

Checklist to the Papers of
The Committee for the Armenian Collection at
The Library of Congress
(1947-1951)

And

The Dadian Trust Fund
(1989-1997)

By
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At the end of World War II in the United States there was an increased desire and necessity for information about the lands of the Middle East. That spirit led to the establishment of the Near East Section at the Library of Congress and the growth of materials published in the languages of that vital area of the world.

In 1947 in Washington, DC, a small group of Armenian American intellectuals and professionals, led by Mr. Arthur H. Dadian of the State Department, began to meet with the express purpose of increasing the Armenian language collection at the Library of Congress. The Committee for the Armenian Collection at the Library of Congress was established in 1949 and received and approved by the Library of Congress, Luther H. Evans, and the 10th Librarian of Congress. Although we have no record of any activity after 1951, the group's efforts began the steady growth of the Armenian collections. The records we had of their work were minimal until 1993 when the Rose Marie Gavoor, wife of the Committee's recording Secretary, Rouben Gavoor, donated her husband's collection of related documents after his death.

In 1989, Mrs. Marjorie Dadian began discussions with the Library of Congress to donate from her husband, Arthur H. Dadian's estate and in his name, a generous gift "for the health and maintenance of the Armenian Collections at the Library of Congress." The Gift was finalized in 1991 and led to the hiring of the Library's first Armenian specialist, the significant growth of the Armenian collections, and the establishment of the long-running and successful Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture Series at the Library of Congress/.

The documents from both these periods have been arranged chronologically and consist of minutes of meetings, legal communications, letters, and press reports. The collection is kept in the Armenian cage of the Near East Section of the African and Middle East Division of the Library of Congress and may be consulted there.

Levon Avdoyan
September 6, 2018

Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress

Undated Documents

Folder 1:

Letter of Helen Gabbert to Arthur Dadian

Letter of Helen H. Gabbert to Arthur Dadian resigning from the committee Constitution and By-Laws (2 page handwritten notes)

Artistic Bookplate Approved by Congressional Library Committee (draft press release?)

Copy of original Bookplate

Armenian note on the Committee's letterhead to editors of Armenian periodicals (Release?) No. 6 One page description in Armenian of the Committee's second year by Dr. Barkev Sanders (2 copies)

Library of Congress Information Office, Press Release No. 490 (Undated):

“Committee for Armenian Collection of Library of Congress Makes First Presentation of a Number of Armenian Books” (2 copies)

1 page blank letter head stationary and envelope for “Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress, 13406 G. Street, N.W., Suite 814, Washington 5, D.C.”

5 page handwritten document responding to questions from the Armenian press about budgets for acquisitions at the Library of Congress

Dated Documents

Folder 2: 1947

The Formation of the Committee for the Armenian Collection at the Library of Congress (3 pages handwritten, June 11, 1947?)

2nd Meeting of the Library Committee (June 18, 1947, 2 handwritten pages)

3rd Meeting of the Library Committee (June 25, 1947, 2 handwritten pages)

4th Meeting of the Library Committee (September 10, 1947, 2 pages handwritten)

5th Meeting of the Library Committee (September 16, 1947, 1 page handwritten)

6th Meeting of the Library Committee (September 23, 1947, 2 pages handwritten)

Letter of David Atamian to Arthur H. Dadian (November 18, 1947)

Folder 3: 1948

Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 1948 (Original 2 pages and 2 carbon copies by Helen H. Gabbert, Secretary pro tem)

Lib. Com. (2 page handwritten list of items to be addressed by the committee dated January 1948)

Minutes of the Meeting (February 4, 1948) (original and carbon copy)

The meeting of the Committee for the Armenian Section of Library of Congress, Feb. 18th, 1948 (3 pages handwritten)

Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 1948 (2 page original and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 1948 (1 page original and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Letter of Mr. Arthur H. Dadian to Luther H. Evans (typescript, March 23, 1948 and handwritten draft)

Letter of Luther H. Evans to Arthur H. Dadian (March 31, 1948)

(Release) No. 2: Report of the Committee in Armenian dated March 31, 1948 (2 pages, 2 copies)

Minutes of the Meeting of April 14, 1948 (1 page original and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of April 16, 1948 (1 page original and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS Հայկական բաժինը ճոխացնելու յանձնախումբ ւր կազմուած (2 page typescript)

English translation: Committee Formed to Build Up Armenian Section of the Library of Congress (With a handwritten note from "The Committee" dated 4/25/48)

Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress (2 page original and one carbon dated 4/25/48)

Library of Congress Information Bulletin (May 18-24, 1948): "The Committee for the Armenian Collections," pp. 11-12. Photograph of the Committee with Librarian of Congress, Luther Evans, on page 12)

Minutes of the May 20, 1948, Meeting (Rouben Gavoor). Typescript, 2 pages, and carbon copy)

Minutes of the Meeting of June 15, 1948 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of June 21, 1948 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Items from a folder which included a letter from “Helen” at the Armenian Mirror Spectator dated June 22, 1948, with a list of all the foreign publications on their mailing list; a list of all Armenian newspapers in the USA; a list of the Armenian churches in California; and addresses for members of the committee.

