



ARARAT (Fall, 1973)



## THE LAMB WAS LEFT BEHIND

By Bedros Norehad

*THE LIONS OF MARASH* by Stanley E. Kerr. State University of New York Press: Albany, New York, 1973. 318 pp. \$15.

The prospects for solving the insoluble Armenian Question had never seemed as bright as they did at the end of World War I. The crushing victory of Armenia's great Allied friends, however, far from ending the woes of a people already bled white resulted in a new series of betrayals and disasters. The siege of Marash and the massacre of the Armenians of the city (and of the Armenian villages in the area) about a year after the Armistice is of special concern: it was there that the post-war ordeals of the Armenian people began and it was there that the Turkish Nationalists openly challenged the French army of occupation in Cilicia.

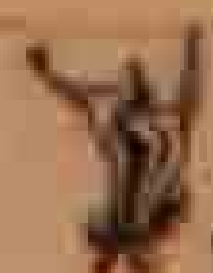
Long before the end of the war the Sykes-Picot agreement between England and France had assigned to the latter certain parts of the Ottoman Empire, including Cilicia. However, the armies which had fought and bled for four years at Gallipoli and on the Bagdad front, and eventually had overwhelmed the Ottoman army in Palestine under Mustafa Kemal, had been preponderantly British, even though the French Legion d'Orient

(composed of three battalions of Armenian, one of Syrian volunteers, and some Franco-African units) had taken part in the rout of the Turkish army in Palestine. Having put forth the major effort in subduing the Turks, the British government felt entitled to a reconsideration in the division of the spoils. The ensuing long drawn out dispute between the two allies, however provided ample time for Mustafa Kemal's Turkish Nationalist movement to gather sufficient strength to unfurl the flag of insurrection in Marash, challenging, for the first time, the French army of occupation, before it had time to consolidate, after having replaced the British garrisons in Cilicia. In this unholy conflict of interests, the greatest losers were not the British or the French, but the Armenians.

The survivors of the Armenian deportations of 1915—an estimated 200,000 souls—had reason to believe that they had gained a new lease on life and liberty under the protection of their Allied friends, who encouraged them to return to their ancestral homes in Cilicia, where a number of cities were under Allied military control. Moreover, France had made promises of Armenian independence, on the basis of which several thousand Armenian volunteers had fought under the French flag on the Palestine front and continued to serve in Cilicia along with other French units.

*The Lions of Marash* is a detailed and well documented account of these developments. The





author, Stanley E. Kerr, was then a member of that small but remarkable little band of Near East Relief workers in Marash which played a role worthy of the highest commendation, at a time when French military prestige suffered the humiliation of a hasty withdrawal and French chivalry the indignity of a desertion.

Fairly enough, Stanley Kerr describes the extenuating circumstances behind this costly failure, such as Emir Feisal's refusal to allow his section of the Berlin-Bagdad Railway to be used for transporting men and supplies to Cilicia, necessitating the use of the time-consuming sea route; the ambush and capture by Turkish guerrillas of large quantities of supplies destined for Marash; the failure to provide the garrison with wireless communication with Adana and Beirut; Colonel Normand's failure to tarry a little longer in Marash after his relief column had virtually put the Turkish guerillas to flight.

When all is said and done, however, one wonders why French diplomacy, on the one hand, fought tooth and nail for the exclusive right to occupy Cilicia, while, on the other, French representatives almost concurrently carried on conversations with Mustafa Kemal, even though the Allies had agreed to deal directly with Constantinople and to refrain from recognizing Kemal's insurrectionist movement. May one conclude that French diplomacy perhaps was never seriously interested in Cilicia, but hoped to use the occupation as a bargaining point, so as to secure the best possible commercial concessions in Turkey, and that the matter of Armenian independence was something of an added bait, and nothing more, to make the bargain more urgently attractive to the Turks?

The outcome of the conflict in Marash might have been different had the occupying forces moved sooner and had acted with greater determination if Armenians had been armed for self-defense since whenever given half-a chance, they did remarkably well; if a stupid Armenian, more concerned with vengeance than with the safety of thousands, had not withheld, for a whole day, the Turkish message suggesting a cessation of hostilities, since its prompt delivery might have stopped the withdrawal before it was too late.

