

BRIDGING TIMES AND SPACES

**Papers in Ancient Near Eastern, Mediterranean and
Armenian Studies**

**Honouring Gregory E. Areshian
on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday**

edited by

**Pavel S. Avetisyan
Yervand H. Grekyan**

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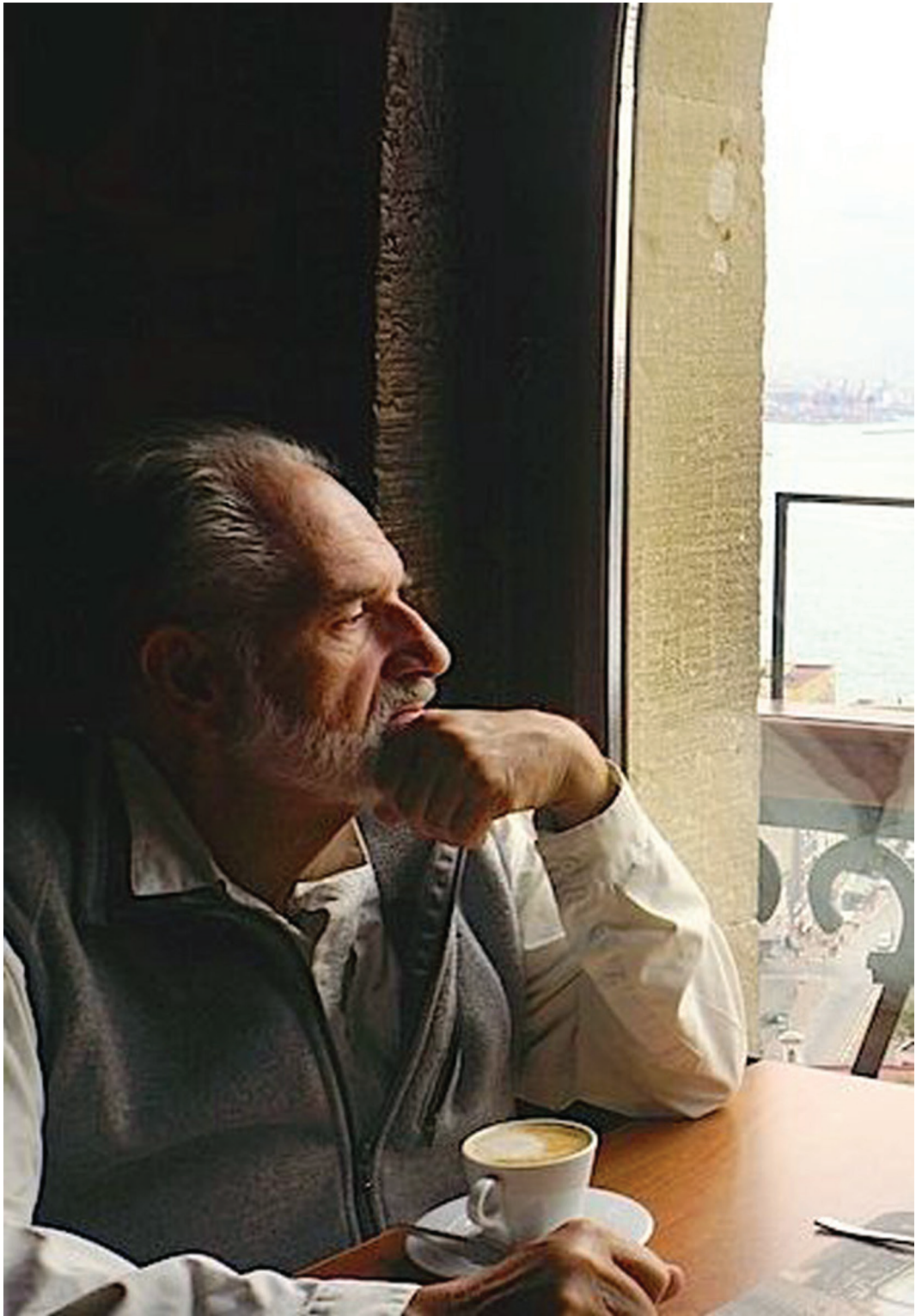
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Front cover illustration: Altar, ca. 1500-1400 BCE, Karashamb Cemetery, Armenia.

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Gregory E. Areshian

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Foreword

The remarkable professional career of Gregory E. Areshian spanning over four and a half decades is unique in several respects. Living through different societal orders in the course of those years he proactively accumulated an experience stemming from very contrasting intellectual, cultural, sociopolitical, and, one even could say, civilizational traditions. His childhood in Armenia was spent in an atmosphere of reverence for world cultural heritage and was surrounded by marvelous archaeological and historical sites, and architectural monuments of Near Eastern civilizations. Thus, it is hardly surprising that he became deeply enamored with Bronze Age fortresses and tombs, Urartian citadels and cuneiform inscriptions, medieval castles and monasteries scattered over the beautiful natural landscapes of Armenia. His interests took him for graduate studies to Saint Petersburg, the two-century-old kernel of Near Eastern, Classical, and Asian studies in Russia and the former Soviet Union. From there Gregory Areshian embarked on a life-long fieldwork covering different areas from the Eastern Mediterranean to Central Asia, which was combined with continuous inquiries into theories and methodologies of social sciences and the humanities. Some of his colleagues from the USA qualified him as an anthropological historian who has been conducting archaeological fieldwork throughout most of his life. Such a characterization captures the essence of Gregory Areshian's academic activities, which consistently demonstrate successful efforts to counterbalance the overspecialization of knowledge by a development of interdisciplinary studies. His constant concern about the societal impact of science and cultural heritage prompted him to occupy several governmental positions, which produced a number of remarkable results. Spending half of his academic life in the Soviet Union and the Republic of Armenia and another half in the USA, teaching and researching at leading universities and other scientific institutions, currently Professor Areshian shares his knowledge and experience with the students of the American University of Armenia, enthusiastically engaging them, together with his colleagues from different countries, into new visionary research projects. Gregory Areshian's colleagues, disciples, and students created this volume on the occasion of his 65th birthday as a tribute to his academic achievements and the editors are delighted by the opportunity of presenting it to the readers.

Pavel S. Avetisyan
Yervand H. Grekyan
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