

HYE SHARZHOOM Armenian Action ՀԱՅ ՇԱՐԺՈՍՄ

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Supplement to The Collegian

Society for Armenian Studies Holds Annual Meeting in San Francisco

Barlow Der Mugrdechian
Advisor

The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) held its annual membership meeting on Saturday, November 17, 2001, in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco.

At the SAS meeting, election results were announced for two positions on the Executive Council. Elected were Christina Maranci, of the University of Wisconsin and Garabet Moudmjian of California State University, Northridge.

They join President Barlow Der Mugrdechian (CSU Fresno), Treasurer Levon Chorbajian (University of Massachusetts), Secretary Hourri Berberian (CSU Long Beach), Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), Robert Hewsen (CSU Fresno), and ex-officio Dennis Papazian (University of Michigan at Dearborn).

Dickran Kouymjian, (CSU, Fresno) and Peter Cowe (UCLA) completed their term of three years on the Executive Council.

SAS members had an infor-

mal dinner gathering with members of the Armenian Professional Society (APS) of the Bay Area at a local restaurant. The dinner offered an opportunity for members to become familiar with the activities of the two organizations. APS President Warren Donian and SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian organized the event.

On Saturday evening, SAS members gathered for the annual membership meeting, with reports given on various aspects of the Society's activities. Plans were formulated for next year's meeting which will be held in November in Washington D.C.

During the MESA conference, SAS members attended a variety of panels and special sessions devoted to different aspects of Middle Eastern studies.

This year, the Society for Armenian Studies sponsored two scholarly panels as part of the conference.

The first panel, "Religious and Political Issues Under the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia and Its Aftermath," was held Sunday, November 18 and was chaired by Robert Hewsen, Kazan Visiting Pro-



Left to Right: Dr. S. Peter Cowe, Dr. Rita Vorperian, and SAS President Barlow Der Mugrdechian after a panel.

fessor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. Four papers were delivered: "The Organization of the Armenian Church in Cilician Armenia (1080-1375)," by Robert Hewsen, "Relations Between the Papacy, the Cilician State, and Greater Armenia in the First Half of the 14th Century," by S. Peter Cowe (UCLA), and "Cilicia After the Kingdom: Population, Monasteries, etc. Under Mamluks, and

Turcomans," by Thomas A. Sinclair (University of Cyprus) (read by Robert Hewsen). David Bundy (Christian Theological Seminary), who was to give a paper on "Cul-

tures in Collision: The Synod of Sis, 1243," was unable to attend.

A second panel, held on Monday, November 19, was "Constructions of the Feminine in Modern Armenian Literature." The chair for the panel was S. Peter Cowe. Two papers were given, "Srpui Dussap and the Construction of the Modern Armenian Woman," by Victoria Rowe (University of Toronto) read by Peter Cowe) and "Women's Issues in Modern Armenian Literature," by Rita Vorperian (UCLA). David S. Calonne (Wayne State University), who was to give a paper on "Mythic Time and the Feminine in Varandyan's 'The Well of Ararat'," was unable to attend. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of California State University, Fresno, was the discussant for the panel. The topic of the session provoked many interesting questions from the audience.

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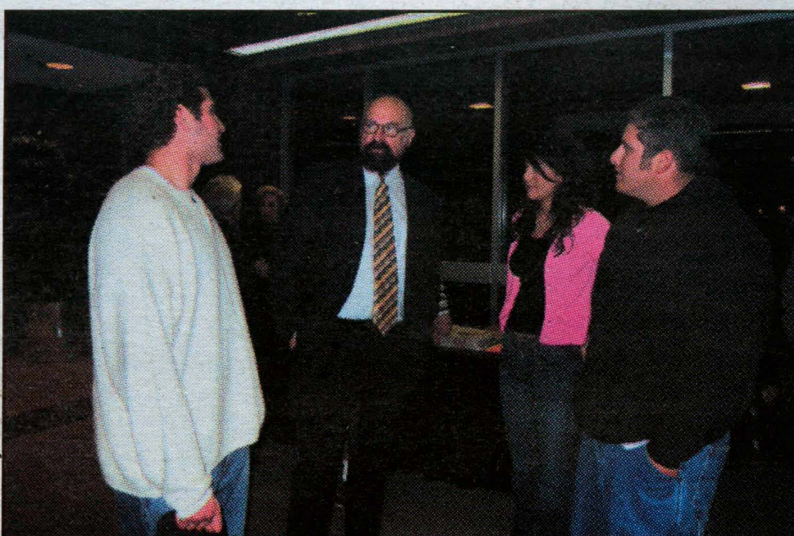
1700th Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia Marked with Lecture Series by Dr. Robert Hewsen

Robert Torosian
Staff Writer

2001 marks the 1700th year anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia and the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program is doing everything it can to help educate students about this important event.

The ASP organized a three-part lecture series this Fall, "The Conversion of Armenia to Christianity," to be given by Dr. Robert H. Hewsen, Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor for the Armenian Studies Program. Dr. Hewsen received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University and has spent the last 33 years teaching both Byzantine and Russian history at Rowan University of New Jersey.

On October 4th, Dr. Hewsen



Left to Right: Michael Kazarian, Dr. Robert Hewsen, Kristy Melikian, and Kevin Kandarian after the lecture.

gave the first lecture of the series, "Armenia on the Eve of the Conversion," to Fresno State students, faculty, and community members. Dr. Hewsen started off his lecture by not talking just about the conversion of Armenians to Christian-

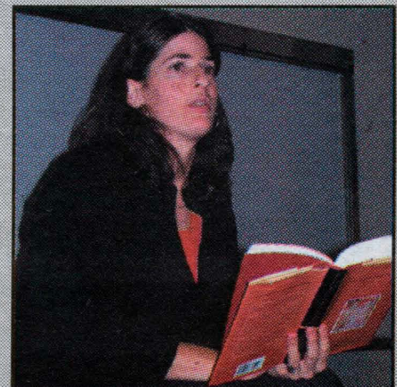
ity, but he took a step further back and began by discussing the origins of the Armenian people. He talked about the geography of Armenia, the people, the culture and the political system that existed

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Reading by Novelist Marcom

Christopher Tozlian
Staff Writer

Three years after beginning what eventually would take countless hours of hard work, Micheline Aharonian Marcom is finished. In 1997, Marcom began writing her debut novel, *Three Apples Fell From Heaven*, which she completed just last year. But don't let the title fool you... this is not just another book written by an Armenian on Armenian folklore, as the title might suggest. No, this is a masterpiece of historical fiction based on the Armenian genocide. The reason for its title, Marcom explained during her lecture, co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization and Armenian Studies Program, is that there are many myths surrounding the genocide, and the Turkish government still considers it to be simple Armenian myth, as they continue to deny what the rest of the world realizes to be the first genocide of the twentieth century. It is for this reason that the book is so titled, *Three Apples Fell From Heaven*, so that this piece of historical fiction may combat the "myth" of the Armenian genocide. This work, which has received



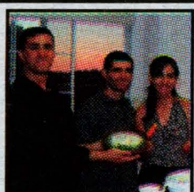
Micheline Aharonian Marcom

rave reviews by various scholars and literary critics, was introduced to the students of CSU Fresno and the people of the Fresno community on Tuesday, November 27th, as Marcom gave a reading from her work, which was followed by a "question and answer" session. As Marcom read excerpts from her book those in the auditorium listened, and reminisced of the stories told to them by their parents and grandparents who endured the genocide. So powerful was her choice of words and so clear was her message that some in the auditorium were moved to tears, while the rest of us simply sat in silence on the edge of our seats. Marcom's powerful work, *Three Apples Fell*

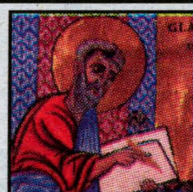
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Armenian Studies Program Book/Video Donations

Dr. Kouymjian and the Armenian Studies Program would like to thank the donors, authors, and publishers for the following books, periodicals, videos and archival gifts.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, for a copy of his book *The Armenian Church Beyond the 1700th Anniversary*. Antelias: 2001.