*The Lions of Marash* has the virtue of being an objective, eye-witness account by an American observer, amplified by a wealth of material from French, Turkish and Armenian sources as well as by scores of personal accounts of men and women whose misfortune it was to live in Marash during those fearful three weeks in 1920 (January 20 to February 9).

Kerr describes a number of kindly, even altruistic, acts by individual Turks, some of whom were savagely punished by fellow Turks for having responded to their better human instinct. Even though Turkish sadism and rapacity has a long history, one cannot maintain, as many Armenians do, that Turks endowed with a conscience do not exist. Though a minority, they exist, and their acts of kindness to Armenians should form as much a part of our national history as the acts of our own heroes or traitors.

Stanley Kerr's book, moreover, provides considerable background material for understanding events which significantly influenced the life and fate of the Armenians in Turkey before the war. The heroic struggles and eventual demise of Zeitun; the formation of Armenian political parties; the deposition of Hamid, the "Red" Sultan, and the declaration of a constitutional monarchy by Young Turks; the rivalry between the Turkish Itilaf and Ittihad parties; the massacres of 1895-96 and of the Adana vilayet, and finally the genocide of 1915. While not justifying excesses committed by Armenian revolutionaries, Stanley Kerr does not find, as some light-headed Western historians do, that they justified the massacre of innocent hundreds of thousands.

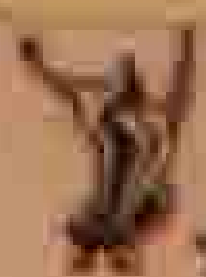
*The Lions of Marash* also abounds with many moving accounts of individual tragedies. Thousands, having sought security in their churches, became fuel for massive funeral pyres. Especially touching is one entry in YMCA secretary Crathern's diary which may be quoted only as one example of the incredible Turkish cruelty: The Diary appears in the book as Appendix B;

We had a pitiful case this morning in the hospital. It was the Rev. Solakian's wife, pastor of the Third Church. When she reached the hospital she was suffering and bleeding from three bullets and three dagger or knife wounds, while a child of 18 months had been taken from her breast and slain with a knife and an older girl killed with an ax. To add to the sorrow, the woman was pregnant and had a miscarriage as soon as she reached the hospital... she will not recover.

According to the Mutasarif (mayor) of Marash some 6-7500 Armenians and 4,500 Turks were killed in the course of the siege. Others more favorably located were able to defend themselves to the very end, or were saved by managing to reach the relative security provided by French, American, and German institutions in the city.

The enigma presented by the withdrawal of the French garrison and relief column almost at the





hour of victory and other questions related to the French government's policy in Cilicia, as Richard Hovannisian states in his excellent introduction to *The Lions of Marash*, will not be conclusively understood until the official papers dealing with these events are made available to scholars.

When Raphael Kerlekian, the Armenian leader, had suggested, before the hostilities, that Armenians be armed, Gen. Querrette had responded that the maintenance of order and the security of Armenians was a function of the French army. But subsequent developments did not vindicate this assurance.

Despite all precautions to keep Armenians ignorant of the planned withdrawal, however, a large number of them somehow got wind of what was afoot and chose to brave all the hardships and especially the snow and extreme cold—the coldest February in memory—to follow the retreating army all the way to Islahie. No one knows how many people followed the army. It proved another tragic Golgotha in which many persons froze to death.

"These unhappy people," wrote Lieutenant Colonel Thibault, "worn out by the first two stages of the journey and numbed with cold, sank down a prey to an irresistible desire to sleep and never stirred again. The snow formed their shroud. It was truly a hecatomb! The road from Bel Pounar to Islahiyé was staked out by clusters of corpses."

Col. Normand, who withdrew his relief column, while the guerrillas themselves were in flight, defended his action on the basis of Gen. Dufieux's instruction to withdraw if order could not be restored by February 9. But the enemy already had been asking for a cessation of hostilities and he was informed of that fact. "The decision for the retreat remains a mystery," wrote Colonel (later General) Bremond, French High Commissioner of Cilicia. "It was not made in Beirut, nor in Adana, but in Marash. There seems to be no doubt that the order to leave would not have been given if a wireless outfit had been available in Marash, permitting unbroken communication with Adana."

