



**California State University, Fresno  
Armenian Studies Program  
5245 N. Backer Ave. M/S PB 4  
Fresno, California 93740-8001**

**Armenian Studies Program  
News Service**

**CSU Fresno Armenian Studies Program activities as reported in local,  
national, and international media.**

**Fall 2006**

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: August 9, 2006  
SUBJECT Dr. Chookaszian Named as Kazan Visiting Professor PAGE: 1 of 1

## Dr. Levon Chookaszian Named as Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor at Fresno State for Fall 2006

FRESNO - Dr. Levon Chookaszian, UNESCO chair of the Department of Art History at Yerevan State University, has been appointed the sixth Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State for the Fall 2006 semester.

Dr. Chookaszian will be teaching a three-unit course, Armenian Studies 120T, "Armenian Massacres and Genocide Reflected in Armenian Art of the 20th Century," which will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00-3:15 PM. The Fall 2006 semester begins August 28 and Dr. Chookaszian's course begins on Tuesday, August 29. The course will be fully illustrated with slides.

The Armenian Massacres of 1895-96 and of 1905-1907 stimulated the appearance of topics related to those events in the works of Armenian painters. The first artist who represented the acts of violence and ethnic clearing was Haroutiun Shamshian (1856-1914). Later on numerous Armenian artworks were produced by different artists depicting those horrible pages of Armenian modern history.

During the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923, certain painters became the eyewitnesses of the deportation of the Armenian people from their native lands and portrayed those homeless people, sometimes even endangering their own lives.

The mass tragedies of those years created the generations of orphan painters who grow up in orphanages in foreign countries and produced art-works full of sadness and nostalgia, until the end of their lives. The horrors that they experienced, in certain cases, were incorporated in symbolic or surrealistic ways.



Dr. Levon Chookaszian

The course will cover artists working in the Armenian Diaspora, as well as during the era of the Soviet Union. The repatriation of Armenians from the Middle East and Europe to Armenia during the 1940s and 1950s helped to advance the education of art in Armenia and brought a breath of fresh air in the whole culture.

The appointment of Dr. Chookaszian as Kazan Visiting Professor, follows that of Dr. Richard Hovannissian (Fall 2000), Dr. Robert Hewsen (Fall 2001), Dr. Barbara Merguerian (Fall 2002), Dr. Ara Sanjian (Fall 2003), and Dr. James Reid, Spring 2006.

Dr. Chookaszian did his

undergraduate work in Armenian language and literature and his graduate work in Armenian art at Yerevan State University. He furthered his graduate studies at Moscow State University with special emphasis on Byzantine art and European art of the Middle Ages. His first doctoral degree in art history was defended at the Art Institute of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi (1981), while he received his second doctorate in the field from the Institute of Art of the Ministry of Culture of Russia, Moscow (2001).

Dr. Chookaszian is an expert on Armenian illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages and has recently finished a monograph on the 13th century Armenian painter, Toros Roslin, the most outstanding painter of medieval Armenia. He has also published a monograph on Grigor the Miniaturist. For many years Dr. Chookaszian has been a Senior Fellow and Professor of Armenian Art at the Center for Armenian Studies at Yerevan State University, and a member of the National Committee of UNESCO in Armenia.

Dr. Chookaszian is the author of more than 200 articles and reviews for scholarly jour-

nals and newspapers as well as numerous entries for encyclopedias. He is also the recipient of several prestigious grants that have helped him pursue his research in Armenian art history.

Dr. Chookaszian has participated in many international congresses and symposia on the topic of Armenian, Georgian, Russian, Persian, and Byzantine Art. He is fluent in Armenian, Russian, English, French, and German. He and his brother Garegin are the initiators of an Armenian Art Database.

Community members are invited to enroll in the three-unit course by calling the Armenian Studies Program office. They may also attend the first day of class to enroll. There is a \$50 fee to enroll.

For more information on the course please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: August 12, 2006  
SUBJECT Dr. Chookaszian Named Sixth Visiting Professor at Fresno State/Fall 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## *Dr. Levon Chookaszian Named as Sixth Henry S. Khanzadian Kazan Visiting Professor at Fresno State for Fall 2006*

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Dr. Chookaszian did his undergraduate work in Armenian language and literature and his graduate work in Armenian art at Yerevan State University. He furthered his graduate studies at Moscow State University with special emphasis on Byzantine art and European art of the Middle Ages. His first doctoral degree in art history was defended at the Art Institute of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi (1981), while he received his second doctorate in the field from the Institute of Art of the Ministry of Culture of Russia, Moscow (2001).

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## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ \_\_\_\_\_  
SUBJECT: Stone Garden Travel Guide Authors Launch Book Tour \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: September 2, 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Stone Garden Travel Guide Authors Launch Book With September Tour

LOS ANGELES, CA - Authors Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian will launch the September 1, 2006 publication of the "The Stone Garden Guide: Armenia and Karabagh," Second Edition, with a tour of major cities in the US.

"The Stone Garden Guide" is the best-selling travel guide for Armenia and Karabagh, and has been critically acclaimed by publications such as CNN Traveller, which calls the book "excellent."

The September events are listed below. Events scheduled for October and November will be announced later.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin: 8 p.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, September 2, 2006: AYFOlympics, Hyatt Milwaukee Hotel, Milwaukee Room A. Slide show presentation narrated by the authors; 8 p.m. – 9 p.m., Sunday, September 3, 2006: AYF Olympics, Hyatt Milwaukee Hotel, Milwaukee Room A. Author talk and informal meet the authors.

Fresno, California: 7:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2006: Alice Peters Auditorium; California State University at Fresno (CSUF). Slide-show presentation narrated by the authors.

Pasadena, California: 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 19, 2006; Distant Lands Traveler's Bookstore; 56 South Raymond Street (Tel. 626-449-3220).

Book signing and author talk, with slide show.

Glendale, California: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 23, 2006; Border's Books and Music; South Brand Avenue. Book signing and author talk, with slide show.

Phoenix, Arizona: 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Saturday, September 30, 2006; Border's Books and Music; Biltmore Fashion Plaza. Book signing and author talk, with slide show.

Copies of the travel guide will be available for purchase at the events and are also available by mail order from the publisher. Check for \$29.95 postpaid in the US to: Stone Garden Productions; PO Box 7758; Northridge, CA 91327.

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CASUBJECT: Mamikonian Opens Keyboard Concert SeriesDATE: September 10, 2006PAGE: 1 of 1

## Season opens

Here's an interesting chance to absorb two different sides of a concert pianist: alone and with a big, powerful orchestra.

Vardan Mamikonian, the internationally known Armenian pianist, opens the new season of the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts series at 3 p.m. today with a recital in the Concert Hall at California State University, Fresno. Mamikonian will play



**Vardan  
Mamikonian**

works by Komitas, Babajanian, Chopin, Debussy, Ravel and Liszt.

After that performance, Mamikonian will kick off another season: that of the Fresno Philharmonic, which performs at 8 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. next Sunday. The concert is titled "From Russia

With Love." Mamikonian will appear with the orchestra, under the baton of Theodore Kuchar. The program includes Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain, Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Op. 43 and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10, Op. 93. Tickets for the Keyboard Concerts performance are \$5-\$12.50. Details: (559) 278-2337. Tickets for the Philharmonic are \$26-\$53. Details: (559) 261-0600, [www.fresnophil.org](http://www.fresnophil.org).

