

# society for armenian studies NEWSLETTER

Vol. III, No. 2 (6), Spring, 1978

## COUNCIL MEETING SETS PROGRAM FOR 1978

The Administrative Council of the Society for Armenian Studies, Inc., met in New York on March 29, 1978 with the following members present: Robert Thomson, chairman; Arpena Mesrobian, secretary; Haig Der Manuelian, treasurer; and Richard Hovannisian, Ronald Suny, and Jirair Libaridian. The agenda for the meeting included SAS sponsorship of Armenian studies panels, participation in related conferences, SAS publications, projects proposed by members, and membership.

**1. SAS sponsorship of panels at MESA 1978.** The Council reviewed proposals by members for individual papers and panels. The following two panels were accepted by the Council for sponsorship at the 1978 meeting of MESA: (a) Armenian Communities in the Middle East in the 18th and 19th Centuries, (b) Armenia and Islam: Image and Idea.

**2. Sponsorship of Symposium at the University of Michigan.** Ronald Suny reported that a symposium was being organized at Ann Arbor concurrently with the MESA meeting under the aegis of the University of Michigan and with the cooperation of the Alex Manoogian Cultural Fund. The Council agreed to sponsor the symposium.

**3. Panel at the NAASS meeting.** Hovannisian reported that a panel has been organized for inclusion in the program at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the annexation of Eastern Armenia to the Russian Empire. The NAASS had accepted the panel.

(For further details regarding these panels see "Conferences"; abstracts of papers to be presented at the MESA meeting will be published in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.)

The Council was also advised that there had been invitations to the SAS and council members individually by other academic organizations and institutions to organize panels on issues related to Armenian studies. The Council agreed that these should be pursued vigorously. To facilitate the organization of such panels and increase the number of participants, the Council decided to devise a questionnaire to be filled by SAS members to ascertain their areas of interest and research more accurately.

**4. Projects proposed by members.** The 1977 Annual Business meeting of the SAS had favored feasibility studies of projects submitted by three members: (a) John Greppin, microfilming of rare and essential volumes in Armenian studies published during the last two hundred years; (b) V.L. Parseghian, organization of slide collection on Armenian architecture; and (c) Khachig Tololyan, microfilming of the newspaper collection in the Mekhitarist Library in Vienna. The chairman presented the interim reports forwarded by the three members. The Council agreed that these reports did not call for any immediate action on the part of the SAS. Therefore, it decided to advise the members to prepare a final report to be submitted at the 1978 Annual Business Meeting. (For details on the architecture project see Parseghian's article in this issue.)

**5. Publications.** Libaridian reported on the progress made by the newly organized editorial board in insuring the quality of the content and format of the society's *Newsletter*. He also advised the Council of the initial steps taken toward the publication of the first volume of a separate annual bibliography of Armenian studies, hopefully by November 1978. Following discussion of specific needs and recommendations, the Council decided that the editorial board of the *Newsletter* should be responsible for the bibliography as well. Furthermore, the Council approved the printing of 250 copies per issue, a \$5 subscription fee to SAS publications for non-members, and new rates for advertising in the *Newsletter* (\$50 per page, \$35 for a half-page).

**6. Membership.** It was reported that membership in the SAS had increased by 25 percent (currently over 125) since the Annual Business Meeting of 1977. The sharp increase was due to a large extent to the positive response of a number of Armenologists from Europe to invitations sent to them on behalf of the Council.

The Council also debated the idea of offering SAS membership to institutions interested in Armenian studies at a fee of \$100 per year. A decision was deferred until further thought could be given and members had an opportunity to express their views on the subject.

**7. SAS affiliation with academic groups other than MESA.** The Council heard reports on the possibilities of SAS affiliation with the American Historical Association and the NAASS. The Council agreed that action should wait until the membership could be consulted.

Members are encouraged to express their views on any or all of the above issues by writing to the chairman of the Council.

## ARMENIAN MANUSCRIPTS ON MICROFILM IN THE HILL MONASTIC MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

by Julian G. Plante

The Hill Monastic Manuscript Library (HMML) of Saint John's Abbey and University was founded in 1964 to microfilm and to deposit at the research center in Collegeville, Minnesota, copies of manuscripts dating before 1600 still extant in the world's libraries. Its purpose in doing so is first to secure the continued existence, at least on film, of manuscript material which cannot possibly be replaced, and second to make available in a single center documents of varied interest for the use of students and scholars. As an ancillary benefit the collection also serves to introduce the general public to the rich stores of manuscript materials which still survive, however precariously, in our modern world.

Since 1964, HMML has sent microfilming teams or has sponsored microfilming operations in four European and African areas: Austria (1964-1973), Spain (1973-1976), Malta (1973-1978), and Ethiopia (1973-1978) in a continuing operation. In Austria, more than 31,000 *codices manuscripti* and 100,000 papyri fragments were microfilmed. The total number of pages microfilmed in black and

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white exceeds 12,500,000 pages; 42,000 color exposures were made of whole pages and of details from pages of illuminated manuscript books. Seventy-six individual libraries, monastic, ecclesiastical, and public, cooperated in this project which secured a virtually complete recording on microfilm of the medieval and Renaissance manuscripts found in Austrian libraries.

Scholars pursuing Armenian studies have available microfilms of some 1,200 Armenian manuscripts dating from the ninth to the nineteenth century at HMML headquarters in the Bush Center at St. John's University.