At the same time back in Marash where, until the French retreat, some 7,500 Armenians had been shot, butchered, and burned alive, another 9,500 souls, crowded in American, French, and German institutions, awaited the final act of carnage. But the dreaded hour never came, because of the courage and dedication of a handful of Americans, including the author, who at considerable personal risk, chose to remain in Marash despite the departure of the French garrison.

Remarkable was the Rev. James Lyman's role at a moment when the fate of 9,700 men, women and children hung by a thread. Rev. Lyman, an old missionary who appears to have studied the Turkish psychology well, made a desperate gamble that might make many a diplomat envious. Realizing that the Turks were not yet aware of the French army's retreat, he assumed the role of a bearer of tidings. Along with Dr. Marion Wilson, at

#### A NOTE ON THE AUTHOR

By Richard Hovannisian

Among the scores of men and women who responded to the ACRNE call for volunteers in 1919 was Stanley E. Kerr, a slender, bespectacled junior officer in the United States Army Sanitary Corps. First serving in Aleppo in a multiplicity of positions, including clinical biochemist, photographer, and gatherer of Armenian waifs from Bedouin and Kurdish chieftains, Kerr transferred in the Autumn of 1919 to Marash, where he took charge of American relief operations after the French withdrawal. In view of the fact many Turkish notables regarded the Americans as collaborators with the French and Armenians, it was at no small risk that Kerr and his courageous colleagues stayed at their posts to help the thousands of Armenians whom the French had deserted. Indeed the uncertainties of a hostage-like existence did not end until Kerr departed for Beirut with the last caravan of Armenian orphans in 1922.

Three years after his separation from the Near East Relief, Kerr earned his doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Pennsylvania and returned to Beirut in 1925 as chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the American University. During their four decades in Lebanon Professor Kerr and his wife, Elsa Reckman Kerr, a former teacher at the Marash College for Girls and later at the Beirut College for Women and the American University, counseled hundreds of students whose parents had been the refugees from Marash and other Cilician cities. In recognition of his service, the American University conferred upon Dr. Kerr the rank of Distinguished Professor, and the Lebanese government honored him with the Order of Merit.

some personal risk, he went to see the chief of the Turkish Nationalist forces, a Kurd named Kluj Ali Bey. The Turkish leader was incredulous when told of the enemy's departure, for he had been laboring under the delusion that the unusual activities





behind the French lines were but part of a maneuver of encirclement. But when the accuracy of Rev. Lyman's report was established, taking advantage of the opportunity, Rev. Lyman turned to Kluj Ali, "You have a custom," he said, "that one who brings good news has the right to ask a favor."

"Whatever you demand I shall grant it," replied Kluj Ali, to which Lyman's response was, "I ask that you stop killing the Christians."

Kluj Ali turned to the junior officers and commanded that the order should be taken to all units. There was to be no more killing of civilians.

During the succeeding long months of uncertainty, fear, and ever present intimidation, the American staff of NRA used all its facilities and Yankee ingenuity to keep their Armenian charges from the threat of fresh reprisals and starvation. The final exodus took place upon the signing of the treaty between Franklin Bouillon and Kemalist Turks, which assured, but did not guarantee, the security of the Christians, and of course, it could not be accomplished without the denial of property rights to Armenians who were forbidden to sell their homes, and were relieved at every turn of whatever little they had.

With the departure of the last group of orphans and the second mass exile of the people of Marash within five years, as well as the cruel liquidation of a few Turks who had become Christian, Marash, the ancient Hittite city, had become, *el-hamd-ul-illah*, one hundred per cent Moslem!

Out of an Armenian population of 85,000 which had existed before World War I in Marash and surrounding villages, there had survived or managed to return to their homes only 22,000 in the city and 2,000 in the villages. Very few villagers survived the second holocaust. The city fared comparatively better, thanks to the presence of the French garrison, part of the time, and of the Americans to the very end. According to Kerr, some 11,900 died in the city, the villages, and on the road to Islahie. The number of those who finally left the city body and soul intact was about 9,700.

"At the gate of the old Hittite citadel," writes Stanley Kerr, there once stood a stone lion. No people whether Turk, Armenian, or French can claim that it stands for their bravery . . ."

