

**Encyclopedic Directory**  
**of**  
**Ethnic Organizations in the United States**

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**Lubomyr R. Wynar**

with the assistance of  
**LOIS BUTTLAR and ANNA T. WYNAR**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface . . . . .	ix
Introduction . . . . .	xi
The Nature of Ethnic Organizations . . . . .	xv
Afro-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Black-American Organizations	
Albanian-American Organizations . . . . .	1
American-Indian Organizations . . . . .	3
Arab-American Organizations . . . . .	8
Argentine-American Organizations . . . . .	19
Armenian-American Organizations . . . . .	20
Asian-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Bangladesh-American, Chinese-American, Filipino-American, Indian-American, Indonesian-American, Japanese-American, Korean-American, Pakistani-American, Thai-American, and Vietnamese-American Organizations	
Assyrian-American Organizations . . . . .	29
Australian-American Organizations . . . . .	30
Austrian-American Organizations . . . . .	33
Baltic-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Estonian-American, Latvian-American, and Lithuanian-American Organizations	
Bangladesh-American Organizations . . . . .	38
Basque-American Organizations . . . . .	39
Belgian-American Organizations . . . . .	41
Black-American Organizations . . . . .	44
Brazilian-American Organizations . . . . .	53
British-American Organizations . . . . .	55
Bulgarian-American Organizations . . . . .	59
Byelorussian-American Organizations . . . . .	61
Canadian-American Organizations . . . . .	66
Carpatho-Ruthenian-American Organizations . . . . .	69
Chilean-American Organizations . . . . .	72
Chinese-American Organizations . . . . .	72
Cossack-American Organizations . . . . .	83
Costa Rican-American Organizations . . . . .	85
Croatian-American Organizations . . . . .	86
Cuban-American Organizations . . . . .	92
Czech-American Organizations . . . . .	98
Danish-American Organizations . . . . .	107
Dutch-American Organizations . . . . .	112
Ecuadorean-American Organizations . . . . .	115
Egyptian-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Arab-American Organizations	
English-American Organizations. <i>See</i> British-American Organizations	

Slavic

Eskimo-American Organizations. <i>See</i> American-Indian Organizations	
Estonian-American Organizations	116
Filipino-American Organizations	126
Finnish-American Organizations	131
French-American Organizations	134
German-American Organizations	142
Greek-American Organizations	157
Hungarian-American Organizations	166
Icelandic-American Organizations	177
Indian-American Organizations	179
Indonesian-American Organizations	184
Iranian-American Organizations	186
Iraqi-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Arab-American Organizations	
Irish-American Organizations	187
Italian-American Organizations	193
Japanese-American Organizations	207
Jewish-American Organizations	213
Korean-American Organizations	224
Latvian-American Organizations	230
Lebanese-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Arab-American Organizations	
Lithuanian-American Organizations	239
Luxembourg-American Organizations	254
Macedonian-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Bulgarian-American Organizations	
Maltese-American Organizations	255
Manx-American Organizations	257
Mexican-American Organizations	259
Negro-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Black-American Organizations	
Norwegian-American Organizations	266
Pakistani-American Organizations	273
Palestinian-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Arab-American Organizations	
Peruvian-American Organizations	273
Polish-American Organizations	274
Portuguese-American Organizations	294
Puerto Rican-American Organizations	297
Romanian-American Organizations	303
Russian-American Organizations	309
Scandinavian-American Organizations	314
Scotch-Irish-American Organizations	317
Scottish-American Organizations	318
Serbian-American Organizations	321
Slovak-American Organizations	324
Slovenian-American Organizations	331
Spanish-American Organizations	335
Swedish-American Organizations	340
Swiss-American Organizations	347
Syrian-American Organizations. <i>See</i> Arab-American Organizations	
Thai-American Organizations	351
Turkestan-American Organizations	351

<b>Turkish-American Organizations</b> . . . . .	352
<b>Ukrainian-American Organizations</b> . . . . .	358
<b>Vietnamese-American Organizations</b> . . . . .	378
<b>Welsh-American Organizations</b> . . . . .	380
<b>Yugoslav-American Organizations. See</b> Croatian-American, Serbian- American, and Slovenian-American Organizations	
<b>Appendix—Multi-Ethnic and Research Organizations</b> . . . . .	383
<b>Index</b> . . . . .	391

## PREFACE

This *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Organizations* is the first comprehensive reference guide to major ethnic organizations in this country. The fact that in the United States there exist hundreds of organizations created by various ethnic communities demonstrates the pluralistic character of the American society. The historian, sociologist, political scientist, or any other researcher studying American ethnicity must closely scrutinize the phenomenon of ethnic organized life as it is reflected in the objectives of various ethnic organizations. For the researcher, ethnic organizations serve as "primary sources" since they reflect the social structure of the ethnic group. Ethnic organizations and the ethnic press are the primary indicators of the actual state of life and activities of the individual ethnic groups. Therefore, it is imperative for any serious researcher involved in ethnic studies to become familiar with ethnic associations—their goals, objectives, and numerical strength.

