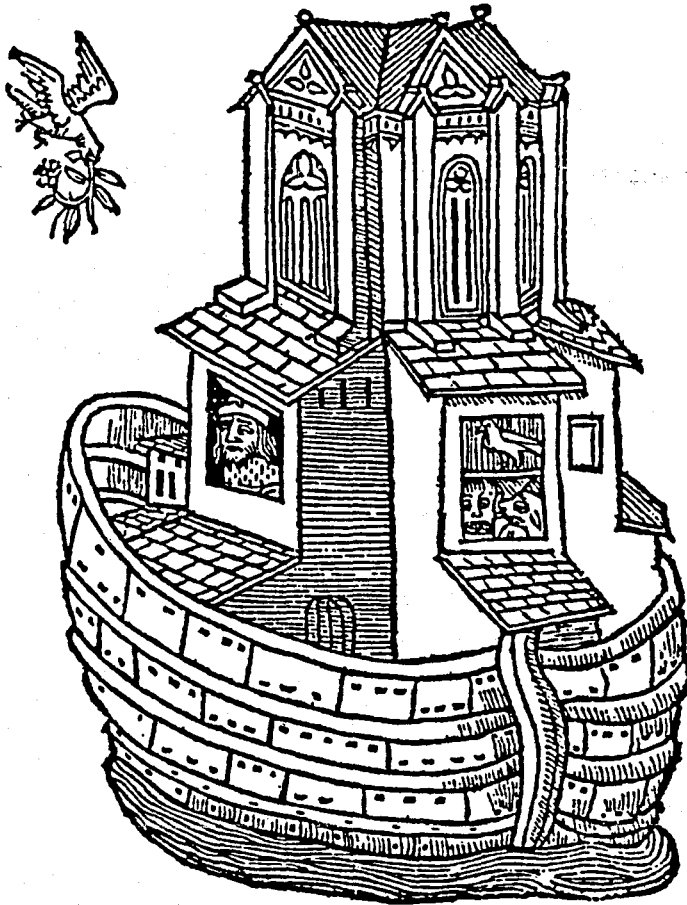


Armenian CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO

111 Pennsylvania S.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108



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Noah's Ark on Ararat, a woodcut illustration by an anonymous artist from La Mer des Histoires published in Paris, 1536.

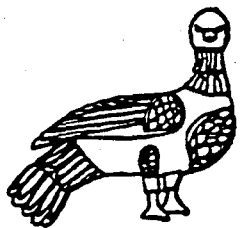
AN ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE: THE SEARCH FOR NOAH'S ARK

Dr. DON SHOCKEY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Dr. Shockey is planning to leave on his next expedition to Mt. Ararat this spring.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1989 Beginning the evening with a pot-luck supper at 6:30 in the Cultural Center, 111 Pennsylvania, SE.

For additional information, call Ruth Akgulian, President, #296-5082
Recorded messages can be left at the Center: #256-5522



Armenian Earthquake

New Mexicans responded generously with sympathy, new and near-new clothing, help at the Cultural Center, offers of help for the rebuilding of the devastated cities still ahead, and \$12,000.

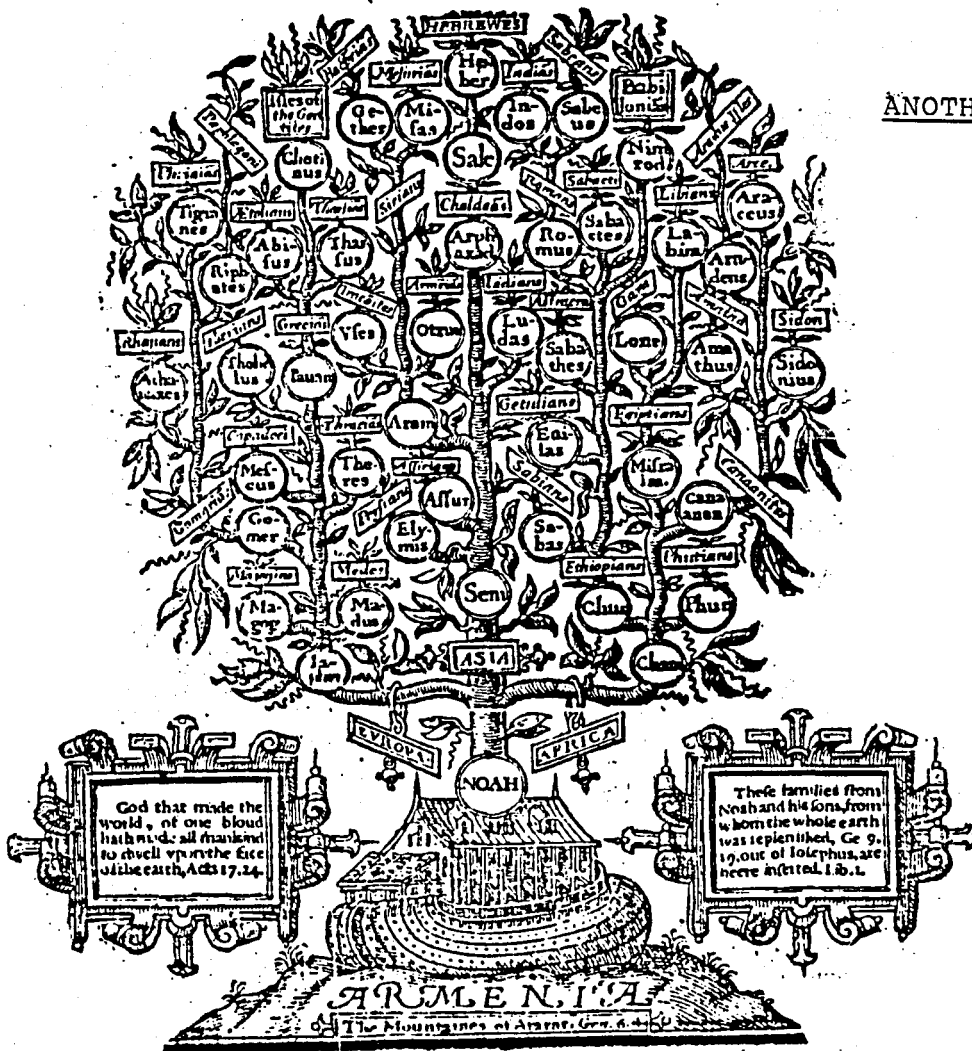
This money was sent to the Armenian Diocese Earthquake Fund. The Mid-Rio Grand Chapter of the Red Cross reported receiving an equal amount. The need continues.