Minutes of the Meeting of July 13, 1948 (1 page original, carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting held September 22, 1948 (2 page original carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 1948 (2 page original and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the November 8, 1948 Meeting (1 page original and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Release: No. 4. (1 page carbon announcing the “specially designed book-plate.)

List of Names and No. of Books donated to date (Hand written, dated December 10, 1948)

Minutes of the November 8, 1948 meeting (1 page original, 2 carbon copies by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 1948 (1 page typescript, handwritten original, and carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Folder 4: Books Collected for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress (original and one carbon copy) (October 1948?)

Folder 5: 1949

Minutes of the Meeting of Jan. 10, 1949 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of Feb. 16, 1949 (2 pages hand written by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

“First Annual Report of the Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress” March 8, 1949 (2 2 page carbon copies)

Release No. 5 (2 page corrected draft of the Committee’s 1st year of activities in Armenian by Dr. Barkav Sanders dated March 15, 1949)

Minutes of the Meeting of March 16, 1949 (1 page typescript, handwritten original, and 1 carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of April 13, 1949 (1 page typescript, handwritten original, and 1 carbon by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 1949 (1 page typescript, handwritten original, and 1 carbon copy by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of June 26, 1949 (1 typescript, handwritten original, and 1 carbon by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 1949 (1 typescript, handwritten original, and 1 carbon by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 1949 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of November 9, 1949 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of Dec. 9, 1949 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Folder 6: 1950

Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 1950 (3 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 1950 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 1950 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Ռատիոյի Յայտարարութիւնը 4.22.50 (1 handwritten page); One Minute radio Announcement (1 typescript, and 1 carbon copy dated 4.22.50); Two Minute Script for Radio Broadcast 4.22. 50 (1 carbon copy); handwritten letter from Rouben Gavoor, recording Secretary to Miss Sarkis, 4.22.50.
Minutes of the Meeting of April 26, 1950 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the meeting of May 17, 1950 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
RELEASE No. 6: Second Annual Report of the Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress” (1 page typescript and 1 carbon copy by Dr. Barkav Sanders, Chairman)
Minutes of the meeting of Sept. 27, 1950 (3 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)
Minutes of the Meeting of Oct. 13, 1950 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of Nov., 12, 1950 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary), followed by a one page handwritten list of "Mailed releases to the following newspapers & periodicals" (unsigned by in Gavoor's hand)

Folder 7: 1951

"Program ... The Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress" Pierce Hall (Saturday, March 3, 1951). Printed program for "Two one-act comedies and Interlude for music). Donation of Rose Marie Gavoor from her husband's papers and two tickets to the performance.

Letter of Rouben Gavoor to Hrandt Norair March 9, 1951 (1 page, carbon copy)

Rouben Gavoor, "The Program of the Committee:" (Typescript, March 10, 1951)

Minutes of the Meeting of March 11, 1951 (2 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of April 11, 1951 (3 pages handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Meeting of May 6, 1951 (2 pages, handwritten by Rouben Gavoor, Recording Secretary)

Folder 8: Flyer and program for a recital by Shaké Vartenissian, soprano, Saturday, October 20, 1951 at the Woodward & Lothrop Auditorium in Chevy Chase, MD. (Donations of Rose Marie Gavoor from her husband's papers)

Folder 9: Rose Marie Gavoor

Letter of Rose Marie Gavoor to George Atiyeh donating her husband's, Rouben Gavoor's, Papers (February 1, 1994)

Letter to Rose Marie Gavoor from Levon Avdoyan (March 28, 1994)

Letter from Rose Marie Gavoor to Levon Avdoyan (April 22, 1994) with enclosures of two performances sponsored by the Committee for the Armenian Collection of the Library of Congress (Included in the list for the Committee)

"Rouben Gavoor retired Foreign Service Officer," Portsmouth Herald (N.H.), January 12, 1993 (Obituary)

Folder 10:

Newspaper Clippings

«Կոնգրեսի Գրադարանի Հայկական հաւաքածոյի յանձնախումբին
երկրորդ զեկուցումը» Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցի (Ապրիլ, 1948) p. 121
“Armenian Committee Presents Material to Congress Library,” *Hairenik
Weekly* (June 17, 1948) p. 1 column 1ff.

«Քօնկրէսի գրադարանին Հայկական հաւաքածոն» ՄՇԱԿ January 21,
1949) np.

Barkev Sanders, «Տարեկան տեղեկագիր» ՄՇԱԿ Vol. XXV No. 1967 (April
26, 1950) np.

Rouben Gavoor, “Library Committee is Active in Washington,” *Hairenik
Weekly* (March 22, 1951) np.

