

**DATE:** March 19, 1993  
**TO:** George Gibson, AUA  
**FROM:** Sylva Manoogian  
Your AUA Library Consultant  
**SUBJECT: LIBRARY ACTIVITIES**

Your fax came as a great and pleasant surprise. I am glad you are well, and thank you for your greetings. So does Ara. First, the important stuff. BIG NEWS! Our boy is getting engaged, on April 30. His fiancée-to-be is Armenian, from Lebanon, by way of Andorra (16 years or so), and now lives with her family in Glendale. She is an accountant and a polyglot (a girl after my own heart, with 7 languages under her belt). She is very sweet and absolutely adores Ara. Her family is also very nice. They won't be married until some time in 1994. This is a whole new phase of life for us, though I don't think I am really the mother-in-law/grandmother type. Do you?

Ara is going to Boston for two weeks to visit his grandmother (my mother) and aunt. He expects to see Garig Chookasezian there. Garig is returning to Armenia soon, so I will sent with him for you a copy of the proposal I submitted to IREX which involves the AUA library. It looks like IREX is serious about giving away money. My deadline was March 1. I conferred with Mihran about the concept of the AUA library as a showcase and focus point for a multi-type strategic plan for Armenia's libraries. Please tell Sona Hamalian that I will be in touch with her regarding teaching a short course on the subject (If all goes well, I will bring two other Armenian librarians from the U.S. to present some of the material). You see how great minds work in concert!

Because we need to wait for word on the application, we are delaying our going to Armenia to the middle of May instead of April. Unless there is a drastic change, I will come with or without grant funding. And so will Ara, I think. This will also make it possible for us to see Patriarch Torkom, who will be in New York for the 25th anniversary of the Armenian Cathedral, whose construction was completed while he was the Primate of the Eastern Diocese.

As far as what I have done with the AUA Library project, I have been gathering catalogs of online vendors, which Mihran and I will review. They will all receive questionnaires regarding what they can provide and we will winnow down the list to those who should receive a request for proposal. Hopefully, we will be able to make a good selection. In the meantime, we are trying to deal with the more pressing need of shelving. One of the shelving manufacturers has connections with European companies and suggests it would be more cost effective to purchase abroad and transport overland. Again, an issue I will be discussing with Mihran.

How are things progressing with USIA? I guess you know by now that we didn't get the Library/Book Fellows Grant. Something about it seemed to lack focus, and perhaps it was a little premature. But I'm not one to give up, which is why I jumped at the chance with IREX. If we keep working at it, we're bound to be successful some time before we're too old and tired to care!

Please tell Nune and Rusanna hello for me. I received Nune's letter and was very touched by it. Tell her I am sending her a letter with Garig.

I know the winter has been harsh there and the situation unbearable. I wish I were there to shoulder some of the burden with you all. I miss you and Armenia greatly, and I can see my destiny is inexorably bound with helping bring about positive change in the land of my ancestors. I will keep in touch and hope this FAX gets through. Regards to you all.