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DOI:0.57155/XWUD4706

# A NEWLY DISCOVERED WORK OF NERSĒS SHNORHALI IN MS M3839

**Key words:** Nersēs Shnorhali, catholicos, author, manuscript, sermon, St.

Petersburg, collection, Matenadaran.

This article introduces a work by Nersēs Shnorhali recently discovered in Ms M3839. In the course of cataloging and studying manuscripts, scholars sometimes have the opportunity of identifying the author, the date, the school of illumination and other details concerning a given manuscript. Moreover, the comparison with other sources, with the information recorded in earlier descriptions, as well as with other handwritten and printed sources often rewards us with newly discovered texts. Their existence not only sheds new light on the comprehensive study of the works of a given author, but also helps to complete a more vivid picture of the period he lived in. Such work is time-consuming and often does not lead to final conclusions.

In the course of a routine manuscript description a previously unknown short text was discovered in Ms M3839, fol. 14r-v, entitled: "Sermon by Nersēs, the Armenian Catholicos, Concerning the Second Advent of Christ" («Տեառն Նեrսեսի՝ Հայոց կաթաղիկոսի ասացե[ալ] Ի ճանդեrձեալ գա-լուսան Քրիստոսի», Picture 1-2). The manuscript is a *Miscellany*, copied in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It contains various translated and original works: homilies,

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<sup>1</sup> Scribe: Step'annos, commissioner: Ter Margar (Priest Margar), number of pages: 162, number of fascicules: 15, by 12 folios each (fasc. 1 has 11 fols, fasc. 6 is missing, fasc. 15 has 7 fols.), material: paper, size: 17,5×12,5 cm, size of writing: one column (13×9,5 cm), type of writing: bolorgir, number of lines: 23, binding: board covered by dark brown stamped leather, lining: paper (part of an old printed book: «Պարգաբանութիւն նոգենուաց սաղմոսացն Դաւթի մաr-

sermons, panegyrics, and admonitions by the following authors: Ephrem the Syrian, John Chrysostom, Epiphanius of Cyprus, Vardan Aygekts'i, Grigor Vkayasēr, Yakob of Serugh, Yovhannēs Mandakuni, Yovhannēs Kozern, Agat'on and others. Amongst these texts appeared the aforementioned passage, a mere 1,5 pages in length. The task at hand was to identify the author of this text: is it Shnorhali, Lambronats'i, Nerses G. Tayets'i or some other Nerses? It was necessary to do this by a proper examination, searching for the same text elsewhere, with the full name of the author in the title. Another alternative was identifying the author through stylistic analysis, but the result would be more doubtful, since theological works are stylistically quite similar to each other, and only a profound knowledge about theological matters could help. So we chose the first option: finding any evidence of this text in other sources, which would help identifying its author. We had the name Nerses, the information that he was catholicos, and the title of the work: "Sermon Concerning the Second Advent of Christ." If we were inclined to decide in favor of Shnorhali without any other supporting evidence, our decision would be rather intuitive.<sup>2</sup> The possible candidates were Nerses Shnorhali, Nersēs Lambronats'i, Nersēs A. the Great, Nersēs B. Bagrevandts'i, Nersēs G. Tayets'i or another person named Nersēs. The mention of some Catholicos Nerses in the title could potentially be crucial in choosing between Nerses Shnorhali (12th century), Nerses G. Tayets'i (7th century) or another author mentioned above, but scribes used to attribute the same text to different authors, or to add titles not related to them. For example, a scribe could copy several texts of John Chrysostom, only the first title containing his name («Ցովհաննու Ոսկեբեrանի ասացեալ...» – "Said by John

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qurtին» – "Commentary on the Psalms of Prophet David," Venice, 1687, pp. 251 and 253). See Յուցակ ձեռադրաց Մաշտոցի անվան Մատենադարանի (Brief Catalogue of Armenian Manuscripts of the Mashtots Matenadaran), volume 1, compiled by **O. Yeganyan**, **A. Zeytunyan**, **P. Antabyan**, introduction by **O. Yeganyan**, edited by **L. Khachikyan**, **A. Mnatsakanyan**, Yerevan, 1965, p. 1094 (hereafter: Brief Manuscript Catalogue). Additional details on M3839 are still unpublished.

