

California State University, Fresno



ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Fresno, California 93740

**NEWS SERVICE**



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Items from the local, national, and  
international press on the activities  
of the Armenian Studies Program

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**Armenian  
Assembly of  
America**

**JOURNAL**

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Summer, 1985

**THE PURPOSE AND DIRECTION OF  
ARMENIAN STUDIES IN THE DIASPORA**

*Dickran Kouymjian*

*The following is an excerpt from a paper presented by Professor Kouymjian in September, 1979, at the 2nd ICOM conference in Paris, France. The full text of the presentation appears in volume two of the proceedings from the conference, pages 97-104, published in Venice in April, 1981.*

If one of the purposes of Armenian studies, conscious or unconscious, in Armenian diasporic communities, was to create new centers of Armenology in universities, this endeavor has been

meaningfully fulfilled and has resulted in tangible achievements. If in part its purpose was to educate better certain Armenians about their own background, this too has been realized. If, on the other hand, there was also the expectation of enlightening the general and international public about Armenia and Armenians, the results thus far have been dubious, even disappointing.

As we look toward the next decade and after, one of the main purposes of Armenian studies must be to present

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Armenian Studies (Continued from page 1)

more effectively the worth of Armenian civilization and the Armenian experience to wider non-Armenian as well as Armenian audiences. Though this has been said before, it needs to be repeated. Within the diaspora, the general public must be informed about Armenian history and must be made sensitive to its past riches in order that non-Armenians attach a value to Armenia's past as they have learned to value Greek, Iranian, Jewish, and other cultures. A broader or deeper understanding of the Armenians will ultimately result in a more positive, sympathetic acceptance of the Armenian condition and of unresolved Armenian problems. Perhaps another result of such a process will be the effect of its success on new generations of diasporic Armenians. When the **uninvolved** Armenian sees the value attached to this cultural past by the non-Armenian, he or she will be encouraged not only to learn more about it, but to find an extra incentive to remain within that cultural milieu and develop him or herself within it, while contributing to its development.

## SPECIALIZED RESEARCH NEEDED

As we look to the future, an important new priority is the establishment of effective research centers which will specialize in the study of specific problems of Armenian studies. Permanently endowed chairs or professorships of Armenian studies now exist in sufficient numbers to accommodate the formation of an almost unlimited number of Armenologists. Already in the American-Armenian experience, where a dozen or so individuals have received or are about to receive their doctorate degrees in Armenological studies, there is the disturbing problem of finding proper employment for them. What in fact can an Armenologist do besides in turn becoming a professor of Armenian studies? Yet, for a Ph.D. in Armenian to become a professional photographer or a librarian or a teacher of English seems to be underexploitation of a training which in most cases has in part been

financed by the Armenian community. Thus, one of the functions of Armenian research institutes would be to provide appropriate employment for trained scholars. On the priority list of such establishments should be a center for the study of the Armenian Genocide; another for the study of Armenian art and architecture (in some respects this is coming into being by the Armenian Architectural Archive established by the Armenian Educational Foundation); a general documentation center especially to bring together material and data of the past century: photographs, correspondence, newspapers, periodicals, organizational archives, and miscellaneous materials produced by the various diasporic communities. At the same time existing institutions like the Mekhitarist Academy of San Lazzaro must be encouraged to continue to expand its scholarly activities.

## SCHOLARSHIP MUST HAVE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Another direction or priority must be to encourage Armenian scholars to involve themselves in problems that have a more visibly direct application to current diasporic problems, political as well as cultural. For instance we are far behind in the historical study of Armenian population figures, including the statistics of the Genocide. Rather than the expected Armenian program of a large university or the educational wing of an influential Armenian political, cultural, or benevolent organization, the Armenian church, or the Academy of Sciences working on such a vital problem, to the best of my knowledge the only serious effort carried out in the past and continuing today is that of a pediatrician, formerly in Lebanon and now in California, Dr. Sarkis Karayan. Like the study of genocide, this work is not only intrinsically valuable as an academic discipline, but it is also utilitarian.

The research institute system practiced by most advanced countries not only provides a center for individuals devoted to research. It also serves as an outlet for the university professor

to step away from the routine and demands of teaching for an extended period of time to complete research and writing of works in those areas of his or her specialization which will advance that field.

