UUPOPORIT

ԱՍՏՈՒԱԾԱՄՕՐ ՊԱՏԿԵՐԱԳՐՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ՈՒՇ ՄԻՋՆԱԴԱՐՈՒ ՀԱՑ ՔԱՆԴԱԿՆԵՐՈՒ ՎՐԱՑ

(Ճրտ. ՃՈՒԼԻՈՑ ԵՆԻ)

անմուտը: ին հահարաերեր ռաբնջամանգանուր երմուր բեբւունորև ու տատկերաենութիւրն տահղարրբեսւը՝ Հահասարի դէն, ջանատետաքրասշնիւրը ու տատկենտենուհիւրն գժ–գժ, մանս ուրմջամանիրը՝ գտնատետաքրարիր ու ճամածավար արդոմասա գժ–գժ, մանսարի դէն, ջանատեսութիւրը ու ճամածակար արդոմասա

մարդի, Ամաղուի ու Եղիվարդի կառոյցներու վրայ, յիչեալ չրջանին, հետզհետէ կը հարդի, Ամաղուի ու Եղիվարդի կառոյցներու հողջին, ինչպէս՝ Առիճի, Գոչավանջի, Գե ձարտարակատին յուչարձաններու կողջին, ինչպես՝ Առիճի, Գոչավանջի, Գե

Յարդելի Ցօգուածադիրը, անդամ՝ Միլանոյի Հայ Ճարտարապետութեան Ուսմանց կեզրոնին, մանրամասնօրէն կը ջննարկէ այս կարդի յատկաչնական պատկերաջանդակներ, վեր հանելով իւրաջանչիւրին առանձնայատկոսթիւններն ու դեղարոսեստական արժէջները, անոնց հնադոյն օրինակը նկատելով Արատես վանջի Ս. Սիոն եկեղեցիին լուսնաջանդակը՝ 1270 Թուականէն։

Յաջորդարար՝ կ'ուսումնասիրէ Հաղարծինի վանքի եկեղեցիին դեմին վրայ այժմ դետեղուած քարաչերտ դանդուածը, Աստուածամօր պատկերաբանդակ մը, չատ նըման՝ Սիւնիջի Ս․ ՑովՀ․ Կարապետ վանջի եկեղեցիին դրանդիի քանդակին, որ 1301 Թուականէն է։

Տարրեր ձեւի պատկերաբանդակ մը կը նկատուի Գանձասարի Ս. Կարապետինը՝ ԺԳ. դարէն, դետեղուած՝ զմրկնի եռանկիւնաձեւ Թմրուկներէն մէկուն վրայ։

Հուսկ՝ կը ներկայացուին Մոժիկ Վարպետի ընծայուածները, նոյն ժաժանակաչրջանէն, արուեստի եւ զգացումներու չինչ արտայայտութիւններով։

Գեղեցիկ ջանդակներ են Արէնիի, Նորավանջի (Ամաղու), Բուրթեկաչէնի, Սպիտակաւորի (Վերնաչէն) ու Եղիվարդի դործերը, ուր համակետց են Աստուածամայրը կերպարանելու պատկերադրական դանաղան տիպեր, որոնջ մերթ կը ծագին տեղական աւանդոյթներէ, մերթ կը ներչնչուին ստեղծադործական օտար ըմրըոնումներէ կամ րիւղանդական արուեստին հետեւող հոսանջներէ։

իար ամժայիր նգևսրուդրբե։ հայտասոր ընտրահերով իրևասորգ՝ ուն յաջախ մբևակնիս մբն առակբևաժետվար իւայլաաբոտի ընտրահայրբը՝ սևսնամին իւնաման մբանուպ գնակար արևար այլաաբոտի ընտրաւդրբը՝ սևսնանան արկան հայտարնընեն։

PERSIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL TERMS IN MIDDLE ARMENIAN

The vocabulary of Middle Armenian is particularly rich. It is also frequently uncharted. A reader of the poetry of that period, faced with an unknown word, will oftimes find no succour in recourse to a dictionary: the word is too frequently not to be found.

In the Middle Armenian poetic medium there was need of exotic references, a quest fulfilled by the use of rare flora and fauna terms. The use of these terms presents particular problems for the lexicographer. It is usually clear from context whether an unknown word is a plant, bird, fish or another particular animal. What is unclear is the precise synonym for the species. This paper will concern itself with those Middle Armenian bird names that are derived from Persian.