Internationale Politik, Frankfurt, Germany, for the journal, *Internationale Politik, Transatlantic Edition*. Vol. II, Fall Issue, 2001.

Armach Périodique, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, for the book by P. Topjian, *Collection of Articles*. Montreal: Papken Topjian, 2001.

Alice & Berge Bulbulian, Fresno, for the video, *Assignment Berlin*, Screenwriter: Sona Toukhanian; Producer-Director: Hrayr Toukhanian.

Y. Stephan Bulbulian, Fowler, for the book *Armenian Town*, Fresno: The William Saroyan Society, 2001, with poetry by Paul Aloojian, James Baloian, Y. Stephan Bulbulian, Rondald Dzerijian, Michael Krekorian and Brenda Najimian-Magarity, with a forward by Dickran Kouymjian

Aziz Gökdemir, Arlington, VA, for the book, *William Saroyan, Paris-Fresno*.

Hairenik Association, Inc., Watertown, MA, for the *Hairenik 100th Anniversary Commemorative Album*.

Dr. Robert Hewsens, Fresno for the book, *The Challenge to be a Church in a Changing World*, by His Holiness, Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. New York: The Armenian Prelacy, 1997.

Carl K. Mahakian, Palm Desert, CA for several Saroyan books and articles.

Mrs. Claudette Mekalian, Fresno, for the books, photographs and archival material about her uncle Robert Sabonjian, the first Armenian mayor of Waukegan, Illinois.

Mr. A. F. Corky Normart, Fresno, for sheet music and records.

Ms. Gerry Sarkisian, Sacramento, for sheet music, records, books and personal archival material about her parents, Mr. Andrew Sarkisian and Mrs. Ruth Sarkisian Haron and her grandparents, Harry and Kohar Shumavonian.

Martin M. Tourigian, Drexel Hill, PA, for his paintings.

Arman Vartanyan, Istanbul, Turkey, for the book by Zarine Vartanyan. *Punigi: 70th Anniversary of the Life and Work of Arman Vartanyan*. Istanbul: Acar Press, 2000.

HYE SHARZHOOM

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California State University, Fresno

Armenian Studies Program

Spring 2002 Schedule of Courses

Course	Units	Time	Day	Instructor
General Education				
Social Sciences Area D3, for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
Division 9-Other Cultures, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1230-1345	TTh	R. Hewsens
• Arm S 10 Intro to Arm Studies	3	1000-1050	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Division 7-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
Arts & Humanities, Area C2 for students using 1999/2000 catalog and after				
• Arm 1B Elementary Armenian	4	1100-1150	MTWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Division 6-Languages, for students using 1998/1999 catalog and before				
Arts & Humanities, Integration IC, for students using 1999/2000 Catalog and after				
• Arm St 148 Mstrpcs Arm Lit	3	0900-0950	MWF	B Der Mugrdechian
Upper Division Courses				
• Arm St 105 Arm Genocide	3	1000-1050	MWF	I. Kaprielian
• Arm St 108B Arm History II	3	0930-1045	TTh	R. Hewsens
• Arm St 120T Karabagh in Arm Hist	3	1900-2200	W	R. Hewsens
• Arm St 120T Armenian Dance	1	F 1700-2200; S 0900-1700		

Armenian Dance will be held on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2, 2002

For more information call the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669 or visit our offices in the Peters Business Building, Room 384.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Prof. Der Mugrdechian:

It was your father Bob, who told us about Hye Sharzhoom and got us on the mailing list. We have enjoyed receiving the news. It's fun to get a slant from Fresno on church news and events we have here and you have there.

Your students and studies sound wonderful for the students involved. How wonderful your program has been so successful!

Sincerely,

Dorothy (Mgardician) Emirhanian

LaVerne, CA

Dear Editor:

After my father, Hyrand Tomasian, was shot and killed by the Turks,

my mother picked up her three children and came to America in 1921. I was the oldest, 5 years old. My mother's parents lived in New York.

I want to let you know that at the time we did not have any such programs as having in Fresno, now. That is wonderful. Take advantage of them, and appreciate them, and attend them.

...I'm 87 yrs. old.

Regards,

Ophelia Varteressian
Fountain Valley, CA

Dear Editor:

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely

Ashkhen Aristakessian
Clovis, CA

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your excellent periodical Hye Sharzhoom.

Martin Koobatian
Santa Barbara, CA

Dear Editor:

The October issue was outstanding.

Dr. Ara Hairabedian
Fresno, CA

Thank You

The ASP thanks the following women for their preparation of baked goods for the ASP Lecture Series:

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Tamara Karakashian

Carina Karakashian

Gladys Peters

ASP Annual Fund

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In memory of Sarkis S. Saryan

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Dean V. Shahinian

Mary Terzian

Martin M. Tourigian

Leon Yengoyan

John Zerounian

"Three Apples Fell From Heaven" Author in Fresno



Left to Right: Sevag Tateosian, Micheline Marcom, Michael Harutinian, Barlow Der Mugrdechian.

MARCOM, Cont. from Page 1

From Heaven, tugs at the heart and causes all to remember the plight of the Armenians who faced the genocide.

Marcom's original goal was to write a historical novel based on the life of her grandmother, who survived the genocide. However, as Marcom continued to educate herself on the genocide, she read manuscripts, memoirs, and biographies of those who faced the killings and abuse of the Ottoman Turks, and who had lived to tell about it; she began to realize that so many different groups of people weren't represented in Armenian genocide accounts. As a result, she began to write fictional accounts of what others faced, basing these ac-

counts on the cruel facts she had taken from her research. Three years later, she ended up with a literary work much different than what she had originally planned. It was no longer a novel based on the suffering that her grandmother had encountered, but a novel of the sufferings of countless Armenians, both men and women, young and old.

Marcom's stories come alive as the reader finds characters faced with the grim reality that they must give their babies up to exposure, since they could not survive on the death marches. Other accounts tell of the multiple times Turkish soldiers searched women, stealing all possessions worth any monetary value, and then raping them. There are stories of a boy who hid in his mother's attic to escape the wrath

of the Turkish soldiers; another story tells of the Armenian girl, Anaguil, who was cared for by Turkish neighbors after her parents were killed... this young girl was Marcom's grandmother. Marcom's novel deals with a wide variety of people from different places in society; yet they all share a common bond: in one way or another, the Armenian genocide has forever changed their lives.

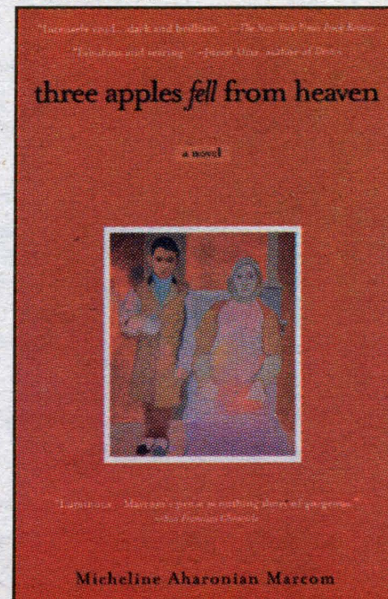
During the "question and answer" time, a number of observations were made regarding how genocide survivors have responded to the genocide. Marcom explained that many deal with the genocide by constantly speaking of it, as a means of finding healing; others simply say nothing, apparently too ashamed to discuss the grim reality that more than one million Arme-

nians were murdered during the systematic killings that took place, beginning in 1915. The discussion is somewhat reminiscent to the one that takes place in Michael Arlen's famous novel, *Passage to Ararat*, as he describes for readers in great detail the themes of shame and frustration that many Armenians have faced, and still continue to face.

