

Scrolling Down the Text: *Hmayils* at ALMA

ALMA opened its latest exhibit “*Hmayil* Armenian Prayer Scrolls: Religion, Occult and Art Rolled into One” on December 15 in ALMA’s Bedoukian Hall. ALMA’s collections include both older handwritten scrolls and printed 19th and early 20th century examples. This exhibit features a number of ALMA’s scrolls, including a smaller scroll from Western Armenia in the late 19th century, found by Charlotte Elizabeth Ely and Mary Ann Caroline Ely, as well as a larger scroll that was made in Istanbul by the monk Giragos in September 1139 (AD 1690).



Illustration of *hmayil* on display at ALMA

“*Hmayil* Armenian Prayer Scrolls” will remain on display through March 1, 2009.

To mark the opening of the exhibit, Prof. James Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, delivered a compelling presentation on “The Armenian Magical Scroll and Outsider Art” to a packed audience, which

viewed the exhibit while hearing Russell talk about the similarities in crude artistic styles and status of religious prayer scrolls. Russell also discussed the artistic works of insane and marginalized artists in Western cultures.



Hmayil on display at ALMA

About *Hmayil*:

One unique feature of Armenian (and Ethiopian) Christianity is the use of religious prayer scrolls (*hmayil*) as talismans to ward away the “evil eye” and other harm. The drawings on the decorative scrolls range from crude naïve art to detailed paintings rivaling the art of illuminated manuscripts. *Hmayil*

Hmayils at ALMA continued on page 2



ALMA’s Holiday Gala The Third Time’s a Charm

On November 28, ALMA held its third Holiday Gala at the Seaport Hotel in Boston to kick-off the season of giving and celebration. Three hundred guests from the Greater Boston area and as far away as California attended the festive event to support ALMA’s mission to preserve and present Armenian heritage in America, and of course to enjoy an exciting evening.

ALMA’s Holiday Gala, continued on page 5

Naming Opportunities at ALMA

Are you drawn to the idea of investing in your heritage? Do you want to support the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in its mission of preserving the Armenian heritage for present and future generations of Americans as well as Armenians?

An array of options exists at ALMA for donors interested in naming opportunities. One such opportunity is adding a name to the memorial plaque by the permanent Genocide Exhibit to commemorate a loved one. The dignified plaque honors a deceased individual, whether or not a victim of the Genocide, including traumatized survivors or descendants. Other alternatives include naming of Museum showcases,

Naming Opportunities continued on page 2

What’s Inside?

ALMA’s Third Holiday Gala Wrap-Up (Page 4 and 5) • ALMA Dance Classes (Page 2)
Spring Internship Opportunities (Page 6) • Lace Exhibit (Page 6)

PRAYER SCROLLS, continued from page 1

was a unique form of domestic religious art with shamanistic undertones, separate and parallel to the officially sanctioned religious art of the Church. Probably first inspired by similar Islamic talismans, the use of Christian scrolls gained wide popularity in the 17th and 19th centuries.

Hmayils, typically created on vellum or paper, are generally comprised of 31 separate prayers in a specific order (Ethiopian scrolls were less standardized). The scrolls can be over 12 feet long; however, when rolled up they can easily be carried and concealed. This feature allowed many scrolls to survive destruction during the Armenian Genocide.

The widespread use of scrolls emerged in the 15th century, a particularly unstable and dangerous period in Armenian history when a desperate population grasped at occult objects seeking to achieve stability in a chaotic world. Although popular among the general public, the use of scrolls was condemned as heretical by the Armenian Church. While today's oldest surviving Armenian prayer scrolls date to the Middle Ages, earlier sermons against oath-taking and the use of charms suggest that prayer scrolls may have existed earlier. The popular use of prayer scrolls has declined in recent years, following a general decline in folk beliefs; however, scrolls are still valued as expressions of traditional folklore. ■

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES, continued from page 1

Library bookcases and other such features throughout the ALMA building.