— Donald Munro



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CADATE: September 12, 2006SUBJECT: Mamikonian Brings out the Best of ChopinPAGE: 1 of 2

## Musician brings out the best of Chopin and others.

**By George Warren**

Special to the Bee

Pianist Vardan Mamikonian drew a huge crowd Sunday to the Concert Hall at California State University, Fresno, and for good reason. He brought music by Armenian composers in addition to the required fare of the romantics and played with a marvelous mix of energy and elegance.

The concert, co-presented by the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts and the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, began with an enchanting work, titled "Danse Ounabi," by the towering figure in Armenian music, Vardapet Komitas. This brief work uses just a few notes as a theme, yet with this spare palette, an unsettling harmony emerges that will not find its home. Mamikonian allowed the simplicity to reign in his presentation, never forcing the dynamics, never pushing to make more out of the score. At the quiet end, home is established, but only

by virtue of the music stopping; an apt silence fell across the hall, and Mamikonian had succeeded in setting the tone for his set of Armenian music.

Mamikonian launched Arno Babajanian's arrangement of Komitas' "Danse Vagarchabad." Here, in contrast to the simple texture of the first work, Mamikonian displayed a remarkably light touch as his fingers untangled the intricate patterns of the work.

This wasn't a strongman wrestling with the music; this was a lyrical reading of what might otherwise have come off as choppy and clumsy.

Even better, in Babajanian's "Danse Folklorique," Mamikonian brought out contrasting textures across the keyboard. Here, the left hand pounded out a staccato motif, while the right sustained a smoother ostinato. The main theme sounded at the top of the range, and one sensed an original approach to music from this composer.

Mamikonian reached the pinnacle of the Armenian set with Babajanian's "Poème," a work of remarkable imagination that demands the best of an expert pianist. The energy and drive to the end of this



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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

SUBJECT: Mamikonian Brings out the Best of Chopin

DATE: September 12, 2006

PAGE: 2 of 2

work pushed the whole set to a thrilling conclusion.

Now that Mamikonian had played the fun and interesting music, he had to earn his keep with the remainder. If only the entire program could have been Komitas and Babajanian. Mamikonian's Chopin is excellent. The mazurkas are nothing if not playful, pushing and pulling at the tempo, showing a sad face only to grin when the effect has been made on the listener. Mamikonian played the third and fourth Mazurkas from Op. 33, and took them lightly, without any useless drama.

With the Polonaise in F-sharp Minor, Op. 44, Mamikonian again showed a great deal of restraint. He kept his energy within reason.

The usual arc of a narrative includes a lull before the storm. Likewise, it often works well at a concert to set up the final barnburner by lulling the audience to sleep before lighting the fire. Debussy and Ravel fit right in with this purpose. One can't complain about the pianist providing a reliable and flawless reading of this music; there must be many people who enjoy this repertoire since it seems to

continue appearing in many programs. Here, Debussy's "La plus que Lente" and Ravel's "Valses nobles et sentimentales" bridged the time from Chopin to Liszt.

Liszt's tender Valse Oubliée led the way out of the sludge and into the most amazing feat of pianism of the program: Liszt's Spanish Rhapsody.

Mamikonian may separate himself from the average touring pianist with his fascinating Armenian repertoire, but he also can compete with anyone with the standard virtuosic repertoire. His display of fury, of dominance over the keyboard, and of pure musicianship dazzled the ears and eyes as one sat transfixed throughout the entire rendering of Liszt.

By bringing the music of his homeland, Mamikonian gave

his audience something extra, beyond the realm of technical excellence.

► George Warren, Ph.D., is the director of music at Hallmark Charter School and teaches in the music department at Reedley College.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CA  
SUBJECT: Dr. Chookaszian to Lecture Oct. 18 at CSU-Fresno

DATE: October 5, 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Dr. Chookaszian to Lecture Oct. 18 at CSUF

FRESNO - Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State, will give an illustrated lecture on "Armenian Massacres and Genocide and the Liberation Movement as Reflected in Armenian Art," at 7:30 PM on October 18.

This second lecture, in his series of three, will be held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, in the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

The Armenian massacres of 1895-96 and of 1905-1907 stimulated the appearance of topics related to those events in the works of Armenian painters. The first artist who represented the acts of violence and ethnic cleaning was Haroutyune Shamshinian (1856-1914). Later on numerous Armenian artworks were produced by different artists depicting those horrible pages of Armenian modern history.

During the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1922, certain painters became the eyewitnesses of the deportation of the Armenian people from their native lands and portrayed those homeless people, sometimes even endangering their own life.

The mass tragedies of those years created the generations of orphan-painters, who grew up in orphanages in foreign countries and until the end of their lives produced artworks full of sadness and nostalgia.

The shortages of the Soviet system and the ideological pressure and censorship did not encourage that kind of activity and created

obstacles and problems for painters and sculptors. The depiction of any topic related to massacres or Genocide was considered nationalistic propaganda and an attempt to destroy the international solidarity and brotherhood of different nations, including Armenian-Turkish, especially Armenian-Azeri connections.

Dr. Chookaszian will utilize slides taken from his many trips to various countries to illustrate his lecture.

The scholar will conclude his series of the presentations on Nov. 15, with a talk on "Armenian Art Treasures Saved from the Genocide." The talk will start at 7:30 PM in the Peters Auditorium.

Dr. Chookaszian is an expert on Armenian illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages and has recently finished a monograph on the 13th century Armenian painter, Toros Roslin, the most outstanding painter of medieval Armenia. For many years, he has been Director of the UNESCO Chair of Art History at Yerevan State University and a Senior Fellow and Professor of Armenian Art at the Center for Armenian Studies at Yerevan State University.

He is the author of more than 200 articles and reviews for scholarly journals and newspapers as well as numerous entries for encyclopedias. He is also the recipient of several prestigious grants that have helped him pursue his research in Armenian art history.

All lectures are free and open to the public. For more on the lectures, contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: October 12, 2006SUBJECT: Entries Sought for 8th Annual Film Festival in FresnoPAGE: 1 of 1

## Entries Sought for 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival in Fresno

FRESNO - Entries are being sought for the 8th Annual Armenian Film Festival to be held on the California State University, Fresno, in spring 2007.

Films made by Armenian directors/writers, or films with an Armenian theme are being sought.

The festival is sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization, the Armenian Studies Program, and CSUF. It is partially funded by the Diversity Awareness Program of the University Student Union, CSU Fresno.

Criteria includes: Films up to 1 hour in length; Films may be in any language, English preferred; Films may be on any topic, Armenian theme preferred; Film must be in video (NTSC)/DVD format

Deadline for entries to be received is January 15, 2007.

Video/DVD should be sent to: Armenian Film Festival, c/o Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N Backer Ave. PB4

Fresno, CA 93740-8001

Entries should be accompanied by a CV of the director/writer and a synopsis of the film.

Telephone 559-278-4930

Email: [barlowd@csufresno.edu](mailto:barlowd@csufresno.edu)

The Festival Committee will meet to view and judge which entries will be accepted for the Film Festival. Entrants will be contacted by email with the decisions.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CADATE: October 13, 2006SUBJECT: Turkish Novelist Wins Nobel Prize for LiteraturePAGE: 1 of 2

# Turkish novelist wins Nobel

## Writer has criticized Armenian genocide.

**By Hillel Italie**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — The Nobel Prize committee could not have picked a more divisive winner for literature than Orhan Pamuk, a writer from a predominantly Muslim country whose life and works illustrate the struggle to find a balance between East and West.

