

S.K.C.

ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION

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Registered under Act XXI of 1860

Armenian Association

ESTABLISHED—1939



Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts

Silver Jubilee
1939-64

SKC

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ARM

ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION

5, OUTRAM STREET,
CALCUTTA-16,
INDIA.

Established on 12th March 1939
Registered under Act XXI of 1860

Trustees :

Armenian Church, Madras.

Branches :

2, Armenian Street, Madras-1.

89, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay-1.

S—IV/362, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-16.

Representatives & Correspondents :

TEHERAN, JULFA-ISPAHAN, LONDON, ISTANBUL.

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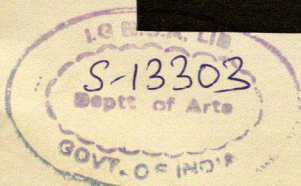
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His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch
and Catholicos of all Armenians.

SV 05



HONORARY MEMBERS

PATRON-IN-CHIEF :

His Holiness Vazgen I,
Supreme Patriarch & Catholicos of All Armenians,
ETCHMIADZIN.

PATRONS :

His Holiness Khoren I,
Catholicos of Cilicia,
ANTILIAS.

His Beatitude Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian,
Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem,
JERUSALEM.

His Beatitude Archbishop Shorkh Kalustian,
Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul,
ISTANBUL.

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HONORARY MEMBERS :

His Grace Bishop Assoghik Ghazarian,
Member, Supreme Spiritual Council,
ETCHMIADZIN.

His Grace Archbishop Mampre Sirunian,
Prelate of Armenians in Egypt,
CAIRO.

His Grace Archbishop Babken Abadian,
Delegate of His Holiness Vazgen I, in South America,
BUENOS AIRES.

His Grace Archbishop Pesak Toumayan,
Delegate of His Holiness Vazgen I, in U.K.,
LONDON.

His Grace Archbishop Serovpe Manoogian,
Delegate of His Holiness Vazgen I, in France,
PARIS.



His Holiness Khoren I, Catholicos of Cilicia Antilias, Lebanon.



His Beatitude Archbishop
Yeghishhe Derderian,
Armenian Patriarch of
Jerusalem.

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His Beatitude Arch-
bishop Shnork
Kalustian, Armenian
Patriarch of Istanbul,
Turkey.



The Right Rev. David Sahagian,
Prelate of Armenians in Lyons, France,
LYONS.

The Right Revd. Shahe Adjemian,
Brotherhood of St. James,
JERUSALEM.

Rev. Aramais Mirzaian,
Acting Prelate and Minister,
Armenian Apostolic Church in Australia and New Zealand,
SYDNEY.

Rev. Nerses S. David,
Vice-President,
Ecclesiastical Council, All-Saviours Cathedral,
JULFA-ISPAHAN.

Rev. Avetis Edgarian,
Member, Ecclesiastical Council,
All-Saviours Cathedral,
JULFA-ISPAHAN.

Rev. Pogose Petrossian, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Officiating Priest, Armenian Church,
CALCUTTA.

Rev. Aristakes Mirzaian,
Officiating Priest, Armenian Church,
ABADAN.

Rev. Vahan Gharakhanian,
C/o, All-Saviours Cathedral,
JULFA-ISPAHAN.

Rev. Mashtotz Tufenkdjian,
Officiating Priest, Armenian Church,
BOMBAY.

Dr. Rafael Aghababian,
International Jurist and Advocate,
TEHERAN.

Mr. A. M. Arathoon,
Retired Community Leader & Trustee,
CALCUTTA.

Mr. Harry A. Kuljian,
Chairman of the Board, Kuljian Corporation,
PHILADELPHIA.

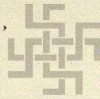
Mrs. H. A. Kuljian,
PHILADELPHIA.

Mr. Barry Zorthian,
Deputy Director, United States Information Service,
NEW DELHI.

Mrs. Margaret Zorthian,
NEW DELHI.

Mr. Matthew A. Callender,
Community Leader and Journalist,
BALDWIN N.Y. U.S.A.

Mr. Robert H. Hewsensian,
Scholar and Journalist,
WASHINGTON.



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Centre for the Arts

We regret to record the demise of the following Associate Members.

The Rev. Bagrat S. David, Madras, Rev. Khoren Kirakossian, Julfa and Mr. K. Guiragossian, New York.

NAMES OF THE FIRST COUNCIL MEMBERS 1939

The names, addresses and designations of the present Members of the Executives Committee (or Governing Body) are :—

NAME	ADDRESS	DESIGNATION
1. Gregory Avetick Arratoon	Stephen House, Dalhousie Sq.	President
2. Sarkies Martin	5, Rawdon St.	Vice-President
3. Arsham Johannes	22, Park St.	Hony. Secretary
4. Martyrose Martin	90, Cossipore Rd.	Hony. Treasurer

We, the undersigned, are desirous of forming a Society in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association.

SIGNATURE	ADDRESS & DESIGNATION OF THE SIGNATORY	NAME, ADDRESS AND DESIGNATION OF WITNESS
1. Gregory Avetick Arratoon	Merchant	N. P. Hacobian
2. Sarkies Martin	Merchant	Master of Divinity
3. Arsham Johannes	Govt. Service	Armenian College
4. Martyrose Martin	Mill Manager	Calcutta.
5. G. N. Arratoon	Merchant	
6. H. C. Arakiel	Merchant	
7. M. S. Sarkies	Merchant	

Dated this 12th day of March 1939.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1940

1.	Mr. G. A. Arratoon	...	President
2.	„ S. Martin	...	Vice-President
3.	„ A. J. Johannes	...	Hony. Secretary
4.	„ E. L. Arratoon	...	Hony. Treasurer
5.	„ N. P. Hacobian	...	Member
6.	„ Alexei C. Lucas	...	„
7.	„ H. C. Arakiel	...	„
8.	„ Martyrose Martin	...	„
9.	„ G. N. Arratoon	...	„
10.	„ N. A. Basil	...	„

Armenian Association

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

1962/64

Mr. Martyrose Martin	...	President
Mr. Lazarus Martin	...	Vice-President
Mr. Caro A. Martin	...	Honorary Secretary-General
Mr. Vahan Stephen	...	Honorary Treasurer
Mr. I. Martin	...	Honorary Secretary
Mr. Alexei C. Lucas	...	Member
Mr. Sarkies Martin	...	"
Mr. Matthew A. Agabeg	...	"
Mr. Steve Jordan	...	"

We regret to record the demise of
Mr. David C. Marcar, Member of the Council.

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MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE :

Mr. Steve Jordan	...	Convener
Mrs. Rosalie Lewis	...	Member
Mrs. Bessie Martin	...	"
Mr. Mack M. Agabeg	...	"
Mr. Mario Jordan	...	"
Mr. Caro A. Martin	...	Ex-Officio Member

BRANCHES IN INDIA AND OVERSEAS :

MADRAS	Mr. Caro Joachim	...	Honorary Secretary
BOMBAY	Dr. Aram Yehgiazarian	...	"
NEW DELHI	Mr. Joseph Nahapiet	...	"
TEHERAN	Dr. Rafael Aghababian	...	Representative
JULFA—ISPAHAN	Rev. Nerses S. David	...	"
LONDON	Lt. Col. Carapiet J. Avetoom	...	"
ISTANBUL	Mr. Ara Akinian	...	Correspondent

FIRST PRESIDENTIAL REPORT AND ADDRESS

THE ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER ACT XXI OF 1860

CALCUTTA.

