



**AN
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
THE ARMENIAN
CULTURAL
MONUMENTS**

By

Edic Baghdasarian

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Cover: Garni Temple, 1st century, AD

Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini (in the year of the Lord), After Christ, CE (Common Era)		
ASSR	Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic	ANAS	Armenian National Academy of Sciences
BC	Before Christ	YSU	Yerevan State University (YSU)
C.	Century	SU	Soviet Union
CC	Centuries	SEUA	State Engineering University of Armenia
EA	Eastern Armenia	HMA	History Museum of Armenia.
GA	Greater Armenia		
LA	Lesser Armenia		
RA	Republic of Armenia		
WA	Western Armenia		
WWI	First World War		
WWII	Second World War		

Armenian Alphabets

Աւ	Aa	as in Part	Փփ	Pp	Put
Բբ	Bb	Boy	Կկ	Kk	Kit
Գգ	Gg	Good	Եվ ւ	Yev	
Դդ	Dd	Door	Օօ	Oo	Or
Եե	Yy, Ee	Yard, pet	Ֆֆ	Ff	Foot
Զզ	Zz	Zoo			
Էէ	Ee	Egg			
Ըը	e'	as in Turn			
Թթ	Tt	To			
Ժժ	Zh	as in Pleasure			
Իի	Ii, ea	as in Peak			
Լլ	Ll	Look			
Խխ	Kh	as X in Russian			
Ծծ	ds	as in dsar in Armenian meaning Tree			
Կկ	hard k	as in Krak in Armenian meaning Fire			
Հհ	Hh	House			
Ձձ	dz	as in dzoo in Armenian meaning Egg			
Ղղ	gh	as in R in French or german			
Ճճ	tch	Armenian Tchut meaning chicken			
Մմ	Mm	Mom			
Իյ	Yy	Yes			
Նն	Nn	No			
Շշ	Sh	Show			
Ոո	Vo, Oo	More			
Չչ	Ch	Chair			
Պպ	P'	Hard P as in Piti in Armenian meaning Must			
Ջջ	Jj	Jerm			
Ռռ	RR	Rock			
Սս	Ss	Sick			
Վվ	Vv	Verb			
Տտ	Th	Hard T as in Thun in Armenian meaning house			
Րր	Rr	Room			
Յյ	Ts	Hertz			
Ու ու	U in	Urmia			

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oreword

In 2016, I defined a new project to publish a set of my Encyclopedias in English which could have a wide audience. these Works in 10 volumes are as follows:

- 1- *The Armenian Geographical Encyclopedia.*
- 2- *The Armenian Biographical Encyclopedia.*
- 3- *The Armenian Diaspora Encyclopedia.*
- 4- *The Encyclopedia of the Armenian Political History.*
- 5- *The Encyclopedia of the Armenian Science and Technology.*
- 6- *The Armenian printing and publication Encyclopedia.*
- 7- *The Encyclopedia of the Armenian cultural monuments.*
- 8- *The Encyclopedia of the Armenian Ethnography.*
- 9- *The Encyclopedia of the Armenian Educational History*
- 10- *The Encyclopedia of the Armenian Historical Agreements.*

Mountains, gorges, turbulent rivers, waterfalls, and lakes surrounded by grim, forbidding rocks, were the cradle of the Armenian people. Armenia is a land of stones. Armenians built dwellings, fortresses and temples of stones. They planted and grew vines, trees and grain in stones. Stone accompanies the Armenian life, it is linked with the whole history of Armenia. It is both the fortune and misfortune of the people.

Armenian highland is very rich in cultural monument heritage since prehistoric era until now, it is just enough to remind that only in the present Republic of Armenia which covers less than 10% of total area of ancient Armenia, there are over 40,000 monuments.

After conversion of Armenians to Christianity in late 3rd century, they have built thousands of churches, chapels, Cross-stones, etc in Armenian populated cities, villages. and unfortunately most of them are situated out of the Republic of Armenia. The Armenian churches very safe in Iran, as all the times the Iranian governments and unfriendly people

have been supportive to the Armenians and the Armenian heritage, since old times until now. But the situation is not the same in other neighbor countries which were a part of Armenian territory in old time. Today Hundreds of Armenian cultural monuments are in danger of damage and destruction both in Western Armenia under occupation of Turkey (Restoration of St. Cross church of Akhtamar Island by Turkish government was a cultural show-off for West). Hundreds of churches, chapels and Cross-stones under Azeri occupation are in worse situation of destruction than Turkey,, as the Azeri government destroyed hundreds of the Armenian grave-stones, Cross-stones only in the Armenian cemetery in Julfa region in Nakhijevan Auto. Republic. The Armenian churches in Georgia are sometimes claimed by the the Georgian religious authorities to belong to them.

This volume of Encyclopedias is presenting the Armenian cultural monuments in brief from pre-historic era until recent years. Due to limitation of the contents of this book, I have tried to present the articles as brief as possible.

Before presenting the main body of the book I thought it would be appropriate to introduce the brief History of Armenia and the Armenian people, Geography, etc. The main sources for writing this book were my Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia (13 volumes), Armenian Concise Encyclopedia (4 volumes), tens of Armenian, English, French and Russian books and albums, Encyclopedia of Britanica and Americana, Online Encyclopedias such as Wikipedia, Iranica, many other websites, etc. List of the books used is given in the Bibliography at the end of this book.

In the Appendices section there are some complementary sub-sections, so that the reader can have better and deeper understanding of the Armenian cultural heritage.

I'd like to appreciate any comments and suggestions to my potential errors for them I need to apologize, I will do my best to improve the quality of this research for the next printings.

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February 10, 2018

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