That was reflected in the range of reaction in his homeland Thursday, from Turkish nationalists professing shame at the selection of a man who speaks of the oppression of Armenians and Kurds, to Turkish writers calling it a historic moment for their rich literary tradition.

Pamuk, whose novels include "Snow" and "My Name Is Red," was charged last year for telling a Swiss newspaper that Turkey was unwilling to deal with two

of the most painful episodes in its recent history: the massacre of Armenians during World War I, which Turkey insists was not a planned genocide, and recent guerrilla fighting in the overwhelmingly Kurdish southeast.

"Thirty-thousand Kurds and 1 million Armenians were killed in these lands, and nobody but me dares to talk about it," he said in the interview.

Pamuk has long been beloved in Europe as the lyrical voice of a society in flux, and to some, his victory was another symbol of Turkey's emergence as a Western nation after decades of self-conscious cultural reform. To others, he is just another example of the West telling Turkey it should be something it's not.

Pamuk, a fellow at Columbia University, told The Associated Press that he was overjoyed by the award and accepted it not just as "a personal honor, but as an honor bestowed upon the Turkish literature and culture I represent."

The selection of Pamuk, whose trial for "insulting Turkishness" made headlines worldwide, continues a trend among Nobel judges of picking writers in conflict with their own governments. British playwright Harold Pinter, a blunt opponent of his country's involvement in the Iraq war, won last year. In 2004, it was Elfriede Jelinek, a longtime critic of Austria's conservative politicians and social class.

The controversy over Pamuk's remarks came at a particularly sensitive time for the overwhelmingly Muslim country. Turkey had recently begun membership talks with the European Union, which harshly criticized the trial.

The charges against Pamuk were dropped in January.

The reaction to Pamuk's honor was predictably mixed.

Ozdemir Ince, a prominent Turkish poet, reacted angrily.

"If you ask serious literature people, they would place Pamuk at the end of the list," he said. "Turkish literature did not win the Nobel Prize, Orhan Pamuk did."

"Tomorrow, the newspaper headlines will be Orhan Pamuk, who accepts the Armenian genocide,' won the Nobel Prize."

In an e-mail to the AP, historian Ron Chernow, president of the PEN American Center, the U.S. chapter of the international writers-human rights organization, called Pamuk "a splendid choice ... not only for the evident literary merit of his work, but because of his courageous defiance of political piety in Turkey."

Armenian leaders in Fresno and a novelist at Fresno State applauded Pamuk's selection.

The Rev. Bernard Guekguezian, pastor emeritus at Fresno's First Armenian Presbyterian Church, said, "As far as I know, he is a very honest man."

Guekguezian said Pamuk believes Turks have to accept what their "forefathers did to the Armenians" so they can be "released from this great sense of guilt."

"For me, it is a positive," he added. "He is a great man who is able to accept what has taken place in Turkey."

Guekguezian is now volunteer visitor pastor at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno.



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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE: October 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Turkish Novelist Wins Nobel Prize for Literature

PAGE: 2 of 2

Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer in Armenian studies at California State University, Fresno, said Pamuk has written courageously about the Armenian genocide.

"It's sort of a pleasant surprise to have him win considering that he has been in the news and was on trial in Turkey for insulting Turkishness. I think this will be good for the resolution of the Armenian genocide issue. It will bring it again to the forefront of international attention."

Steve Yarbrough, a Fresno novelist and the James and Coke Hallowell Distinguished Professor in Creative Writing at Fresno State, described Pamuk as "a writer of great conscience who has never backed down."

Yarbrough added: "If the truth wasn't pretty, he tells it anyway, and I think it's a great selection, myself."

"You don't want to lose sight of the fact that Pamuk has probably been turned into a political figure. But ultimately, he is a great artist, as well. I have a feeling the Nobel committee was making a political statement but they also were rewarding him for the quality of his work."

"Snow," a deeply sad and dreamlike novel published in the U.S. in 2004, is among the most political of Pamuk's works. It tells of the despair young women in a small Turkish town feel when the state decrees that they can't wear their Islamic head scarves at their university, a divisive issue for many in Turkey, where most women cover their hair in the Muslim tradition.

Many of the educated, liberal Turkish women who read "Snow," Pamuk said in a 2004 interview with the AP, "felt I should not pay so much understanding to the humiliation of a woman who is not allowed to wear a head scarf."

Pamuk's first novel, "Darkness and Light," came out in 1979 and was a multigenerational tale about a wealthy Turkish family in Istanbul. His reputation grew with "The White Castle" and "The Black Book," and his following widened even as his work turned more surreal and self-conscious, like "My Name Is Red," a story of forbidden art and palace politics with a ghoulish opening line, "I am nothing but a corpse now, a body at the bottom of the well."

Pamuk will receive a \$1.4 million check, a gold medal and diploma, and an invitation to a lavish banquet in Stockholm, Sweden, on Dec. 10, the 110th anniversary of the death of prize founder Alfred Nobel.

► Bee staff writer Doug Hoagland contributed to this report.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CADATE: October 17, 2006SUBJECT: Film Sheds Light on Writer Who Left Fresno For Hollywood PAGE: 1 of 2**By Rick Bentley**

The Fresno Bee

Outside the world of film historians, former Fresno resident A.I. "Buzz" Bezzerides is not that well-known.

A documentary of Bezzerides' trek from the sun-scorched fields of Fresno to the hot lights of Hollywood film studios looks to change that. "Buzz," a documentary by director Spiro N. Taraviras, has been playing the film festival circuit and opens in Fresno on Friday. It puts the opinionated and cantankerous writer, who now is 98 and living a rather reclusive life in Woodland Hills, in the spotlight.

Bezzerides wrote the novel "The Long Haul" in 1938 and the screenplay adaptation of it for the film "They Drive by Night." His numerous film screenplay credits include "On Dangerous Ground," "A Bullet for Joey" and "Juke Girl." Bezzerides also created the 1960s television series "The Big Valley."

It was Bezzerides' script adaptation of the Mickey Spillane novel "Kiss Me Deadly," considered by many film historians to be the

blueprint for the style of moviemaking known as film noir, that really sparked Taraviras' interest.

Taraviras, the writer, producer and director of the two-hour documentary, recalls how he was amazed that someone connected with so much film and television history was not better known.

"He has been overlooked all his life. That was the reason I wanted to do the movie," Taraviras says.

Taraviras spent a week in Fresno collecting information to tell the story of the writer who was born in 1908 in Samsun, Turkey, on the Black Sea to Greek/Armenian parents. His family moved to Fresno in 1910.

Bezzerides would develop an interest in writing, a natural bridge to form a friendship with another Fresno author, William Saroyan.

Taraviras shows in his documentary that growing up in Fresno had a dramatic influence on Bezzerides. The director says Bezzerides' family had to deal with prejudice from all groups.

"To the Armenians, he was Greek. And with the Greeks, he was Armenian. And to the Americans, he was nothing," Taraviras says.

The ordinary people he met during his years growing up the central San Joaquin Valley are reflected in Bezzerides' writings. The major theme of his books and screenplays dealt with down-to-earth people caught up in a bitter struggle for survival. When his books were turned into screenplays, it was the likes of Hollywood's tough guys, Lee J. Cobb, Humphrey Bogart and Robert Mitchum, who would bring his words to life.