APRIL 23, 1989 SUNDAY at eleven o'clock at the Albuquerque Museum; Observance of the 74th Year of the Armenian Martyrs followed by a Memorial Luncheon at La Posada, downtown Albuquerque.

Board Secretary, Janice Bargas, has resigned these duties because of illness. We need volunteers for this and other positions. Our use of the Center and program planning is limited for lack of committees. The Association is presently guided by a seven person Board and Executive Committee. Call the President, Ruth Akgulian, at #256-5522, to volunteer.

Note: The facilities of the Cultural Center are available to members. There is no rental fee except for a small charge for utilities and, when needed, janitorial service. A 15-day notice is required for week-end reservations. Brian Patrovsky provides Security Services on the premises. Information: Rita Cook #268-4958.

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW



Armenia is pictured as the birthplace for all the races of mankind in this sketch, which is based on the account of Noah's ark in the book of Genesis. It is taken from the frontispiece of a Holy Bible printed in London in 1634.

Recently, archeologists in the Soviet Union examined a human skull found in a cave in a wild area near the Hrasdan River, north of Yerevan, and dated it to the earliest years of mankind, thus substantiating the Genesis version of the origin of mankind shown in the Bible above.

By Calouste Missakian

The Armenian mountains of Ararat are mentioned in Genesis in the Holy Bible; the Persians have named it *Koh-I-Nooh*, or "mountain of Noah;" the Turks call it *Aghri Dagh*, or "steep mountain;" and the Armenians rever it as *Massis*, meaning "mighty giant."

It must be emphasized at once that Noah's ark did not land on top of the mountain itself, or possibly anywhere near it, but rather upon the highlands of Ararat, or Urardhu, or Armenia. At any rate, this historic mountain is in fact a twin volcanic fabric of very ancient eruption, much worn down and without a crater. Little Ararat is about 12,840 feet above sea level, whereas Greater Ararat *Massis* is about 16,920 feet above the sea and capped with perpetual snow and ice. The bases separate at the 8,800 foot level and their summits are seven miles apart.

On June 20, 1840, a violent

tremor shook the mighty giant, tearing out its side and releasing an avalanche of boulders, rocks and earth, which came roaring down on the ancient Armenian village of Arghur, located at the foot of the mountain. Every single vestige of its location was obliterated, together with more than 1,000 of its inhabitants and also the old monastery of St. James. The great chasm is plainly visible from Etchmiadzin, but Ararat is pictured at its best from its present Armenian side. Indeed, a Turkish journalist recently visiting Yerevan and Etchmiadzin admitted that the view from within Turkey does not compare to that from the Soviet side!

The first person to make a successful ascent of the Biblical mountain was Prof. Friedrich Parrot, on Sept. 27, 1829, starting from the monastery of St. James and climbing the northwestern slope. It is interesting to note that our most famous novelist, Khatchadour Abovian, who

wrote *The Wounds of Armenia*, acted as interpreter for Dr. Parrot during his expedition to Ararat, but did not climb the mountain himself. At any rate, Prof. Parrot encouraged Abovian to return to Europe with him and had Abovian enrolled at the German University of Dorpat, now within the Soviet republic of Esthonia.

H.F.B. Lynch, the noted Englishman and author of *Armenia: Travels and Studies*, made his ascent of Ararat in 1893, being the 15th recorded climber since Dr. Parrot in 1829. After World War II, many persons and groups have made the climb for as many reasons, including even espionage across the Soviet Armenian border. In fact, an American team under the leadership of a former United States "Moon-Shot" astronaut, James B. Irwin, climbed Mt. Ararat this very last week of August, but "failed to find the Ark!"

Mt. Ararat was within the Russian geographical boundaries of the Armenian provinces of Kars and Ardahan, but was lost to Ottoman Turkey as a result of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk between Germany/Turkey and Leninist Russia in March 1918. Upon the liquidation of the free Armenian Republic in December 1920, half of Caucasian Armenia's territory, including Mt. Ararat, was finally incorporated into Kamalist Turkey.

For the past 60 years, Armenians have shed oceans of tears when viewing their beloved *Massis* from across the Turkish-Soviet border and await the day when the mountain as depicted on the flag of present-day Soviet Armenia becomes more than a banner or "wailing wall," but the heart and soul of Armenia reborn.

For a time, Mark Kalustian, of Boston used the pen name Calouste Missakian. He is still writing but under his own name. Mr. Kaloustian is a retired engineer, lifetime bibliophile--bibliomania, he would call it--and has a most remarkable library of Orientalia.