Major opportunities include naming student fellowships, a Museum hall or gallery, a Library research collection or ALMA's gift shop. Each such donation is a lasting gift which permanently associates the name of the donor or a loved one with this vibrant institution, while at the same time allowing ALMA to stay committed to its goal of preserving the Armenian heritage.

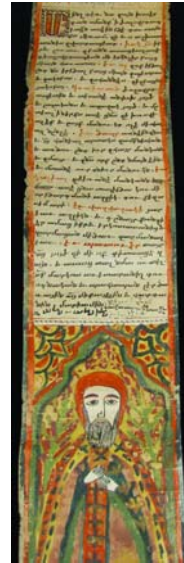
Those who financially support ALMA help ensure this vital organization remains a cultural and educational bedrock in the community at large. The financial requirements for naming opportunities differ, and donors are encouraged to discuss their ideas with us. If you are interested in pursuing a naming opportunity, please contact the ALMA Board Chairman Haig Der Manuelian at (617) 573-5874 or Executive Director Mariam Stepanyan at (617) 926-2562 ext. 3. ■



The memorial plaque by the permanent Genocide Exhibit

Prayer scroll (86-407)

donated by
Mt. Holyoke College Library of Massachusetts



The handwritten prayer scrolls from Mt. Holyoke were part of an extensive collection of Armenian artifacts originally collected by Charlotte Elizabeth and Mary Ann Caroline Ely. The Ely sisters, following graduation from Mt. Holyoke College, became missionaries in the Ottoman Empire. Founding "Mt. Holyoke College of Kurdistan" in 1868, they ministered to the Armenians until the college closed in 1913. Their Armenian collection was bequeathed to their alma mater, where it was stored in the college library until 1981. Upon rediscovering this collection of Armenian artifacts, the college decided that ALMA was a more appropriate home and transferred the collection to ALMA in 1982.

ALMA Dance Classes: In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors

Besides protecting Armenian artifacts, ALMA also preserves other aspects of heritage. ALMA Curators Gary and Susan Lind-Sinianian have spent decades learning and documenting Armenian dances, particularly the lost traditional dances from the districts of Western Armenia (today's Eastern Turkey). This March they will teach two Sunday afternoon workshops on some of the varied traditions of Armenian dance. The workshops will focus on contemporary Armenian dances (Mar. 1) and traditional Armenian dances (Mar. 8).

These workshops are for mature teens and adults, not small children. (A children's dance workshop will be held during ALMA's Family Day later this year). The classes will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery. Admission is \$7 for ALMA members and \$10 for non-members. Please call ALMA Public Relations Coordinator Christie Hardiman at (617) 926-2562 ext. 3 or email christie@almainc.org for more information or to register. ■

ARMEAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF AMERICA

Can't get to Watertown?
Visit ALMA online!

www.almainc.org

to see *virtually* all that ALMA has to offer

Jazz Nights @ ALMA

Friday, February 20 - Jerry Bergonzi Quintet

Jerry Bergonzi (tenor sax) • Will Slater (bass) • Phil Grenadier (trumpet) • Vardan Ovsepien (piano) • Karen Kocharyan (drums)

Friday, March 20 - Earthsound

Jason Davis (bass) • Fernando Brandão (flute) • Nando Michelin (piano) • Jorge Pérez (percussion)

Friday, May 1 - MUSANER (JAZZ BOSTON! annual Jazz Week)

Ara Sarkissian (piano) • Todd Brunel (clarinet & soprano sax) • Ken Field (alto sax) • Gary Fieldman (drums)
Martin Haroutunian (folk instruments) • Andrew Hickman (tenor sax) • Blake Newman (bass)

Friday, June 5 - Vardan Ovsepien with Maggie Grebowicz

Vardan Ovsepien (piano) • Maggie Grebowicz (vocals)

Visit WWW.ALMAINC.ORG to BUY your tickets ONLINE!

ARMENIAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF AMERICA

ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery / 65 Main Street, Watertown / 617.926-2562 / www.almainc.org /

All concerts begin at 8 p.m. in ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery (3rd floor)

Tickets \$15
ALMA members \$10
Students \$10

Admission includes one glass of complimentary wine for 21+

Table reservations recommended. Please contact ALMA.

