



# NEWS

Chestnut East Building, Ninth & Chestnut Streets. Philadelphia, Pa. 19107; 215-WAlnut 3-5400; cable address: SPIRO

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FOR: ARMENIAN BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE, INC.  
C/O M. George Mooradian, Esq., Chairman  
711 Land Title Building  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19110

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAIK KAVOOKJIAN CENTENARIAN TO UNVEIL  
ARMENIAN BICENTENNIAL MONUMENT

PHILADELPHIA, Apr. 24 -- Mr. Haik Kavookjian, who will celebrate his 101st birthday this year, unveiled the monument erected by the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee here today.

M. George Mooradian, Esq., Chairman of the Committee, said, "We are both honored and proud to have Mr. Kavookjian unveil this monument signifying the gratitude of Americans of Armenian descent to the United States as our contribution to the Bicentennial. In so many ways, Mr. Kavookjian represents the constant striving for excellence that is typical of the Armenian-American community."

The 22-foot high monument consisting of a 15-foot high statue of Mehēr, on a red granite base containing four bronze panels depicting scenes from the Armenian heritage, was presented to the entire nation from a grateful Armenian community. Mayor Frank L. Rizzo of Philadelphia accepted the monument on behalf of the entire country as a gift of Armenian-Americans throughout the United States.

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LEGENDARY MEHĒR IS SUBJECT OF  
ARMENIAN-AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

PHILADELPHIA, Apr. 24 -- The story of MehĒr goes back to the Middle Ages. It springs from the legendary deeds of four generations of noble strongmen who dwelled in the Armenian highlands of Sassoun. MehĒr was the father of David of Sassoun, another of best-known heroes of early civilization.

The combined deeds of valor of father and son are one and the same in what they symbolize, and their epic story is a record of courage, strength and the defense of their Christian faith. Armenia was the first nation in the world to adopt christianity as its officially recognized religion.

MehĒr, also called Arutz MehĒr (Lion-MehĒr), ruled and protected the Armenian people against the formidable power of other nations. Esteemed as a mighty champion, his fame and reputation spread far and wide. He is credited with being never an agressor, but always a defender -- espousing the rights of his people to live in peace and to worship their God. He neither coveted the lands and possessions of other

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peoples, nor engaged in private wars for selfish ends. A patriot in the purest sense, he raised his invincible sword only when engaged in the defense of his nation.

The story of these heroic warriors, deeply ingrained in the hearts of all Armenians, is a record of determination and courage ringing with the fervent desire for liberty and justice.

The spirit of Mehēr epitomizes the Armenian peoples' undying love for freedom and their Christian faith, and symbolizes the ideals which have sustained them throughout the turbulence and tragedies of their history.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. ADAMIAN IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT CEREMONIES  
FOR UNVEILING OF ARMENIAN-AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL MONUMENT

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 24 -- Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, President of Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts, was the keynote speaker for the ceremonies here today centered about the unveiling of the monument of Meher and a special program honoring Armenian Martyrs Day, according to M. George Mooradian, Esq., Chairman of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Inc.

"The Bicentennial Committee is elated to have Dr. Adamian as the keynote speaker for this important event," said chairman Mooradian, "not only because of his dynamic personality and great speaking ability, but his very broad knowledge of Armenian history. He is a director of the National Association of Armenian Studies & Research and has been involved with the organization for over 20 years."

Dr. Adamian was the first recipient of A.S.A. Ara S. Boyan Humanities Award for outstanding contributions to the field of higher

DR. ADAMIAN IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER...

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education. He is the fourth president of Bentley College which is the eighth largest of the 87 independent colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

Dr. Adamian began his career in law after receiving his Bachelor's degree from Harvard College, a Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration (now the John F. Kennedy School of Government), and a Juris Doctorate degree from Boston University School of Law.

While practicing law in Cambridge, he began lecturing in Economics at Boston's Suffolk University and in 1955 he joined the Bentley College faculty as Lecturer in Economics and Business Law. He was promoted to Professor of Law and Chairman of the Law Department in 1968 and elected President in 1970.

