

SIRARPIE DER NERSESSIAN PAPERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Image Collections & Fieldwork Archives, Washington, D.C.

Repository: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Image Collections & Fieldwork Archives, Washington, D.C.
Call Number: D - VI
Location: Compact Stacks
Title: Sirarpie Der Nersessian papers and photographs
Name of Creator(s): Sirarpie Der Nersessian, 1896-1989
Inclusive Dates: 1939 – 1966
Language(s): English
Quantity: 2 boxes

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition information: The Image Collections & Fieldwork Archives received these materials in 1998 from the Dumbarton Oaks Director's office.

Processing Information: Processed by the staff of Image Collections & Fieldwork Archives. Finding aid was revised by Rona Razon in September 2010.

Conditions on Access and Use: Photographs are for research purposes only.

Physical Access: Appointment is required for access because researcher space is limited. For appointments and queries, contact the staff of Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives.

Preferred Citation: *Sirarpie Der Nersessian papers and photographs, Courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks.*

Related Materials: Sylvia Agémian, Archives Sirarpie Der Nersessian: catalogue, Antélias 2003

HISTORICAL NOTE

Sirarpie Der Nersessian was born in Istanbul (Constantinople), Turkey on September 5, 1896 and died on July 5, 1989. Der Nersessian attended several universities such as the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris from 1919 to 1929 and earned several degrees such as Docteur ès Lettres in 1936. She was a member of the faculty and served as a chairman of the Department of Art and Director of the Wellesley College Art Museum from 1937 to 1946. After Der Nersessian's sixteen years of devoted service in Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA, she was appointed as a Professor of Byzantine Art and Archeology at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection of Harvard University in Washington, D.C., without limit of time in July 1, 1946. Prior to her appointment as a professor at

Sirarpie Der Nersessian papers and photographs

Finding Aid

Dumbarton Oaks, she was a resident and senior scholar at Dumbarton Oaks from 1944 to 1946. She is well-known in the field of Byzantium, for she has written various articles about Christian Art, Cilician illustrated manuscripts, unpublished Armenian manuscripts, and Coptic paintings in Egypt.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection mainly documents Sirarpie Der Nersessian's professional life in Dumbarton Oaks. The majority of this collection consists of correspondence papers, resumes, list of publications and projects as well as miscellaneous photographs and negatives of Armenian manuscripts.

SUBJECTS

Armenian manuscripts
Der Nersessian, Sirarpie
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
Wellesley College Art Museum

EXTENT

Quantity	Physical Description	Containers
3	Folders	Box 1
119	Negatives	Box 2
50 approx.	B&W Photographs	Box 2

SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

This collection is arranged in two series:

Series I: Manuscript and Print Materials

The first series contains Sirarpie Der Nersessian's resumes, list of publications and projects, and letters between Der Nersessian and Dumbarton Oaks, and various universities.

Series II: Photographs and Negatives

The second series contains photographs and negatives of Armenian manuscripts.

COLLECTION INVENTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Series I: Manuscript and Print Materials

Box 1 of 2

Folder 1: Finding Aid

Folder 2: Resumes and articles about Sirarpie Der Nersessian

Folder 3: Correspondence papers contain: request to lecture & discussion regarding lecture topic; article and publication of life-long appointment as professor of Byzantine Art and Archeology at Dumbarton Oaks in 1946; University statements; letter outlining future investigation plans for study of Armenian Art and request to study overseas for the academic year, 1951-1952; letter of approval of Armenian studies and appointment of Mrs. Araxie Iskouhi Der Nersessian as research assistant in 1953; introduction to retirement lecture outlining her scholarship, etc.

Folder 4: Written reports of major projects and an article written by Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *Some Aspects of Byzantine Sculpture*, March 10, 1939

Series II: Photographs and Negatives

Box 2 of 2 Black and white photographs and negatives of Armenian manuscripts