

# NEWSletter

## Society for Armenian Studies

Vol. III, No. 1, (5) Winter, 1978

### NEW CHAIRMAN THOMSON'S MESSAGE AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear Members:

I was recently informed by Richard Hovannisian that the newly elected Council has voted me chairman for the current year. The progress that the SAS has made under our previous chairmen has been most impressive. I hope we shall continue to grow as a forum for the advancement of Armenian studies as an academic discipline and as a body of mutually supportive scholars.

There are several matters of immediate concern.

The annual meeting of SAS will take place as usual in November on the occasion of the MESA conference in Ann Arbor. The deadline for submission of proposals for papers and panels is May 15. But it takes some time to prepare the necessary paper work. As the Council hopes to be able to meet on March 29 to review proposals submitted for sponsorship by SAS, I must ask everyone to send me, by March 24\* details of their proposed papers. Proposals for complete panels, with three speakers on a given theme, will receive first consideration. Of course, individual members of MESA may submit their own proposals directly to the MESA Program Committee; details of the procedure have already been mailed to MESA members. But anyone who wishes SAS sponsorship should contact the secretary (Arpena Mesrobian) or myself by March 24.\* The Council will then do its best to organize coherent panels.

At our annual meeting last November, several projects were submitted for consideration by SAS. As these will have to be considered by the Council at its next meeting, I would appreciate it if the initiators of these projects could submit:

- a precise statement of what the SAS may be able to do;
- the names of the SAS members who are able and willing to help in carrying out the project.

The point of these requirements is very simple. SAS has no staff or funds, so any work involved must be done by the interested parties. It is therefore of little use to make very

laudable proposals in the expectation that "the Society" will carry on from there. What we can do as a corporate body is to recommend to outside parties certain projects as being academically desirable and coherently designed. But it will not be possible for the Society itself to undertake all the worthwhile enterprises suggested by its members.

There will be much more news to convey after the Council has met and discussed pending business at the end of March.

Robert W. Thomson  
Chairman of the Administrative Council

\*extended to April 15

### ELECTIONS OF THE SAS ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

An ad hoc committee composed of Gia Aivazian, Avedis Sanjian, and Richard Hovannisian counted the ballots that had been received in the election to fill vacancies created by the expiration of the terms of three members of the 1977 SAS Administrative Council. The results of the election are as follows:

Haig Der Manuelian	20	elected
John Greppin	16	
G. J. Libaridian	23	elected
Loretta Nassar	18	
Ronald Suny	22	elected

A total of thirty-four ballots was cast.

Subsequently, the new Council members elected the officers of the organization: chairman, Prof. Robert Thomson; secretary, Arpena Mesrobian; treasurer, Haig Der Manuelian. The other members of the 1978 Council are: Nina Garsoian, Richard Hovannisian, Jirair Libaridian and, Ronald Suny.



## Editor's Notes

Based on our experience of the past two years and projections of the future expansion of the *Newsletter*, the SAS Administrative Council and the editor recommended during the Annual Business Meeting in 1977 that an Editorial Board be created to assist the editor in all aspects of the production of the *Newsletter*. The membership approved the recommendation. We are happy to report that three of our members have agreed to serve on that Board. They are Prof. John A. C. Greppin of the English Department, Cleveland State University, who has from the start contributed to the *Newsletter*; Prof. Robert H. Hewsen, Department of History, Glassboro State College, whose first major contribution appears in this issue; and Mr. Nazaret Naltchayan, graduate student in the Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, who has shown sustained interest in assisting in the preparation of the *Newsletter*. We are confident that as the Board gets organized in the next few months the fruit of our collective labor will be apparent in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

The Editorial Board will also be responsible with the editor for the preparation of the Bibliography which will be published separately from the *Newsletter* henceforth, as recommended to and resolved by the membership last November. More details regarding the latter will be provided in our next issue.

Because of the interest shown toward the *Newsletter* and the Bibliography beyond the confines of our membership, the *Newsletter* and projected Annual Bibliography will be available to non-members, institutions, and organizations. Subscriptions for both publications will cost \$5 per annum. Requests for subscriptions should be forwarded to the Treasurer, Haig Der Manuelian, and checks should be made to the "Society for Armenian Studies".

