

THE CONTRIBUTION OF EGYPTIAN-ARMENIAN REPATRIATES TO MOTHER ARMENIA

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Abstract

In the forties of the 20th century, until the mass repatriation, the Armenian community of Egypt (around 45 thousand people) was rallied mainly around the Armenian Apostolic Church (spiritual leader: His Eminence Archbishop Mambré Sirounian).

A number of Armenian schools, cultural organizations and athletic associations were all active mainly in the Armenian populated cities of Egypt, Cairo and Alexandria.

It should be noted that the total number of repatriates from Egypt to Soviet Armenia in 1947, 1948 and the 1960-1970s constituted around 4.500 people. Most of them were already ideologically prepared and aware of the objective of their repatriation, namely dedicating their lives to the development of the Fatherland.

The study highlights the contribution of these repatriated families and individuals (more than 140 people) to the development and growth of Soviet Armenia in cultural, industrial, artistic, photographic, educational, academic, medical, political, administrative, athletic and other (over 40) spheres of life.

Keywords: Egypt, Cairo, Alexandria, Armenian Community, Repatriation, Soviet Armenia, Egyptian-Armenians, artists, doctors, intellectuals.

Historical Overview

In the forties of the 20th century, until the mass repatriation, the Armenian community of Egypt (around 45 thousand people) was rallied mainly around the Armenian Apostolic Church (spiritual leader: His Eminence Archbishop Mambré Sirounian).

In Cairo, the functioning educational institutions were the Galoustian National School (founded in 1854), the Noubarian National School (f. 1925), the Manissalian School (f. 1905), in Alexandria – first, the Aramian National School (f. 1854), then the Poghossian National School (f. 1862) and the Haykazian School (f. 1924). The Armenian religious denominations had also their educational institutions, namely, the Immaculate Conception Armenian Catholic School for Girls in Cairo (f. 1897) and in Alexandria (f. 1914) and the Armenian Evangelical School in Cairo (f. 1899), etc.¹

In these two main cities about fifteen cultural and athletic clubs were functioning: in Cairo, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was founded in 1906, the

¹ Topouzian 1978: 184-185.

“Athletic Union Ararat” (f. 1914), “The Armenian Art-Lovers’ Union (Gegharvestasirats)” (f. 1920), The Armenian Cultural and Educational Union “Hamazgayin” (f. 1928), “The Friends of Armenian Culture” (f. 1941), “The Armenian National Fund” (f. 1942), the “Houssaber” Cultural Association of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) (f. 1945), while in Alexandria the “Tigran Yerkat” Cultural Union (f. 1902) and the “Kamk” Athletic Union (f. 1912).

The object of these one and a half dozen cultural and athletic clubs operating in the two main cities of Egypt: Cairo and Alexandria, was to rally the Armenian youth, to develop their artistic taste and physical capacities and “to favor the Armenian-maintaining power of the community.”²



Painting by Garnik Svazlian



Painting by Garnik Svazlian

With its essence and subject matter, “The Committee for the Assistance of Armenia” (HOK), founded in Soviet Armenia, in 1921, with the efforts of the poet of All-Armenians, Hovhannes Toumanian was altogether different. That pursued the object of assisting the starving population, establishing close relations between the Diasporan Armenians and Soviet Armenia. The Committee had its branches in the Armenian-

² Egypt 2003: 157-160.

populated communities of the Diaspora, including also Cairo and Alexandria (1926), one of the founders of which was the young poet and public figure rescued from the Armenian Genocide, **Garnik Svazlian** (b. 1904, Kayseri – deceased, 1948, Yerevan). With the various fund-raising activities he had organized, he has contributed to the development of Mother Armenia. With the collected sums numerous buildings have been constructed in Armenia, such as the complex of the Medical Institute in Yerevan, the “Yerevan Hotel” (now: the “Golden Tulip”), the building of the Sport Committee (at the crossroads of the Abovian and Toumanian streets, in Yerevan), the Palace of Culture of the Railway-men after Sevan in Leninakan, the Electric Power Station in Dzorages, as well as four-storied apartment buildings on Alaverdian (now: Hanrapetutian) street in Yerevan, and others.



Medical Institute in Yerevan



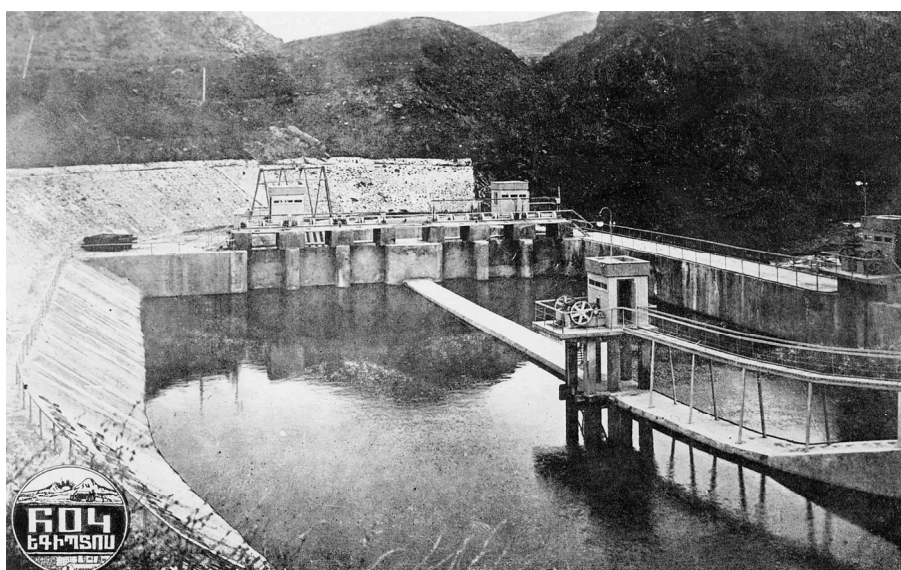
“Yerevan Hotel” (now: the “Golden Tulip”) in Yerevan



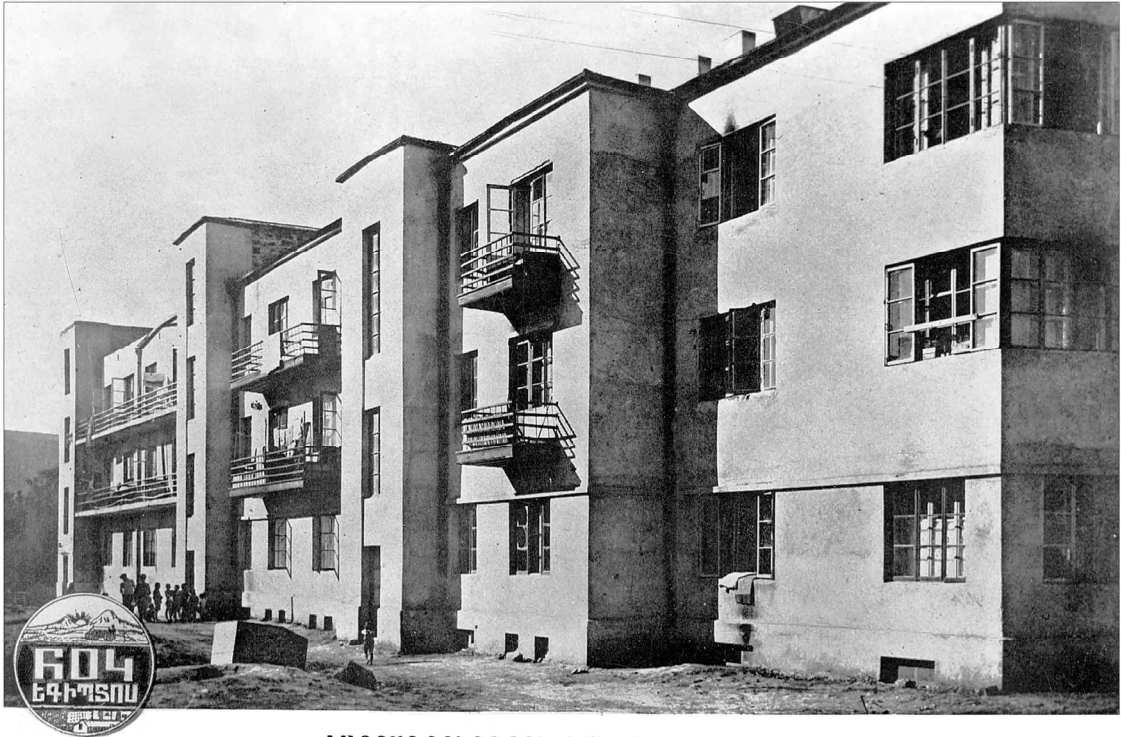
The Sport Committee Building in Yerevan



The Palace of Culture of the Railway-men after Sevan in Leninakan



The Electric Power Station in Dzorages



Apartment buildings on Alaverdian (now: Hanrapetutian) street in Yerevan

At that time, in the 1930s, an economic depression had arisen all over the world, and everywhere anti-communist feelings prevailed, as a result of which a number of progressive intellectuals were targeted and flung into the prison, among them G. Svazlian. Under the immediate impression of those processes, he published the leaflet entitled: *"We, the detainees."*³ In 1937, the HOK organization was wound up.

Later, during World War II, the crushing victories of the Soviet armies near Leningrad, Smolensk, Crimea and Stalingrad marked a turning point in international relations. In 1943, the Egyptian-Armenians contributed to those enterprises and activities, which would favor the Soviet Union's victory. In the same year, the Egyptian-Armenians participated in the fundraising of the "David of Sassoun" tank-regiment. As the Egyptian-Armenian writer and publicist, G. Svazlian pointed out in his article *"Boil up, Armenian sentiments"* ("Arev" Daily, Cairo, 1943, December 17, № 7599, p. 2). *"...All the strata of the society, even the unemployed, fathers of a family struggling for their daily bread, workmen with their sooty hands, surpass themselves and give to this fund more than their earnings..."*⁴

In the various Armenian communities of the Diaspora and in the USA in the first place, National councils were created, whose object was to focus the attention of the world-scattered Armenians "swaying in despair and uncertainty" to the cause of the "Rebuilding of Armenia and the Repatriation, to be the advocate and the supporter of the return to the native land."⁵

³ Svazlian 1965: 20-25.

⁴ Ibid: 36.

⁵ Topouzian 1978: 270-271.

With that end in view, the “Yerevan” Cultural Union in Cairo and the “Sevan” Cultural Union in Alexandria were founded,⁶ the first of which has had a short life, while the second closed-down in 1947 due to the repatriation of its chairman, G. Svazlian.



