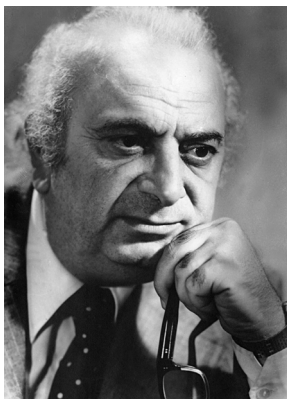


A WINDOW TO ETERNITY

Book review by: **Dolukhanyan A. G.**
Corresponding member of NAS RA

A Window to Eternity, Yerevan, "Edit Print" Publishing House, 2013, 321 pages.

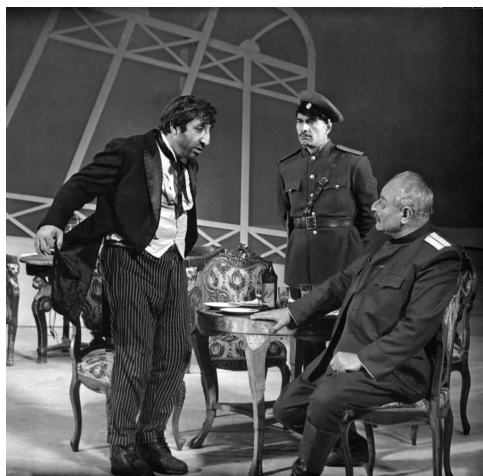


Zhora S. Harutyunyan
(1928-2002)

The new miscellanea, prepared and published by Gayane Harutyunyan, is dedicated to the memory of Zhora (Gevorg) Harutyunyan, a talented writer and playwright, enjoying great popularity and being absolutely loved. Overwhelming warmth is flowing out of the miscellanea that could create his daughter devoted to her own father and being conscious of his spirit, who had already given to the modern Armenian literary life another book, "You came, surprised us and walked away..." Anoushavan Zakaryan, a literary critic, has reviewed it with great praise in the newspaper "Azg" in 2006.

There are many people who have written about both the theatrical works of Zhora Harutyunyan and the movies, filmed by his scenarios. Along with that, Sevak Arzoumanyanyan, a great connoisseur of the Soviet period literature, has measured the creative treasure of the author through the monograph "The Knight of Humor".

The enjoyment, caused by the humor of Zhora Harutyunyan while viewing "Golden Bull Calf", "Lipstick № 4", "The Big Win", "The Fire" and other movies were and continue to be mere pleasure for people both in the Soviet times and at present. Even now, these films are amusing with their acute observation. I do not know a single literary composition, which would so lovely describe the honest people of the Armenian village or portray such an image of the Soviet collective-farm chairman who presented several absurdities of the bygone reality along with his grotesquely devotion.



A scene from the comedy "Ghazar goes to War" (producer Hrachya Ghaplanyan)
Mher Mkrtchyan acting as Ghazar



A scene from the film "Golden Bull Calf"
(producer Moko Hakobyan)

The dramaturgy of Zhora Harutyunyan has been repeatedly reviewed and evaluated. The selection of these findings is available in this collection. Those who have highly appreciated the playwright are the academicians of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Rouben Zaryan, Levon Hakhverdyan, Aram Grigoryan... the latter with his overt manifestations of admiration. It is Perch Zeituntsyan who has introduced ceaselessly creditable articles which are devoted to Zh. Harutyunyan's "Ghazar goes to War", "Crossroad", "A Bride from the North", "It was June, the Sun", "Your Final Destination" etc.



**Zhora Harutyunyan and
Perch Zeituntsyan**



**Levon H. Hakhverdyan
(1924-2003)**

The film "A Bride from the North" continues to be in the domain of frequently watched movies of the Soviet period and is not outdated at all. As the famous actor Armen Jigarkhanyan acknowledged, he always remembers Hovhannes Tumanyan when reading Zhora Harutyunyan because the latter has the clarity of the Armenian genius writer's thought and, most important, "People like Zhora are filling up the life

with optimism and deepening our belief toward life" (p. 260).

Prominent producers Vardan Achemyan, Hrachia Ghaplanyan, Ervand Ghazanchyan, Vahe Shahverdyan, theatrical critics Khachatur Avagyan, Varsik Grigoryan, a film critic David Muradyan and others have highly evaluated the dramaturgy of Zhora Harutyunyan.