We tried to find the text in various publications of Nerses Shnorhali's writings, as well as in studies about him, e.g. **Gh. Alishan**, τίπης μιμ μωμωμωμ μιμ (Shnorhali and the Circumstances Related to Him), Venice, 1873, and others, but none were discovered.

Chrysostom"), whereas the headings of the following entries read «Նուրին ասացեալ...» ("Said by the same [author]..."), that is "by John Chrysostom." Later, a scribe compiling a Miscellany or a Book of sermons (Քաւոզգիբք), could copy some units from different manuscripts, so he could copy e.g. a text of Ephrem the Syrian entitled «Եփբեմի Խուրին Ասոււդյ ասացեալ...» ("Said by Ephrem the Syrian..."), then, a text by John Chrysostom from another manuscript, entitled «Նուրին ասացեալ...» ("Said by the same [author]"), without mentioning the name of John Chrysostom. Consequently, a text by Chrysostom entitled «Նուրին ասացեալ...» copied immediately after a text by Ephrem the Syrian, could be attributed to the latter. So, one cannot exclude that the author of our text is Nersēs Lambronats'i only on the grounds of the title "catholicos" in the manuscript; it is well-known, that although Nersēs Lambronats'i had never been catholicos,3 some of his works appear in manuscripts with the designation «Տեառն Նեւսեսի՝ Հայոց կաթողիկոսի ասացեալ» ("Said by Nersēs, the Armenian Catholicos").4

This text is attributed to Nerses I the Great (4<sup>th</sup> century) in the *Brief Manuscript Catalogue*. <sup>5</sup> However, the authorship of Nerses I the Great cannot

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Five Armenian catholicoi bore the name Nersēs: Nersēs A. Great (4<sup>th</sup> century), Nersēs B. Bagrevandts'i (6<sup>th</sup> century), Nersēs G. Tayets'i (7<sup>th</sup> century), Nersēs D. Klayets'i-Shnorhali (12<sup>th</sup> century), Nersēs E. Ashtarakets'i (19<sup>th</sup> century). Naturally Nersēs E. Ashtarakets'i cannot be the author of the work preserved in a 14<sup>th</sup> c. manuscript.

<sup>4</sup> Ms M 1712, fol. 240r «Տեառն Նեrսեսի՝ Հայոց կաթողիկոսի (= Նեrսիսի Լամբբռնացւդ) Մեկնութիւն տեrունական աղաւթից, զոr աղաւթեն ժողովուոդքն» ("Commentary on the Lord's Prayer, that People Pray, by Nersēs, the Armenian Catholicos [= Nersēs Lambronats'i]"): see Մայր ցուցակ հայերեն ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անուան Մատենադարանի (General Catalogue of Armenian Manuscripts of the Mashtots Matenadaran), volume 5, compiled by O. Yeganyan, edited by H. Keosyan, A. Ghazarosyan, Priest Sh. Hayrapetyan, indexes by V. Devrikyan, Yerevan, 2009, p. 949. The same title also is in Ms M 4246, fol. 135r. It is the work by Nersēs Lambronats'i: Սրբոյն Ներսեսի Լամբրոնացւոյ՝ Տարսոնի եպիսկոպոսի Խորհրդածութիւնք ի կարգս եկեղեցւոյ եւ մեկնութիւն կորհրդոյ պատարադին (Thoughts on Order of the Church and Explication of the Meaning of the Mass by St. Nersēs Lambronats'i, Catholicos of Tarsus,), (Writings of Predecessors, Nersēs Lambronats'i), Venice, 1847, pp. 451-465.

