



ANUSHAVAN ZAKARYAN

(on His 70th anniversary)

Anushavan Zakaryan, doctor of philological sciences, editor-in-chief of "Historical-Philological Journal" of RA NAS, has celebrated his 70th birthday. For decades, the scientific community has been familiar with his devotion to the Armenology his insight and consistency in this field, with which he realizes his professional aspirations for the development of science in these difficult times.

A. Zakaryan was born in 1954 on January 1 in famous Paraka village of historical Goghtan province (Nakhijevan), in a doctor's family. The family later settled in Yerevan, where in 1971 he graduated from N. Krupskaya (now Nikol Aghbalyan) secondary school, then entered Faculty of Philology of the Armenian State Pedagogical Institute named after Kh. Abovyan. In the last year in 1975 he was sent to the high school of Nor Artagers village of Hoktemberyan region (now Armavir region) for pedagogical work. Then he was drafted into the army and in 1975–1976 to serve in the military unit located in the region of Khabarovsk.

A. Zakaryan has gone through an interesting and prolific biographical journey, enriching his work experience and broadening the scope of his knowledge: editorial work combined with publishing work, then vigorous scientific research activity, state service and scientific work.

In March, 1977 Zakaryan's editorial activity started, when he was hired by the publishing house of the Academy of Sciences of the ASSR, as an editor, then in 1980, in the journal "Herald of Social Sciences" taking the position of executive secretary of the editorial board. Here his working and scientific qualities were honed, therefore, it is impossible not to remember the editor-in-chief of "Herald", Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of RA, Vardges Mikhalyan, who, along with the academic environment, significantly contributed to the formation and deepening of the scientific abilities of the young researcher.

In 1989–1990 A. Zakaryan was the executive secretary of the "Goyamart" weekly newspaper of the Hayastan public-political organization. This testifies to his active civic stance. This last circumstance conditioned his work in the staff of Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia, where he assumed the position of

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the head of the publishing department in October, 1993. The result of his efforts in this legislative institution was the improvement and regulation of the work culture in the organizational field, the timely publication of documents, including the bilingual (Armenian, Russian) bulletins of the Supreme Council, which was actually done on regular basis for the first time. A. Zakaryan's organizational abilities were fully demonstrated in the position of the executive director of the "Official Bulletin of the Republic of Armenia" CJSC (1998) and when he was the head of publishing management in the staff of the National Assembly. The trilingual (Armenian, Russian, English) illustrated books of the "National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia" (II, III, IV, V convocations) created by him are the remaining values in the domain of dissemination of information culture.

In 1999 A. Zakaryan started working at "Historical-philological" journal as an executive secretary, assuming the position of deputy editor-in-chief (2003) at National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, and then, in 2018 the position of editor-in-chief. Under his skillful leadership, this publication becomes one of the best contemporary periodicals of Armenology in the Republic and beyond its borders. Being published in the journal is an honor for both home and foreign researchers. We just hope that "Historical-Philological" with the support of relevant institutions will also become part of the international scientific database, something that has not been achieved by any of the scientific journals published in the republic. We should add that such an imposed status appears to us as a mysterious and vengeful god-god that being outside Armenia demeans native Armenology and the Armenian language, categorically denying our scientific thought and demanding to sacrifice our native Armenology defacing it and giving up the right to its existence.

Let's go back, to our jubilee, who successfully combines its editorial-publishing work with broad scientific activity. In 1985 A. Zakaryan defended PhD thesis on "Russian Writers in Transcaucasia and Armenian Literary Life" dedicated to Armenian-Russian literary and cultural ties, including the scientific topics that the scientific community has known little about or been unfamiliar with them. Chronological frameworks of the dissertation, as well as literary and cultural realities, were newly expanded and got new interpretation in terms of revealing the ties under discussion. The topic itself entailed the perspective of solving its problems. In 2005 the solution of these problems was furthered by A. Zakaryan in his doctoral dissertation on "Russian Literati and the Armenian

Reality (1910s of the XX century)". The thesis is the result of decades of in-depth research and generalizations, opening a new page in the field of scientific interpretation of a complex and contradictory phenomenon of our literary and historical life, fully justifying the need for new concepts developed by the author.

The issue of national literary life, in particular, the modern interrelations of literary critical thought, in turn, continued to draw the attention of scientific community. Driven by the same demands, A. Zakaryan has written dozens of monographs, numerous articles and publications on the pertinent topic. The core of his research works is the comprehensive and multifaceted study of Armenian-Russian historical and cultural interrelations (XIX–XX centuries). More specifically, it focuses on the Russian writers' and public speakers' interconnections with Armenian literary life and in general Armenian reality in Transcaucasia. Consequently, A. Zakaryan's research interests extend beyond issues pertaining to literary studies, converging into the issues studied by culturalists, sociologists and historiographers. Zakaryan's works referring to Russian literary and cultural figures present complete content with thematic introduction (V. Polonsky, S. Polyakuis, I. Yasinsky, V. Nemirovich-Danchenko, I. Severyan, V. Brusov, V. Kamenaki, S. Gorodetsky, S. Rafalovich, A. Kuprin, I. Erenburg and others) who show the spiritual impulses towards the Armenian reality, highlighting the interest of the Russian diaspora in the latter and its figures. The period of the 1910s, with capricious and often conflicting manifestations of historiographical phenomena, was given a convincing interpretation in A. Zakaryan's first monographs "Russian Writers in Transcaucasia and the Armenian Literary Life (1914–1920)" (1984), "Russian Writers and the Armenian Reality (10s of the XX Century)" (1994 in Russian), "The Tragedy of the Armenian People in the Evaluation of Russian Intellectuals".