29th February 1940.

Dear Members,

In presenting the report of the Council of the Armenian Association for the year 1939 together with the statement of accounts, we have to place on record that the year which has just closed has been one of considerable effort, but financially without much success, as is generally the case with most infant Associations.

It is further disappointing that the members of our community have **not yet** responded sufficiently to the appeal made to join the Association and thus **make it a** representative body of the Community. We once again appeal to all our Members to use their influence with their friends and persuade them to join the Association.

As we mentioned above we have not yet been able to achieve much in the past year, but we hope that in the future the Association will be of considerable service to our Community.

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It is essential that we should be able to build up a strong financial position so that assistance can be rendered in directions where financial aid is necessary.

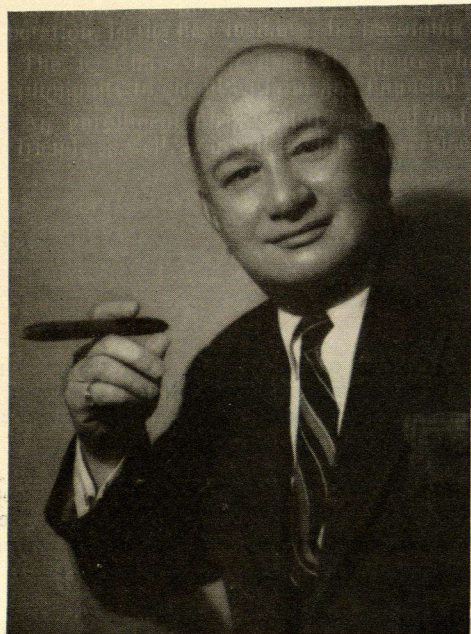
On the social side, the activities of the Association took the form of one 'Evening Social' and one 'Picnic' both of which were a success. We also organized a Tournament in which the boxing members of our Community participated, and, whereas from the boxing point of view it was a success, from the financial point of view it resulted in a slight deficit.

We have endeavoured to give as much publicity as possible of our existence to the members of our Community through the medium of the Armenian Church, the Armenian College, and the Armenian Club, and we are particularly anxious to see the older members of our Community take an interest in this Association.

It is hoped that all Members will attend the Annual General Meeting and we would appreciate any suggestions by them which will assist in the furtherance of our aims and objects.

Yours truly,

Sd/- G. A. Arratoon
PRESIDENT



The Late Mr. G. A. Arratoon
the first President of the Armenian Association. 1939-1940,

**FIRST PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL TO THE
MEMBERS OF ARMENIAN COMMUNITY
THE ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION
CALCUTTA.**

Registered under Act XXI of 1960

16th May 1939

The Members of the
Armenian Community.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take the liberty of bringing to your notice the recent formation of the "Armenian Association". Its aims and objects and rules of membership are set out in the accompanying Memorandum.

Every community has an Association to look after its interests and I am sure you will agree that the Armenian Community should not be the only one without such a representative body.

In order that the "Armenian Association" should be a body fully representative of the Community, the assistance and co-operation of every Armenian is not only desirable but most essential, and I appeal to you to render such assistance and co-operation, in the first instance, by becoming Members.

The fees have been fixed at a figure which will enable every single Member of the Community to enroll without any financial embarrassment.

An enrollment form is also enclosed and if you could enlist the co-operation of your friends as well, you will be doing a service to the Association.

Yours truly,
Sd/- G. A. Arratoon.
PRESIDENT

Mr. M. Martin's Presidential Address

At the Annual General Meeting of the Armenian Association,
held on Sunday the 15th March 1964 at No. 5, Outram Street, Calcutta.

Your Grace, Dear Members and Compatriots,

To all of you I offer my sincere thanks for attending this very important Annual Function, for it is on such days that our members and, I should add, well wishers, can come to know of what our Association has achieved during the year under review and thus be in a position to judge. The Council is indeed grateful to His Grace the Most Reverend Lakdasas Del Mel, Lord Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon for very kindly accepting our invitation for attending this evening's function, in spite of other pressing engagements. His Grace has also very kindly agreed to address this gathering.

We have been compelled to postpone this Annual General Meeting on two occasions, the first being due to the prolonged absence abroad of the Hony. Secretary-General, Mr. Caro Martin, whilst on the second occasion we had, in our midst our most beloved Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, His Holiness Vazgen I. I must leave it to the Hony. Secretary-General to give you details of our meetings and talks with His Holiness during this historic visit. Similarly, I must leave the subject matter of our Association's unique achievements during the period, to our Hony. Secretary-General, but before he delivers his address and important Report, I beg to draw your attention to the second paragraph of the Presidential Address of my predecessor in office, Mr. S. Martin (my elder brother) at the last Annual General Meeting held at this same premises on the 13th May 1962. It is worthwhile to reproduce this particular item, for nothing truer could have been said by him:

"It is most gratifying to report that since its revival some eighteen months ago, our Association has made a great headway in spite of all difficulties and we are proud of it. Nothing seems to have dampened the spirit of our members, who promise still greater achievements in time to come. This promise I can assure you is not a vague one, as the aims and objects of this our Association are deep in the hearts of all our members, and sooner or later they must bear fruit."

It is with deep sorrow that I have to record the passing away last year of our Honorary Member the Rev. Father B. S. David, our Priest at Madras and as recently as on the 23rd of last month, the untimely passing away of the late Mr. D.C. Marcar, who was a respected member of the Council of our Association. It seems strange but it is true, that since India achieved Independence, we are meeting with difficulties in replacing Priests who retire or depart by death but such difficulties are slowly being overcome. An incident worth mentioning here occurred last month, when an elderly lady, a member of our small community at Madras, seriously ill, telegraphed to us for "HOLY COMMUNION" which our Rev. Father Petrossian supplied in a small bottle with wine. I had the same posted to Madras. I am glad to report, that on partaking of this Holy Communion the ailing lady felt much better and was stated to be out of danger for the time being.

I now request Mr. I. Martin, the Hony. Secretary to read all messages received in Armenian and Mr. S. Jordan member of our Council to read all messages in English: Thereafter Mr. Caro A. Martin the Hony. Secretary-General will deliver his address and comprehensive Report covering our Association's manifold activities.

**Address and Report by Mr. Caro A. Martin, Honorary Secretary
General, Armenian Association, at the Annual General Meeting
held on Sunday the 15th March 1964.**

Your Grace, Rev. Father, Mr. President, Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of the Armenian Association I have pleasure in welcoming you to the Annual General Meeting of the Association this evening, which happily coincides with our Silver Jubilee.

You have just heard the opening address of the President, in which he has mentioned that one of the reasons for the postponement of the Annual General Meeting of the Association was due to my absence abroad. I would like to mention that during my last travels abroad, apart from visiting Erevan and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, I also had the opportunity of visiting other Cities, where there are large Armenian Communities. I have always tried to advance the cause of the Association and strengthen our relations with the various Armenian Communities in diaspora by personal contacts. His Holiness the Catholicos was pleased to mention about my meetings and discussions at Etchmiadzin with His Holiness and other Members of the Supreme Spiritual Council during His address at the Reception held here in His honour on the 13th of December last. Nevertheless, if the postponement of the Annual General Meeting has caused any difficulties or brought about any mental burdens or anxiety to bear, I can assure you that I have, more than, shouldered my share during the past two years.