#### A. From Austria

1. *Wien. Mechitaristen-Congregation 1,181 Mss.* See *Catalog (Katalog) der armenischen Handschriften in der Mechitaristen-Bibliothek zu Wien*, vol. 1 by Jacobus Dashian, vol. 2 by Hamazasp Oskian, "Haupt-Catalog der armenischen Handschriften", herausgegeben von der Wiener Mechitaristen-Congregation, Band I: Die armenischen Handschriften in Österreich, 2. (-3.) Buch (Wien, 1895-1963). Vol. 1 Mss. 1-572, 1163p. with indices in Armenian and German; vol. 2, Mss. 574-1304, 1154p. with indices in Armenian only. The descriptions are in modern Armenian, but there is, for vol. 1, a German "Uebersicht" (pp. IX-XVII) and German descriptions in the section entitled "Die armenischen Handschriften im Einzelnen" (pp. 1-250) and a "Register" (pp. 251-77); for vol. 2, a section entitled "Katalog der armenischen Handschriften in der Mechitaristen-Bibliothek zu Wien" contains a German "Vorwort" (pp. 1101-4) and summary descriptions in German (pp. 1105-54).
2. *Wien. Österreichische Nationalbibliothek 33 Mss.* See *Catalog der armenischen Handschriften in der K.K. Hofbibliothek zu Wien*, by Jacobus Dashian, "Haupt-Catalog der armenischen Handschriften", herausgegeben von der Wiener Mechitaristen-Congregation, Band I: Die armenischen Handschriften in Österreich, 1. Buch (Wien, 1891). Unfortunately a copy of this catalog is not in the library of HMML; however descriptive inventory cards made at the time of filming are available for consultation. A photocopy of these cards is available for \$1.00.

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## Major Architecture Project Underway

Dr. V. L. Parseghian

Photographic archival collections of Armenian architecture are being established at thirteen universities in Europe and the United States. These will be resources for use in research, for theses, and for teaching of architectural history.

The international project is being sponsored by the Armenian Educational Council, Inc., in cooperation with several universities in the United States and major architectural centers in Italy, France, and Germany.

Armenian art and architecture played a central role, both geographically and chronologically, within the complex of Greek, Syrian, Roman, Persian, Byzantine, Arab, and Turkish cultures that swept through the Near and Middle East and the Caucasus. Art and architecture became the common language through which these peoples and cultures communicated with one another. By the same token, art and architecture remain a medium through which the West may trace its own roots to that vast cultural mix in which Armenian contributions also had part.

For example, after assimilating Roman and Syrian building practices, Armenia generated a series of highly original solutions to the problem of fitting a great stone dome over a rectangular plan. In the opinion of some scholars, it was from this repertoire of forms that Byzantium drew its most exciting designs. These solutions, and the flight of artisans to the West during the Middle Ages, may have paved the way for the Gothic structures that emerged in Western Europe.

Because the Armenian monuments have been widely dispersed over three countries and on difficult terrain, until now they have been denied the attention they deserve. Fortunately the most difficult aspects of the field studies have been overcome recently through the work of European architects. Many thousands of photographs are now available with which to assemble archival collections that reveal the scope and significance of Armenian architectural history.

The project is being guided by a distinguished international Advisory Board of specialists in Armenian and Byzantine art and architecture, with Dr. Sirarpie Der Nersessian as Honor Member.

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## SAS NEWSLETTER

The *SAS Newsletter* is published in the fall, winter, and spring of every year by the Society for Armenian Studies, Inc., 6 Divinity Avenue, Room 103, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

Officers of the SAS:

**Chairman:** Robert W. Thomson, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, 6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

**Secretary:** Arpena 'S. Mesrobian, 4851 Pembridge Circle, Syracuse, New York 13125.

**Treasurer:** Haig Der Manuelian, 27 State Street, Boston, Mass. 02109.

*Newsletter* Editorial Board:

Arthur Beylerian, John A.C. Greppin, Robert H. Hews, Nazaret Naltchayan.

**Editor:** Gerard J. Libaridian, 907 South Lawrence, Tacoma, Wash. 98405.

Printed at Cleveland State University

## Editor's Notes

In our continuous drive to improve the quality of the *Newsletter*, we have introduced some changes in the format and content of recent issues. First, beginning with the previous issue, the *Newsletter* is being printed at the Cleveland State University. John Greppin has been responsible for the production aspect. Judging from the favorable reaction of many of our readers, the new arrangement has meant a more presentable publication. One member called it "almost respectable". Second, readers will have noticed the new, simpler logo adopted for the *Newsletter* beginning with the present issue.

Third, we have eliminated the bibliographic section altogether from these pages. Instead, the Editorial Board has already begun work on the *Annual Bibliography* to be published by the SAS which, hopefully, will be far more comprehensive and adequate than what we were able to offer previously. The target date for the publication of the first volume is November 1978. Nonetheless, we have preserved the sections on forthcoming publications and current research by members, as these serve a different purpose.

Last, but not least, we have invited Prof. Arthur Beylerian of the Université de Paris to join the Editorial Board of the *Newsletter*. Given the importance of European centers of Armenian studies and the increasing number of Armenologists there joining the SAS, we believe this will facilitate communication between scholars of the two continents. In addition, Dr. Beylerian will bring much talent and experience to the Board.

We are hopeful that ultimately the *Newsletter* will provide more than news about the Society for Armenian Studies and Armenology. The Editorial Board invites readers to contribute to this goal by using the *Newsletter* as a publication where the concerns of those involved in teaching or doing research in the field can be expressed and debated.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is SEPTEMBER 4, 1978. There is no deadline to assistance which any of our members might wish to provide in any aspect of our work.—GJL

# APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Grants provided by various agencies of the Federal government and private foundations finance a major portion of all research done in the U.S. Although academic institutions and personnel have long benefited from available funds, it is only recently that those in Armenian studies have begun to tap these resources.

We asked three of our members with fresh experiences in this area to share their advice with those of our readers who might be interested in applying for such grants. Robert Thomson has received a grant from NEH under their program sponsoring the translation of classic works of foreign literatures. The project is to produce a translation from the classical Armenian of Elishe's *History* with a literary and historical commentary, plus a study of the symbolic role of Vardan in Armenian life from the fifth century to recent times. Robert Mirak

directed the ARS's Armenian Ethnic Heritage Project funded by the U.S. Office of Education. Dennis Papazian led an assault mounted by the Armenian Assembly to have the NEH underwrite an Oral History Study of the Armenian Survivors of the Massacres of 1915.