By introducing a large amount of new facts and documents that had been left out of the public's attention until then, the author has produced a whole gallery of little-known or unknown Russian figures prominent in that period of our people's biography. The latter had their own connections and relations, unique approaches and practices to the Armenian reality. It is noteworthy that A. Zakaryan often discovers them on the basis of the greatest tragedy of Armenians, the genocide, when these figures were traveling in Western Armenia or were personally involved in military operations. In his monograph "Alexander Kulebyakin and Armenia" (2003, in Russian) the author refers to the closed pages of the

aforementioned reality, describing the humanitarian and literary and cultural activity of the general who, in the Russian army fought in Western Armenia during the years of the First World War. The latter also dedicated his whole life to the history of Armenians and the fate that awaited them.

Another famous writer of the time Boris Lazarevski shares a lot of similarities with A. Kulebyakin. Among Armenian researchers A. Zakaryan is the first to study his activity in his monograph "Boris Lazarevsky on Armenia and Armenian Women" (2004). B. Lazarevski characterized the Armenian reality by revealing the image of a woman and depicting her rich inner world. A whole series of Armenian female characters are outlined in the cities of Transcaucasia and the North Caucasus, also in his lectures delivered in Constantinople, in 1919–1920.

A. Zakaryan presents the Russian philanthropists in the lines of their broad and multifaceted connections with the Armenian reality and Armenian intellectuals, always preserving the individual characteristics and unique depiction of their activities. In this respect, his monographs dedicated to Russian eminent writer, publicist, translator and public figure are of summarizing significance i.e. "Sergey Gorodetski in Western Armenia and Transcaucasia (1916–1921)", (2010 in Armenian, 2015 in Russian) "Sergey Gordetski's "Guild of Poets" and "Acmeist Anthology" (2011, in Russian). These works also testify to the wide awareness of the author and the effectiveness of research methods, particularly as far as their characteristics are concerned. In 1916–1921 S. Gorodetski was in Western Armenia and Transcaucasia and the author reveals his Armenophile profile based on the definiteness of reality and environment, reproducing it as such in his publications, articles and accounts. We see the Russian poet as an intellectual who is concerned about the fate of Armenians and the Armenian Question – an intellectual who is always eager to analyze and assess the given issues. Noteworthy is the fact that both S. Gorodetski and B. Lazarevsky had close contacts with Armenian intellectuals, residing in Tiflis or elsewhere, in particular, with Hovh. Tumanian, paying homage to Armenian spiritual values and their vitality. In 2012 in one book (Ilya Orenburg's Days in Tiflis) dwelt on the prominent Russian writer and publicist Ilya Orenburg's literary-public activities in Tiflis in the autumn of 1920.

The literary critic continues to develop his favorite topic in other works dedicated to figures of Russian literature and culture. In the book "The Western Armenian Reality in the Appreciation of T. Olgenin" (2014) A. Zakaryan again for the first time identifies the results of T. Olgenin's (Antoine Berezovsky-Olginski)

publicist, journalistic, cognitive and informative activities in regard to Armenian culture and interrelations in literature. The Russian publicist introduced it to his reader while travelling around Western Armenian vilayets (Erzurum, Van, Bitlis, Tigranakert, Sebastia, Kharberd). The summary of his journey was presented in his lectures delivered in Tiflis and Baku. In these lectures entitled "Vanishing Armenia" T. Olgenin with his marvelous gift introduced the real portrayal of Western Armenians' life during the Ottoman tyranny.

In his characterization of already known literary and public figures, A. Zakaryan with his own observations makes his presence felt. In this respect noteworthy are A. Zakaryan's elucidation on the famous Russian poet, literary critic and historian V. Brusov's activities especially in regard to the poet's ties with Armenian eminent figurers. In his monograph "Armenia in V. Brusov's Literary-public Activities" (2016, in Russian) A. Zakaryan reinterprets the public figure's speeches delivered in Tiflis, Baku, Yerevan and Etchmiadzin. The poet's speeches were dedicated to the evaluation of Armenian literature and the stages of its historical-literary development. A. Zakaryan has dwelt not only on literary and moralizing nature of V. Brusov's speeches in terms of familiarizing the Russian public with Armenian culture but has also highlighted their topical and political value. The latter is especially vividly illustrated in A. Zakaryan's description of V. Brusov's anthology "The Poetry of Armenia" when the poet's stance is characterized in the days of the Armenian Genocide. V. Brusov supported the martyred nation, publicly defending Armenians' rights all over the world.