However, I would suggest that, that stone lion, which is now on display in the Ankara Museum, stand as a reminder of the courageous little group of Americans—Rev. James Lyman, Dr. Marion Wilson, and Stanley Kerr and their dedicated

colleagues of the Near East Relief—who chose, at much personal risk to remain at Marash with the seemingly impossible hope of proving helpful to some 9,700 people who had been deserted by their military protectors. Their success in achieving what had appeared totally impossible, makes their action so much more impressive. It was an incredible performance beyond the call of duty.



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

THE BOOK EXCHANGE (Sardinia House, London)

December/1973

**THE LIONS OF MARASH.** Personal Experiences with American Near East Relief, 1919-1922. By Stanley E. Kerr. (State University of New York Press, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210, U.S.A. 9 1/2 by 6 ins. 344 pp. 1-cl. and papered bds. Col'd illus'd d.w. ISBN 0 87395 200 6. \$15.00)

This book is an eye-witness account by an American Near East Relief official of the tragic events which resulted in the annihilation of the Armenian population of Marash, in Central Anatolia, following the first world war. On 10 February, 1920, the French garrison of Marash withdrew abruptly under cover of darkness, thus abandoning more than 20,000 Armenians to the Turkish Nationalist forces. The French pullout was fatal to the Armenians of Marash, and all of Cilicia; it led to renewed massacre and to final exodus. Now, half a century after leaving Cilicia, Dr. Kerr presents his account of the happenings of Marash. Although his personal experiences form the basis for narrative, the author has also utilized the studies and memoirs of French officers and priests, Turkish military historians and Armenian survivors, particularly prominent Protestant and Catholic spokesmen. With three appendices, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Illustrated by photographs.





## CHURCH HISTORY

Vol. 43 (March, 1974) No. 1

*The Lions of Marash: Personal Experiences with American Near East Relief 1919-1922.* By STANLEY E. KERR. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1973. xxv + 318 pp. \$15.00.

The Armenian Question of the pre-and post-World War I period has brought forth several books in recent years. Some are memoirs of Armenians who lived through the horrors and emphasize the acts as purposeful genocidal plans of the "awful Turk." Others are by Turkish writers pointing to the unrest of the areas with large Armenian populations and that stability and Turkish independence could be obtained only by eliminating these "quizzlings of the great powers."

This book is of quite a different genre. It is a careful study of a microcosm of the Question: the happenings in the city of Marash, Turkey during the residence of the author, 1919 to 1922. Dr. Stanley E. Kerr retired in 1965 after forty years as a professor in biochemistry at the American University of Beirut. In 1919 he had been recruited from the laboratory of the Walter Reed Hospital to serve as a clinical chemist for the Near East Relief base hospital in Aleppo, but soon found himself in Marash administering five orphanages with 1,400

Armenians. Then occurred the Siege of Marash, the first major battle in the Turkish War of Independence. Much of the book is concerned with a detailed description of the twenty-one days, January 21 to February 11, 1920. Reliable estimates show that about 12,000 Armenians died in those three weeks!

This account is preceded by a good summary of the massacres of 1895 and the mass deportations of 1915, as well as the French-British rivalries over the collapsed Ottoman Empire following 1918. The book shows great depth of scholarship in French, Turkish, British and American archival sources. This is not a book full of atrocity stories, but it will leave the reader well aware of man's extreme inhumanity to man, as well as the bravery and self-sacrifice by others in the same situation. A must for libraries with good collections on church history, Christian mission, The Middle East, American philanthropy and minority problems.

Anderson College,  
Anderson, Indiana

KENNETH L. CROSE  
[Signature]





THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

*These reviews of your book have been clipped for your reference and files.*

*Copies of the reviews have also been filed in our office for future use in promotion.*

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK PRESS

## TURKEY

THE LIONS OF MARASH: PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH AMERICAN NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1919-1922, by Stanley E. Kerr. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1973. xxvi + 318 pages. Illus. Appendix. Bibl. Index. \$15.00.

*Reviewed by Roderic H. Davison*

Stanley Kerr, who retired in 1965 as professor of biochemistry at the American University of Beirut, was a young clinical chemist on the staff of American Near East Relief at the end of World War I. In 1919-20 he served in Aleppo and Marash, and in 1921-22 again in Marash.