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This 22-foot high monument was presented to the nation by Americans of Armenian ancestry in ceremonies near the Philadelphia Museum of art. The heroic bronze figure of Meher is 15-feet high and stands on a seven-foot high base on which four high-relief bronze panels are mounted; each depicts a scene from Armenian history. The entire monument is the work of sculptor Khoren Der Herootian.

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Armenian-American Bicentennial Monument



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## KHOREN DER HAROOTIAN, SCULPTOR

### Biographical Notes

PHILADELPHIA, Apr. 24 -- Born in Ashodavan, Armenia, in 1909, Khoren Der Harootian came with his mother to the United States in 1921 after passing through tragic scenes of massacre by the Turks during which his father, a priest, and a brother were martyred.

Der Harootian commenced his artistic career as a painter, and went to the West Indian island of Jamaica to paint, where the tropical life and lush vegetation held him fascinated, and from time to time exhibited his paintings in the United States and Jamaica. Being always intensely interested in sculpture, and having a strong inherent feeling for sculptural form, he began carving in the indigenous hardwoods of Jamaica, lignum vitae, mahogany, eucalyptus and others. After a visit to London in 1939 where his work was exhibited in group shows, he returned to Jamaica and devoted the next four years mainly to carving sculpture in native hardwoods. On his return to the United States, a first one man show of his sculptures and drawings was held at the Kraushaar Gallery, New York in 1945. From then on, working in his New York studio, Der Harootian

KHOREN DER HAROOTIAN, SCULPTOR

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concentrated on sculpture in stone and marble and created a large collection of original and powerful sculptures. His work has since been widely exhibited and acquired by museums and private collectors, and he has also received several monumental commissions for New York City and Philadelphia. His Eagle in stone was exhibited in the United States pavilion at the Brussels Worlds Fair, 1958.

Der Harootian worked in Italy during the years 1962 and 1963, exploring new forms and realizing new conceptions for casting in bronze. These sculptures and drawings were exhibited in the Gallery of the United States Information Service in Florence, and a comprehensive one-man exhibition of his bronzes, three stone carvings, and watercolors and drawings was held at the Zwemmer Gallery, London, in 1964. His sculpture was also represented in the Royal Academy 1964 Annual Exhibition in London, and from there went to the Royal Glasgow Institute Annual Exhibition in Scotland.

In 1965 the Armenian General Benevolent Union of New York planned to sponsor showings of the work of Armenian artists in their Center, and Der Harootian was invited to inaugurate the project with an exhibition of his work, which was very successful, and the sponsor continues with exhibitions to the present day.

Der Harootian was offered an exhibition in the Contemporaries Gallery of New York in 1967, and put on a show of bronzes and drawings in November of that year. He was again in Italy in 1968 working throughout the summer on new works, among them his massive "Vulture and Skeletal Form" in bronze.



KHOREN DER HAROOTAIN, SCULPTOR

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In the spring of 1970, Der Harootian and his wife, Hermine, visited the Armenian Republic of the Soviet Union where he was warmly received, and was invited by the Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad in Erevan, to return in 1971 and put on an exhibition of his work, which he accepted.

In the meantime a one-man show of Der Harootian's work had been organized to be held in May 1971 at the Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, in Paris. A representative collection of works in stone, wood and bronze, including watercolors, drawings, pastels and stone-dust paintings, (a new medium created by Der Harootian) was exhibited, which was very well received by both public and the Parisian press.

Returning to Armenia in the Fall of 1971, Der Harootian put on an exhibition in the Artists' Gallery, Erevan, of several sculptures, and a large collection of his drawings and paintings.

The Sculpture Committee of the St. Sahag - St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church of Wynnewood, Philadelphia, in 1973 commissioned Der Harootian to create sculptures representing St. Sahag and St. Mesrob, the patron saints of the Armenian letters and literature. Der Harootian created the two 8 ft. bronze sculptures in Italy, which have recently been installed in their Niches on the facade of the Church.