Folder 11: File with drawing donated by Rose Marie Gavoor in which her husband,
Rouben, kept the Committee’s papers

The Dadian Trust Fund

Folder 12: Photographs and Undated Documents

Photographs

The first Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture (February 12, 1993)

- George Atiyeh, Marjory Dadian, Suzanne Thorin, Levon Avdoyan
- George Atiyeh, Lucy der Manuelian, Marjory Dadian, Levon Avdoyan
- Marjory Dadian and George Atiyeh

Arthur H. Dadian (Small black and white photograph)

Undated Documents

“ARTHUR HAMPAR DADIAN” (1 page typed biography)

“Obituary Information for Marjorie Mills Dadian

”Several drafts of the offer from Marjorie Dadian to the Library with notes by
George Atiyeh

3 edited copies of the original bookplate for the Committee for the Armenian Collections redesigned for donations by the author or in honor or memory of another.

Folder 13: Dated Documents

Dated Documents

Memorandum from George N. Atiyeh to Donald Curran, John J. Kominski, Ronald A. Morse, dated May 3, 1989, to review a letter to thank Marjorie Dadian for her and offer of her gift

Letter of James H. Billington to Marjorie Dadian (December 21, 1990)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to James H. Billington (December 28, 1990)

Copy of a letter and the draft Memorandum from Laurence E. Salens of Sherman, Meehan & Curtin, P.C. to John J. Kominski (March 22, 1991)

Memorandum from Kate Clinton, Development Officer, to James. H. Billington (March 25, 1991)

Copy of a fax of the Memorandum of Understanding sent from Sherman, Meehan & Curtin, P.C. to John J. Kominski (March 25, 1991)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (signed by Marjorie M. Dadian on April 4, 1991, and James H. Billington, on June 27, 1991)

Acceptance of the Joint Committee on the Library, Claiborne Pell, Chairman and several Resolutions of Acceptance by Gerald Murphy, Edwin L. Cox, Marguerite S Roll, Claiborne Pell (May 8, 1991)

Draft letter to Marjorie Dadian sent for review by Chris Murphy to Henriette Avram and Kate Clinton for James H. Billington's signature (July 24, 1991)

Letter of Nina G. Garsoian to James H. Billington (July 31, 1991)

Letter of Richard G. Hovannisian, writing for the Society of Armenian Studies, to James H. Billington (August 1, 1991)

Draft by George Atiyeh of Billington's response

Letter of James H. Billington to Marjorie Dadian (August 1, 1991)

Draft of a letter to Nina G. Garsoian for James H. Billington's signature (August 29, 1991)

Draft of a letter to Richard Hovannisian for James H. Billington's signature (August 29, 1991)

Memorandum from Kate Clinton to James H. Billington (November 12, 1991)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to George N. Atiyeh (November 17, 1991)

Letter of James H. Billington to Marjorie Dadian (November 18, 1991)

Copy of a letter sent from Marjorie Dadian to Kate Clinton on November 25, 1991) from Clinton to George Atiyeh on 12/3/91

Letter of Lucy der Manuelian to George N. Atiyeh (January 10, 1992)

Letter of John J. Kominski to Laurence E. Salens of Sherman, Meehan & Curtin, P.C. (January 23, 1992)

Letter of Levon Avdoyan to Rita Balian (unsigned carbon copy, July 2, 1992)

Letter of Levon Avdoyan to Marjorie Dadian (unsigned carbon copy, July 2, 1992)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (July 20, 1992)

Letter of Levon Avdoyan to Lucy Der Manuelian (September 17, 1992)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Typed, October 29, 1992)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to George Atiyeh (Handwritten February 13, 1993)

Letter Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Handwritten, February 15, 1993)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Handwritten, dated March 3, 1993)

“First Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture Held at the Library,” Library of Congress Information Bulletin Vo. 52, No. 11 (May 31, 1993) p. 226 (Photocopy)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Typed, June 7, 1993)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Typed, June 19, 1993)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Typed December 28, 1993)

Letter of Marjorie Dadian to Levon Avdoyan (Typed, March 14, 1994)

Memorandum, “Death of Mrs. Marjorie Dadian” from Levon Avdoyan to Deanna Marcum (August 10, 1994)

Letter of Lucy der Manuelian to James H. Billington (March 31, 1995)

Letter of James H. Billington to Lucy der Manuelian (April 12, 1995) with a copy of his remarks read during the Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture which was dedicated to the memory of Marjorie M. Dadian

Letter of Michael F. Curtin of Sherman, Meehan, Curtin & Ain to Robert Lincoln, General Counsel (October, 2, 1997), with copy of the \$233,000.00 check and Receipt of Legatee, Distribute or Ward from the estate of Marjorie Mills Dadian

Letter of Louise M. Stalter of Sherman, Meehan, Curtin & Ain, to Levon Avdoyan (November 17, 1997)

Letter of Carolyn T. Brown to Levon Avdoyan (November 26, 1997)