Yet Marcom's lecture came to a warm end, as she discussed the necessity of her work, and that of related works. Marcom explained that we cannot forget what has happened, because it is part of who we are as Armenians. *Three Apples Fell from Heaven* is a great work which neither points blame nor makes a plea for pity. It simply tries to tell the stories of those whose stories one would never have known, except for the reading of this work. Just as the author's reading was stimulating and well

worth the while, Marcom's novel, is well worth the literary praise that it has received, and will continue to receive.

The lecture was funded, in part, by the Associated Students at Fresno State.



Kennel Bookstore

and the California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

cordially invite you to the opening of our

ARMENIAN STUDIES Section

on Saturday, December 8, 2001

Relaxed parking Saturday only

Authors signing books

Mark Arax, *In My Father's Name* 11:00 a.m.
Berge Bulbulian, *The Fresno Armenians* 11:30 a.m.
Dr. Robert Hewsen, *Armenia: A Historical Atlas* 12:00 p.m.



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Friday Dec. 7th 7:45 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday Dec. 8th 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Armenians and the Internet

Ara Mekhitarian

The Forgotten

Address: <http://www.theforgotten.org>

Brief Summary: The Forgotten is a web site dedicated to informing people about the Armenian Genocide. Unlike other Armenian Genocide web sites, The Forgotten is designed entirely with Macromedia Flash, making the site very easy and enjoyable to navigate. The informative time line explains all the genocide-related events that occurred from 1893 to 1939 in chronological order. The "images" section allows you to cycle through several photos with supplemented text explaining each image. The site also offers rare video interviews with some of the survivors as well as the special edition of ABC news with Peter Jennings on the Armenian Genocide.

Main Categories: Time Line, ABC News, Images, Survivors.

Contact: email: info@theforgotten.org

Armenia by ArmSite

Address: <http://www.armsite.com>

Brief Summary: ArmSite is a very diverse web site, offering a wide range of information on Armenian paintings, miniatures, rugs, carpets, singers and maps. The "Armenian Painters" section has over 700 paintings of the most eminent Armenian painters, including biographies and examples of their best work. The site also offers photo galleries of many ancient Armenian rugs and carpets dating back several thousand years. Furthermore, the site has a huge photo gallery on ancient Armenian miniatures all supplemented with their iconography. Overall ArmSite is a very informative site filled with literally thousands of pages displaying Armenia's finest works.

Main Categories: Armenian Painters, Armenian Rugs and Carpets, Armenian Miniatures, Armenian Kharabagh Maps, Armenian Singer.

Contact: email: avetis@armsite.com

California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program

Armenian Studies 120T-Armenian Dance

(Learn how to dance
traditional Armenian dances)
conducted by

Tom Bozigian

The internationally recognized dance instructor was born in Los Angeles. Each year Mr. Bozigian travels to Armenia to continue his research working with various institutes and dance specialists. He is particularly sought out for his extensive knowledge of dances from the pre-1915 period. He also specializes in new Armenian folk-dance as well as choreography. Mr. Bozigian regularly tours the Orient and Europe teaching Armenian dance.

Friday, March 1, 2002 • 5-10 PM
Saturday, March 2, 2002 • 9 AM-5PM

Meet in the South Gym, Rm. 134-Fresno State

Fresno State students enroll through S.T.A.R.
beginning January 29, 2002

The course is open to the public, for a fee of \$50.
To register for the class contact the Division of
Extended Education, at 278-0333,
or come to the first class session.

Contact the Armenian Studies Program, 278-2669, for information.



July Pilgrimage to Armenia Inspires Fresno State Students

Tamara Karakashian
Staff Writer

Yerevan. Khor Virap. Etchmiadzin. In August 2000, these were merely locations on a map of our homeland. In July 2001 these historical places became part of thousands of young peoples' lasting memories. The Armenian Church Youth Organization—Western Diocese (ACYO—WD) sponsored a pilgrimage to Armenia during this Jubilee year, marking the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia. The 1700th Committee of the ACYO was diligent in organizing the pilgrimage down to the last detail. The youth

State experienced this amazing pilgrimage, July 6-27, to our Motherland.

Carina Karakashian, a freshman, had been to Armenia with her family when she was a child; however her experiences during the pilgrimage this year were vastly different. Her opinions had changed between the two trips because she had become much more connected with the Armenian nation.

Carina is taking Professor Hewsen's "Conversion of Armenia to Christianity" class this semester. She said that the pilgrimage to Armenia this summer helps her in this class, because she is able to associate the places she visited during the pilgrimage with the his-

of the true, if not worse, living conditions in the entire country of Armenia. We opened our hearts and filled ourselves with prayer each day as we visited different dioceses of Armenia.

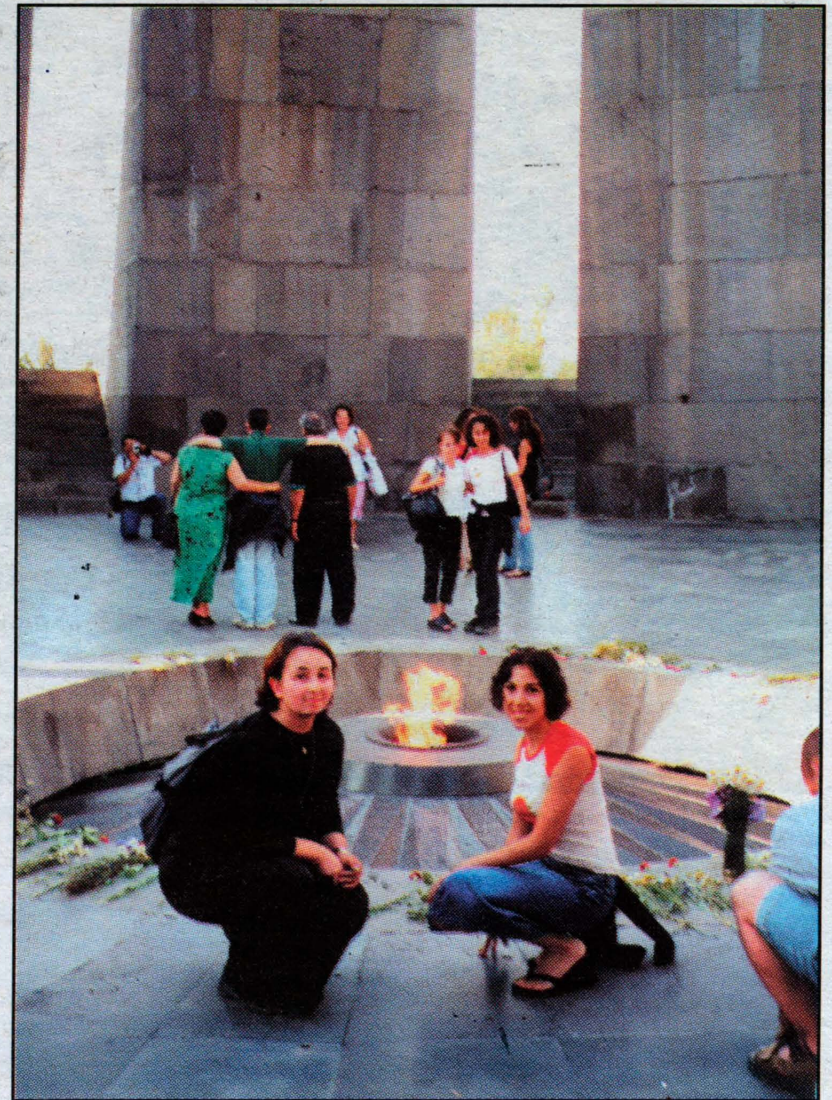
For sophomore Erica Ananian, the pilgrimage "sparked my soul to reach out to my culture and heritage." This is why Erica has taken a step towards identifying more with the culture. In fact, she is now enrolled in an elementary Armenian Language class with Professor Der Mugrdechian. She feels connected to her Armenian culture and has a strong passion to learn everything about it.