Taraviras pulled together photos and other material from Bezzerides' friends and family. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, lecturer in the Arme-



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### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CA

DATE: October 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Film Sheds Light on Writer Who Left Fresno For Hollywood

PAGE: 2 of 2

nian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, met with Taraviras on several occasions while the director was in Fresno.

Der Mugrdechian says the documentarian wanted to get an idea of what it would have been like to be an Armenian immigrant living in Fresno 80 years ago.

Taraviras says Philip Tavlian, a Fresno attorney, was a major help in getting the historical background for the documentary.

"When the director came to town two years ago, I helped him find locations. He had done some research and knew where Buzz grew up. The actual house is no longer there in Old Armenian town [near Selland Arena]. But there are still similar houses in the area," Tavlian says.

The director praises the help he got from the Armenian community in Fresno in making the film.

"They supported us from the beginning to the very end of the project like nobody else. One of the greatest experiences in life was working with the Fresno Armenians. I feel extremely privileged that I made many friends there, and their warm hearts are a light for me and will last forever," Taraviras says.

Most of the people the director talked to had fond memories of Bezzerides. He did not talk to Steve Bezzerides, a 64-year-old Fresno insurance agent, who is a third cousin of the author. He says A.I. Bezzerides was not a popular name in his household.

"My father [Paul Bezzerides] actually gave him the idea for 'The Long Haul.' But he never gave my father any credit," Steve Bezzerides says. "He [A.I. Bezzerides] went to Hollywood and hung around with movie stars. I never remember him coming back to the Valley."

Research to find Bezzerides started with telephone calls and faxes to anyone with the name Bezzerides living in California.

"I got a lot of responses from carpet-cleaning companies and grocery stores," Taraviras says.

Finally, the director was able to track down Bezzerides through the Writers Guild of America. Taraviras traveled to Woodland Hills to meet with Bezzerides.

The director knew the moment he met with Bezzerides that he would be the perfect subject for a documentary.

But Bezzerides needed some convincing.

Taraviras says Bezzerides holds a lot of animosity toward Hollywood. The writer doesn't feel like he has been properly paid for all his work or been given just recognition. Taraviras finally convinced Bezzerides that he was not going to take advantage of him.

Then the work started.

Taraviras became aware of Bezzerides in 1999 after reading a Greek newspaper. The publication carried a review about the reissue of the novel "Thieves Market" by Bezzerides.

The Greek director was intrigued by the writer's Greek name. He started a search for information. His effort proved to be nearly fruitless, but Taraviras finally found one biography.

"As a rule, I always read the credits of the films. But somehow I never noticed that this was written by someone with a Greek name," Taraviras says during a telephone interview from Chicago. His documentary is being shown at the Chicago International Film Festival. "This, of course, turned into my 'punishment' because from that point I started researching, and six years later, the film is the

culmination of a lot of hard work."

The documentary examines how Bezzerides became friends with other authors, such as John Steinbeck. Many of the writers Bezzerides worked with in Hollywood were blacklisted because of supposed affiliations with the Communist Party. The accusations often meant actors, writers and directors could not get work.

Bezzerides was placed on the Hollywood "graylist." That made it difficult in the early and mid-1950s for him to find work.

In the late '50s and '60s, Bezzerides wrote for television shows: "Rawhide," "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "Bonanza" and "The Virginian." His last Hollywood credit was as the creator of the TV series "The Big Valley" in 1969.

"Buzz" premiered at the Thessaloniki Documentary film festival in April 2005. It also has been shown at the 40th Hof Film Festival in Germany. "Buzz" was presented the Greek Film Critics Award for Best Film of the Year at the 46th Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece.

"I decided to make this film as an homage to Buzz and also for all of the neglected and overseen creative contributors to films that don't get the acknowledgment that they deserve," Taraviras says.

► The reporter can be reached at [rbentley@fresnobee.com](mailto:rbentley@fresnobee.com) or at (559) 441-6355.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA  
SUBJECT: Chookaszian Holds Lecture Series in Fresno

DATE: October 21, 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Chookaszian Holds Lecture Series in Fresno About Genocide in Armenian Art

FRESNO — Dr. Levon Chookaszian, Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Fresno State, gave an illustrated lecture on "Armenian Massacres and Genocide and the Liberation Movement as Reflected in Armenian Art," on Wednesday, October 18. This second lecture, in his series of three, was held in the Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, in the University Business Center on the Fresno State campus.

The Armenian massacres of 1895-96 and of 1905-1907 stimulated the appearance of topics related to those events in the works of Armenian painters. The first artist who represented the acts of violence and ethnic cleansing was Haroutyune Shamshinian (1856-1914). Later on, numerous Armenian artworks were produced by different artists depicting those horrible pages of Armenian modern history.

During the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1922, certain painters became the eyewitnesses of the deportation of the Armenian people from their native lands and portrayed those homeless people, sometimes even endangering their own lives.

The mass tragedies of those years created the generations of orphan-painters, who grew up in orphanages in foreign countries and until the end of their lives produced artworks full of sadness and nostalgia.

The shortages of the Soviet system and the ideological pressure and censorship were not encouraging to that kind of activity and were creating obstacles and problems for painters and sculptors. The depiction of any topic related to massacres or Genocide was considered nationalistic propaganda and an attempt to destroy the international solidarity and brotherhood of different nations, including Armenian-Turkish, especially Armenian-Azeri connections.

He utilized slides taken from his many trips to various countries to illustrate his lecture.

Chookaszian will conclude his series of presentations on Wednesday, November 15, with a talk on "Armenian Art Treasures Saved from the Genocide." The talk will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Peters Auditorium.

Chookaszian is an expert on Armenian illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages and has recently finished a monograph on the 13th century Armenian painter, Toros Roslin, the most outstanding painter of medieval Armenia. For many years, Chookaszian has been director of the UNESCO Chair of Art History at Yerevan State University and a senior fellow and professor of Armenian art at the Center for Armenian Studies at Yerevan State University.

He is the author of more than 200 articles and reviews for scholarly journals and newspapers as well as numerous entries for encyclopedias. He is also the recipient of several prestigious grants that have helped him pursue his research in Armenian art history.

Chookaszian has participated in many international congresses and symposia on the topic of Armenian, Georgian, Russian, Persian and Byzantine Art.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information on the lectures, contact the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CADATE: October 25, 2006SUBJECT: SAS to Hold 32nd Annual Membership Meeting in BostonPAGE: 1 of 2

## SAS to Hold 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting and Panel Discussions in Boston, November 18 - 19

BOSTON - The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) will hold its 32nd Annual Membership meeting in Boston, MA, on November 18, 2006.

SAS President Joseph Kéchichian will preside over the meeting, which is held in conjunction with the Annual Middle East Studies Association Conference.

SAS officers for 2006 are Vice-President, George Shirinian; Secretary, Vahram Shemmassian; Treasurer, Barlow Der Mugrdechian; joined by three at-large members, Ina Baghdians McCabe, Richard Hovanessian, and Robert Krikorian. John Greppin and Peter Cowe, co-editors of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, are ex-officio members of the

### Executive Council.

While in Boston, SAS members will participate in three SAS sponsored panels. All of the SAS sponsored panels will be held on Sunday, November 19, in the Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel, which is the conference headquarters.