Finally, material for the next issue of the *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor no later than May 31, 1978.

GJL

## 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 Pembroke Circle, Syracuse, New York 13125.

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

*Newsletter* Editorial Board:

John A.C. Greppin, Robert H. Hewsen, Nazaret Naltchayan.

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

Printed at Cleveland State University

## ACCESS TO RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC ARCHIVES IN THE USSR

Western study of Russian and Soviet foreign policy has lagged behind research on other aspects of Russian life in part because of the difficulty of gaining access to primary documentation. Archives on the Soviet period are effectively closed to foreign researchers, while the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy (Arkhir zneschme politiki Rossii), which houses Russian diplomatic documents from the period 1721 to 1917, has been only slightly more accessible. Since the conclusion of the Soviet-American cultural agreement in 1958, only nine American scholars have done research in the ARFP, and of these, only two have utilized records dating later than 1855.

The utilization by Western scholars of materials in the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy has been complicated by the absence of published regulations and guidelines concerning access. The fact, noted both by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted in her *Archives and Manuscript Repositories in the U.S.S.R.* and by the Historical Office of the Department of State in its 1976 publication on *Public Availability of Diplomatic Archives*, has meant that each scholar has had to begin *de novo* with petitions to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On June 21, 1977, Mr. Victor Mazaev, director of the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy, met with representatives from the U.S. National Archives, the U.S. Department of State and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, all of whom were in Moscow in connection with their work on the Soviet-American publication project "The Development of Russian-American Relations, 1765-1815". In the course of the meeting, Mr. Mazaev gave the American group a typed copy of the "Regulations Governing the Work of Foreign Researchers in the Reading-room of the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy of the Historical-Diplomatic Administration of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs". These rules, which were apparently drawn up in 1969 or 1970, have never been issued in printed form, nor have they been otherwise shown to more than a handful of scholars. They have now been translated and can be obtained by writing to the Kennan Institution for Advanced Russian Studies, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, DC 20560, or to the Diplomatic Branch, National Archives Records Service, Washington, DC 20408.

The Archives of Russian Foreign Policy holds the official diplomatic records of the Russian empire and is divided into three main sections. First, it contains those pre-1885 records that were formerly held by the old Main Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St. Petersburg. Second, it includes all those pre-1917 materials that had formerly been housed in the Chancellory of the Foreign Ministry in St. Petersburg. Third, the ARFP contains the papers of the many tsarist missions in foreign countries.

According to the new regulations, the entire Archives of Russian Foreign Policy can be considered open to foreign researchers, at least in principle. In the course of the interview, Mr. Mazaev stated that his archives contained no restricted documents and that he was, in general, "fully prepared" to receive requests for access directly from American scholars.

According to the written rules, scholars seeking access to the archives should forward their requests through an appropriate Soviet institution (i.e., the Academy of Sciences or the Ministry of Higher and Post-Secondary Education). Requests for access should include the re-

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searcher's plan of work or an outline. Such requests are to be acted upon within thirty days of their receipt, with access to the archives being limited to a period not exceeding thirty days.

While the published regulations state that requests should be handled through existing mechanisms of the academic exchange (for the United States, the International Research and Exchange Board, 110 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022), Mr. Mazaev stressed that he was prepared also to receive *direct* requests from established scholars. As he explained, scholars who are "known to us through their published research" may present their requests directly to the archives, Bolshaia Serpukhovskaia, 15 Moscow, USSR. To facilitate the processing of such applications, Mr. Mazaev requests that they specify as precisely as possible the materials which the researcher seeks to examine.

The rules of access to the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy are similar to those prevailing in other European archives. The archives is open from 9:30 to 5:30 on weekdays, except for days off and holidays, and for cleaning days, which fall on the last working day of each month. The archives is closed during the entire month of August. Researchers may take notes, but are forbidden to copy out entire documents. The staff of the ARFP is prepared to make photocopies of documents, but each researcher is restricted to no more than fifty pages. Mr. Mazaev stressed that foreign researchers were obliged to furnish the archive with a copy of any publication utilizing materials in its collection.