*The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*, published annually by the U.S. government, is a comprehensive catalog of all federal grants provided for educational and social purposes. If not available in a university library, it can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (\$18). Among the many directories of private foundations, *The 1978 Foundation 500* is probably the most complete. For information write to the Foundation Research Service, 39 East 51st Street, New York, New York 10022.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTENT...

by R. W. Thomson

In recent years more funds have become available for the humanities. As most of these are government funds which we are subsidizing by our taxes, there is no reason to discourage their legitimate use for Armenian studies.

Proposals submitted to all sources, public or private, are assessed by anonymous outside readers. The intelligence or the real interest of these readers should not be underestimated. So the first essential is that a proposal be coherent, lucidly written, and to the point. If not put off by jargon and bad English, the reader will then be able to assess the intrinsic value of the proposal. Here two points are important: the proposal must be addressed to some topic not already covered by previous scholars, and it must be seen to be relevant both to Armenian studies specifically and also to a wider area of scholarly or public concern.

The scholarly career of the individual making the proposal is also of relevance. Readers are usually sympathetic to a junior person who needs time away from teaching in order to engage in research, for proof of competence in original scholarship is not irrelevant in some universities to promotion and tenure. The same applies to more senior professors who need time away from administrative duties. Financial support for supplementing sabbatical pay (usually 50 percent of regular salary) is thus often more tempting to the trustees of a foundation than full support. Travel expenses and other expenses (secretarial, etc.) must also be reasonable for the project. Those who manage foundations usually have a shrewd business sense and will reject requests that are out of line with real costs.

If applicants have presented their plans lucidly and coherently, showing relevance and feasibility and demonstrating their own ability to do an excellent job—which includes submission before the deadline—they must also give the names of referees of their own choice. Here it is important to ask persons familiar with an applicant and his or her work—not necessarily personal friends, but professional colleagues. The referees' comments are read very carefully by the trustees who have had long practice. It is not helpful to ask a more "prestigious" (which is not the same as competent or respected) person to write on behalf of someone he hardly knows. Such recommendations carry little weight.

There are no specific guidelines that will guarantee success in applying for grants. But as the field of Armenian studies is expanding and its relevance for other disciplines is becoming more and more obvious, we are in a comparatively good position.

## ... AND FORM

by Robert Mirak

The Armenian Ethnic Heritage Project, sponsored by the Armenian Relief Society, was awarded \$38,000 by the U.S. Office of Education, under the Ethnic Heritage Studies Act, in 1975-76, for the development and dissemination of Armenian curricular materials in public schools and Armenian parochial and Saturday schools.

The five-member committee responsible for the proposal included one public school and two college teachers (proposal writers), one state education official (budget preparation), and one member of the Armenian Relief Society. Work began with extensive study of prior successful grant proposals, such as the Jewish American grant from Brandeis. Utilizing previous curricular work of the Armenian Relief Society National Educational Council, the proposal writers drafted a detailed twenty-five-page report specifying in clear, strong, nontechnical language the rationale for the proposal, historical background of the community, the modules proposed for development, resources available in the greater Boston community, and the proposed staff. Throughout, simple and concrete examples were used to point out the vital need of ethnic materials for Armenian Americans as well as for non-Armenians to learn about this group. Contributed materials were given a single style and vision by a proposal editor. Supporting letters from over twenty-five individuals and institutions, both Armenian and non-Armenian, were gathered to supplement the application. Every requirement of the grant application was carefully met (permission to modify onerous requirements may be obtained after funding). The final "package", in addition to the proposal and supporting letters, included a series of sample artifacts, published works, and pilot materials to make ideas concrete (i.e., *khatchkars* of plaster of paris to illustrate our module on *khatchkars*). The original request for \$50,000 was negotiated to the eventual \$38,000.

The positive response to the proposal could be ascribed partially to the fact that it was the first to be submitted from an Armenian-American group. But the success of the proposal (readers termed it one of the ablest of the hundreds submitted) lay in (a) the detail and emotional intensity of the writing, and (b) the wealth of supporting letters and materials.

## ... AND CONNECTIONS

by Dennis Papazian

The idea of doing an oral history study of the Armenian survivors of the 1915 massacres is not a new one. Much work has already been done at the University of California, Los Angeles, under the direction of Professor Richard Hovannisian, by the AYF, and at the Armenian Library and Museum of Boston; and a long-term interest has been shown by Dr. Lawrence Parsegian, Professor Emeritus of Rensselaer Institute. Furthermore, Marjorie Hovespian Dobkin, in her book on the Smyrna affair, drew extensively from oral history reports.

Vigen and Haig Der Manuelian, among others, sent to the Assembly reports several months ago that the American Jewish Committee had received a grant from NEH to do a study of the survivors of the Holocaust. Under the direction of John and Haig, ALMA drew up a tentative plan for such a project. Since time and expertise in grantsmanship were lacking, these gentlemen asked The Armenian Assembly to apply for a grant on behalf of the whole Armenian community.

Research was done, materials were gathered, and an extensive project prepared. Several visits were made to NEH to talk to re-

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sponsible individuals. These individuals heartily encouraged us to proceed.

It was important that the project be thoroughly thought out, that a systematic program be designed, that supporting materials be well organized, and that evidence of widespread support be given. It was also necessary to confirm the expertise of the project director and all supporting personnel.

Once the project was submitted to NEH, friends in Congress were asked to write letters of support and to express an interest. The support on the part of Congressional friends may or may not have been useful. Such things are hard to determine.

Furthermore, letters were solicited from prestigious individuals and scholars active in the field. Once more it is hard to determine how important these supporting letters were.

There is no question that a poor proposal will not be funded by NEH; on the other hand, it is perhaps true that there are more good proposals than funds available. It may be supposed that when NEH has projects of equal value, it will be more inclined to support those projects which have the widest possible public support.

## ARMENIAN STUDIES IN PROGRESS

Compiled by N. Nalchayan

### I. Forthcoming Publications by Members

#### A. Books

- Baliozian, A., Annotated translation from Armenian of Puzant Granian's *My Land, My People*. Los Angeles, 1978.  
*Anthology of Writings on Armenia, from Herodotus and Strabo to Mandelstam and Shaginyan*. AGBU. New York, 1979.  
*Interviews with Contemporary Armenian Authors and Scholars*. Toronto, 1979.