In some cases a knowledgable lexicographer, whether of the eighteenth or twentieth century, would make an effort to describe the bird, comparing it with a term that was well known, thereby providing a finite point of reference. Thus certain glosses can leave no doubt about what bird is intended; note the gloss in the NHB for Arm. bad 'Duck': "A wide beaked bird, short footed with leathery soles, slow moving, water loving, like a small goose, many colored; the domestic bad is not able to fly but the wild bad can". This gloss can describe no other bird than one of the subfamily Anatinae. However, other species create more problems, and a gloss can often be less than revealing. Note the definition

^{1.} Հաշ լայնակաուց, կարձոտն, մաշկաւոր Թանիւջ, յամրաչարժ, ջրասէր, իբր փոջրիկն սադի, պէսպէս դունով. ընտանի րաղն ոչ կարէ Թոչիլ, իսկ վայրենին է Թոչական. Նոր Բառգիրք Հայկագեան լեզուի, Վենետիկ 1836–37:

1977

given by Malxaseanc'2 for the t'anjr: "An unknown species of thick bodied water bird found in the Ararat plain"3. Such a gloss of course limits the type of bird t'anjr could refer to; it could not be, for instance, a Bunting or a Hawk. But there is no way to tell if the bird is a Pelican or a Cormorant, both of which species are suggested by this definition of Malxaseanc'.

The problem of precise species identification has been solved in the advanced countries of Europe and Asia by the use of the Linnean system of classification. A reader looking up a unknown bird name in a language other than his own will find a standardized binomial Latin gloss which will precisely indentify the bird4. Such a system does not yet exist for modern Armenian⁵, and there thus still remains a considerable problem of precise identification even for terms in current use.

The problem is further complicated when the bird name in question is no longer used. A variety of approaches6 may be used, but since the most common approach is based essentially on logic, and the logic might produce insufficient results because of a lack of data upon which the conclusion is reached, one can rarely say that the projected species identification is exact. One can only hope.

The most precise way of determining an extinct bird name is through reference to a second language. If an extinct Armenian term exists, and this term is, in turn, known precisely in another language, one has a good chance of projecting a relatively precise Linnean equivalent for the Armenian bird name. Among the

- 2. ՍՏ․ ՄԱԼԽԱՍԵԱՆՑ, Հայերէն Բացատրական Բառարան, Երեւան 1944-45։
- 3. Անորոչ տեսակի ջրային թանձրամարժին թուչուն Այրարատեան դաչտում։
- 4. The ornithological vocabulary of Greek and Latin has also been carefully surveyed and classified according to the Linnean system. Note Jacques André, Les noms d'oiseaux en Latin, Paris 1967, and D'ARCY W. THOMPSON, A Glossary of Greek Birds, Oxford 1936.
- 5. Currently, G. D. Avakyan of the Yerevan Zoological Institute is compiling a lexicon of Armenian fauna terms which will list a Linnean designation for each species. It is planned to be ready for publication before 1980.
- 6. I have explored this theme in Methodological Procedures in the Taxonomic Determination of Classical and Middle Armenian Bird Names, to appear in «Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung», vol. 91, 1977 [1978]: 266-274.
- 7. This system is not always successful since similar names are used for different birds in various dialect areas. In American English, the Buzzard is a name for the Vulture while in European English, Buzzard is a species of Hawk.

peoples contemporarily neighboring the Armenian area, especially where these people have been under some sort of British or other Western influence, there have been strenuous and fairly precise studies of the ornithological terminology of the particular culture in question. In the nineteenth century important studies were made of the Turkic bird names8 Further, some Persian essays dealing with birds were translated into English with very careful references to the exact identification of the birds mentioned?. And now, in the latter part of the twentieth century, thorough scientific studies have been made of the whole of Persian ornithological vocabulary, studies that allow us to know, fairly precisely, what the standard Persian term is for even the most obscure or non-descript species 10.

With this precise Persian material in hand we can now approach some of the unknown or tentatively identified ornithological vocabulary in Middle Armenian and compare it with the still surviving Persian bird names. This paper will discuss nine Armenian bird names recorded since the Middle Armenian period which still have precise equivalents remaining in Persian. By comparing the Armenian word with the now precisely known Persian word, one can accordingly suggest or confirm a close identification of the Armenian term. Not all the Armenian terms here discussed can be supported by reference to a text; some are know only from the lexicographers.