A. Zakaryan has completed the multifaceted and philanthropic nature of Russian writers the book dedicated to the Armenian classic Hovh. Tumanian's 150th anniversary "Russian Writers and Hovh. Tumanian" (2019). In the book the gallery of the eminent figures of culture and literature is introduced more than comprehensively in terms of Hovh. Tumanians ties with K Balmont, V. Brusov, S. Gorodetski, B. Lazarevsky, A. Kulebyakin, and Russian intellectuals. A. Zakaryan reveals very human phenomena worthy of generalization in the apparently simple facts which in modern science is called the order of the day.

Over decades one of A. Zakaryan's pivotal approaches has been the absence of emotionality and focus on reality in its logical course. And again in 2019 on the 150th anniversary of another Armenian classic Komitas A. Zakaryan took the audience by surprise by publishing the work "Russian Composer Thomas de

Hartman and Komitas. Here he again commits himself to studying the cultural interrelations between the two nations.

In his work entitled "Osip Mandelstam: the poet and Armenia" (2022) we observe the same tendency in which A. Zakaryan analyzing O. Mandelstam's biography and his works dedicated to Armenia and Armenians, introduces modern interpretation of the latter.

Of all the scientific activities of A. Zakaryan we should single out his work dedicated to an eminent representative of the Armenian nation and public ideology Davit Ananun i.e. "Davit Ananun: life and activities" (2023). Despite his rich legacy D. Ananun has been studied insufficiently. This work is not only a peculiar appeal to our contemporary Armenology to fill this obvious gap, but also exemplifies an initiative of carrying out a pertinent study. The aforementioned work by A. Zakaryan elucidates the cultural, literary environment that Ananun lived in, his ties and evaluations of the Armenian figures from journalism and publicism back in the time. With unique integration of people and environment, for the first time he shapes the perfect image of the eminent intellectual and great Armenian.

Among A. Zakaryan's scientific-analytical works noteworthy are his scientific-analytical and informative publications – "Armenian Casualties in WWI" (The Anthology of Documents and Data of the Examining Committee on the Casualties of Armenians in World War) (2005 in Armenian and Russian) "On Shirvanzade's Publicist Legacy" (2006), "T. Hovhannisian: Turkish government and İttihad at the humanity's court" republished in 2007, Z. Yesayan's "A Nation's Agony (The Exiled Armenians in Mesopotamia)" (essay republished in 2020). First Lieutenant Kormakov's diary "The Historical Armenian Company" (2009) compiled and published by A. Zakaryan has a source significance in terms of interpreting the events of the time. The Russian military man's notes have historical uniqueness, entirely focusing on the formation and military trajectory of Andranik's heroic regiment.

A. Zakaryan has added his well-versed prefaces and footnotes to the aforementioned works, emphasizing our nation's historical memory topical in all times i.e. the undeniable truth of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by Turks and the uncovering of Azeri-Turkish fraudulent initiatives and falsifications aimed at the denial of the Armenian Genocide. All this once again testifies to the fact that

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A. Zakaryan's scientific interests reflect the importance of the scientist's civic stance on the national values.

Now more than ever topical is A. Zakaryan's anthology "Pages from Manuk Abeghian's Historical-publicist Legacy" (2013) dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences of Republic of Armenia. M. Abeghian was one of the founding members of NAS. Certainly, the eminent Armenologist's speech made at the first session of NAS has a pressing and informative significance for the history of developing science in Armenia. A. Zakaryan has introduced the prominent scientist's speech in the aforementioned anthology. It is more than a pressing matter as on the whim and under the instructions of administrative autocracy the National Academy of Sciences is on the verge of collapse when a large number of researchers and people related to Armenian science surprisingly seem to conform to this. It remains to see whether generations will forgive us for the voluntary and criminal destruction of our national, intellectual institution. I think they won't and M. Abeghian's aforementioned speech with its broad issues leads us to draw this conclusion.

Noteworthy are A. Zakaryan's references to the past of Armenian statehood i.e. "The National Assembly of the First Armenian Republic" (2018) the scientifically well-versed publications of documentary materials about such eminent figures of the time as G. Hovsepian, St. Malkhasiants, S. Ter-Hakobian, Ye. Otian, Irazek (H. Ter-Hakobian), A. Chopanian, M. Babayan, L. Lisitsian, and others make the given historical period complete.

For his broad scientific interpretations, elucidations and revelations of truly significant topics in Armenian culture and literature A. Zakaryan has been enjoying the well-earned prestige of the unrelenting scientist who has made substantial contribution to the development of science. We sincerely congratulate him on his jubilee, wishing him strong health and endless vigor for his future honest activities.

ALBERT KHARATYAN

*Doctor of Historical Sciences, professor,
Institute of History National Academy of Sciences*

Alkhar39@mail.ru

ORCID: 0009-0005-8436-1288

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