Bryson, T. A., *U. S. Diplomatic Relations with the Middle East: An Annotated Bibliography*, 1979.

Dostourian, A., *The Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa: English Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Armenian Heritage Press.

#### B. Articles

- Battersby, H. R., "Turkish Folk Medicine", *Al-Turath Al-Sha'bi* (Iraq).  
"Notes on Armenian and Indo-European", *TAR*.  
"Soviet Uzbeks and Armenians: Past and Present", *TAR*.  
Hewsen, H. R., "Gelat, Monastery of", *Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History*.

### II. Current Research

- Afanasyan, S.: Sovietization of Armenia.  
Balekjian, K.: Hittite-Armenian Comparative Study.  
Battersby, H. R.: Urartian Civilization-Archaeology.  
Beylerian, A.: International Diplomacy, the Armenian Question: 19th-20th Centuries.  
Hewsen, R. H.: Chronology of 4th Century Armenia; The Meliks of Eastern Armenia.  
Kouymjian, D.: Iconography of Armenian Pentecost; Islamic bronzes with Armenian inscriptions; Medieval Armenian manuscripts: bindings, illuminations.  
Minassian, M.: Great Armenian-French Dictionary.  
Nalchayan, N.: Soghomon Tehlirian's trial and the Socialist press of Europe; Soviet Armenian perceptions of Turkey.  
Outtier, B.: Eastern Christianity: Armenian-Syrian-Georgian-Arabic literary relations; Armenian Church music.  
Sunny, R. G.: Georgia: A Survey History.  
Suakjian, K. Y.: The Role of the Great Powers in the Genocide of the Armenians.  
Thomson, R. W.: Reference guide to Armenian literature (with K. Bardakjian).  
Winkler, G.: The Origins of Epiphany Based on Armenian and Syriac Sources.

### III. Papers Presented

- Arslianian, A. H., "Volunteer Army-Armenian Relations, 1918-1920", with Robert Nichols; at Second Combined Conference of Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Associations for Slavic Studies; Houston, Texas.  
Calian, C. S., "The World of Eastern Christianity"; at Annual Meeting of Clinton (Iowa) Council of Churches.  
Kouymjian, D., "The Image of the Armenians in Eastern Art"; at University of Venice Symposium on the Armenian Culture between East and West. "Safavid Bronzes with Armenian Inscriptions in the Victoria and Albert Museum", at the University of Venice seminar on the Art of the Safavid Period.  
Sunny, R. G., "Georgia since Stalin: A Case Study in Soviet Nationality Policy"; at the Mid-West Slavic Conference, Bloomington, Indiana.

## CONFERENCES

### 1. MESA Annual Meeting, 1978

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association will convene at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from November 8-11, 1978. The Society for Armenian Studies will be co-sponsoring two panels on Armenian studies:

- "Armenian Communities in the Middle East in the 18th and 19th Centuries". The Panelists are Arpi Hamalian (Concordia University, Montreal), Levon Marshlian (UCLA) and Rouben Adalian (UCLA).
- "Armenia and Islam: Image and Idea". The speakers are: Robert Thomson (Harvard University), Nora Nercessian (University of Puget Sound), and Lucy Sidman (Boston University). Renata Holod (University of Pennsylvania) will chair the session.

### 2. Symposium on Armenian Civilization

A day-long symposium with the theme "Politics and Society in Armenia: Rewriting Armenian History" will take place on November 8, 1978 at the University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor. The symposium is organized in conjunction with the MESA meeting, under the aegis of the University of Michigan, and sponsored by the SAS. The morning session will deal with the ancient and medieval eras, while the afternoon session will cover the modern and contemporary periods. Ronald Sunny will serve as coordinator and chair the symposium.

### 3. International Conference in Milan, Italy

"The Socio-cultural Structure of the Armenian Diaspora" is the theme of an international conference to be held in Milan, Italy from June 29-July 1, 1978. The conference is organized by ICOM (Institute for Minority Cultures) under the aegis of the Municipality of Milan. Herman Vahramian is the coordinator.

### 4. AAASS Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies will take place in Columbus, Ohio beginning October 15, 1978. The program will include a panel on Armenian studies with the theme "The Annexation of Eastern Armenia to the Russian Empire, 1828". The speakers are: Ronald Sunny, Sarkish Shmavonian and George Bour-noutian.

### 5. Symposium on Armenian Art in Erevan

The Second International Symposium on Armenian Art sponsored by the Academy of Sciences of Armenia will be held September 12-18, 1978 in Erevan, Armenian SSR. A number of SAS members have accepted invitations to present papers or attend the symposium. The *Newsletter* will provide details of this and other conferences when the programs are finalized.

### 6. International Celebration of Armenian Music in London

The Institute of Armenian Music in London, England has organized an eight-day conference on Armenian music entitled *MusicArmenia '78* to take place in London August 6-13, 1978.

The conference will consist of a series of morning lectures on primary studies, afternoon lectures on source studies, and evening concerts.

The category of primary studies consists of the following nine presentations:

Professor N. Tahmizian

"Main Tendencies in the Historical Development of Armenian Sacred Music (5th-15th Centuries)", August 7;

"The Theory and Structure of Armenian Music", August 9;

Dr. Robert Atayan

"Armenian Secular Music: Origins, Development, Oral Traditions, the *Gousans* and *Ashugs*; Komitas as Collector and Researcher", August 8;

"Armenian Old and New Neumes", August 10;

Loris Jeknavorian

"Medieval Armenian Composers (5th-15th Centuries)", August 9;

"Armenian Musical Instruments", August 12;

Zohrab Shamlian

"The Armenian Liturgy: a Commentary on Its Text and Music", August 11;

Ates Orga

"Armenian Orchestral Music", August 11;

Dr. Wahe H. Balekjian

"Armenian Choral and Orchestral Music", August 12.

