

Armenian Architecture

A documented photo-archival collection on microfiche with 42,000 photographs for the study of Early and Late Medieval Christian Architectural Arts of Transcaucasia and the Middle East.



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Introduction

The roots of the Western architectural arts, including early Christian art, are often to be found at the Transcaucasian and Middle East crossroads where the Armenian homeland was frequently a meeting ground for both ideologies and conquerers. The conversion of the Armenian nation to Christianity (in AD 301 or soon after that) added a new dimension to the exchanges, particularly because the conversion inspired an Armenian drive for ethnic identity through the architectural arts and scholarship. As stated by Professor Grabar, Armenian builders succeeded in creating "... original, skillful, and beautiful architecture ..." which established and maintained a distinctly Armenian tradition "... throughout the Middle Ages and beyond".

Cyril Mango goes further in his book *Byzantine Architecture*: "The basilica did not have a long life-span in Armenia and gave way toward the end of the sixth century to the domed church, which attained a surprising degree of elaboration in the first great period of Armenian architecture, roughly between 610 and 670. These dates are significant. Armenian architecture developed at the very time when Christian Syrian

architecture came to a halt; at a time, moreover, when the Byzantine Empire was entering its Dark Age. It may be said without exaggeration that in the seventh century Armenian architecture was leading the entire Christian East".

With Armenia, a contested buffer state, attacked in turn by Rome, Parthia, Persia, Byzantium, by Arabs, Mongols, and the Seljuk and Ottoman Turks, the region invited cultural exchanges while also promoting the migration of Armenian artisans to other lands. However, the crude geopolitical settlements of the First World War in the twentieth century not only eliminated the Armenian people and most of their monuments from what is now Turkey but threatened the international history of the region as well. This project represents a response to that threat. It was the concern of scholars for this loss that motivated the European Parliament to reject Turkey's appeal for membership with the European Community, with the admonition that Turkey first demonstrates "... improvements in the care of monuments and for the maintenance and conservation of the Armenian religious architectural heritage in Turkey..."

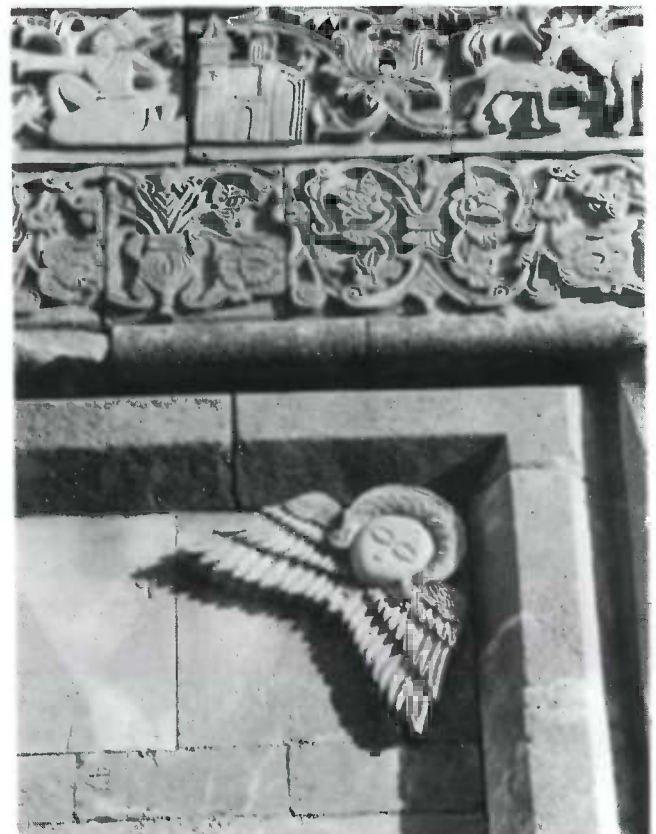
The project

The photographic work for this project began in 1970, when a group from the Polytechnic Institute of Aachen (West Germany), called Research on Armenian Architecture and led by Armen Haghazarian, initiated field work in Turkey with financial support from the Armenian Educational Council Inc. of the United States. The project gained international support, particularly from the Commission for Restoration of Historic Monuments of the Armenian SSR directed by Grigor Hasratian. A \$ 75,000 grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation and even larger gifts from Zaroohi Noorjanian of Milford, Mass. provided funding for the first part of the project.

Cover illustration:
Dashk'end: S. Astuadzadzin church & cemetery (Armenian SSR), built 13th century; photo by G. Kalstian.



St. Tadeos, Bell tower, Southwestern pillar; photo by A. Haghazarian.



St. Tadeos monastery; photo by A. Haghazarian.

The collection

The collection has been organized geographically. Each volume contains approximately 6,000 photographs.

Volume 1 (order no. AR-581) contains photographs of 50 monument sites, including the Church of the Holy Cross of the Island of Aghtamar and the monuments of the old City of Ani in Turkey and monuments of the Armenian SSR.

Volume 2 (order no. AR-582) presents other monuments of the sixth to the twelfth centuries located in the Armenian SSR.

Volume 3 (order no. AR-583) begins with an extended chronological table of events bearing on the political and cultural history of the Middle East and the parallel events in Armenian history. The photographs are of monuments located in the Armenian SSR.

Volume 4 (order no. AR-584) completes the coverage of the historical monuments of the Armenian SSR.

Volume 5 (order no. AR-585) covers the fortresses and churches of Cilician Turkey, whose history is intertwined with that of the Crusades, and the monuments of Vaspurakan and of Moks.

Volume 6 (order no. AR-586) includes the remaining monuments in central and eastern Turkey, and some of the major monuments in Iran.

Volume 7 (order no. AR-587) concludes the series with monuments located in the former Armenian provinces of Gharabagh and Nakhijevan, now governed by Azerbaijan (USSR). Also

khachkars (crossed engraved in stone), inscriptions and supplements.

The presentation of each monument or site (e.g., church, monastery, fortress) is introduced by informative material dealing with its history, art, and architectural features, and bibliography. The location is indicated on a map which is accompanied by plans, other drawings, and photographs (between 30 and 600 per monument or site).

All captions give the monument code number, the name of the monument, the direction of view where pertinent, the name of the photographer, the year, and the name of the copyright holder.

Introductory guide

The collection comes with a printed introductory guide (51 pp.) with a foreword by Professor André Grabar and brief introductions to Armenian architecture, the Armenian language, transliteration schemes, and the geography of the region. These are followed by a series of maps, notes on the political changes the region has undergone, some architectural terminology, the code system for the monuments, and an extensive bibliography.

Finding aids

Printed table of contents for each volume.

Printed integrated alphabetical and geographical index to the complete collection. (63 pp.).

Scope	42,000 photographs
Number of fiche	930 (each volume contains about 130 fiche)
Size of fiche	105 x 148 mm
Film type	Positive silver-halide
Reduction ratio	1 : 17
Internal finding aids	Eye-legible headers with code number, date, and name of the monument.
External finding aids	A printed table of contents for each volume, and a printed integrated alphabetical and geographical index to the complete collection (63 pp.).
Storage	The printed introductory guide, the tables of contents, and the microfiche are supplied in seven sturdy plastic binders with dust cover.
Order number	AR-581-587