



Armenian Institute NEWS



A NEW STEP towards the creation of a resource centre

We are very happy to announce that the Armenian Institute has begun renting a studio apartment, which is being transformed into a library and office space. Located at 7 Chatsworth Court, Pembroke Road, W8, this will be our temporary premises while we continue our search for something larger and more permanent.

As we head towards our third anniversary, the Armenian Institute faces new challenges. With the support and encouragement of our *Friends* we have organised over 40 events. Each of these has taken place in different venues, according to their nature and needs. One major problem persisted however: how best to display and use the generous loan of the collection of books of Charles Dowsett, Professor of Armenian Studies at Oxford. On permanent loan from the AGBU London Trust, this magnificent library of some 4,000 books is now emerging onto shelves in our new space near Earl's Court.

Prof. Dowsett was a man of many interests and compiled a rich collection of books, especially on Armenological subjects. The Institute will make careful additions to this library to provide resources for Londoners and researchers who need to learn more about Armenians. We hope this will be a project-oriented resource, which will be actively used to create new events, publications, recordings, etc. Ideally, we will also be able to begin an archive of Armenian life, including recordings of oral histories of Armenians living in Britain.

The space we have rented now is small. As soon as the

(continued on page 2)

Iraq Diaries Living in the Frontline



Ani King-Underwood, a documentary producer who worked in Iraq from July 2003 to March 2004, gave a most informative and moving presentation on May 12th to an overflow audience at Armenian House in Kensington. Film clips from her various assignments in Iraq provided powerful background narratives to her talk.

Through personal experiences and vignettes, she presented the human face of victimhood and devastation – a dimension rarely highlighted in the 'coverage of the war' in Iraq, which generally focus on the military and political aspects of this still unfolding conflict.

King-Underwood, a Trustee of the Armenian Institute, started her talk by recounting her occasional encounters with members of the Armenian community in Baghdad and about her 'home' away from home in a hotel owned by an Armenian.

She observed that since the military invasion last year and the continuing uncertainties on the ground, the people's attitude gradually changed—from a sense of initial 'liberation' to gradual reluctance to accept the new reality, to increasing criticism, to anger and now defiance, especially in the south of the country.



King-Underwood has completed four documentaries on Iraq for the BBC, ITN, Channel 4 and PBS in the US. She is the Associate Producer of "Secrets & Spies of the Iraq War" (2004), "Invading Iraq: How Britain and America Got It Wrong" (2004), Karbala: City of Martyrs (2004) and "Iraq: Journey into Madness" (2003). She has produced and directed over two-dozen documentaries on other regions and current affairs.

King-Underwood is a journalist, producer and director with years of experience in broadcast media. Her extensive involvement with television networks and production companies includes all facets of programme-making, especially in current affairs and documentaries. She has worked extensively as field producer and cameraperson on breaking news from various parts of the world, including the Middle East, Asia and the Caucasus.

“ Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. ”

DWIGHT EISENHOWER
US PRESIDENT (APRIL 1953)

COMING EVENTS

(see details on page 4)

MAY

Lecture

**Zabel Essayan's
Gardens of Silihdar**
Theo Van Lint
27 May

JUNE

Armenian Studies Seminar

**The Growth of
Medical Pluralism
in Armenia**
Carolann Najarian
3 June

Lecture

**Clarence Ussher:
Family Memories**
David Baker
20 June

JULY

Art & Music
Vernissage

July/August
(details forthcoming)

SEPTEMBER

London Open
House

18 September

Armenian Church to be part of the annual weekend event which opens up London's architecture to the public.
www.londonopenhouse.org

New Step (continued from p1)

books are ready, people will be welcome to visit them during posted hours or by appointment. It is a good place to organise and carefully catalogue the books. The library itself will also outgrow this space very quickly. The real challenge is to take a serious look at our goals together. If we remain committed to creating an active and lively community of people dedicated to making Armenian history and culture a living experience, we need to take on a sizeable financial responsibility and engage in major fund-raising. A larger space would allow the library to grow, provide an environment where visiting and resident artists, scholars and British Armenians could meet and work together. It could also accommodate at least some of the many different events that we'll continue to organise.