The following are the lectures on other musical traditions:

Professor Edith Gerson-Kiwi, "Jewish Music";

Dr. Hormoz Farhat, "The Music of the Islamic World: Arabic, Iranian, Turkish";

Simon Harris, "The Byzantine and Russian Traditions: with Special Emphasis on Byzantine Communion Chants";

Professor Gilbert Reaney, "The Music of the Medieval Catholic Church, Including the Gregorian and Ambrosian Traditions";

Rev. Dr. A. M. Jones, "The Religious Music of Africa";

Dom Bernard Outtier, "Syriac Music";

Jean Jenkins, "Music in Ethiopia".

Evening concerts throughout the week will be presented by the following musicians and musical groups: Cathy Berberian, David Wilde, Manoug Parikian, Loris Jeknavorian; and the Ambrosian Singers, London Virtuosi, Philomusica of London, and Chilingirian String Quartet. They will present the *Life of Christ* (after Medieval chants), selections from contemporary Armenian chamber music, contemporary Armenian music, Armenian folk songs and choruses, and compositions from Mirzoyan, Hovhanness, and Komitas.

Further information can be obtained from Mr. Michael Aston, Administrative Secretary, 82 Kensington High Street, London W8, England.

## 7. Byzantine Studies Symposium at Birmingham, England

The Twelfth Annual Spring Symposium of the Center for Byzantine Studies of the University of Birmingham, England was held from March 18-21, 1978. The theme this year was "The Byzantine Black Sea". More than half a dozen papers made references to the Armenian communities of the Crimea, but, unfortunately, there was no single paper dealing with this particular topic.

Prof. Helmut Buschhausen (Institut für Byzantinistik, Vienna) presented a paper on a profusely illustrated manuscript of the fourteenth century executed in the Crimea (Vienna MS 242). Prof. Buschhausen is the co-author with Dr. Heide Buschhausen of the recently published study on the miniatures of Armenian manuscripts in the Vienna Mekhitarist collection. Prof. Dikran Kouymjian (CSU Fresno and the American College in Paris) presented a discussion on the narrative cycles of early Armenian manuscripts. In a paper entitled "Trebizond and the Turks, 1461-1583", Dr. Heath Lowry (American Research Institute in

Turkey) provided documented figures on the size of the Greek, Armenian, and Muslim populations of Trebizond based on four Ottoman *defters* covering the said period. Nubar Hampartzumian, the noted Rumanian archaeologist now residing in London, presented a major report on the "Archaeology of Histria".

The papers of the Symposium will be published in the *Journal of Pontic Studies*. —D. Kouymjian

## NEW MEMBERS

SERGE AFANASIAN, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), graduate student; history, modern Armenian.

MARTA TERSAKIAN BATMASIAN, University of Massachusetts, instructor, Armenian studies; Brandeis University graduate student; Middle Eastern languages and history.

HAROLD R. BATTERSBY, SUNY Geneseo, associate professor; anthropology-linguistics.

ARTHUR BEYLERIAN, Université de Paris; professor; modern and contemporary history, Armenian, European, and Ottoman.

ARAXIE P. CHURUKIAN, University of California, Riverside, librarian, Head of Serials Cataloging; history.

VAHAKN N. DADRIAN, SUNY Geneseo, professor; sociology, race relations, collective behavior, genocide.

CHARLES J. F. DOWSETT, Pembroke College, Oxford, England; Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies.

FREDERIC FEYDIT, Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France; Professor Emeritus, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales; Armenian Studies. (Retired)

GUY LA FONTAINE, Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium); first assistant, Centre de Recherches sur l'Orient Chrétien.

MARTIROS MINASSIAN, Université de Genève; member, Department of Mediterranean and Slavic Languages; Armenian linguistic and philological studies.

VREJ NERSESSIAN, The British Library, London, England; research assistant, Department of Oriental Books and Manuscripts; history, theology.

BERNARD OUTTIER, Abbaye S. Pierre de Solesmes; Armenian literature and liturgical music.

VARTAN-HAYGAZN OZINIAN, Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle; visiting professor; Armenian civilization, social and economic planning and policy.

GEORGE SHAHNAZARIAN, Columbia University, graduate student; applied linguistics.

VIRGIL B. STROHMEYER, JR., UCLA (1978-79), graduate student; Indo-European linguistics.

## NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Compiled by N. Naltchayan

ARSLANIAN, A. H., received a grant from the Faculty Development Fund of St. Olaf College to complete research in London of a book-length study of British policy in the Caucasus, 1917-1921.

BEYLERIAN, A., received a grant from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.

HADIAN, R., received a NEH fellowship for research on European diplomacy and Ottoman decision making.

BARSOUMIAN, H., appointed educational coordinator for the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, New York.

KOUMJIAN, D., appointed professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno effective 1978-79.

MESROBIAN, A., designated a representative of Association of American University Presses and will attend the New York Governor's Conference on Libraries.

TOLOLYAN, K., received an ACLS grant for research in comparative literature.

YENGOIAN, A., Visiting Professor University of California, at Berkeley (January-June, 1977), appointed Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University (1979-1980).

# BOOKS

## THE ARAB INTERLUDE IN ARMENIA

by Robert H. Hewsen

*The Arab Emirates in Bagratid Armenia* by Aram Ter-Ghewondyan, Transl. by Nina G. Garsoian, Livaria Bertrand, Lisbon, 1976. XI, 244 pp., map.

The translator's task is frequently a thankless one; despite the work and expertise involved, we are still inclined to give full credit to the original author and forget the debt we owe whoever undertook to render the author's work into a more accessible language. We should be all the more grateful, however, when a scholar of the first rank spends as much of her time translating as does our colleague Nina Garsoian. Having translated Manandian's important *The Trade and Cities of Armenia in Relation to World Trade* (Lisbon, 1965) and produced a magnificently annotated English version of Adontz's magisterial *Armenia in the Period of Justinian* (Lisbon, 1970), Dr. Garsoian, has now made available one of the more important Armenological studies of recent years, Aram Ter-Ghewondyan's *The Arab Emirates in Bagratid Armenia*.

