

## ARMENIACA: TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES

### ABSTRACT

At the 11th General Conference of the ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉTUDES ARMÉNIENNES, I would like to discuss an important subject: it concerns the tasks and perspectives of *Armeniaca* — an annual of English summaries of all Armenological publications written by scholars in Armenia that appeared during the particular year. It should be stressed that *Armeniaca* is aimed at providing greater access to Armenological Studies, and that in *Armeniaca* are presented simply synopses of the armenological investigations without expressing our view or opinion on the merits of the given book or article.

To date three issues of *Armeniaca* have been published, which cover summaries of Armenological scholarly works accomplished during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. The idea of using an annual bibliographical publication to promote knowledge of Armenian scholarship in the West found many positive responses and was enthusiastically received and supported not only by Armenologists but also by others in related fields (e.g. the first review on *Armeniaca* was written by an expert in Syriac Studies — Herman Teule), which proves that this publication has reached an audience beyond a relatively small circle of Armenologists. *Armeniaca* also attracted a vivid interest among many scholars present at the 21st International Congress of Byzantine Studies in London (21-26 August 2006).

With the freer flow of information, relationships between Western Armenologists and those in Armenia have become less complex, and a process of learning and appreciation on both sides has begun. We were aware that such a journal could well become an important working tool especially for scholars working outside Armenia. Besides, through *Armeniaca* many have come to see how scholarly patterns are changing in Armenia.

The aim of this paper is to discuss the future of *Armeniaca* and to lay down three *desiderata* for the consideration of those present.

First, to enhance the reciprocal flow of information, it is desirable to have in our annual abstracts of Armenological studies done in the West. In other words, to enlarge the scope of *Armeniaca* to become an all-inclusive sourcebook of current Armenian Studies. While our office continues to do the work begun in Armenia, the necessary abstracts of studies by scholars elsewhere could be compiled and forwarded by the respective Chairs of Armenian Studies. The latter could be geographically or territorially parceled out. Moreover, to create such a bibliography for Armenian Studies there could be a parallel, thematic compilation (for example, of Philonic Studies, Septuagintal Studies, etc.) Submissions by the various Chairs of Armenian Studies could also be grouped as *Armeniaca-France* or *Armeniaca-USA*. A work of this kind will be possible only by the commitment of Armenologists and institutions everywhere. The ultimate responsibility for the gathering, compilation, and publication of such a current bibliography should rest not with an individual but an organization, and the best organization for this is conceivably the ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉTUDES ARMÉNIENNES.

The process of this work could be facilitated if each person who writes an article or a book will prepare also a short annotation and send it to the 'Center' where all materials should be gathered (those persons for sure will get a free copy of *Armeniaca*).

Secondly, I propose to discuss the possibility of an Electronic Publication of *Armeniaca*, which could be free on-line (which is preferable), or could be accessed by members, or could be paid subscription.

Thirdly, I hope that in the event of success, the Board will undertake also another important task, i.e. this journal will include exchanging not only of scholarly information but also resolve the problem of mutual inaccessibility of the books and journals scholarly literature on Armenian Studies between all centres of Armenian Studies.

Let us emphasize one more time that the creation of such a review will help Armenian scholarship to become integrated into the international scientific world and to efface the linguistic border between scholars who are interested in the researches of each other. It will also provide the development of scholarship in Armenia, as well strengthen scholarly ties between Armenologists and other scholars all over the world.

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