

Merry Christmas to All Our Readers & Advertisers

From the
Staff of the
Armenian Reporter

Ferdinand Kaimakamian UnCOVERS Gomidas' 1919-1935 Medical Records

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The noted Gomidas Vartabed, admired by the Armenian people throughout the world for his contribution to Armenian folk music, was known to have lived a troubled life and was committed to a mental institution after the Turkish Massacres of Armenians in World War I.

While there is a wealth of material about his contribution to the development of Armenian folk music, little is known about his last days and up to now there has been little information about his health problems and the last years of his life in France, until he died on Oct. 21, 1935.

Mr. Ferdinand Kaimakamian, a long-time resident of New York City and himself a musician and singer, some time ago undertook the task of learning more about the last years of Gomidas Vartabed and determining the exact nature of the sickness that incapacitated him and resulted in his being confined to a mental institution. Through the help of the French Consulate in New York, he obtained the name and address of the mental institution where Gomidas was first committed. Mr. Kaimakamian contacted the administration of the hospital, requesting copies of the medical records.

To his surprise, the "Maison de Sante de Neilly-sur-Marne" responded to his query and provided him with copies of the medical reports on the famous patient. Dr. Michel Gourevitch, an assistant Director of the hospital, turned over the medical history of Gomidas Vartabed starting from April 6, 1919, when he was admitted, during his entire stay there till July 31, 1922, when he was transferred to Villejuif Psychiatric Hospital. Gomidas remained at Villejuif until his death on Oct. 21, 1935. The records from his stay at the second facility were also provided by Dr. Gourevitch.

Dr. Gourevitch asserted that Gomidas Vartabed seems to

have been suffering from a "manic-depressive psychosis" and before his admittance to Maison de Sante and had been treated in Russian and Turkish institutions. The French doctor, based on available medical reports, claimed that Gomidas Vartabed "was in a manic state when he was admitted, or perhaps in a mixed state, including both manic and depressive features, which could account for his condition being mistaken as a 'polymorphic delusion.'" He said this diagnosis of "mental degeneration" was common at the time even though it often failed to fit all the symptoms manifested in the patient.

Dr. Gourevitch noted that Gomidas Vartabed died sixteen years later of "vesanic cachexia," a term which indicates that he never fully recovered, although a manic-depressive psychosis usually includes intervals of complete recovery, even in the absence of treatment. He added that the disease Gomidas suffered from is generally regarded as, at least partly genetic, but by no means infectious, and unless the present documents are completely wrong, which is doubtful, it must be affirmed no contagious cause was implied.

Another document that Mr. Kaimakamian secured in his quest to learn more about Gomidas Vartabed was the photocopy of an order to commit Gomidas Vartabed to the Asylum of Marne. The order, issued on April 6, 1919, was issued by an Armenian doctor named Dr. Paul Cololian. In that order, Dr. Cololian noted that Father Gomidas was suffering from long periods of depression and persecution neurosis. While there is no indication in any of the reports on the noted musician, it is generally believed that Gomidas Vartabed's mental disorder was triggered by having witnessed the horrendous sufferings of his people at the hands of the rulers of Ottoman Turkey in World War I.

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St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

4125 Pessenden Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Tel. 363-1923 or 942-2434
Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

SUNDAY SERVICES:
Morning Service (Family Worship) 10:30-11:15
Holy Badarak - Divine Liturgy 10:15-12:15
Sunday School 10:30-12:00
Armenian School (Saturdays) 1:00-3:30 p.m.



The theme of thanksgiving is an integral part of our Sunday worship. The Armenian church has set aside special occasions to express our collective gratitude to the Lord, such as Assumption Day, when we bless the grapes as a symbol of the yearly harvest.

It is good that this land of ours has a special day set apart for the giving of thanks. In the midst of natural disasters, and social as well as personal turmoil, we still have abundant reason to be thankful. More often than we care to, we must try to count our blessings; it is a humbling experience, and it helps us realize how blessed we really are.

In the midst of our gratitude, let us never forget those less fortunate. Let us be mindful of their suffering, and let us show a willingness to share with them at least our surplus of blessings. During the past year St. Mary's has appealed for help for the Ethiopian Relief Fund, the Mexican Earthquake Fund, and for the local Charitable Fund. The response has been encouraging. But we can do better. Extending ourselves in Christian charity is a continuous task. In this season of thanksgiving, let us also remember the victims of the Columbian volcano, and the homeless of Washington D.C.