For the reference librarian this *Encyclopedic Directory* will serve as an indispensable tool for providing answers or solving various reference questions pertaining to major ethnic groups in the United States, as well as to significant research institutions involved in the study of ethnicity. This publication has its own "history." In 1972 the *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals in the United States* (Libraries Unlimited, 1972, 260p.) was published on the basis of a survey that covered major ethnic periodicals and newspapers in the United States. At this time plans were made to conduct an additional survey—to cover major ethnic organizations in the U.S.—and to prepare a companion reference work on ethnic organizations. From 1973 through April 1975 a special survey was conducted, which resulted in the publication of this present reference guide.

The major objective of this *Encyclopedic Directory* is to identify major ethnic organizations in terms of their objectives, publications, and activities. The publication is intended primarily to serve scholars engaged in the study of ethnic groups, as well as reference librarians and libraries that are developing special library programs for individual ethnic groups in this country. Until now, a reference tool covering ethnic organizations in the United States did not exist.

The *Encyclopedic Directory* consists of the following parts:

1. Preface
2. Introduction
3. The nature of ethnic organizations
4. A listing of 1,475 ethnic organizations categorized under 73 headings, each of which represents a separate ethnic group.

5. Appendix, containing a selective list of major multi-ethnic and research organizations.

6. Name index of organizations.

It is hoped that this guide will fill an important gap in library reference literature.

## Acknowledgment

A number of persons contributed, either directly or indirectly, to completion of this directory. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the many officials of ethnic organizations and editors of ethnic periodicals who cooperated in our survey of ethnic organizations by submitting relevant data on ethnic organizations and by filling out the questionnaires. Special gratitude is also expressed to all foreign embassies that provided some information on ethnic organizations in the United States.

I would especially like to thank my graduate assistants and students at the School of Library Science and the Center for the Study of Ethnic Publications, Kent State University. Those who assisted in this project and were involved in checking the questionnaires are Ruth Patterson, Victoria Thornbury, Jane Faires, Ilona Kovacs, Daina Kojelis, Kevin Rosswurm, Jungnam Kwon, Hwi-Sook Koh, and others. I greatly appreciate the aid of Dr. Roy Hirabayashi, Asian American Studies Program, San Jose University; Dr. William A. Douglass, University of Nevada; Dr. John Epstein, U.S. Office of Education; Ms. Linda Wing, Coordinator of Asian American Studies, Berkeley; and many other persons who provided important information on ethnic organizations.

Lubomyr R. Wynar

## INTRODUCTION

Until the publication of this *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Organizations*, there existed a serious gap in library reference publications dealing with ethnic organizations. The comprehensive *Encyclopedia of Associations* (9th ed., Detroit, Gale Research Co., 1974) lists about 450 organizations directly or indirectly related to ethnic communities. Many of the entries for these organizations lack annotations. A regional directory was recently published for Michigan (*Ethnic Directory I*, Detroit, Southeastern Michigan Regional Ethnic Heritage Studies Center, 1973) and a local Cleveland-area directory (*Greater Cleveland Nationalities Directory 1974*, Cleveland, Sun Newspapers and The Nationalities Services Center, 1974) appeared in 1974. Both of these publications, which are designed for local use, are simply rosters of organizations located within the two regions.

In addition to the above-mentioned publications, which are multi-ethnic in content, a small number of major ethnic groups have published listings of their organizations, which serve as useful tools in studying these particular groups—e.g., Charles L. Sanders and Linda McLean, comps., *Directory of National Black Organizations* (New York: Afram Associates, Inc., 1972); *The Ebony Handbook*, by the editors of Ebony (Chicago: Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., 1974); *American Jewish Year Book 1974* (New York: The American Jewish Committee, 1974); The Cabinet Committee on Opportunity for the Spanish Speaking, *Directory of Spanish Speaking Organizations in the United States* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1970). It was felt, therefore, that a separate reference tool, which covers, on a comparative basis, all major ethnic groups and their associations, would prove to be indispensable to students engaged in ethnic research projects and to librarians providing special reference service to library patrons. It is hoped that this publication will fill the gap that exists in the professional reference literature in the area of ethnic organizations.

