

***Esteemed Armenian Historian and Researcher Dr. Ara Sanjian calls upon LERC***

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Dr. Ara Sanjian, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan in Dearborn USA, paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University, for a businesslike and fruitful meeting with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani and LERC's Adjunct Associate Researcher, Professor Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.

Over the years Dr. Sanjian has given a variety of courses in Armenian History, Middle Eastern History, and the History of World Civilizations, at Haigazian University in Beirut, where he was also chair of the Department of Armenian Studies which encompasses both Armenian history and Armenian Political Science.

Dr. Sanjian's interest in Armenian history has earned him a master's degree in Armenian History from the Faculty of History at Yerevan State University in Armenia which he followed up with a PhD. in Modern Middle Eastern History from the highly esteemed School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

Prior to his post at Haigazian, Dr. Sanjian was a freelance writer in both Beirut and Yerevan, with a passion that saw him author several articles on Armenian history and culture, and later on two books *Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact* (2001) and *The Negotiation of 'The Contract of the Century' and the Political Background to the Revival of Azerbaijan's Oil Industry* (1997).



Dr. Ara Sanjian pictured at NDU's main courtyard during his visit to LERC (Jan 2010).

Dr. Sanjian arrived at LERC keen to discover more concerning LERC's interest in the migration of Armenians in Lebanon. His meeting with Director Hourani and Professor Sensenig-Dabbous covered co-operation concerning, first, finding Master's students and young researchers interested in conducting research on the Armenians in Lebanon, in particular their emigration, and, second, to cooperate with LERC on increasing the Center's textual and non-textual material in the Armenians of Lebanon collection.

Both parties agreed to hold a lecture to be given by Dr. Sanjian on the Armenians in Lebanon in the summer of 2010.

Dr. Sanjian was then introduced to the LERC's electronic archives and database to see the variety of academic, cultural and visual materials collected by the Center. Dr. Sanjian promised to share with LERC any relevant material that he may come across during his travels and his time in the United States.