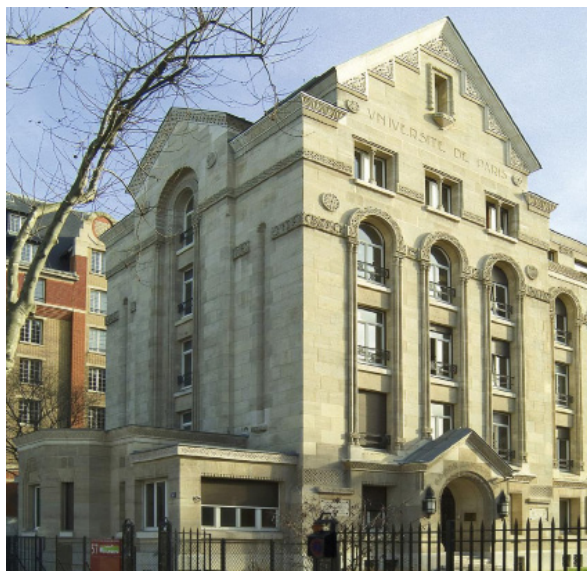


The 80th anniversary of the house of Armenian students

inf○rmation pack



DECEMBER 2010

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The house of Armenian students is celebrating its 80th anniversary

The cité internationale universitaire de paris' house of Armenian students is running a cultural programme open to all with the aim of enabling the general public to learn about Armenian culture. This 80th anniversary year will be the chance to depict and tell the tale of Armenia and listen to what the country is all about. Celebrations will get underway in November with *Intime Arménie*, an exhibition of photos by Régis Labourdette, followed by two lectures and a concert in December.



→ 17 NOVEMBER -17 DÉCEMBER | EXHIBITION

INTIME ARMÉNIE | RÉGIS LABOURDETTE

8am – 10pm | Free entry

→ WEDNESDAY 1 DÉCEMBER | LECTURE

Literature: between history and testimony - the theme of the disaster in the Armenian and French work of Chahnour-Armen Lubin.

Gérard MALKASSIAN, philosophy teacher.

8.45pm | prior booking required | meaparis80@yahoo.fr

→ WEDNESDAY 8 DÉCEMBER | LECTURE

Boghos Nubar Pacha, an engineer and former student of the Ecole Centrale, diplomat and philanthropist. Raymond KÉVORKIAN, lecturer at the French Institute of Geopolitics (University Paris VII Saint Denis).

8.45pm | prior booking required | meaparis80@yahoo.fr

→ MONDAY 13 DÉCEMBER | OFFICIAL CEREMONY

In the presence of the cité internationale universitaire de Paris supervisory authorities and Armenian public figures.

7pm | invitation only

→ TUESDAY 14 DÉCEMBER | MARIE & BOGHOS NUBAR TRIBUTE CONCERT

First half: current and past residents
Second half: The Naïri string ensemble conducted by Haik Davtian

8.30pm | Free entry

→ 13-15 DÉCEMBER | OPEN DAYS

Discover the house of Armenian students
9am – 12pm and 2pm – 7pm | Free entry

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EXHIBITION AND CONCERT

maison internationale
17, bd Jourdan | 75014 Paris
RER B, TRAMWAY T3 : cité universitaire stop

LECTURES AND OPEN DAYS

maison des Étudiants Arméniens
57, bd Jourdan | 75014 Paris
MÉTRO 4, TRAMWAY T3 : porte d'Orléans stop

The cité internationale universitaire de Paris, a private foundation with public utility status, entirely dedicates itself to hosting high level students, researchers, sportspeople and artists. Every year it hosts some 10,000 residents of 125 nationalities in 40 houses that were founded on the initiative of a country, school or philanthropist. The universities of Paris Chancery represents Parisian universities who donated and therefore own houses at the cité. The mix of nationalities and academic disciplines in each house encourages residents to meet and interact.

rebirth of a nation

In 1927, the Armenian diplomat and philanthropist Boghos Nubar (1851-1930) donated three million francs to the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris so that a house could be built for Armenian students. The genocide that occurred in the Ottoman Empire in 1915 had wiped out or forced into exile Armenian intellectuals and scholars and he therefore wished to build a new Armenian elite. The House of Armenian Students, also known as the Marie Nubar Foundation, was inaugurated on 16 December 1930, six months after the death of its founder.

sustaining an age-old culture

Léon Nafilyan designed the building with an eye to perpetuating the architectural traditions of Armenia, seen notably in the sculpted façade that recalls the style of religious buildings.