### Methodology

The data provided in this *Encyclopedic Directory* are based on a comprehensive survey of ethnic organizations in the United States, which was conducted from 1973 through April 1975. For the survey a special questionnaire was designed and distributed to all known major ethnic organizations. The addresses of these organizations were obtained from a special ethnic associations file at the Center for the Study of Ethnic Publications at Kent State University, from the editors of



ethnic newspapers and periodicals, from local ethnic directories, and from foreign embassies. Also, many officials of ethnic organizations indicated, in a special section of the questionnaire, the names and addresses of other organizations that they thought should be included in our publication. In all, 2,546 questionnaires were mailed to known addresses of ethnic organizations. Two follow-up letters were mailed to organizations that did not reply. A total of 1,758 questionnaires were returned and analyzed. On the basis of this analysis, 1,250 organizations were included and 508 were excluded—either because they were local or regional branches of a national organization already included in our survey or because they did not meet the criteria of the directory. Some of the returned questionnaires contained only partial answers. The listings for an additional 225 organizations are based on secondary sources, particularly on the ethnic press. In many instances these entries contain only the address of the organization. It was found that, although some ethnic groups responded fully to our survey, other groups proved to be rather elusive. We regret that some organizations failed to participate in our survey and, therefore, in spite of our follow-up attempts, are not listed in the present publication. It is hoped that during the next comprehensive survey we will be able to obtain the cooperation of all major ethnic organizations.

## Scope of the Encyclopedic Directory

The *Encyclopedic Directory* includes organizations representing 73 ethnic groups. Many of the national ethnic associations have additional branches on regional and local levels, and these branches were generally omitted because of their large numbers. Although the aim of this publication is to include organizations that are national in scope, in certain cases associations that are regional and local in scope have been incorporated. This is especially the case for those ethnic groups that lack a well-developed organizational system on a national scale, as well as in the case of smaller organizations with special objectives. In some instances ethnic organizations that are international in scope are also listed because of their major influence on the relevant ethnic groups in the United States.

Our survey revealed that the Black-American, Indian-American, Jewish-American, and Spanish speaking-American ethnic groups each have a great number of organizations of various types. Including all of these organizations would have required a separate directory for each group. Since listings of organizations of each of these ethnic groups are already published, we found it best to include only major organizations of each of these ethnic communities on a selective basis, especially in view of the fact that this directory uses a multi-ethnic approach.

The Appendix provides a list of major research-oriented non-ethnic organizations involved in the study of ethnicity. This *Encyclopedic Directory* lists major cultural, religious (lay), fraternal, professional, educational, scholarly, youth, and other ethnic organizations that reflect the organizational structure of a given ethnic community. Excluded are all ethnic parishes, religious orders and seminaries, schools, libraries, museums, banks, credit unions, or similar economic institutions.

Also omitted are those organizations that did not respond to our questionnaire, if we were unable to find information on their existence or activities through secondary sources.

## Arrangement

Organizations are arranged in alphabetical order under 73 individual ethnic groups. Each group is listed alphabetically, with necessary cross references and brief editorial introductions. The Egyptian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian-American organizations are listed with cross references under Arab-American Organizations. Multi-ethnic and research organizations are listed alphabetically in the Appendix.

Complete entries provide information in the following sequences:

1. Name of organization
2. Address
3. Telephone
4. Principal officers
5. Permanent staff
6. Date founded
7. Branches
8. Membership
9. Membership dues
10. Scope
11. Special requirements for membership
12. Nature of organization
13. Publications
14. Affiliations
15. Major conventions/meetings
16. Comments

In some instances entries do not contain complete information, due to the fact that some organizations failed to complete all items on the questionnaire. In these cases NI (no information) was indicated. A sample entry is provided below:

1. Name: ARMENIAN GENERAL ATHLETIC UNION (AGAU)
2. Address: 116 38th St.  
Union City, New Jersey 07087
3. Telephone: (201) 865-0057
4. Principal officers: Jack Takajian, President
5. Permanent staff: 4
6. Date founded: 1921
7. Branches: NI
8. Membership: 500
9. Membership dues: \$5.00
10. Scope: national

11. Special requirements for membership: Armenian ancestry
12. Nature of organization: cultural, educational, sport, youth
13. Publications: *AGAU Bulletin*, 1927— . quarterly.
14. Affiliations: NI
15. Major conventions/meetings: annual convention
16. Comments: Although AGAU is primarily oriented toward the development of athletics among Armenians, it also promotes social, cultural and educational activities within Armenian communities. Provides indoor sport and recreational facilities, promotes lectures and debates, sponsors annual tournaments, trophies and medals. Also has established a special scholarship fund.

### Name of the Organization

All names of organizations are listed in English. Names in native languages indicated on the questionnaires have been omitted, unless this was the only name submitted for the organization.

### Annotation

Each brief descriptive annotation is based on the official statement given in the questionnaire, and in many instances also on the organization's official publication (by-laws, official bulletins, etc.). If no statement of the organization's objectives was available, the descriptive annotation has been omitted.

### Index

The index includes names of organizations arranged in alphabetical order, with geographical location indicated in parentheses. The Table of Contents serves as the subject index.