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HIS HOLINESS VAZGEN-I.

The most outstanding event since we met here last and in fact the most outstanding event in the long and chequered history of the Armenian Community in India was the historic visit of His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, accompanied by His Beatitude Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and entourage to India. Friendly relations have existed between the Syrian and Armenian Orthodox Sister Churches for a long time. We were given to understand that His Holiness Baselios II, the late Catholicos of the Syrian Orthodox Church of the East, Kottayam, had extended a personal invitation to our beloved Catholicos to visit India. We were following this question with keen interest but as matters were dragging on indecisively we were advised to contact Father Philipos of the Syrian Orthodox Church to clarify and expedite matters. We felt that it would be proper and necessary for the Armenian Community in India to extend an official invitation to His Holiness Vazgen I. At our suggestion the Wardens of our Church convened a Meeting of the various Community Organizations on the 1st February 1963. After detailed discussions it was unanimously decided by all the representatives present to extend an invitation to His Holiness on behalf of the Armenian Community in India to visit India and also to form a Reception Committee composed of Representatives from each Organization, so that necessary arrangements could be planned, and carried out in this connection. Our Association also has its representatives on the Reception Committee and we did all that was necessary to assist in making His Holiness, visit an impressive, useful and pleasant one.



Photograph taken when His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians was received by His Excellency Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President of India, at New Delhi during His Holiness' visit to India in 1963. (from L. to R.) Mr. Caro A. Martin, His Beatitude Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, The Rt. Revd. Arsen Berberian, His Excellency Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, His Holiness Vazgen I, His Grace Bishop Komitas Ter-Stepanian and The Rt. Revd. David Sahagian.

His Holiness visited London, the Holy Land and Egypt. It was at Jerusalem that the great re-conciliation and unity was forged amongst the different factions of the Armenian Apostolic Church, under the spiritual guidance and leadership of Holy Etchmiadzin, with the active participation of His Holiness Vazgen I, His Holiness Khoren I, and His Beatitude Yeghishe Derderian. It was with these glad tidings and rejoicing that had filled the hearts of hundreds of thousands of Armenians in all parts of the World, that His Holiness Vazgen I, His Beatitude Yeghishe Derderian and entourage arrived in India last November. The Reception Committee are planning to issue a detailed illustrated brochure covering His Holiness' visit to India, so we shall leave the details to them. However, the Council had several important meetings and discussions with His Holiness and also arranged a Reception in Honour of His Holiness on the 13th of December last, when an Address of Welcome and Report was delivered by our Honorary Secretary Mr. I. Martin, in Armenian. The English translation of the Address and Report is published elsewhere in this Booklet. The



Photograph of Council Members taken during the Reception given by The Armenian Association, Trustees, Armenian Church Madras in honour of His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch & Catholicos of All Armenians, on the 13th December 1963 in Calcutta. (L. to R. Sitting). Caro A. Martin, His Beatitude Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Holiness Vazgen I, Martyrose Martin, Sarkies Martin. (Standing L. to R.) A. C. Lucas, I. Martin, L. Martin, the late D. C. Marcar, S. Jordan, M. A. Agabeg and Vahan Stephen.

Reception was attended by His Beatitude Yeghishe Derderian, Members of the entourage, several other guests and our Members, when souvenirs were also presented to the beloved Vehapar and Patriarch on behalf of the Association which they graciously accepted. We received a letter from The Right Reverend David Sahagian, Chairman of the Reception Committee conveying the appreciation of His Holiness, in a telegram from New Delhi, before His Holiness' departure from India, for all arrangements which the Reception Committee had made in connection with His Holiness' visit. We also received a telegram directly from His Holiness from New Delhi and a letter of appreciation in Armenian from Etchmiadzin dated 12th January last, the telegram and an English translation of the abovementioned letter are published in this Booklet for our Members and friends.



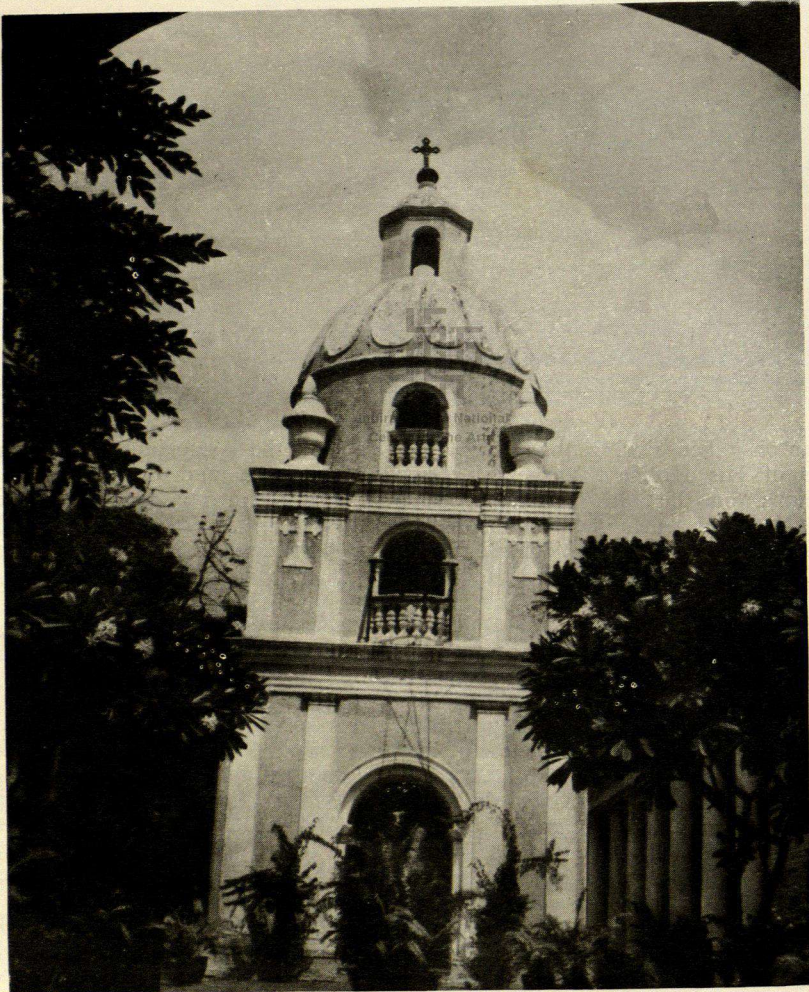
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Photograph taken during the Reception given by the Armenian Association in honour of His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, on the 13th December 1963, in Calcutta showing Council Members, their wives and other members from Calcutta, Bombay, Burnpur, etc., with His Holiness and His Beatitude Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

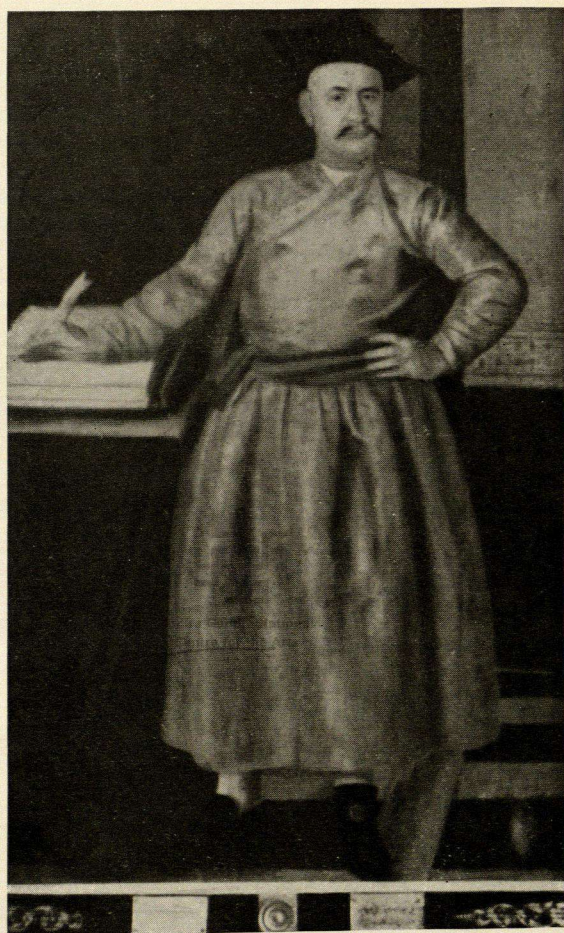
MADRAS.