## GREATER SYNTHESIS IN SCHOLARSHIP REQUIRED

Finally, Armenian studies must also seek to prepare scholars not just in the study of narrow specialization, but to train individuals in the analysis of long periods of time and wide areas of activity. Though we are ever increasing our pool of specialized literary, historical, and art historical studies dealing with specific periods, individuals, and schools, we have only just witnessed the first serious attempt at a synthetic work on the general history of Armenian art, that of Sirarpie Der Nersessian, while for literature and history nothing serious exists of a general nature which is up-to-date, comprehensive, and accurate. We must find the proper incentives to have such works produced and not just one for each field but many with varied and perhaps even conflicting points of view. It must be remembered that a culture as broad, as ancient, as diverse in its contents, a culture that provoked and to a great extent continues to provoke permanent, yet often creative conflicts, among the Armenians themselves, is a culture so complex that it needs many and diverse interpretations to be understood.

By continuing the process of broadening the meaning of Armenian Studies or Armenology to include not just the traditional disciplines of linguistics, philology, and history, but also modern literature and criticism, sociology and anthropology, the arts and culture in general, not only will the usefulness of these studies increase, but the barriers between the ivory tower of the scholar and the passion and aspirations of the people will be reduced, perhaps destroyed.

*Professor Kouymjian is Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, California.*



society for armenian studies

Newsletter

Vol X, No.2 (24)  
September 1985

ISSN: 0740-5510

## Hye Sharzhoom

The Armenian Studies Program and the Armenian Students' Organization of California State University, Fresno, publish and distribute without charge a newspaper *Hye sharzhoom / Armenian action*, usually four times each academic year. Volume VII will appear during the 1985-86 academic year. SAS members who no longer receive *Hye sharzhoom* because of an address change should notify the paper c/o Prof Dickran Kouymjian, Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno CA 93740.

Armenian course offerings at CSU for Fall 1985 include: Introduction to Armenian Studies, The life and writing of Saroyan, Elementary and Intermediate Armenian [Western], Armenian history to the Mongol invasions, Armenian political violence, The Armenian Church, and The Armenian experience through film.

SOURCE Society of Armenian Studies, NewsletterDATE Vol. X, No. 2, Sept 1985SUBJECT CSUF Armenian faculty activitiesPAGE 1 of 1

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At California State University, Fresno, Barlow DER MUGRDECHIAN has been appointed Lecturer in the Armenian Studies Program and is teaching Elementary and Intermediate Armenian and a Saturday course on the Armenian Church. Mr Der Mugrdechian received his C.Phil. in Armenian Literature this past spring from UCLA and is currently working on his doctoral dissertation under Avedis Sanjian.

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Malkasian, Mark: The disintegration of the Armenian cause in the United States, 1918-1927. *IJMES* 16.3.349-365.

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Kouymjian, Dickran: Destruction des monuments historiques arméniens, poursuite de la politique turque de génocide. *Le crime de silence...*(Paris, 1984).295-310; Die Zerstörung armenischer Denkmäler -- eine Fortsetzung der Völkermord-Politik. *Das Verbrechen des Schweigens...*(Göttingen, [1985]).155-162; The destruction of Armenian historical monuments as a continuation of the Turkish policy of genocide. *The crime of silence...*(London, 1985).173-185.

Kouymjian, Dickran: William Saroyan et l'expérience ethnique arménienne. *Armenia* (December 1984).48-50.



## society for armenian studies

# Newsletter

Vol X, No.2 (24)  
September 1985

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### From the Society

#### 10th Anniversary activities

The Administrative Council of the Society for Armenian Studies has planned a series of events to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its formation:

--On Sunday, 24 November, at 8.00pm the SAS will hold a 10th Anniversary banquet in the world-famous Arnaud's Restaurant in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The day and venue coincide with the Society's annual meeting, which will be held that afternoon in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Middle East Studies Association will also be holding its annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency, and the SAS is sponsoring three scholarly panels on Armenian subjects as part of that conference.

--A special issue of the *SAS Newsletter* will be devoted to the past decade of activities, including a history of the Society, conferences it has sponsored or co-sponsored, and the publications it has issued. Members who wish to make contributions to this special issue should write to the current Chairman of the Administrative Council:

Dr Dickran Kouymjian  
Armenian Studies Program  
California State University  
Fresno CA 93740

Those who have historical documents pertaining to the history of the SAS may forward copies to the same address. Shortly the Administrative Council will also appoint a guest editor for the issue, and those who may be interested in this position should write immediately.