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ks by Khoren Der Harootian are represented in many important private collections and in the following public collections:

- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
- Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Arizona State College, Tempe, Arizona.
- Newark Art Museum, Newark, New Jersey.
- Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Mass.
- Bezalel National Museum, Billy Rose Sculpture Garden, Israel.
- Institute of Jamaica, West Indies.
- Our Lady, Queen of Angels Seminary, Diocese of Albany, New York.
- Armenian State Museum, Erevan, Armenia, U.S.S.R.

RDS:

- 1945 Springfield Art League, Springfield, Mass. 1st Prize Sculpture.
- 1949 and 1950 Audubon Artists, Gold Medal and 1st Prize.
- 1954 Pennsylvania Academy, George D. Widener Gold Medal.
- 1954 American Academy and the National Institute of Arts and Letters - monetary award and exhibition of sculpture with citation.
- 1962 Gruppo Donatello, Florence, Italy - Silver Medal.

MISSIONS:

- 1950 Fairmount Park Art Commission to execute 9 ft. figure in granite entitled "Scientist" for the Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.
- 1958 Armenian Cathedral and Cultural Centre, Second Avenue and 34th Street, New York. Commission to execute 13 ft. Christ and four Christian Martyrs, in Indiana limestone for the Diocesan House.
- 1962 Bernard Baruch City College, Lexington Avenue and 22nd St. New York. Commission to execute life-size "Beaver" in bronze.
- 1973 St. Sahag - St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Wynnewood, Philadelphia, Pa. Commission to create bronze sculptures of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob each 8 ft. high, for the facade of the Church.

-MAN EXHIBITIONS:

- 1931 Caz-Delbos Galleries, New York.
- 1932 Institute of Jamaica, West Indies.
- 1932 Worcester Art Museum, Mass.

- 1933 Caz-Delbos Galleries, New York.
- 1935 Morton Gallery, New York.
- 1938 and 1943 Institute of Jamaica, West Indies.
- 1945 Kraushaar Galleries, New York.
- 1948 Open-air Exhibition, 18 Washington Sq, N., New York.
- 1950 Art Alliance, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1953 Rockland Foundation Gallery, Nyack, New York.
- 1956 Gallery Ten, Inc. Mount Vernon, New York.
- 1962 U.S.I.S. Gallery, Florence, Italy (joint exhibit).
- 1964 Zwemmer Gallery, London, England.
- 1965 Armenian General Benevolent Union Gallery, New York.
- 1967 Contemporaries Gallery, New York.
- 1971 Galerie Bernheim-Jeune, Paris, France.
- 1971 Artists' Gallery, Erevan, Armenia, U.S.S.R.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRONZE PANEL FOR BICENTENNIAL MONUMENT UNVEILED;  
BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION SCHEDULED IN WASHINGTON

MERION, Pa., March 22 -- Over 350 members of the Armenian-American community from throughout the Delaware Valley attended a reception here last Sunday for the unveiling of one of the four panels which will be on the base of the Bicentennial monument being presented to the nation by Americans of Armenian ancestry. Chairman M. George Mooradian of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee also announced today that there will be a special Bicentennial reception held in Washington on April 4 with Congressman and Mrs. George E. Danielson co-chairing the event.

The April 4 reception will be held in the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Chairman Mooradian reported that, "if the reaction to the recent reception in Merion, Pennsylvania, is any indication, we should have an excellent turnout in Washington and we look forward to an equally successful reception in New York in the near future."

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At the Merion reception, models of the dies for the special Bicentennial Commemorative Medal were also shown for the first time and the medal is now being produced at the Medallion Art Company in Danbury, Connecticut. It is one of the Bicentennial Committee's efforts to raise funds to cover the cost of the monument to be erected adjacent to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The medals are being offered in bronze, silver and gold. Chairman Mooradian said, "very shortly, we will be placing a firm order for the number of medals to be produced on the basis of the number of people who have contributed to this lasting symbol of the gratitude of Americans of Armenian descent for the freedom and opportunity which this nation has offered us."

