

Resolution on the Retirement of

Lucy Der Manuelian

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

The faculty of the Department of Art and Art History join the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to put on record our admiration and affection for our retiring colleague, Lucy Der Manuelian, Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemal Professor of Armenian Art and Architectural History. A lifelong resident in the Boston area, Lucy received her BA degree from Radcliffe College in 1950, was appointed a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute from 1971-1973, and received her PhD in Art History from Boston University in 1980. Lucy was the first person in the United States to write a dissertation in the field of Armenian art. She is a pioneer, making invaluable contributions to a neglected area of study.

Lucy has authored three volumes, and co-authored a fourth, on *Armenian Architecture*, published by the Armenian Architectural Archives Project. Her publications also include *Weavers, Merchants and Kings: The Inscribed Rugs of Armenia*; articles on Armenian art for the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* and *The Dictionary of Art*; and papers on medieval Armenian sculpture. Over the years she has received research funding from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation in 1971 and 1978, the ACLS in 1983 and IREX in 1977-1978 and again in 1993. Her documentary film, *Lost Treasures of Christianity: The Ancient Monuments of Armenia*, which previewed in 1998, continues to be aired by public broadcasting stations and museums in the US and Armenia.

Professor Der Manuelian has been teaching at Tufts University since 1984 when she was appointed to the Lectureship in Armenian Art and Architecture, the first teaching position in the United States dedicated to the field. In 1989 Lucy was appointed to the newly established Dadian/Oztemel Professorship, the first endowed chair in the field of Armenian art ever established at any university.

Lucy has also earned numerous academic distinctions. In 1986, Boston University appointed her to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni of the Graduate School. In 1987, the Accademia Tiberina of Rome made her a member. In 1994, she received the "Woman of Achievement" award at the First International Conference of the Armenian International Women's Association in London. In 1995 Radcliffe College elected her a member, *honoris causa*, of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Lucy's dissertation advisor, Oleg Grabar, notes her fundamental courage. Despite encountering many obstacles and challenges in the former Soviet Union, she succeeded in photographing, studying, and writing about hundreds of medieval monasteries. Lucy is used to unheated apartments, threats by the KGB, and scary helicopter rides. In 1988, she traveled by jeep to a monastery three hours south of Yerevan, Armenia's capital. She describes the journey: "Whenever there was a rise in front of us, the driver would gun the accelerator, but you didn't know if there'd be a turn to the left, or the right, or if there'd be a road at all." Like that intrepid Armenian driver, Lucy too has forged ahead despite the absence of established career paths or clear road maps. Fittingly enough, her most current work involves the application of ground penetrating radar technology at archaeological sites in Armenia. Once again Lucy is a pioneer in the effort to uncover hidden treasures, bringing to light obscured landmarks and neglected monuments.

In addition to her research, teaching and advising, Lucy has given over 1,000 public lectures worldwide. Students often note that Lucy is an engaging storyteller whose excitement for her subject is nothing less than contagious. As a dedicated adviser to the Tufts Armenian club she spread that excitement about Armenian culture. Her students regard her not only as a scholar of Armenian sculptures, manuscripts, and architecture but as a cherished adviser, mentor and friend.

We thank Lucy for her many years of dedicated teaching and for her passionate scholarship. We are glad to have this opportunity to express our esteem and to wish her continued health and happiness in the future with her family, especially her sons David and Peter, along with many friends and colleagues. Challenge her to a game of tennis, if you dare!

On behalf of the committee, I move that this resolution on the retirement of Lucy Der Manuelian be spread on the permanent record of this faculty and that a copy of it be sent to Lucy.