The first panel, to be held from 8:30-10:30AM, is "Narrative and Identity in the Armenian Press, 1850-1923." Organized by Victoria Rowe, the panel will be chaired by Barlow Der Mugrdechian of California State University, Fresno. Panelists are Lisa Khachaturian, Georgetown University, "Cultivating Nationhood in Imperial Russia: The Periodical Press and the Formation of a Modern Eastern Armenian Identity,"

Victoria Rowe, Chuo University, Japan, "The Politics of Exile: An Armenian Women's Journal in Egypt, 1902-1904;" Herve Alain-Rene Georgelin, Ecole Française d'Athènes, "Armenian Self-Staging in Male Diaries and Narratives, at the Beginning of the 20th Century;" and Lerna Ekmekekcioglu, New York University, "How to Mother a Nation: Perspectives from the Armenian Women's Journal *Hay Gin* (The Armenian Woman) (1919-1923)."

The second panel of the day will be "Circulation and the Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from Julfa, Isfahan," which begins at 2:00PM. Organized by Sebouh Aslanian and chaired by Razmik Panossian, Rights & Democracy, the panelists are Sebouh Aslanian, Columbia University, "From "Trade Diaspora" to "Circulation Society": The Multi-Nodal Trade Network of the Julfan Armenians in the Early Modern Period;"



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CADATE: October 25, 2006SUBJECT: SAS to Hold 32nd Annual Membership Meeting in BostonPAGE: 2 of 2

Francesca Trivellato, Yale University, "Business Cooperation Within and Across Trading Diasporas: A Comparative Analysis of Sephardic and Armenian Merchant Networks in the Early Modern Period;" Houri Berberian, California State University, Long Beach, "The Sceriman/Shahrimanians between Julfa and Venice: Information Networks and Commercial Prosperity of an Iranian-Armenian Family;" and Bhaswati Bhattacharya, International Institute of Asian Studies, "All the Milk and Honey of Spain Flow to Manila: Armenians in the Madras-Manila Trade in the 18th Century."

The final panel of the day is "Memory and Identity: The Impact of the Armenian Genocide in Armenian and Turkish Literature" which begins at 4:30PM. Organized by Barlow Der Mugrdechian and Chaired by Richard G. Hovannisian, UCLA, Fatma Müge Göcek, U of Michigan will be the discussant. Panelists are Barlow Der Mugrdechian, California State University, Fresno, "Three Apples Fell from Heaven: Memory and Identity in Post Genocide Armenian Literature;" Hülya Adak, Sabanci University, "The Armenian Deportations in Turkish Fiction;" Rubina Peroomian, UCLA, "The Metamorphosis of the Post-Genocide Armenian Identity as Reflected in Artistic Literature.

The SAS was founded 32 years ago in Boston by Dr. Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), the late Dr. Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), Dr. Dickran Kouymjian (AUB and later Fresno State), Dr. Robert Thomson (Harvard), and Dr. Nina Garsoian (Columbia). They set the foundations of a Society, which today has more than 200 members worldwide and is the leading organization in the field of Armenian Studies.

The SAS is dedicated to the development of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline. It has as its goals to promote the study of Armenia and all aspects of Armenian culture; to promote the teaching of Armenian subjects in educational institutions; to promote the publication of texts in various fields of Armenian studies; to organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, panels, and other forums pertaining to all aspects of Armenian culture and society; and to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of scholarly information pertaining to Armenian studies through a program of publications, consis-

tent with the objectives of the SAS.

More information is available about SAS and its programs by contacting the SAS Secretariat, at 559-278-2669 or at the SAS home page <http://armenianstudies.csufresn.edu/sas/index.htm>



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

2006

### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Reporter Int'l: Paramus, NJ

DATE: October 28, 2006

SUBJECT: "Album of Armenian Paleography" Presented at Holy Etchmiadzin

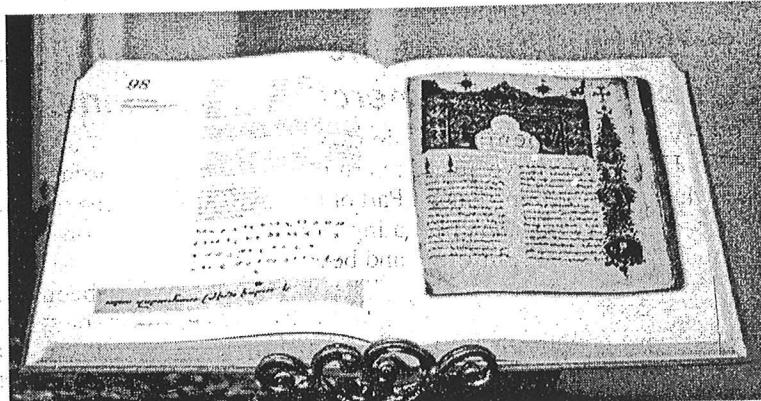
PAGE: 1 of 1

ETCHMIADZIN, ARMENIA – On Saturday, October 14, 2006, a new Armenian translation of the "Album of Armenian Paleography" was unveiled and presented to the public in the headquarters of the Armenian Church.

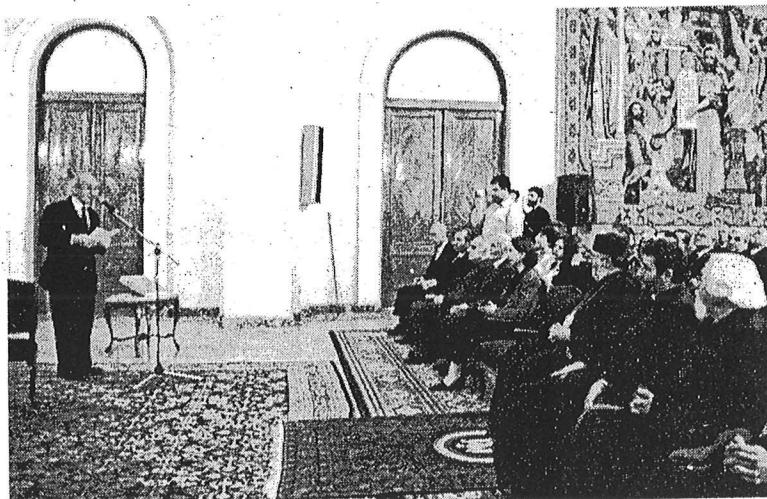
The event took place in the pontifical residence of Holy Etchmiadzin, with His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, presiding. The occasion was the Feast of the Holy Translators, one of the most distinctive and beloved Armenian feast days.

The original English-language version of this definitive work was published by Aarhus University Press in Denmark in 2002. In it, editors Dr. Michael E. Stone, Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, and Dr. Henning Lehmann comprehensively study and interpret ancient forms of Armenian writing.

To observe the 1600th anniversary of the Armenian alphabet, Catholicos Karekin II authorized Etchmiadzin's Karekin I



*At the instigation of Holy Etchmiadzin, an Armenian translation of the "Album of Armenian Paleography" (edited by Stone, Kouymjian, and Lehmann) has been published by Armenia's Tigran Mets publishing house. The beautifully produced volume is a landmark in the study and interpretation of ancient forms of Armenian writing.*



**Prof. Dickran Kouymjian, longtime head of Armenian Studies at C.S.U. Fresno, addresses H.H. Karekin II and an audience of distinguished guests at Holy Etchmiadzin's Pontifical Residence, during the book presentation on Oct. 14, Holy Translators Day.**

by Archbishop Karekin Hovsepants of blessed memory (later Catholicos of Cilicia) in 1913 at Holy Etchmiadzin.

