

prejudicial and less discriminatory now – are searching for the past their parents and grandparents discarded or repressed. The *Houshamadyan* project “to reconstruct Ottoman Armenian town and village life,” an enormous undertaking by a group of young third-generation intellectuals, speaks to that quest.³⁴

In *My Literary Profile*, Helene Pilibosian, who grew up in the Boston area with parents who were both survivors of the Genocide, writes of the deep and inexpugible effects of their behavior on her psyche.³⁵ Throughout this work of artistic prose, or “prose about poetry,” as she defines it (297), Pilibosian unravels the history of her parents’ “attitudes and expressions, their way of living and their adjustment to this country, their stories and their anger, their relationships to one another” (6). She shows these to be important factors affecting her life. Interwoven throughout her memoir are her parents’ dark and painful memories, beginning with Ichmeh, a town near Kharpert that both parents called home. Ichmeh was “a perennial shadow,” “a mystery to me and my modern life,” one that she strove to discern and reveal (7). Indeed, as a result of extensive interviews with her mother during the last two of her 92 years of life, Pilibosian was able to put together a detailed ethnographic picture of Ichmeh, with its Armenian population in absolute majority over its Turkish population, with its schools, churches, foods, farming, medicines, beliefs,

³⁴ *Houshamadyan* was founded in Berlin in 2010, its mission being “to reconstruct and preserve the memory of Armenian life in the Ottoman Empire through research.” Further information can be obtained from the project’s website, www.houshamadyan.org.

³⁵ Helene Pilibosian, *My Literary Profile: A Memoir* (Watertown, MA: Ohan Press, 2010). For a biographical sketch and a bibliography of her work, see *Forgotten Bread*, ed. Kherdian, pp. 374–7 and 462–3.