Family Day
Sun., March 15 / 2 to 4 p.m.

Featuring
Big Joe the Storyteller!
Food
Dancing and Dress-Up
Arts & Crafts

Admission: \$5 per child / ALMA Members are FREE!

ALMA's Current Wish List

- Power Pro Portable PA System for ALMA presentations and events (\$1,275)
- Six display mannequins for exhibits (\$1,450)
- Climate-controlled display case for fragile artifacts (\$6,000)
- Snow blower for clearing ALMA's sidewalks during inclement weather (\$695)

If you would like to assist ALMA fulfill its Wish List, please contact ALMA offices at (617) 926-2562 ext. 3.

ALMA's Spring Sports Raffle!

More exciting prizes
Tickets \$100 each

5th Anniversary Special - 5 tickets for \$300!

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.almainc.org

YES! I would like to help support and preserve the rich heritage of the Armenian people by making a financial contribution to the Armenian Library and Museum of America.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Payment Information:

Enclosed is my check payable to ALMA \$ _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my: _____

MasterCard Visa Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

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For naming opportunities and major contributions, please contact Executive Director Mariam Stepanyan at (617) 926-2562 ext. 3 or Board Chairman Haig Der Manuelian at (617) 573-5874.

ALMA's Holiday Gala

Friday, November 28, 2008 • Seaport Hotel - Boston



Photos from left to right: (1) Trustees Daniel K. Dorian, IV and Robert Khederian before the live auction (2) Gala Chairman Michele Kolligian (right) with Gala Benefactors Robert and Adrina Kletjian (3) Guests dance the night away to traditional Armenian music (4) ALMA's Board of Trustees (5) Trustees Bruce Bagdasarian (second from top left) and Sandra Missakian (top right) with guests at their table (6) Chairman Haig Der Manuelian converses with ALMA supporter Mary Bergoudian (7) Trustee Varujan Ozcan (left) with family at his table (8) ALMA supporter Audrey Pilibosian (second from top left) pictured with her son Jeffrey Pilibosian and his fiancé Heather Philo (9) ALMA supporter Peter Bilezikian browses ALMA's latest traveling exhibit "Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East" (10) Trustee Dr. Byron Hartunian (second from left) with his family (10) Vice Presidents Joan Agajanian Quinn of California and Barbara Merguerian during the cocktail reception (11) Trustee Hapet Berberian (right) pictured with his son Gregory Hapet Berberian and his son's fiancé Jennifer Flynn

ALMA’s HOLIDAY GALA, continued from page 1

ALMA Trustee and Gala Chairman Michele Kolligian and her committee planned the festive occasion in true ‘Hye’ style. During the cocktail reception, jazz performed by Vardan Ovsepian and vocalist Maggie Grebowicz blanketed the colorful conversations among friends, family and supporters of ALMA, who caught up with one another over cocktails and bountiful hors d’ oeuvres. Many browsed ALMA’s compelling traveling exhibit, “Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East,” which was on display in the reception area; others crowded the silent auction table to view the 46-inch flat screen television with Blue-ray disc package, assortment of Boston sporting event tickets, a diamond-encrusted pendant and other luxury items and packages that awaited the highest bidder.

Doors then opened to the hotel’s Plaza Ballroom, where a slide presentation displayed some of ALMA’s treasures continuously in the background. Once guests were seated, Kolligian graciously welcomed all in attendance on behalf of ALMA and its Board of Trustees. Guests then feasted on a sumptuous multi-course dinner with wine and a decadent dessert. After eating, guests fluctuated between placing their final bids on prized silent auction items and dancing to the inviting homeland sounds played by Harry Bedrosian, Bruce Gigarjian, David Hoplamazian, Kenny Kalajian and Joe Kouyoumjian.

A number of songs later, Kolligian announced the close of the silent auction and invited ALMA Trustees Robert Khederian and Daniel K. Dorian, IV to the stage as the live auction’s stand-in “celebrity” auctioneers. For the duration of the auction, the comedic duo roused the crowd to bid generously with their range of good-humored banter. In the end, a Bruins Box for 18 guests, four private suite tickets to a New England Patriots game, four EMC club tickets to a Red Sox game, and a private box suite for 12 guests to see Disney on Ice were auctioned off, along with the incredible perks that each auction package offered.

