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# PERSONALIA

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## THE PROMINENT RESEARCHER IN THE FIELD OF ARMENIAN STUDIES

(on the occasion of Albert Kharatyan's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday)

Distinguished specialist in the field of Armenian Studies, head of the Department of Armenian Periodical Press and History of Socio-Political Thought of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, senior researcher, editor-in-chief of the International Scientific Journal "Bulletin of Armenian Studies" of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, doctor in history, professor, correspondent member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Albert A. Kharatyan is 85 years old.

A. Kharatyan was born in 1939 in Yerevan. In 1959-1964 he studied at the Faculty of Philology of Yerevan State University, specializing in the history of Western Armenian literature.

A. Kharatyan has worked in the NAS system for almost six decades, 39 years of which at the Institute of History. In 1967-1973 he worked in the special scientific editorial office of the "Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia", in the center of scientific information of social sciences of the USSR Academy of Sciences as a senior researcher, head of the research group (1973-1985). In 1985 he entered the Institute of History in the Department of Press and Socio-Political Thought, first as a senior researcher, then from 1992 up to the present day as the head of the department.

In 1972, A. Kharatyan defended his PhD thesis: "The Armenian Periodical Press of Smyrna (1960s)", and in 1982, doctoral dissertation: "Public Thought in the Armenian Periodical Press of Smyrna (1840-1900)". He has been a professor since 2009. And in 2010, for his significant contribution to the field of Armenian Studies, he was elected a corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

A. Kharatyan in 1988-2017 also took over the role of the editor-in-chief of the oldest periodical of the National Academy of Sciences, "The Herald of Social Sciences". Owing to A. Kharatyan's efforts, "The Herald of Social Sciences" made a serious contribution to introducing Diaspora Armenian and foreign authors to the scientific community of Armenia by publishing their articles in foreign languages. From 2017 until today, the famous scholar has been the editor-in-chief of the international scientific journal "Bulletin of Armenian Studies."

The eminent scientist is a recognized specialist in the censorship of the Armenian periodical press and public opinion, the history of the Armenian settlements, and has a wide range of scientific research activities. A. Kharatyan is characterized by a man of principles, impartiality, civil and scientific courage. He plays an important role in Armenian historiography, with studies of outstanding scientific value and international

recognition. A. Kharatyan's works deal with issues of theoretical importance, such as the enlightenment movement of Western Armenians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, their National Constitution, socio-political currents in Armenian reality, the intellectual and cultural value of the Western Armenian press in 1840-1922, all-Armenian significance of the largest Armenian diasporas in Ottoman Turkey - Constantinople and Smyrna. He is the author of 8 books and more than 200 articles dealing with these fields.

His works were published not only in Armenia, but also abroad (in the USA, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Ukraine)

A. Kharatyan's contribution to the study of Western Armenian public thought and media is great. The works "From the History of Western Armenian Public Thought and Publicity" (1980) and "Public Thought in the Smyrna Armenian Periodical Press (1840-1900)" (1995) are eloquent evidence of what has been said. In particular, in the second book, the Armenian periodical press of Smyrna and the public thought together with its representatives were characterized; the analysis of a number of key problems of the Western Armenian reality of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was given. The 60-year history of the press and public life of Smyrna (now Izmir), the second largest settlement of Western Armenians after Constantinople, was presented, and its ideological and cultural importance in the development of national awakening, enlightenment, democratic and conservative thought was appreciated. Views and characteristic aspects of the public speech and editorial activities of a group of Western Armenian intellectuals, Gh. Paldazaryan, St. Voskanyan, Gr. Chilinkiryan, M. Mamuryan, A. Haykuni, G. Kostandyan, Gr. Mseryan, H. K. Svachyan have been presented.

A significant part of A. Kharatyan's works is devoted to the legal, economic, and cultural situation of Western Armenians, especially in terms of the history of Armenian settlements (Constantinople, Smyrna), whose chronological boundaries cover the XIV-XIX centuries.

The result of long-term scientific studies is A. Kharatyan's work "The Armenian Colony of Constantinople (XV-XVII centuries)". The monograph covered a number of key issues in the history of Armenians of Constantinople, such as: the formation of the settlement in the Ottoman capital, the spiritual-administrative profile of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, the place of the Armenian community in the traditional Ottoman society. In particular, the number of population, the history of churches, patriarchal powers, socio-economic life of the Armenian community, the tax system, and other issues were discussed. The work also discusses the relations between the Armenian religious-spiritual centers, the Catholicosies of Etchmiadzin and Cilicia and the Patriarchate of Constantinople with the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and the national importance of the latter.

In 2009 this work was awarded the "Best Scientific Work" award established by the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, the World Armenian Congress, and the Union of Armenians of Russia.

In 2007, Volume I (XVIII-XIX) of the two-volume “History of the Armenian Periodical Press” unprecedented in its inclusions and scientific analysis depth in the history of the Armenian press was published in Cairo under the authorship, foreword and editorship of A. Kharatyan, and in 2017 in Yerevan, its II volume (1900-1922) was published.

In the various books of the multi-volume “History of Armenians” prepared by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, the famous historian’s “Armenian Socio-Political Currents and Movements”, “Zeytun Uprising of 1862 and its All-Armenian Reactions”, his works dedicated to the Armenian colonies of Constantinople and Smyrna and the Western Armenian press found their place.

A. Kharatyan is an impartial editor of dozens of scientific, socio-political monographs and collections.

A. Kharatyan’s pedagogical and lecturing work counts more than 50 years. He has delivered lectures at various universities in the republic, has taught at the Faculty of Journalism of Yerevan State University, at the Chair of Turkish Studies of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, at the Armenian State Pedagogical University named after Kh. Abovyan.

For years, A. Kharatyan was a member of a number of scientific councils (the scientific councils of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, the scientific degree awarding councils of the Faculty of Philology of Yerevan State University, the Scientific Council of the Genocide Museum-Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, the Scientific Council of the International Scientific and Educational Center of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia).

A. Kharatyan makes a great contribution to the training of scientific staff. Several dozen of his students have long been known as specialists in the history of the Armenian periodical press.

A. Kharatyan has a great reputation in the scientific-intellectual and friendly environment with his civil, human and moral virtues: kindness, willingness, readiness to support, compassionate attitude.

We wish our senior colleague A. Kharatyan, a determined worker of science, new creative successes.

**Anushavan Zakaryan**

*Doctor of Philological Sciences, editor-in-chief of the NAS RA “Historical-Philological” journal, senior researcher of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the NAS RA*

**Styopa Petoyan**

*Candidate of Historical Sciences, Executive Secretary of the NAS RA “Historical-Philological” journal, researcher of the NAS RA Institute of History*