

NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young, in his report to the Assembly, stressed the importance of implementing NAASR's programs to stimulate research into several neglected areas of Armenian history and culture.

Special federal tax benefits for tangible personal property donated to nonprofit organizations were extended for six months in December by Congress and the President.

Gifts of tangible items, such as antiquarian books, stamps, and artifacts, to nonprofit organizations such as NAASR can enable the donor to deduct the full current value of the items (regardless of the purchase cost) without generating the alternate minimum income tax.

If the donation exceeds the deduction limit for 1992, it can be carried over to subsequent tax years.

These special benefits are scheduled to expire on June 30, 1992; therefore, it is important that donations be made soon.

"This is an ideal opportunity to have the satisfaction of donating valuables to NAASR and to enjoy a tax benefit at the same time," NAASR Board Chairman Manoog S. Young pointed out.

Since tax provisions are complex and benefits vary according to circumstances, prospective donors are urged to contact a lawyer or accountant for full information about this and other advantageous ways to assist NAASR while at the same time receiving tax benefits.

Center Programs Attract Large Audiences

NAASR's Winter/Spring series of popular lectures on issues of interest to the Armenian-American community opened with a standing-room-only audience on February 17 for a report by the Rector and Vice-Rector of Yerevan State University on "Education in Armenia: Today and in the Future."

Dr. Norair Arakelyan, Rector, and Dr. Raphael Matevossian, the Vice-Rector, summarized the results of their visits to institutions of higher education in the United States and touched on some of the proposed changes in the higher education system in Armenia now under consideration.

The series continued with an author's reception on March 5 for Henry Morgen­thau III, author of the recently released history of the modern period, Dr. Simonian has participated in the recent changes in academic institutions in Armenia. He reported that all archives in Yerevan are now open to scholars, and archives in Moscow are similarly expected to be open, thus making it possible to understand for the first time, in full, the Armenian liberation struggle that began in the 1980s and the momentous events of 1918 to 1921 that transformed Armenia from an independent state to a Soviet republic.

"It is the task of the historian in Armenia to understand today and in the future."

Continued on page 2
Assembly Elects Directors, Accepts Reports, Honors 25-year Members

NAASR members at the 37th Annual Assembly elected nine Directors and heard reports of regional chapters and committees. Serving on this committee were Thomas T. Amiran, Aram S. Karakashian, Edward A. Kazarian, Dr. Moorad Mooradian, Martiros Petrosian, and Dr. Jirair Yezidlian. The report of the Auditing Committee was given by Sahag Kalachian, chairman. The committee recommended the return of Sami G. Alexander, Jirair Jigarian and Ronald Surian. There were no assembly matters. Nominating committee were: Nominating, Armin Dohanian, chairman, and members Edna Boghosian, Dr. Kilic H. Aynejian, Joanne Peterson; New Business and Resolution, heading by Paul T. Boghosian, chairman, and members Gary Alexander, Haige J. Garabedian, Leo Maghakian, Anna Marie Norehad, Charles S. Sahagian, and Harry Surian.

25-Year Membership Awards
Two NAASR members were honored with 25-year membership awards and certificates were presented to 14 members. Present to receive their awards were Anna Mooradian of West Falmouth, Mass., and Armin Dohanian of West Falmouth, Mass. Other recipients who attended the meeting were: Annenia Dohanian (Calif.), Armin M. Aivazian (N.Y.), Dr. Jacob C. Bebrasian, Ira Derelian (Calif.), Dr. John P. Kasparian (Calif.), Charine K. Krewickian (Calif.), Rose B. Van Dyke (Calif.), and Haig R. Yezidlian.

More Active West Coast Effort Needed
In the question-and-answer session, Mr. Boghosian responded to concerns about the approaching vacancies of the Armenian Studies Chairs at Harvard, UCLA, and Columbia; the practical utilization and placement of Armenian Studies' graduates; diaspora support for the Armenian schools; political exchanges and programs; and Peace Corps service in Armenia.

Southern California Armenian Committee Formed
As a result of the positive response and interest generated by Southern California NAASR members on the occasion of the visit by Board member Paul T. Boghosian, the NAASR Board of Directors has decided to constitute a Southern California Regional Committee.

The committee will organize programs for the community at large which will give increased visibility to NAASR and its programs in ad-


Boghosian Brings NAASR Message to LA

By Jack Broussalian

Paul T. Boghosian, the energetic entrepreneur, TV/film producer, and owner of the Boston-based International Business Services, recently paid his first visit to Los Angeles to recently share a success story: NAASR’s already well-established, but invisible role in taking intellectual initiatives on behalf of the Armenian community through its branches.