Armenia in the heart of Paris

The genocide survivors scattered to all four corners of the world in 1915. In 1920, the young Republic of Armenia was conquered and occupied by the Soviet forces. It was against this backdrop that in 1927 Boghos Nubar asked Léon Nafilyan to rebuild a mini Armenia in the Cité Internationale. Until Armenia regained its independence in 1991, the House of Armenian Students was a unique place where Armenians from the diaspora and from Soviet-controlled Armenia could meet, recreating the dislocated mosaic of their nation. One of the first openings of the Iron Curtain was at the Cité Internationale.

BOGHOS NUBAR PACHA | FOUNDER OF THE HAS



The son of Nubar Pacha, the first prime minister of Egypt, Boghos Nubar (1851-1930) studied in Switzerland and France. A graduate of the École Centrale de Paris (1873), he returned to Egypt where he was appointed administrator of the Egyptian railways in 1878-79 and again from 1891-1898. He was involved in the development of Ramleh, a suburb of Alexandria, and worked with Baron Édouard Empain (1852-1929) to create the town of Heliopolis. From 1906 he devoted himself to promoting the Armenian issue and founded the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

In 1912, he settled in Paris where he was tasked with convincing those in power of the need for reforms to help the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire. In 1915, he launched a donations scheme for the victims of the genocide. Nubar Pacha was appointed head of the Armenian National Delegation and on his initiative the Eastern Legion, which went on to become the Armenian Legion, was created. The Legion contributed to the success of the Allies in Syria and Cilicia during the Great War.

From 1921, he entirely devoted himself to his benevolent union. He provided academic bursaries and founded an ophthalmological institute in the village of Nubarachen in the suburbs of Yerevan, the Armenian library and the House of Armenian Students at the Cité Internationale. The two institutions created in Paris and the ophthalmological institute in Yerevan bear the name of his wife, Marie Nubar, who passed away in 1925. Boghos Nubar Pacha died in Paris on 26 June 1930 six months before the inauguration of the House of Armenian Students.

17 NOVEMBER - 17 DECEMBER

➔ **EXHIBITION**
Régis Labourdette

Intime Arménie

8am - 10pm | Free entry

maison internationale
17, bd Jourdan | 75014 Paris
RER B and Tramway 3: cité universitaire





How can any visitor to Armenia, who has accepted the hospitality being offered and has been led inside an Armenian home, not have been immediately impressed by the rug, which may be big or not so big, attractive or not so attractive, and which most of the time adorns the main wall and draws your attention to it?

It conveys a feeling of comfort and its colours are a kaleidoscope that lights up the room and seems to bring into the heart of the home a pleasantly controlled version of the diversity of the world. Ornaments bringing to mind special memories, religious or symbolic images, photos and portraits of departed ancestors are placed in front of the rug, all of which are laid out with care, respect and love and contribute to daily life in the home and, from their central position, have a constant influence on it.

In the home, it is not the world itself that is represented, instead it is an idea of the world, an idea of time in which the past and present combine, distance from events, a sort of lucidity or humanity hanging on the

wall.