The Board Members of the “Sevan” Cultural Union

(Garnik Svazlian – second from the right, sitting)

In 1943, the writer, public figure, caricaturist Garnik Svazlian had the intention, in the “Sevan” Cultural Public Union he had founded in Alexandria and by means of the recitation, theatrical art, painting and singing groups functioning there, to develop the capacities of the youth and with his Armenian-spirited lectures and the display of films (“Reconstructing Armenia,” etc.) to acquaint the Diaspora Armenians with the progress of Mother Armenia persisting and developing on a little fragment of our captured Motherland, to raise their level of consciousness and to materially and morally assist, with various measures, the repatriation, namely, the nation-gathering.

The chairman-founder of the “Sevan” Union, G. Svazlian, pursued the object, with his fervent journalistic articles⁷ published in the Egyptian and Diasporan periodicals “Arev,” “Arax,” “Savarnak” and his well-aimed caricatures, to revive the self-consciousness of the Diasporan Armenians. He has written: “...*We are scattered in the*

⁶ Ibid: 273. And since my father Garnik Svazlian, of blessed memory, became the founder of the “Sevan” cultural union,” I, after my daily studies at the Poghossian National School, speedily did my homework in order to go with my family in the evening to take part in the interesting social events organized there. Consequently, everything was engraved, at that time in my teen-age memory, and today, as an eyewitness, I can present it as an evidence.

⁷ “From the past to the Future” (“Arev,” Cairo, 1933, April 24, № 4339, p. 2), “What day are we waiting for?” (“Arev,” Cairo, 1932, December 16, № 4232, p. 2), “You, Alexandrians, stand up with a virile posture!” (Leaflet of September 24, 1935, Alexandria), “Boil up Armenian sentiments!” (“Arev,” Cairo, 1943, December 17, № 7599, p. 2), “We have to strike the scalpel” (“Arev,” Cairo, 1943, November 13, № 7572, p. 2), “The Diasporan Armenians and the Repatriation” (Speech delivered on October 19, 1946, at the great popular meeting dedicated to the Repatriation), “The meaning and value of the Repatriation” (Speech delivered on May 9, 1946, in Alexandria, on the first Anniversary of the end of the Great Patriotic War, at the ceremony organized by the Armenian National Council), and other articles.

whole world not in order to have a Diaspora, but because violence and persecution compelled us.

And when today all this has come to an end, and our Motherland has widely opened its doors, then it is preposterous to speak about sustaining the Diaspora, thereby dampening the fervent patriotism of this laborious people.⁸

...Now we have our Motherland...

...We have all to buckle down to work having one idea in mind, which is the assistance to the Motherland, having only one obsession – the reconstruction of the Motherland and one slogan at the tip of the tongue of everyone of us – toward the Motherland!

...Consider that this is a matter of dignity for you, and it is your destiny.⁹

With similar Armenian-spirited articles, G. Svazlian was ideologically developing and educating the grown-up and young representatives of the Armenian community of Egypt, who gathered lovingly, in the evenings, under that modest roof and took part, free of charge, in the lessons of different groups (recitation, painting, singing). G. Svazlian had also organized there a “Knitting group,” where the women willingly knitted woolen socks for the Red Army soldiers.



“Knitting group” of the “Sevan” Union (1944)

I was then 9 years old and, during the midday break at the Poghossian National School, I used to knit giving the lead to my girl-classmates, while after school I rapidly did my next day’s homework in order to be able to go with my parents to our dear meeting place near Menshia Square in Alexandria on the street bearing the name of the founder of Egyptology,

Champollion; on the gate of our meeting place, on the handwritten wall newspaper was the precept: “Educate yourself, educate others; Rise yourself and raise others,” while in the hall, we were met with the sizable and impressive photographs of Mesrop Mashtots and Sahak Partev.

At the “Sevan” reading-hall, they also organized interesting lectures about the Armenian culture, the discovery of the Armenian alphabet, the medieval narrators and miniaturists, as well as about everyday life in Armenia, the heroic deeds of the Armenian generals and soldiers in World War II.

⁸ Svazlian 1965: 76.

⁹ Ibid: 11.



"Komitas" Chorus of the "Sevan" Union

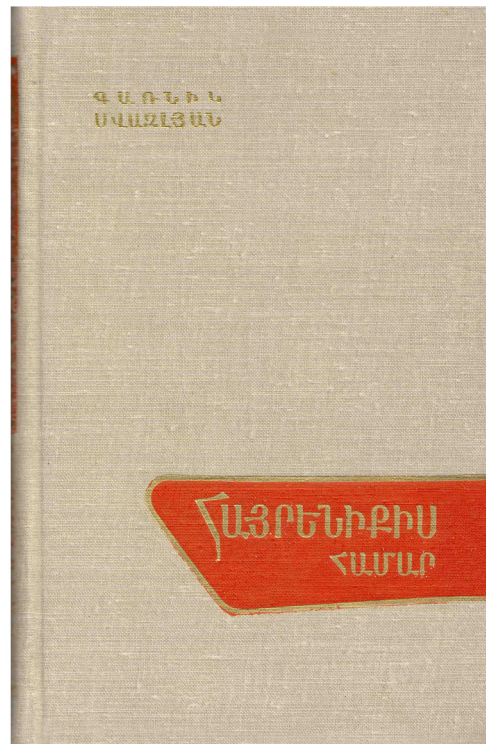
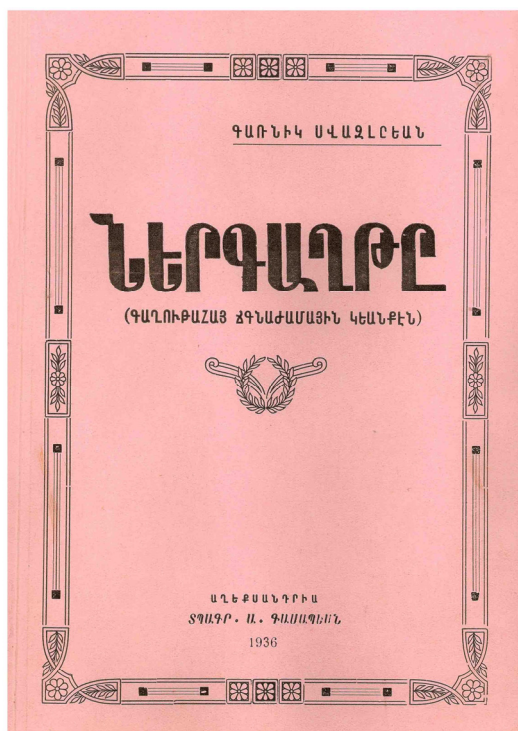
During the training hours of the chorus of the "Sevan" Union, composed of the male and female members (Choir-Master, lawyer and musician: **Mtr. Salerian**), besides the songs composed by Komitas, we used to learn also songs dedicated to Armenia and Yerevan, as for instance:

*"I yearn for you, sumptuous Yerevan,
Higher than many seas, golden Lake Sevan,
You have many fishes in your depths: Koghak and Ishkhan,
Who does not love you, is not a real Armenian*

Refrain:

*Hey, you unflinching, dear Yerevan!
Hey, dear, hey dear, sweet Yerevan!"*

In the theatrical group of the "Sevan" Union they were putting on the stage, with the combined efforts of the Union's male and female members and also with the willing participation of the meritorious artists **Mr. and Mrs. Onnik and Beatrice Voltaire, Garnik Svazlian's** play "*Repatriation*" (1936, Alexandria), about the critical life of the Diasporan Armenians, with the author's mise-en-scene and stage-direction. The principle hero of that play, Tigran's family had taken refuge, after having a narrow escape from the Armenian Genocide, in France, however, feeling the bitterness of unemployment and assimilation, he considers that the only salvation for the Diasporan Armenian is the Repatriation to Mother Armenia. This play has been repeatedly staged at the great hall of Lycée Français in Alexandria.



Garnik Svazlian's works:

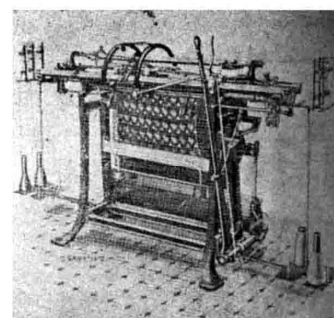
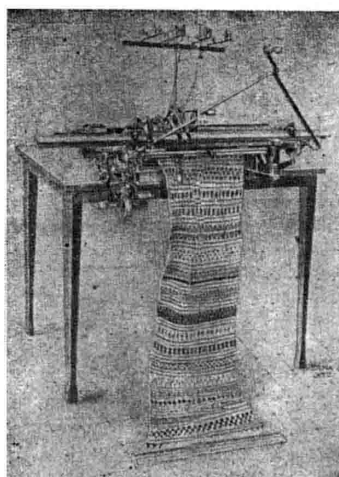
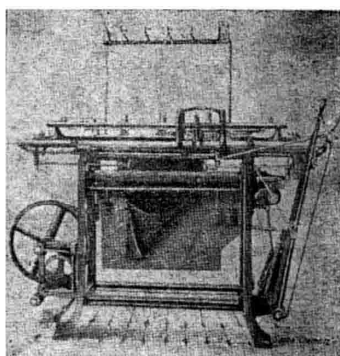
"Repatriation." Alexandria, 1936.

"For My Motherland." Yerevan, 1965.



The poster of Garnik Svazlian's "Repatriation" play (Alexandria, 1944)

I remember the wave of exaltation in which our Armenian community lived. I was 9-10 years old at that time and I took part in the mass scenes in the play of the people leaving for the Motherland on board of the steamship “Soviet Armenia.” The play “*Repatriation*” was also put on the stage in Cairo, at the Ezbekié Theater, then in Cyprus and elsewhere. The chairman of the “Sevan” Union, G. Svazlian, took the sums of the tickets obtained from the performance of the play, as well as the packed bunches of the knitted socks to Cairo and handed them to the Soviet **Ambassador Sultanov**, in order that the woolen socks be sent to the Red Army soldiers fighting on the front lines, while the collected sums were to be allocated to the development of the economy of Armenia and the construction of new dwelling houses. Through the same channel G. Svazlian had already sent the first machine tools and looms for the Leninakan (Gyumri) hosiery and knitted goods factory;¹⁰ he had also organized fund-raising measures for the “David of Sassoun” tank-regiment, for the “Shoe Fund” of the Red Army soldiers, the “Repatriation Fund” and for the “Construction of Dwelling Houses Fund” in the Motherland, in order that the repatriates would not have the problem of habitation upon their arrival to the Motherland... All these actions have found a broad response in the periodicals of the time.¹¹



First machine tools and looms for the Leninakan (Gyumri)

hosiery and knitted goods factory (1937)

Consequently, when the mass repatriation from Lebanon and Syria started in 1946, the Egyptian-Armenians and particularly we, the Alexandrian Armenians, were ideologically ready to live and work in the new social system. We were fully aware that we were going to Armenia not “to enjoy,” but to learn, to be of service to our Motherland. Hence those patriotic, ideological means undertaken earlier in Egypt had their positive effect.

