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The Roots of the Armenian Presence in Jerusalem in the late Middle Ages

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Capturing Eternity: Jerusalem Armenian Photography in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Day 1

Exhibition opening ceremony

September 20, 18:00

Location

Aula Hall, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest,
Andrássy út 69-71, 1062

Opening remarks by

István Erős, Rector of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts

Nándor Birher, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPCU)

Miklós Soltész, State of Secretary for Churches, Minorities and Civil Affairs

Ashot Smbatyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Hungary

Ákos Issekutz, President, Transylvanian Armenian Roots Cultural Association, Budapest

Peter Cowe, Distinguished Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies, UCLA, Los Angeles

Musical performance: soprano Karine Babajanian, pianist Dóra Bizják

Introduction to the exhibition: Diana Ghazaryan, curator, student at Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Department of Armenian Studies, Doctoral School

Unraveling Jerusalem's Armenian Experience: Reflections on History, Photography and Diaspora

Day 2

Symposium

September 21, 9:00

The Armenian community of Jerusalem has originated in the fourth century CE with Armenian pilgrims flowing into the Holy City after the adoption of Christianity. They have been subsequently united under the aegis of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and settled within the Armenian Quarter in the Old City, playing an actively influential role in its development. This community thus stands out from the panoply of diaspora Armenian communities while certainly being part and parcel of its colorful mosaic.

The international symposium “Unraveling Jerusalem’s Armenian Experience: Reflections on History, Photography and Diaspora” explores the singular Armenian presence in the intricate environment of the city of Jerusalem from Late Antiquity to the mid-20th century. An important and quite neglected aspect of the Armenian community has been the first local photographic practice established by the Armenian Patriarch Yessayi Garabedian in the 1860s, an event that has played a crucial role in the development of photography in the area for a century to come. Mediating between Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities, as well as Western residents, Armenian photographers have helped shape Jerusalem as an ecumenical space. As for the community more broadly, the religious, economic and educational ties that it has maintained with Armenians across imperial and cultural divides speaks of an

impressive early-modern and modern diasporic agency that requires further scholarly attention.

In response to this need, the symposium provides an interdisciplinary scholarly environment for reflecting on the Jerusalem Armenian community's role in the Holy City through photography and beyond. Scholars with a range of disciplinary backgrounds from Armenia, Hungary, Germany, UK, France, USA and Qatar will delve into the educational, institutional, visual and diasporic sides of the subject matter while also venturing into wider contexts. The symposium will be held in the same venue where the day before, the exhibition on the photographic heritage of the Armenian community of Jerusalem will be opened. In this way we hope the exhibition will create a radiant visual background for the scholarly discussions of the symposium.

Program

9:00

Registration

9:30 - 10:00

Welcome speech, Bálint Kovács, Head of Armenian Studies Department, PPCU; Senior Research Fellow, GWZO Leibniz Institute, Leipzig

Keynote lecture: Peter Cowe, Narekatsi Chair of Armenian Studies, UCLA, Los Angeles

10:00 - 11:20 Session 1 - Armenians in Jerusalem in the Pre-Ottoman Period

Presentations: (20 min each)

Camille Rouxpetel, French Scientific Research National Center (CNRS), Paris

Title: The Roots of the Armenian Presence in Jerusalem in the Late Middle Ages

Emilio Bonfiglio, University of Hamburg, Hamburg

Title: The Armenian Presence in Late Antique Jerusalem

Discussant: Anatolii Tokmantsev (15 min)

Question and Answer (25 min)

11:20 - 11:40 Coffee break

11:40 - 13:00 Session 2 - Archivist Interventions into the Ottoman Armenian Photographic Heritage

Presentations: (20 min each)

Aikaterini Gegisian, Metropolitan University, London

Title: Self-Portrait as an Ottoman Woman as an Image-History: Photography as Movement and Collaboration

Issam Nassar, Doha institute for Graduate Studies, Doha

Title: The Birth of Armenian Photography in Jerusalem

Discussant: Karen Jallatyan (15 min)

Question and Answer (25 min)

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:20 Session 3 - Institutional and Ethno-photographic Histories of Armenians in Jerusalem and Beyond

Presentations: (20 min each)

Arman Khachatryan, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Yerevan

Title: Srpts Zharangavorats Seminary and its Role in the Development of the Armenian Quarter

Hanga Gebauer, Hungarian Museum of Ethnography, Budapest

Title: Armenian Photographs of the Museum of Ethnography (Budapest) from the End of the 19th and the Beginning of the 20th Centuries

Diana Ghazaryan, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest

Title: Patriarch Yessayi Garabedian (1865-1885) as an Agent of Microhistory

Discussant: Bálint Kovács (15 min)

Question and Answer (35 min)

16:20 Coffee break

17:00 Closing remarks by Karen Jallatyan

18:30 Farewell Dinner



Capturing Eternity: Jerusalem Armenian Photography in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Program

Exhibition Opening Ceremony: 09.20.2024, 18:00

Symposium: 09.21.2024

Duration of Exhibition: 09.20 - 10.08.2024