On behalf of the authors, Professor Dickran Kouymjian, chair of the department of Armenian Studies at California State University in Fresno, spoke on the history of the nearly three-year process of creating the Armenian translation of the album. He conveyed the appreciation of the authors to the Catholicos of All Armenians for his support and sponsorship.

The event concluded with His Holiness expressing his appreciation to the authors, translators, and editors, and specifically thanking M. Haigentz of the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, for its generous financial gift, as well as Vrezh Markosian, director of the Tigran Mets Publishing House, for its diligent efforts.

His Holiness said, "This work will have the most important significance for researchers engaged in the history of Armenian letters, Armenian art and culture."

In attendance at the ceremony were members of the Brotherhood of Holy Etchmiadzin, members of the Supreme Spiritual Council, professors and lecturers of the Gevorkian and Vaskenian seminaries, and intellectuals and artists from throughout Armenia. Musical presentations of Bach, Komitas, and Babadjanian were performed by the Armenian Chamber Orchestra string quartet.

Armenological and Theological Center to pursue an Armenian translation of this book with the goal of having it published by the Mother See. The primary benefactor for the publication of the Armenian translation is the U.S.A.'s Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund.

The translation and editing on the Armenian version were done by Aram Topchian and Gohar Muradian, researchers at the Matenadaran in Yerevan, and Azat Bozoyan, director of the Karekin I Center. The album was published by the Tigran Mets Publishing House.

As the ceremony began, Azat Bozoyan expressed his gratitude to the Catholicos of All Armenians. He noted the significance of continuing the mission of the Mother See in publishing similar works, which were initiated



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CASUBJECT: Teaching His Cultural HeritageDATE: October 30, 2006PAGE: 2 of 2

Although Der Mugrdechian didn't find a greater passion for Armenian studies until college, he's always been connected with his culture.

"As I grew up I had an identity, I knew that I was Armenian and that was an important part of who I was," Der Mugrdechian said. It was in 1881 that the first Armenians settled in the United States, he said. Der Mugrdechian, who was born in Fresno, said the city was the location for the first community of Armenians in California, and his grandparents were part of that immigrant generation.

Der Mugrdechian has visited Armenia more than 20 times, and he enjoys the trip because it provides an atmosphere where everything is Armenian. "The culture, it is different than being here in America. There's a different pace to the life, it is a little bit slower life-

style."

Now at Fresno State Der Mugrdechian is trying to get his students to see the joy in seeing where they come from firsthand.

"I think it's been almost unanimously just a great experience, they really think it's one of the best things that they ever did," Der Mugrdechian said about students traveling to

Armenia. He said it has awakened a greater awareness in those students and helped them become closer to Armenia.

For Der Mugrdechian a big question is, "why not?" Take a few Armenian studies courses, why not? He said other than UCLA and Berke-

ley, Fresno State is really the only place where you can go and do it in California. And it doesn't matter whether you're Armenian or not. "You're here at the university, it fills GE courses, so why not take it?"

Grigor Kyutunyan, president of the Armenian Students Organization, was born in Armenia and said the opportunity to go back is available at Fresno State. Kyutunyan, a junior majoring in business with a minor in Armenian Studies, said Der Mugrdechian knows a lot about the Armenian culture and is learning a lot more. "He knows what he's talking about."

For Der Mugrdechian the saying, "seeing is believing," holds a lot of truth.

"If you've learned about something or heard about something all your life, and then you finally go it's different than what you expect," Der Mugrdechian said about seeing Armenia. "It's different and better in many ways than anything you can learn about in a classroom. That's why it's important for students to go, to see what there is, that way they'll understand that this is a real place."

***"As I grew up I had an identity, I knew that I was Armenian and that was an important part of who I was."***

— Barlow Der Mugrdechian  
Armenian Studies professor



## ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

California State University, Fresno • 5245 N Backer Ave PB4 • Fresno, CA 93740-8001

2006

### ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CA  
SUBJECT: Teaching His Cultural Heritage

By Travis Ball  
*The Collegian*

At Fresno State Barlow Der Mugrdechian teaches students about an ancient culture and in his 22nd year with the university, the Armenian Studies professor is creating a history of his own.

"I think people are attracted to a culture that is old, number one. It is over 3,000 years old," Der Mugrdechian said about Armenia. "The thousands of year history brings with it experience in various areas like art and literature and music and history, which is interesting to give a background of how people lived thousands of years ago and how that's connected to what people are doing today."

As a cornerstone in Der Mugrdechian's saga, the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State has become a culture of its own.

"Our program has been here over 40 years," Der Mugrdechian said. "People know about this program, people in our field know about it." There are only about a dozen other universities in the United States that offer Armenian studies, he said, and Fresno State probably has the most active undergraduate program.

For a program that offers only a

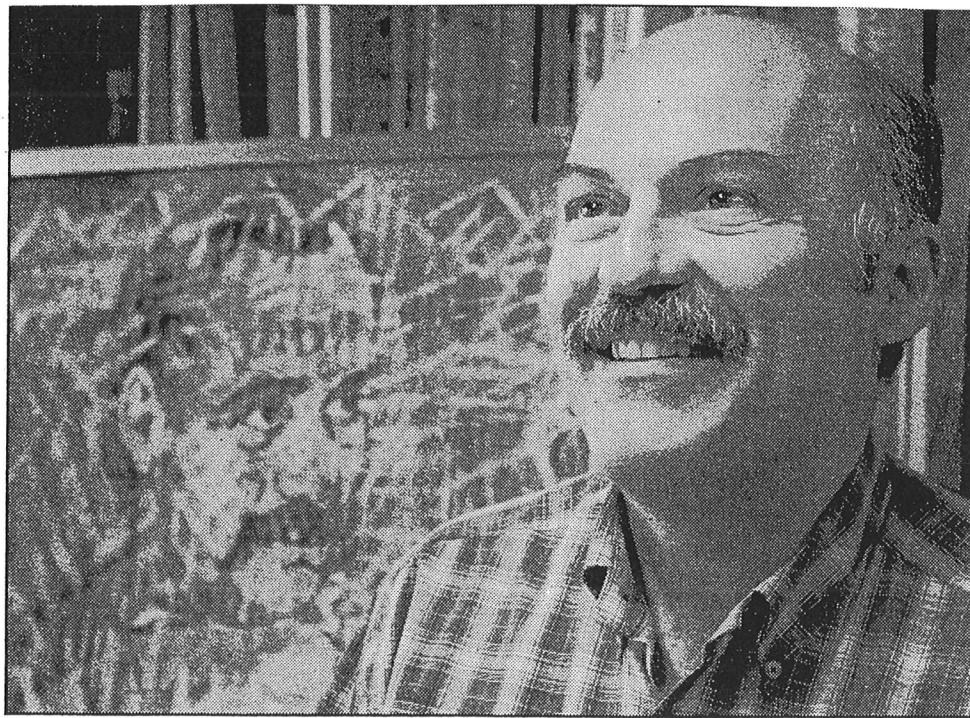
DATE: October 30, 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 2

minor, Armenian Studies has been busy: summer trips to Armenia, an honors program, the Armenian Students Organization, the Hye Sharzhoom newspaper and even a partnership with Yerevan State University in Armenia. As the adviser for the Hye Sharzhoom and the Armenian Students Organization for the last 22 years, Der Mugrdechian has been instrumental in it all.

"Everything we do is part of the university. We feel that what we do is helping the entire university life," Der Mugrdechian said. "I'm kind of tied in with the university."