Please send your contributions to St. Mary's Armenian Church, indicating the charity to which you wish your contribution to be forwarded. For the shelters of the homeless please also consider such items as blankets, coats, towels, hats, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap and warm outer clothing for adults such as scarves, socks, sweaters, gloves, etc.

Please bring the items to the church Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Happy and meaningful thanksgiving to you all.

Father Vertanes Kalayjian
Pastor

Divine Liturgy Celebration
Sunday, Dec. 8, 1985
Services start
9:30
Divine Liturgy - Holy Badarak
9:45
Ordination of Deacons
10:15

The individuals who will be ordained as deacons are:

- Mr. Arshavir Ozsongur
- Dr. Hratch Semerjian
- Mr. Vartkes Keshishian
- Mr. Yenovk Bashalian

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian will celebrate the Divine Liturgy, deliver the sermon, and ordain deacons. The banquet commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Ordination of Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian will follow.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the death of Gomidas Vartabed (1869-1935)

Dec. 6, 1985
Friday 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by
The Cultural Committee of the
Women's Guild of St. Mary's
Armenian Apostolic Church

Gomidas Vartabed's contribution to Armenian music has been compared to the genius of Mesrob Mashdotz who gave us the Armenian Alphabet.



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գու՛ մեր երգի մերոպ մարտոց,
Գիրն ու սուան ես Հայոց երգի,
ամէրր հերկի.



Եւ խոստումը գալիք բերի: Գ. ՍԵՒԱԿ

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, New York, N.Y., will deliver an analysis of the life and work of Gomidas Vartabed at the Cultural Hall of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church. Refreshments will follow.

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

**Cordially Invites You To A
Banquet Commemorating
the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary
of**

The Ordination of Father Vertanes Kalayjian

**at The Tysons Corner Holiday Inn
Sunday, December Eighth**

**Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Five
at One O'Clock in the Afternoon**

Honorary Guest

**Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Eastern Diocese**

Donation \$20

Day: 362-2325

Limited Seating

Evening: 938-7354

RSVP by Dec. 3

or 983-9405

Friday, Dec. 6, 1985 Commemorative lecture on Gomidas Vartabed (Consult details on this page).

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1985 Divine Liturgy. His Eminence Archbishop T. Manoogian, Primate, is the Celebrant, and will deliver the sermon and ordain deacons.

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1985 Banquet commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian.

Friday, Dec. 20, 1985 7:30 p.m. A special Christmas service.

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1985 New Year's Eve Celebration. Details will follow.

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- Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1985:

Newsline Armenia

School-Boy's Spacecraft

The "space saga" of Ashot Martirosian, a ninth-grader of M. Abeghian middle school of the capital, started last summer when the terms of an all-Union competition for designing space technology were made public in the columns of the "Uni Tekhnik" (Young Technician), a monthly for young people.

The competition was sponsored by the academy of science and the ministry of education.

At first the youth was fascinated by the idea of re-using the first stage of the carrying rocket; next he was absorbed by the design of the intercontinental spaceship for multiple usage, capable of flying as an airplane in the atmosphere and as a rocket in space. This problem was more complicated compared to the previous one that the youth had coped with. Everything was new in the latest model: the concept and the means to overcome its weight. The youth had also envisaged the fuel which, to his mind, could pollute the air least of all. When he faced

some difficulty he applied to his father, Arkadi Martirosian, an engineer employed at the Yerevan factory of mechanical constructions and to his school teachers.

Over 500 young designers from all the Soviet republics were invited to Moscow to take part in the final, third stage of the competition. The designs of the youth from Yerevan merited the highest award. The design of his spaceship won the prize and was demonstrated in the pavilion "Space voyage" of the exhibition of achievements in the national economy.

The diploma of winner of the competition is not the only trophy of the school student. Ashot Martirosian, an excellent student, is the recipient of numerous prizes at republican competitions in mathematics, physics, chemistry and Russian language. His victory at the contest gave him a shot in the arm. Now he is getting ready to participate in another contest for the best working model of space technology.

Scientific Strides Continue in Armenia

The Republic's gains are impressive, with all the objectives being successfully achieved. Thus, during 1976-1980 the national income has gone up by 43 percent, and the volume of industrial production by more than 46 percent; the average yearly growth of agricultural products has shown a 24 percent increase.