The Archives of Russian Foreign Policy is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, rather than the Main Archival Administration, and is considered a

"working archive" of that agency. The right of first publication of entire documents from the archive is subject to the decisions of the Ministry's Commission for the Publication of Diplomatic Documents. Foreign scholars wishing to publish entire documents should make application to this commission, through Mr. Mazaev.

The staff of the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy is prepared to handle up to fifteen researchers at one time. In addition to requests made according to the above procedures, Mr. Mazaev stated that his colleagues were prepared to respond to inquiries by mail, provided that they were specific and not too extensive. While shelf lists are not available for this archives, the staff normally takes pains to locate documents requested by scholars.

It is, of course, impossible to anticipate what problems, if any, will arise in connection with requests by American scholars to utilize the materials of the Archives of Russian Foreign Policy. Given the release of the written regulations, however, and given Mr. Mazaev's assurances of cooperation within the bounds of the published regulations and of his remarks to our delegation, however, American historians of Russian foreign policy should be encouraged to take advantage of what appears to be a promising possibility.

Milton O. Gustafson, U.S. National Archives  
William Z. Slany, U.S. Department of State  
S. Frederick Starr, Kennan Institute for  
Advanced Russian Studies, Wilson Center

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## CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

In conjunction with the XIth Annual Meeting of MESA held in New York, a Symposium on Armenian Civilization was organized at the Kellogg Conference Center, School of International Affairs of Columbia University. The Symposium was held on November 9, 1977 and was sponsored by the Society for Armenian Studies, the Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures, and the Armenian Studies Program Advisory Council of Columbia University in the City of New York. The following papers were presented:

"Ashot I Bagratuni", Prof. Krikor Maksoudian, Columbia, U.

"Chengis-Khan According to Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century Armenian Sources", Mr. Robert Bedrosian, Columbia U.

"The XIVth Century Gospel Book from UCLA and Illuminations", Prof. Thomas Mathews, NYU Institute of Fine Arts and Avedis Sanjian, UCLA.

"Some Iconographic Remarks on the Church of Tat'ew", Dean Nina Garsoian, Princeton University.

"The Notation of Armenian Liturgical Music: A Survey", Mr. Shahan Arzruni.

"The Armenian-Turkish Controversy in the Scholarly Arena", Prof. Richard Hovannisian, UCLA.

An exhibition of rare Armenian objects and manuscripts was organized the same day in the Rotunda of the Low Memorial Library. March 31-April 1. Second Conference

on Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies at Ladycliff College, Highland Falls, N.Y.

April 29. Fifth history colloquium at the Behrend College of The Pennsylvania State University. Theme: "The Immigrant Experience in Urban America". Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. Lorraine M. Lees, Colloquium Chairman, Behrend College, The Pennsylvania State University, Station Road, Erie, Pa. 16510.

September, 1978. 1978 colloquium of the Oral History Association will be held in Savannah, Ga. Inquiries should be sent to Ronald J. Grele, 615 South First Avenue, Highland Park, N.J. 08904.

## NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

GEORGE BOURNOUTIAN has been appointed Mellon Humanities Fellow at Columbia University for 1978.

AGOP DER KARABETIAN has completed his Ph.D. at the U. of Kansas and is currently assistant professor of social psychology at the Haigazian College, Beirut, Lebanon.

Prof. JAMES ETMEKJIAN (Boston U.) is the recipient of a grant from HEW to prepare an anthology of Western Armenian literature.

Prof. JOHN GREPPIN (Cleveland State U.) is the recipient of a grant from NEH for 1978-79.

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Prof. W. EUGENE KLEINBAUER (Indiana U.) has accepted the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia to read a paper at the Second International Symposium on Armenian Art to be held in Erevan, Sept. 12-18, 1978. Tentative title of his paper: "Tradition and Innovation in the Design of Zvartnots".