The relationship between Der Mugrdechian and Fresno State goes beyond his time as a professor. He graduated from the university with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. While at Fresno State, Der Mugrdechian took language and art courses in Armenian Studies, and later got his master's degree in Armenian Language and Literature from UCLA.

It was a trip to Armenia for a summer program in 1978 that led Der Mugrdechian down a path towards teaching that he didn't see coming. "I'm pretty sure that was it that sparked an interest to take more courses and get more involved in Armenia."



Joseph Vasquez / The Collegian

**Barlow Der Mugrdechian**, an Armenian Studies professor at Fresno State, has been to Armenia more than 20 times. Mugrdechian's campus office houses a painting of celebrated Armenian writer William Saroyan by Varaz Samuelian.

## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: Armenian Mirror-Spectator, Watertown, MA

SUBJECT: Album of Armenian Paleography Presented at Feast

DATE: November 4, 2006

PAGE: 1 of 1

ECHMIADZIN — The Feast of the Holy Translators, one of the most beloved and celebrated days for Armenians, was noted with special significance in the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin this year. On Saturday, October 14, the Armenian translation of the *Album of Armenian Paleography* was officially unveiled and presented to the public in the headquarters of the Armenian Church.

The event took place in the Pontifical Residence of Holy Echmiadzin, under the auspices of Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Aarhus University Press in Denmark published the original English language version of the album in 2002. The editors of this definitive work are Professors Michael E. Stone, Dickran Kouymjian and Henning Lehmann. The album comprehensively studies and interprets ancient forms of Armenian writing.

On the occasion of the 1,600th anniversary of the creation of the Armenian alphabet, Karekin II authorized the Karekin I Armenianological and Theological Center of Holy Echmiadzin to pursue the Armenian translation of this seminal work with the goal of hav-

through the endeavors of Aram Topchian and Gohar Muradian, researchers at the Mesrob Mashtots Matenadaran Institute of Ancient Manuscripts in Yerevan, and Azat Bozoyan, director of the Karekin I Armenianological and Theological Center. The Tigran Mets Publishing House published the album.

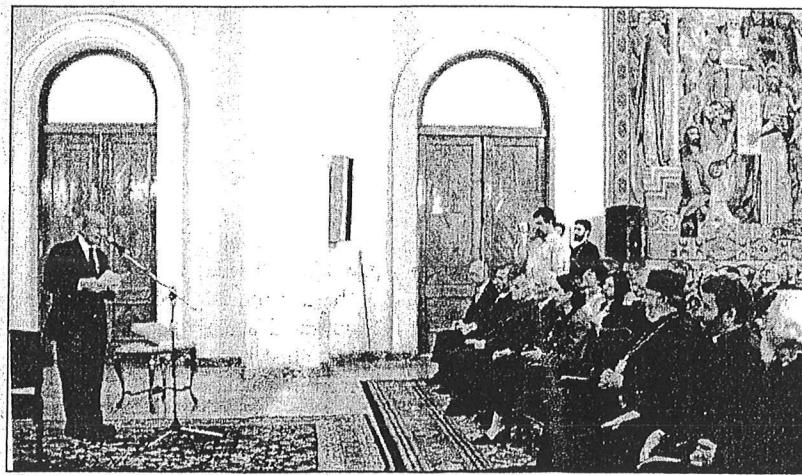
As the ceremony began, Bozoyan welcomed the attendees and expressed his gratitude to the catholicos for the creation of this important contribution to Armenian culture and science. He noted the significance of continuing the mission of the Mother See in publishing similar works, which were initiated by Karekin Hovsepants (later catholicos of Cilicia), in 1913 in Holy Echmiadzin.

On behalf of the authors, Kouymjian, chair of the Department of Armenian Studies at California State University in Fresno, spoke on the history of the nearly three-year process of creating the Armenian translation of the album. He conveyed the appreciation and gratitude of the authors to Karekin II for his support and sponsorship in publishing the work.

The event concluded with Karekin II addressing those present with his message of blessing. The catholicos expressed his appreciation to the

efforts of his entire staff.

Karekin II praised the role of both the English and Armenian versions of the album in the sphere of Armenian studies, noting, "This work will have the most important significance for researchers and scientists engaged in the history of the Armenian characters (letters), Armenian art and culture. We are confident that the joint volumes, which complement one another, will greatly serve the study of our manuscripts and ancient writings by Armenians and non-Armenians alike."



Prof. Dickran Kouymjian addresses the audience at Holy Echmiadzin.

ing it published by the Mother See. The primary benefactor for the publication of the Armenian translation of the album is the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund (US).

The translation and editing work of the Armenian version was accomplished

authors, translators and editors for their devoted and conscientious work. He also specifically thanked M. Haigentz of the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund for their generous financial gift, as well as Vrezh Markosian, director of the Tigran Mets Publishing House, for the diligent



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Fresno Bee: Fresno, CASUBJECT: Fresno State to Receive \$1.5m Gift from GazariansDATE: November 11, 2006PAGE: 1 of 1

# Fresno State to receive \$1.5m gift

By Tracy Correa

The Fresno Bee

A Fresno couple plan to donate \$1.5 million to California State University, Fresno, to establish a center to educate more real estate professionals and expand research into local real estate market trends.

The center, which is expected to be named for the couple — Arnold and Dianne Gazarian, will be housed within the Sid Craig School of Business, university officials announced Friday.

The Gazarians are longtime supporters of Fresno State. Arnold Gazarian, a retired dentist, is a member of the university foundation's

board of governors. Dianne Gazarian is chairwoman of the Berberian & Gazarian Family Foundation. The couple have provided financial support to the university's President's Fund, Smittcamp Alumni House, Haig and Berberian endowed chair in Armenian studies, Craig School of Business and Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

Officials say the gift will enable Fresno State to create a center to support the real estate and urban land economics major at the Craig School of Business, as well as enhance research by faculty and graduate students. The center also is expected to provide community re-

ment.

Officials say the gift will enable Fresno State to create a center to support the real estate and urban land economics major at the Craig School of Business, as well as enhance research by faculty and graduate students. The center also is expected to provide community research assessing trends in commercial and residential real estate, as well as investment market trends and land use planning. In addition, the Gazarian center is to sponsor conferences, seminars and workshops in real estate and land use.

The center also will allow students to learn the business side of real estate and apply their academic knowledge to real-world projects and experiences, the university said in its announcement.

"This generous gift will position the Gazarian Real Estate Center as an academic leader in real estate market analysis and research and will help to further the university's goal of helping the economy grow," Fresno State President John Welty said in a written statement.

He said he will seek approval for naming of the center at the January meeting of California State University trustees in Long Beach.

The Gazarians could not be reached for comment Friday. However, in a prepared statement, Arnold Gazarian said: "We hope this gift will assist the university in making it a leader in educating real estate professionals, conducting real-world research and promoting high ethical standards. We also hope that the center will bring together members of the real estate community to discuss issues of importance to the industry."



Arnold Gazarian, a retired dentist, is a member of the CSUF's board of governors.

of Business and Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

Lee Brand, president of Westco Equities Inc., a Fresno property management company, said he looks forward to more market research from the university.

Brand, whose company manages residential and commercial properties, including 3,000 apartment units, said real estate research by academic institutions tends to be more unbiased and helpful, unlike market reports generated by special interests within the real estate industry.