Now Armenia has a powerful energy base. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan alone the Armenian atomic power station (815 thousand kwts) and the Shamb hydro-electric station (171 thousand kwts) went into service. Suffice is to say that the power stations of Armenia ac-

Armenia, the construction of another 16 reservoirs for the irrigation of additional 80 thousand hectares of land is envisaged by 1990.

Currently work is underway in Armenia for stepping up hotbed and greenhouses management that will provide the population with fresh vegetables in winter.

Another important target of agriculture is the establishment of several branches specializing in dairy produce, the raising of poultry and the production of pork and beef.

The republic has built, in the course of the five-year plans, several hundred

"Suffice it to say that the power stations of Armenia actually generate more electric energy than the output envisaged by the GOELRO plan for the whole of the Soviet Union."

tually generate more electric energy than the output envisaged by the GOELRO plan for the whole Soviet Union.

In the general distribution of labour throughout the USSR Armenia has a definite share: the republic turns out 4 percent of the overall copper production of the USSR, 36 percent of the molybdenum concentrate, 100 percent of the chloroprene rubber, 6.3 percent of the metal-cutting machinery, 9.2 percent of the electromotors, etc.

Over the past ten years, new scientific-productive firms have been coming into being in the various district centres, settlements and large villages of the republic with a view to involving in national production the labour resources available in those areas.

The agriculture of Armenia has likewise turned into an advanced unit.

The republic is covered with a large irrigation network which includes reservoirs, pumping units and watering canals. In 1980 the total surface of irrigated lands was 270 thousand hectares or more than 20 percent of all the farming lands. In view of the great importance attached to watered lands in

industrial enterprises, numerous large agricultural complexes, irrigation units, apartments with a total of living floor space exceeding 31 million square metres, hospitals with 24 thousand beds, school buildings for 723 thousand pupils, kindergartens for 125 thousand kids, numerous cultural houses, health-resort centres, etc.

The giant gains achieved are due to the progress of the science and the application of the research results to the national economy.

Now Armenia has a large number of research establishments and institutions of higher education where 18 thousand students are engaged in work. The research efforts of the republic's academy of sciences and the institutions brought into being many industries in Armenia.

The branches of the republic's national economy are equipped with modern technology and machinery. The national income has been witnessing a yearly rise; the revenues of the population are on a steady increase, living and holiday-making conditions are constantly improved.

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Search For Noah's Ark Continues

Continued from page 1

submit a piece of timber which appeared to have been worked by hand. It was above the forest line.

Mr. Navarra distributed pieces to several universities and scientific institutes in Europe and the United State. All of them, he said recently, carbonated the wood at 4,000 years old at least.

Scholars have put the presumable date of the ark at 2,500 to 4,500 B.C.

During Mr. Navarra's fifth ascent of Ararat this summer with members of the American Scientific Exploration and Archeological Research Foundation, two more pieces of apparently the same wood were found near the spot where the first pieces were discovered in 1955.

The pieces of timber were showing near the surface of the

ice pack and could be hacked out.

Underneath this spot is a small lake covered by an ice and debris cap, varying from 20 to 30 feet in thickness.

Uncovering the lake presents a logistic problem for the engineers. Machinery and equipment will have to be brought up the mountain to shift 1,176,000 cubic yards of ice and debris.

From a mountaineering point of view, Ararat, 16,946 feet high, is not difficult to climb. The weather is the worst enemy there. Around the 16,000-foot level, sudden storms can break out.

Although the Bible says "the mountains of Ararat" were the resting place of the ark, some archeological research, notably that of Sir Leonard Woolley, places the flood area in the lower reaches of the Euphrates, 2,000 miles away.

Dr. A. Sahagian Edwards New Director

Continued from page 1

Ayerst, Dr. Edwards is active in the academic medical world and as of July 1968 he was re-appointed as Instructor in Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Dr. Edwards conducts his teaching assignment in the out-patient clinic of the Francis Delafield Hospital and the Institute of Cancer Research.

A diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners as well as a member of many honorary medical societies, Dr. Edwards is the author of several papers in scientific and medical publications. A graduate of New York Medical College, Dr. Edwards did his internship and was an assistant resident in internal medicine at Fordham



Dr. Alex Sahagian-Edwards Hospital in New York City and did his residency in the same specialty at the Francis Delafield Hospital. Dr. Edwards has also served as a volunteer physician aboard the S.S. Hope on different trips to Indonesia, Peru and Ecuador.