--The Council has decided to organize one-day forums on the East and West coasts on the subject "The status and future of Armenian Studies in America". The symposia/seminars will be open to the public and will be co-sponsored by other organizations. Those interested in participating should contact the Chairman of the Administrative Council (address above). We hope that as many members as possible will try to be present at the New Orleans meeting. The Administrative Council plans to present a series of structural reforms of the Society for the consideration of the membership at large. Those with further suggestions on either the meeting or the 10th Anniversary celebrations may communicate them to any member of the Council.

### SAS Newsletter

ISSN: 0740-5510

Society for Armenian Studies Newsletter  
Vol X, No.2 (24)

September 1985

#### Editor:

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The *SAS Newsletter* is published by the:

Society for Armenian Studies, Inc.  
6 Divinity Avenue / Room 103  
Cambridge MA 02138 (USA)

Members of the SAS receive the *Newsletter* as part of their annual membership. Institutions and non-members may subscribe to the *Newsletter* at a cost of \$10.00 (US) for three successive numbers. This fee includes the current issue of the *Annual Bibliography of articles on Armenian Studies* published by the SAS.

Direct all inquiries concerning SAS membership and publications to the Secretary. Address editorial matters for the *Newsletter* to the Editor.

#### Administrative Council of the SAS (1985):

\* Chairman: Dickran Kouymjian, Armenian Studies Program, CSUF, Fresno CA 93740.

Secretary: Arpena Mesrobian, 4851 Pembridge Circle, Syracuse NY 13215.

Treasurer: Gia Aivazian, University Research Library, UCLA, Los Angeles CA 90024.

At large: Artin Arslanian, Nikola Schahgaldian, Krikor Maksoudian, Vahé Oshagan.

## Exhibit Draws Participation of Local Armenians

FRESNO, Ca. - "A Visit to Fresno - A Trip Around the World" will be the theme of an exhibit which will be presented at the Fulton Mall as a part of this city's Centennial Festival Celebration that will take place on October 5 and 6. More than twenty countries, including Armenia, will be presented in the exhibit that will feature ethnic foods, costumes and entertainment.

The Armenian participation in the festival is most appropriate since only a few years earlier, in the fall of 1981, Armenian immigrants left their native homeland in search of freedom and opportunity and settled here. Armenians, along with many other ethnic groups, have contributed much to the growth of Fresno.

"Each nationality has been assigned a designated area on the mall, a half block in size, which will transform into a visual presentation about its particular country, its people and their customs," stated exhibit coordinator, Tom Van Nortwick of the Downtown Association of Fresno.

Allan Y. Jendian of the Armenian Assembly and coordinator of the Armenian section disclosed that the Armenian section on the Fulton Mall at Kern will feature ethnic foods and pastries and major cultural and historical exhibits by various local Armenian organizations. Highlighting the Armenian section will be an elaborate photographic exhibit, "The Armenian Community in California: The First Hundred Years," prepared on the occasion of the centennial commemoration of the settlement of Armenians in California and exhibited here in 1982. This pro-

ject was sponsored by the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian Film Foundation and the Armenian Studies Program, CSUF, with a matching grant by the California Council for the Humanities.

Another feature will be a glimpse of a magnificent heritage in Armenian costumes of the past, recaptured by the Armenian Relief Society of Sophia Chapter, on display in Luftenburg's Bridal Shop.

A special centennial booklet with a cover montage by artist Varaz Samuelian is being prepared by the Armenian Assembly, Fresno Committee, that promises to be a keepsake.

There will be numerous activities and presentations planned for the weekend to promote the widest possible understanding of the diversity and the contribution of each ethnic group. Appearing in the opening program on Oct. 5, on the main stage at Van Ness and the Mariposa Mall, at 2:00 p.m. are: noted oudist Richard A. Hagopian and his Ensemble; and dancer/choreographer Tom Bozigian and the Arax Dancers. The chorus of the Armenian Community School will participate at 5:15 p.m. on October 5 at the Theatre A la Carte at M and Broadway. On October 6 at 12:45 p.m., the Hamaskayin Chorus will perform on the main stage.