Dr. Ter-Ghewondyan's work, originally published in Armenia by the Historical Institute of the Armenian Academy of Science (Erevan, 1965), deals with the establishment in Armenia of the various petty Arab states in the seventh to tenth centuries and their gradual absorption into the Armenian social structure—the nakharar system. The study of this subject, so vital for an understanding of Medieval Armenian history, has been hindered in the past: first, by the fact that no one source—Arab, Byzantine, or Armenian—deals specifically with the emirates themselves; and second, because to cull what information lies scattered through these sources requires a firm grounding in the languages involved. A specialist in the Arabic holdings of the Matenadaran, Dr. Ter-Ghewondyan shows himself to be fully versed in the necessary languages and thoroughly equipped by his training for the task to which he has set himself in this book.

After a detailed introduction in which he discusses both the sources and the previous literature on the subject, the author enters into a description of the nature of Arab rule in Armenia and the creation of the first Muslim emirates there. Armenia under the Umayyad Caliphs was distinct from all other territories conquered by the Arabs in that the native language was not submerged, that the head of the national church remained an important political figure, and that the local nobility was left virtually undisturbed in its position of privilege. Armenia was, in fact, a vassal state rather than a province of the Caliphate from its "conquest" in 654 until almost the time of the fall of the Umayyad Dynasty. Not until the reign of Abd al-Malik (685-705) was Armenia truly subjected to Arab rule, and only under the Abbasid Caliphs was there an all-out attempt to destroy the power of the great landed princes of Armenia. While there had already been a massacre of nakharars as early as 705, their revolt of 747-50 was literally drowned in blood.

In the years which followed, the Mamikonians lost their position as the dominant princely house of Armenia, and they and numerous other Armenian noble families abandoned their homeland for the safety of the Byzantine Empire. In this way, the road became clear for serious Arab settlement in *al-Arminiya*. First, the Shaybani tribe occupied Aghznik', which, as a result, became thoroughly Arabized and ethnically a part of Mesopotamia. Then the Sulaym tribe crossed the Taurus into central Armenia, where it settled along the frontier from Bitlis to Erzerum opposite the Byzantine Empire. From the Shaybanis were sprung the Zuarids of Arzen; from the Sulamis emerged the Kaysites at Manazkert (and possibly the Djahhafids whose exact center is not known). All this occurred in the ninth century. In the tenth we see the rise of the Hamdanids of the Taghlib tribe at Mosul and in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries, the Kurdish houses of the Marwanids at Arjish and Khlat, and the Shaddadids at Dvin and Ganja. Ter-Ghewondyan traces the origin, rise, and history of each of these dynasties in Chapter I, and in Chapter II explores their

relationship with the Bagratid Kings at Ani before the Bagratid state began to break up into separate polities.

By the tenth century Armenia consisted of three Bagratid kingdoms (Ani, Lori-Tashir, and Kars) beside the Kingdoms of Parisos, Siwnik', and Vaspurakan, and the principalities of Andzevatsik', Mokk', and Khach'en. In between, and intimately related to them, lay the various Arab emirates: Dvin, Goghtn, Manazkert, Mosul, Karin, etc. Adding to the confusion were the intrusions of the Byzantines, the Dylamites of Iran, and the Muslim dynasties which ruled successively in Azerbadjan: the Sadjids who were Turks and the Sallarids (or Musafirids) who were of Persian origin. The Bagratid Kings waged a major struggle against most of these states, peoples, and tribes, who, need it be said, continually fought with one another. In such a fragmented geopolitical situation, sides naturally shifted with the greatest of ease, alliances were made and broken, and there was considerable intrigue (as well as intermarriage) between the Arab and Kurdish Emirs and the princes of the various Armenian houses. All of this is described in Chapters III, IV, and V.

Ter-Ghewondyan notes that the Kurdish emirates were virtually indistinguishable from those of the Arabs and that their rulers, Arab and Kurd, rapidly became assimilated into the Armenian social structure. In Chapter VI, "The Internal Life of the Emirates", he points out that the emirates were largely urban with the Emirs having little control beyond the cities which they held and the surrounding villages which supported them. Such Arabs as migrated to Armenia north of the Taurus settled mostly in these cities, and the basic population of the emirates always remained essentially Armenian. In Chapter VI Ter-Ghewondyan also discusses in great detail the feudal nature of these Arab states and their economies and also examines the T'ondrakian sect, the important religious movement current among the Armenians in this period.

The long struggle of the Bagratids, Ardzrunids, and other royal and princely houses of Armenia versus the Arab intruders ultimately failed, and in the end it was the Byzantine offensive of the mid-eleventh century which swept away most of the emirates; the Turkish invasions twenty years later finished the rest. The Arabs disappeared in Armenia shortly thereafter, but Ter-Ghewondyan feels that their period of power paved the way for the later massive infiltration of the Kurds. Altogether, his study supports what many of us had earlier come to realize from our readings in the literature of this period, namely that the Arab interlude, rather than the conquests of the Seljuks, Mongols, and Ottomans, marked the turning point in Armenian history and the beginning of the end of the Armenian predominance on the Armenian Plateau. Dr. Ter-Ghewondyan is to be congratulated for producing such a thorough, clear, and scholarly study; Dr. Garsoian, for making it available to us in such excellent and elegant English. The book is hard bound and handsomely printed, but could use a better map. It may be ordered directly from the publisher.

## New Publications:

1. The Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures at Columbia University has announced plans to publish a multi-volume *Encyclopaedia Persica* under the general editorship of Dr. Ehsan Yarshater. Sponsored by the Pahlavi Foundation, the Advisory Council of the Encyclopaedia includes Sir Harold Bailey (Cambridge University, Emeritus), Henri Corbin (University of Paris), Wilhelm Eilers (University of Marburg), Richard Ettinghausen (Metropolitan Museum of Art and New York University), and Georg Morganstierne (University of Oslo, Emeritus). The *Encyclopaedia* will contain articles covering Iranian studies in the broadest sense from earliest times to the present and will include articles relevant to Armenian studies wherever appropriate to the overall conception of the work. Volume I is presently in preparation. For further information contact Dr. David A. Utz, 604 Kent Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027.