<sup>5</sup> Brief Manuscript Catalogue, volume 1, p. 1094. Quite probably the authors meant Nersēs I the Great (4<sup>th</sup> century). We checked the initial description, from where it was published. There too Nersēs the Great is mentioned, fols. 14r-v: «Նեrսեսի Մեծի ասացեալ Ի ճանդեrձեալ գալուսան Քրիստոսի» ("Sermon by Nersēs the Great, Concerning the Second Advent of

be verified. The text does not appear in printed catalogues nor in unpublished descriptions of manuscripts of the Matenadaran collection, even without the author's appellation, leaving only the page and a half of text in MS M3839. Although some folios of the manuscript are missing, this does not concern the text in question, which is complete: 14r-v «Տեառն Նեrսեսի՝ Հայոց կաթաղիկոսի ասացե[ալ] Ի հանդեrձեալ գալուստն Քրիստոսի – Մեrձեցաւ ժամանակն, լոrում լինելոց է կատաrած աշխաrհի՝ և քննութիւն, և հատուցումն իւռաքանչիւռ գործոց... զրոկեայն ի դասակցութենէ սոբոցն և անկանել լեռեuացն Աստուծոլ» ("Sermon by Nerses, the Armenian Catholicos, Concerning the Second Advent of Christ. - The time is approaching, when there will be the end of the world, and the examination and restitution for all our deeds... deprived of the class of saints and to be away from God").6 If the text were interrupted because of missing folios, it would be possible to think that the original text is longer, and thus could be found elsewhere. As for the content, it is theological in nature. The initial assumption was that the text is an excerpt (funniuðni) from a voluminous work by a catholichos named Nersēs; it did not seem probable that the short text in question is a complete work. It was not excluded from consideration that the text could be an introduction to a longer address. As mentioned above, the main reason for this assumption was the size of the text: one and a half pages in a small manuscript (folio size: 17,5×12,5 cm, size of writing: one column (13×9,5 cm), script: bolorgir, number of lines: 23); the *bolorgir* script is not as dense as the *notrgir* script is.

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Christ"), although the word «Մեծ» ("the Great") is absent from the title in the manuscript. This manuscript is also mentioned among others as belonging to Nerses the Great in the index of names; see *Brief Manuscript Catalogue*, volume 1, pp. 1582-1583.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The text ends here, and it is immediately (on fol. 14v) followed by another text: «Եւրանելոյն Ցակովբայ՝ Սենոյ եպիսկոպոսի ասացեալ Նեբբողեան ի Ծնունդն Քրիստոսի՝ Աստուծոյ մեբոյ» ("Panegyric by Blessed Yakob, Catholicos of Serugh, Concerning the Nativity of Christ Our God").

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Pic. 1. MS M3839, 14r

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Pic. 2. MS M3839, 14v

Another basis for supposing that the text is a part of another text is its incipit, as it is in our manuscript, was of no help. Finally the same text was found in a manuscript of the Saint-Petersburg collection, Miscellany, 14th century, commissioner: Priest Rstakēs/Aristakēs, number of pages: 274, material: paper, size: 21,5×14 cm, form of writing: one column, script: bolorgir, number of lines: 20, cover: dark brown stamped leather, core: board, lining: paper. The text in this manuscript matches the incipit of our text: «Մերձեցաւ ժամանակն, յուում լինելոց է կատաւած աշխարհի՝ և քննութիւն, և հատուցումն իւրաքանչիւր գործոց...» ("The time is approaching, when there will be the end of the world, and examination and restitution for all our deeds..."), but, what is more important, its title contains not only the name Nersēs, but also his epithet Shnorhali: "Sermon by Armenian Catholicos Nersēs Klayets'i, Concerning the Second Advent of Christ"—«Տեառն Նեւսեսի Կլայեցւոյ՝ Հայոց կաթուղիկոս[ի] ասացեալ Ի հանդերձեալ գալուստն Քրիստոսի» (SABO B 11, 154r). 11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> **K. Yuzbashyan**, Армянские рукописи в петербургских собраниях (Православный Палестинский сборник, вып. 41 [104]) ("The Armenian Manuscripts in the Collections of St. Petersburg", Orthodox Palestinian Anthology), St. Petersburg, 2005, p. 124 (№ 249, SABO B 11, Miscellany, pp. 122-125). The manuscript is in the collection of Armenian manuscripts of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in the Saint-Petersburg's branch: hereafter with abbreviation: SABO B 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The manuscript was mentioned as a *Book of sermons* in the later colophons written in *bolorgir* and *notrgir* scripts: see ibid., fol. 258r (the same title also is on fol. 1r in *shghagir* script).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Both versions of the name are present in the manuscript: see ibid., fol. 21r and fol. 40r.