I mentioned in my last Report that the Association would try and solve the Madras Church question in course of the next year. As this matter could only be taken up effectively on the spot, the Council deputed me to go to Madras in July 1962 and take all steps that would be necessary for taking over the Trusteeship of the Madras Church and Properties from Messrs. King & Partridge. Several discussions were held with the previous Trustees, and the Hon'ble Advocate-General of the Madras High Court. His Grace Bishop Ghazarian who had just returned to Madras from Australia, also joined in these discussions, which proved to be very helpful. Following my second visit to Madras in December 1962, the Hon'ble High Court of Madras considered our application, for appointing us as Trustees of the Armenian Church, Madras, along with the supporting affidavits, and the Memorandum and Rules of the Association. We have already advised you by a Circular that the Association were appointed as Trustees of the Madras Church and Properties by an

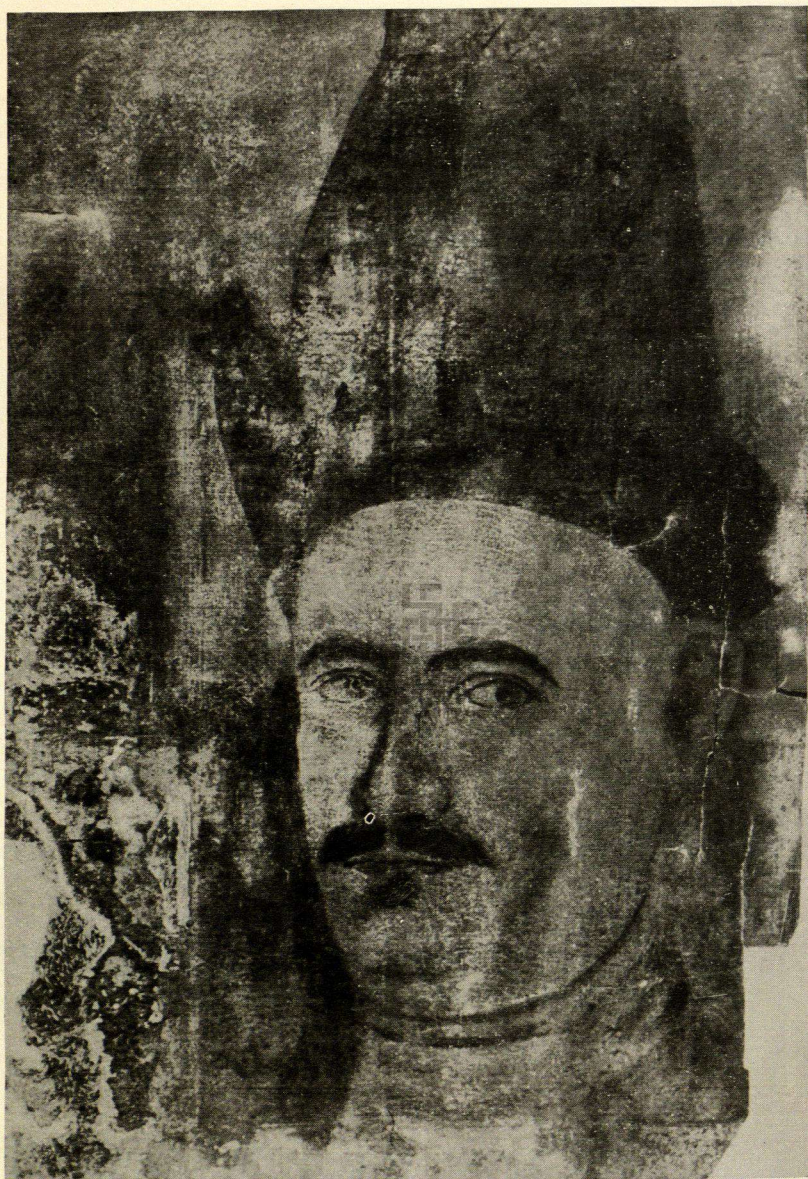
Order of the High Court of Madras on the 7th December 1962. The main factors that came into play for obtaining the abovementioned favourable decision of the High Court, were, that the Association is a registered, recognised body, with jurisdiction all over India, and it lies within its competence to take all necessary steps for protecting the interests of the Armenian Church and Community in any part of India, generally and within the context of our Bombay Church Scheme, which provides for the administration of the Church and properties at Bombay, as representatives of the Highest Ecclesiastical Authority of the Armenian Church, whenever the



The Belfry Tower, St. Mary's Armenian Church, Madras, which contains 6 beautiful bells cast in England during the 18th and 19th Centuries, which are reputed to be the biggest in Madras.

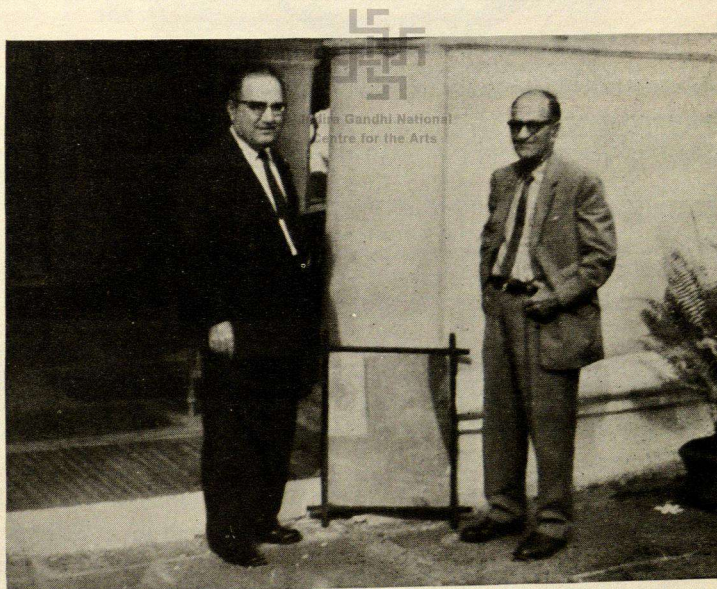


Khojah Petrus Woskan, the most eminent Armenian Merchant Prince and Benefactor of Madras. Born in 1681 at New Julfa, died on 15th January 1751 at Madras. He left considerable sums for charity and education at Madras and for his birthplace, Julfa-Inspahan. According to his wishes, his heart was carried to his birthplace, in a golden casket, after his death for interment in the Church erected there by his great grandfather, the famous Khojah Petrus Velijanian. (From an oil painting at the All-Saviours Cathedral, Julfa-Inspahan)