2. Armenologists should be aware of the following publications currently emanating from Erevan:
  - a. *Tpagrut'ian taregir*, the Armenian national bibliography which is published monthly by the Haykakan SSR. Petakan Grapalat (Ulitsa Kirov 19a Erevan). An Armenian *Cumulative Book Index*, this publication records all books published in Armenian in the U.S.S.R. It is also available in Russian under the title *Letopis pechati*.
  - b. *Haykakan Hanragitaran* (The Armenian Encyclopedia) a multivolume work devoted entirely to Armenian history and culture. Published in the same format as the *Bol'shaya Sovetskaya Entsiklopedia*, volumes one and two of the set have already appeared. Handsomely bound and printed on quality paper, their encyclopedia is available through the Armenian Academy of Science.
3. A *Supplement* to Toumanoff's *Manuel de Généalogie et de Chronologie de la Caucasic Chrétienne* (Rome, 1976) is currently in press. It will contain both addenda as well as corrigenda to the original text.
4. An interesting article in Spanish, "La Nobleza Armena", by Narciso Binayan Carmona of Buenos Aires, has appeared in the journal *Hidalguia* ("Nobility") published in Madrid (Vol. XXIV, No. 134, 1976). Xeroxed copies are available *gratis*, from Dr. Robert H. Hews on request. The same author under the name Narciso Binayan has recently published a book entitled *La Colectividad Armena en la Argentina* (Buenos Aires, Alzamor, 1974). It is a comprehensive survey of the Argentine-Armenian community and contains demographic material of great interest.
5. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., has announced a new edition of D. M. Lang's *Armenia, Cradle of Civilization* (1970), which has been revised and updated on the basis of Dr. Lang's recent trip to Armenia (1977).
6. Mesrob K. Krikorian's *Armenians in the Service of the Ottoman Empire 1860-1908* has appeared (Boston, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1977). A 148-page paperback prepared from the typescript by some photo offset process, it seems somewhat overpriced at \$7.50. Based on the various Ottoman and Armenian yearbooks published in the Ottoman empire with a great deal of statistical data drawn rather uncritically from Cuinet, the book cannot help but be superficial. It is, however, groundbreaking and points the way for future work in this important area. It is to be regretted that the author felt obliged to omit the Armenians of Constantinople from his purview.
7. The proceedings of the First International Symposium on Armenian Art which convened in Italy in 1975 have been recently published under the title *Primo Simposio Internazionale Di Arte Armena, 1975. Atti*. The volume (about 1,000 pages, with 300 illustrations; \$35) can be obtained from Tipo-Litographia Armena-Isolo di S. Lazzaro, 30100 Venezia, Italy. Because of the particular importance of that symposium, the index to the volume follows:
  - A. ALPAGO-NOVELLO (Milan), *Relazione introduttiva*.
  - B. N. ARAKELIAN (Erevan), *Armenian Mosaic of the Early Middle Ages*.
  - J. BLANKOFF (Brussels), *Quelques remarques sur les reliefs de facades dans l'art de Vladimir-Suzdal', de l'Arménie et de la Géorgie*.
  - G. BOCCALI (Milan), *Influenze della religione iranica sulla cultura armena*.
  - S. BOYADJIEV (Sofia), *Influences arméniennes dans l'architecture de l'église Ronde de Preslav*.
  - M. BRAMBILLA (Teheran), *La costruzione della casa contadina armena*.
  - M. CHAHIN (Kew, Richmond), *Uartian Bronzes*.
  - P. CUNEO (Rome), *Le scuole regionali armene nel periodo medievale*.
  - D. DE BERNARDI (Turin), *L'atrio di S. Evasio a Casale Monferrato e gli archi incrociati*.
  - S. DER NERSESSIAN (Paris), *Quelques observations sur la miniature arménienne*.
  - C. DONJON (Paris), *Le rôle de l'Arménie dans la Transcaucasie du Bronze Moyen (I<sup>er</sup> moitié du II<sup>e</sup> Millénaire avant notre ère)*.
  - C. FONSECA (Bari), *Tra gli Armeni dell'Italia Meridionale*.
  - K. GHAFADARIAN (Erevan), *Architecture de la ville d'Argishtihinili*.
  - O. H. HALPAHC'JAN (Moscow), *L'architettura civile dell'Armenia medioevale*.
  - M. M. HASRATIAN (Erevan), *Les églises à nef unique avec portique de l'Arménie paléochrétienne*.
  - G. IENI (Turin), *La rappresentazione dell'oggetto architettonico nell'arte medioevale, con riferimento particolare ai modelli di architettura caucasici*.
  - G. IONESCU (Bucharest), *Rapporti artistici—con riguardo speciale all'architettura—tra la Romania e l'Armenia*.
  - T. A. IZMAILOVA (Leningrad), *La miniatura armena dell'XI secolo*.
  - A. L. JAKOBSON (Leningrad), *Gli archi incrociati nell'architettura medioevale armena*.
  - H. KALAYAN (Beirut), *The Symmetry and Proportion of Armenian Architecture*.
  - H. KASANGIAN (Milan), *Contributi al problema di Zwartnotz*.
  - A. KHANDANIAN (Paris), *Le thème le la Sirene-oiseau dans l'enluminure des manuscrits arméniens*.
  - W. KLEISS (Teheran), *Bastam and the East of Urtu*.
  - D. KOUYMIJAN (Fresno), *The Problem of the Zoomorphic Figure in the Iconography of Armenian Pentecost: A Preliminary Report on Research in Progress*.
  - M. S. MARIANI CALO (Bari), *Relazioni artistiche tra l'area pugliese e le civiltà caucasiche nel Medioevo*.
  - G. MINUNNO COSTAGLIOLA (Bari), *Note sul triconco di San Lorenzo a Mesagne*.
  - A. PEPE (Bari), *La chiesa di S. Felice (S. Pietro) in Balsignano*.
  - L. SEMERARI MAJORANO (Bari), *La chiesa di S. Maria di Giano in agro di Bisceglie*.
  - P. MIJOVIĆ (Belgrade), *Les liens artistiques entre l'Arménie, la Géorgie et les pays yougoslaves au Moyen-Age*.
  - S. H. MNACAKANJAN (Erevan), *I complessi monastici dell'Armenia medioevale*.
  - I. S. NANU (Bucharest), *Relazioni armeno-romene nell'architettura feudale della chiesa di Curtea de Arges (riassunto)*.
  - G. PEROGALLI (Milan), *Architettura visigotica et asturiana: un contrappunto occidentale all'architettura armena*.
  - G. ROCCHI (Milan), *Elementi genetici dell'architettura altomedievale armena. Confronto con l'architettura medievale lombarda*.
  - A. SAHINIAN (Erevan), *Less basiliques à trois nefs de l'époque paléochrétienne de l'Arménie*.
  - A. SAHINIAN (Erevan), *L'antico tempio della fortezza di Garni*.
  - M. G. SANDRI (Milan), *L'arte di Stato dei Selgiuchidi di Turchia e i suoi rapporti con l'arte armena*.
  - T. SCALESE (Rome), *Il convento di Xorakert*.
  - A. SCOLARI (Turin), *La chiesa di S. Bartolomeo degli Armeni a Genova*.
  - N. STEPANJAN (Erevan), *Le arti applicate nell'Armenia medioevale*.
  - R. STICHEL (Rome), *Una rappresentazione armena della trasfigurazione di Cristo*.
  - N. TCHANEVA-DETCHEVSKA (Sofia), *Sur quelques problèmes de l'architecture sacrale médiévale en Bulgarie-Paralleles avec l'Arménie*.
  - J. M. THIERRY (Etampes), *L'église de la Mère de Dieu d'Arcuaber (Un monument du type S. Hripsime au Vaspourakan)*.
  - N. THIERRY (Etampes), *Survivance d'une iconographie palestinienne de la Pentecôte au Vaspourakan*.
  - H. TIERSCH (Munch), *Zur Architekturgeschichte Armeniens*.
  - N. TOKARSKI (Leningrad), *Sulla storia della costruzione della cattedrale di Ishan*.
  - G. ULUHOJIAN (Bologna), *Il fondo armeno della Biblioteca Palatina di Parma*.
  - H. VAHRAMIAN (Milan), *Consistenza dei monasteri medievali*.
  - A. ZARIAN (Erevan), *Bagaran e le chiese del tipo di Bagaran*.
  - O. ZASTROW (Milan), *Autonomia creativa e sua delimitazione nella miniatura di T'oros Roslin*.
  - L. ZEKIYAN (Venice), *Le colonie armene del Medio Evo in Italia e le relazioni culturali italo-armene*.
8. *Note of interest*: The Armenian Numismatic Society is publishing a special volume of essays to commemorate the centennial of the death of Fr. Clement Sibilian, Vienna Mekhitarist, who pioneered the systematic study of Armenian coins. The volume will be edited by D. Kouymjian. Though most articles have already been solicited, members who wish to submit articles on subjects related to ancient Armenian coins, Cilician Armenian coins, Cilician Armenian art and economic history—especially as they relate to coins—should send their manuscripts to Mr. Yeghia Nercessian, Armenian Numismatic Society, 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, California 90660, before September 1, 1978.