The period was troubled. British forces from Syria moved into southern Turkey, including the city of Marash, after the armistice with Turkey and probably in violation of the armistice terms. Then in October 1919 they relinquished the occupation to French troops. In January 1920, nationalist Turks organized a rising against the French occupation of Marash; soon it spread to other cities. Though a French relief column reached Marash on February 7, all French troops were secretly and suddenly withdrawn from the city three days later.

Caught in the midst of the sniping, cannonading and guerrilla warfare were the inhabitants of Marash: sometimes participants, often just victims. Thousands of Turks perished. More thousands of Armenians lost their lives to bullets, fires or in subfreezing blizzards as they withdrew to the south with the French. A more peaceful but precariously stable period followed the Turkish victory. When France agreed under the Franklin-Bouillon Treaty of October 1921 to evacuate Cilicia and the areas north of the Baghdad Railway line, renewed nationalist pressures brought about the emigration of all Marash's remaining Armenians in 1922.

Kerr was a witness to much that happened in Marash in this period, and has used the letters he wrote to his family at the time as the basis for his book. It is not, however, purely Kerr's memoir, since he has added much from other sources. He has delved into accounts published by French military men, into Armenian memoirs which he has had translated, and into some Turkish works. He has also used unpublished memoirs, diaries and reports of contemporaries, as well as interviews in recent years with some former Armenian residents of Marash (no interviews were with Turks).

The result is an account as soberly factual as Kerr can make it, though he sees things mostly from the Armenian side; one gets few insights into the views or activities of the Turkish population of Marash. Sometimes events, especially in the days of fighting between January 21 and February 10, to which nearly half the book is devoted, seem to be tangled in monumental confusion. At other times a personal observation by Kerr of a small corner of the activity clearly illuminates the human qualities of a participant—French, Turk, or Armenian. There were as well about a dozen Americans in Marash in educational, medical or relief work; since Kerr was one, they play a considerable rôle in his story. Many of the individuals caught in the fighting courageously risked their lives, including Kerr himself.

It is in fact the record of bits of action that Kerr himself saw or that he learned first-hand from other participants that is most valuable—the death of Dr. Mustafa, the kindness of

Kiliç Ali, the unceasing work of Dr. Wilson, the skill of the Armenian *usta* in tapping an underground conduit to get water to extinguish fires, the death of pastor Solakian's wife.

This is not the definitive account of the events of the Marash. They need to be placed into a broader context of the Turkish war for independence of 1919-22, of Armenian aspirations, of British and French policy. British, French and Turkish archives should yield much additional information. Meanwhile, this is a useful book, provided with two convenient maps on the endpapers and some good photographs.

△ RODERIC H. DAVISON teaches Near Eastern history at The George Washington University.





## THE ARMENIAN REPOPTER

DECEMBER 20, 1973

**Dr. S.E. Kerr Discusses French Evacuation of Marash**

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — The French evacuation of Marash in Turkey in 1920, still to be explained by the French historians, was regarded as the end to all the hopes of the Armenians in Cilicia to see an autonomous state established in that area of Turkey. The evacuation was also seen as offering an opportunity to Kemal Ataturk, the founder of present day Turkey, to successfully test his military strength against a foreign force.

An American eyewitness, Dr. Stanley E. Kerr, who lived in that Turkish city when the incident occurred, in his recently published book, "The Lions of Marash," deals in detail with this period of Marash's history. In a discussion of his book, he said the evacuation of the city following a major victory against the defending Turkish forces, probably altered the future course of history. He felt that this incident played a significant role in the eventual development of



**DISCUSSES EVACUATION.** Dr. Stanley E. Kerr, right, was honored by the New York Chapter of Marash with a commemorative plaque after addressing a special Christmas gathering held recently in Bayside, N.Y. In his talk, the noted educator discussed the evacuation by the French of the city of Marash. The plaque was presented by Mr. Joseph Chorbajian, right, chairman of the chapter. Mr. Levon Keshishian was the master of ceremonies.

Ataturk's movement into a major force and culminated in the establishment of the new Turkish republic.