¹⁰ Concerning this theme, the following fragment of the song merrily and ardently performed by the women’s chorus of the HOK has made an unforgettable impression in my memory:

*“At the textile factory, we work all day long,
We work hand in hand, we work together...”*

¹¹ See the responses and the photographs of the press kept at Garnik Svazlian’s family archives.

On September 3, 1947, the first caravan (head of the caravan: **Hakob Aramian**) carried 1,680 Egyptian-Armenians to Armenia, many of them brought trucks and other presents, while the **Dolabejian family** had with them machines for the spinning of fine broadcloth fabric to donate to the Motherland.

The second caravan sailed on August 22, 1948, having on board 2,018 Egyptian-Armenians (head of the caravan: **Khachik Hovhannissian**), who brought with them spinning-mill looms, which were installed and operated in the Sebastia quarter, in Yerevan.¹²

Incidentally, if the mass repatriation, started in 1946, was organized immediately following the Great Patriotic War, when the country was still unprepared and the historico-political and the grave economic conditions were, regrettably, unfavorable and full of undesirable consequences, then, in contrast to the 1947 and 1948 caravans, the government of Soviet Armenia had basically reconsidered its policy and had created in advance improved conditions for the reception and accommodation of the repatriates arriving from Egypt in four new consecutive caravans in the years 1960-1970s.

Tigran Tsoulikian (b. 1931, Cairo), a well-known intellectual, repatriate from Egypt in 1964, a pharmacist by profession, has testified: *"In the years 1962-1965, the Soviet authorities of Armenia organized four caravans of repatriation, as a result of which about 700 Egyptian-Armenians of various specialties and trades returned from Egypt to the Motherland, then in 1970-s a certain number of individuals and families came from Egypt to Armenia and settled in Leninakan, Kirovakan, Edjmiadsin, Alaverdi and other towns. The authorities of Soviet Armenia had granted them the following facilities and incentives:*

1. Apartments with central heating were granted to the repatriates free of charge; 1- and 2-room apartments (with every convenience) were available for small families, while families consisting of 5- and more members received a 3-room apartment (with every convenience) and kitchens with gas-stoves and bathrooms with bathtubs and water-heaters. In the first few days, hot meals were also distributed.

Subsequently, the Egyptian-Armenian repatriates were given the opportunity to take part in the cooperative house-building projects and to move to Yerevan, paying 40% of the price of apartments in advance and then to pay the remaining 60% gradually, during 15 years.

Several repatriate artists and other specialists returned their previous apartments and received from the State new apartments in the city of Yerevan.

2. The repatriates from Egypt were offered jobs (more or less corresponding to their specialty).

3. The repatriate teen-agers and young people were given the opportunity to continue their studies or to receive a higher education by taking a correspondence course according to their preference.

4. A 2-year deferment was granted to the conscripts.

¹² Topouzian 1978: 271.

5. *The certificates of the secondary schools, incomplete higher education and higher education diplomas obtained in Egypt (officially notarized) were acknowledged by the State authorities.*

6. *The certificates of length of working service in Egypt (officially notarized) were acknowledged by the State authorities and the repatriates received their corresponding pensions upon their arrival to the retirement age.*¹³

Summarizing the above-mentioned facts, we should note that the total number of repatriates from Egypt in 1947, 1948 and the 1960-1970-s constituted around 4.500 people.

As a basis for the present study not only T. Tsulikian's above-cited testimony has served, but also the biographical lists of the repatriated Egyptian-Armenians compiled by the Yerevan State University **Professor, Dr. Norayr Beylerian** (b. 1929, Cairo) and **Vanik Ajemian** (b. 1927, Cairo) and published in the 2003 and 2008 "*Commemorative Books of World Reunion of Armenian Schools of Egypt*,"¹⁴ as well as **N. Beylerian's** article,¹⁵ and finally the personal memories and impressions of the author of these lines as a repatriate from Egypt in 1947.



The Repatriation of Egyptian-Armenians

In the present, rather arduous study, we have tried to consider the Egyptian-Armenian repatriates, first, according to their appurtenance to the senior or junior generation, guided by their age peculiarities and by their place of professional education; furthermore, we have attempted to divide them according to their domains, laying emphasis on their contribution to the Motherland.

Besides the junior generation, who was educated in the Motherland, we have also, on our own initiative, specially included those representatives of the *senior generation*,

¹³ T. Tsulikian's present hand-written testimony is kept in our personal archives (V. S.).

¹⁴ Beylerian, Ajemian 2003: 111-137.

¹⁵ Beylerian 2008: 18-32.

who had received their professional higher education in the universities of various foreign countries and, returning to Egypt, they had become well-known in the Armenian-community by their praiseworthy merit. Although they were of an advanced age, nonetheless, after repatriation, they were renowned also in Armenia by their devoted activity and had a remarkable contribution.

The representatives of the *junior generation*, who had received their elementary and secondary education in the Armenian schools of Egypt, they have, after their repatriation, continued their professional university education in the native higher educational establishments and have greatly assisted the Motherland.

In the years 1947-1948, during the period of repatriation from Egypt and under the conditions of extensive literary and the gratuitous professional education in the Soviet Motherland, when stipends were even assigned to the students, the thirsty for knowledge young repatriate students were bravely admitted to the Armenian higher educational institutions, entirely devoting themselves to their studies. There was not a family, who had not several students. The same is true of the repatriates from Egypt in the years 1960-1970.

Considering the large volume of the subject, we are, therefore, compelled to confine ourselves and to allude only to those Egyptian-Armenian repatriates, who, receiving a professional education in the Motherland, have worked and were awarded high scientific degrees, titles, prizes or had a marked input in the progress of the Motherland.

First, it should be noted that, in the years of mass repatriation both from the various colonies of the Diaspora and also from Egypt, a great number of skilled artisans of diverse professions, like hair-dressers, tailors and dress-makers, shoe-makers, carpenters, watchmakers, artistic metallurgists, masons, etc. came, and, raising their handicraft to the level of art, imparted a new fascination to the Motherland and to the external appearance of its population. In those years, the manufactured products of Armenian artisans had become highly sought-after in the whole territory of the Soviet Union.

JEWELERS

The traditional Armenian jewelry had gathered a new impetus not only by the newly-created jewelry factory in Yerevan, where the majority of the working artisans were repatriates, but also our Armenian alphabet written and decorated in golden, bird-shaped letters kept at the treasure house of the Holy See of Edjmiadsin was designed and prepared by the Egyptian-Armenian jewelers **Zhirayr Chouloyan** and **Hayk Ter-Ghevondian** (b. 1924, Cairo). By the way, the latter had also compiled the study "*History of the Armenian jewelry art*," which remained unpublished due to the emigration of the author.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photography also changed from a trade into a branch of art. Worthy of mention are: the son of the heroic battle of Van, Armenak Yekarian, the Egyptian-Armenian **Gourgen Yekarian**, also **Shant Arakelian** and, particularly, **Andranik Kochar** (b.

1919, Alexandria), whose individual exhibition of portrait photography was the first in its kind in the history of Armenia. His black and white impressive portraits of *Vahram Papazian*, *William Saroyan*, *Martiros Sarian*, *Gourgen Mahari*, *Mihran Yerkat*, *Gohar Gasparian* and other celebrities were remarkable for their fine transitions of their volume, discreet taste and the disclosure of psychologic inner layers. In 1962, he founded the first photographic club in Yerevan. He has had individual exhibitions in the various towns of Armenia and Russia, also abroad and was honored with awards and prizes, such as the "World Press Photo" (Holland), etc. His son, **Vahan Kochar** (b. 1949, Yerevan), after his graduation from the Art Section of the Yerevan State Pedagogical Institute (YSPI), summed up his father's documentary materials of the biographies of Armenian photographers collected during a great number of years (starting from 1858, Constantinople) and after updating them, has published the valuable voluminous book *"Armenian photographers"* (2007), in Yerevan. Moreover, the grateful son founded, in 2017, adjacent to his mansion, the museum of the photographer Andranik Kochar, which, by its nature, is the first in Armenia.

SPORTSMEN, COACHES

Still in Egypt, the Egyptian-Armenian youths were already robust and well-trained.

Armenak Alajajian (b. 1930, Alexandria) has had a great input becoming a member of the principal collective team of basketball of USSR, champion of Europe, Honored Master of Sports of the Armenian SSR and USSR. He enjoyed great authority in those years.

The basketball players **Abraham Hamamjian** (b. 1930), **Zhirayr** (b. 1929, Alexandria) and **Varouzhan** (b. 1931, Alexandria) **Minassian** brothers, who had graduated from the Armenian State Institute of Physical Culture (ASIPC), had a considerable input.

Petros Amloyan (b. 1928, Cairo), a repatriate from Egypt, was a distinguished player in the sphere of table tennis. He was a student at the ASIPC and performed the job of a coach and was awarded the title of Honored Coach.

The same should be said about **Suzan Arakelian-Zakarian** (b. 1930, Cairo), a repatriate from Cairo. She became the first champion of table tennis of Armenia and multiple champion of the USSR, a Sport Master of the ArmSSR and USSR, an Honored Coach of the ArmSSR.

In the sphere of track and field athletics, **Babken Vardanian** had a number of successes and became the deputy chairman of the Sport Committee of the ArmSSR, while **Varouzhan Minassian** (b. 1931, Alexandria) was a reputed sportsman in javelin throwing.

About two dozens of Egyptian-Armenian boys and girls, graduated from ASIPC, became not only distinguished sportsmen, but also eminent coaches. Worthy of mention is **Assatour Tatourian** (b. 1931, Cairo), who was the coach of the volleyball national team of Armenia, a candidate of Master of Sports and an Honored Coach of the ArmSSR. He has also been the Deputy Headmaster of the Sporting School in Yerevan.