Sculptor Khoren Der Harootian was present at the reception and received an outstanding welcome from all those present. His heroic statue of Meh̄r is the first work of art commissioned for the American Bicentennial and the monument is believed to be the greatest voluntarily supported undertaking of any ethnic group in the country.

Following the unveiling of the monument on April 24, Armenian Martyrs Day, a special Bicentennial Awards Dinner will be held at the Marriott Hotel, City Line Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. Twenty-two Americans of Armenian descent will receive special awards at the dinner on April 25. Tickets for the dinner may be obtained from the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Inc., c/o M. George Mooradian, Esq., 711 Land Title Building, Philadelphia, Pa. 19110. Tickets are \$25.00 per person with the exception of a special student ticket which is being made available at the reduced price of \$17.50.

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RECIPIENTS OF BICENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

| <u>RECIPIENT</u>          | <u>CATEGORY</u>             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lucine Amara              | Operatic Arts               |
| Emik Avakian              | Science                     |
| Lili Chookasian           | Operatic Arts               |
| Mike Connors              | Dramatic Arts               |
| Khoren Der Harootian      | Fine Arts                   |
| Colonel Ernest Dervishian | "In Service to His Country" |
| Arlene Francis            | Dramatic Arts               |
| David Hedison             | Dramatic Arts               |
| Alan Hoyhaness            | Music                       |
| Hirair Hovnanian          | Business & Industry         |
| Rouben Mamoulian          | Cinematic Arts              |
| Alex Manoogian            | Business & Industry         |
| Edward Mardigian          | Business & Industry         |
| George Mardikian          | Business & Industry         |
| Stephen Mugar             | Business & Industry         |
| Ara Parseghian            | Athletics                   |
| Sarkes Tarzian            | Business & Industry         |
| Rouben Ter-Arutunian      | Theatrical Design           |
| William Saroyan           | Literary Arts               |
| Richard Yardumian         | Music                       |
| Avedis Zildjian           | Musical Arts                |
| Barry Zorthian            | Journalism                  |



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANS SET FOR  
"BICENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE" PRESENTATION DINNER

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 8 -- Final arrangements for the "Bicentennial Awards for Excellence" Presentation Dinner, which is expected to be the largest gathering of noted Americans of Armenian ancestry ever held in this country, were announced today by M. George Mooradian, Esq., chairman of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee.

The dinner will be held at the Marriott Hotel on City Line Avenue, Philadelphia, on April 25. The cocktail reception will begin at 6:00 PM and dinner will be served at 7:00 PM.

Special activities planned for the occasion include an art exhibition of the works of noted Armenian painters as well as a pre-reception press conference to secure full media coverage of the unique affair.

In addition to the "Bicentennial Awards for Excellence" special awards will also be made to the honorary chairmen of the Bicentennial Commemoration Committee. Those to be honored include Hirair Hovnanian, Deal, New Jersey; Alex Manoogian, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan; Edward Mardigian, Sterling Heights, Michigan; George Mardikian, San Francisco, California; Stephen P.

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PLANS SET FOR "BICENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE"  
PRESENTATION DINNER

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Mugar, Boston, Massachusetts; Sarkes Tarzian, Bloomington, Indiana.

Chairman Mooradian also announced that two honorary chairmen who passed away since the Committee was first formed will also be honored posthumously. They are Mr. Harry A. Kuljian and Mr. Stephen Philibosian both of whom were residents of Philadelphia.

The Presentation Dinner will be attended by Armenian-Americans from throughout every part of the United States and a special effort is being made to encourage young Armenian-Americans to attend the affair. According to chairman Mooradian, "Like the Bicentennial, itself, this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime affair and the Committee feels it is particularly important to encourage our children to share in this experience. It is for this reason that a special student ticket is being offered at the reduced price of \$17.50 per person. The Armenian-American community in the United States is not very large and it is not very many years since the first Armenians came here," said chairman Mooradian, "yet, as indicated by the outstanding achievements of Americans of Armenian descent in so many different fields, all of us can take justifiable pride in our contributions to the United States. We have a tradition of excellence which should and can be maintained if we encourage the same ideals in our youth which have been shown by the 22 recipients of the 'Bicentennial Awards for Excellence' and our honorary chairmen."