Addressing a gathering at the 50th annual Christmas Party of the New York Chapter of the Union of Marash Armenians, held in Bayside on Sunday afternoon, Dr. Kerr discussed the events which led to the unexpected evacuation of the French forces from the city. He asserted that he believed his book was the only unbiased account of these events as his was based on research conducted on both sides. Dr. Kerr, who has lived most of his life in the Middle East and now resides in New Jersey, said that while the Turks had earlier suffered a major defeat by the French forces, including elements of the Armenian Legion, they took the still unexplained evacuation of French forces as a major victory. This, he believed, shaped up the future strength of

Mustafa Kemal who later assumed the leadership of the Turkish republic. Dr. Kerr's discourse generated a keen interest in his listeners who included a few survivors of the massacre and exodus of the Armenians which followed the French evacuation of the city of Marash.

Mr. Levon Keshishian, a Marashite himself, emceed the program which followed a family-style dinner. In his introduction of the guest, Mr. Keshishian read an account of the circumstances which led the author of the book on Marash to recover some of his notes taken of the events.

At the conclusion of Dr. Kerr's discourse, he was presented with a plaque in recognition of his services to the Armenian people of Marash. Mr. Joseph Chorbajian, Chairman of the New York Chapter of the Union of Marash Armenians, made the presentation.





THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

NYT HISTORIEN (Munksgaard. København)

March 1/1974

STANLEY E. KERR: *The Lions of Marash*.  
(State University of New York Press,  
1973). 318 s., 15 \$.

Marash er måske bedst kendt som den by, hvor det første større slag i den tyrkiske uafhængighedskrig blev udkæmpet og vundet af kemalisterne over de franske besættelsesstyrker. Men Marash rummede også ca. 86.000 armenere. Af disse var der ingen tilbage i 1921. Mindre end en syvendedel overlevede for at slå sig ned i andre dele af verden: i Libanon, i Sydamerika, i USA og i Sovjetisk Armenien. På en baggrund af stormagtsdiplomati, brudte løfter og bitre kampe fortæller dr. Kerr, der dengang var leder af den amerikanske hjælpeaktion i området, denne historie om et fordømt folk.

Selv om bogen hovedsagelig har karakter af personlige erindringer, burde den være af betydelig interesse for historikere, der er interesseret i den tyrkiske uafhængighedskrig, i de armenske »massakrer« og hjælpeaktionerne i forbindelse hermed. J. D.

Stanley E. Kerr: *The Lions of Marash*.  
(State University of New York Press, 1973).  
318 s., \$15

Marash is perhaps best known as the town where the first among the big battles of the Turkish War of Independence was fought and won by the Kemelists over the French occupation (forces). About 86,000 Armenians lived in Marash and of these, none were left in 1921. Less than one-seventh survived to settle in other parts of the world: in Lebanon, in South America, in the U.S.A. and in Soviet Armenia. Against a background of Big Power diplomacy, broken promises, and bitter struggles, Dr. Kerr tells the history of a condemned people. (Dr. Kerr was the leader of the American Relief program in the area at that time.)

Even though the book has characteristics of personal memories, it should be of significance for historians whose interest is in the Turkish War of Independence, Armenian "massacres", and the relief program in connection with them.

J.D.

(Translated by Prof. Robert Anderson, SUNY Albany)





THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

NYT HISTORIEN (Munksgaard. København)

March 1/1974

STANLEY E. KERR: *The Lions of Marash*.  
(State University of New York Press,  
1973). 318 s., 15 \$.

Marash er måske bedst kendt som den by, hvor det første større slag i den tyrkiske uafhængighedskrig blev udkæmpet og vundet af kemalisterne over de franske besættelsesstyrker. Men Marash rummede også ca. 86.000 armenere. Af disse var der ingen tilbage i 1921. Mindre end en syvendedel overlevede for at slå sig ned i andre dele af verden: i Libanon, i Sydamerika, i USA og i Sovjetisk Armenien. På en baggrund af stormagtsdiplomati, brudte løfter og bitre kampe fortæller dr. Kerr, der dengang var leder af den amerikanske hjælpeaktion i området, denne historie om et fordømt folk.

Selv om bogen hovedsagelig har karakter af personlige erindringer, burde den være af betydelig interesse for historikere, der er interesseret i den tyrkiske uafhængighedskrig, i de armenske »massakrer« og hjælpeaktionerne i forbindelse hermed. J.D.