WRITERS

Paydsar Yerkat (b. 1887, Kayseri, Turkey). A writer, playwright, poetess, dancer, singer, violinist and pianist, the mother of Mihran, Marie and Arpiné Yerkat. First I met this talented lady in 1946, in Alexandria, at the “Tigran Yerkat” Club, during the performance of her “Aydsemluk” play, where the singer had assumed several roles and parts. In 1948, she was repatriated to Armenia with her family. I met her again in Yerevan, in 1988, when she was 101 years old and recalled, in full detail, the Hamidian massacres and communicated us her eyewitness testimonies of the Armenian Genocide, concerning the tragic end of the great Armenian intellectuals Grigor Zohrap, Daniel Varouzhan, Siamanto and others, deported from Constantinople to Eskishehir. She has also handed me her voluminous, but unpublished epic poem in Turkish and Armenian: *“The tragedy of 1915.”*¹⁶

Garnik Svazlian (b. 1904, Izmir). He is the first repatriate from Egypt (1947), who, having lived only five months in his dreamland, Armenia, has become a member of the Writers’ Union of Armenia. He has been one of the founders, in Alexandria, of the Committee for the Assistance of Armenia (HOK) and has been its active member till its dissolution, in 1937. He was the author of the play *“Repatriation”* (1936), which has been staged in the various colonies of the Diaspora and, according to the author’s desire, the proceeds of its staging were constantly assigned to the Repatriation Fund and to the Fund of the Construction of dwelling houses in Armenia. In 1943, he founded the “Sevan” Cultural-Public Union, which was closed down in 1947, due to his repatriation. He has published in the various Diasporan-Armenian periodicals journalistic and political articles and well-aimed caricatures calling for national gathering. He has broadcast on the Yerevan radio and written in the official organ “Soviet Armenia” a number of voluminous articles of political nature. Posthumously, his collected works *“For my Motherland”* (1965) was published in Yerevan.

LITERARY CRITICS

Garnik Stepanian (b. 1907, Derjan). In the turmoil of the Armenian Genocide, he had lost his parents and, surviving in the various Greek orphanages, he had reached Egypt. He has worked in Cairo, as a type-setter at the editing house “Arev” (in the days of Yervand Otian’s and Vahan Tekeyan’s chief editorship). He had searched by correspondence and found his father, who had been rescued from his birthplace by the Russian Army units and was living in Soviet Armenia. At the invitation of his father, in 1930, he was repatriated and lived in Yerevan. He had graduated from the Philology Section of the Yerevan State University (YSU), he had worked at the Institute of Literature after M. Abeghian of the Academy of Sciences of ArmSSR and became a well-known literary critic, a Doctor in Art Criticism, an Honored Art Worker and Director of the Museum of Literature. He is the author of more than 20 books dedicated to the masters of the Armenian stage. He has translated the Armenian-lettered Turkish novel

¹⁶ Svazlian 2011, Testimonies № 181 and № 555.

“*Agapi*”; he is also the author of the remarkable memoirs “*Nightmarish Days*,” which, transmitted to us as an eyewitness testimony of the Armenian Genocide, was included in our voluminous book.¹⁷

Hayk Gasparian (b. 1920, Cairo). With his wife, the singer Gohar Gasparian, he was repatriated from Cairo to Yerevan. He has worked at the Department of Cultural Ties and Relations of the Institute of Literature after M. Abeghian of the Academy of Sciences of the ArmSSR. He is the author of the scientific work “*Victor Hugo on the Armenian stage*,” for which he was awarded the title of Candidate of Philological Sciences.

Hakob Aramian (b. 1908, Antioch). He has been the editor of the “Arev” daily newspaper. He was the Head of the First Repatriation Caravan from Egypt, in 1947. He was a member of the Writers’ Union of Armenia and is the author of “*In the valley of the Nile*” (1954) and “*The Negress of Paris*” (1956) novels.

Varouzhan Nalbandian (b. 1929, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1947. He graduated from the Psychology department of the Armenian State Pedagogical Institute after Kh. Abovian in Yerevan. He is a member of the Writers’ Union of Armenia. He has written essays, fairy-tales and comedies.

Perj Zeytountsian (b. 1938, Alexandria). He studied at the Yerevan State University, then at the Moscow Institute of Literature and graduated from the Moscow two-year higher course in screen-writing. He is a prose-writer, novelist, playwright, the general editor of the Artistic Union of Television films at the “Yerevan” studio, a member of the Writers’ Union of Armenia, the Secretary of the Management of the Writers’ Union, a member of the Editorial Staff of the “Literary Newspaper.” His works have been translated into Russian and other languages. Among his plays are “*The saddest man*,” “*The Call of the Gods*,” “*Stand up, the Court is coming*,” “*Khor Virap (Deep Pit)*,” etc., which are being staged in Armenia and abroad. He was awarded a great number of prizes and titles, among them the State Prize of the ArmSSR, “The Golden Pen” of the Writers’ Union of Armenia, Honored public man of culture and the Prize of the President of the Republic of Armenia.

OPERA SINGERS

Mihran Yerkat (b. 1921, Constantinople). He graduated from the Lyceum after Giuseppe Verdi in Alexandria. He sang solos at the Alhambra Theater in Alexandria and at the Royal Opera House in Cairo. He was repatriated in 1947 and performed the main parts at the Yerevan Opera and Ballet Theater after A. Spendiarian, as well as at the Moscow Great Theater. His broad-ranged baritone voice and dramatic versatile talent have enabled him to perform multifarious parts, such as Arshak II (in T. Choukhadjian’s “*Arshak II*”), Tatoul (Al. Spendiarian’s “*Almast*”), Rigoletto (G. Verdi’s “*Rigoletto*”); at the Great Theater in Moscow he performed, in 1961-63, the role of Gryaznoy (Rimski-

¹⁷ Ibid, Testimony № 95.

Korsakov's *"The King's bride-to-be"*), Kamo (G. Hakhinian's *"The Legendary Man"*) operas. He was awarded the title of "Popular Artist of the USSR" (1977).

Gohar Gasparian (Khachatryan) (b. 1924, Cairo). She has cultivated her voice in Cairo under the direction of the Italian maestros G. Feldman and V. Carro. She has performed in Cairo since 1940. She was repatriated in 1947. As a soloist, she has worked at the Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater after Al. Spendiarian in Yerevan. Starting from 1964 she has lectured at the Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas (YSC), she has been awarded the title of "Professor." Her lyrical coloratura-soprano voice offered her exceptionally wide possibilities to perform complicated creations with an ideological-artistic, deep and convincing interpretation. The universally famed singer has marvelously performed the role of Anoush, Shoushan (A. Tigranian's *"Anoush," "Davit Bek"*), Olympia, Karine (T. Chukhajian's *"Arshak II," "Leblebiji Horhor Agha"*), Gohar (H. Stepanian's *"Heroine"*), Rosina (G. Rossini's *"Sevilian Barber"*), Margarit (Ch. Gounod's *"Faust"*), Lakmé (L. Delibe's *"Lakmé"*), Luchia (G. Donizetti's *"Luchia de Lamermoor"*), Norma (V. Bellini's *"Norma"*), Marfa (N. Rimski-Korsakov's *"The king's bride-to-be"*). Her concert repertoire is also very rich (J. Bach, G. Hendel, W. Mozart, J. Strauss, E. Grieg, R. Glier, P. Tchaikovsky, S. Rakhmaninov and other composers, as well as Armenian Spiritual Music, Komitas and others). She has given concerts in the numerous cities of the Soviet Union and in the different countries of the world, fascinating everywhere the audience. She is the first repatriate to be honored with the titles of the "People's Artist of the USSR" (1956) and of the "Hero of Socialist Labor" (1984) and numerous State awards.

Arminé (Zakarian) Toutounjian (b. 1928, Cairo). She was repatriated in 1948. The modest and talented soloist singer has created at the Yerevan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater after Al. Spendiarian a number of unforgettable characters; particularly impressive was her performance as Anoush in the opera of the same name. She has also performed along with Mihran Yerkat and Gohar Gasparian. She was awarded the title of "People's Artist of Armenia and the Medal of Honor."

Anna (Papazian) Neshanian (b. 1932, Cairo). Starting from 1964, she became the soloist of the Yerevan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater after Al. Spendiarian.

DANCERS

Anna Marikian (b. 1944, Alexandria). She is the granddaughter of the well-known artist Paydsar Yerkat and the daughter of Marie Yerkat. She was repatriated in 1947. She graduated from the Yerevan Dance College. The talented soloist has performed at the Yerevan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater after Al. Spendiarian as a chief ballerina in the *"Giselle," "Spartak," "Gayané," "Don Quixote," "Swan Lake"* ballets. She has performed in various countries. She is now a well-known pedagogue and the head teacher-methodist of choreography. She was highly appreciated by the spectators and from the state. She was honored with State awards.

Sona Vardanian (b. 1947, Alexandria). She was repatriated in 1948. Since her childhood (age 3) her bias toward dancing was noticeable. She was admitted to the Yerevan State dancing college. She completed the eight-year educational period in seven years. She became the soloist dancer at the Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater after Al. Spendiarian. She assumed responsible roles in “*Tamar*,” “*Giselle*,” “*Swan Lake*,” “*Don Quixote*,” “*Gayané*” and “*Spartak*” ballets. She has performed in various countries with Vilen Galstian.

ARTISTS

Khachik Sandaljian (b. 1900, Alexandria). The well-known artist was repatriated in 1948 and worked at the Yerevan Musical Comedy Theater after H. Paronian and has performed the impressive roles of Western-Armenian playwrights, enjoying the sympathy of the spectators.

Zhirayr Srapian with his peculiar exterior and powerful voice he has sung in the State Chorus of Armenia and was shot in the films “*Tezhvezhik*” and “*Kariné*.”

The Ouzounian couple. They were repatriated from Alexandria in 1947. They have acted on the arena of the Yerevan State Circus, amazing the spectators with their fascinating performance.

PRODUCERS

Hrach Frounjan (b. 1934, Alexandria). He is the only Egyptian-Armenian person, who has graduated from the higher courses of movie-production at the All-Russian Cinematography State Institute after S. Gerassimov. He has worked in his profession at the Television of Armenia and the newly-created Yerevan Puppet Theater.

LECTURERS AT THE GEVORGIAN SEMINARY

Vahram Ardsrouni (b. 1875, Yerznka). He received his elementary education at the Aramian School in Akn, then he studied at the Ketronakan School and the Imperial Art School in Constantinople. In Alexandria, he was appointed Headmaster of the Poghossian National School and, subsequently, he founded the Targmanchats (Translators') School in Alexandria and assumed the post of Headmaster. In 1947, he was repatriated to Armenia and has officiated at the Gevorgian Seminary of the Holy See of Edjmiadsin as a lecturer of old Armenian language and bibliography.

Barsegh Tashchian (b. 1932, Cairo). He has been a member of the audit Committee adjunct to the Mother See of Edjmiadsin and a lecturer of general history and geography there.

CLERGYMEN

Perj Petikian (b. 1928, Cairo). He graduated from the Gevorgian Seminary and became the abbot of Geghard Monastery under the name of the Very Reverend Fr. Kyuregh Vardabet. He had a short life.