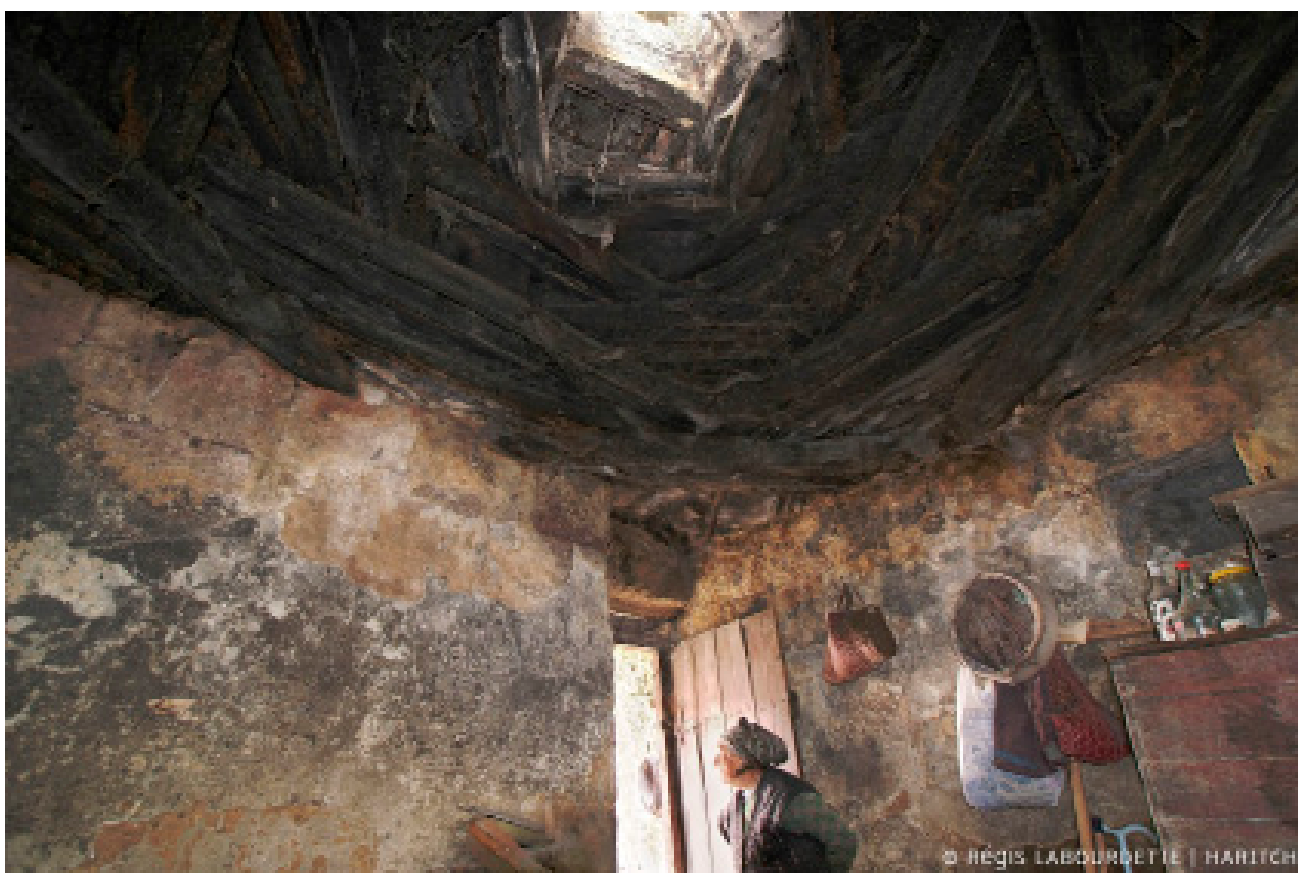
In Armenia, people have a particular way of comparing memories with their current lives in a sort of composition or theatrical work. This is how after a depressing litany, sometimes almost trotted out in an affected manner, albeit with sincerity, that an ironic and incredibly acidic remark can completely change the mental landscape that you may have believed to be inviolable.

Another example is a fabric cross, an emblem that is apparently separate from the happenings of life, which has been surrounded with the letters that make up the name Alice, bizarrely drawn into a perpetual circle: Alice, the new born baby, whose father has made this new genre of khatchkar (traditional cross).

It is also conveyed by a display board meticulously filled with magazine cuttings in which all the imaginable aspects of the most unbelievable luxury jostle together, a dream that is not without awareness of the impossibility of what is being portrayed. Indeed, these decors, words, never-ending discussions and intellectual side-steps make the world a habitable place!

A few images that depict such an ambience, to show the paradox of churches that are about volume, space and the cross and at the same time the exaltation of the distant dome, to portray the incredible splendour of a traditional dwelling which unifies and powerfully structures the main vital functions (the home, light and bread), to challenge set ideas about a past that is difficult to comprehend, to be amazed at strange changes or distressing destructions, to take delight in the spruce figures who criss-cross the streets, to try to give something in return for the hospitality that is always offered to us.

Régis LABOURDETTE



Régis Labourdette | ARTIST

The holder of an art history PhD and a classics master's, Régis Labourdette defines himself as a stroller and a lover of words and images.

