
Guide to the Yervand Markarian Collection

Special Collections & Archives

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives

Title: Yervand Markarian Collection

Creator: Markarian, Yervand

Identifier/Call Number: OCH.YMC

Extent: 0.08 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1933-1996

Abstract: Yervand Markarian was born in Harbin, China, to Armenian refugees, and he grew up in Tientsin where his father ran a billiards hall. He attended St. Louis College in Tientsin, and in 1939 volunteered to fight in World War II with the French Foreign Legion. After serving some time working as a police officer in the French Concession in Shanghai, he opened a Russian restaurant, Kavkaz, which served as the headquarters for the American forces after World War II. After the Communist takeover Markarian emigrated to Brazil, and eventually came to settle in the Los Angeles area. The collection consists of a class photograph from 1933, and a VHS videotape of a television interview given by Markarian about his life and self-published autobiography, *Kavkaz*.

Language of Material: English

Biographical Information:

Yervand Markarian was born in Harbin, China, to Armenian refugees. He grew up in Tientsin, where his father ran a billiards hall and he attended St. Louis College. In 1939, Markarian volunteered to fight in World War II with the French Foreign Legion. After his term of service, he was sent to Shanghai, where he served in the Russian regiment of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps before starting a position as a police officer for the French Concession.

As the war intensified, Markarian's father-in-law asked him to leave the police force, and offered to set him up with a partnership in a restaurant in Shanghai. Markarian took the offer, and opened the restaurant, Kavkaz, serving Russian food in the mid-1940s. Shortly thereafter, the war ended, and Markarian offered the restaurant as a space for the American military to use as their headquarters. While the American soldiers proved to be a boon to business, the success of the restaurant dwindled when the Communists took over in 1949.

At this point Markarian began applying for visas to Australia and the United States, but his applications were rejected. He then applied to an international refugee organization, who obtained visas for his family to emigrate to Brazil.

Through working with the American Consulate, he was able to get a job in Brazil working at a Ford Motor Company factory, where he worked in the parts and accessories department before transferring to the claims department. He eventually moved to the United States and settled in the Los Angeles area.

Scope and Contents

The *Yervand Markarian Collection* consists of a class photograph from 1933, and a VHS videotape of a television interview given by Markarian about his life and self-published autobiography, *Kavkaz*.

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use:

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Yervand Markarian.

Preferred Citation:

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

Processing Information:

Jessica Geiser, 2013

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Photographs

Audiovisual materials

Box 1, Item 1
Box 1, Item 2
Box 1, Item 3

Class Photograph, 1933

Business Card for Markarian's Book *Kavkaz*, 1996

**Recording of an Interview with Markarian for Public Access Show, "Our Own Legacy,"
ca. 1996**