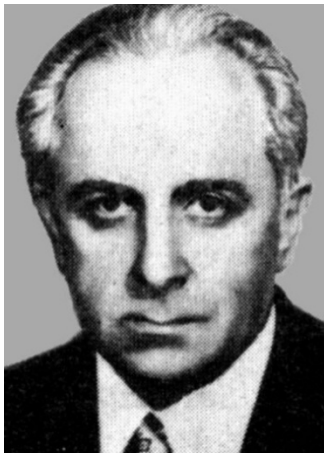


GAGIK SARGSYAN
(1926-1998)



Gagik Sargsyan was a prominent Armenologist and expert in ancient Near Eastern civilizations whose studies became benchmark for evaluation of ancient Armenian history, especially its early periods including Hellenistic period.

G. Sargsyan was born in 1926 in Yerevan. In 1943 he entered the Historical Faculty of Leningrad University. In 1951-1954 he as a postgraduate student studied in the branch of the Institute of History (Leningrad) of the Academy of Sciences of USSR, under the supervision of leading Soviet orientalists – I.Diakonoff, V.Struve, I.Meshshaninov and others. In 1954 he was awarded the degree of Candidate of Historical Sciences (“The city of ancient Armenia”). In 1954-1971 he worked in the Institute of History of Academy of Sciences of Armenia (in 1962-1966 as deputy director of that Institute). In 1967 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of History (“Armenia of the Hellenistic period and Movses Khorenatsi”).

In 1971-1994 G. Sargsyan was the Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies. Together with several outstanding orientalists (H. Inchikyan, N. Hovhannisyan, P. Muradyan, N. Harutyunyan) he founded a number of periodicals dealing with general problems of oriental studies as well as that of its specific fields; some of these periodicals still continue to be published (“The peoples and Countries of the Near and Middle East”, “Ancient Orient”, “Eastern Source Studies”).

G. Sargsyan paid special attention to the direct contacts of Armenian orientalists with their foreign partners. During that period the scholars of the Institute regularly participated in international conferences and were studies were published in European, Oriental and other international journals. In fact, Armenian Oriental studies successfully entered the international arena from the early 1970s and was truly one of the leading centers of Oriental studies of the USSR. One of the main goals of G.Sargsyan became the creation of scientific personnel and their training at the leading Soviet academic institutions.

Scientific interests of G.Sargsyan included several directions: 1) ancient oriental urban community, 2) Mesopotamian social-economic life of the Hellenistic period, 3) publication and study of cuneiform texts of the Late Babylonian and Hellenistic periods, 4) social-political history of ancient Armenia, 5) Hellenism in Armenia, 6) historicity and chronology and of Movses Khorenatsi’s “Armenian history”, 7) Pre-Mesropian Armenian historiography, 8) the problem of Urartu-Armenia and issues of the formation of the Armenian people etc.

In 1974 G.Sargsyan was elected Corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. He was also Professor of Yerevan State University. In 1984 he was elected the chairman of the Armenian Branch of the Soviet Orientalists’

Association. In 1985 he was awarded State Prize of the Soviet Armenia and Honorary Member of Syrian Historical Society, in 1986 Full member (academician) of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. In 1988-1990 he was Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. In 1995-1998 he was Vice-President and Academician-Secretary of the Division of Armenology and Social Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

Selected bibliography of Gagik Sargsyan (Armenology)

1. City-building in Armenia during the reign of Tigran II and the problem of the deportation of foreigners, *Izvestiya akademii nauk*, 1955/2, 43-64 (in Russian).
2. From the history of urban community in Armenia (IV BC), *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, 1955/3, 48-62 (in Russian).
3. On the Greek inscription of Garni, *Bulletin of Social Sciences*, 1956/3, 45-56 (in Arm.).
4. Tigranakert. From the history of ancient Armenian urban communities, Moscow, 1960 (in Russian).
5. About the social-economic developments of ancient Armenia, Yerevan, 1962 (in Arm.).
6. *Dastakerts* and *agaraks* in the V century Armenian sources, *Patmabanasirakan handes*, 1962/3, 77-94 (in Arm.).
7. On some peculiarities of ancient Armenian social system, *Tekhekagir hasarakakan gitutyunneri*, 1962/6, 39-54 (in Arm.).
8. On the problem of the Tigranakert Greek inscription's dating, *Patmabanasirakan handes*, 1962/1, 226-231 (in Russian).
9. The chronological system of the "History of Armenia" by Movses Khorenatsi, Yerevan, 1965 (in Arm.).
10. Hellenistic Armenia and Movses Khorenatsi, Yerevan, 1966 (in Arm.).
11. The empire of Tigran II, *Patmabanasirakan handes*, 1966/1, 93-112 (in Arm.).
12. The deification and the cult of kings and their ancestors in ancient Armenia, *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, 1966/2, 3-26 (in Russian).
13. On the reconstruction of the chronological system of Khorenatsi's "History", *Patmabanasirakan handes*, 1968/1, 119-146 (in Arm.).
14. Les deux significations du terme *dastakert* dans les anciennes sources arméniennes, *REA NS*, 1968, T. 5, 43-50.
15. On the problem of the cults of the Hellenistic world (The cult of the royal dynasty in ancient Armenia), *Studien zur Geschichte und Philosophie des Altertums*, Budapest, 1968, 283-292.
16. Antiochus III Selucid and Armenian states, *Bulletin of Yerevan University*, 1969/1, 41-61 (in Arm.).

17. The Historiography of pre-Mesropean period, *Patmabanasirakan handes* 1969/1, 107-126 (in Arm.).
18. Groundless theories about Urartu, *Patmabanasirakan hands*, 1970/3, 46-64 (in Arm.).
19. The History of Armenia (from ancient period until today)(co-authors T.Hakobyan, A.Abrahamyan etc.), Yerevan, 1971 (in Arm.).
20. The rise of feudal social-economic system in Armenia and the downfall of ancient Armenian state, *Patmabanasirakan hands*, 1972/2, 219-236 (in Arm.).
21. The "History of Armenia" by Movses Khorenatsi, Yerevan, 1986 (in Russian).
22. Urartian state and Armenians, in *Urartu-Armenia*, Yerevan 1988, 47-126 (in Arm.).
23. On primary homeland, Armenian ethnogenesis, and Urartu, *Patmabanasirakan handes*, 1990/1, 23-40 (in Arm.).
24. "The History of Armenia" by Movses Khorenatzi, Yerevan, 1991.
25. Movses Khorenatsi's "History of Armenia" and cuneiform sources, *Patmabanasirakan hands*, 1992/2-3, 27-50 (in Arm.).
26. Moses Khorenatsi's "History of Armenia" as a system, *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Armenian Linguistics*, Cleveland, 1991, New York, 1992, 213-222.
27. Les phases préliminaires de la langue littéraire arménienne vues par un historien, *Armenia and the Bible. Papers Presented to the International Symposium Held at Heidelberg. July 16-19, 1990* (Edit. By Christoph Burchard), Atlanta, 1993, 195-206.
28. Eine Ergänzung zur Rekonstruktion der Artasesidendynastie Armeniens nach dem Seleukidischen astronomischen Tagebuch BM 34791, *AMI* 27, 1994, 237-240.
29. The descendants of Hayk. Essays in the history and culture of Armenia from ancient period until the rise of the Third republic, Yerevan, 1998 (in Russian)(co-authors C.Khudaverdyan, K.Yuzbashyan).