Prof. DICKRAN KOUYMJIAN (Fresno State U.) has presented an illustrated paper on his recent publication, *Index of Armenian Art: Illustrated Armenian Manuscripts to the Year 1000 A.D.*, at the Annual Byzantine Studies Conference held at Columbia U., Dec. 1977.

Prof. GABRIELE WINKLER (St. John's U.) has presented a paper on "The Oldest Armenian Sources Concerning the Rites of Initiation" at the Annual Byzantine Studies Conference held at Columbia U., Dec. 1977.

Prof. ALBERT WOLOHOJIAN (Rutgers U.) has presented a paper on "The Armenian Visions of the Life of St. Alexis" at the 92nd Annual Convention of the Modern Languages Association of America held in Chicago, Dec. 1977.

## NEW MEMBERS

ROUBEN ADALIAN, UCLA, graduate student; History, Armenian and Byzantine.

LOIS S. AROIAN, U. of Michigan, graduate student; History, Modern Middle East.

ANI ATAMIAN, Columbia U., graduate student; History, European and Armenian.

ARA BALIOZIAN, Ontario, Canada; Political Science Ph.D.

CARNEGIE S. CALIAN, U. of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Ia.; Professor of Theology, Theology, Ethics and Eastern Christianity.

KEVORK ESAYAN, U. of Connecticut, senior; Political Science and International Relations, Middle East.

JULIET YAGUBI HAKOPIAN, U. of Pennsylvania, graduate student; History, Armenian-Persian Relations.

ROBERT H. HEWSON, Glassboro State College, N.J.; Professor of History.

MARJORIE HOUSEPIAN, Barnard College, Associate Dean; Columbia U., Professor of English.

LUCY-ANNE HUNT, Harvard U. (visiting from London U.), doctoral candidate; Art History, Oriental Christian Paintings of 12-13th c.

GEORGE B. KOOSHIAN, JR., UCLA, doctoral candidate; History, Immigrant and Ethnic Studies.

GARY H. KULHANJIAN, Rutgers U., graduate student; History; teacher of Education and Social Studies.

THOMAS F. MATHEWS, NYU, Institute of Fine Arts; Professor of Art History.

WINNIFRED E.C. MORGAN, Shippensburg State College, Pa.; Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern and Armenian Studies.

JAMES H. TASHJIAN, Boston, Mass.; Editor, *The Armenian Review*.

ABRAHAM TERIAN, Andrews U., Mich.; Assistant Professor, Intertestamental Studies.

GABRIELE WINKLER, St. John's U., Minn.; Professor of Theology, Armenian Studies, Historical Development of Rituals.

## NEWS OF INTEREST

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced a grant of \$110,000 to the Armenian Assembly for the carrying out of an oral history project designed to record the autobiographies of Armenian survivors of the 1915 Genocide and to cast light on the experience of Immigrants in America. Prof. Dennis Papazian is the project director, and Profs. Avedis Sanjian and Richard Hovannisian are executive advisers.

Dr. Zaven Guiragossian has announced that Stanford University is planning on the development of computer based courses in the Armenian language. Prof. Hasmig Seropian has been selected to develop the curriculum. The university is seeking funds for the project that could eventually assist or replace the Armenian language instructor by a computer.

Scholars concerned with international affairs could be interested in announcements, publications, and other items of interest issued from time to time from the Office of the Historian, United States Department of State. To be included on the office's mailing list, a request should be addressed to the Office of the Historian, United States Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20250. *Major Publications of the Department of State: An Annotated Bibliography* is now available from the Office.

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# Books

## THE MODERN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSSIAN AND SOVIET LITERATURE (MERSL) Edited by Harry B. Weber

About 50 vols. plus indexes and supplements. Vol. 1 in print. Vol. 2 due late 1977 or early 1978. 2-3 vols. annually. By publisher-direct standing order/subscription to the set as published. \$27.50 the volume. Index volumes may be priced variously.

