



Vahan Bayburdyan, the prominent specialist of Iranistics of modern Armenia is already 85.

V. Bayburdyan was born in September 11 1933 in Akhaltskha, Georgia, in the family of refugees settled down here from Erzerum. In 1952-1957 he studied at the Oriental department of the Yerevan State University (Iranistics), then in 1961-1964 as a post-graduate student of Oriental studies, Academy of Sciences of Armenia, completed his scholarship at the Institute of the Peoples of Asia, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In 1965 he defended his thesis at that same Institute («Armenian colony of Nor Djughha in the XVII century»), receiving PhD.

Back in Yerevan V. Bayburdyan was fully involved in scholarly and teaching activities. In 1965 he entered the Oriental section of the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences (from 1971 onwards Institute of Oriental Studies) which became a long-termed institution where he works until today (with some intervals).

In 1975 V. Bayburdyan defended his second dissertation («Turkish-Iranian relations in 1900-1914»), in 1979 became a professor of the Armenian State Pedagogical university. Here he was appointed as the head of the Department of World history, later Vice-rector of the same university (1987-1992).

The next step in the career of V. Bayburdyan was his appointment as the first Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Islamic Republic of Iran (1992-1998). During this troublesome years he, benefiting from his thorough knowledge of Iranian and regional affairs, had contributed much in the political and economic relations with this friendly neighbor of Armenia.

After completing his diplomatic mission V. Bayburdyan returned to his scholarly and teaching activities. In 1998 he was appointed as the head of the Department of Iran at the Institute of Oriental studies (until now), a part-time head of the Department of International relations and Diplomacy at the Yerevan state university (2000-2008).

The scholarly image of V. Bayburdyan distinguish fundamental studies. His interests are multilayered including, besides familiar Iranistics, also the history of the Ottoman empire and Turkey, the Kurds, Armenian-Iranian, Armenian-Turkish and Armenian-Kurdish relations. Some of the monographs of V. Bayburdyan were published abroad, in Russian, English, Persian. Thorough knowledge of world history makes his studies a benchmark to follow.

V. Bayburdyan is a brilliant mentor. He had contributed much in preparation of future Iranists. About twenty young specialists had passed his school.

The editorial board of «Fundamental Armenology» congratulates Vahan Bayburdyan with the 85th anniversary, wishes him good health and new fundamental studies.

Selected bibliography of Vahan Bayburdyan

1. Armenian Colony of Nor Djughha in the XVII century, Yerevan, 1969, 166 p. (in Russian).
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4. The World trade and Iranian Armenians in the XVII century, Teheran, 1996, 247 p. (in Armenian).
5. The Role of Iranian Armenians in the world trade in the XVII century, Teheran (in Persian).
6. Iran today (Handbook), Yerevan, 1999, 336 p. (in Armenian).
7. International Trade and the Armenian Merchants in the Seventeenth century, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, 2004, 261 p.
8. The History of Iran (from ancient period until today), Yerevan, 2005, 783 p. (in Armenian) (II edition - 2006).
9. Nor Djughha, Yerevan, 2007, 152 p. (in Armenian).
10. Kurds, Armenian question and Armenian-Kurdish relations under the light of the history, Yerevan, 2008, 421 p. (in Armenian).
11. The History of the Ottoman empire, Yerevan, 2011, 718 p. (in Armenian).
12. The Kurds, the Armenian Question and the history of Armenian-Kurdish relations, Ottawa, 2013, 418 p.

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