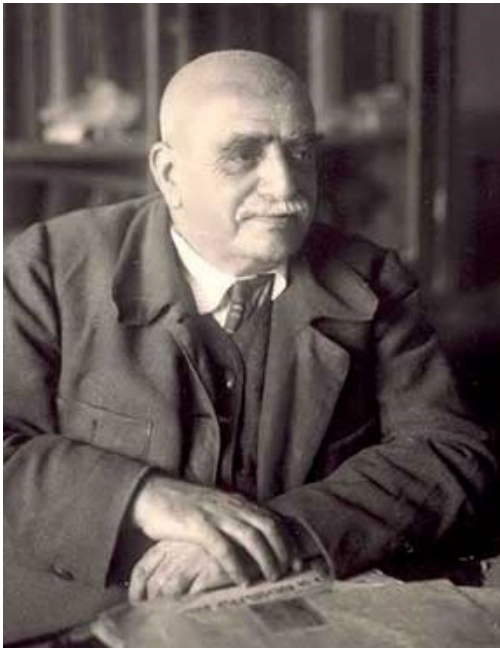


TOROS TORAMANIAN

(1864-1934)



Toros Toramanyan was a prominent Armenian architect, father of Armenian history of architecture.

He was born in Sebinarahisar, Western Armenia (modern Turkey). After graduating the school in his birthplace he went to Constantinople in order to continue his education. Here Toramanyan entered the Department of architecture at the Imperial gymnasium of Fine arts (1888-1893).

After graduating the gymnasium he worked as architect, projected private houses. When in 1895 started repressions against Armenian population he left Constantinople for Bulgaria and spent there four years. During this period Toramanyan travelled to Romania, Greece,

Egypt, Italy, France in order to study ancient and medieval architecture.

First direct contact with medieval Armenian architecture happened in 1903 when he visited Ani. Deeply impressed with architectural remains of the city he decided to study it. Here he met N.Marr, then the supervisor of the excavations, who supported him financially.

In 1904 Toramanyan moved to Etchmiatsin where he succeeded to restart the excavations of Zvartnoc temple which were initiated some time before his arrival but were cancelled. The preliminary results of excavations were published in Tiflis in 1905. Toramanyan's reconstruction of the planning of the temple were met with great skepticism since nobody have an idea of similar construction yet. But soon, after N.Marr had unearthed the statue of the Bagratid king Gagik I in Ani, the discussion of whether Toramanyan was right came to an end.

In 1913 Toramanyan was invited to Vienna by prominent Austrian scholar J.Strzygowski in order to write joint study devoted to Armenian architecture. But with the beginning of World war I their studies came to an end. Toramanyan was forced to complete this work separately since his materials remained in Vienna. In 1918 he published a voluminous study «Armenian architecture and Europe».

In 1905-1909 Toramanyan worked in Ani as a member of N.Marr's expedition where he made numerous photos of architectural remains, also suggested reconstructions of some destroyed buildings.

After the Sovietization of Armenia Toramanyan worked at the Yerevan State university where he held lectures on the architecture of ancient and medieval Armenian architecture.

Selected Bibliography of T.Toramanian

Zvartnoc temple, "Murc" vol.5, 1905 (In Arm.).

Echmiatsin temple, 1909 (In Russian, 1910 in Arm.).

The temple of Tekor, Tiflis, 1911 (In Arm.).

Materials about Armenian architecture, vols. 1-2, Yerevan, 1942-1948 (In Arm.).

Zvartnoc, Gagkashen, Yerevan, 1984 (In Arm.).

Also several studies which deal with the medieval Armenian churches, problems of Armenian architecture, different aspects of the city of Ani etc.