**M**

The most complete and authoritative reference for all significant aspects of Russian and Soviet literary culture in any language. MERSL brings together in one place and in one standard format the scattered information found in the old Ruddian, Soviet and other reference and specialized literature covering literary figures and movements, national literatures, and related disciplines. This information is updated and enlarged by contributions especially written by today's scholars.

Designed for the entire English-reading public—from scholars to public library users—MERSL attempts a cultural profile of Russia and the Soviet Union as revealed by writers, critics, linguistics, dramatic literature, literary genres, journals and folklore. Especially noteworthy is the inclusion of two areas for which very little is available in English—Russian emigre literature and non-Slavic Soviet literatures.

## THE MODERN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSSIAN AND SOVIET HISTORY (MERSH) Edited by Joseph L. Wieczynski

50 vols. plus indexes and supplements. Vols. 1-4 in print. Vols. 5-6 due 1977. 3-4 vols. annually. By standing order/subscription to the set as published. \$27.50 per volume. Publisher-direct.

**M**

MERSH, the most complete, authoritative and objective reference for Russian and Soviet history in any language, pools existing reference works (all appropriate Russian and Soviet encyclopedias etc.) into one systematic whole, updates and adds to it the learning of today's specialist. Vol. 1-4 (Aachen-Bobinski) contain 1510 entries, including signed contributions by more than 100 Western scholars.

MERSH (and all AIP publications) is an unsubsidized and therefore an independent reference work. It is the product of the cooperative efforts of the scholarly community and is accountable solely to it. MERSH obsoletes the Great Soviet Encyclopedia as an historical reference work.

The Academic International Press has begun publication of two new reference works, *The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet History* (MERSH) and *The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian and Soviet Literature* (MERSL). Volumes I-V of MERSH have already appeared (through letter C) and Volume I of MERSL (through Ar). Both will appear over the next twenty years, and 50 to 60 volumes are projected of each including supplements.

The entries in these encyclopedias are lengthy, single-columned, and there are no illustrations. Each volume is about half as thick as that of a standard encyclopedia volume and has a slightly smaller page size.

Among the scholars currently contributing to the two series are Riasonovsky, Thadan, Zenkovsky, and Mazour.

I have discussed these two series with the publisher, and the editors of these two encyclopedias are actively seeking scholars to do articles on all the minority peoples of the U.S.S.R. including topics relating to the periods before these peoples came under Russian domination as well as topics relating to their diasporas.

Whatever we may think of the concept, these encyclopedias or its realization, they will be important works by their very existence and it is up to us to see that Caucasia (both Armenia and Georgia) are properly represented. All interested members of SAS are urged to write to the editors c/o The Academic International Press, Box 555, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561 describing his or her specialty and offering to submit articles upon request. Contributions suitable for volumes already published are to be included in the supplements.

(Paid Advertisement)

## From Caravan Books

### New

*Classical and Middle Armenian Bird Names*

*A Linguistic, Taxonomic, and Mythological Study*

By John A. C. Greppin,

Cleveland State University

Clothbound \$25.00

### Previously Published

*A Textbook of Modern Western Armenian*

By Kevork B. Bardakjian and

Robert W. Thomson,

Harvard University

Clothbound \$15.00

*An Introduction to Classical Armenian*

By Robert W. Thomson,

Harvard University

Clothbound \$15.00

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(continued from page 5)

Cyril Toumanoff's new *Manuel de Généalogie et de Chronologie pour L'Histoire de la Caucasic Chrétienne* appeared in December 1976. A collection of 113 genealogical charts and over 60 tables of Armenian, Georgian, and Albanian royal and princely houses, it is available from Edizione Aquila, via Muzio Clementi 68, Rome 00193, Italy.

As this is an important reference work, it is suggested that Armenian studies programs have their university bookstores order a good supply for present and future students. Toumanoff's earlier *Studies in Christian Caucasian History* (Washington, 1963) has been unavailable for several years.

Robert H. Hewsen,  
Glassboro State College

### Membership Application Form

#### SOCIETY FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Field: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please use a separate sheet to briefly discuss your ability to contribute to Armenian Studies and the Society's goals, if this is not indicated by your institutional affiliation or academic field.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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.