Stanley E. Kerr: *The Lions of Marash*.  
(State University of New York Press, 1973).  
318 s., \$15

Marash is perhaps best known as the town where the first among the big battles of the Turkish War of Independence was fought and won by the Kemelists over the French occupation (forces). About 86,000 Armenians lived in Marash and of these, none were left in 1921. Less than one-seventh survived to settle in other parts of the world: in Lebanon, in South America, in the U.S.A. and in Soviet Armenia. Against a background of Big Power diplomacy, broken promises, and bitter struggles, Dr. Kerr tells the history of a condemned people. (Dr. Kerr was the leader of the American Relief program in the area at that time.)

Even though the book has characteristics of personal memories, it should be of significance for historians whose interest is in the Turkish War of Independence, Armenian "massacres", and the relief program in connection with them.

J.D.

(Translated by Prof. Robert Anderson, SUNY Albany)





THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

(Quarterly Journal of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London)  
April/1974

**Ionian Vision.** Greece in Asia Minor 1919-1922. By Michael Llewellyn Smith. London: Allen Lane. 1973. 401 pp. Maps. Illus. Bibliog. Index. £6.00.

**The Lions of Marash.** Personal Experiences with American Near East Relief, 1919-1922. By Stanley E. Kerr. New York: State University of New York Press. 1973. 318 pp. Illus. Bibliog. Index. \$15.00.

*Ionian Vision* has a theme worthy of Thucydides. The mirage of a Greater Greece embracing the 'unredeemed' Greeks of Asia Minor; a Greek homeland torn by incurable schism; the doomed Greek expeditionary force cut off and routed in the wastes of Anatolia—the Smyrna disaster was as complete and final as the destruction of the Athenian army and navy at Syracuse. The summing-up is in lapidary terms (p. 311): 'Hellenic Smyrna was dead. Christian Smyrna, one of the great ancient Christian foundations of Asia Minor, was dead. The phoenix to rise from these ashes was a Turkish Izmir, purged of two thousand and more years of history.'

Mr. Llewellyn Smith has produced a fine, temperate and engrossing study of those who saw the Ionian vision, those who distrusted it and those who suffered because of it. He traces the story from the Balkan wars, when Turkey was forced to relinquish its hold on the Christian populations of Europe, through the First World War with its deceptive promise of further territorial gains from a defeated Turkey, to the Greek army's ill-fated attempt, half-sanctioned by the Western Allies, to crush Kemal and resurgent Turkish nationalism. Like many modern historians, he sees it as a scholar's duty to quote his authorities verbatim, so that at times he sacrifices something of the broad narrative sweep which the nature of the subject invites, but he is fortunate in being able to draw on such masters of language as Arnold Toynbee for descriptions of the Anatolian campaign and Ernest Hemingway for eyewitness reporting of the tragic exodus of the Greek refugees. He has tapped many new sources, some of private letters and diaries, some, like the British official papers, only recently available; and thirty pages of 'notes and references' add to the value of the work for the student of the period.

*The Lions of Marash* is like a powerful microscope focused on just three lines of *Ionian Vision*, on page 120, where we read of 'a serious defeat of French troops in Cilicia by Turkish Nationalist forces and the massacre of some thousands of Armenians in the Marash area'. Professor Kerr, who was working for American Near East Relief in Marash at the time, has most vividly re-created this horrifying episode from his own experiences and the recollections of other participants and survivors. His book lends credibility to the Tolstoyan view of history, that the truth of historical events can only be represented if all the characters involved in them are included; Professor Kerr's characters are mostly of the humble of the earth compared with the politicians and commanders of Mr. Llewellyn Smith.

K. MATTHEWS





THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

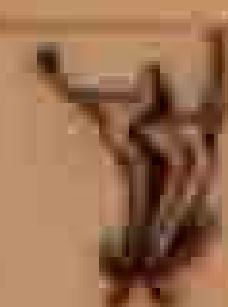
THE BOOK EXCHANGE (Sardinia House, London)

December/1973

**THE LIONS OF MARASH.** Personal Experiences with American Near East Relief, 1919-1922. By Stanley E. Kerr. (State University of New York Press, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12210, U.S.A. 9½ by 6 ins. 344 pp. 1-cl. and papered bds. Col'd illus'd d.w. ISBN 0 87395 200 6. \$15.00)