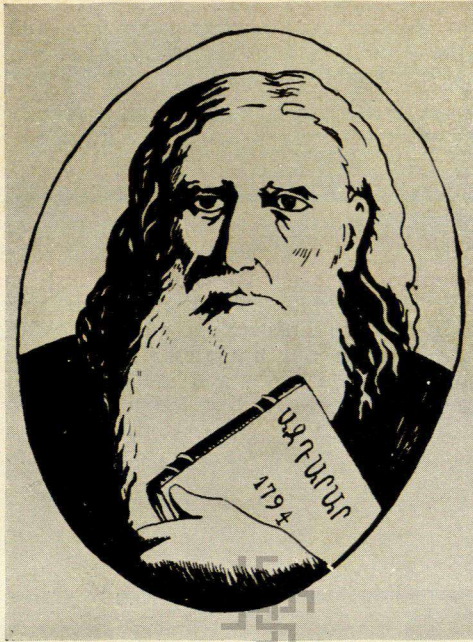


A reproduction from the remains of a life-size oil painting of Agha Shameer Sultanoomian, the Merchant Prince, great patriot and benefactor, who was born on the 4th November 1723 at New Julfa and died at Madras on the 13th June 1797. The painting was hanging in the "Shameer room" adjoining the galleries of the Armenian Church, Madras. (There are plans to repaint the same from available material and particulars contained in Mesroby J. Seth's book "Armenians in India")

members of the Community there, dwindle to five or less. Of course, I do not think it is necessary to say who and where is the highest Authority of the Armenian Church. A third visit to Madras was necessary in January 1963 for taking over the charge and control of the Church and properties from Messrs. King & Partridge and on this occasion Mr. M. A. Agabeg, a Member of our Council accompanied me at his own expense. He was very helpful in the matter of completing the formalities and attending to various other questions. The Armenian Community in Madras have been one of the most outstanding Communities in the past, not only in India but amongst the Armenian Communities in dispersion. The important role that they have played and the sacrifices that they have made, for obtaining the freedom of Armenia, their undying patriotism, their contributions in the fields of Literature, Education and Charity are already too well-known to need repetition here. We should, therefore be proud to be the successors of such illustrious and distinguished compatriots. Hence, we are not only the Trustees of the Church building and the attached properties at Madras but Trustees and guardians of the sacred traditions, patriotism and benevolence, which our predecessors and compatriots at Madras so nobly and generously maintained, achieved and handed down to succeeding generations. I am glad to say that during the period under review and specially after our success at Madras, we received several messages and letters from distinguished compatriots in India and abroad, which were very encouraging and greatly appreciated by us.



Caro A. Martin and M. A. Agabeg, in front of the "Shameer room", Armenian Church, Madras, when they went to take over the Church and properties on behalf of the Trustees, Armenian Association, from the previous Trustees Messrs. King & Partridge.



Indira Gandhi National

A sketch of Rev Arathoon Shumavoonian, Founder and Editor of the "AZDARAR" the first Armenian Journal in the World, which was published at Madras in 1794. Born at Shiraz, Iran in 1750, died at Madras on 9th February 1824.

As the Armenian Church is one of the oldest and most important landmarks in Madras, the Tourist Department of the Govt. of Madras has placed it on their list for Tourists. We have plans for making some improvements there and renovating the tombstone of Reverend Arathoon Shumavoonian, the "Father of Armenian Journalism", whose mortal remains were laid to rest in the Church yard at Madras 140 years ago. Photographs of the existing and proposed tombstones and a sketch of the late Rev. Shumavoonian are published elsewhere in this Souvenir Brochure.

The Church and Properties there are centrally situated on Armenian Street and are very valuable to-day. The outgoing Council have considered the question of building on the open plot of land behind the Church building on Kondi Chetty Street and we must now leave the execution of this profitable and excellent scheme to the next Council.

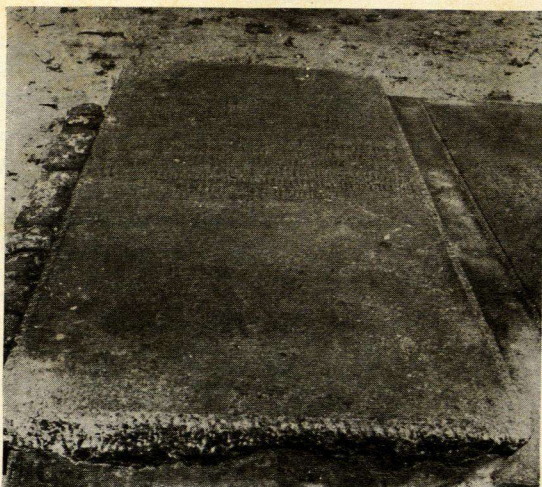
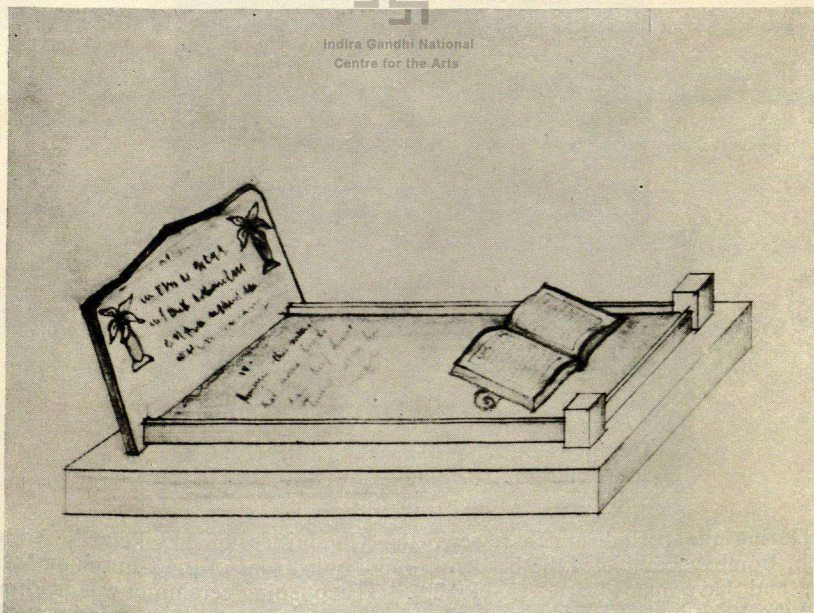


Photo of the existing tombstone of Rev. Arathoon Shumavoonian, who was interred in the yard of the Armenian Church, Madras.



A sketch of the proposed tombstone, to replace the existing one, over the grave of the late Rev. Arathoon Shumavoonian, in the yard of the Armenian Church, Madras.

BOMBAY

With the help of our Members at Bombay, we have been making every effort to settle the matter of the European Christian Cemetery at Bombay, with the Trustees of the St. Thomas Cathedral. There has been a delay as the preceding Archdeacon of Bombay who was handling the matter on behalf of the Trustees, St. Thomas Cathedral, was meanwhile, elevated to the rank of Bishop and transferred to Nandgal in Andhra. Several Armenians including an Archbishop, who was on a pastoral visit from the Holy See of Etchmiadzin died at Bombay in 1809 and was buried there. The Bombay Municipality have acquired this important plot on Queen's Road and are converting the same into a Public Park and playground. The Government have only paid a nominal compensation of Rs. 75,000/- to the Trustees, St. Thomas Cathedral but the land is worth at least one hundred times more than that, commercially. We are trying to raise the compensation or at least get a reasonable share of the abovementioned amount and there are indications of a favourable settlement.



