

Port Cities and Printers: Five Centuries of Global Armenian Print

***A Conference in Honor of Professor Richard Hovannisian
(9 to 11 November 2012)***

From its origins in Venice in 1512, the history of early modern (1500-1800) Armenian print culture was closely entangled with that of port cities, initially in Europe and subsequently in Asia. In fact, virtually every Armenian printing press before 1800 was established either in or close to port cities, and the few that were not, owed their existence to on-going relations with port locations. Yet, despite the obvious relationship between ports and printers, their synergetic relationship has thus far largely eluded scholarly attention. Convened on the quincentenary of the printing of the first Armenian book, this conference explores the intimate relationship between port cities and printers in the rich history of global Armenian print culture. The conference brings together an international cast of scholars to examine various aspects of the history of the printed Armenian book.

*Papers submitted in Armenian or French will be made available in English translation upon request.

*AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE
RICHARD HOVANNISIAN ENDOWED CHAIR OF MODERN
ARMENIAN HISTORY [ESTABLISHED BY THE ARMENIAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION]*

Co-sponsored by:

The UCLA Department of History

The UCLA G. E. Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies

The UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)

and with the generous support of Mr. Mark Chenian

Open and free to the public
Coffee and refreshments served

*Friday (9 November 2012: 5:00-7:00,
Royce 314)*

Keynote Address:

Jean Hébrard (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor):

“Readers and Writers in an Early Modern Atlantic Perspective: From the History of Books to the History of Written Practices in Motion”

*Saturday (10 November 2012, Rolfe
1200)*

Opening Remarks: Dr. Sebouh D. Aslanian followed by Richard Hovannisian (9:15-9:30)
Introduction, Sebouh D. Aslanian: “Port Cities, Printers, and Port Armenians” (9:30-10:00)

THE STATE OF THE ART TODAY I: ARMENIAN BOOK COLLECTIONS AT UCLA AND BEYOND: (10:00-12:00)

Chair: Anahid Keshishian (UCLA, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)
Discussant: Mary Momdjian (UCLA, Department of History)

- Gia Aivazian: “Armenian Studies at UCLA and the University Library’s Armenian Collections” (UCLA, Young Research Library)
- Nora Avetyan: “The UCLA Minasian Collection of Manuscripts and Archival Materials” (UCLA, Young Research Library)
- Marc A. Mamigonian: “An Overview of Armenian-American Publishing and Library Collections in the Northeast U.S. (Through 1930)” (National Association for Armenian Studies and Research)

WELCOMING REMARKS: Dean Alessandro Duranti (12:00-12:10)

LUNCH BREAK: 12:10-2:00

THE STATE OF THE ART TODAY II: ARMENIAN BOOK COLLECTIONS AT UCLA AND BEYOND: (2:00-4:00)

Chair: Vahram Shemmassian (CSUN, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures)
Discussant: Hagop Gulludjian (UCLA, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)

- Taline Voskeritchian: “The Librairie Orientale: An Exilic Bookstore in Paris and the Making of a Diaspora Community” (Boston University)
- Karin Karakaşlı: “The Continuing Legacy of Armenian Print culture in Istanbul: On the periodical *Agos* and the publishing house *Aras*” (Agos and Aras publishers)
- Ara Sanjian: “Armenian Libraries in the Diaspora Confronting the Age of Digital Globalization: The Case of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn,” (University of Michigan, Dearborn)

MANUSCRIPT BEFORE PRINT: WAS THERE AN EARLY MODERN ARMENIAN “PRINTING REVOLUTION”? (4:00-6:00)

CHAIR: Ron Mellor (UCLA, Department of History)
DISCUSSANT: Teo Ruiz (UCLA, Department of History)

- Sergio La Porta “Before Print: Manuscript Distribution Networks and the Development of the Armenian Intellectual Tradition” (CSU Fresno, Armenian Studies Program)
- Sylvie L. Merian: “The Transition from Manuscript to Print (and vice versa): Physical Evidence in Armenian Books and Manuscripts” (The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York)

- Tamar M. Boyadjian: “The Surface beneath the Script: Paper as a Medium for Studying the Evolution of the Armenian Book” (UCLA, Postdoctoral Fellow)
- Dickran Kouymjian: “Revolution or Evolution? The Armenian Book from Manuscript to Print” (CSU Fresno & Paris)

Sunday (11 November 2012, Rolfe 1200)

THE VENETIAN CRADLE: FROM MEGHAPART TO MKHITAR (10:00-12:00)

Chair: Ra’anan Boustan (UCLA, Department of History)
Discussant: Gabriel Piterberg (UCLA, Department of History)

- Claude Mutafian: “Italian Port Cities and Armenian printers” (Université Paris XIII)
- Agnes Ouzounian: “Ուրբաթագիրք (Venise, 1512): du manuscrit au premier livre imprimé.”* (INALCO, ICP, Paris)

- Meroujan Karapetyan: “Venice and the Mkhitarist Printing Enterprise: Some Reflections on the Business of Publishing” (in Armenian)* (American University of Armenia)

Lunch Break: 12:00-2:00

***THE ITINERANT ARMENIAN PRINTING SHOP:
AMSTERDAM, CONSTANTINOPLE, CALCUTTA, AND
MADRAS (2:00-4:00)***

Chair: Michael Morony (UCLA, Department of History)

Discussant: Talar Chahinian (CSULB, Department of Comparative World Literature)

- Elizabet Tajiryan: “Armenian Printing in Amsterdam: A Typological Analysis” (in Armenian)* (Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia)
- Vazken Ghougassian: “The Printing Enterprise of Armenians in India” (Armenian Prelacy, NY)
- Christina Maranci: “Works of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: Armenian Manuscript Illumination in Seventeenth-Century Constantinople” (Tufts University, Department of Art History)

***READERS, PRINTERS, AND THE GLOBAL CIRCULATION
OF BOOKS (4:00-6:00)***

Chair: David Myers (UCLA, Department of History)

Discussant: Margaret Jacob (UCLA, Department of History)

- Raymond H. Kévorkian: “Marchands et clercs-imprimeurs: complémentarité et coopération au XVIIe siècle de Venise à Amsterdam”* (Bibliothèque arménienne, Nubar, Paris)
- Sebouh D. Aslanian: “A Reader Responds to Joseph Emin’s *Life and Adventures*: Notes towards a ‘history of Reading’ in Early Modern Madras” (UCLA, Department of history)
- Peter Cowe: “Print as a Medium for the Transmission of Scientific and Scholarly Innovation in Armenian Society (16th-18th cc.)” (UCLA, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures)