



The Religious Studies Program
in association with the
Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies
invite you to a lecture by

Levon Chookaszian
(Yerevan State University)

Lights and Splendors of Armenian Book Illumination

Abstract

The history of Armenian culture manuscripts illumination is unique and ancient. Its oldest specimens date back to the 6th and 7th centuries: fragments that have been traced to a manuscript which had been inserted at the end of the famous Ejmiacin Gospels of 989. The oldest dated and illuminated manuscript is the Gospel of Queen Mlke of 862. Various styles of Armenian book illumination can also be found in Armenian miniature painting.

Generally, illuminated manuscripts have fifteen pictures depicting Christian themes; ten of them will be full-page dimensions. Gospels illumination consists also of portraits of the four Evangelists accompanied by a headpiece dominating the first lines of the text along with marginal ornaments, canon tables, small miniature portraits of saints and other geometrical, animal and floral motifs. Full-page illuminations represent major events in Christ's life. Miniatures make up one of the most important branches of Armenian art. Armenian miniaturists throughout the centuries created works which, judged by their variety, their intrinsic value, and often by their originality, hold an important place in the art of the Christian East.

Dr. Levon Chookaszian was born in 1952 in Yerevan, Armenia. He graduated from Yerevan State University in 1974 with a degree in philology and is the author of two monographs. He has published over two hundred articles and reviews on Armenian art, painters, sculptors, and architects for the Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia, the Armenian Question Encyclopedia, the Armenian Abridged Encyclopedia, and the Saur Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon (Germany, Munchen Leipzig). He and his brother, Garegin Chookaszian, founded the Armenian Art Database. He is the Director of the UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art History at Yerevan State University, which he established in 1996. He has delivered lectures on Armenian art at institutions around the world as well as advising on 12th through 13th century Armenian illuminated manuscripts found in the USA.

Thursday, October 27, 2011

5:30 PM

CEU, Nádor u. 13, room 001

Reception to follow