B. From the U.S.A.

1. *St. Benedict, Oregon, Mount Angel Abbey Ms. 24* 1 Ms.  
An article by Lawrence J. McCrank, "The Four Gospels: An Armenian Manuscript at Mount Angel Abbey Library", will eventually be published in a journal as yet undesignated.

The use of manuscripts microfilmed for HMML is both welcome and encouraged. Under the terms of the single contract which HMML has entered into with all libraries whose manuscript collections HMML has microfilmed since 1973, scholars are afforded the same use of the individual microfilms at the Bush Center as they are afforded to scholars using the original manuscripts *in situ*—with the added advantage that the Bush Center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday during the entire calendar year (with the exception of the usual holidays). The advantages of having no restrictions on the number of manuscripts which can be examined at one time and the value of being free from other restrictions in use in European libraries will suggest themselves to many scholars.

Visiting scholars are welcome to make use of the microfilm collection and the reference collections of the Bush Center and the Alcuin Library of St. John's Abbey and University, to which the Bush Center is conveniently connected. Completed in 1976, the Bush Center provides adequate study facilities on its own two levels for visiting scholars and HMML's staff of manuscript catalogers.

Permission to secure a microfilm copy or printouts of manuscripts on deposit in microfilm form in HMML follows the terms under which the library owning the originals granted HMML permission to undertake the original photographing. HMML prefers that visiting scholars and other researchers have HMML seek the permission for duplicating microfilm from the owning library;

however, scholars are free to seek the required permission directly from the owning library. In the past, permissions to secure copies of manuscripts belonging to the Mechitaristen-Bibliothek have not been readily granted. However, the most recent such request was granted. Permissions to secure microfilm copies from the Nationalbibliothek are regularly given. With this information, scholars may decide how to proceed. HMML is devoted to serving the needs of the scholarly community and will do whatever is possible to assist scholars in their work. Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Julian G. Plante, Director, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321.

## MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT

(Continued from page 2)

The difficult field work for obtaining most of the collection has been underway for the past eight years. The current, final phase involves the organization of that collection to conform with accepted archival practices. In due time copies of the organized collection will be established at six universities in the United States and at seven universities in Europe and Armenia. Columbia University, Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard University), the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and California State University at Fresno are already candidates for the United States collections.

Hopefully, once established within this world framework of scholarship and research, lecturers will no longer mistakenly point to Armenian structures as examples of Syrian or Byzantine work.

The three-year project will cost over \$400,000, and there is urgent need for contributions of any amount to support the work. All contributions are fully tax deductible, and should be mailed to the Armenian Educational Council, Inc., c/o Dr. V. L. Parseghian, Chairman, Brunswick Hills, Troy, New York 12180.

### Membership Application Form

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Please forward application to the Secretary of the Administrative Council: Arpena Mesrobian, 4851 Pembridge Circle, Syracuse, New York 13125.

Membership fee: \$10 regular; \$5 students