

NEWS OF ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Institute for Yemeni Studies

The American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) was created for the following purposes:

1. To bring together individuals in a variety of fields who have one primary interest in common—Yemen. The main reason for creating an organization of this type was to provide an opportunity for individuals in the academic world, the world of business, diplomacy, and others to meet and to exchange views and information. Without such an organization, communication across disciplines and professions is probably not possible in the modern world.

Toward this end, AIYS has had marked success. We number among our members: archeologists, bankers, diplomats, graduate students in a variety of fields, anthropologists, political scientists, epidemiologists, dentists, agricultural economists, zoologists, and many others. The number and variety of interests exceeded our original expectations.

2. To provide a regular and continuing organization to keep members (and others) informed of developments affecting Yemen. This function will be fulfilled primarily by the publication of our Newsletter, the first issue of which has just come out.
3. To sponsor and coordinate panels on Yemeni subjects at the professional meetings of various organizations. Here Yemeni scholars will be able to present their latest findings and research results, and to discuss them with others who are specifically interested in Yemeni studies.

AIYS sponsored a meeting at the November 1978 MESA meeting in Ann Arbor, and it is expected that this will become an annual event in association with MESA. Similar panels have been proposed for the Congress of Orientalists and other academic organizations.

4. To establish in Yemen a facility that will be available to members while they are in Yemen.

In line with this goal, our Resident Director in Sana'a, Jon Mandaville, has acquired a building that will be used as his home, as the AIYS headquarters and as a hostel. In addition, we have the core of a library in Sana'a, for which we are collecting books in Chicago to be sent on to Yemen. This library is open to Yemenis, as well as American and other scholars. It is our hope that our headquarters in Sana'a will provide a meeting ground for contacts between Yemenis and Americans, as well as others interested in exchanging information and views.

5. To support graduate students interested in pursuing studies on topics dealing with Yemen. At present, AIYS has no separate funds available for graduate students, but we are able to put students in contact with people and institutions that may be a source of funds for them. We hope ultimately to be able to have funds for graduate students.
6. To create an archive in the U.S. to house materials on Yemen that are not readily available (or are unavailable) through other sources. For the moment, we have only a limited number of materials, which are temporarily being housed on the campuses of member

institutions. We are seeking outside funding to facilitate this project.

7. To facilitate the exchange of scholars between Yemen and foreign countries. While we have no funds as yet for promoting or assisting projects, we have helped place Yemeni students in U.S. universities, and we have cooperated with the Department of State in bringing Yemeni scholars to the United States.

The Institute's address is: 5848 South University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Society for Armenian Studies

In early 1974 Professor Richard Hovannisian (UCLA) solicited the opinion of some 100 scholars on the advisability of forming a professional society for Armenian Studies. The response was very favorable, both to the formation of a society, with links to the Middle East Studies Association, and to the organization of an Armenian studies panel at the November 1974 MESA meeting. That panel in Boston was an academic as well as an organizational success; attendance for the three papers was very high; and at an *ad hoc* meeting the Society for Armenian Studies was formed by those present.

An Administrative Council of five members—Nina Garsofian (Columbia), Richard Hovannisian (UCLA), Robert Thomson (Harvard), Avedis Sanjian (UCLA), and Dickran Kouymjian (AUB)—was chosen. Professor Garsofian was made responsible for the drawing up of a Constitution.

At the second meeting of the Society, held after the Armenian panel at the MESA meeting in November 1975, the Constitution was unanimously accepted. The purpose of the SAS is primarily to promote serious scholarship and research devoted to Armenian studies and to sponsor symposia on Armenian subjects in conjunction with the annual meetings of MESA and other kindred professional societies.

The SAS Constitution also calls for the periodic "publication of a newsletter on the Society's activities and current research on Armenia." In the summer of 1976, Volume I, No. 1, of the *Newsletter of the Society for Armenian Studies* was issued. The eighth issue, Volume IV, No. 1, has recently appeared. Like previous issues, it contains reports on the Society's activities, especially participation in scholarly meetings and symposia, both in the U.S. and abroad; news of members; information on recent publications; book reviews; and other pertinent information.

The first bibliographic supplement of the *Newsletter* will be issued later this year and, thenceforth, an annual *Bibliography of Armenian Studies* will be published by the Society.

In 1976 the SAS was legally incorporated as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its address is: 6 Divinity Avenue, Room 103, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Initial membership of some 70 members five years ago had more than doubled—to nearly 150—by the end of 1978, including members from Canada and several European countries. Membership is open to scholars, university students, and individuals interested in any of the various fields of Armenian studies. Currently annual mem-

bership dues are \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students).

The increased activity of the Society for Armenian Studies is indicated not only by the continually increasing membership, but also by the crowded attendance at SAS-sponsored panels and the increasing number of auxiliary papers and symposia under its aegis. In 1974 and 1975 only single panels, of three and four papers, respectively, were organized at the MESA meetings. From 1976 to 1978 there were, in addition to two panels exclusively on Armenian subjects, a number of SAS-endorsed papers on other MESA panels. At the New York meeting in November 1977 the first special symposium organized by the Columbia University Armenian Studies Program with SAS sponsorship was held. Six communications were presented on the subject, "Armenian Civilization," to an audience of some 300 at Columbia's Kellogg Center. At Ann Arbor in 1978 another all-day symposium, organized by Professor Ronald Suny (Oberlin) and the SAS, featured eight papers around the subject, "Rewriting Armenian History: A Symposium on New Views on Politics and Society of Armenia." In October of 1978 the Society organized a panel of three papers on the theme, "The Annexation of Eastern Armenia to the Russian Empire," at the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

The SAS will sponsor an International Conference on Armenian Linguistics, organized by Professor John Greppin (Cleveland State), at the University of Pennsylvania, July 11-14, 1979. Details can be secured from Professor Greppin, Department of English, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. SAS also tacitly, though not officially, supported the international symposium organized by Professor Dickran Kouymjian (Fresno State), entitled: "David of Sassoun: The Armenian Folk Epic After a Century," held at California State University, Fresno, November 30th and December 1, 1978. Similarly, a workshop on "Armenian Epigraphy and Paleography" was organized by SAS member, Professor Michael Stone (Hebrew University), and held at the University of Pennsylvania on April 2-3, 1979.

Information about membership or any aspect of this Society can be obtained by writing to Professor Robert Thomson at the permanent SAS address given above. Inquiries about the *Newsletter* should be directed to: Gerard Libaridian, Editor, 907 South Lawrence, Tacoma, Washington 98405.

Dickran Kouymjian
California State University