As we journeyed throughout the country, we were welcomed with true Armenian hospitality. Each diocese we visited—Aragatzotn, Kotayk, Shirak, Syunik—welcomed us with traditional Armenian songs, dancers, and performers. We will all have the memories embedded in our minds of little angels dancing in front of Sardarabad, and the people in Khor Virap village encouraging and enlightening us during our three-day pilgrimage from Khor Virap to Etchmiadzin.

Our three-day pilgrimage, July 14-16 began at dusk on bended knee at the monastery of Khor Virap (deep pit) where St. Gregory was held prisoner in the pit for 13 years. Pilgrims from all over the world—about 5,000 youth in all—walked side by side, uniting the Armenians of the Diaspora and those of the Homeland. Our arduous trip to the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin was filled with feelings of exhaustion and excitement. Catholicos Karekin II greeted the pilgrims with words of praise and delight. As the sun rose, groups of pilgrims slipped into a well needed nap. Badarak was celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, primate of the Diocese of Canada, along with 10 altar servers from the Western Diocese.

Senior Tamara Enfiedjian commented on the economic life of the people in Armenia.

"Regardless of the conditions, and as bad as it may seem to us,



Tamara Karakashian left, with Carina Karakashian at the Armenian Martyrs Monument in Yerevan, Armenia.



L. to R.: Tamara Karakashian, Tamara Enfiedjian, Sandra Enfiedjian, and Erica Ananian at the Sardarabad Museum.

of Armenia, having never hosted such a large amount of people, were in for a treat! The volunteers who organized the pilgrimage in Armenia accommodated pilgrims by coordinating day trips, providing lodging and meals during the stay, and even giving out complementary hats, backpacks, and t-shirts.

Over 100 youth from the Western Diocese journeyed to Armenia in search of a new direction—toward a feeling of unification. We met Armenian youth from all corners of the world—Argentina, France, Russia, and, of course, Armenia. Four students from Fresno

toric locations she is discussing in her class.

The moment at which Carina felt most connected to her faith was at the beginning of the three-day pilgrimage when, "I was with everyone on their knees singing Der Voghormia (Lord, Have Mercy). We were all there for the same purpose: bringing ourselves closer to God and our Armenian Orthodox faith."

Days started early and ended early (in the morning)! With each day came 3 hours on a bus—but we endured it. We cherished it. Our hotel at Lake Sevan made us aware

they [Armenians] are content with what they have. Material things are unimportant to them; they cherish the fact that they have land to call their own while they celebrate 1700 years of Christianity."

When asked if they would return to Armenia some day, Erica, Sandra, and Carina enthusiastically exclaimed, "YES!" The same is true for myself!

Sites such as Tzitzernakabert,

Mt. Ararat, Khor Virap, and the Musical Program at the Youth Center of Nork will remain in our hearts and minds forever. This pilgrimage has had a profound effect on every member of the youth who participated. Each Armenian youth should experience this emotionally moving visit to our homeland; it will strengthen their pride in Armenian culture and their orthodox faith.



**Listen to Fresno State's
Armenian Radio Show**

Hye Oozh

Every Saturday morning from 9:00AM-12:00 noon

FM 90.7

Your D. J.s

Sevag Tateosian and Armen Postoyan

SAS, Continued from page 1

Armenian scholars also participated in many other panels at the conference.

As part of the 18th annual MESA FilmFest, Armen Titizian's "The Window" and Tina Bastajian's "Jagadakeer" were screened before enthusiastic audiences.

The Society for Armenian Studies is the international organization for those involved in research or teaching in the field of Armenian Studies. The SAS was founded in 1974, and has over two hundred members.

The aims of the Society for Armenian Studies are to promote the study of Armenian culture and society, including history, language, literature, and social, political, and economic questions; to facilitate the exchange of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies around the world; and

to sponsor panels and conferences on Armenian studies.

The programs of the Society include publication of a *Newsletter* (www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies/SAS/index.htm) on the Society's activities and on current research on Armenia; publication of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, encouragement, sponsorship and publication of research on all facets of Armenian culture and society; and such other activities as the SAS council may from time to time determine.

The Secretariat of the Society is located at the Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno. For membership information please contact the Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N. Backer Ave., PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001; telephone 559-278-2669.



SAS members, back row, Left to Right: Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Robert Hewsen, Rita Vorperian, S. Peter Cowe, Rubina Perroomian, Levon Chorbajian, Anahid Keshishian, Hovann Simonian. Front row, Left to Right: Hrair Dekmekjian and Levon Marashlian.

Cochrane Fellows from Armenia Study Enology



Barlow Der Mugrdechian
Advisor

Armenian enology students Zaruhi Muradyan, Armen Kakosyan, and Tigran Khachatryan spent three weeks, September 23 through October 13, 2001, at Fresno State as United States Department of Agriculture Cochrane Fellows, specializing in wine-making. The Cochrane Program provides funding for overseas agriculture students to study in the United States.

The Fresno State Viticulture and Enology Research Center and Department of Viticulture and Enology hosted the three, who are students at the Armenian Agricultural Academy (AAA) located in Yerevan, Armenia. The AAA is the primary agriculture teaching institution in Armenia.

Dr. Robert Wample, Director of the Enology Research Center and Chair of the Department, coordinated the activities for the students with the assistance of Helen Chrisman, Cynthia Wood, and Department staff. Dr. John Shields, Chair of the Agricultural Econom-



Left to right: Tigran Khachatryan, Armen Kakosyan, Zaruhi Muradyan, Dr. Robert and Pam Wample at the Wample home, preparing for an Armenian style dinner.

ics Department provided logistical support and assisted in arranging the Cochrane fellowships.

Muradyan, Kakosyan, and Khachatryan received practical knowledge in the Fresno State winery and participated in a wine crush. Because Fresno State has the only university-run and owned winery in the United States, the students

were able to have first-hand training about the wine-making process.

The students took a variety of courses, such as Wine Analysis and Production taught by Professor Ken Fugelsang and a wine bottling course. They attended the Enology Society's Wine Tasting featuring Zinfandel from various regions and vintages.

Practical experience was important in the training program, so the group visited the Central California wine grape-growing region. Visits to wineries such as the Eberle Winery, the Bryon Vineyard and Winery, Paul Masson Cellars, and Quady Winery also enhanced their practical knowledge.

They heard presentations by Dr. Roy Thornton "Biotechnology in Winemaking," Dr. Sanliang Gu, Dr. Nick Dokoozlian "Sunlight: Friend or Foe to Quality Wine Grapes," and Dr. Barry Gump.

While in Fresno, the students from Armenia met and became friends with students from the Enology program. They traveled together to various wineries throughout the state. The Armenian Cuisine Restaurant of Fresno became a home away from home for the students, providing food and hospitality. Mr. Patrick Balakian of Fresno also provided hospitality for the students.

