

THE ARMENIAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF AMERICA, INC.

65 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Christie Hardiman
Public Relations & Outreach Coordinator
Phone #: (617) 926-2562 ext. 4
E-mail: Christie@almainc.org
Website: www.almainc.org

October 22, 2009 – For Immediate Release

ALMA Armenian Legionnaire Exhibit on display at Fresno State through November 30

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State is displaying *Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East*, a traveling exhibit developed and prepared by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, Mass., at the Henry Madden Library at Fresno State. The Henry Madden Library is located at 5200 N Barton Ave, Fresno, CA.

The Armenian Studies Program in cooperation with the Henry Madden Library will host a public reception on November 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. to mark the official opening of the exhibit. The event is free and open to the public and will take place on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library.

ALMA developed this traveling exhibit in honor of the Legionnaires and their devotion to their nation and to the cause of liberty during World War I. The exhibit explores the formation, training, military action, and postwar activities of this all-volunteer force through photographs and narratives.

ALMA commissioned this traveling exhibit, incorporating the community spirit of the original into an informative historic, literary, and artistic presentation. The exhibit was made possible by a grant from K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. Foundation with additional support provided by The Armenian-American Veterans of Milford, Mass., Inc.

The display at Fresno State marks the exhibit's second stop on its nationwide tour. The exhibit premiered at Northbridge Town Hall in Whitinsville, Mass. this past September. It will travel to the Michigan area in spring 2010.

For more information on the reception please contact the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State at (. For scheduling information or to learn about the exhibit, contact ALMA at 65 Main

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St., Watertown, MA 02472; Tel: 617-926-2562, web: www.almainc.org; email: info@almainc.org.

IMAGES:

Image 1: Lt. Hagop Arevian

Image 2: Group of military police, including Lt. Arevian, in Adana.

Image 3: Legionnaires from the United States training in Cyprus, with the tattered American flag they refused to give up.

ABOUT ALMA:

Founded in 1971, ALMA's mission is to present and preserve the culture, history, art and contributions of the Armenian people to Americans and Armenians alike. Since its inception, ALMA's collection has grown to over 27,000 books and 20,000 artifacts, making it perhaps the largest and most diverse holding of Armenian cultural artifacts outside of Armenia. As a repository for heirlooms, the collection now represents a major resource not only for Armenian studies research, but as well as for preservation and illustration of the Armenian heritage. In 1988, ALMA acquired a 30,000 square foot facility in Watertown, MA – one of North America's oldest and most active Armenian communities. The facility includes exhibit galleries, Library, administrative offices, function hall, climate-controlled vaults and conservation lab.

Armenian Museum of America (subdivision of ALMA) is the only independent Armenian Museum in the Diaspora funded solely through contributions of individual supporters. An active Board of Trustees and volunteer base augments the museum's staff. The Museum and Gallery maintains an active schedule of changing exhibits. In addition, the Museum sponsors lecture and presentation program on Armenian-related topics. The Mesrop Boyajian Library (subdivision of ALMA) is used primarily by researchers and interested general public seeking research materials on Armenians.

Museum & Gallery Hours: Friday and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Library Hours: Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: Free admission for ALMA members; \$5 for non-members; \$2 for students; children 12 and under are free.

Driving Directions: Take route 95 to 128 to 90 (Mass Pike East) towards Watertown. Take exit 17-Watertown/Newton. Go North 1 mile towards Watertown Square. As you cross the small bridge, get into the 2 left lanes. Turn left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Church Street, and then turn right into the municipal parking lot.

MBTA Buses: 71, 70/70A, 57, 52, 59, 502, 504. Please visit www.mbta.com for schedules and maps.

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