PROFESSIONALS MEET. Attending a social sponsored by the Armenian Scientific and Cultural Association are the following members: Seated, l. to r., Khoren Der Harootian, sculptor, Mrs. Der Harootian, John Torigian, chemist, Nerses A. Almoian, engineer, Dr. Vartkes Migrdichian, chemist, Dr. Z. Bedoukian, chemist, Stephen J. Keoseian, chemist, Mrs. Angelina Almoian and Dr. Stephen G. Kovajian.

Standing: Puzant Torigian, chemist, Alexandre H. Vartany, M.D., Nishan Balikjian, engineer, Levon Bedrosian, M.D., Vahe Amirian, engineer, Vrej Der Gevorkian, teacher, Mihran Exerjian, M.D. & Kirk K. Kazarian.

Photos: Garbis Boghossian

Scientific Association Holds Social

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The Armenian Scientific and Cultural Association of America held its first Social Evening of the season on October 29 at the AGBU center in New York. Present at the gathering were members and guests representing a variety of professions - engineers, medical doctors, chemists, teachers.

Mr. Nerses Almoian, Executive Secretary, discussed briefly the immediate goal of the Association which is to publish a directory of Armenian professional men in America. All members and friends were requested to send the names, addresses and occupation of any Armenian qualified for membership or inclusion in the forthcoming Who's Who-Names may be sent to Mr. Nerses Almoian, 100 Moon Lane, Irvington, N.Y. 10930.

At the request of Dr. Paul Bedoukian, Vice-chairman, everyone introduced himself and said a few words about his profession and interests. Ways and means of expanding the membership and activities of the

Association in order to serve the interests of professional people of Armenian descent in U.S.A. were suggested. Perhaps it should be mentioned here that Armenian professional women are, of course, also invited to join.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a medal of the old Armenian Scientific Society organized in the early 1920's, to the chairman of the present Association, Fr. Vartkes D. Migrdichian. The presentation was made by a director and dean of the Association, Mr. John Torigian, who had treasured the medal for nearly 50 years. In accepting the medal, Dr. Migrdichian commented on the philosophical aspects of scientific efforts to solve some of the problems facing mankind today.

Refreshments were served before and after the business meeting which adjourned at 10:00 P.M. The two hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Angelina Almoian and Mrs. Koren Der Harootian.

YEGHISHE CHARENTZ IN ITALIAN

YEREVAN - A collection of 28 works by Yeghishe Charentz was published in Milan in Italian translation and was presented to the Museum of Literature and Art by Fr. Serovpe Akullian, Director of the Armenian Murat-Raphaelian School in Venice, when he went to Armenia to witness the blessing of the Muron. The collection, including poems, sonnets and other works was translated by the well-known Italian poet, Mario Virtone. The book's preface and bibliography give a brief description of the poet's life and work and the role he played in Armenian poetry.



PRESENTATION OF MEDAL. Mr. John Torigian (l.) offers congratulations to Dr. Vartkes D. Migrdichian, the present chairman of the Scientific and Cultural Association after pinning on him an original medal issued in 1920's by the Armenian Scientific Association, the predecessor of the present group.

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630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Diocesan Concert Marks Gomidas Centennial

By Ferdinand Kaimakanian

NEW YORK, N.Y. — A capacity crowd of 600 persons attended the Gomidas Centennial Concert Sunday afternoon, November 2 at the Kavookjian Auditorium. The Concert, sponsored by the Auxiliary Committee of the Diocese of the Armenian Church was dedicated to the hundredth birthday anniversary of the greatest known Armenian composer.

The highlight of the Concert was Mrs. Astghig Dedeian, a polished soprano, American born, but currently residing in France, where she appeared in many operatic roles. Her voice is polished, velvety and very pleasing to hear. Her selection included *Khorhourt Khorin*, *Alakiaz*, *Hov Arek*, *Hoy Nazan*, *Groong*, *Andouni*, *Hayasdan*, *Kele*, *Kele*, and *Tzirani Tzar*, all from Gomidas. She also sang solos from other composers, such as Rossini's *Bel Raggio Lusinghier*, Satian's *Aghpuri Mod*, Alemshah's *Yes Sretzi*, Rummel's *Ecstasy*, H. Berberian's *Varoujnagis*, Ataian's *Inchbes Goozem*, and Vartan Sarxian's *Hoy Nar*.

