



from the office of the

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, tel: (212) 686-0710

news:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**"THE FORTIFICATIONS OF ARMENIAN CILICIA" -- A NEW BOOK
BY NOTED SCHOLAR ROBERT W. EDWARDS**

"The Fortifications of Armenian Cilicia" is the title of an impressive volume by the noted scholar Robert W. Edwards. Published by the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Washington, D.C., this handsomely-illustrated oversized book is available at the St. Vartan Bookstore.

Edwards spent many years researching Armenian architecture in Cilicia, including a year in the region itself. The kingdom of Cilicia, on the Mediterranean Sea, was the largest and politically the most significant Medieval Armenian settlement outside the historic Armenian homeland in the Caucasus. From approximately 1080 to 1375, a community of diverse origins was slowly fused into the kingdom. Edwards claims the Armenians prospered in Cilicia largely because of the intricate network of defenses they created that "turned a natural cavity of the Taurus Mountains into a Mediterranean-based fortified march."

This book is primarily a systematic assessment of the military architecture of the Cilician kingdom. While most of the sites discussed are Armenian, Edwards also includes a number of Muslim, Byzantine and Crusader forts.

The lively narrative is supplemented by 78 plans and drawings, plus 569 black and white and 48 color photographs.

Edwards credits a number of leading institutions and scholars for their advice and help in compiling the information for the book, including some prominent Armenians.

"The Fortifications of Armenian Cilicia" (\$60.00) can be purchased at the St. Vartan Bookstore, 630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016-4885, Tel. (212) 686-0710.

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MAGNIFICENT NEW, ILLUSTRATED BOOK ON MARTIROS SARYAN

Martiros Saryan (1890-1972), People's Artist of the USSR and winner of the Lenin and State prizes, was the founder of Soviet Armenian painting and is recognized as an artist of international significance. In Armenia he is referred to as "Varpet," the honorary title meaning "Master" which has been conferred in only rare instances in Armenian history.

In tribute to Varpet Saryan, Sphinx Press, Inc., Madison, Conn., and Aurora Art Publishers, Leningrad, USSR, have published a magnificent oversized book on the late artist, featuring over 200 of his major works, representing all stages of his career. Photographs of Saryan and his family and contemporaries are also included. Many of the reproductions of oil paintings, watercolors, drawings, book illustrations and theatrical designs by the artist are from Soviet museums and private collections.

The text by the eminent Soviet art critic, Alexander Kamensky, gives a general survey of Saryan's creative work. The comprehensive catalogue was compiled by Shahen Khachatrian, Director of the Martiros Saryan Museum in Yerevan, and Lucy Mirzoyan, Curator of the Museum.

During his long creative career, Saryan produced over 3,000 paintings, graphic works and theatrical designs marked by "stylistic diversity and linked by a deep philosophical perception of life, adherence to national tradition, and highly original artistic skill."

In his early career, Saryan was closely connected with the Russian art world in Moscow. Later, he studied the works of the French painters Paul Gauguin and Henri Matisse. He also had

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thorough knowledge of the history of Armenian art and literature. All of this, according to critic Kamensky, "Made him an artist of marked individuality. His works are noted both for their universal character and a distinctively national flavor."

The book was translated from the Russian by Ashken Mikoyan and designed by Nikolai Kutovoi. Here is the quintessential work on one of the great Armenian artists of this century. It can be purchased (\$85.00) from the St. Vartan Bookstore, 630 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016-4885. Tel. (212) 686-0710.

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**"LAND, LOVE, CENTURY," BOOK OF NEW AND SELECTED POEMS
BY GEVORG EMIN, NOW AVAILABLE AT ST. VARTAN BOOKSTORE**

"Land, Love, Century," a book of new and selected poems by the acclaimed Armenian poet Gevorg Emin, is now available at the St. Vartan Bookstore.

This softcover volume has been translated by Martin Robbins and Tatul Sonentz-Papazian, and has a foreword by Soviet poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

According to Yevtushenko, Emin's poems "reflect the best of the Armenian working people and intellectuals. Their qualities of spiritual nobility, respect for others, and the discreet expression of feelings."

In his poetry, the Armenian-born Emin touches on many subjects, due to his eclectic background. As a young man, he worked as a hydraulic engineer, a discipline he cites as important to his work. "Nothing like the exact sciences can help an author develop a sense of structural harmony, to avoid verbosity and dispense with the luxury of taking steps where one is sufficient," he recently wrote.

Emin was also influenced by his tenure in the great depository of Medieval Armenian manuscripts, the Matenadaran. World War II affected his poetry, as did the Genocide. "To be silent about the crimes committed around us and go on producing so-called 'beautiful' literature is tantamount to being an accessory to those events," Emin has commented.

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According to Robbins, "Emin's work speaks to both our heads and our hearts..."

Here is a sample of his work, entitled "Firefly":

"Oh, firefly, you stupid bug,
Who told you, stubborn, relentless,
To give off light alone there
In the darkness -- a glow which warmed
Everyone, but sad to say
Gave away your position.

"If you gave off no light,
Who could have spotted you, to cut
Your life's short thread
And throw you down, crushed.

"In this night's doubled black,
I suffer for you -- and what you did."

Published by Three Continents Press, Washington, D.C. (\$10.00)
the book can be purchased at the St. Vartan Bookstore, 630
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