- 8. J. Scully, A Contribution to the Ornithology of Eastern Turkestan,
- 9. Of particular importance is D. C. PHILLOTT, Bāz-nāma-yi Nāṣirī in «Two Treatises on Falconry», London 1908 (1968). The reliability of Persian lexicons is questionable. The Soviet Персидско-Русский словарь, Ю. А. Рубинчик ред., Москва 1970, is somewhat more accurate than F. J. Steingass, A Comprehensive Persian-English Dictionary, London 1892 (1930), who gives glosses so varied that they are some-
- 10. The first comprehensive study was S. H. JERVIS READ, A Provisional Check-list of the Birds of Iran, Publication No. 465, Teheran University Printing Press 1958. A more recent and considerably larger study is D. A. Scott, H. M. Hamadani, A. A. Mirhosseyni, Birds of Iran, Department of the Environment, Teheran 1975. پریدگان ایران ۱ دا سکات

حام هندانی دا میرحمینی ۱۰ از انتشارات سازمان حفاظت مجیط زیست

Both collections are incomplete, frequently ignoring local names.

1. Znenuh (Čuřak).

This term appears only once, in the Grammar of Grigor Magistros ' dating from the eleventh century: Եւ բազէի արական Entruly 12 "The čurak is the male of the bazē (Falcon)".

Grigor Magistros' definition is entirely supported by the Persian term جوباز (jurra bāz), a term for the Tercel or male Falcon. The meaning is further confirmed in the Codex Cumanicus $55r^{13}$ where çura is found, glossed as terzororius, a Late Latin equivalent for Tercel which further corresponds to medieval Greek τζουράχιον 'id', a Byzantine loan from Persian or Turkish.

2. Fuzna (Bašot).

A term found in the lexicographers which is traditionally glossed as a species of Hawk or Falcon. It may be precisely derived from Per. Lit. (bāšā) which is specifically known as a dialectical term for the Sparrow Hawk (Accipiter nisus). The Persian term is in turn derived from Arabic باشن (bāšaq) 'id'.

3. Tuski (Šahēn).

The šahēn is well recorded in Middle Armenian literature. In the Fables of Mxit'ar Goš 14 it is noted in a setting that clearly implies a bird of prey: Ի ձեռաց չահենի յորսաղն ղերծաւ ձադ Surpull 15, "The squab of the pigeon was carried away in the grasp of the šahēn". Again it is viewed as a preditor by Nahapet K'uč'ak 16: Արծիւն ու չահեն բաղան... կաջաւուն զատեին 17, "The Eagle and the Falcon... were contemplating a Partridge". In Yovhannēs Vardapet the šahēn is noted in a quatrain (Yerevan Matenadaran Ms. 3595):

- 11. ԳՐ․ ՄԱԳԻՍՏՐՈՍի Մեկնութիւն քերականին in Արուեստ Դիոնիսի քերականի․ 96 придриц 1915: Reissued as NICOLAS ADONTZ, Denys de Thrace et les commentateurs arméniens, Lisbonne 1970 with the Russian translated into French.
- 12. ew bazēi arakan čurak.
- 13. The Codex Cumanicus is a Low Latin-Persian-Turkish glossary, the manuscript for which is preserved in the Saint Mark Library in Venice. The Iranian and Turkish vocabulary is written entirely in Latin letters. A. Bodrogligeti (The Persian Vocabulary of the Codex Cumanicus, Budapest 1971) has published a glossary of the Persian words, and normalized the spelling.
- 14. Առակք Մխիթարայ Գոշի, Վ*ենետիկ* 1854։
- 15. I jerac' šaheni yorsain zercaw jag hawbali.
- Նահապետ Քուչակի Դիւանը, *Հրա. Ա. Չօպանեան, Պարիս* 1902:
- 17. Arciwn u šahēn bazan ... kak'awun datēin.

Շահեն դազեն էր չահարար, ին ըն լամ էն դարպաս կենայր, *Ցիւր որ աղուոր պարոնըն կայր*

The šahēn was a useful bird. He stayed in every royal palace: Where there was a handsome

ի վերայ բազկին ի չուր կու

He went around on his arm.

And again in T'lkuranc'i 19: ... o 6 ովաննէ՛ս, մարկ արայ, ... Hey Hovhannes, now pay

heed.

ի վերայ բերդին ինչ կու խաղայ,

What sports about over the

Դեղնրկո՛ր, ես բեզ ծառայ,

Yellow colored one, I am your servant.