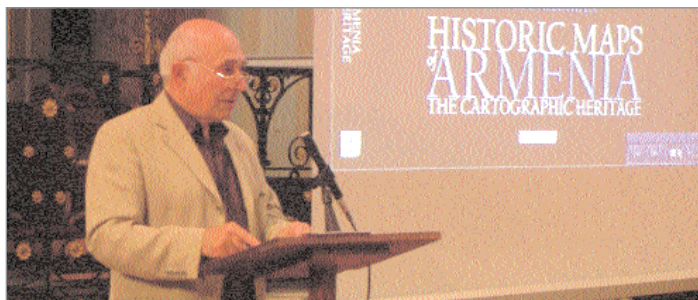
We invite you to join us on this journey, through your moral and financial support, towards creating a centre for learning, reflecting and creating.

Dr. Susan Pattie, AI Chair

NEW BOOKS

Three new books have been published in recent months by authors who are Friends of the Armenian Institute. In addition to Rouben Galichian's *Historic Maps of Armenia* (see above), the Institute is honoured to welcome the publication of *Through the Eye of an Armenian Needle* by Gregory Krikorian and *Goodby Istanbul!*, a lively autobiography by Anahid Gorgodian. Krikorian's historic text is based on *The History of Jerusalem* by Savaianians with a focus on the impact of the Ottoman Empire on the St. James monastery. These books and others will be featured in the Armenian Institute's new "Arts and Literary Supplement", which will accompany our next quarterly newsletter.

THANK YOU to Gregory Krikorian and Anahid Gorgodian for the kind donation of copies of their books. All proceeds from the sales will benefit the programmes of the Armenian Institute.



FROM BABYLONIAN CLAY TO SATELLITE IMAGES

The Armenian Institute and Friends of Armenia hosted the launch of *Historic Maps of Armenia: The Cartographic Heritage* by Rouben Galichian (I. B. Taurus 2004). The event was held on May 15h at St. Peter's Church in Notting Hill.

Rouben Galichian, who over the past 30 years has been studying and collecting maps of the region of Armenia, made a presentation about the research behind this magnificent book. In the second part of his talk, he provided interesting details about a series of maps projected onto a large screen. Other enlarged maps were displayed in the hall.

Historic Maps of Armenia contains reproductions of 127 maps and 36 details, prepared by famed cartographers. It spans from ancient times -- when Armenia appeared on the oldest known map of the world, a Babylonian clay tablet from the sixth century BC -- until the present. Historian Christopher J. Walker, writes in the preface of the book: "The selection of the maps shown here, and the essay that accompanies them, prove that antique maps are far more than decorative curios... Rather, they constitute vital and intricate elements at the heart of serious history science and international trade... The follies and misunderstandings of many nations, both ruling and ruled, have often derived from ignorance of maps..."

Cyrus Ala'i, who reviewed the book for the *Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society* (Summer 2004, Issue 97) said: This book, perhaps the first of its kind in English, is surely a valuable document, worthy of being studied and enjoyed by all those interested in the history of cartography, and particularly by the friends of Armenia".

Born in Tabriz, Rouben Galichian is an engineer by profession and a founding trustee of Friends of Armenia. He and his family have lived in London since 1981.

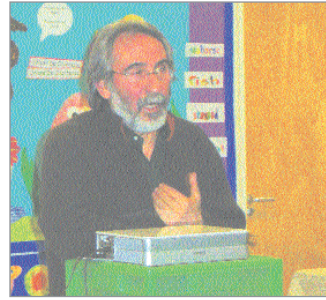


ARMENIAN STUDIES GROUP

As the academic year draws to a close and we break for the summer, the Armenian Institute is happy to report that we have had a host of excellent presentations and papers on current work in progress by established scholars Dr. Susan Pattie (UCL) and Dr. Armine Ishkanian (LSE); the practitioner's viewpoint from Andrew Cornwell (Open University), cutting edge perspectives from Dr. Michele Sigler (Kings College London), and visiting scholar Sebouh Aslanian (Columbia). Visiting from the US, Carolann Najarian, MD will be speaking on "The Growth of Medical Pluralism in Armenia and Ramifications for Health Care Planning" on Thursday, June 3rd.

The Armenian Studies Group, a joint venture with the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, is comprised of some 40 scholars and researchers working in the field of Armenian Studies or related areas. The seminars provide a forum for the development of Armenian Studies amongst UK academics and lend support with constructive critiques of each other's work. As such they aim to raise the standards of scholarship in Armenian Studies and encourage new and fresh voices.