Before the spectacular event ended, young professionals joined the festivities during ALMA’s first ever late Gala ‘Kef’ Dance. The merriment and dancing continued well into the night as guests danced to the deejay’s American music selections and enjoyed late evening fare.

While ALMA’s Gala has come to an end, the season of giving and celebration continues. ALMA’s third Holiday Gala raised a substantial part of the budgetary needs, making this third time not only a charm, but a complete success. ■

See more Gala photos on page 6 and at www.almainc.org/



Left: Executive Director Mariam Stepanyan (left) and Trustee Elisabeth Kenosian in front of ALMA’s traveling exhibit “Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East”

Right: Trustee Edward Keljik, Jr. (second from bottom right) with guests at his table



Right: Gala guests hit the dance floor

Below: Vice President Laurel Karabian (top right) with ALMA supporters and guests



Below: Trustee Jacob Pilibosian (third from bottom right) with family and guests at his table

Below: NAASR President Nancy R. Kolligian (top right) with guests at her table



Below: Trustees James A. Erdekian (top left) and Haig K. Deranian (bottom right) with guests at their table



Left: Violinist David Hoplamazian plays Armenian songs with ensemble of musicians

Below: Vice President Joan Agajanian Quinn and her husband Jack Quinn



Above: Michele Kolligian with her brother Greg Kolligian, Jr.

Right: Michele Kolligian pictured with Gala Committee Member Mary Ellen Margosian (second from top left), Vice President Joan Agajanian Quinn (bottom right) and guests at their table



Left: Vice President Alex Dadourian (lower right) and Trustee Hapet Berberian (third from bottom left) with family and guests at their table

Below: Trustees Daniel Dorian, IV (right) and Fr. Vasken Kouzouian (second from bottom left) with family and guests at their table



Above: Trustee Robert Khederian (third from top right) with guests at his table

Right: Trustee Robert Proodian (second from bottom left) and guests



Left: Chairman Haig Der Manuelian (left) and Trustees Lucy Der Manuelian (fourth from left) and Elisabeth Kenosian (second from bottom right) with guests

Right: Trustee Richard Simonian (bottom left) with family and guests at his table



Left: Trustee Steven Migridichian (top right) with family and friends

Right: Trustee Rev. Gregory Haroutunian (second from top left) with Gala guests



Left: Trustee Alfred Demirjian (center) and ALMA co-founder Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian (left of Demirjian) with family and friends at their table.

See more Holiday Gala photos at www.almainc.org!

ALMA Spring Internship Opportunities

As the largest ethnic museum in New England, ALMA offers a wide-range of exciting internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students who want hands-on experience to build their careers this spring semester. All ALMA internships offer either college credit or a stipend and are designed to help fulfill the intern's professional and educational goals as well as the needs of the Museum and Library.

Qualified interns are enthusiastic students with either a background in art history, anthropology, museum or library science, or an interest in Armenian history or culture. Applicants must have a keen eye for detail, organizational skills and a desire to learn.

Under the direction of ALMA's curators and professional staff, interns have the chance to complete a variety of projects during a specific timeframe. Past interns have designed exhibits, maintained Museum and Library databases, and assisted ALMA curators in a number of areas.

Interested applicants should email ALMA's Public Relations Coordinator Christie Hardiman at christie@almainc.org for more information and an application form. ■

Looking at Lace

On February 28, ALMA will open "Identifying Armenian Lace," a new textile exhibit in Bedoukian Hall. The exhibit explores lace techniques, how Armenian lace compares with other lace types and the fascinating history of Armenian needle lace, including stories of girls and women who accomplished these incredible works of art, often under difficult conditions.

Special collections, such as the Chad Collection of Laces (made by orphans of Malatia) and the Alice Riggs Collection (made by women of Aintab after the 1896 massacre), will be featured. Very fine lace collars, large doilies, three-dimensional flowers, household items and lace embellishing garments will be among the artifacts on display.