Participating organizations in the Armenian section will include the Armenian Assembly; the Armenian Community School of Fresno; the Armenian Relief Society, Sophia Chapter; the St. Paul Armenian Church, Junior Ladies Society; and the National Institute of Armenian Culture.

**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

## *Armenians To Participate In Centennial Festival*

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SOURCE Nor Gyank, Los Angeles

DATE 10 October 1985

SUBJECT New CSUF Lecturer in Armenian

PAGE 1 of 1

THE LARGEST ARMENIAN / ENGLISH / FRENCH WEEKLY

# NOR GYANK

## New Life

SECOND

**F R O N T  
P A G E**

VOLUME VII, NO. 42, OCTOBER 10, 1985

### University Beat

## Der Mugrdechian Appointed CSUF Arm. Studies Lecturer

FRESNO, CA—Barlow Der Mugrdechian was recently appointed lecturer in Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno for the Fall 1985 semester. The appointment was announced by the Coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at CSUF, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian. Der Mugrdechian will teach introductory Armenian language (Arm.-1A) and intermediate Armenian language (Arm.2A), as well as a one-unit course on the Armenian Church.

Der Mugrdechian is a graduate of UCLA, where he received a Candidate in Philosophy degree in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, successfully passing his Ph.D. comprehensive

examinations, both written and oral in June, 1985. He received his Masters Degree from UCLA in June 1983 with a major in Armenian Literature. Der Mugrdechian will continue his doctoral research in the field of modern Armenian Literature while at California State University, Fresno. The dissertation will be under the guidance of his thesis advisor, Dr. Avedis K. Sanjian, Naregatsi Professor of Armenian Studies at UCLA.

Der Mugrdechian has been a Research Assistant at the G.E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, working with Dr. Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian History at UCLA. He has been a recipient of numerous scholarships and fellowships, including the A.G.B.U. Knights of Vartan, and the Armenian-American Citizens League awards.

A native of Fresno, he is a former President of the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State and also a former Chairman of the Central Council of the ACYO of California.

## The California COURIER

"The Newspaper For All Armenians" — Published weekly since 1958

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Phone: (209) 264-9330

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1985  
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1610 North Wilcox Avenue  
(L.A., Ca. 90028 — (213) 464-8337

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Der Mugrdichian has been a research assistant at the G. E. von

Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA.

A native of Fresno, Der Mugrdichian is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and California State University, Fresno.

Der Mugrdichian is the son of Bob and Norma Der Mugrdichian of Fresno and the grandson of Siranouche Tavookjian of Fresno, and the late Garabed Tavookjian and the late Mr. and Mrs. Anoushavan and Rakel Der Mugrdichian of Fresno.

# ASBAREZ

ENGLISH EDITION

PUBLICATION OF THE A.R.F. CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN U.S.A. — FOUNDED 1908

Saturday, October 12, 1985

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SALPI MARDIROSSIAN ARMENIAN CENTER  
419 W. Colorado St., Glendale, Ca. 91204 — Tel. (818) 500-9363

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ԵՐԵՎԱՆԻ, ՀՈԿՏԵՄԲԵՐ 15, 1985

68-ԲԴ ՏԱՐԻ, ԹԻԻ 70

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1985

ՖՐԵՉՆՕ, ԲԱԼԻՖ.

## Դասընթացը՝ հայ զինեալներու եւ քաղաքական բռնութեան մասին

Նախաձեռնութեամբ Հայկական Ուսմանց Կեդրոնին, «Հայկական քաղաքական բռնութիւն» նիւթին շուրջ դասընթացը մը պիտի տրուի Գալիֆորնիոյ Ֆրեզնոյի համալսարանին մէջ:

Այս դասընթացը, որ երեք տարի առաջ սկսած էր Տոքթ. Տիգրան Գոլյումճեանի կողմէ, կը կրկնուի այն տարի եւս, նկատի ունենալով անոր արձանագրած յաջողութիւնը եւ Հայկական քաղաքական բռնութեան տասնամեակը:

Փրոֆ. Գոլյումճեան պիտի քննարկէ ԱՍԱԼԱյի եւ Հայկական կարգ մը քաղաքա-նազմական կազմակերպութիւններու ազդեցութիւնը՝ հայթրքական յարաբերութեանց, արեւմտեան աշխարհի, միջազգային մարմիններու եւ հայոց ջանքին՝ 1915ի Յեղասպանութեան ճանաչումին վրայ:

