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### Gothag (Armenian Cochnak) Periodical Collection

Hasmik Grigoryan

Lamisa Muksitu

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# Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

11 Hawthorne Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES 2021.02

Gothag (Armenian Cochnak) Periodical Collection

Hasmik Grigoryan (Author of Historical/Biographical Notes)  
and Lamisa Muksitu (Creator of Finding Aid)  
October 2021

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## **Collection Information**

Abstract : This collection is the Gochtag (Armenian Cochnak) periodicals bound from around 1908 through 1956 (incomplete – 41 volumes). Everything is written in Armenian.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Gochtag (Armenian Cochnak) Periodical Collection – Courtesy of The Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated by George Aghjayan in 2021.

MARC Access :

## Historical/Biographical Notes

**Author: Hasmik Grigoryan**

The Rose Library is the beneficiary of a valuable Armenian language weekly donated to the Strassler Center by George Aghjayan, Director of the Armenian Historical Archives and chair of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Central Committee of the Eastern United States. The *Gotchnag* periodical collection is comprised of 41 incomplete volumes (1908 to 1956). The Reverend Herbert Allen, an American missionary, founded *Gotchnag* (meaning Church Bell) in Boston in 1900 and served as its first editor. Sponsored by the American Missionary Association and the Armenian Protestant Church in America, *Gotchnag* represented the Protestant Armenian community.

Rev. Allen was born in 1865 in Harput, where his parents spent fifty years as missionaries. He attended Williams College (class of 1888) and then the Bangor Theological Seminary, receiving his degree in 1893. Returning to Harput, he taught there and then in Van before returning to America in 1898. The Home Missionary Society appointed him superintendent of the Armenian community, and within the framework of this work, he established *Gotchnag*. In 1903, he was called back to Turkey, as director of the Adabazar High School, and in 1907 he was invited to take over the *Avedaber* editorial office in Constantinople.

The first issue of *Gotchnag* was published on 15 December 1900 and was subject to significant changes over the subsequent decades. In 1909, the publication offices moved to New York and a series of name changes followed. In 1919, it was renamed *Gotchnag Hayastani (The Bell of Armenia)*, then in 1921, *Hayastani Gotchnag (Armenia's Bell)*. By 1960, it had transitioned to a monthly magazine until suspending publication in 1968. Not only did the newspaper's title and publication address change over the years, so too did its governing body. It gradually evolved from a missionary periodical into a wholly Armenian publication with Armenian funding. Despite the modifications, it was the principles of the newspaper "*to remain progressive, independent and impartial, to preach the truth, defend justice and enlighten public opinion.*" Covering national, international, and social issues, the newspaper aimed to instill patriotism and love for religion.

For this purpose, *Gotchnag* touched upon all aspects of Armenian life, as it contributed to the preservation of Armenian identity and the strengthening of diaspora-homeland ties. Besides editorial and correspondence sections, the newspaper had particular columns exploring religious and family issues. *Gotchnag* viewed the family as the core of society and illustrated its socio-economic and socio-political role. Furthermore, it regularly published materials on the latest scientific news, works of art, and literature, as well as on Armenian national holidays and

traditions, thus educating and promoting Armenian identity among young people in the diaspora.

From its early days, *Gotchnag* reported on timely political events including the situation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire and covering the Armenian Question in detail. The newspaper covered the persecution of the Armenian population, the arrests of intellectuals, the massacres, and the situation of Armenian refugees in the Caucasus and elsewhere during the First World War. *Gotchnag* warmly welcomed the birth of the Republic of Armenia, viewing it as an anchor for the Armenian people. During the World War II, it stood behind the Soviet people and its editorial stance was firmly anti-fascist, covering the joint struggle against Nazi Germany.

As a religious newspaper, *Gotchnag* not only emphasized the evangelical Protestant ideology but also referred to the Armenian national and political life both in the U.S.A and abroad though it did not tend favor a particular political affiliation. The paper's main goal was to serve the Armenian people. The ideology of *Gotchnag* can be summarized by three points - to endow the Armenian individual with morally sound principles, to strengthen the Armenian Diaspora with national consciousness, and to be dedicated to the reconstruction of Armenia with unconditional sacrifice.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection is the Gochhag (Armenian Cochnak) periodicals bound from around 1908 through 1956 (incomplete – 41 volumes).

## **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Bound Volumes

Gothag (Armenian Cochnak) Periodical Collection  
Series 1, Bound Volumes

<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2021.01.1	Vol.8 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1908 – Dec.1908
2021.01.2	Vol.11 number 1-26 – Jan.1911 – July.1911
2021.01.3	Vol.11 number 26-52 – July.1911 – Dec.1911
2021.01.4	Vol.12 number 1-26 – Jan.1912- June.1912
2021.01.5	Vol.12 number 27 – 52 July.1912 – Dec.1912
2021.01.6	Vol.13 number 1- 26 Jan.1913 June.1913
2021.01.7	Vol.13 number 27-52 July.1913 – Dec.1913
2021.01.8	Vol.14 number 1 – 26 Jan.1914 – June.1914
2021.01.9	Vol.14 number 27- 52 July.1914 – Dec.1914
2021.01.10	Vol.15 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1915 – Dec.1915
2021.01.11	Vol.16 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1916 – Dec.1916
2021.01.12	Vol.16 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1916 – Dec.1916 (Duplicate)
2021.01.13	Vol.17 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1917 – Dec.1917
2021.01.14	Vol.18 number 1 – 26 Jan.1918 – June.1918
2021.01.15	Vol.18 number 27- 52 July.1918 – Dec.1914
2021.01.16	Vol.19 number 1 – 26 Jan.1919 – June.1919
2021.01.17	Vol.19 number 27- 52 July.1919 – Dec.1919
2021.01.18	Vol.20 number 1 – 26 Jan.1920 – June.1920
2021.01.19	Vol.20 number 27- 52 July.1920 – Dec.1920
2021.01.20	Vol.21 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1921 – Dec.1921



2021.01.21	Vol.22 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1922 – Dec.1922
2021.01.22	Vol.23 number 1 – 26 Jan.1923 – June.1923
2021.01.23	Vol.23 number 27- 52 July.1923 – Dec.1923
2021.01.24	Vol.24 number 1- 26 - Jan. 1924 – June.1924
2021.01.25	Vol.24 number 27- 52 July.1924 – Dec.1924
2021.01.26	Vol.25 number 1- 26 - Jan. 1925 – June.1925
2021.01.27	Vol.25 number 27- 52 July.1925 – Dec.1925
2021.01.28	Vol.26 number 1- 26 - Jan. 1926 – June.1926
2021.01.29	Vol.26 number 27- 52 July.1926 – Dec.1926
2021.01.30	Vol.26 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1926 – Dec.1926 (Duplicate)
2021.01.31	Vol.27 number 1- 27 Jan.1927 – June.1927
2021.01.32	Vol.27 number 27- 52 July.1927 – Dec.1927
2021.01.33	Vol.27 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1927 – Dec.1927 (Duplicate)
2021.01.34	Vol.29 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1929 – Dec.1929
2021.01.35	Vol.30 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1930 – Dec.1930
2021.01.36	Vol.43 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1943 – Dec.1943
2021.01.37	Vol.52 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1952 – Dec.1952
2021.01.38	Vol.53 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1953 – Dec.1953
2021.01.39	Vol.54 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1954 – Dec.1954
2021.01.40	Vol.55 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1955 – Dec.1955
2021.01.41	Vol.56 number 1- 52 - Jan. 1956 – Dec.1956