Armenian needle lace from ALMA's collections



Textile Curator Susan Lind-Sinianian will teach a two-day lace workshop at ALMA in March

A two-day Armenian lace workshop will be taught at ALMA on Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, March 29, providing a unique opportunity to learn this ancient craft. Each class will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at ALMA. Course tuition is \$20 for ALMA members and non-members pay \$25. Students must be able to thread a sewing needle. Please contact Textile Curator Susan Lind-Sinianian at susan@almainc.org or call (617) 926-2562 ext. 5 for more information or to register. ■

ACQUISITIONS (through July 2008)

- Albert, Svetlana c/o Harvard Science Center, MA-1 M. Saryan print, 5 postcard sets, 2 large postcards
- Almasian, Arakel and Lillian, MA-1 map "Bagdad Railway Route" (1918), 1 glass bonbonniere, 3 Offen Rug catalogs, 1 wooden stretcher for textiles, 1 metal easel for display
- Alemian, Mary, MA-3 articles
- Almasian, Joe and Kim, MA-1 press clipping on Armenian luge team
- Anderson, Kate, MA-2 study pieces a beaded purse, leather purse
- Anonymous-1 Cilician coin in sleeve, King Hetum II
- Anonymous-1 DVD "Beautiful Armenians" by T. Salibian
- Anonymous-83 phonodiscs, 1 book
- Anonymous-"Mass" commemorating pontifical visit of Karekin I (2008)
- Arslanian Isberian, Armine, NY-1 black velvet dress, braided cords, crocheted yoke
- Avedisian Ovoian, Linda, MA-3 books, "Partiz Hogewor" (1852), "Vazgen Ergaran" (1901), "Nor Ktkaran"
- Baboian, John, MA-1 CD "Freshly Painted Blues" (2007)
- Balian, Anoush, MA-15 books, 1 periodical
- Bamberger, Joan, MA-1 embroidered tablecloth with 8 matching napkins
- Barsam, Dickran, CA-1 political poster on Armenian Genocide (in Greek)
- Basmajian, Victoria, MA-1 silver teething set (bells, ring, bracelet, bells), 1 book "Musee Martiros Sarian" (1973)
- Bastajian, Dr. Leon, MA-197 periodicals, misc. items
- Bergoudian, Mary, MA-6 VHS, 97 phonodiscs, 10 music cassettes, 1 *poatr*, booklets, periodicals, calendars, misc. prints
- Boemer, Dorothy, MD-1 print "Gospel of St. John"
- Bolsetzian Zarookian, Anne, NY-1 hand woven plaid textile from Sebastia (1865)
- Boyajian, Richard, MA-1 silver Persian coin found in Sisian, Armenia
- BROUTIAN, Dr. Grigor, Armenia-1 book "Keank'e Dravagner" (2003)
- Charkoudian, Bethel, MA-9 books, including "Arajnord Anglieren Lezu" (1909), "Kilikia Ergaran" (1921), "Fifty Famous Stories" (1896), research files on ALMA's oral history project from 1970s, 1 print "Tiramayr Nareki," 6 periodicals, 3 booklets, 1 *New York Times* article on Genocide, 1 CD, 5 posters, 17 postcards
- Charles, Arsen, MA-4 art catalogs on artist Ruben Nakian
- Cherken, Harry S., PA-1 print "Old Ironsides"
- Chilingarian, Jon and Dianne, MA-20 reel-to-reel tapes of Armenian music from old phonodiscs from Estate of Samuel Sahag
- Chilingarian, Robert, CA-1 CD, 2 DVDs of performances by the donor
- Coloian, Marie, RI-9 phonodiscs
- Dagdigian, Joseph, MA-1 book "Tiererakan Charagayt,iwn Hetarotume Hayastanum" (2006)
- Damelian, Dr. Jack, NH-72 books and pamphlets
- Davidson, Susan, MA-2 books "My Name is Aram" by W. Saroyan (1940)
- Der-Hannessian, Leon and Tamar, PA-1 book "Autobiography and Recollections" (2005)
- Der Manuelian, Haig, MA-1 book "The Sick Man of Europe" (1973), 100 periodicals, 1 map of Dardanelles, 1 census list
- Devejian, Ann, CT-1 morning robe
- Dulgarian, Stephen, MA-6 books, 32 periodicals, 44 booklets, 2 photographs, 1 cognac bottle, 12 cigarette packs
- Dunn, Araxie, FL-9 photographs of Gen. Azgapietian, 1 commemorative 3 ruble coin "Armenian Earthquake CCCP" 1 set of Tuck's postcards "Village Life in Armenia"
- Eastern Lamejun Bakery, Inc., MA-1 calendar "Scenic Armenia" (2008)
- Eshilian, Terri, CA-1 book "Tell Me About Armenia" (2007)
- Esperian, Dorothy, MA-24 theatrical books, 11 periodicals, 1 book
- Garabedian, Harry, NH-11 books, 1 photo, 2 calendars
- Gechijian, Arshag, MA-1 painting by Ararat Sarkissian, 1 book by Ararat Sarkissian
- Gheridian, Odette, MA-6 books by Mayne Reid (in Armenian)
