

**Professor Richard N. Frye**

*Introductory remarks to Panel on "Armenian Studies: Problems and Needs, June 11, 1955.*

This is really a very happy evening for me, to see the final fruition, the result of all our struggles. My colleagues here at the table as well, are really impressed this evening with the amount of enthusiasm, the interest shown by you, by turning out here tonight, throughout the whole day of meetings, and bringing this now into a reality, because it is now a reality. The panel, I hope, will be very informal, it is primarily intended to show you the role which Armenian Studies can play in a University and help in other studies; how it can be fitted in; how it can be a really important interesting activity of itself in a University. Now I just received yesterday a letter from London which pleased me very much and told me that a new edition, a real scholarly edition with notes and well worked over, of a history of the Albanians by Movses Dasxuranci – if you don't like my pronunciation you have His Grace Archbishop Tiran to thank, he gave me a few pointers on how I should pronounce things. It is really a milestone. It is just the sort of thing which we should encourage and try to bring about and to support. This new edition will be out, I hope, within a year and the English translation will follow.

Now, Mr. Kolligian mentioned the support, the needed and the welcome support which the Clergy has always given to endeavors such as this. I don't need to say much about the Armenian Clergy and the support that they give and what they have done is, if anything, far greater than the support which is given to general Armenian endeavors in the secular fields. Suffice it to say that the scholarly activities of the Armenian Clergy has really done more than anything else to keep Armenian scholarship alive. Since our schedule is behind time, I

should like to present to you someone whom you know, of course, quite well, who will give you a few introductory remarks for the panel, and I should like to introduce to you Reverend Bedikian, who is not only, as your Program says, the pastor emeritus of the Armenian Evangelical Church in New York, but who has participated himself in teaching Armenian at Columbia University and elsewhere and who is a scholar in his own right. I should like to present to you now Rev. Bedikian.