

Fall 2022 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Forging New Connections: Asia in the First Millenium of the Common Era
Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art*

Armenia Between East and West
Dr. Helen C. Evans, Curator Emerita, Metropolitan Museum of Art
August 26, 2022

Timeline Armenian History:

Early Armenia to the Mongol arrival in Armenian Lands

BCE

331 Alexander the Great conquers Persia enabling Armenia to gain more independence from Persian rule

190-12 CE Rule Armenian Artaxid Dynasty established by Artaxis I

95 – 55 Rule Tigranes the Great

66 Roman general Pompey invades Armenia

CE

12-428 Arsacid Armenia dynasty, branch Persian Parthian dynasty, dominates Armenia

43-66 Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew preach in Armenia

66 Tridates I crowned in Rome by Emperor Nero

First Century Garni built

301/314 Armenia becomes first Christian Nation;

325 Armenians attend Council of Nicea

387 Peace of Acisilene divides Armenia between Sassanians and Byzantium (Rome)

Fifth/Sixth Century – church of Yererouk

405 Mesrop Mashtots creates Armenian alphabet for translation Christian texts

428-642(?) Eastern Armenia becomes a province (Marzpanate) of the Sassanian Empire

451 Battle of Avarayr, General Vardan Mamikonian leads a revolt against Sassanians; fails but efforts leads to religious independence; he recognized as a saint

506 First Council of Dvin

618 Saint Hripsime Church built

631-639 Cathedral of Mren built

639-1230'S	Arab invasions; Dvin falls 642
643-52	Zavart`nots cathedral built
865/66	Ashot I Bagratuni recognized as a king by the Abassids in Baghdad and Basil I, Ruler of Byzantium (Rome) who is of Armenian descent
915-21	Aght`mar palace church
961	Ashot III moves Bagratid capital from Kars to Ani, City of 1001 churches
1045	Byzantine (Rome) emperor Basil II forces Armenians to surrender their lands and move further into the Empire
1071	Battle of Manzikert, Byzantium (Rome) loses to Turkic Seljuk invaders from East; recognized now as beginning of end of Byzantine (Rome) power
1078	Armenian principality develops in Cilicia under Rupenids
1095	First Crusade ordered by Pope Urban I
1198	Levon the Great of Cilicia recognized as king by Rome and Byzantium (Rome)
1219	Death Levon the Great; rule to daughter Zabel and second husband Het`um I
1241-44	Mongol invasion Greater Armenia
1247/8	Cilician king Hetum I sent brother Constable Smbat to Mongol court making his kingdom the first Christian nation to have a peace treaty with Mongols

Readings:

Primary readings:

Evans, Helen C., ed. ***Armenia!: Art, Religion, and Trade in the Middle Ages***, exhibition Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2018, esp. pp. 1-170*

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/Armenia_Art_Religion_and_Trade_in_the_Middle_Ages?Tag=&title=&author=Helen%20Evans&pt=0&tc=0&dept=0&fmt=Downloadpdf

Maranci, Christina, ***The Art of Armenia: An Introduction***, Oxford U. Press, 2018, esp. pp. 1-124

Supplemental readings:

Brooks, Sarah T., ed. ***Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557), Perspectives on Late Byzantine Art and Culture, symposium volume for Byzantium: Faith and Power exhibition***, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2006, Maria Mavroudis, "Exchange with Arabic Writers during the Late Byzantine Period," pp.62-75 *
https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/Byzantium_Faith_and_Power_1261_1557?Tag=&title=&author=Helen%20Evans&pt=0&tc=0&dept=0&fmt=Downloadpdf

Evans, Helen C., and William D. Wixom, eds. ***The Glory of Byzantium: Art and Culture of the Middle Byzantine Era, A.D. 843-1261***, exhibition Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997, "The Armenians," pp. 350-363 *
https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/The_Glory_of_Byzantium_Art_and_Culture_of_the_Middle_Byzantine_Era_AD_843_1261?Tag=&title=&author=Helen%20Evans&pt=0&tc=0&dept=0&fmt=Downloadpdf

Evans, Helen C., ed. ***Art and Religion in Medieval Armenia, symposium volume for Armenia! exhibition***, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2021, Helen C. Evans with Thomas F. Mathews, "Celebrating Armenia across Generations," Benjamin Anderson, "The Great Kosmos of All Armenia: on the Sarcophagus of Isaac," and Lynn A. Jones, "Rare and Beautiful ": Armenian Bronze Censers, pp.9-38

Franklin, Kate. ***Everyday Cosmopolitanisms: Living the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia***, U. of California Press, 2021

Jones, Lynn, ***Between Byzantium and Islam: Aght`amar and the Visual Construction of Medieval Armenian Rulership***, Ashgate, 2007.

Mathews, Thomas F. and Roger S. Wieck, ***Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts***, exhibition Morgan Library and Museum, 1994, esp. essays by Nina G. Garsoïan and Krikor H. Maksoudian

Mathews, Thomas F. and Roger S. Wieck, ***Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts, Symposium volume***, exhibition Morgan Library and Museum, 1994, Nina G. Garsoïan, "The Armenian Church Between Byzantium and the East," Robert F. Taft, Jr., "The Armenian Liturgy: Its Origins and Characteristics," Father Krikor H. Maksoudian, "Clergy and Laity in Medieval Armenia," and Robert H. Hewsen, "Armenian Society in the Bagratid Period"

*Metropolitan Museum of Art out-of-print publications that can be downloaded for free as PDFs at <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications>. Met publications (scroll down to find)/ type in publication name.