- Goldman, Judy Ann, MA-Copper with tin wash bowl (8" diam) inscribed with "Tirikhnip Dghak'amiai"
- Hablanian, Ann, MA-8 books, 2 periodicals, 3 folios, 1 postcard
- Hagopian, Roger, MA-1 DVD of Genocide-Holocaust program at ALMA (2008), 5 DVDs "Memories of Marash"
- Hibben, Stuart G., MD-Binder of archival materials related to Poutin Hibbins
- Hovagimian, Edna, MA-4 books, 17 periodicals, 7 annual reports, 1 program booklet, 4 calendars
- Hovagimian Salogiannis, Rose, NY-6 phonodiscs
- John, Jeanette, MA-5 periodicals, 7 booklets, file of materials related to pontifical visits of Vazgen Jones, Peter William, MA-3 booklets "Matenadaran" (1960s), "Welcome to Armenia" (1968), "Armenian Cultural Monuments" (1968)
- Karabian, Walter and Laurel, CA-113 items related to American-Armenian life in California, 1 book "Magic of Fire and Clay" (2006) by G. Kurkman
- Karagosian, Arshag, MA-1 French military dress cap
- Karakehian, George and Kristin, CO-1 map "Map of Earliest Historic Regions" (1854), 547 maps of Turkey (20"x 24"), 8 maps of Turkey (22"x 30")
- Karapetian, Alice, NC-1 Prelacy daily planner (2008), 1 Diocese calendar (2007)
- Karian, Lucy c/o Steve Karian, MA-15 books, 1 biography
- Kasabian Lockie, Annette, MA-2 books, "Sons Come and Go, Mothers Hang in Forever" (1976) and "The Human Comedy" (1943), by W. Saroyan
- Kassabian, Krikor, MA-1 book "Le Génocide Arménien dans la Presse Canadienne" (1985)
- Kasbarian, Lucine, NJ-5 books, 2 brochures
- Kashmanian, John, RI-2 books, 1 glass bottle "Hoogasian Dairy," 2 press photos, 1 advertisement on "Yacoubian Brothers," 1 brochure, 1 postcard
- Kasparian, Joseph, MA-2 political appeals regarding gubernatorial race
- Kazarian, Jacqueline c/o William Saroyan Literary Foundation, CA-3 books "Saroyan's Fables" (1941), "Morris Hirschfield" (1976), both by W. Saroyan, and "Review of National Literatures" (2006)
- Kehiakchoian, Dr. Harry, CA-1 newsletter about Chunkoosh village
- Khanbegian, Peter, NH-1 photograph of Armen Mikranian (Arm. Legion), 1 photograph of Lawrence, MA, ARF chapter, circa 1915
- Marino, Karine, MA-1 pair knitted slippers from Akhatska, Javakh
- Megerdichian, Sossy, MA-6 periodicals
- Muggeridge, Rose, MA-7 periodicals
- NAASR, MA-1 book "Heroes of Hayastan" by P. Yeghiayan (1993)
- Nahabedian, Mildred, MA-1 suitcase from the estate of Sarkis Sahagian
- Najarian, Dr. and Mrs. Louis, NY-18 books & pamphlets
- Noradunkian, Albert, Ontario-10 "Ganteghalouys"
- Norian, Kevork, MA-7 books, including "The Armenians" (1995)
- Ovoian, Linda, MA-1 Kharpersti bundle cloth, 2 crocheted purses, 1 metal pan
- Papazian Sahagian, Hourig, NJ-2 textiles, 17 books and pamphlets
- Patoyian, P.S. c/o Jeff Bilezikian, MA-2 books, "Gisakaran" (1907) and "Haskak'agh" (1955)
- Petrosian, Konstantin, RI-1 CD "Chimes of the Homeland"
- Pikichian, Hripsime c/o Institute of Art, Yerevan-1 book "20 Tari Hay Erazhshtut'yun Dasakanner" (2006), 5 CDs, 1 DVD
- Rexal, Kate, MN-1 student documentary "Armenian Genocide"
- Safer, Virginia, MA-1 metal bowl-Kharpert (1907), 1 photo of Assyrian Cemetery in Kharpert 1 bundle cloth with chain stitch embroidery
- Sarkisian, Adrianna, CT-1 book "Anhorizon T'ap'arunner" (1989)
- Sarkisian, Zar, MA-6 books and pamphlets, 6 small framed prints
- Sarkissian, Albert, MA-25 books, hole puncher, envelopes
- Saryan, Armine, CA-6 copies of "Language Connections" (1987) by S. Saryan
- Setian, Elizabeth, MA-4 books, 4 posters
- Shaboian, Krikor, MA-24 books
- Society for Armenian Studies, CA-1 periodical "Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies"
- Stepanian, Sonia Hachigian and Isabel Krempa, NY-14 prints of fedayee, 1 poster of cultural icons
- T. Marie, Satenig, CT-1 book "Amerikehay Namakan" (1914) by Chakmakchian
- Tamkian, Siran, MA-26 books, 101 periodicals, 7 booklets, 7 misc. items
- Tanielian, Bishop Anoushavan, NY-1 book "Lambronaci's Comments on the Wisdom of Solomon"
- Thomasian, Vartan c/o Union of Vasbouragan, CA-1 periodical "Varak" (2007)
- Tourigian, Martin, PA-1 periodical, 1 watercolor "Armenian Dancer"
- Vrabian, Nerses, CA-1 book "Morts'uats Ts'egh Me" (2008)
- Zorthian, Barry, VA-1 book "Turk'eru Chankin Mej'" (2007)

