

Os Arménios e Jerusalém Հայերը Եւ Երուսաղէմը Armenians and Jerusalem



FUNDAÇÃO
CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN

20 jun
— 22 set 2024

Átrio da
Biblioteca de Arte



Raparigas a pintar vasos de cerâmica na Oficina de Azulejos Cúpula da Rocha
Girls painting pottery vases at David Ohannessian's Dome of the Rock Tiles workshop | 1920 - 1923
Negativo de vidro Glass negative | Biblioteca do Congresso Library of Congress

Em 2023, numa residência privada em Paris, foram encontrados novos documentos de arquivo relacionados com a construção da Biblioteca Gulbenkian em Jerusalém. A descoberta inspirou a ideia para esta exposição sobre a relação entre os arménios e Jerusalém, destacando as ligações do próprio Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian à Cidade Santa e, sobretudo, a construção da referida biblioteca nos anos 1930.

A comunidade arménia de Jerusalém é a primeira e a mais antiga da diáspora arménia, a qual sobreviveu, por mais de um milénio, a mudanças profundas, convulsões e guerras. Até hoje, o Bairro Arménio de Jerusalém, para além de uma herança religiosa e cultural inigualável, tem acolhido o Patriarcado Arménio, guardião de um dos mais venerados lugares cristãos do mundo.

Archives related to the construction of the Gulbenkian Library in Jerusalem were discovered at a private residence in Paris in 2023. That discovery inspired this exhibition, which explores the relationship between Armenians and Jerusalem, and highlights Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian's own connections with the Holy City, most notably the building of the Gulbenkian Library in the 1930s.

The Jerusalemite Armenian community is the first and oldest Armenian diaspora, having survived for over a millennium through sweeping changes, major upheavals, and wars. To this day, the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem is home to an unparalleled religious and cultural heritage. The Armenian Patriarchate itself is the custodian of some of the most venerated Christian sites in the world.

GULBENKIAN.PT

THE FIRST AND OLDEST ARMENIAN DIASPORA

The Armenian community of Jerusalem dates to the early centuries of the Common Era, when Armenian administrators, merchants, and artisans from historical Armenia reached Palestine during Roman times. After Armenia became the first nation to adopt Christianity as the state religion in 301 A.D., Armenian pilgrims established permanent roots in Jerusalem. The first known inscriptions in the Armenian alphabet are in fact from the Sinai desert from around 430 A.D. Armenians also boast royal lineage; during the two-century history of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, many of its Queens were of Armenian descent.

Jerusalem was also crucial in providing a haven for thousands of refugees and orphans after the 1915 Genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Armenians brought valuable skills and trades, and pioneered progressive educational practices, as master silversmiths, goldsmiths, tailors, ceramicists, photographers, and publishers set up shop in the city.

The Armenian Quarter is home to some of the most venerated religious real estate and priceless antiquities in the world. The Patriarchate itself has co-custodianship of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

CALOUSTE SARKIS GULBENKIAN AND JERUSALEM

Like other Ottoman Armenian families, the Gulbenkians established and cultivated important philanthropic relations with the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem starting in mid-19th century. Maintaining familial philanthropic traditions, Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian continued to support the Armenian community and the Patriarchate in the Holy City. His major endeavour was the establishment of the Gulbenkian Library, inaugurated in 1932.

Standing to this day, the Gulbenkian Library houses a massive collection of valuable, rare, and ancient books and periodicals, as well as modern titles in various languages. The Library is an invaluable gift to the Armenian people and scholars of Armenian Studies. It is also considered to be one of the richest libraries in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, through its Armenian Communities Department, continues Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian's legacy by supporting the Library and the Patriarchate. Even to this day, the St. James congregation faithfully performs two requiems per year in memory of Calouste Gulbenkian and his family.



Transporte de livros para a Biblioteca Gulbenkian Transporting books into the Gulbenkian Library
Jerusalém Jerusalem | sem data (década de 1930) undated (1930s) | Aram Hashadoor
Arquivos Gulbenkian Gulbenkian Archive CSGL-P0137-D00107-FOTO00054