This purpose on his trip to the West Coast was to raise awareness of the Armenian Studies Chairs at Harvard, UCLA, and Columbia; the practical utilization and placement of Armenian Studies’ graduates; diaspora support for the Armenian schools; political exchanges and programs; and Peace Corps service in Armenia.

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Eye-Witnesses Describe Human Rights Violations in Karabagh

Two human rights activists who participated in fact-finding missions to Transcaucasia for three months as part of the Naasr program on November 21 about the serious human rights violations committed in Karabagh by Azerbaijan's military and its supporters.

The visit was arranged by the Naasr program, which is sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of America.

The two activists, who have been active in the human rights movement for many years, said that the situation in Karabagh is dire and that the people there are facing serious violations of their basic rights.

The activists also spoke about the need for international pressure on Azerbaijan to halt its military operations and to allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need.

Education Reform in Armenia Advocated by University Officials

The need for a total and fundamental restructuring of the educational system in Armenia was emphasized by a group of university officials at a conference in Yerevan.

The officials called for the establishment of a new system that would be based on merit and would provide opportunities for students from all backgrounds.

They also called for the creation of a new curriculum that would focus on critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

In addition, the officials urged for the establishment of a new funding model that would allow for more resources to be directed towards education.

While in the Boston area, the two educators signed a protocol with Northeastern University to establish an exchange program for graduate students.

Present at the Naasr program were Northeastern Professors Leonard Buckle and Suzanne Thomas-Bucke, co-directors of the Law, Policy, and Society Program, and Diane A. Cappello, who is the first Northeastern graduate student to participate in the program.

The translator for the program was Hasmik Martinian, the first graduate student from Yerevan State University to participate in the Northeastern program.

Armenian Studies

TUTIS UNIVERSITY, a course in Modern Armenian History (Spring 1992 term) is offered by Dr. George Bournoutian. It was made possible by a grant from Mrs. Elsbet Jafarian Duffett.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Fresno, offers an Armenian Studies minor in February and signed an agreement with the University of Yerevan, Armenia, to establish an exchange program for graduate students.

The course is being offered through the School of Education, and is open to all students, regardless of major.

Armenian Language Course on TV

The CSUF Armenian Studies Program has begun a new language course, Introduction to Modern Armenian, to be offered on television in the fall of 1993.

The course is being taught through the School of Education, and is open to all students, regardless of major.

Armenian American Internationa...
CONFERENCES

- Aspects of Armenian Literature and Literary Criticism: Yerevan, Armenia, Oct. 7-9, 1994. Co-sponsored by Yerevan University, the Academy of Sciences of Armenia, the Armenian National Literary and Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad, the Armenian Academy's Institute for Comparative Studies and the Armenian Literary Association at the State University of Yerevan, with the participation of Prof. Avedis K. Sanjian, Nanrekesi Profesor of Armenian Studies at UCLA.

- Armenian Literature: From Paris to Toliarn. Also participated, among these three Armenians from abroad were Krikor Bedelian (Paris), Marc Nicarchian (Paris), and Leon Berberian. Dr. Arthur (Avedis) Derounian of Manhattan was a NAASR Charter Member. Dr. Richard Hovannisian, chair-discussant, Khachig Tololyan, Peroomian, was organized by the Society for Armenian Studies.


- Middle East Studies Association, Washing ton, D.C., Nov. 28-29. Foreign participants were organized by the Society for Armenian Studies.

- Diversity Among Middle Easterners in California. Richard Hovannisian, chair-discussant, Mehdi Davoodi, Claudiun Der-Martirosian, Georges Saghah, and Jonathan Jacobs.


- UPCOMING: Movses Khorenatsi and Medieval Armenia: A Case Study of Erznka; Jean Pierre Mahe, chair-discussant, Khachig Tololyan, Peroomian, was organized by the Society for Armenian Studies.

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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 publications in English and other Western foreign languages on Armenian and related subjects appear below. Figures in parentheses represent discounted prices for NAASR members in good standing with dues paid for the current calendar year.

Shipping charges are $1 for the first book and 50¢ for each additional book. Special discounts are available for libraries and bookstores.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE
Aminovksy, by Nikolai Novouspensky, translated from the Russian by Richard Ware (Aurora Art Publishers, Leningrad). Ninety-nine paintings, reproduced in full color, by this popular Armenian marine artist of the 19th century. The introduction summarizes his life and creative activities, with reproductions of sketches and photographs taken in his native Theodosia in the Crimea. A217p, $40.00 ($35.00).