Կանաչվորին գանուն ասա․ ԹԷ չէ լինիմ չահին բազայ,

Say the name of the green one; Would that I were a šahēn falcon.

And fly, and sit on your wing. Թուչիմ նստիմ թեւիդ վերայ²⁰ ։

The šahēn is specifically noted as Per. عاهبي (šāhīn), the Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus). It is a well known term even in Classical Persian, appearing in the Shahname six times, always in an environment that stresses the bird's beauty, energy and, at times, arrogance. Note Shahname 3.13 (= C. 16) where its attributes would well conform to the Armenian description of the Peregrine Falcon²¹: چوبازوچوشاهین گردن فراز

4. Lш, чш (Lašhaw).

This term is supported by the lexicographers, usually glossed as a Vulture. Bedrossian²² gives the curious gloss of 'Condor', a bird appearing only in the Western hemisphere, Malxaseanc' suggests '4"ps', which is more to the point. The 'Vulture' tradition is confirmed by the Persian term $\psi^{\bar{\gamma}}(l\bar{a}\bar{s})$ 'carrion'; hence lashaw,

- 18. Sahēn bazēn ēr šaharar, / Ink'n yamēn darpas kenayr, / Yur or aluor paronən kayr / I veray bazkin i sur ku gayr.
- 19. ԷՄ․ ՊԻՎԱԶԵԱՆ, Յովհաննես Թլկուրանցի, Տաղեր, *Երեւան* 1960, *էջ* 229։
- 20. ... Cō Yovhannēs, mtik aray, / I veray berdin inč' ku xałay, / Dełnəkor, es k'ez caray, / Kanač'vorin zanun asa. / T'ē č'ē linim šahin bazay,
- 21. ču bāz u ču šāhin gardanfarāz "Like a Falcon or a haughty šāhin".
- 22. M. Bedrossian, New Dictionary Armenian-English, Venice 1879 (Beirut 1973).

1977

1977

'the carrion bird'. The word is not species specific, but rather a generic term, which corresponds to a similar term in Persian, المنخور (lāšxor) a generic term for any species of Vulture, literally 'carrion-eater'

5. Imaks (Durēč).

This term is badly handled by the lexicographers, being labled anything from 'Heath-cock' to 'venison'. I know of no printed text in which it appears, but in a manuscript from the Yerevan Matenadaran titled Բելկարան ձիոյ ու առ Հասարակ²³ the term appears in the phrase of no chair for dura of or unearth of themph 24 "For (the horse) has hair like a durēč has feathers". The term is derived directly from Persian עוֹק (durāj) 'Francolin (Francolinus francolinus)'.

6. Tusals (Dahuč).

A term again supported by the lexicographers, and variously glossed as a Godwit, Heathcock or Partridge. The first two suggestions are impossible since both are northern birds which are never found in historical Armenia²⁵. The gloss of 'Partridge' is nearly correct since the Armenian term can be traced to Per. יהיב (tīhū < *tīhūj), Arabic ביים (tīhūj), a term known specifically as the Persian See-see (Ammoperdix griseogularis), a type of Partridge not now appearing in historical Armenia, but differing only slightly from the Common Partridge (Perdix perdix).

7. L\$4 1\$4 (Lēk lēk).

A curious term known from the lexicographers, and whose precise identification is problematic. Principally, it is used in اك لك سفيد (Ciconia ciconia) الك لك سفيد (lak lak safīd) or the Black Stork (Ciconia Nigra) لك لك سياه (lak lak sīah). However, the term is also used for other long legged long billed birds such as the Knot (Calidris canutus) or any of the Ibises (family Threskiornithidae). Thus, though it is more likely that the Armenian bird lek lek was a Stork, it remains possible that it could be another species with similar long beak and legs.

24. zi or lini ir mazn zēd turiči p'etri.

8. Կայեղակ (Kač'ełak).

In Yovhannes Vardapet it is well described, and can be no other bird than the Magpie (Pica Pica)26.