The manuscript has no information concerning the scribe; the scribal colophons are anonymous, and they all contain self-deprecating language. Some additional details are mentioned: it was restored by a certain Simavon in 1631 (see fol. 258r); a later owner (who owned it in 1773) was called Ter Arak'el (Priest Arak'el), see fols. 95v, 188v, 192v, 258r, 273v. The initial folios of the manuscript contain the description of its content by K. Kostanyants'.

When attributing any text to an author there can be some conventions. The same texts bearing the names and epithets of different authors in their titles also occur in manuscript sources. Thus, it is not being excluded from consideration, that scribes could have confused the names of Nersēs Shnorhali and Nersēs Lambronats'i (since both of them were active during the same period: the 12<sup>th</sup> century). Nevertheless, our study has led us to the conclusion that, in all likelihood, the author of this work is Nersēs Shnorhali. It is stylistically akin to his works, as it is lucid, while, at the same time, deals with sophisticated issues.

The text itself is much longer, covering about 44 pages (22 folios): 154r-175v in the manuscript which is approximately of the same size as M3839, and its *bolorgir* script has the same density (folio size: 21,5×14 cm, size of writing: one column (about 17×10,5 cm), number of lines: 20). The comparison revealed that the text in M3839 is not an excerpt from another text, but it is almost identical with the initial part of the text in SABO B 11, containing some different readings, omissions of some sentences, additions, etc.

In the course of copying and studying the text from SABO B 11, one more obstacle presented itself: after 6 folios, on fol. 159v the text is interrupted, 12 and between pages 159v and 160r there seemed to be some missing folios. The most obvious indication to this is the fascicule number in the lower margin on page 159v, which means the end of a fascicule (159v: "o" = 14<sup>th</sup> fascicule: see note 16 here), whereas there is no fascicule number on the opposite page, as it usually happens. Moreover, since the manuscript is a Miscellany, the basic presumption was, that only those 6 folios belong to Nerses Shnorhali. The missing folios could contain the title of another text, and the following pages, starting with 160r, the continuation of another text and its explicit. This was impossible to prove, since we had no text for comparison, thus just these 6 folios could be attributed to Nerses Shnorhali. Nevertheless, five more folios of the text by Nerses Shnorhali, had been obtained. The numbering of units by the scribe was of help here. The text of Nerses Shnorhali is placed under the number 16, while the next unit coming after the missing folios is the 17<sup>th</sup>, consequently all the folios before the 17<sup>th</sup> unit belong to Nerses Shnorhali. Nevertheless, the fact that there were missing folios in one place led us to presume that there could be other missing folios, as the next fascicule is also incomplete. However, the text itself reads smoothly and does not seem incomplete. Counting the fascicule folios was also of help. In SABO B 11, the fascicule numbered "\overline{v}" (= 14<sup>th</sup> fascicule) is regular: it contains 12 folios (fols. 148-159), while the next fascicule

<sup>12</sup> This is not recorded in the catalogue: **K. Yuzbashyan**, *Армянские рукописи в петербургских собраниях (The Armenian Manuscripts in the Collections of St. Petersburg)*, p. 124.

numbered "4" (= 15<sup>th</sup> fascicule) contains 15 folios with distribution 7+8 (fols. 160-174). In all likelihood, there was only one missing folio from the incomplete part of the text.<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is possible to say with certainty that the text from the folios which follow also belongs to Nersēs Shnorhali. Accordingly, the text under examination in SABO B 11 occupies folios 154r-159v + 1 missing folio + 160r-175v. We also tried to count the fascicule folios of the aforementioned manuscript, <sup>14</sup> which was quite a difficult task, as only the digital copies were on hand, <sup>15</sup> expecting to find the missing folio placed elsewhere, but nothing was found. <sup>16</sup> So we have Nersēs Shnorhali's work,

preceding it must be 8 too.

