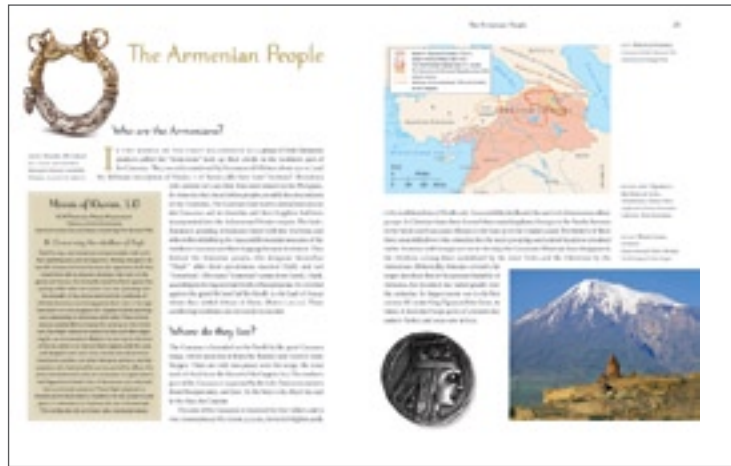


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TITLE:	The Armenians: Art, Culture and Religion
AUTHORS:	Nira and Michael Stone. With a Foreword by Michael Ryan, Director, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin
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ILLUSTRATIONS:	60 colour illustrations
TEXT:	15,000 words, including Foreword and Acknowledgements; principal essay: <i>The Armenians: Art, Culture and Religion</i> by Nira and Michael Stone; 5 pull-out text boxes with excerpts from Armenian poetry and literature; 5 Appendices; Bibliography and Index
MARKET:	Students, scholars and generalists with an interest in the history of Armenia, its people, art, literature and religion; medieval European and Middle Eastern historians, especially those with an interest in Armenia, Anatolia and the Caucasus; anthropologists; specialist travel markets
SALES POINTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first accessible study of the Armenian people and their history as seen through Armenian art, literature, language and religion from the late 5th to the early 20th century• Features colour plates of over 20 rare Armenian illuminated manuscripts from the Chester Beatty Library's internationally renowned collection• The principal essay, written by leading authors Nira and Michael Stone, is illustrated with a wide range of contextual images, including leading historic monuments and sites from Armenian history• Features appendices on the Armenian language and alphabet, a timeline of key historical events and an glossary of artistic terms

advance information



CONTENTS:

The Armenians: Art, Culture and Religion is an entirely new accessible study of the Armenian people from the late 5th to the early 20th century. Taking as its starting point the internationally important collection of Armenian illuminated manuscripts in the collection of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, the authors have selected over 20 of the rarest and most beautiful of these to tell the history of the Armenian people, their art and literature. These are intrinsically linked to Armenia's religious, ecclesiastical and liturgical traditions, which have developed independently from both Catholic and Orthodox churches since the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (now a suburb of Istanbul) in 451, and which today are more in doctrinal accord with the family of five other Oriental Orthodox Churches, namely the Syrian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Indian.

In their clear and accessible style, the Stones tell the story of Armenian landscape, people, Armenian Christianity, language and writing, from the time when the Arsacid Armenian dynasty ended in 428 and the first Armenian kingdom was divided into Greater Armenia, to the East, under Iranian rule, and Lesser Armenia, to the West, under the Byzantine Empire, through the cultural renaissance of the New Julfa Armenians during the 17th century – the single largest concentration of Armenian manuscripts in the Chester Beatty Library date from this period – to the Ottoman genocides of 1915 and the creation of the Armenian *Diaspora*. The Stones draw on a wide range of comparative and contextual material, including 40 colour images of key monuments and sites from Armenian history, engravings and contemporary religious ceremonies. The text is augmented by a further five special pull-out boxes, each of which studies a particular event, such as the fall of the great City of Ani following the Battle of Avarayr in 451, which was lamented in major poems and works from Armenian literature for centuries.

AUTHORS:

Dr. Nira Stone is Lecturer in the Department of History of Art at the University of Jerusalem, specializing in Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Armenian Art of the Middle Ages. Recent publications include *The Kaffa Lives of the Desert Fathers: A Study in Armenian Manuscript Illumination* (Leuven, 1997). **Professor Michael Stone** is Professor of Armenian Studies and Gail Levin de Nur Professor of Religious Studies at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Recent publications include *The Armenians in Jerusalem and the Holy Land*, with R.R. Ervine and Nira Stone (eds.), Hebrew University Armenian Studies, 4 (Leuven, 2002)



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