Ise Sass, a veteran accompanist with Armenian songs gave a vital support in the interpretation of the renditions with pleasant voice of Astghig Dedeian. The lovely soprano's refined voice on the stage definitely was a credit to her well trained voice.

A well rehearsed and newly formed Armenian string Quartet under the direction of Harry Zaratzian, a veteran violinist, with Vardan Manooqian, first violin, and Michael Masters, violoncello, captivatingly played arrangements from Gomidas Vartabed — *Yerevan Bar*, *Karoun*, *Gakavi Yerik*, *Haberban*, *Shooshigi Bar*, *Keler Tzoler*, *Yergink Ambela*, *Kele*, *Kele*, *Dzirani Dzar*, the last two with the operatic soloist Astghig Dedeian.

The String Quartet also played *Varti Bes* by H. Samuelian, *Enzeli* by Spondiarian, *Anoush Karoun* by Zakarian, *Naz Bar* by S. Barkhoudarian, *Lark Quartet*, *D Major* by Haydn, *Quartet*, *B Flat*, op. 67 by Brahms and *Hidjaz* by Spondiarian.

Despite of high caliber performance of both the soloist and the string Quartet, this writer was surprised to note that half of the musical compositions of the program consisted of works of other composers, both Armenian and foreign, who had nothing to do with Gomidas Vartabed, to whose centennial the celebration was dedicated. It is therefore, incomprehensible to know how both the Musical Committee and the leader of the String Quartet could have tolerated themselves to allow such a critical mistake, which could not be attributed to an oversight.

Another inconvenience which broke up the proper enjoyment of the Concert was the failure in the air conditioning system of the auditorium, where the audience sweltered from the heat and humidity.

The opening message of the Concert was given by Mrs. Astghik Ignatius, chairlady of



Miss Astghig Dedeian, soprano



The Armenian String Quartet headed by Harry Zaratzian



Photos by G. Boghossian

Mrs. Astghik Ignatius, chairlady of the Diocesan Auxiliary acknowledges receipt of a special Gontag by His Holiness Vazken I. The Encyclical was presented by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.

the Diocesan Auxiliary Committee. A special Gontag was presented to her by His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, sent by His Holiness Vazken I, in recognition of her services of 29 years to the Diocese.

Following the Concert program, a dinner was served for the artists and guests. During the ensuing short program, Mr. Joseph Chorbajian, Chairman of the Booklet Committee presented to the Primate a check of \$10,000 which was the proceed from subscriptions obtained for the program booklet. A musical entertainment was provided by Mr. Haig Ohanian, Tar, Miss Dika Apelian, piano and Mr. Zaven Melik, baritone.

C.A.R.S. Cotillion Dinner Dance Planned for December 6

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The 43rd Annual Cotillion of the Constantinople Armenian Relief Society will be held on December 6th at the Hotel Pierre. The gala event — a dinner-dance and presentation of the debutantes — is under the guidance of Mrs. Anita Ajemian Bruinooge, an active member of the Armenian community.

Attractive girls of Armenian descent will be presented by the noted actor and singer Michael Kermoyan. The Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Mr. Peter Sourian, well known author of many novels. Mrs.

Sona Inceciian and Mrs. Louise Tezel are in charge of the deb.

In addition to the presentation of the debutantes, there will be a raffle drawing. Top prize in the raffle is a gold pin with diamonds valued at \$1,000.00 retail, which is donated by Mr. & Mrs. Antoine Christian. Additional prizes include a gold ring donated by Henri Saruhan, cocktail gown by Countess Alexander and other valuable gifts.

Future announcements how to obtain tickets and reservations for the event will appear in this publication.



A MEMORABLE EVENT. At a Mother-Daughter Tea, held at the home of Mrs. Gould Kardashian, Larchmont, N. Y., mothers plan for the coming Cotillion and Dinner Dance of the Constantinople Armenian Relief Society — C.A.R.S., scheduled for December 6. Pictured above are, from l. to r., Mrs. Sona Inceciian, Miss Assatourian and Mrs. Louise Tezel, all Committee members. Also present were Armen Bogosian, Miss Sandra Shahinian, Miss Drena Kardashian and Miss Debra Malian.

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