

Artist Ariel Agemian comes to America

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From the historic residence of the renowned Madame Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, to the College S. Moorat, training school for the priesthood, is the amazing transformation made by the monks of the Mechitarist Order, according to Ariel Agemian, brilliant young Armenian painter, who arrived in America today on the S.S. Normandie.

The chateau in Sevres, symbol of the extravagance of the French ruler, was one of this many elaborate gifts to this courtesan, for so many years the "power behind the throne." Today, in the halls where once gay revelry reigned, where political intrigue shaped the destiny of the French nation, the voices of serious young students are lifted in prayer, and religious learning is in order.

Agemian made a careful study of the chateau recently when he was commissioned to paint a series of murals for the college. The four principal works, conceived by the artist as representing not only the spirit of the college, but also of the nation itself, depict religion, patriotism, instruction and literature.

Ariel Agemian, hailed by art critics of France and Italy as the "artist-poet-philosopher" among the younger painters on the Continent, has a distinctive style. He pays little attention to modernistic influences, yet his pictures are composite condensed outlines.

An Armenian by birth, Agemian had his artistic training in Italy, where he graduated with highest honors from the Academy of Beaux Arts of Venice at the age of 21. Still in his early thirties, he is already recognized as an artist of serious purpose, poetic imagination, and deep intensity. His portraits have been exhibited widely in Paris, and his murals decorate any of the leading Churches and public buildings of France and Italy.

Mr. Agemian expects to remain in this country for a number of months, with the idea of gaining an intimate conception of American people and American life, which he plans to embody in a series of tableaux on the theme of democracy.