Among the many activities that the students participated in was a Fresno State football game, an Armenian Studies Program lecture in

October, and a visit to the E & J Gallo Winery where they toured a test stand, crusher and the plant.

They visited the Bay Area, including a trip to Rosenblum Cellars in Alameda and visited San Francisco, where they saw many of the city's attractions such as Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and Fisherman's Wharf.

The 3-day celebration of Sonoma County's fine wines, foods, and rich agricultural heritage are part of the 2001 Sonoma County Harvest Fair which Muradyan, Kakosyan, and Khachatryan enjoyed greatly.

After returning to Fresno, a culmination event was a dinner at the home of Dr. Robert and Pam Wample, where the students from Armenia prepared an authentic Armenian meal for the many friends that they had made during their stay in Fresno.

The three students returned to Armenia enriched by their stay in Fresno and unanimously agreeing that a return visit was a must.

Dr. Hewsen Gives 2nd Lecture on Christianization of Armenia

Anne Visser
Staff Writer

Dr. Robert Hewsen, the Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor for the Armenian Studies Program delivered his second of a three-part lecture series on "The Conversion of Armenia to Christianity" on Thursday, November 1. Dr. Hewsen's lecture entitled "The Conversion of King Trdat: Reading Between The Lines" detailed the early 4th century king's life and his conversion by St. Gregory the Illuminator as based on the account recorded by the Armenian chronicler Agathangelos. The lecture also detailed modern scholars' identification of discrepancies with the work and Dr. Hewsen's own interpretations of the historical document.

Agathangelos' account of the conversion has become the traditional historical account of the conversion of King Trdat. It tells of a traitor known as Anak, who was employed by the Persian king to assassinate the King Trdat's father. As punishment for his crime, Anak and his family were slain. Only one son, Gregory, was saved from death and for his protection was taken to Caesarea and raised as a Christian.

Gregory returned to Armenia and served as a Christian at the royal court. He was discovered by the king and cast into a pit, where he survived for fifteen years. For years under King Trdat's rule, persecution of Christians ran rampant. As retribution for these sins, King Trdat was transformed into a wild beast. His sister Khosrovidukht had a dream in which an angel told her

to release Gregory from his years of isolation in the deep pit. After his release, Gregory transformed the king back to human form and then baptized King Trdat and his entire household. Thus, according to Agathangelos, King Trdat in 301 AD proclaimed Christianity the sole state religion of Armenia and a mass conversion of the Armenian people followed.

A crowd of more than 75 people assembled in the Alice Peters Auditorium on campus, and sat captivated throughout the lecture. Professor Hewsen gave an eloquent description of a modern scholar's ideas about the discrepancies of Agathangelos' account of the conversion. The audience listened with interest as Dr. Hewsen himself interpreted Agathangelos' account as a way to define the circumstances of the conversion of the king and not as an eyewitness account to the event.

The impact of this lecture on audience members was evident in remarks made after the lecture. Words such as "enlightened," "exemplary," "awesome," and "praiseworthy" were used to describe Dr. Hewsen's lecture. When asked to share her thoughts on the lecture, Jayne Dangerfield, a student at Fresno State, said "I didn't know what to expect, I came to this lecture after seeing a news brief about it in The Collegian. I never expected to be so intrigued by the subject matter. Dr. Hewsen was really passionate about the subject matter he presented." Another audience member said, "I never really expected Dr. Hewsen to go into such detail on the various dis-



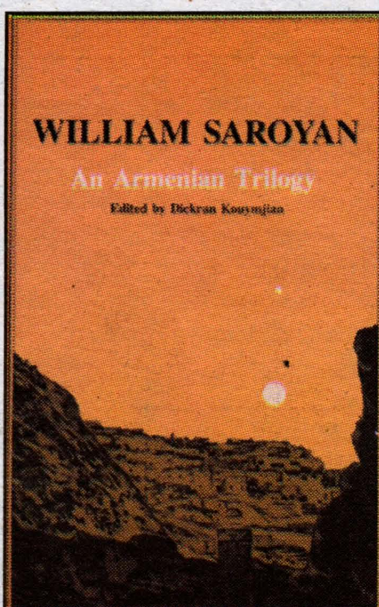
Dr. Robert Hewsen, left, signing copies of his new book Armenia: A Historical Atlas.

Photo by Dikran Chekian

crepancies in the work of Agathangelos' historical account, I thought it was really interesting to

hear and I appreciate that they were presented in a way that was easy to understand."

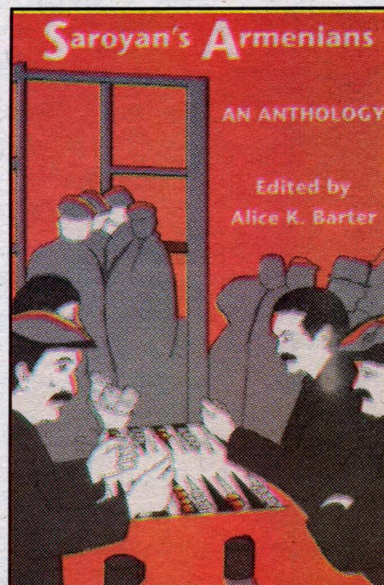
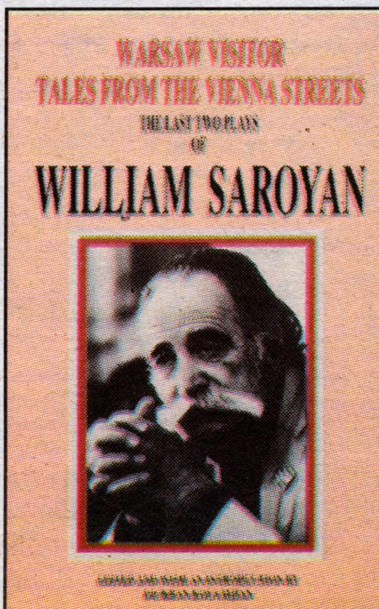
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would like to hear your comments.
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Henry Madden Library Collection: Multicultural Children's Literature

Nazik Arisian
Staff Writer

On October 13, 2001, the Women's League of the Armenian Community School of Fresno (ACSF) and the Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) of the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature held a luncheon at the Smittcamp Alumni House on the campus of California State University, Fresno. The Arne Nixon Center is housed at the Fresno State Henry Madden Library. Angelica Carpenter, Curator of the Arne Nixon Center, was the featured speaker whose topic was "Arne Nixon's Vision: Cel-

Ms. Carpenter gave her lecture and showed a video about the Arne Nixon Center and showed slides of how she came to write books with her mother. The audience enjoyed her presentation because there were several mother-daughters in the audience who related to Ms. Carpenter very well.

Then, Ms. Carpenter explained that Dr. Nixon began teaching at Fresno State in 1961. He was loved and respected by many and was a sought-after speaker who delighted in telling stories to children. During his many travels around the world, he bought children's books and it was his vision to build a collection of multicultural children's literature in the Library.

authored with her mother, the late Jean Shirley, three illustrated biographies geared towards young readers. They are entitled *Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden*, published in 1990, *L. Frank Baum: Royal Historian of Oz* (1992), and *Robert Louis Stevenson: Finding Treasure Island* (1997). She is currently working on a fourth book entitled *Lewis Carroll: Through the Looking-Glass* to be published in 2002. Ms. Carpenter is a member of the board of directors of the International Wizard of Oz and a contributing editor to the *Baum Bugle*.