The Group meets once a month during term time at SOAS for a presentation by one scholar and then spends time discussing the work. Most papers are the early drafts of material that go on to be published in journals or presented as theses. For more information contact Sossie Kasbarian, Political Studies Dept., SOAS, and AI Project Development Officer, e-mail: sossiekasbarian@yahoo.co.uk.



LITERATURE LECTURE SERIES

Theo Van Lint on DANIEL VARUZHAN

Professor Theo van Lint inaugurated the *AI Armenian Literature Lecture Series* with a lecture on “Daniel Varuzhan (1884-1915): the poet and his work”. A full house at Hai Doon fell under the spell of the professor and the poet he presented, in a beautiful and moving portrayal and analysis on February 19th. Van Lint did an exemplary job of interweaving the life Varuzhan with his works. The lecturer’s understated, gracious manner, was a real and rare treat, as testified by the extensive ensuing discussion.

Born in Delft, the Netherlands, van Lint studied Slavic languages and literature and Indo-European



Comparative Linguistics at Leiden University. He received a doctorate there under the supervision of Jos Weitenberg with a thesis on Kostandin of Erzuka, an Armenian religious poet of the 13th-14th centuries. His main interests are poetry and medieval literature. He is currently working on the reception of Ezekiel’s throne vision in Armenian literature and art. Van Lint was appointed Calouste Gulbenkian Professor of Armenian Studies at the University of Oxford in 2002.

His next lecture on May 27 will be on “Zabel Essayan’s Gardens of Silihdar”. On December 2, he will speak on “The Enigma of Eghia Demirjibashian, Armenian Writer in Constantinople, 1851-1908”. The final talk is scheduled for 10 February 2005.

The lectures are free and open to all. All lectures will take place at Hai Doon (Armenia House) at 7.30pm.

DINNER-LECTURE-FILM

SAILING FROM ARMENIA TO EUROPE

Many people are unaware that Armenians have a connection with the sea, thinking only of present-day landlocked Armenia. Karen Balayan (above left), president of “Ayas” Nautical Research Club in Yerevan, is doing his best to change that misperception. Thanks to a generous grant from the Benlian Trust and assisted by Vanessa Galbraith, the Armenian Institute invited Captain Garen to London where he had lengthy talks at the Maritime Museum in Greenwich, spoke with children at the Tahta Sunday School, and gave an illustrated talk for AI on February 8th. The evening began with dinner—prepared by Jakobs Café—at St. Stephen’s Church in South Kensington. Afterwards Balayan described the twelve-year effort of a group of inspired enthusiasts to build a 13th century Armenian merchant ship. Named “The Cilicia”, after the medieval Armenian Kingdom, the vessel was built based on careful research in manuscripts and miniatures and using the techniques and materials appropriate to that era. The group has built up a library and organises periodic exhibitions about Armenian sea trade, navigation, maps and shipping vessels. Balayan showed a lively DVD about the ship’s construction and its maiden voyage on Lake Sevan. On May 28th this year, the group is planning to launch a round-Europe voyage, beginning in Batumi and following old trade routes. “The Cilicia” will dock in Venice for the winter and then continue next summer, stopping in Portsmouth.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Another dinner-programme in the series was held on March 14th, featuring Serge Hovsepian (above right), a documentary filmmaker and theatre director from Paris and his new documentary: “Cultural Monuments in Karabagh”. The magnificent scenes and images, the beautiful music, and most moving, the profiles of the people he met on the territories between Armenia and Karabakh left a strong impression on the audience. Following the screening of the film, Hovsepian spoke about the making of the film and the challenges he faced, and shared his personal encounters with the people living around ancient Armenian monuments.

Serge Hovsepian was a documentary director for the Iranian Ministry of Culture in the 1970s. He has worked in France with Peter Brook, assisting him on the acclaimed theatre production “Mahabharata”. He has directed numerous plays in Persian and Armenian, two short fiction films and two documentaries.



POETRY & LITERARY WORKS FOR NEW SEASON

The Armenian Institute will be highlighting poetry and literary works in the 2004-5 season. A number of major events will combine exciting contemporary and classic poetry and literary works with other forms of art, showcasing the work of contemporary Armenian poets working in Armenian and in English. Poetry has always been of great importance to Armenians, as an art form and as a way of communicating deep emotions and profound ideas that find resonance over generations. This year’s poetry readings and events will feature living authors and classic favourites. We welcome suggestions of favourites. We also plan to extend the occasional singing and dancing during our dinners with readings and recitals of poetry by those attending.