→ background

Architecture photographer
 Producer | France Culture (1980-1998)
 History of art lecturer | ICART
 Guided architectural walks coordinator | Louvre Museum
 Project manager | Association des Promenades Urbaines
 Lecturer | Pompidou Centre
 Junior lecturer | University Paris 7

→ publications

Editions Plon, Le Robert, Gesta, Universalis, Historia, L'Âne, Semen, Mélanges Jean Peytard, Bulletin de l'Association Guillaume Budé, Colloque Jean Epstein, Cahiers de Médiologie, 1895, Fondation Bodmer, photographic work on traditional Armenian homes currently being prepared for publication with Editions Parenthèses.

→ exhibitions

Citadelle de Blaye (Gironde)
 Galerie Médiane (Paris)
 L'Ugab Paris, at the church of Saint-Roch (Paris)
 Fondation Bodmer (Geneva)
 Church of Gy-l'Évêque
 College of Architects (Yerevan, Armenia)
 Anako Cultural Barge (Paris)
 Espace Pléiade (Vichy)
 University Paris 7

WEDNESDAY 1 AND 8 DECEMBER LECTURES

wednesday 1 december

Literature: between history and testimony - the theme of the disaster in the Armenian and French work of Chahmour-Armen Lubin.

Gérard Malkassian, philosophy teacher at the Lycée Paul Valéry.

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER

Boghos Nubar Pacha, an engineer and former student of the École Centrale, diplomat and philanthropist.

Raymond Kévorkian, lecturer at the French Institute of Geopolitics | University Paris VII-Saint-Denis | Chief Librarian at the Marie Nubar Armenian Library | Director of Arméniens Review.

Prior booking required : meaparis80@yahoo.fr

House of Armenian Students

57, Bd Jourdan | 75014

Métro 4, Tramway 3 : Porte d'Orléans stop

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER OFFICIAL CEREMONY

In the presence of Patrick Gérard, Paris Region Director of Education and Chancellor of the Paris Universities, Marcel Pochard, President of the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, Carine Camby, Director of the General Delegation, His Excellency Mr Vignen Tchitetchian, the Armenian Ambassador to France, Martin Essayan, Administrator of the Gulbenkian Foundation, Dr Zaven Vegavian, Director of the Gulbenkian Foundation Armenian Community Department and representing the Boghos Nubar family and Mr Alexis Govclyan, Armenian General Benevolent Union President for Europe.

Invitation only

Maison Internationale

17, Bd Jourdan | 75014 Paris

RER B and Tramway 3: Cité Universitaire stop

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER
CONCERT

*marie and boghos nubar (founders of the
house of armenian students) tribute concert*

first half
current and past residents

kristiné aydinyan, moucher bakhshinian, arevik gevorgyan, setrag koulaksezian,
vartan margaryan, nagor talatinian, emma vasilyan.
works by bach, brahms, komitas, rachmaninov, babadjanian, piazzolla.

vahram zaryan, mime artist | an excerpt from his show confession

second half
the naïri string ensemble

conductor| haïk davtian
kristiné aydinian - soprano
mekertitch mekertitchyan – baritone
works by komitas, aslamazian, aharonian, spendiaryan, altounian.

Free entry
maison internationale
17, bd Jourdan | 75014 paris
RER B and Tramway 3: cité universitaire stop



The naïri ensemble is the result of 15 years of musical experiences shared by a conductor and a group of close and passionate musicians. Throughout his career as a violinist and conductor, Haïk Davtian, the founder and artistic director of the ensemble, has managed to combine the energy and artistic sensitivity of each member to bring the project to life.

The flexible and adaptable grouping is based on around 20 strings players in a Mozart formation to which all the other instruments of a symphony orchestra can be added to cover a wider repertoire.

The musicians, who are from the best French schools of music, have worked alongside him since the ensemble was created and contribute to its artistic coherence through their genuine personal commitment. Although based in the Paris region, the naïri ensemble has also performed in Armenia and the UAE (2008 tour).

Over the years the desire to build up a repertoire blending the great classical composers with folk music from the Caucasus (Armenia and Georgia) was born. The fruit of this long and abundant collaboration enables the naïri ensemble to offer lively and authentic interpretations of these different repertoires.

Haïk DAVTIAN | CONDUCTOR



An Armenian who was born in Moscow in 1963, Haïk Davtian belongs to the tradition of Russian violinists. A pupil of Édouard Tadevossian, he won the Armenian Music School first prize in 1985. He honed his skills in Moscow with the famous Léonid Kogan, Yakov Rabinovitch and Igor Bezrodny and won many competitions in the ex-Soviet Union.