An invitation was extended to all to visit the Arne Nixon Center housed at the Henry Madden Library on the Fresno State campus. The Arne Nixon Center is a research library; its materials do not circulate. The Center's materials are listed in the library's computerized catalogue at www.lib.csufresno.edu. The lecture concluded after Ms. Carpenter answered a number of questions from the audience. The Women's League presented a gift basket to Ms. Carpenter as an expression of thanks for her work.

A special thanks goes to the following sponsors of the event and all of the individuals who made the luncheon a success: Anoush Chamlian, Peter and Raffi Dorian, Richard and Mimi Gunner, Penny Mirigian-Emerzian and Dr. Thomas Shekoyan.



Ms. Angelica Carpenter, Curator of the Arne Nixon Center, left, with Ms. Nazik Arisian.

brating Multicultural Children's Literature."

Friends and members of the Women's League of ACSF (a support group for the Armenian School) and ANCA (a support group for the Arne Nixon Center), as well as parents of the Armenian Community School of Fresno were invited guests to the luncheon. Ms. Carpenter talked about Dr. Arne Nixon, The Arne Nixon Center, and Dr. Nixon's ideas on the value of multicultural children's literature. The other part of her lecture was on what inspired her to be a writer of children's literature.

Before lunch was served, the guests mingled and tasted assorted Armenian mezza (appetizers) such as rolled grape leaves, boregs, tourshi, hummous, and flat bread. Then University Catering served a wonderful lunch with several different kinds of Armenian desserts that included gata, namura and Napoleons. All the mezza and dessert items were made by the members of the Women's League.

When lunch was over, Penny Mirigian-Emerzian, President of the Women's League, welcomed everyone and expressed how wonderful it was that the Women's League and ANCA are working together to help enhance the collection at the Arne Nixon Center by adding Armenian children's literature to it. Denise Sciandra, President of ANCA, also spoke and expressed how delighted she and her group were that the Women's League and ANCA were working together for the Arne Nixon Center.

In 1995, Dr. Nixon donated his collection of 22,000 children's books to the Henry Madden Library and founded the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature. Upon his death in 1997, he bequeathed a generous gift to the Henry Madden Library in support of the Arne Nixon Center.

Although Ms. Carpenter never met Dr. Nixon, she felt she has gotten to know him very well through his books and the stories his friends have told her about him. Since the grand opening of the Arne Nixon Center in 2001, over 130 individuals have joined ANCA in support of the center.

Ms. Carpenter discussed Dr. Nixon's international vision of children's literature in various languages and described her plan to add children's books in Armenian to the Arne Nixon Center. She encouraged the donation of Armenian children's books to the center. As Fresno has a large Armenian population, it is fitting that there be such a collection in the library and Ms. Carpenter certainly has the right spot for it. As a matter of fact, right after the lecture, Zar DerMugrdechian and several others donated a number of Armenian children's books to the Arne Nixon Center.

Ms. Carpenter became the curator of the Arne Nixon Center in 1996 after a nationwide search. She earned a bachelor's degree in French and master's degrees in education and library science, from the University of Illinois. She was the Director of the Public Library in Palm Springs, Florida. She co-

HEWSEN, Cont. from Page 1 prior to the Christianization, which took place in the early fourth century AD.

The conversion of Armenia to Christianity is said to have occurred in 301 AD, but there were many different factors which led to the conversion. Dr. Hewsen talked about three early Armenian kingdoms, those of the Yervanduni, the Arshakuni, and the Arsacid dynasty. He explained the three dynasties and talked about each of them relating to their religion, political system, and the area ruled by the different dynasties.

Something that everyone wanted to know was what kind of religion the Armenian people practiced before being converted to Christianity. Dr. Hewsen did a great job explaining in detail the pagan religion of the Armenians before the conversion. He explained Zoroastrianism, which was originally a Persian religion. Zoroastrianism, according to Professor Hewsen, has very unique characteristics that appealed to the Armenian people. It was deep rooted in the Armenian people, as it was their religion for about 800 years before Christianity. Zoroastrianism involves worshipping gods and goddesses, the most important of whom was Anahit, the main goddess of the Armenian people. She was the goddess of fertility, beauty, and wisdom. Armenians built many shrines for the gods and goddesses, but after 301 AD, most of the shrines were torn down and Christian churches were built on the sites.

Fresno Armenians Republished for Holidays

The Fresno Armenians



History of a Diaspora Community
Berge Bulbulian

Berge Bulbulian's *The Fresno Armenians* has been reprinted by Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press, Inc., and is now available for purchase.

The new edition has a forward by Professor Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

The second edition has been updated with added information.

Order Form

Please send me _____ copy(ies) at \$19.00 each of *The Fresno Armenians*.
(Add \$2.00 for the first copy and \$.50 for each additional copy for postage and handling.)

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History would not exist today if historians had not spent a lot of time writing down what was happening at the time, but some of the historians' works can also be questioned. As Dr. Hewsen explained, the history of the Armenian conversion to Christianity was recorded by an Armenian historian named Agathangelos, who claimed to be an eyewitness to the conversion. Recent evidence has shown that it would have been impossible for him to be an eyewitness and it places his account in the 5th century.

In his book *History of the Armenians*, Agathangelos tells the story of the conversion of Armenians to Christianity. According to him, the king of Armenia at the time, King Trdat, had martyred 32 Christian nuns who had fled to Armenia to escape from Emperor Diocletian. King Trdat was in love with one of the nuns, named

Hripsime, and after she refused to marry the king, he had all 32 nuns martyred. According to Agathangelos, the king then started acting like a wild boar. A Christian priest named Gregory, who had been held prisoner by the king for 13 years, was brought to the king. Gregory prayed with the king for forty days and, as the story goes, the king was healed. He ordered that Christianity become the state religion of Armenia. The date of the conversion is controversial to scholars, but it is widely accepted (the Armenian Church recognizes this date) that it occurred in 301 AD.

After this lecture, people received so much information in such great detail that it not only taught them about the conversion of the Armenians to Christianity but also gave them a concise summary of Armenian history up to the event.

**Second Annual Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan
Lectures in Armenian Studies**

by Dr. Robert H. Hewsen

**Lecture 3
"The Conversion of the Armenian People"**

• Thursday, December 6, 2001 • 7:30 PM

The lecture will take place in the Alice Peters Auditorium of the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Gladzor Gospels Shed New Light on Armenian Manuscript Painting

Barlow Der Mugrdechian
Advisor

The Armenian Gospels of Gladzor: The Life of Christ Illuminated. Thomas F. Mathews and Alice Taylor (Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum, 2001) 51 pp. + 60 color plates.

In commemoration of the 1700th anniversary of the proclamation of Christianity as the State Religion of Armenia, the J. Paul Getty Museum of Los Angeles has published a lavishly produced and handsome monograph, *The Armenian Gospels of Gladzor*, devoted to the study of a single manuscript.

The book was published in conjunction with *The Armenian Gospels of Gladzor*, an exhibition devoted to this rare Gospel book on loan from the Department of Special Collections of the Charles E. Young Research Library at UCLA. Accompanying the exhibition was a series of related public programs including lectures, gallery talks, and concerts.

On exhibition September 11 through December 2, 2001, this masterpiece of 14th-century Armenian manuscript painting, includes dozens of brilliantly colored miniatures illustrating the life of Christ.