HISTORY
The Armenian Genocide: Documentation, Vol. 8 (The Institute for Armenian Studies, Munich). A collection of documents reflecting efforts made since 1975 to achieve international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Although eighth in the projected series (two volumes have already appeared), it has been released now because of its current topical importance. Includes scholarly papers and statements by Armenian representatives and human rights organizations. H466, $75.00 ($67.50).

The Armenian Genocide: Before the Judgment of History, by John S. Karkosakian, translated from the Russian by Shushan Altunian (Sphinx Press, Madison, CT). A comprehensive overview by the late respected historian and diplomat of the Armenian Genocide, from the origins of the Armenian Question in the 19th century to the rise of the Young Turks, the events of the Genocide itself, the current power of Ataturk, and recent Turkish falsifiers. Includes maps, population tables, notes, bibliography, and an epilogue by the author's son. H485p, $24.95 ($21.50).

Sandals, edited by Jonathan Riley-Smith (Facts On File, New York and Oxford). The history of the Crusades told in over 120 maps in color, accompanied by linking narrative and contemporary accounts, with illustrations. The Crusader movement is described as one of the greatest expressions of popular ideology in world history and one that played a dramatic role in the religious, political, and economic development of Europe and the Near East. Includes sections on the Lusignan kings, the rise of the Ottomans, critics of crusading, chivalry, etc. X311, $40.00 ($35.00).

British Foreign Office Dossiers on Turkish War Crimes, compiled with an introduction by Yankto Yeghiayan (American Armenian International College, La Verne, CA). These documents describe the war crimes, including the photographs by this author's son. H458p, $24.95 ($21.50).

Theodosia in the Crimea, by John A. Riley-Smith (Facts On File, New York). A systematic analysis of the major nationalities of the former Soviet Union in the light of the dramatic changes that have taken place since February 1988, when Nagorno-Karabagh called for the region's transfer from Azerbaijan to Armenia. The chapter on Armenia is written by Edmund M. Herzig. Cloth, H459c, $49.95 ($44.95); paper, H459p, $19.95 ($17.95).

Pathfinders for Posternity: Armenian-American Youth in Transition—A Statistical Survey, by Garbis Der Yeghiayan (American Armenian International College/Abril Printing, Los Angeles). The results of a questionnaire distributed to over 2,000 American-Armenian students (12 to 19 years of age) living in 22 states from California to Massachusetts, conducted during 1990. Questions revolve around attitudes toward identity, family relations, educational priorities, religious affiliation, use of drugs, moral issues, and social-emotional priorities. H465p, $23.95 ($20.00).

Politics and Demography: Armenians, Turks and Kurds in the Ottoman Empire, by Levon Marashlian (Zoryan Institute, Cambridge, MA). A critical analysis of the population statistics concerning the number of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire on the eve of the Genocide and a critique of authors who attempt to minimize the numbers for political purposes. With maps and tables. H457p, $19.95 ($17.50).

The Romance of Alexander the Great by Pseudo-Callisthenes, translated from the Armenian version with an introduction by Albert M. Wolohojan (Columbia University Press, New York). This first translation into English of the Armenian version of this popular biography of Alexander the Great, known to scholars as the Pseudo-Callisthenes, was published in 1969. This Armenian version dating to the fifth century provides a glimpse of the spirit of the original Greek text, most of which has been lost. H469, $25.00 ($21.50).

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

At the French Embassy in Sofia: Essays and Criticism, by Peter Sourian (Ahood Press, New York). The title piece by the author, who is professor of English and chairman of the division of languages and literature at Bard College, recounts a recent visit to Bulgaria. The other articles are reprinted from other publications. Included is a series on "Television, 1975-1980," first written for The Nation, and another on "Things Armenian." T179p, $20.00 ($16.95).

Lemmatized Index of the Armenian Version of Deuteronomy, by J.J. Seltenberg and A. de Leeuw van Weenen (Septuagint and Cognate Studies 32, Scholars Press, Atlanta). A list of words in the classical Armenian version of the book of Deuteronomy, with grammatical information and references to chapter and verse. The first printed result of the activities of the Leiden Armenian Database, whose purpose is to establish an on-line library of texts in classical and medieval Armenian. Cloth, C61c, $19.95 ($16.95); paper, C61p, $14.95 ($12.95).


William Saroyan: A Study of the Short Fiction, by Edward Halsey Foster (Twayne Continued on page 7

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