Aram Boyajian (b. 1930, Cairo). He was ordained a priest and by order of His Holiness Vazgen I, Catholicos of All-Armenians, he was sent on mission to serve at the Diocese of Egypt as a pastor, whence he returned to Yerevan suffering from a grave disease and passed away.

His Eminence Archbishop Arsen Berberian (b. 1937, Alexandria). He graduated from the Gevorgian Seminary and continued his studies at the Theological Academy in Moscow. He was nominated personal secretary of His Holiness Catholicos Vazgen I. He was nominated the Vicar of the Araratian Patriarchal Diocese; subsequently, he was sent on mission to Geneva to continue his studies at the Ecumenical Institute. He was the primate of the Armenian Dioceses of Switzerland and Sweden. Later, he was sent on mission to London, where he defended his thesis entitled: *“The relations of the Anglican and Armenian Churches in the years 1840-1905.”* Simultaneously, he attended the course of studies of the London Royal Academy of Music. After his return to Armenia, he was nominated primate of the Diocese of Gougark.

PSYCOLOGISTS

Hovsep Toutounjian (b. 1918, Alexandria). He taught psychology at the Armenian schools in Cairo. He is the first repatriate, who defended his candidate thesis in foreign language in Moscow, in 1956, and his doctorate dissertation thesis in 1967. In 1972, the title of professor was bestowed on him. He was a member of the French Union of Psychologists, an Honorary Member of the Scientific Council of the San Paulo Psychosomatic Institute. He is well-known for his original scientific trends. He has created psychology chairs in various higher educational centers. In 1976, he founded a psychology chair at the Yerevan State University, which he managed for long years; in 1979, he founded a laboratory of engineering psychology. He is the author of more than 100 scientific papers and 4 monographs in different languages, among them *“Henri Vallon’s psychological concept”* (1966), *“Problems of Child Psychology”* (1980), *“Soviet-Armenian Psychology. Selected Pages”* (1988), *“Psychological Etudes”* (1991). He has participated in international scientific conferences. He was a highly esteemed professor in the Motherland, he was awarded the “Medal of Labor Valor,” the “St. Sahak and St. Mesrop” medal and others. A Scientific library after H. Toutounjian is functioning at the Urartu University.

PSYCHIATRISTS

Garegin Amadian (b. 1888, Yerznka). He graduated from the Ketronakan School in Constantinople, then from the Mourad Rafaelian School in Venice. He has received his professional education at the Medical Faculty of the Lausanne University (Switzerland). He was a renowned physician in Cairo. He repatriated in 1948 and worked in Yerevan at the Psychiatric Clinic. He was the first repatriate physician to support a dissertation and to be awarded the degree of a candidate in Medical

Sciences. He is the author of numerous scientific papers, which deal not only with medicine, but also with the history of the Armenian Genocide. His collection of poems has been published in Paris.

Massis Amadian (b. 1932, Cairo). He graduated from the Yerevan State Medical Institute after M. Heratsi. The son has continued his father's, Garegin Amadian's specialty and has defended, in Moscow, his doctoral thesis in the branches of biochemistry, pharmacology and psychiatry. He has worked in Yerevan, at the Institute of Fine Organic Chemistry after A. Mnjoyan. He is the author of a great number of scientific papers concerning psychiatry and radiological biochemistry.

PHYSICIANS

Poghos Shamlian (b. 1900, Cairo). He was Head Physician at the French Hospital in Cairo. He was repatriated in 1946 with the Armenian-Lebanese people. He was well-known in Yerevan as a professional surgeon.

Gevorg Arslanian (b. 1925, Cairo). He has graduated with flying colors from the Yerevan State Medical Institute; he has worked as a surgeon and Head-surgeon in Meghri, then he moved to Moscow where he worked at the Arabic Section of the TASS information agency. He has published the "Russian-Latin-Arabic trilingual Medical Dictionary" with the participation of Professor N. Aslanian.

Zaven Dolabjian (b. 1928, Alexandria). A highly-esteemed and meritorious Egyptian-Armenian repatriate, cardiologist, doctor-professor; he is the author of numerous scientific papers and monographs, as well as of belles-lettres literature. He was Head of Department at the Institute of Cardiology after L. Hovhannissian; a member of the editorial board of the authoritative medical publication in the USA, a member of the International Cardiological Association. He has been elected thrice a deputy of the Supreme Council of the Armenian SSR and a member of the presidency (1972).

Noubar Aslanian (b. 1931, Cairo). He graduated with flying colors from the Yerevan State Medical Institute, then he has worked as a physician at the hospital of the Kouchak village near Aparan. Subsequently, he has defended his doctoral dissertation in Yerevan and awarded the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences. He has been Head of the Chair of Diagnosis at the National Public Health Institute, professor at the YSMI, of the Chair of Clinical Biochemistry of his conception. He is the founder of the scientific trend of Chronobiology and Chronomedicine in Armenia. He was Head of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at the Institute of Cardiology in Yerevan, Head of the Chair at the YSMI. He was also a lecturer at the YSMI and at the different universities. He is the author of more than 500 scientific papers and several monographs. He has participated in international scientific conferences. He has imparted professional knowledge to numerous physicians and doctors

Alice Levonian (b. 1932, Cairo). She graduated from the YSMI, she worked as a surgeon at the Yerevan Clinical Hospital № 3.

Noyemi Hovhannissian (b. 1932, Cairo). She graduated from the YSMI. She has worked as a pediatrician at the Nor-Aresh Children's Hospital in Yerevan.

Voskan Bahlavian (b. 1938, Alexandria). Doctor-professor in Medical Sciences, a well-known cardiologist. Head of the Department of Cardiology at the "St. Grigor Lousavorich" Medical Center in Yerevan. He is the author of about 30 scientific papers.

Edward Svajian (b. 1941, Cairo). Doctor-professor. He has worked as an anesthesiologist in Moscow.

Anahit Vardanian (b. 1944, Alexandria). She graduated from YSMI. She has worked as a gynecologist at the Maternity Hospital № 2 in Yerevan.

Azat Poghikian (b. 1951, Cairo). Candidate of Medical Sciences. Cardiologist. He has worked at the Institute of Cardiology after L. Hovhannissian.

ARABISTS

Hakob Nalbandian (b. 1890, Constantinople). He has been a highly respected Headmaster at the Galoustian National School in Cairo and at the Poghossian National School in Alexandria. He was repatriated in 1947 and was admitted to work at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He is the first repatriate to defend his dissertation in Arabic Philology and to be awarded the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences. The theme of his thesis was *"Armenia in the period of Arab invasions"* (1956). He has published also the study *"The Arab policemen in Armenia"* (1958) and posthumously his work *"The Arab sources about Armenia and the neighboring countries"* (1965) was published by the Publishing House of the National Academy of Sciences.

Vaghinak Biurat (b. 1913, Constantinople). He is the son of the writer Smbat Biurat and the first lecturer of Arabic language at the Yerevan State University. He was also engaged in translation.

Hrach Gaboujian (b. 1926, Cairo). He graduated from the YSU, where he was the student of the academician Hrachia Ajarian and continued his studies at the Moscow State University after Lomonossov. He has been a lecturer in Arabic language, then Head of the Chair and Dean of the Institute of Oriental Studies. He has participated in international scientific conferences and was decorated with the "People's Friendship" medal. He lives in Moscow.

Aram Ter-Ghevondian (b. 1928, Cairo). Doctor in Historical Sciences, professor. He graduated from the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the YSU. He has worked at the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA). From 1981 to 1988, he was Head of Department at the Institute of Oriental Studies of NAS RA. His scientific researches concern the medieval Armenian-Arab political and cultural relations: *"The Arab Emirates in Bagratid Armenia"* (1965), *"Armenia and the Arab Caliphate"* (1977, in Russian). He has translated the series of the publication *"The Foreign sources about Armenia and the Armenians."* He has published the work *"Ibn Al-Assir"* (1981). He has translated into New Armenian

Language, written a preface and commentaries and published Agathangelos' *"History of the Armenians"* (1983), Ghevond's *"History"* (1982). He has been an Honorary Member of the Institute of History of the Syrian Academy of Sciences, an associate member of the Tiberian Academy of Rome (1996). He is the husband of Seda Devejian, a repatriate from Lebanon, an archaeologist. He is the father of the present Director of the Museum Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran" after M. Mashtots, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Vahan Ter-Ghevondian.

Haroutyun Zhamkochian (b. 1932, Siouf, Alexandria). He has first graduated from the YSU and subsequently he has continued his studies at the Leningrad State University. He has lectured at the Faculty of Oriental Studies. He is a Doctor of Historical Sciences and a lecturer of Arabic language.

LECTURERS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL HEADMASTERS

Zarouhi Svazlian (b. 1929, Alexandria). She was repatriated in 1947. She graduated from the German Department of the State Institute of Foreign Languages after V. Bryussov (YSIFL) in Yerevan. She lectured on German language at the same Institute. She was awarded the title of a docent. She has published textbooks for the higher classes of the secondary schools of Armenia (Co-authors: Artashes Tiratsian, Manoush Haroutyunian and Dora Sakayan). She has published the German reading-book *"Das Karoussel."*

Aram Barlezizian (b. 1937, Cairo). He graduated from the YSU, he is a Doctor in Philology, professor. He is a lecturer on French Language at the YSIFL and the Head of the Chair. He is the author of 45 scientific papers and 3 monographs, concerning the Armenian-French linguistic relations.

Sona Hovhannissian (b. 1938, Cairo). She graduated from the Romanic-German Philological Faculty of the YSU; she has given lectures on French language at the YSU and at the Yerevan Institute of National Economy (YINE). She is the author of a number of textbooks and also of the *"French-Armenian-Russian trilingual Economic Dictionary."*

Perj Tyourabian (b. 1947, Cairo). He was repatriated to Armenia with his family in 1964. He graduated from the French Section of the Romano-German Philological Faculty of the Yerevan State University. With a high artistic taste he has translated more than a dozen Charles Aznavour songs from the French into the Armenian language and also performs these songs with a peculiar and fascinating charm both in Armenian and French languages.

Levon Galemkerian (b. 1907, Ayntap). He has graduated from the Theological Seminary in Athens and subsequently from the American University in Beirut. He has founded in Calcutta the Armenian Philanthropic Seminary and the Art-Lovers' union in Cairo. He has taught the English Language in the Cairo schools, then also in the schools of Leninakan (Gyumri). He is the author of *"The Child's education at Home"* (1934, Cairo) and of *"The story of the Calcutta Armenian Philanthropic Seminary"* (unpublished).