<sup>13</sup> The majority of Armenian manuscripts (about 80 percent) consist of regular fascicules containing 12 (6+6) folios; this does not depend on the content and the date of manuscript. Parallel to regular fascicules, there also exist fascicules with different numbers of folios, which also distribute into pairs: 7+7, 8+8 etc. In some cases the number of folios in the fascicule is odd, although containing a complete text, as a result of a mistake by the scribe in the course of copying the text: he could have noticed his mistake, then cut off one of the pair of folios, in order to get rid of the incorrect text, and then copied the correct version of the same text onto the next folio. In later manuscripts, these irregularities appear with greater frequency. By the 18-19th centuries almost no manuscripts have fascicules with a regular number of folios. In SABO B 11 the fascicule numbered "σ" (= 14<sup>th</sup>) is regular; it consists of 6+6 folios. The fascicule number usually mentioned on its folios 1r and 12v, is present here on fols. 148r and 159v; this means that fascicule "σ" (= 14) is complete. The first folio of fascicule "ψ" (= 15), which would bear the fascicule number and immediately follow fascicule "σ" (= 14), is missing from the manuscript. As to the quantity of missing folios, we must bear in mind that each fascicule has a seam in the middle, and if the number of folios following is 8, the number

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> There is no point FASCICULE in the template of manuscript description in Yuzbashyan's catalogue (**K. Yuzbashyan**, *Армянские рукописи в петербургских собраниях ("The Armenian Manuscripts in the Collections of St. Petersburg")*, p. 124), so it does not contain information on the fascicule folio numbers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The digital copies were made from the microfilm № 233 in the collection of St. Petersburg's (Leningrad's, according to the catalogue) manuscript microfilms kept in the Matenadaran.

The fascicules are numbered in SABO B 11 according simply to the sequence of letters in the Armenian alphabet. So & (10<sup>th</sup>) is followed by Þ, which means 11<sup>th</sup> (and not 20<sup>th</sup>, while regularly & II is 11<sup>th</sup>), etc. The fascicules with irregular number of folios in SABO B 11 are: fasc. 1 – 9 fols., fasc. 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 22, 23 – 11 fols., fasc. 15 – 15 fols, fasc. 24 – 2 fols.; it also contains one single folio (fol. 258) and two joint folios (fol. 272-273). The first fascicule contains one unnumbered folio preceding its fols.1-8, so the total number of folios of the SABO B 11 manuscript is 273+1. Some fascicules are irregular, as we have seen above, and some

"Sermon by Nersēs Klayets'i, the Armenian Catholicos, Concerning the Second Advent of Christ", albeit incomplete.<sup>17</sup>

The text, most likely, is a sermon, the main goal of which is leading the reader or the audience to live one's worldly life worthy of a Christian, expecting to enjoy the blessings to be given by the Lord in the next life. We must add, that in the later colophons in SABO B 11, both the restorer of the manuscript and the later owner identify the manuscript as *Book of sermons*.

As for the relative dating of the manuscripts M3839 and SABO B 11, one which determines which version is closer to Nersēs Shnorhali's original text, it was ascertained that SABO B 11 is of greater antiquity. This was confirmed by several different readings. For instance, instead of "querzeth tenques" ("of heinous sins") in M3839, SABO B 11 reads "fuerzeth tenques" ("remove (lit. drag) from sins"). The reading "querzeth tenques" arouse from "fuerzeth tenques" and is a likely instance of scribal error. The expression "querzeth tenques" is mostly found in texts from a later, Middle Armenian period, whereas "fuerzeth tenques" both lexically and syntactically is more regular Classical Armenian (Grabar). The passage "2h' "2nr uhs n'z tuneu, tu nishs n'z tuneu, tu nishs n'z tuneu, tu nishs urquengs" ("Since 'what no eye has seen, and no ear has heard', and has not fallen into the heart of a human, God has prepared that for the just") in M3839 is missing from SABO B 11, it seems a later addition by a scribe. Both manuscripts also have some specific orthographic features.