(to be continued in the next issue of the newsletter)



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ARTI-FACT

Brass divits (scribe sets), 17th century

Donated by Dr. Paul and Vicki Bedoukian (left) / Donated by Emmanuel Tiliakos (right)

Pictured are traditional brass inkpots and stylus holders used by scribes. Scribes placed the divit in their waist sashes as a status symbol, showing that they were literate. The long case held the writing styli (long pointed pieces of wood) while the small square container held the liquid ink. To write a letter, the scribe rubbed the wooden point in the inked materials.

There were two basic lid designs for inkpots: a simple leaf/shell design lid that did not latch tight and an oval plug with a delicate latching mechanism and hinges. A non-latching pot would be stuffed with cotton, wool, silk cocoons or other absorbent materials to soak up and hold the liquid ink; this kept the ink from dripping out as it was carried in a scribe's waist sash.

Left picture: Made in 1668, the octagonal-shaped stylus case is a typical design. The elaborate Armenian inscription on the top of the stylus case reads "Antreas Tsatur Apkar, 1668." The Armenian artisan's "maker's mark" is on the bottom of the inkpot.

Right picture: This example, surprisingly, contains the same "maker's mark" as the inkpot on the left, indicating the same artist or the same family workshop. It is of a less common design, and has a delicately worked hinge and clasp to keep the inkwell closed. The case is undecorated.