In four chapters, art historians and authors Thomas F. Mathews and Alice Taylor bring to life the Gospels produced at the Armenian monastery of Gladzor, sometime at

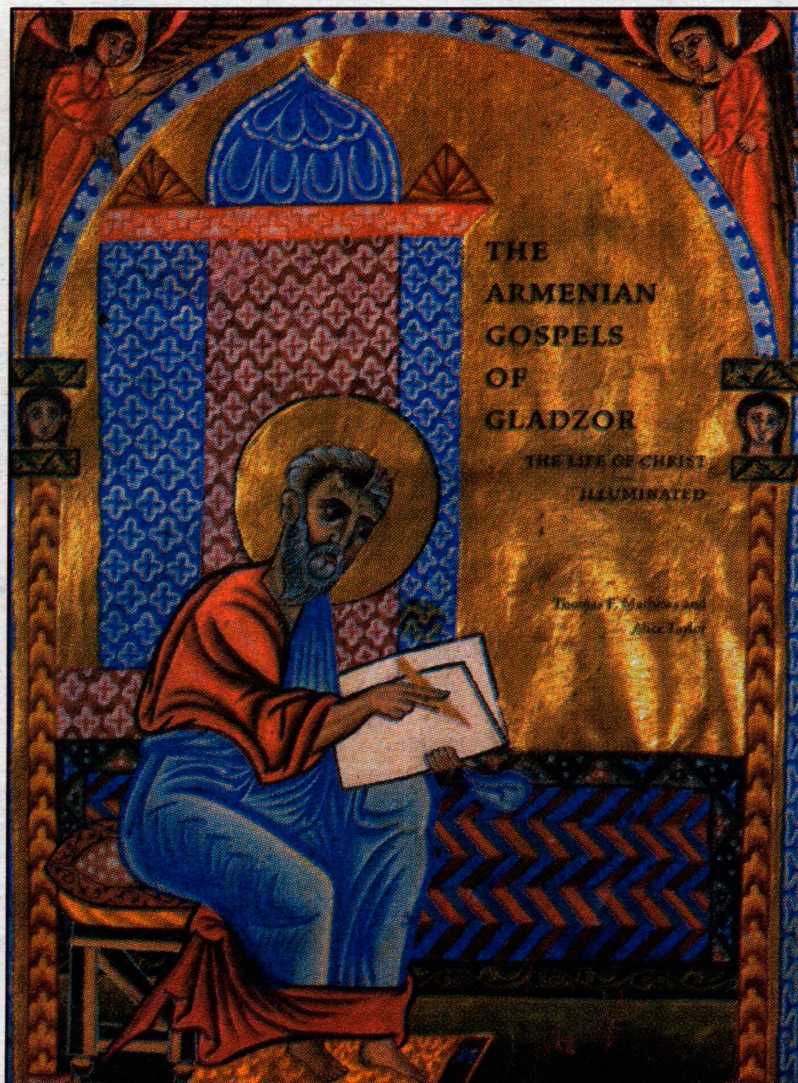
the beginning of the 14th century.

In Chapter One, Making an Illuminated Manuscript, the place of illuminated manuscripts in Armenian culture is discussed. The authors outline how the Armenians developed their own Christian tradition in theology, which was eventually expressed through painting. Through the narrative miniatures, Armenians expressed the important scenes from the Life of Christ. A thorough discussion of the making of the manuscripts, along with comments about the artists involved form the core of the first chapter.

Chapter Two, Armenian under the Mongols, brings to life the historical context from which the Gladzor Gospels arose. Armenians in the late 13th and early 14th centuries were influenced by not only the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, but by the rule of the Mongols and the Georgians.

The arrival of the Mongols, in the first quarter of the thirteenth century, constituted a new cultural influence on the Armenians. Although the Mongols' early invasions caused much destruction, eventually the Armenians prospered under a relative degree of tolerance. Armenian education and exploration of theological issues continued in the monasteries and production of manuscripts also continued.

Chapter Three, The Life of Christ in Miniature, concentrates on an understanding of the Armenian artistic approach to the illumination of manuscripts. The authors of this monograph provide a de-



tailed analysis of the specifically Armenian approach to this artistic expression. To do this, they had to elucidate not only the existing Armenian tradition of Armenian painting, but also explore the Armenian exegetical sources.

This dual line of inquiry leads to several important conclusions about the Gladzor Gospels. The

main artist of the Gospel, Toros of Taron, worked along with his abbot, Yesayi Nchetsi, both of them constantly discussing and developing an Armenian approach to both art and theology.

One sub-section of this chapter, The Human and the Divine in Christ, explains both the theology of the Armenian Church and also

how that theology was expressed in the paintings. Another sub-section, Women in the Life of Christ, describes the importance of women in the Gladzor Gospels—twenty-one of the fifty-six miniatures involve women.

Chapter Four, the Conclusion, summarizes the theological discussions that must have accompanied the production of the manuscript. The authors also discuss the models on which many of the Gladzor paintings are based, such as the Vahapar Gospel, which itself was an example of Armenian Gospels representing a tradition before the advent of both the Mongols and Roman Catholic missionaries.

The conclusion of the Chapter details the fascinating provenance of the Gladzor Gospels as it exchanged hands numerous times. In 1377, the Gladzor Gospels came into the possession of an Armenian princess who treasured it and wrote a prayer in it. Over the course of the following centuries, the manuscript traveled across Asia before coming to UCLA in 1968 as a donation from Dr. Caro Minasian, a physician from New Julfa.

This extremely readable and beautiful book is a valuable addition to the growing body of scholarly work on Armenian manuscript illumination. Thomas F. Mathews and Alice Taylor have contributed much to the discussion of Armenian manuscripts by their detailed study of the Gladzor Gospels. Both scholars and non-scholars will find this monograph to be a much treasured part of their library.

News From and About Armenia

California-Armenia Trade Agreement Signed

Gov. Gray Davis signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the economic, educational and political ties between California and the Republic of Armenia on Thursday, November 22.

The fruit of several years of work by Armenian leaders and elected state officials, the Trade and Cultural Exchange Memorandum of Understanding formalizes shared interests to expand business opportunities.

The agreement is the first of its kind between an American state and the Republic of Armenia, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union this year.

The document signifies an enhanced exchange of information targeting bilateral trade and investment, according to the governor's office. It will also identify key educational opportunities for professors and students to assist both sides in the areas of technology and business administration.

"This historic agreement confirms our commitment to foster and promote technology that will immensely benefit California and Armenia in terms of job creation and shared business expertise," Davis said. "Today's action will provide vital assistance to Armenia as it works to establish an even stronger democracy through the encouragement of trade and investment with California."

The governor noted that Armenia has made significant progress in establishing democratic rule and a free market economy.

In 2000, California exports to Armenia totaled \$11.3 million. Exports in the first half of 2001 reached more than \$8 million, an 89 percent increase over the same period last year, according to the governor's office.

Principal California exports to Armenia include miscellaneous manufactured commodities, primary metal manufacturing, and apparel and accessories.

California is home to more than 500,000 people of Armenian-American and Armenian descent, which represents the largest Armenian population outside of Armenia, according to the governor's office.

The memorandum of understanding will go into effect immediately and will last for two years.

The momentousness of the signing ceremony at the Glendale Hilton was underscored by the roster of invited guests, which included the governor and state elected officials, and Vartan Oskanian, Armenia's foreign minister, who signed the agreement on behalf of his country.

Other Armenian dignitaries will include Arman Kirakossian, Armenian ambassador to the U. S.; Movses Abelian, Armenian ambassador to the United Nations; and Valery Mkrtoumian, consul general of Armenia in Los Angeles.

New U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Presented Credentials to President of Armenia

Newly appointed US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Armenia John Ordway presented credentials to Armenian President Robert Kocharyan. The diplomat said Washington intends to contribute to create a prosperous and safe future for Armenia. The USA is interested in establishing peace and stability in the South Caucasus and is ready to contribute to this goal, the ambassador said. In his turn Robert Kocharyan said the Yerevan-Washington relations are of great importance to Armenia. Highly appreciating the USA's aid rendered to Armenia over the last 10 years, he pointed out that new possibilities for cooperation between the two countries are opening at present, with development programs replacing those of the humanitarian aid. Touching upon the bilateral economic cooperation, Robert Kocharyan emphasized the importance of activities of the Armenian-American working group and of the Armenian Diaspora of America. Both sides also touched upon issues concerning the Karabakh conflict settlement and regional security.

