

FOREWORD

With the publication of this book, the last of the rewarding tasks of the 50th anniversary of Haigazian University is completed, and the 25th anniversary edition of the *Haigazian Armenological Review* is fittingly replaced.

The *Armenians of Lebanon: Their Past, Present, and Future* conference of September 12-15, 2005, organized by our Department of Armenian Studies is duly presented in this book. Both the conference and this publication highlight the pivotal place Haigazian University occupies in the modern Lebanese Armenian reality and in the Armenian Diaspora in general. It further challenges us to live up to the high academic expectations and the various critical roles which are entrusted to us, including the ones in the field of Armenian Studies.

I would like to thank the organizers of the conference, ably led by Dr. Ara Sanjian, the editor of this book, Dr. Aida Boudjikianian, whose academic, editorial and multi-lingual talents and tireless efforts bore good fruit, Mr. Antranig Dakessian for his availability and facilitating role, the G. Ignatius Foundation for sponsoring the conference, and NAASR for their cooperation.

I join the writers and readers of this book in celebration and thankfulness and pray for productive years and accomplishments ahead.

Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D.

President

Haigazian University