Hayk Voskerchian (b. 1919, Alexandria). He is the son of the Rev. Father Haykazoun. He graduated from the Haykazian School, then he received a higher English education. In 1947, he repatriated alone to Armenia. He has been a lecturer on English language at the YSU and the Yerevan State Conservatory after Komitas. He has authored the first *“Armenian-English Phrase book”* in Armenia (1965). For many years, he has conducted on the Television of Armenia the newly created courses in English language, which were interrupted in 1968, when he emigrated to France.

Alice Ardsrouni (Porter) (b. 1920, Alexandria). She has graduated from the local Banat-el-Ashraf Egypto-English college. She has worked in Egypt at the Targmanchats (Translators’) School, founded by her father, as a teacher of English language. Following the repatriation of the family, she has worked in Yerevan at the School after Telman and has given private lessons to the high-ranking officials and to their children.

Aram Inejian (b. 1927, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1963. He graduated from the YSIFL. He was the Headmaster of the secondary school № 139 with an English language bias. At the same school, his brother **Gegham** and his wife **Astghik** have taught English language, while his brother **Sargis** has taught English at the school № 114 with an English language bias.

Alice Poghikian (b. 1926, Cairo). She was repatriated in 1963. With her skillful knowledge of the English language she was admitted to the Yerevan Secondary School with an English language bias after Y. Charents, where, together with her daughter, Astghik Poghikian-Kovkassian, and, implementing new and interesting methods of teaching, has significantly raised the level of teaching of the English language, thereby providing the Motherland with experienced specialists.

Astghik Poghikian-Kovkassian (b. 1945, Cairo). She was repatriated in 1963. She graduated from the English language section of YSIFL. She has taught English at the secondary school with an English language bias after Y. Charents in Yerevan.

Noubar Hovhannissian (b. 1930, Cairo). He graduated from the English Department of the Romanic-German Philology Faculty of the YSU. He was a lecturer at the YSIFL. He is the author of 3 textbooks, the *“ABC Book,” “My English Textbook”* and *“English.”*

Ani Tsoulikian (Tashjian) (b. 1947, Cairo). She graduated from the YSIFL. She has lectured on English language at the same institute.

Atken Armenian (b. 1944, Cairo). He graduated from the English school in Heliopolis, then from the oil-engineering department of the London University. He has worked as an oil-engineer in Edmonton, Canada, and subsequently has graduated from the Alberta University and defended his thesis entitled: *“The teaching of foreign languages in Armenia.”* He was the Headmaster of the French school in Toronto. In 1992, he moved to Armenia. He was the Dean of the Extension Courses at the American University of Armenia (AUA) and was the Director of the office dealing with the Student Problems, but he passed away after a short time.

Hakob Tsoulikian (b. 1942, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1963 and graduated from the YSIFL. He lectured on English language at the same institute, he was also a senior lecturer in AUA. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the “Azg” weekly and a translator of foreign languages.

Armenak Nshanian (Zhano) (b. 1930, Cairo). He graduated from the Artistic section of the Yerevan Art-Theatrical Institute (YATI). He has lectured on foreign languages at the Yerevan State Conservatory. He is the husband of the opera singer Anna Papazian-Nshanian. He passed away in Yerevan.

POLITICIANS

Sargis Ekmekjian (b. 1928, Cairo). He graduated from the Yerevan State Pedagogical Institute (YSPI) after Kh. Abovian. Subsequently, he graduated also from the post-graduate course of the Leningrad University. For over 30 years he worked at the Arabic section of TASS (Moscow) and enjoyed great authority at the Arabic Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

Haroutyun Tatourian (b. 1928, Zakazik). He graduated from the YSU; he has worked several years in Iraq at the Russian Embassy as a translator. He has lectured then at the YSU and filled the job of an editor and announcer of Arabic programs at the Radio Committee of ArmSSR.

ECONOMISTS

Vahé Gapoujian (b. 1930, Cairo). He has graduated with flying colors from the Faculty of Economics of the YSU. He has defended his thesis under the guidance of the renowned economist Z. Bashindjaghian and was awarded the scientific title of candidate and of docent. He has lectured at the YSU, subsequently he was nominated Deputy-Chancellor in Educational Affairs and later, first Deputy-Minister of Higher and Secondary Education of the ArmSSR. He is the first repatriate in a similar office.

Hakob Terounian (b. 1931, Alexandria). He has attended the Lycée Français in Alexandria. He was repatriated in 1947 and he graduated with flying colors from the Faculty of Economics of the YSU, simultaneously studying at the Yerevan State Conservatory; he successfully graduated, being qualified as an opera singer. He was entrusted, as an exclusive economist, with the responsible posts of the Head of the administration of the Central Bank of Armenia, Chairman of the Social Bank of Housing and a member of the Council of the Association of the Banks of Armenia.

BIOLOGISTS

Poghos Svajian (b. 1900, Constantinople). He received his elementary education in Constantinople, then, in 1930, he graduated from the Berlin Medical University. He has given lectures on biology and zoology at the Cairo American University (CAU). From 1948 he was a senior scientific worker at the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He is the first candidate in Biological Sciences of Armenia. He

is the first candidate in Biological Sciences, who has studied the pathogenic organism of bilharzia in small cattle and has defended his doctor's thesis in English, in Moscow. He has given lectures on biology at the Pedagogical Institute in Kirovakan (Vanadzor).

Gegham Barseghian (b. 1926, Alexandria). He graduated from the Yerevan Medical Institute; he is a doctor-professor. He was a lecturer at the Institute of Veterinary Medicine and cattle-breeding and Head of the Chair of Natural Sciences. He is the first scientist in Armenia who has referred to the biochemical role of colamine. He has been Head of the Chair at the Yerevan Pedagogical Institute.

CHEMISTS

Norayr Beylerian (b. 1929, Cairo). He graduated from the YSU in 1953. He is a longtime doctor-professor at the Faculty of Chemistry of the YSU, Head of the Chair of Physical and Colloid Chemistry (1976-2000), simultaneously, the scientific leader of the laboratory of the Kinetic problems of polymerization processes; later, Honorary Head of the Chair. He has studied the kinetics and mechanism of the radical chain reactions in liquids in the presence of peroxides, the kinetic correlations of polymerization and the transformation of the surface of inorganic oxides under the influence of laser, gamma- and X-rays. Doctor of Chemical Sciences (1975), professor (1977). He is the author of more than 700 scientific papers and 30 patents, published in the various countries of the world, and of a number of university textbooks. He is a member of the International Academy of Ecologists (1996), a member of the Armenian branch of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (1998), an Academician of the Engineering Academy of the Republic of Armenia (2010), a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Europe (2011), he has been four times awarded the title of "Man of the Year" of the American Biographical Institute (1998, 2008, 2010 and 2011). He has trained numerous high-quality specialists, 51 candidates and 7 doctor-professors of Chemical Sciences, among them 4 heads of the chair. He has been awarded the title of Honored Scientist of the Higher School of the ArmSSR and a number of medals. He has been the Chairman of the Society of Cultural Relations between Armenia and Egypt.

Tigran Tsoulikian (b. 1931, Cairo). He graduated from the Pharmaceutical Faculty of the Alexandria University. He was repatriated in 1964. He has studied the original medicinal plants of the various regions of Armenia and has published 4 scientific papers. From 1975-1992, he was Head of the Scientific Information Department at the Institute of Fine Organic Chemistry after A. Mnjoyan and has formed an *"Informative catalog of universal data on medicinal drugs,"* pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacology. In those years, when the Internet was not yet available, the Catalog was of great service for the scientific workers of 46 institutions of Armenia and the Soviet Union. For these services, he was awarded an "Honor Diploma" in 1977, in Moscow, during the international exhibition "Chemistry-77," where he represented the medicinal products manufactured in Armenia, in various foreign languages. From 1993-2010, he was entrusted with the post of the Director of the Benevolent office at the Araratian

Patriarchal Diocese in Yerevan for the sponsorship of orphan children (as a result of the Spitak earthquake, during the liberation of Artsakh and other orphans). During the 18 years of his being in office, he has distributed financial aid amounting to about 6 million US dollars to 10 thousand Armenian orphans thanks to the munificence of the devout members of the foreign Dioceses of the Armenian Apostolic Church, as well as of German, Belgian, Dutch, British and other benevolent organizations and individuals by maintaining correspondences in foreign languages with them. Highly appraising his longtime faultless service, the Catholicos of All Armenians, Garegin II, has conferred a "Papal Bull of Blessing" on him. During his service at the Diocese, he has translated into English my (the author of these lines) voluminous books about the Armenian Genocide and of other nature, whose level of classical English has been highly appreciated abroad. He is, at present, the Chairman of the Society of Cultural Relations between Armenia and Egypt.

PHYSICISTS, MATHEMATICIANS

Vanik Ajemian (b. 1927, Cairo). He graduated from the Yerevan Polytechnical Institute (YPI) after K. Marx; he has worked at the Yerevan Research Institute of Mathematical Machines as Head of the Department. He is one of the first authors in the USSR of the "NAIRI" computer, working with a high level language and microprogramming. He is also one of the first main designers of the powerful "YeS" computers. He is the co-author of the book *"YeS-1030 electronic calculator"* published in Moscow, in 1977. He was awarded silver and bronze medals. He has been the Chairman of the Society of Cultural Relations between Armenia and Egypt.

Onik Piroumian (b. 1931, Cairo). He graduated from the YSU and completed his post-graduate studies in Leningrad. He is one of the first people in Armenia, who specialized in the field of mathematical programming.

Hovsep Asmarian (b. 1934, Cairo). He graduated from the Leninakan branch of the YPI. During the years 1967-1993, he was the engineer of the Yerevan "Electron" factory, which enjoyed great authority in the whole USSR; he then became the deputy-chief constructor of the same factory.

Karo Ispirian (b. 1935, Alexandria). He graduated from the YSU; he is a doctor of Physico-mathematical Sciences, professor. He has worked at the Institute for Physical Research (IPR) of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia under the scientific leadership of A. Alikhanian. His works refer to the theoretical and experimental problems of quantum electrodynamics of the formation of photons during transitional radiation. He is a well-known and appreciated specialist. He has participated in international scientific conferences in different countries.

Vardges Gaboujian (b. 1936, Cairo). He graduated from the Faculty of Physics of the YSU; subsequently he has continued his studies at the Moscow State University after Lomonossov and was awarded the title of Doctor-Professor. He has published scientific papers relating to the semi-conductor physics and microelectronics. He has 4

patents. He was rewarded with the badge of “Inventor of USSR” and with the medals of “Labor Veteran” and “In commemoration of the 850th Anniversary of Moscow.”