Polish President Recognizes Armenian Genocide

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, in Armenia on a

three-day official visit said on Thursday, November 15, that the 1915 mass killings and deportations of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire constituted a genocide and voiced hope that such tragedies will never happen again.

"What happened was a genocide and nobody should dispute that fact," Kwasniewski declared at a meeting with students and the faculty of Yerevan State University. He also drew parallels between the massacre of some 1.5 million Armenians and the extermination of Polish Jews by Nazi Germany during the World War II.

The remarks, which are bound to anger Turkey, were made after Kwasniewski's visit to the Genocide Memorial (Tsitsernagapert) in Yerevan.

"The genocide of Armenians in 1915 is a fact and what we see

here today is the truth," AFP quoted him as saying there. "We Poles know well what it means ... Fascist Germany organized the Holocaust on our territory."

Turkey is adamant that the mass killings were not a genocide, putting the Armenian death toll at 300,000. Ankara insists that the Armenians were repressed by the Ottoman regime because of their collaboration with advancing Russian troops.

The Polish leader arrived in Armenia on Wednesday for a visit which the two countries hope will strengthen their relationship. Kwasniewski and Armenian President Robert Kocharyan urged their business communities to boost the currently modest level of bilateral commercial ties as they opened a Polish-Armenian business forum in Yerevan on Thursday.

Fresno State's Scholarship Application Form for 2002-2003

On-line now through January 5, 2002.

Students can apply for hundreds of institutional scholarships by simply logging on to the web site at

<http://studentaffairs.csufresno.edu/scholarships> during the application period.

Click on "Scholarship Application" and complete each item. Students applying for Armenian Studies scholarships/grants must complete the ASP supplementary form, found on the ASP web site at www.csufresno.edu/ArmenianStudies.

Applications will then be reviewed by various selection committees. Students will receive notification of awards for the 2002-2003 academic year beginning in March of next year.

Hye Talk Completes Fall Season with Ninth TV Show

Staff Report

Hye Talk successfully completed taping its Fall 2001 season of nine shows, on Tuesday, November 20.

The television interview program, produced by the Armenian Studies Program and Department of Mass Communications and Journalism at Fresno State, had its premiere on Thursday, October 18, featuring an interview with Dr. Robert Hews, Kazan Visiting Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State.

Hye Talk host Barlow Der

in show number four. Principal Seth Atamian was interviewed and recitations were given by the third grade-class of the school. A three-minute video segment featured the school's new location in the Tower District of Fresno.

Brothers Jim and Edward Karagozian each gave demonstrations on the *kanun* and *dumbeg*, respectively. The pieces highlighted the Armenian tradition in music.

Fresno State student Ara Mekhitarian provided a "News Update" section for Hye Talk in the second series of shows. The



Oudist Richard Hagopian, left, with Hye Talk host Barlow Der Mugrdechian

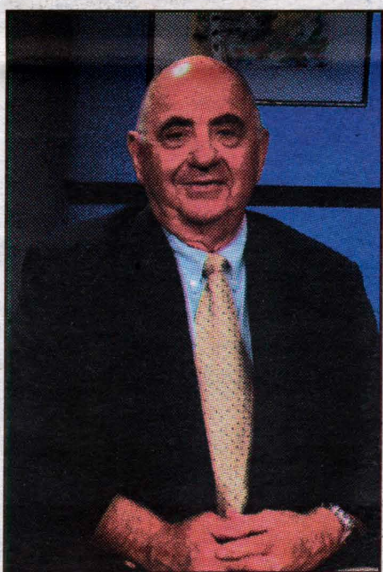
Mugrdechian, of the Armenian Studies Program, has interviewed a wide variety of people for the program.

The Arax Armenian Dancers of Fresno provided a cultural aspect for one show, by demonstrating some of the folk dances of historic Armenia. Dancers Zar Der Mugrdechian, Lena Abrahamian, and Mary Mirigian performed line and solo dances.

Musician Richard Hagopian discussed the history of the *oud* (similar to an unfretted guitar) and also gave a demonstration of the popular instrument on another show. The internationally recognized Hagopian has recorded many traditional songs and is a popular fixture at local Armenian picnics.

The Armenian Community School of Fresno was highlighted

segment included news of general interest plus upcoming Armenian Studies events.



Armenian Community School Principal Seth Atamian.



The crew of Hye Talk joined host Barlow Der Mugrdechian, and guest chef Zar Der Mugrdechian, for the Holiday Cooking show, the final show taped for the Fall 2001 season.

In June 2001, Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program had led a group of 18 students to Armenia. Arakel Arisian, former Associated Students President at Fresno State, and a trip participant, was interviewed about his experiences in show six. This show also featured a video segment showing some of the sites visited by the group. Another segment highlighted a special reunion of the group members, who spoke about their memories of the trip.

In the group of shows taped on November 20, Berge Bulbulian was interviewed about his book, *The Fresno Armenians*, which has just been reprinted. There is a great demand for the book, which outlines the history of the Fresno Armenians. A special segment on this show, took viewers on a tour of Fresno's old "Armenian Town." Janet Saghatelian of Valley Bakery was interviewed in the segment.

Fresno State Classics Program Professor Victor Hanson spoke about his views on the relationship between farming and Greek culture. His comments on the univer-

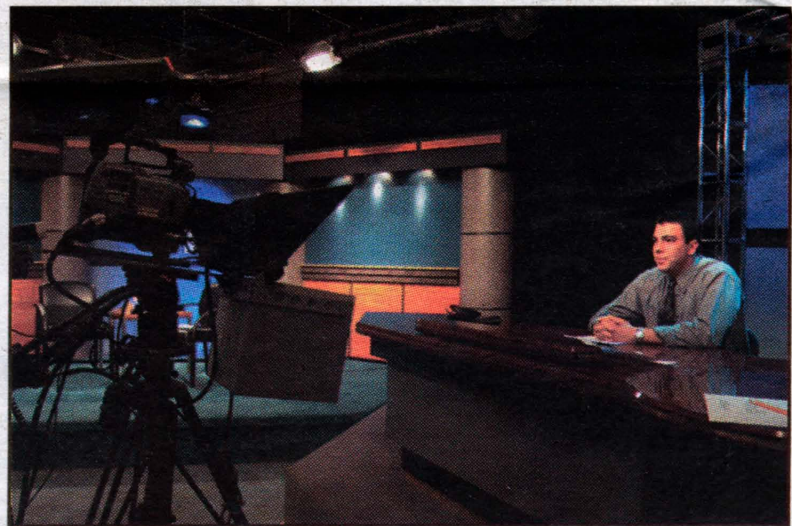
sity system proved to be very interesting. He spoke about the near demise of the family farm in America and the consequences that had had on American life.

The final show for the Fall season was a Holiday Cooking show featuring preparation of an Armenian menu. Many different Armenian foods, from appetizers to dessert were explained on the show. With help from Zar Der

Mugrdechian, the viewing audience got a taste of Armenian cuisine.

Don Priest is the instructor for the advanced course in television production and Barlow Der Mugrdechian of the Armenian Studies Program is Executive Producer.

The show airs on ATT Broadband (Cable) Channel 14, in the San Joaquin Valley, on Thursday nights, from 10:00-10:30 PM.



Ara Mekhitarian on the Hye Talk set.

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