"If they [the university] get funding, manpower and personnel, what you get is more exhaustive and in-depth research," he said. And, he said, "The Sid Craig School of Business has an excellent reputation."

► The reporter can be reached at [tcorrea@fresnobee.com](mailto:tcorrea@fresnobee.com) or (559) 441-6378.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Collegian: Fresno, CA  
SUBJECT: Lecture Highlights Armenian Art

DATE: November 15, 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 1

# Lecture highlights Armenian art

By Jillian Yalung  
*The Collegian*

Manuscripts, metal sculptures, paintings and many other artistic pieces will be presented tonight by Levon Chookaszian in his lecture, "Armenian Art Treasures Saved from the Genocide."

Presented by Fresno State's Armenian Studies Department, this lecture is being held as a part of the annual International Education Week.

Twenty-five hundred years prior to 1915, around two and a half million Armenians lived in Armenia.

Between 1915 and 1922, approximately one and a half million Armenians were killed during the Armenian Genocide, said Barlow Der Mugrdechian, a lecturer in Armenian Studies and the adviser to the Armenian Students Organization.

The survivors of the genocide, who fled the country, further risked their lives to bring precious valuable items from their homeland to their new homes.

Chookaszian, a visiting professor in the Armenian Studies Department, will discuss the journey of these one of a kind pieces and how they escaped from destruction during the genocide.

His lecture will be accompanied by a variety of slides taken from the various locations to better exemplify the topic.

Chookaszian will also discuss the various items that were saved and where they are currently being held.

"Our treasures are even more important," said Der Mugrdechian of the historic heirlooms, "because the Armenian population no longer lives on that land."

The lecture is tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Peters Auditorium located in the University Business Center on campus.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: California Courier: Glendale, CADATE: November 16, 2006SUBJECT: CSUF Armenian Studies Program Announces Spring ClassesPAGE: 1 of 1

FRESNO - The Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno is announcing a full slate of courses for the Spring 2007 semester. The Armenian Studies Program offers a wide variety of courses related to Armenian language, culture, history, art, and literature each semester. Instruction for the Spring 2007 semester begins on Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies, and Di-

rector of the Armenian Studies Program, will be teaching three courses. Armenian Studies 123 is a three-unit upper-division course exploring Armenian architecture. The course will be offered completely on-line, allowing students from anywhere in the country to enroll in the course.

Dr. Kouymjian will also be teaching two sections of the popular Armenian Studies 20 course, the Arts of Armenia. This course is a survey of Armenian miniature painting, architecture, and the mi-

nor arts.

Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian will be teaching four courses: Armenian Studies 10, Introduction to Armenian Studies, which explores the rich cultural heritage of the Armenians (10:00-10:50AM, MWF); Armenian 1B, the second semester of elementary Armenian language (11:00A-11:50A MTWF); an upper division general education course, Armenian 148, Masterpieces of Armenian Culture (9:00A-9:50A MWF), a survey of Armenian lit-

erature in translation; and Armenian Studies 108B, Armenian History II (9:30-10:45A TTh), which will look at the modern history of the Armenian people.

Finally, renowned dance instructor Tom Bozigan will offer a one-unit course on Armenian Dance. The class will meet Friday and Saturday, February 2 & 3, 2007. The class begins at 5:00PM Friday. This class is open to all in the community, with a fee of \$75.

Contact the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669 with any questions.



## ARCHIVE

SOURCE: The Armenian Observer: Los Angeles, CA  
SUBJECT: Taner Akcam, to Speak in Fresno January 21

DATE: December 20, 2006  
PAGE: 1 of 1

## Taner Akcam, to Speak in Fresno January 21

"A *Shameful Act* is the definitive account of the organized destruction of the Ottoman Armenians, written by a brave Turkish scholar who has devoted his life to chronicling the events. No future discussion of the history will be able to ignore this brilliant book" -Orhan Pamuk, winner of the 2006 Nobel prize in Literature

Dr. Taner Akçam, Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota, will be speaking about his new book, *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*, at 3:00PM on Sunday, January 21. The lecture will be held in the Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Student Recreation Center (corner of Shaw and Woodrow Aves.) at Fresno State and is free and open to the public.

The lecture is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, in cooperation with the Zoryan Institute. The Armenian National Committee, Armenian General Benevolent Union, and Knights and Daughters of Vartan are co-sponsors for the event.

Dr. Akçam makes a unique, groundbreaking use of Turkish, European, and American records to finally tell the full story of what the Ottoman Turks actually planned, in-

tended, and did to their Armenian population.

Dr. Akçam is one of the very few Turkish historians to acknowledge the genocide. He follows the chain of events, which lead to the killings and reconstructs their systematic orchestration by government officials, civil servants, party hacks, state-run militias, and the army.

Sociologist and historian Taner Akçam was born in the province of Ardahan, Turkey in 1953. He became interested in Turkish politics at an early age. As the editor in chief of a student political journal, he was arrested in 1976 and sentenced to ten years in prison. Amnesty International adopted him as one of their first prisoners of conscience, and a year later he escaped to Germany, where he received political asylum.

In 1988 Akçam began work as a research scientist at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. While researching the late Ottoman Empire and early Republic, especially the history of political violence and torture in Turkey, he became interested in the Arme-

nian Genocide. In 1996 he received his doctorate from the University of Hanover with a dissertation entitle "The Turkish National Movement and the Armenian Genocide Against the Background of the Military Tribunals between 1919 and 1922." Since 2002 he has been a visiting associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

Akçam is the author of ten books and numerous articles in Turkish, German, English and other languages. *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility* will also be translated into Italian, Polish, and French.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Copies of *A Shameful Act* will be on sale at the lecture. Free parking is available in Lot V.

For more information on the lecture please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.



## ARCHIVE

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SUBJECT: Dr. Akcam Will Lecture on His New Book at CSUF

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## Dr. Akcam Will Lecture on His New Book at CSUF on Jan. 21

FRESNO - Dr. Taner Akçam, Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota, will be speaking about his new book, *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*, at 3 p.m. on January 21. The lecture will be held in the Peters Educational Center Auditorium, Student Recreation Center (corner of Shaw and Woodrow Aves.) at Fresno State and is free and open to the public.

The lecture is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State, in cooperation with the Zoryan Institute, The Armenian National Committee, Armenian General Benevolent Union, and Knights and Daughters of Vartan are so-sponsors for the event.

Dr. Akçam makes a unique, groundbreaking use of Turkish, European, and American records to finally tell the full story of what the Ottoman Turks actually planned, intended, and did to their Armenian population.

Dr. Akçam is one of the very few Turkish historians to acknowledge the genocide. He follows the chain of events, which lead to the killings and reconstructs their systematic orchestration by government officials, civil servants, party hacks, state-run militias, and the army.

Sociologist and historian Taner Akçam was born in the province of Ardahan, Turkey in 1953. He became interested in Turkish politics at an early age. As the edi-

tor in chief of a student political journal, he was arrested in 1976 and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Amnesty International adopted him as one of their first prisoners of conscience, and a year later he escaped to Germany, where he received political asylum.

In 1988 Akçam began work as a research scientist at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. While researching the late Ottoman Empire and early Republic, especially the history of political violence and torture in Turkey, he became interested in the Armenian Genocide. In 1996 he received his doctorate from the University of Hanover with a dissertation, "The Turkish National Movement and the Armenian Genocide Against the Background of the Military Tribunals between 1919 and 1922." Since 2002 he has been a visiting associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

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