The new Building ARARAT, in front of St. Peter's Armenian Church, Bombay, which was completed in 1963.

During the period under review, the Committee of St. Peter's Armenian Church, Bombay, completed the beautiful building in front of the Church on Meadows Street, and have named it "ARARAT". The opening ceremony was held on the 14th July 1963 and we duly sent the good wishes and congratulations of the Association to the Church Committee there for their outstanding achievement and success in the face of manifold difficulties, which are personally known to me. Besides, the scheme was literally started from scratch, when the reconstruction of the Church and new building were planned.

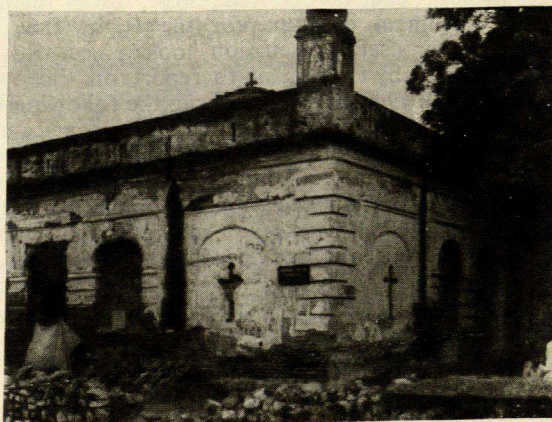
DELHI

When His Grace Bishop Assoghik Ghazarian was leaving India for Etchmiadzin in September 1962, I had the opportunity of accompanying His Grace from Bombay to Delhi, where we spent 4 days together. During this time, we visited the old Armenian Chapel and Cemetery at Kishengunj, Delhi and with the help of the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi, the Additional District Magistrate and The Officer-in-Charge, Sabzi Mandi Police Station, we took symbolic possession of the place, when the board of the Association was fixed on the wall of the Chapel and is now replaced by a marble tablet. There are 14 refugee families staying in the Chapel and Cemetery grounds since 1947, who appealed to us to give them time to find alternative accommodation, but have literally stayed put now. Every effort and steps are being taken to eject them through our Branch at New Delhi and friends in Official Circles, after which the Council will have to consider the question of renovation and consecration of the Chapel and the maintenance or otherwise of the desecrated Cemetery which has fallen into "wrack and ruin".

During this period, I had the privilege of accompanying His Grace Bishop Assoghik, when he called on the President and Vice-President of India to convey the greetings and blessings of His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians and the thanks and appreciation of the Armenian Community in India to Their Excellencies, the Indian Government and peoples of India, for their friendly and warm hospitality which have been enjoyed by us throughout the past centuries of our stay and existence here, and to bid farewell before departing from India.

Indira Gandhi National
Centre for the Arts

We also called at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in connection with our Church Committee's application for an Entry Visa for The Right Reverend Goriun Manuclian, which had not been favourably considered. Our



Armenian Chapel and Cemetery at Kishengunj,
Old Delhi.



His Excellency Dr. Zahir Hussain, Vice-President of India, His Grace Bishop Assoghik Ghazarian and Mr. Caro A. Martin, when His Grace the Bishop called on the Vice-President at Delhi in September 1962 to bid farewell before leaving India for Holy Etchmiadzin.

personal discussions with responsible officials of this Ministry and the presence of His Grace the Bishop, had the desired effect, as a regular entry visa was authorised by the Government of India for the Right Rev. Manuelian within the next few days. Another useful discussion took place with the Chairman of the Select Committee elected by Parliament to report on the "Christian Marriage and Matrimonial Causes Bill 1962". We had been the following the progress of this Bill and when it became necessary to submit a memorandum to the Select Committee, to safeguard the interests of our Community in accordance with Canon Laws and Rules of our Church, a Joint Committee was formed, at our instance, consisting of Representatives of our various Community Organizations, with Rev. P. Petrossian as the Chairman. Our memorandum was duly submitted to the Parliament Secretariat for attention of the Select Committee. This Committee have submitted their Report to Parliament last November and the Bill is now awaiting further consideration.

CALCUTTA

Here in Calcutta, we have been busy assisting several Members of our Community in matters pertaining to Indian Citizenship, Iranian Passports, Visas, obtaining of employment, Collections and Contributions to various Funds. Relief,

release of blocked Funds, emigrating to other countries etc. In many cases where individual efforts were unsuccessful, the intervention and recommendations of the Association have had the desired effect. On account of changes in the policy of the Iranian Government, visas are not being issued for the present to those persons of Iranian Origin or Nationality who have renounced their former Nationality. In response to several appeals and requests by such persons desiring to visit Iran as tourists etc., the Council had a special interview with Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, at the Raj Bhavan, Calcutta, during Her Highness' recent State visit to India, when we presented an Address of Welcome and a Memorandum pointing out the abovementioned difficulties. The text of the Address is published in this Booklet. Her Highness took keen interest in our suggestions and the matter is now being followed up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Teheran, through our distinguished Honorary Member and Representative Dr. Rafael Aghababian, who is an Internationally famous Jurist. According to the latest advices from Teheran we expect favourable arrangements in this connection in the near future.

We have also received requests for assistance from various Community Organizations and individuals in India, Iran, Pakistan etc., for realizing legacies, some of which are vested in the Official Trustee of the Government of West Bengal and others lying in different Centres in India. In some cases, Funds have already been transferred to the beneficiaries, whilst in other cases further particulars and Powers of Attorney are awaited in favour of the Association, so that the required steps could be taken to move the authorities and High Courts concerned.

The Government of India, in the Ministry of Education and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, New Delhi as well as several Public Organizations, Historians and individuals in India and abroad took keen interest in our proposal to re-publish the late Mesrobian J. Seth's 'History of "Armenians in India"'. In fact the Government of India was also seriously considering the sanctioning of a grant towards cost of research and re-publishing of the book but the same had to be withheld on account of the National Emergency which the Country has been facing since the latter part of 1962, in connection with developments on the Northern Borders of India. We leave this matter to the next Council to follow up at the appropriate time. The question of publishing a Community Monthly Journal, Periodical, News Letter or call it what you may, has been hanging fire on the Agenda of our sister organizations for the past many years. We look forward to some concrete steps in this connection and could extend the whole-hearted co-operation of the Association for implementing this proposal.

We are glad to note that a group of our compatriots here took keen interest in arranging for the repairs and renovation of our historic Church at Saidabad and organising periodic pilgrimages to this Centre. Many of you will recollect the earlier moves in this connection, when several visits were paid to Saidabad and a memorandum submitted to the Church Committee here about a decade ago by a group of 15 of our compatriots, which included some Members of our Council, stressing the necessity of repairing the Church and restoring the place to its former standing. In order to maintain and look after the place, a Committee known as the "Saidabad Church Committee" has been formed with the Chairman and Wardens of the Church Committee as ex-officio Members. We congratulate the Saidabad Church Committee for their praiseworthy efforts and achievements and wish them further success.

SKC
068-5662
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GOV. OF INDIA



The late, lamented Chief Minister of the Government of West Bengal and His Grace Bishop Assoghik Ghazarian, when the latter "called on the Chief Minister during his stay in Calcutta as Patriarchal Delegate of His Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.