Perj Tokatlian (b. 1938, Cairo). He graduated from the Swiss Technological Institute in Cairo and was qualified as an engineer, electrician and a specialist in radio-electronics. He was repatriated with his family to Armenia, in 1963. He has worked at the “Stroymashina” factory in Leninakan (now: Gyumri) and, subsequently, at the “Hayhastots” factory in Yerevan as a chief specialist. He has created a number of precision metal-cutting lathes supplied with an “electronic brain,” which were much in demand in the various towns of the Soviet Union, then – also of the Russian Federation, as well as abroad.

ENGINEERS

More than 30 Egyptian-Armenian repatriates have graduated with flying colors from the Yerevan Polytechnical Institute (YPI) and have worked at the various factories in Yerevan as competent and devoted engineers and many of them have held high responsible positions.

Noubar Jrnazian (b. 1931, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1948. He graduated from the YPI. He held responsible posts as an engineer, among them the principal technologist of the Electro-mechanical Engineering Factory in Yerevan.

Noubar Bayramian (b. 1945, Cairo). He graduated from the Mechanical Faculty of the Leninakan branch of YPI. He has worked at the Yerevan Watch factory as the Deputy Head of the Automation and Mechanization Department; subsequently he has worked at the “Almast” factory as Deputy Shop superintendent.

Grigor Chakmakchian (b. 1935, Cairo). He graduated from the Architectural Faculty of the YPI as well as from the Conductor’s Section of the YSC. He has worked as an architect.

GEOLOGISTS

Yervand Cherkezian (b. 1919, Adana). He has studied at the Poghossian National School in Alexandria, at the Galoustian National School in Cairo and at the Melkonian School in Cyprus. He was repatriated in 1948. He has taught geography for 50 years at various schools in Yerevan; he published a *“Textbook of Geography.”* He was awarded the high title of “Honored Teacher.”

Hakob Krkeyan (b. 1927, Zakazik). He graduated from the Yerevan State Pedagogical Institute (YSPI). He has worked at the Editorial office of the Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia. He is a lecturer on Geography at the YSU, a doctor-professor. He is the author of a number of geographical dictionaries, handbooks and textbooks.

Abraham Gyonjian (b. 1931, Alexandria). He studied at the local Lycée Français, then he graduated from the Egyptian Higher Institute of Agriculture. He was repatriated in 1962. He has worked as a Deputy Head of the Municipal Construction Administration in Leninakan and has lectured at the Leninakan Field-crop cultivating technical college.

In the years 1969-1972, he worked at the Institute of Geophysics and Engineering Seismology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, where he was Head of the Chair 1976-1982. He was Head of the Chair of Thermotechnics and Hydraulics. He was an English translator at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia. He is the author of a number of scientific papers.

Sargis Sargissian (b. 1934, Cairo). He graduated from the YSU. He has worked at the Institute of Geology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. He has a considerable contribution in the study and processing of the copper and molybdenum mines spread out across the southern provinces of Armenia. He has a number of scientific works. Apart from his specialty, he has published a Dictionary (including 6,000 words) of French loan words introduced into the Russian language with their Armenian equivalents (1997).

Aram Ohanian (b. 1945, Cairo). He graduated as a geologist from the YSU. He was fascinated by mountaineering. He has discovered a new mountain pass in the Pamir Mountains and named it Sassoun. While rescuing the life of his five friends during a blizzard, he seriously injured his head and passed away.

CHOIR-MASTERS

Hayk Frounjan (b. 1924, Alexandria). He has continued his studies at the Zharangavorats Seminary in Jerusalem. He was repatriated in 1947. He graduated from the Choirmaster Section of the YSC after Komitas. He has worked at the Gevorgian Seminary of the Holy See of Edjmiadsin; he has lectured on music and has directed the Choir. Subsequently, he has worked at the Radio Committee of Armenia.

Grigor Sandaljian (b. 1933, Alexandria). He has graduated from the YSC. Until his serious illness, he has been the leader of the State Opera Chorus for several years.

Karo Chalikian (b. 1946, Cairo). He successfully graduated from the YPI, however, his great love for Armenian music has induced him to continue his studies also at the YSC. He was the skillful leader of the Chorus of the Writers' Union of Armenia. He has performed with his group in Armenian-spirited concerts. He is better known as a specialist to explore the Armenian musical notations. In that field, he has published a valuable work.

MUSICIANS

Tagouhi Aramian (b. 1912, Cairo). She graduated from the Galoustian National School (GNS) in Cairo, then the Bologna Conservatory in Italy. From 1947-1983, she worked at the Yerevan Musical School after Tchaikovsky; she was a longtime, highly respected piano teacher. She has been awarded the title "Honored Teacher of the ArmSSR." She is the wife of the editor of the "Arev" newspaper, Hakob Aramian.

Hakob Sandaljian (b. 1930, Alexandria). He graduated from the YSC and there he has taught violin. He is a candidate in Musicology, a docent. He has trained a number of specialists.

Armenouhi Svazlian (b. 1943, Alexandria). She was repatriated with her family in 1947. She graduated from the piano and music theory sections of YSC. She has given lectures at the YSC and the YSU, also by radio and published articles on the theme of the art of Komitas, Grigor Narekatsi and Sayat-Nova. She has worked at the Musical School after A. Tigranian as a piano teacher. She has accompanied her brothers, and they have performed in trio Armenian-spirited songs.

Zhirayr Svazlian (b. 1945, Alexandria). He was repatriated with his family in 1947. He graduated from the violin section of the YSC. He has worked at the Opera and Ballet National Academic Theater after Al. Spendiarian in Yerevan and subsequently at the Opera and Ballet Theater orchestra in San-Francisco.

Zohrap Svazlian (b. 1945, Alexandria). He was repatriated in 1947 with his family. He graduated from the musical school after P. Tchaikovsky and then from the Cello Section of the YSC. He has worked at the Orchestra of the Radio Committee of Armenia as a cellist; he has participated with his sister, Armenouhi, in the Competition of the Transcaucasian musicians in Tbilisi (1965), as well as, during his student years, he has accompanied his sister Armenouhi and his brother Zhirayr in a familial trio and played Armenian-spirited melodies.

Hrach Svajian (b. 1943, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1947. He graduated from the Violin section of YSC. In 1956, he participated, along with Gohar Gasparian, Mihran Yerkat and Arminé Toutounjian, in the festivities of the ten-day Literature and Art Festival of Armenia in Moscow. In 1965, he continued his studies in Leningrad under the leadership of B. Goudnikov and, later, he improved his art in Moscow under the guidance of D. Oistrakh. Subsequently, he founded his violin school in Canada.

Sirvard Svajian (b. 1945, Cairo). She has graduated from the piano section of the YSC. She has performed with her brother Hrach in various concerts in Yerevan.

JAZZ PLAYERS

Among the jazz players, the saxophonist **Sargis Hovakimian**, **Hayk Nalbandian**, the trumpet-player **Gevorg Otadjian**, the cellist **Nerses Abrahamian** have graduated from YSC and have performed at various concert halls.

SCULPTORS

Arto Chakmakchian (b. 1932, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1948. He graduated from the Sculptural section of the Yerevan Art-Theatrical Institute (YATI). He has worked as a scientific worker at the Art Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, then he has lectured at the YATI. He gained a high reputation for his "*Hiroshima*" sculpture, which won an International prize. The "Komitas" statue of the artist is erected in Detroit city, while his meaningful sculpture "*Renaissance*" has found its place in Montreal. In 2003, an album of his works was published.

ARTISTS-PAINTERS

Hakob Hakobian (b. 1923, Alexandria). He has studied at the Melkonian School in Cyprus, at the Higher Art Academy in Cairo and Grande-Chaumière Academy in Paris. He has participated in the International Youth and Student IV Festival (Bucharest, 1953, 2nd prize), the Modern Egyptian Art (1958) the Moscow and St. Petersburg exhibitions and the Alexandria Biennales (1959, 1961). He was repatriated in 1962. During the first period of his creative work, he has depicted miserable people with their sad life, the despondent mental state of the survivors of the Great Armenian Genocide persisting in the foreign countries. While his creations done in the Motherland are sunnier and brighter. The works of the master have found a higher resonance with the paintings *"No to the neutron bomb"* (1977), *"Sumgayit"* (1988) and the *"Memorial Stele"* (1989), which was installed on the Mount Aragats slope. He had individual exhibitions in Armenia, Russia, the USA and numerous other countries. He was awarded the State prizes of the ArmSSR (1977), of the USSR (1985) and subsequently the "All-Armenian Armenia Fund" (1994) and the "St. Mesrop Mashtots" (1996) medals. He is an associate-member of the Art Academy of the Russian Federation. His wife **Marie Hakobian** (b. 1929, Cairo) is also an artist-painter. She has taken part in a number of exhibitions in Yerevan and St. Edjmiadsin. Their daughter **Nora** (b. 1951, Cairo) graduated from the Architectural Faculty of the Polytechnical Institute in Yerevan and has worked in that field.

Aida Boyajian (b. 1932, Cairo). She was repatriated in 1948. A graduate of the YATI, the talented artist-painter is the author of numerous pictorial creations. She has organized individual exhibitions not only in Armenia, but also in the various cities of the USSR and abroad. Her contribution is particularly great to the field of the illustration of books (creations of about 30 Armenian and foreign authors' illustrations). Noteworthy are especially the character illustrations of Hovhannes Toumanian's fairy tales.

Nerses Pidsakian (b. 1946, Cairo). He has graduated from the YSPI. He is a candidate of Biological Sciences and a member of the Painters' Union of Armenia. He has participated in numerous exhibitions, which are devoted to the Applied Arts (decorative pictures and bas-relief carvings). He was awarded the Certificate of International Competition of Flower-Arranging in Tartu (Estonia). In 2018, an exhibition of 120 of his original creations of sculpture, graphic design and applied art was inaugurated at the Tekeyan Center-Foundation in Yerevan.

HANDICRAFT

Marie Yerkat (b. 1910, Adabazar). She is the meritorious daughter of the talented Paydsar Yergat. Following her repatriation in 1947, she has worked for many years at the Yerevan Pioneer Palace, at the Yerevan Armenian Pedagogical Technical School and other educational institutions, teaching taste and decency to a great number of generations. She has lectured on the varieties of the Armenian traditional embroidery of different localities and the secrets of the French method of dress-making. She has

constantly organized exclusive exhibitions at the Yerevan House of creative popular art both of her students and of her own with dolls dressed in Armenian national costumes of various localities, with artificial flowers and other original creations.