The table below presents some differences between the manuscripts SABO B 11 and M3839, including orthographical features.

folios have been lost (not all of them, since some fascicules with irregular number of folios contain complete texts).

We have tried, without success, to find the text in other manuscript catalogues.

### SABO B 11

- 1. Մերձեցաւ ժամանակն, յորում լինելոց է **ի կատարածի** աշխարհի...
- 2. ...եւ **ջարշել ի մեղաց** ԴեշտուԹեան` վրիպիցի յայնպիսի բարեաց պարգեւացն խոստացելոցն։
- 3. Կարծեմ **Թե**` ոչ բան ամենայն բանականաց կարիցէ յանդիման կացուցանել **ըզրկումն** յայնպիսի **երանուԹեանցն**։
- 4. ... անբան կենդանիք եւ **անշունչը** արարածք իմաստս բանի **ընդունեին**։
- 5. Ձի` «Որ ակն ո՛ չ ետես, եւ ունկն ո՛ չ լուաւ»։
- 6. ... եւ **տանջանք** յաւիտենից ընդ սատանայի ոչ էր սպառնացեալ...
- 7. ... զրկեալն ի դասակցուԹենէ սրբոցն եւ անկանիլն լերեսաց Աստուծոյ...

## M3839

- 1. Մերձեցաւ ժամանակն, յորում լինելոց է **կատարած** աշխարհի...
- 2. ... և **գարշելի մեղացն** հեշտուԹեան` վրիպիցի **ի** յայնպիսի բարեաց պարգեւացն **խոստացելոց**։
- 3. Կարծեմ ԹԷ` և ոչ բան ամենայն բանականաց կարիցէ յանդիման կացուցանել **զրկումն** յայնպիսի **երանուԹեան**։
- 4. ... անբան կենդանիք և շ<mark>ունչ<sup>18</sup> արարած</mark>ք իմաստս բանի **ընդունէին**։
- 5. Ձի` «Ձոր ակն ո՛ չ ետես, և ունկն ո՛ չ լւաւ», և ի սիրտ մարդոյ ոչ անկաւ` զայն է պատրաստել Աստուած արդարոցն։
- 6. ... և <mark>տանջեալն</mark> յաւիտենից ընդ սատանայի ոչ էր սպառնացեալ...
- 7. ... **զըրկեալն** ի դասակցուԹենէ սրբոցն և **անկանել յերեսացն** Աստուծոյ։

<sup>18</sup> Անγπιնγ ("inanimate") in the other manuscript is apparently a better reading, while γπιնγ (шrшrшðf) is corrupt, since it is an adjective, the attribute of "beings" (шrшrшðf), and γπιնγ ("breath") is a noun which cannot act as an attribute.

The above differences make it possible to conclude that although both manuscripts are dated to the same period, 14<sup>th</sup> century, <sup>19</sup> the text included in SABO B 11 is representative of that from an earlier period, and thus closer to the original. This means that Nersēs Shnorhali's text was copied in manuscripts M3839 and SABO B 11 from different archetypes, and more mistakes were accumulated in the manuscript tradition to which M3839 belongs. <sup>20</sup>

So, Nersēs Shnorhali's significant literary legacy is enriched by one more work, with his epithet in the title of that work.<sup>21</sup>

It is not excluded that over time a complete version of this text will appear among those Matenadaran manuscripts which have not yet been cataloged or those lacking a detailed description, as well as in other collections of Armenian manuscripts throughout the world.