Photo shows Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi viewing the Ivory Souvenir presented by Mr. Caro A. Martin the Honorary Secretary-General on behalf of the Armenian Association. (L to R) Mr. M. Martin, His Excellency Mr. Mehdi Bousheri, H.R.H. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, Rev. P. Petrossian, Mrs. V. Petrossian, Mrs. N. Martin, Mr. I. Martin, Mr. S. Martin and Mr. A. C. Lucas.

We have also had sad events and moments since we met here last. We record with deep sorrow the passing away of Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister of the Government of West Bengal, Mr. K. Guiragossian, Executive Director of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, New York, who was an erstwhile Principal of our Armenian College in the 1930's, Rev. Khoren Kirakossian at Julfa-Ispahan, Rev. B. S. David our Priest at Madras, & His Grace Bishop Derrenig Poladian, in tragic circumstances, at Beirut. The late Bishop Derrenig was one of the most outstanding scholars and active workers of the Armenian Church and an inevitable void and great loss has been caused by his demise. Nearer home, recently Mr. G. G. Marcar passed away at Asansol and Mr. D. C. Marcar at Calcutta. Mr. D. C. Marcar took keen interest in the affairs of the Community, served on the School and Club Committees for many years and was an active and interested Council Member of our Association. We are missing all of them and may their souls rest in peace.

As we review the cavalcade of events and the historical landmarks and centres of Armenian life and activities in various parts of India, we find that the creeping jungles, the receding or advancing Seas, the axe, shovel or the bulldozer have

and are obliterating the once prosperous Centres, Churches and Cemeteries, which are giving way to a new way of life according to present day developments. However, it is within our power to safeguard what is visible and has been handed on to us in trust, to try and improve and add on it and to respect and treasure the memory and achievement of our worthy predecessors, so that their example and deeds may be emulated by the present and succeeding generations in India and elsewhere, where Armenian life and thought exist.

Earlier in his opening address our President had quoted from the last Presidential address, in wishing to stress the confidence with which the Association was revived in 1960, in the face of manifold difficulties and obstacles. I would however, like to add that it is not by mere slogans or wishful thinking that concrete results could be obtained, but by hard, methodical and conscientious work. However, I have been tempted to quote from my own Address, delivered at the last Annual General Meeting, as a further reminder of our work in the past and our plans for the future. "In any event, we could always draw on our inexhaustible fund of energy and faith, faith in the belief and convictions that by our efforts and co-operation, we are serving the best interests of the Community at large, because through the fog of confusion and adversity, I see a clear and shining path lying ahead of us". I would, therefore, appeal to all our Members and friends to come forward wholeheartedly, substitute the backseat for that of the driver's and let us all unite and work together to make our task pleasanter and our goal easier to achieve. Since this year coincides with the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Association and is our Silver Jubilee, let us re-dedicate ourselves to all the noble and lofty aims and objects for which this Association was founded 25 years ago. May the Association grow from strength to strength, stand by its Members and non-Members alike and to uphold justice and mutual goodwill. Did not Gladstone, Prime Minister of England declare in the British Parliament—"To serve Armenia is to serve Civilization"? So, our slogan "In the service of the Community" has real and significant meaning. Why not then join the Association, unite, work together and share in this pleasant, interesting and at times exciting adventure and work.

Before concluding, I would like to convey the thanks of the Council and the Association to His Grace Bishop Assoghik Ghazarian, for all the encouragement, advice and co-operation which His Grace readily extended to us during his stay in India as Patriarchal Delegate, to Mr. M. Martin, the President for his co-operation and for extending us all facilities for holding our Meetings at his premises. Our thanks are also due to all the Council and Social Committee Members and specially to Messrs. M. A. Agabeg, Vahan Stephen, Joe Stephen, A. C. Lucas, I. Martin, S. Jordan, Mrs. Rosie Lewis, Edward Woskanian, Hrant Cachatoor, Asadour Guzelian, Mrs. Arpenik Alexander and our Branch Honorary Secretaries, at Madras, New Delhi and Bombay, who have rendered special assistance and made my task lighter. I must not forget to also convey our thanks to Dr. Rafael Aghababian, the Internationally famous Jurist in Teheran, who in spite of his manifold professional responsibilities and International Commitments, finds time to assist us in matters of interest to the Association.

Finally I would like to thank all our Members, friends and well wishers in India and abroad for all the assistance, encouragement and co-operation extended to us from time to time which are too numerous to mention individually.

I would now request His Grace, the Most Reverend Lakdasa De Mel, Lord Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon to very kindly address our gathering.

**Translation of Address of Welcome and Report in Armenian, delivered
at the Reception held in honour of His Holiness Vazgen I on
13.12.63, by Mr. I. Martin, Hony. Secretary.**

1. Your Holiness Vazgen I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.
2. Your Beatitude Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.
3. Members of His Holiness' entourage and honoured guests.

Your Holiness,

The Council of the Armenian Association humbly beg your pardon as it had not been possible for us to meet Your Holiness at Madras, but being so very fortunate in meeting you and enjoying your presence here, we wish to welcome Your Holiness and Your entourage and to report to You briefly the work accomplished by this Association in the course of a very short period.

Membership of this Association is not confined to Calcutta Armenians only but to other Compatriots as well, in other Centres in India and abroad, which fact advocates the necessity of unity of Armenians in India and maintenance of close and cordial connections with the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, the Motherland and our Sister Communities in other countries.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar National
Centre for the Arts

Unfortunately, it has not been possible for us to form a Diocesan Council so far, but having in mind its necessity, we shall try to close this gap to a certain extent.

This Association was first formed in 1939 but no tangible work had been done, till a group of Patriots having in view the extreme necessity of such an Association, got together, reorganised and restarted it, to give it a new life, in December 1960. Among those who shared this noble task were Messrs. Sarkies Martin, Martyrose Martin, Matthews Agabeg and Caro Martin. They spared no efforts for our National interests and have carried on the work up to now. However, it would not be out of place to mention here about Mr. Caro Martin's energetic and devoted work and interest, which is highly commendable. Had it not been for his ceaseless and self-sacrificing efforts, this Association might not have been in existence today. He has been, and will always remain, as the Architect of our reorganised Association.

Our Association has a wide programme, rules and regulations properly registered by the Authorities. The articles of Memorandum have been carefully drawn up and prepared on our National and Community lines, to keep and protect our Churches and National interests in all Armenian Centres in India.

We are happy and proud to report that within this brief period we have made more than reasonable progress in the forming of our branches in Bombay, Madras and New Delhi. We successfully took over the Trusteeship of Madras Armenian Church and Properties from the Solicitors, Messrs. King and Partridge who had held it for over half a century.

On the 7th December 1962, this Association was officially appointed as Trustees of Madras Church and properties by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. Mention must also be made of the following which is of National interest. A substantial sum of money which was to be remitted to the orphanage in New Julfa in Iran was lying here for many years without serving its purpose. The Committee of the Orphanage in New Julfa requested our Association for assistance in the transfer of this sum. We immediately took up the matter with the Central Government and after long negotiations managed to obtain the necessary sanction and the sum was transferred to New Julfa.