Հոկտեմբեր 19ի եւ 26ի նիստերը նուիրուած պիտի ըլլան Հայ Եկեղեցիի ծէսին, հաւատքին, պատմութեան եւ անոր հրատապ հարցերուն: Այս նիւթը պիտի զասաւանդէ Փրոֆ. Գոլյումճեանի հետ, Հայկական ուսմանց նոր դասախօս Պարլօ Տէր Մկրտիչեան, ինչպէս նաեւ Հայ հոգեւորականներ:

Իսկ Դեկտ. 7ին եւ 14ին, Փրոֆ. Գոլյումճեան պիտի ներկայացնէ «Հայկական փորձառութիւնը՝ Ֆիլմով» նիւթը: Ան Հայկական ֆիլմերու պատմականը պիտի ընէ եւ ցոյց տայ նմուշներ՝ Հայկական ֆիլմերէ, ինչպէս Ուիլիըմ Սարոյեանէ, Ռուբէն Մամուլեանէ եւ Հենրիկ Մալեանէ: Իսկ Տոքթ. Մայքըլ Յակոբեան՝ որ Հայկական վաւերագրական ֆիլմերու արտադրիչն է, ներկայ պիտի ըլլայ եւ ցոյց տայ մասեր իր պատրաստած ֆիլմերէն:

SOURCE Armenian Reporter, New York

DATE August 1985

SUBJECT CSU Fresno Professor in Jerusalem

PAGE 1 of 1

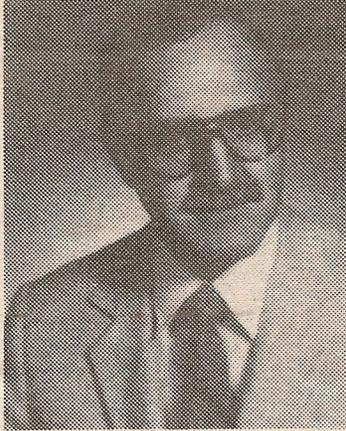
## Gary A. Kulhanjian Returns From Yad Vashem Inst.

LINCROFT, N.J. - Gary A. Kulhanjian was the recipient of the first Reverend John S. Grauel Scholarship awarded by the Center for Holocaust Studies of Brookdale Community College, Professor Jack Needle, Center Director, has announced.

The scholarship honors Reverend Grauel, a Methodist minister and long-time resident of Monmouth County. At the end of World War II, Reverend Grauel was instrumental in saving children of the Holocaust. He was the only non-Jew aboard the Haganah ship, Exodus.

Dr. Seymour Siegler, Center Coordinator, said that competition for the award, open this year to teachers who have worked with the Center, was keen. The scholarship covered costs of the Summer Institute on Teaching the Holocaust at Yad Vashem Institute of Martyrs and Heroes, Jerusalem, Israel, for the month of July.

While studying at Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem, Kulhanjian heard lectures from world renowned historians and Holocaust specialists. Among the list of notables from the United



**GARY A. KULHANJIAN**

States and Canada were: Professors Richard Hovannician, Franklin Littell, and Emil Fackenheim. Israeli and Jewish scholars were numerous from Hebrew University and other institutions in Israel. The list includes internationally known scholars such as: Professors Yahuda Bauer, Israel Gutman, Shmuel Ettinger, Zeev Mankowitz, Ezra Mendelsohn, Shammau Davidson, and many others. The students who attended the Summer Institute were from five different continents. Most of them were educa-

tors who teach about genocide. Kulhanjian was the only student and educator from New Jersey, and the only American Armenian student from the United States.

Before leaving for the Middle East, Kulhanjian lectured at Trenton State College on the subject of the Armenian Genocide. His area of expertise, other than United States history, is Armenian immigration, immigrants, and settlements. He has written two small books about Armenian immigration to the United States. He has contributed numerous articles on modern Armenian history and book reviews to several scholarly and literary publications.

Kulhanjian also visited the Armenian Monastery while in Jerusalem. He met with Bishop Guregh Kapikian and other members of the clergy, and several officials who administer the headquarters of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. He also had the opportunity to talk to Professor Richard Hovannisian of University of California, Los Angeles, and Professor Dickran Kouymjian of California State University, Fresno, Calif.