Shaké Zoulalian (b. 1914, Constantinople). She was repatriated in 1948 from Alexandria. With her skill in needle, work and crocheting she has recreated the erstwhile traditions of the Western Armenians. The great artist Sergey Parajanov was enraptured with her handwork and decided to personally design the exhibition of her original works at the Yerevan House of Creative Popular Art (in 1987, in the days of Zaven Sargsian's directorship). Worthy of remembrance are her enormous magnificent, old-fashioned, handmade bedspread, crocheted curtains with original ornaments and other fine-spun needle-works. Mrs. Shaké has also left a bequest for the generations, namely, *"The Dishes and the Desserts of the Constantinople Armenians,"* as well as the unpublished manuscript copy-books of popular medicine *"Remedies and Means,"* which are kept at the Archives of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of NAS RA.

Aghavni (Zoulalian) Sargsian (b. 1934, Alexandria) was repatriated with her family in 1948 to Yerevan (Armenia). She has inherited from her mother the talent of fine needlework. Aghavni has studied at the Technical School of Art. She has embroidered landscape scenes and has created dolls with original national costumes peculiar to the different provinces of Western Armenia, which were mounted on the great physical map and permanently exhibited at the Sardarapat National Museum of Armenian Ethnography and History of Liberation Struggle.

LIBRARIANS

Levon Ajemian (b. 1888, Van). He received his primary education at the Kedronakan School in Constantinople. He has worked at the Kelekian Orphanage in Dyort-Yol as a senior teacher. From 1935-1940, he published 6 text-books on the History of the Armenians, in two series (concise and extensive); he also published, along with his wife, **R. Ajemian**, 2 readers: "Armenian language" for the Armenian schools of Egypt and the Middle East. He has published the periodical "Poonj" for the children and youth. In Alexandria he has organized the Armenian Student Union and has assumed its leadership. He has pleaded for the writing down and printing of "The Memoirs of Armenak Yekarian," one of the leaders of the city of Van, who had brought the heroic battle of Van to its triumphant end (1947). He has contributed to the daily newspaper "Arev" and has been its chief editor for some time. He was repatriated in 1947 and has worked at the Public Library in Yerevan, as a senior specialist.

Haroutyoun Mekerian (b. 1924, Cairo). He was repatriated in 1948. He graduated from the Philological Section of the YSU. He has worked as the manager of the Library of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He has written *"The life and activity of Mikael Gyourjian"* (unpublished).

Alice Tatoulian (b. 1926, Cairo). She was repatriated in 1948; she graduated from the Library Science Section of YSU, has worked for many years at the Central Library of

the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia as the manager of the Department of Foreign Languages.

Artemis Nalbandian (b. 1927, Alexandria). She is the daughter of the Arabist Hakob Nalbandian. She received her education at the Armenian National schools in Cairo and subsequently at the German school in Alexandria. She has taught at the Poghossian National School. She was repatriated in 1947 and with her knowledge of foreign language she worked from 1947-2002 at the Municipal Central Library after A. Issahakian in Yerevan and, in the subsequent years, as Head of the Section.

HISTORIANS

Arakel Patrik (Patriarkian) (b. 1894, Sebastia). He was a pupil of Daniel Varouzhan at the School in Sebastia. He has founded a school in Yevdokia. He was miraculously rescued from the Armenian Genocide. In 1920, he attended the courses of Art at the Academies after Leonardo da Vinci in Milan and Grande-Chaumière in Paris. Starting from 1925, he taught the art of painting at the National Schools in Cairo and at the Melkonian School in Cyprus. In 1937, he founded in Cairo "The Union of the Friends of Armenian Art." He is the first ethnographer repatriated from Egypt, who has worked for long years at the State Museum of the History of Armenia. He is the author of "*Armenian costume of the XIX-XX centuries*" (1967) colored album of an exclusively high value, in which the pictures and the scientific information belong to the author. He has also published the voluminous and valuable twin books of "*History-book and Memorial-Register of the Armenians of Sebastia and its province*" (Vol. 1, 1974; Vol. 2, 1983), "*The Needlework of Urha*" (1985), "*Daniel Varouzhan in my reminiscences*" (1965), the play "*Sayat-Nova*" (1942), which won a literary prize in Cairo, "*Ardsvik*" (1968), which earned the Tekeyan Union prize in Beirut, "*The Komitas Drama*" (1986), the study of "*The art of the Armenian Khachkars (cross-stones)*" (unpublished).

Noubar Ter-Mikayelian (b. 1917, Cairo). He graduated from the Berberian School in Cairo, then from the English section of the American University in Cairo. He was repatriated in 1947. From 1948-1967, he worked at the Holy See of Edjmiadsin as the Secretary of Catholicos His Holiness Vazgen I and His Holiness Garegin I, and, subsequently, as Deputy Chancellor and Head of the Manuscript Department. He is the author of numerous monographs, among them "*Notable Armenian people*," "*The Egyptian-Armenian colony in the 16-18th centuries*," etc. He was awarded the Papal Bull by the Catholicos H. H. Garegin I and the St. Sahak-St. Mesrop medal.

Arminé Kyoshkerian (b. 1932, Alexandria). She was repatriated in 1947. She graduated from the English Section of the Romanic-German Philological Faculty of the YSU. She has worked at the Old Manuscript Scientific Research Institute after Mashtots in Yerevan. She has defended her thesis in the theme of "*Depositary Collections*." She has published articles concerning the Medieval Armenian Literature.

Aghavni Zhamkochian (b. 1935, Siouf, Alexandria). She was repatriated in 1948 and graduated from the Faculty of History of the YSU. She is a candidate of Historical

Sciences. She works at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the NAS RA. For years on end, she devoted herself to the study of Medieval Archaeology, particularly with the excavations of Dvin. She has published *“The Pottery of Medieval Armenia IX-XIV centuries”* (1981) and separate reports on the excavations of Dvin.

FOLKLORIST-GENOCIDEOLOGIST

Verjiné Svazlian (b. 1934, Alexandria). She is the daughter of the writer, public figure and caricaturist **Garnik Svazlian**. She was repatriated in 1947. She has graduated with flying colors from the Yerevan Pedagogical Institute after Kh. Abovian. She has worked at the Institute of Literature after M. Abeghian of the NAS RA, as well as at the Museum-Institute of the Armenian Genocide. Up to the present day she is working at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the NAS RA. She has studied *“The life and activity of the folklorist-ethnographer Sargis Haykouni”* (1973). She has compiled and published the volumes of the “Armenian popular fairy-tales”: *“Artsakh-Outik”* (1973), *“Taron-Tourouberan”* (1984) and *“Van-Vaspourakan”* (1998). She has written down audio- and video-recorded and investigated the multifarious relics of the popular folklore of the Armenians of Western Armenia and Cilicia in the different dialects of their cradle: *“Moussa Dag”* (1984), *“Cilicia. The Oral traditions of the Western Armenians”* (1994), *“The Folklore of the Armenians of Constantinople”* (2000), *“Armenia”* (The Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife. USA, 2006, Vol. 2), the voluminous review about Armenians from the ancient times up to now, *“Relics of the Oral Tradition of the Armenians of Russia (Rostov-on-Don and Pyatigorsk)”* and *“The Oral Traditions of the Armenians of America in the Course of Time”* (in press); she has also saved from a total loss the memoirs and historical songs of the eyewitness-survivors of the Armenian Genocide: *“Great Genocide. Oral Evidences of the Western Armenians”* (1995), *“The Armenian Genocide in the Memoirs and Turkish-language Songs of the Eyewitness-Survivors”* (1997-1999), *“The Armenian Genocide and the People’s Historical Memory”* (2003-2005), *“The Armenian Genocide. Testimonies of the Eyewitness Survivors”* (2000, 2011, 2013), *“The Heroic Battle of Moussa Dag. Testimonies of the Eyewitness-Survivors”* (2015). The genocideological volumes have been translated into Russian, French, English, German, also into the Turkish language (the latter has been published in Istanbul). She has given numerous reports in international scientific conferences, which were later translated into different languages. She is a doctor, professor and an Honored Scientist of the Republic of Armenia. Nearly all of her original works have been awarded a great number of national and foreign prizes and Gold medals. For the remarkable contribution to the acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide, she was awarded the Republic of Armenia’s President’s First Prize in Genocideology and the Gold Medal.

This retrospective review, which includes the contribution of more than 140 Egyptian-Armenians to the Motherland would have been incomplete if we did not mention the participation of our compatriots, the Egyptian-Armenians, also in the

process of the creation of post-Soviet history, when several of them sacrificed their young lives.

Indeed, the pilot son of the repatriate from Egypt, the English translator, **Vahé Dishchekienian, Arsen**, as well as the son of **Zareh Zhamkochian** were killed in action in the heroic battle of Artsakh.

A major contribution is **Movses Gorgissian's** (1961-1990) devotion to the Motherland (he was the son of the repatriated from Egypt, in 1947, **Gevorg Gorgissian**). The valiant son, Movses was a political figure, publicist, one of the leaders of the Karabakh movement. His motto was: *"People belong to a nation only when they serve that nation..."* and *"Long live that Armenia, which will come tomorrow!"* Movses Gorgissian was killed in action during the Artsakh (Karabakh) heroic battle. He was commander of a company. He was awarded the highest title of "National Hero."

* * *

Undoubtedly, it was impossible to condense in limited pages the zeal and enthusiasm displayed by the thousands of senior and junior Egyptian-Armenian repatriates, their diligence and devotion, such high volitional features, which could not escape even the local population's and the authorities' attention, deserving encouragement and appreciation, since the new comers, hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with the local inhabitants were engaged, with everyday effort and exertion, in creating the new Motherland...

My ears are still ringing with the harmonious melody of our stonemasons' hammer strokes gradually creating the majestic buildings of the central square of our beloved capital Yerevan; these buildings, with their original Armenian high relief ornaments, have become a petrified symphony which even the foreigners admire...

It is with the conjoint strain of the mind and the exertion of the arms of countless architects and constructors that were built our today's bridges and huge electric power stations, our newly founded towns and villages symbolizing the names of our one-time appropriated cradle, our tufa-built rose-tinted Armenia, on the constantly erecting wall of which every Armenian's sacred duty is to add a stone...

Conclusion

In conclusion, we should point out that during our study it was impossible to refer to all the 4,500 Egyptian-Armenian repatriates separately, since there are many among them, who have received their professional education and training in Armenia and have contributed with their knowledge to the progress of the Motherland, hence we have presented only those exceptional individuals (more than 140 people, only 3% of the total number), who, with their unreserved devotion have, in the various spheres (over 40) of public life, put their knowledge and ability in the service of the Motherland and have been awarded scientific and other high degrees, state and international medals and prizes and, with their exceptional successes have greatly furthered the prosperity of Mother Armenia.

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