All those who intend to participate in this affair are encouraged to order their tickets as soon as possible. The charge, except for students, is \$25.00 per person and tickets can be obtained by sending a check or money order to the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Inc., c/o M. George Mooradian, Esq., 711 Land Title Building, Philadelphia, Pa. 19110.

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OUTSTANDING ARMENIAN-AMERICANS FROM COAST-TO-COAST RECEIVE  
BICENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Apr. 24 -- Mike Connors, Rouben Mamoulian, David Hedison, and George Mardikian -- all from California -- will be joining Khoren Der Harootian (sculptor of Mehêr), Lucine Amara, and Emik Avakian -- all from New York -- to receive Bicentennial Awards for Excellence at a Presentation Banquet tomorrow, Sunday, April 25, according to M. George Mooradian, Esq., chairman of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Inc.

Among the other outstanding Americans of Armenian descent who will be present to receive the Award of Excellence from the Bicentennial Commemoration Committee are: Hirair Hovnanian, Deal, New Jersey; Alex Manoogian, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan; Edward Mardigian, Sterling Heights, Michigan; Stephen P. Mugar, Boston, Massachusetts; Sarkes Tarzian, Bloomington, Indiana; Richard Yardumian, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania; Barry Zorthian, Washington, D.C.; Col. Ernest Dervishian, Richmond, Virginia; Lili Chookasian, Tenefly, New Jersey; Alan Hovhanness, Seattle, Washington; and Avedis Zildjian, Accord, Massachusetts.

OUTSTANDING ARMENIAN-AMERICANS FROM COAST-TO-COAST  
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"Never before will so many outstanding Americans of Armenian descent have gathered together," said chairman Mooradian, "and, to our knowledge, this is the first time that the Armenian-American community has recognized those who have made significant contributions to so many different arts and professions."

# # #

EDITOR NOTE: A complete list of recipients is attached.

RECIPIENTS OF BICENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

| <u>RECIPIENT</u>          | <u>CATEGORY</u>            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lucine Amara .            | Operatic Arts              |
| Emik Avakian              | Science                    |
| Lili Chookasian           | Operatic Arts              |
| Mike Connors              | Dramatic Arts              |
| Khoren Der Harootian      | Fine Arts                  |
| Colonel Ernest Dervishian | For Service to His Country |
| Arlene Francis            | Dramatic Arts              |
| David Hedison             | Dramatic Arts              |
| Alan Hovhaness            | Music                      |
| Hirair Hovnanian          | Business & Industry        |
| Rouben Mamoulian          | Cinematic Arts             |
| Alex Manoogian            | Business & Industry        |
| Edward Mardigian          | Business & Industry        |
| George Mardikian          | Business & Industry        |
| Stephen Mugar             | Business & Industry        |
| Ara Parseghian            | Athletics                  |
| Sarkes Tarzian            | Business & Industry        |
| Rouben Ter-Arutunian      | Theatrical Design          |
| William Saroyan           | Literary Arts              |
| Richard Yardumian         | Music                      |
| Avedis Zildjian           | Musical Arts               |
| Barry Zorthian            | Journalism                 |
| Posthumous Awards:        |                            |
| Harry A. Kuljian          | Business & Industry        |
| Stephen Philibosian       | Business & Industry        |



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## BICENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PRESENTED

Shown at the Presentation Banquet for the Armenian-American "Awards For Excellence" in Philadelphia on April 25 are (left to right) Mr. Edward Mardigian, M. George Mooradian, Esq., Chairman of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Mr. John Tokmajian of the Mayor's Office, and Mr. John Samelian.