At the same time he completed his studies to be a symphony and opera orchestra conductor with flying colours.

In 1987, he became the permanent conductor of the opera orchestra and in 1990 the guest conductor of the Armenian national radio orchestra. Haïk Davtian has continued to pursue his

two vocations, as a concert violinist and a conductor, since that time.

He is regularly invited to be a solo guest violinist by the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He has performed on tours throughout Eastern Europe, the US and Russia. In 1996, Davtian, alongside the pianist Arthur Aharonian, unanimously scooped the Grand Prix at the Pierre Leotier International Competition in Paris.

Since settling in France in 1991, Davtian has maintained close links with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra and with the national opera company and in particular is invited to conduct French works, including Fauré's *Pelléas and Mélisande*, Ravel's *The Child and the Spells* and Chabrier's *España* and *Pastoral Suite*.

He currently teaches the violin at Strasbourg Regional Music School and conducts its chamber orchestra. He is the founder and artistic director of the naïri ensemble.

RÉSIDENTS D'HIER & AUJOURD'HUI

Setrag KOULAKSEZIAN | VIOLIST

born in saint-chamond (Loire) in 1943.
resident at the house of HAS | 1960.

koulaksezian was awarded first prize in the first year at the Paris music school. he has played the majority of works for the viola and orchestra at public televised and radio concerts and has performed at many festivals and concerts in France and abroad.

he was the radio France new philharmonic orchestra's solo viola from 1976 – 2006.

kristiné AYDINYAN | SOPRANO

born in 1982 in Erevan, Armenia.
resident at the house of HAS since 2008.

aydinyan graduated from the Armenian music school in 2005 and has been pursuing her studies in Paris since 2008, firstly at the Paul Dukas music school and subsequently at the Boulogne Billancourt music school. she has been a.

aydinyan took part in the Armenian Hover chamber choir's tour of France in 2006 (Paris, Vendée, Nantes, Marseille and the Abbaye de Fontevraud). In November 2009, she gave a concert with the Nairi string ensemble at the Eglise St. Joseph in Enghien-les-Bains.

on 18 October 2010, accompanied by Emma Vasilyan (piano), she took part in the gala evening celebrating the 120th anniversary of the AAAS (Armenian Social Aid Association) in Paris.

Hagop TALATINIAN | VIOLIN

born in 1981 in Beirut, Lebanon.
resident at the house of HAS | 2005-2009.

Hagop Talatinian settled in Paris in September 2005. He lived at the HAS for four years until 2009. A graduate of the National Music School in Lebanon, he has played in several ensembles and orchestras, such as the Hamazkayin string ensemble, the Lebanese-German orchestra and the Université Antoine orchestra (concert master). Talatinian is now a financial software package designer and a graduate of the Beirut Engineering School and Télécom ParisTech. In May 2007 he took part in the concert of HAS residents.

Arevik GEVORGYAN | PIANO

born in 1986 in Bakou, Azerbaijan
resident at the house of HAS | 2010.

A graduate of the Alexandre Spendiaryan Music School in Erevan, she is currently studying IT at the Université Sorbonne 1.

Emma VASILYAN | PIANO

born in 1988 in Erevan, Armenia.
resident at the house of HAS since 2009.

A graduate of the Armenian Music School in 2008, Vasilyan is currently studying at the École Normale Alfred Cortot in Paris.

Bakhshinyan MOUCHER | PIANO

born in 1988 in Armenia.
resident at the house of HAS since 2009.

Bakhshinyan is studying for a two-year master's in management and financial engineering.

Margaryan VARDAN | VIOLONCELLO

born in 1982 in Erevan, Armenia.
A HAS resident | 2005.