LITERATURE SERIES

Prof. Theo Van Lint
Calouste Gulbenkian Professor
of Armenian Studies, Oxford University

27 May 2004, 7.30 pm
**Zabel Essayan's Gardens
of Silihdar**

2 December 2004, 7.30 pm
**The Enigma of Eghia
Demirjibashian, Armenian
Writer in Constantinople,
1851-1908**

Armenian House|Hay Doon
25 Cheniston Gardens, London W8

PRESENTATION

**Clarence Ussher:
Family Memories**

David Baker, the grandson of Clarence Ussher, the doctor who was prominently featured in Atom Egoyan's acclaimed film *Ararat*, will make a presentation on Dr. Ussher and the city of Van, where he served during the Armenian massacres in the Ottoman Empire. Baker will also talk about his mother's recollection of events in Van. The talk will be complemented by excerpts from a video-taped interview with her, taken some 17 years ago when she was in her 80s.

SEMINAR

Thursday 3 June, 7.30pm

**The Growth of Medical
Pluralism in Armenia
Ramifications for Health Care
Planning**

Carolann S. Najarian, M.D.

Room G60, Main Building
SOAS
University of London
Russell Square
(nearest tube Russell Square)

LONDON TOUR

Saturday 18 September
10.00 am-1.00 pm

London Open House

The Armenian Institute, with the support of the Vicarage, will welcome interested visitors to St. Sarkis Church, as part of London Open House (www.londonopenhouse.org), an annual weekend event which opens up the capital's architecture to the public free of charge. This London-wide celebration of architecture has been taking place for over 10 years and attracts over 350,000 people to some 500 buildings.

AI will be offering tours and information about St. Sarkis to visitors as well as general information about Armenians and Armenian culture. If you would like to be involved, contact sossiekasbarian@yahoo.co.uk

Starting in July, the Armenian Institute will host a series of events highlighting **creative writing** – poetry and prose, lyrics and the troubador tradition. As a first step in encouraging the use of the newly opened Dowsett Collection and AI library, we will include **writing workshops for children and adults**, celebrations of **local authors** and other **mixed media events**. Our monthly **“Dinners in the Village Square”** will continue with song and dance with the added opportunity to present favourite poetry and verse.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

BY EMAIL: info@armenianinstitute.org

BY POST: Armenian Institute, 7 Hollingbourne Road, London SE24 9NB

Tel. 020 7978 9104 or 020 7371 4434; **BY FAX** 020 7274 5764

BE PART OF A NEW VISION

Yes, I want to support the Armenian Institute and become a **Friend/Patron/Benefactor** of the Institute.

Friend (single)	_____	£25
Family	_____	£40
Concession	_____	£15
Patron	_____	£100+
Benefactor	_____	£1000+

_____ I wish to support the projects of the Armenian Institute as a **Donor**. Enclosed is my donation of £_____

Name _____

Address _____

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E-mail _____

Gift Aid Declaration: I would like the Armenian Institute to reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 01/01/03 and thereafter until further notice. I am a UK tax payer.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send to: **Armenian Institute**
7 Hollingbourne Road
London SE24 9NB
UK Registered Charity No. 1088410



**ARMENIAN
INSTITUTE**
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Benefits of Friends of the Armenian Institute

FRIENDS of the Armenian Institute will receive a regular newsletter about activities and events, priority booking, and a discount on entrance tickets (including one guest). In addition, your support will make it possible to implement a wide range of exciting activities for all ages.

PATRONS/BENEFACTORS of the Armenian Institute will receive the above, as well as a selected gift publication, and an invitation to an exclusive event for patrons and benefactors.

Call for Volunteers!

One of the main reasons we are able to host events is our dedicated group of volunteer helpers.

Volunteers do a variety of jobs depending on the nature of the event, such as welcoming people, serving refreshments, taking care of the book stall, registration, etc.

As our events and their audiences get bigger, we need to increase our volunteer workforce to ensure the high quality and smooth operations continue. Ideally we would like to have a long list of volunteers who can be approached to help out on a non-obligatory basis at their convenience, so that we do not have to rely on the same small group of kind souls at every event.

If you are able and willing to occasionally help out in any of these practical ways, please contact Sossie Kasbarian at sossiekasbarian@yahoo.co.uk