We have also managed to take over the New Delhi Armenian Chapel and the Cemetery attached to it and are in correspondence with the Authorities in New Delhi in this connection. At present refugees from Local Areas are living there. A good deal of work is also being done in connection with the European Cemetery in Bombay in order to protect our interests. This Cemetery was in use in the latter part of 18th Century, which was before the Armenian Cemetery existed at Bombay. There were 11 Armenian graves in the European Cemetery, among which is the grave of Archbishop Mackertich of Holy Etchmiadzin. This Cemetery is now being converted to a general Public Park and gardens by the Government. The matter is being followed up jointly by the Bombay Church Committee and our branch of the Association there.

Your Holiness, our Association humbly assures you that our work in the past is not based on hollow conceit but a proven and concrete fact. We would like to mention here that our Association was not formed by chance or half-heartedly but with the full aim and object to keep, protect and serve our national interests, Churches and Institutions in this hospitable country.

We are happy and proud to announce here that among our Honorary and highly-placed Members we have His Beatitude Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, who is at present here with us. The beloved Patriarch's wise and realistic advice and guidance have been a real source of encouragement to us.

Before ending, we would like to assure your Holiness that your Historic visit here has filled our hearts with great joy and deep feelings, which has helped and encouraged us to carry on with greater efforts. the work we have begun for the glory of our Holy Apostolic Church and the very worthy occupier of the Mother Throne of Holy Etchmiadzin.

We are indeed happy in Your Holiness' presence and wish you God-speed and safe return to Holy Etchmiadzin.

Text of telegram received from His Holiness Vazgen I.

0 2040 N 503 New Delhi 17 37/39 Council Armenian Association
5, Outram Street, Calcutta.

We are pleased to convey warm appreciation for your reception and patriotic efforts in Madras and other centres in India stop pray for your continued success and welfare with blessings.

Vazgen First.

(TRANSLATION OF ARMENIAN LETTER)

**SUPREME PATRIARCH
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS**

No. 48

Holy Etchmiadzin,
12th January 1964.

To
The Armenian Association in India,
Calcutta.

By the mercy of God, we returned to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin in sound health and spiritually consoled after our long travels, bringing with us wonderful impressions and sweet memories of all the places we visited and specially our faithful peoples and their respected Representatives. We returned with the firm conviction and more optimistic about the Armenian Church and National life in diaspora at present and having in view the future.

We also retain such sweet and unforgettable memories in our heart from your Community, your Churches, from the President and Members of your Council. You all, in a wonderful manner and with unlimited affection, ceremoniously organised our Reception and with the same feelings always surrounded us and spared nothing in order that our Patriarchal Apostolicity may always remain on the highest level and be productive in every way.

We warmly appreciate your attitude, your determined and ceaseless efforts and generally all your devoted and dedicated activities in the service of the Church and Community.

Accept our thanks and hearty wishes for your long life and for shining successes in all your work dedicated to the Church and people.

May you be healthy, be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and blessed by the Lord for ever. Amen.

Sd/- VASGEN I
SUPREME PATRIARCH & CATHOLICOS
OF ALL ARMENIANS.

Address delivered on the occasion of the Meeting with Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi and Members of the Council of the Armenian Association at Raj Bhavan (Government House) Calcutta on 9th January 1964 by Mr. Caro A. Martin, Hony. Secretary-General of the Armenian Association.

Your Imperial Highness,

On behalf of the Council of the Armenian Association I have great pleasure in greeting and welcoming Your Imperial Highness to this great metropolis Calcutta, which is also known as the "City of Palaces".

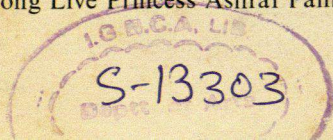
Amongst the Membership of our Association we have many who are Iranian Nationals or of Iranian Origin. The majority of Armenians came here from Iran before the British and founded this great city, so we can be proud that in the past our ancestors from Iran played an important part in the development of Foreign Trade, building of cities and other important spheres of Public life in India.

We have followed the great changes and developments that are taking place in Modern Iran under the wise Leadership of the great democratic Monarch, His Imperial Majesty Mohamad Reza Shah Pahlavi, the Shahanshah of Iran, which have filled our hearts with pride and admiration. Your Imperial Highness' great sacrifices and efforts in Iran for the emancipation of women, relief of the poor and sick, the fruitful visits abroad and participation in various International Womens' Congresses have endeared Your Imperial Highness to all who are the champions of and interested in social justice and have rightly earned for Your Imperial Highness the epithets "The Angel of Mercy" and "Friend of the Poor."

We have one request to make Your Imperial Highness. There are several persons of Iranian Origin in our Community who have been compelled to change their nationality and acquire Foreign Nationality for business, residentsip and other reasons but they still have the interest and love for Iran in their hearts and would like to visit the land of their birth or origin but are unable to do so under the present Iranian Nationality Laws. This question has been the subject of lengthy correspondence and discussions in the past but without any satisfactory results. The Armenian Association will be grateful to Your Imperial Highness if the matter is taken up with the Iranian Government, so that the required facilities are provided. Under the sponsorship of Your Imperial Highness, we could now mobilize the co-operation of the Women Members of the Majlis, if any further delays or difficulties are experienced in this connection.

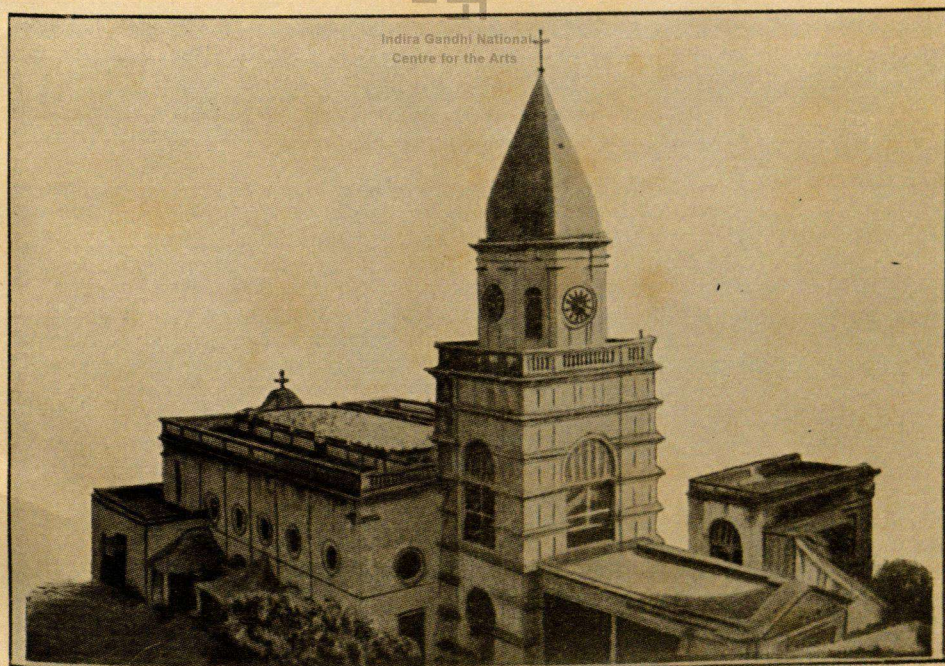
As a token of our respect and affection for your Imperial Highness, we shall be grateful if you would accept this small Souvenir on the occasion of your visit to Calcutta and our audience with Your Imperial Highness.

Long Live Iran: Long Live the Shahanshah: Long Live Princess Ashraf Pahlavi.





The Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin. Founded 301 A.D.



The Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth, Calcutta. Founded 1707