This book is an eye-witness account by an American Near East Relief official of the tragic events which resulted in the annihilation of the Armenian population of Marash, in Central Anatolia, following the first world war. On 10 February, 1920, the French garrison of Marash withdrew abruptly under cover of darkness, thus abandoning more than 20,000 Armenians to the Turkish Nationalist forces. The French pullout was fatal to the Armenians of Marash, and all of Cilicia; it led to renewed massacre and to final exodus. Now, half a century after leaving Cilicia, Dr. Kerr presents his account of the happenings of Marash. Although his personal experiences form the basis for narrative, the author has also utilized the studies and memoirs of French officers and priests, Turkish military historians and Armenian survivors, particularly prominent Protestant and Catholic spokesmen. With three appendices, Notes, Bibliography, Index. Illustrated by photographs.





## CHURCH HISTORY

Vol. 43 (March, 1974) No. 1

*The Lions of Marash: Personal Experiences with American Near East Relief 1919-1922.* By STANLEY E. KERR. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1973. xxv + 318 pp. \$15.00.

The Armenian Question of the pre-and post-World War I period has brought forth several books in recent years. Some are memoirs of Armenians who lived through the horrors and emphasize the acts as purposeful genocidal plans of the "awful Turk." Others are by Turkish writers pointing to the unrest of the areas with large Armenian populations and that stability and Turkish independence could be obtained only by eliminating these "quizzlings of the great powers."

This book is of quite a different genre. It is a careful study of a microcosm of the Question: the happenings in the city of Marash, Turkey during the residence of the author, 1919 to 1922. Dr. Stanley E. Kerr retired in 1965 after forty years as a professor in biochemistry at the American University of Beirut. In 1919 he had been recruited from the laboratory of the Walter Reed Hospital to serve as a clinical chemist for the Near East Relief base hospital in Aleppo, but soon found himself in Marash administering five orphanages with 1,400

Armenians. Then occurred the Siege of Marash, the first major battle in the Turkish War of Independence. Much of the book is concerned with a detailed description of the twenty-one days, January 21 to February 11, 1920. Reliable estimates show that about 12,000 Armenians died in those three weeks!

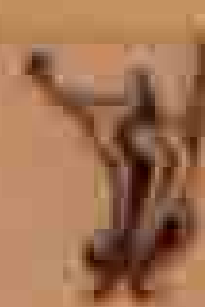
This account is preceded by a good summary of the massacres of 1895 and the mass deportations of 1915, as well as the French-British rivalries over the collapsed Ottoman Empire following 1918. The book shows great depth of scholarship in French, Turkish, British and American archival sources. This is not a book full of atrocity stories, but it will leave the reader well aware of man's extreme inhumanity to man, as well as the bravery and self-sacrifice by others in the same situation. A must for libraries with good collections on church history, Christian mission, The Middle East, American philanthropy and minority problems.

Anderson College,  
Anderson, Indiana

KENNETH L. CROSE







CALIFORNIA COURIER (Fresno)

Vol. 16 (17):6. November 24, 1973

## By Anne Avakian

We have heard so much from Armenians about the plight of the Armenians. But here is a book, *THE LIONS OF MARASH*(\*), that tells the personal experiences of Stanley E. Kerr, who, after World War I, worked for the Near East Relief from 1919-1922. During that period the Armenian tragedy was still in progress in certain areas of Turkey. The French withdrawal left thousands of Armenians in the midst of Turkish nationalists who were without mercy.

The author was with the US Army Sanitary Corps when he volunteered to serve with the American relief workers in Marash. In 1922, he got out with the last group of Armenian orphans. This book is heavy with the tribulations and horrors experienced by our people. Yet it is a story that must be told, and it is well that

it comes from one who is not only familiar with the demands of research, but also one who has a compassionate heart.

Parts of diaries and reports from non-Armenians are included in the appendix; this first-hand information adds emphasis to the Marash situation. Notes for each chapter, and a four-page bibliography are supplemental aids. Professor Richard G. Hovannisian has written the introduction.

Mr. Kerr has a Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He was chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the American University of Beirut. Both the University and the Lebanese Government have honored him for his service.

(\*) State University of New York Press, Albany, NY, 1973. 318p. illus. \$15.