Կրչեղակն որ կարկրչայր,

ի վեր վագէր Հպարտանայր․

It was the Magpie who chattered,

It went around arrogantly

Saying: "My feathers are ԹԷ իմ փետուրս սեւ ու սպիտակ, white and black,

Արիս ջան զայլ Հաւ ու երկայն²⁷։ My tail is longer than any

It appears again, uneventfully, in a fifteenth century commentary on Dawit' Anlut: Եւ որպէս հրանգայ անուանը, կարժիր, ղեղին, եւ այլն։ Իսկ ի ձայնէն, որպէս ասել ճնձղուկ, կեչեղակ, шапшь, вы ш Jl b 28. "And thus for the colors they say red, yellow, etc.; and similarly Sparrow, Magpie, Crow, etc.". A verbal derivative, kač'aiem 'to chatter' appears quite late in a seventeenth century text²⁹ Ադոաւը եթե կաչաղիցեն յառաւօտուց է նչանակ լաւ եւ պարզ եղանակի "If Crows should chatter early in the morning, it is a good sign of clear weather³⁰.

At one time, based on the ostentatious cry of the Magpie, the term kač'ałak was subject to folk etymology, being derived from kanč' 'cry' plus ałałak 'cry of a bird'. The term can instead be clearly derived from Per.خيد (kajale) 'Magpie'.

9. Figure (Blbul).

This term, generally translated as Nightingale, is remarkably well known in poetry, especially in poetic conceits regarding the Bulbul and the Rose. It is derived from Per. بيل (bolbol), and

27. Kəč'elakn or karkəč'ayr, / I ver vazēr hpartanayr. / T'ē im p'eturs sew

u spitak, / Agis k'an zayl haw u erkayn.

29. Գրգուկ, որ կոչի Էփիմերտե, Վենեարկ 1796 172: 30. The same motif occurs in Greek literature. Note Aelian 7.7: κορώνη δε επί δείπνου δποφθεγγομένη ήσυχη, ές την δστεραίαν εδδίαν παρακαλεί.

"If a Crow caws softly at supper time, it is inviting us to expect fair weather the next day".

^{23.} Bžškaran jioy u ar hasarak "The Care and Curing of Horses".

^{25.} Dal' and Sosnin (С. К. Даль и Г. Б Соснин, Определитель птиц Армянской ССР, Ереван 1947) state (р. 47) that the Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) can be seen in Armenia while in passage.

^{28.} Լուծմունք յաղագս Սահմանացս Դաւթի Անյաղթ փիլիսոփայի, *Մատրաս* 1797-161: ew orpës erangay anuank', karmir, delin, ew ayln. Isk i jaynën, orpēs asel čnčluk, keč'elak, agraw, ew ayln.

is well represented in Middle Armenian poetry. A passage from T'ulkuranc'i is typical³¹:

1977

The Bulbuls arrived eagerly, Բլրույքն եկին փափադանօբ They spun about in a rose tree. ի վարդենի Թաւալեղան³² ։

The spelling variations of this word seem almost endless. Gregory of Aghtamar³³ gives, in rapid succession, blbul, plpul and pilpiwl.

And, though there is no question that Per. bolbol is the equivalent of the Thrush Nightingale (Luscinia luscinia), it is unlikely that the Armenian term blbul can refer to the very same bird since the Thrush Nightingale's range excludes the area of historical Armenia. Rather, Arm. blbul must stand for the Common Nightingale (Luscinia megharhynchos), a bird remarkably similar to the Thrush Nightingale in size and color, and which differs only on the most trivial level. From a distance, the Trush Nightingale has a greater amount of gray on its back. If the birds are in hand, further distinctions can be found in differences of length of primary feathers.

Certain theoretical questions about loan words occur when these Persian terms are considered. Loan words occur for a variety of reasons. The principal reason is to supply lexical items for which the borrowing language lacks a proper term. Such words are usually nouns referring to specific transitive things. Secondly, in the instance of close cultural contact, one language will borrow great numbers of words from a neighboring language if the loaning language has a higher level of cultural prestige: witness the volume of direct Latin and Greek loans into English, not to mention the great body of vocabulary from Late Latin that came into English after 1066 from Old French. A third basis for lexical exchange would be simple proximity between two languages in a circumstance where neither enjoys a higher prestige level than the other. This proximity would tend to promote a degree of bilingualism that would in turn cause an unconscious interchange of vocabulary. Note the occurrence of a large number of Russian words in Soviet Armenian though it

31. Ibid., p. 165.

could not truly be said that the Russian words have a particular prestige value, or even necessity.