A graduate of the Armenian Music School in 2004, he continued his studies at the École Normale Alfred Cortot in Paris from 2004-2006 and from 2006-2008 at the Gabriel Fauré Music School. In 2010, he obtained his advanced diploma at the Val de Bièvre departmental music school. A HAS resident in 2005, since his arrival in Paris he has taken part in numerous musical events, including the concert of HAS residents in May 2007 in the Salon Honorat.



vahram ZARYAN | MIME

vahram zaryan has been performing since the age of 15. From 1996 to 2002, he acquired solid singing, movement and dance knowledge at the Abelyan de vanadzor theatre drama studio and then at the Armenian state drama and film school. He quickly specialised in mime and started to work as a mime artist at the state mime theatre in Erevan directed by Zhirayr Dadasyan. He arrived in France in 2002 and took classical dance lessons with Yves Casati from the Paris Opera. Zaryan improved his technique at the prestigious Marcel Marceau International Mime School where his teachers were Marcel Marceau himself for mime, Ivan Vaccicchi for mime based on the Decraux technique, Emmanuel Vacca for creation and masks and Laurent Clairet for artistic acrobatics. Zaryan was one of the school's last graduates. During his studies, he joined the Mille Pattes theatre troupe and performed in Paris and the French provinces. He then took part in courses and master classes with Ariane Mnouchkine at the Théâtre du Soleil, Caroline Carlson and Maurice Bejart. In 2005, he founded a mime company with artistes from the Marcel Marceau school: Le Théâtre suspendu. In May 2006, he performed the role of the white mime artist at a gala at the Palais Garnier. He paid tribute to the film-maker Serguei Paradjanov in a show entitled Couleurs de la Grenade, working with Gaëlle Nguyen and the pianist Vardan Mamikonian, during the 2008-2009 season. He is currently preparing for the role of Vespone in Pergolesi's opera La Serva Padrona for the 2010-2011 season. Zaryan also works with the Théâtre des Silences.

THE ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) was established in Cairo (Egypt) in 1906 on the initiative of Boghos Nubar Pacha. With a group of Armenian worthies, he laid the foundations of a union aiming to help the Armenian small farmers in the historic Armenian territories located on the borders of the Ottoman Empire. The objective was clear-cut: unite the Armenians, work towards their intellectual, economic and moral development and therefore enable them to remain in their homeland. Following the 1915 genocide, the union accomplished the major task of helping the survivors and worked through hundreds of sections around the world. The AGBU was the executor of Boghos Nubar's will and managed the House of Armenian Students between 1977 and 1990. Since that date, the union has supported the house by creating 20 study bedrooms. Mr Alexis Govciyan, Armenian General Benevolent Union president for Europe, and Mr Michel Sabbagh, the treasurer, are both members of the board in their roles as union representatives. Many residents of the House of Armenian Students are also union scholarship students. The house provides accommodation every summer for young AGBU interns during their stay in Paris.

THE CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

Calouste Gulbenkian (1869-1955), made his wealth from oil and was an internationally renowned patron. In a will dated 18 June 1953, he established a foundation that would bear his name and inherit a large part of his fortune. In accordance with the wishes of its founder, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, based in Lisbon (Portugal), is an institution whose aims are charitable, artistic, educational and scientific. Nowadays the Gulbenkian Foundation awards grants and comfortable bursaries to hundreds of institutions and students enabling them to accomplish their missions or continue their studies. Many residents of the House of Armenian Students are foundation scholarship students. The foundation's community department has also been supporting the house for many years by covering the cost of 15 study bedrooms and by donating equipment (computers, audiovisual equipment, books and a piano) and therefore making an active contribution to improving facilities for residents. Its director, Dr Zaven Vegavian, is a member of the house's board and represents the founder's family by ensuring that the deed of donation is respected.

THE FRIENDS OF THE MARIE NUBAR FOUNDATION

Since 1974, this 1901 law association, which was founded by a number of women from Paris' Armenian community, has been providing support for many Armenian students living at the Marie Nubar Foundation located at the heart of the Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris.

Bursaries are paid directly to the House of Armenian Students to contribute to the student's rent and are now granted to around 20 residents, some of whom would be unable to study in France without this financial help. The association therefore plays a vital role in fulfilling the mission of Boghos Nubar Pacha, the founder of the house.

The association would like to get in touch with its former scholarship students in France and abroad to find out their news and communicate with them.

Contact: amismarienoubar@hotmail.fr | 57, Bd. Jourdan 75014 Paris

SIRARPIE DER NERCÉSSIAN FOUNDATION

The foundation funds the stay at the House of Armenian Students of a young history of art researcher from Armenia. Mr and Mrs Michel Nafilyan have been running the foundation for many years.

Contact: [Fondation en faveur des étudiants et chercheurs en histoire de l'Art de la République d'Arménie](#)
9, Square Alboni | 75016 Paris.