ՀԱՍՄԻԿ ԻՐԻՑՅԱՆ

## ՆԵՐՍԵՍ ՇՆՈՐՀԱԼՈԻ ՆՈՐԱՀԱՅՑ ԲՆԱԳԻՐԸ ՄՄ 3839 ՁԵՌԱԳՐՈՒՄ

**Բանալի բառեր`** Ներսես Շնորհալի, կաԹողիկոս, հեղինակ, ձեռագիր, քարոզ, Ս. Պետերբուրգ, հավաջածու, Մատենադարան։

Սույն հոդվածի նյութը Ներսես Շնորհալու նորահայտ բնագիրն է, որ վերջին շրջանում առիթ ենք ունեցել պարզելու ՄՄ 3839 ձեռագրում։ Նշված ձեռագրի` 14աբ էջերին առկա է փոքրածավալ` մեկ ու կես էջանոց նյութ, որն ունի հետևյալ

9

 $<sup>^{19}</sup>$  The colophons written by the scribes of both manuscripts are undated, and both are supposedly dated to the  $14^{th}$  century.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> This does not mean that this archetype was the autograph of Nersēs Shnorhali.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Parallel to my work of describing Ms M3839 for the future volume of the cataloge, volume 22 of the series *Classical Armenian Authors (Մատենադիրք հայոց)* containing Nersēs Shnorhali's prose works was being prepared for publication, and the text in question found its place in this volume. See the complete text and more details concerning textological issues in *Classical Armenian Authors (Մատենադիրք հայոց)*, vol. 22, 12<sup>th</sup> Century: *Nersēs Shnorhali*, book 2, Yerevan, 2022, pp. 671-685 (the version of SABO B 11 is the main text, while the text of M3839 is presented separately as a variant).

խորագիրը «Տեառն Ներսեսի` Հայոց կաԹաղիկոսի ասացե[ալ] Ի հանդերձեալ գալուստն Քրիստոսի»։ Մեր խնդիրն էր պարզել այդ նյութի հեղինակի` Շնորհալի, Լամբրոնացի, Ներսես Գ. Տայեցի կամ Ներսես անունով որևէ այլ անձի վերագրման հարցը։

Որոշ ուսումնասիրություններից հետո այս նյութը նույնությամբ և ավելի ընդարձակ շարունակությամբ վկայված գտանք մեկ այլ` Պետերբուրգի ձեռագրական հավաքածուների կազմում գտնվող մի ձեռագրում (SABO B 11), որտեղ վերնագրում կար նաև Ներսես Շնորհալու անունը և մականունը։

Բնագրային որոշ առանձնահատկություններ հաշվի առնելով՝ կարող ենք եզրակացնել, որ չնայած և՛ ՄՄ 3839 ձեռագիրը, և՛ SABO B 11 ձեռագիրը թվագրվում են նույն` ԺԴ. դարով, այնուամենայնիվ, կարծում ենք, որ ժամանակագրորեն ավելի վաղը SABO B 11 ձեռագրում ընդգրկված նյութն է (Ներսես Շնորհալու ձեռքով գրված բնագրին ժամանակային առումով ավելի մոտ)։

#### АСМИК ИРИЦЯН

## НОВОНАЙДЕННЫЙ ТЕКСТ НЕРСЕСА ШНОРАЛИ В РУКОПИСИ № 3839 ИЗ СОБРАНИЯ МАТЕНАДАРАНА

**Ключевые слова**: Нерсес Шнорали, католикос, автор, рукопись, проповедь, Санкт-Петербург, коллекция, Матенадаран.

Предметом рассмотрения настоящей статьи является новонайденный текст Нерсеса Шнорали в рукописи № 3839 из собрания рукописей Матенадарана. На листе 14г-v отмеченной рукописи присутствует небольшой текст — примерно полторы страницы, озаглавленный «Слово Святейшего Нерсеса, Каталикоса Всех Армян, о втором пришествием Христа». Нашей задачей было выяснить, кому из Нерсесов — Шнорали, Ламбронаци, Нерсесу III Тайеци или другой личности принадлежит авторство данного текста.

После некоторых изысканий в точности такой же текст, но с более развернутым продолжением, был обнаружен нами в другой рукописи — в собрании Санкт-Петербурга (SABO B 11), где в заглавии упомянуты не только имя, но и эпитет Нерсеса Шнорали.

Принимая во внимание некоторые особенности данных текстов, можем заключить, что, несмотря на то, что и рукопись M3839, и рукопись из Санкт-Петербурга датируются тем же XIV веком, тем не менее более ранним является текст второй рукописи.