Bird terminology will be borrowed for these very reasons. In the case of lek lek 'Stork' and lashaw 'Vulture', we note that Armenian already had two very common equivalent words: aragil and angl. The entry of lek lek and lashaw in Middle Armenian was probably brought about by an unconscious exchange between bilingual cultures. A term like dahuč 'Francolin' was selected for different reasons: dahuč filled a void in the Armenian vocabulary since previously there was no verbal way to differentiate between the Francolin and the Partridge (Arm. kak'aw). The borrowing of Per. tīhuj filled a need for precision of speech.

The three Falcon terms were selected for still another reason. The Persians had developed the breeding of Falcons, and the sport of falconry, to a high level. And though there is little evidence in Armenian literature that the Armenians themselves ever engaged in falconry, the Armenian speaker was still aware that the Persians were greatly advanced in this area. It would be understandable, then, that they would have selected loan words from a culture more advanced in this particular aspect.

Persian ornithological terms thus entered Armenian for a variety of reasons: lexical need, random exchange, and prestige. These reasons are the essential reasons for any lexical transference.

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1977

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Blbulk'n ekin p'ap'aganōk' / I vardeni t'awalec'an.

^{33.} ԳՐԻԳՈՐԻՍ ԱՂԹԱՄԱՐՑԻ, Հրա. Մայիս Ավդալբեգեան, *Երեւան* 1963, էջ 253, 258, 260:

ԱՄቅበቅበՒՄ

ՊԱՐՍԿԵՐԷՆ ԹՌՉՆԱՆՈՒՆՆԵՐ ՄԻՋԻՆ ՀԱՑԵՐԷՆԻ ՄԷՋ

(ፈበՆ Ա․ Կ․ ԳՐԵՊՊԻՆ)

Միջնադարեան Հայ բերթողական գրականութիւնը կը պարունակէ րառեր՝ որոն սովորական չեն եւ դիւրաւ չեն դանուիր րառարաններու մէջ. իսկ եթէ նոյնռնջ սովորական չեն եւ դիւրաւ չեն դանուին րառարաններու մեջ. իսկ եթէ նոյնռերէն չատերը փոխառութիւններ են պարսկերէնէ, թրբերէնէ կամ արաբերէնէ։

Ցարդելի Ցօդուածադիրը կը ջննէ այդ չարջէն՝ պարսկերէնէ փոխառեալ ինը բառեր, որոնջ թույուններու անուններ են. Ճուռակ, Բաշոտ, Ծահէն, Լաշհաւ, Դուռէն, Դահուն, Լէկ լէկ, կաչեղակ եւ Բլբուլ։

Կ՚ուսուժնասիրէ վերոյիչեալ թառերուն գործածութիւնը՝ ժեր ժիջնադարեան զրականութեան ժէջ, եւ կը կատարէ ստուղարանական փորձ ժը։

RAPPORTI CULTURALI DELL'ARMENIA CON L'OCCIDENTE NELLA DOCUMENTAZIONE DELLA BIBLIOTECA AMBROSIANA

È soprattutto durante il Regno di Cilicia che prendono avvio i rapporti culturali degli Armeni con l'Occidente. Isolati dapprima tra i Bizantini e i Persiani, col Regno di Cilicia (1007-1375) gli Armeni giungono al Mediterraneo ed entrano in contatto sempre più stretto con i Crociati, veicolo della cultura latina ed europea nel Vicino Oriente, e in modo particolare col Regno di Cipro. In questo periodo storico sorge negli Armeni l'interesse per il mondo cristiano occidentale e per il centro della civiltà cristiana europea, Roma e il Papato. Queste disponibilità degli Armeni per i contatti amichevoli con l'Occidente - cosa eccezionale a quei tempi nelle cristianità del Vicino Oriente — questa facilità di rivolgersi verso Roma, e non soltanto nelle questioni strettamente religiose, iniziata in quel periodo storico, rimarrà poi sempre Caratteristica degli Armeni e spiegherà il carattere dinamico, la vitalità e la capacità assimilatrice, oltre che conservatrice, delle grandi diaspore della Galizia, della Polonia, della Transilvania.

Non potrei presumere di affrontare questo argomento in tutta la sua vastità: ché, se lo sfiorassi solamente nei suoi vari aspetti, finirei col rimanere sulle generali.

Ho pensato quindi di ridurre la mia trattazione ad un numero limitato di fatti, seguendo, per così dire, la documentazione presente nella Biblioteca Ambrosiana. Tali documenti offrono lo spunto per quattro argomenti, in cui si concretizzano alcuni dei rapporti culturali con l'Occidente.