Devotees to the Armenian theater Mher Mkrtychyan and Sos Sargsyan properly emphasize the vital importance of the figures created by Zhora Harutyunyan. A novelist, dramaturg and a literary critic, Norayr Adalyan, proves the fact that the foregoing certain literary events stimulated the publication of the perfect drama "Crossroad" by Zh. Harutyunyan. This book under review has many revelations such as Mher Mkrtychyan, one of the great personalities of the Armenian dramatic art, who became famous thanks to the brilliant performance of Vidov Gvidon's role from the comedy "Heart Disease" by Zh. Harutyunyan.



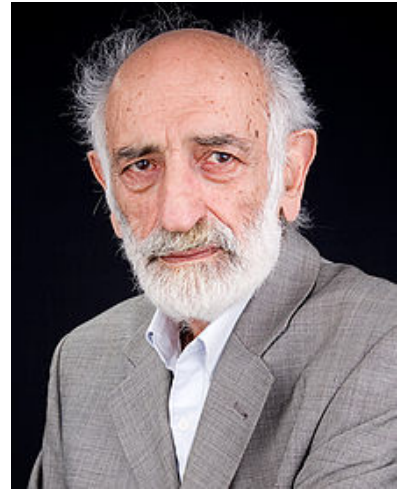
**Ervand Kh.
Ghazanchyan**



**Vardan M. Achemyan
(1905-1977)**



Hrachia Ghaplanyan and Zhora Harutyunyan



Sos A. Sargsyan (1929-2013)



Mher M. Mkrtchyan
(1930-1993)



A scene from the comedy "Heart Disease"
(producer Vardan Achemyan) Mher
Mkrtchyan acting as *Vidov Gvidon*

The book opens with the publicist article of the playwright, headlined "The Breath and Spirit of the Time", which gives evidence about the responsive and unbiased civic position of the author toward the cultural figures (Vardan Achemyan, Mher Mkrtchyan, Levon Hakhverdyan, Sos Sargsyan, Svetlana Grigoryan)

and various problems of the Arts. It is of no less interest the section "At the Crossroad of Laughter", too, which reveals the heaven-gifted humor of the playwright.



Svetlana Grigoryan and Zh. Harutyunyan



Kim Bakshi, Zh. Harutyunyan, Silva Kaputikyan, Aghasi
Ayvazyan, Davit Gasparyan

The third section contains the poetical word of Zhora Harutyunyan, "My Silence". The Academician of the NAS RA Aram Grigoryan describes the poetry of the dramaturge in the following way, "It seems like the poetry of Zhora Harutyunyan is his life and the heartfelt consciousness; what is more, the sorrowful poems are not solely genre, but often a state of a solitary and grief-stricken soul. These quiet and noiseless verses interweave with the theatre of Zhora Harutyunyan and the drama of his life" (p. 118).

Basically, the verses were written in 1989 and later. The writer with his entire composition seeding goodwill in human beings, criticizes severely the negative aspects of life in the years of our country's independence, and he does it with the resentment of an intolerant intellectual. He had remarked aptly how the flatterers of the Soviet "hammer and sickle" were becoming "worshippers of Cross" at once.

I have tired also of this shame, alas,
And of shameless people, talking of shame...
Trembling for glory, for name,
Crawling for rating, for chair,
Buying with one hand and vending with another,
And of stupid and lucky dissemblers,
Of these satraps, hypocrite and sneaky,
Of these innocents with a thousand sins on breast...

Zhora Harutyunyan has left dictums, some of which are comprised in this book. These are profound formulas:

"To have fallen down no great mind is necessary",

"The way of gratitude is the shortest one in the world",

"The evil gains strength of the kindness",

"If a person doesn't know where he comes from then he knows nothing",

"Perhaps, a life is not sufficient for a human being to make sure that having a homeland is necessary so far as the blood",

"One's own salvation is his/her own power". The latter wise saying is a deep behest, addressed as to every nation, as well as individual.

The plays of Zhora Harutyunyan were staged not only in the Armenian theatres, but in the former Soviet republics, too. Notably, the drama "Crossroad" was staged in different countries, including Hungary. Lots of the published praising words in Russian are characteristic in this regard that have gone to press in the Soviet Union's official organs, "Pravda" ("The Truth") and "Izvestia" ("The News"); in the important cultural and literary journals, "Literaturnaya gazeta" ("The Literary Gazette") and "Sovetskaya Kultura" ("The Soviet Culture"); in the Armenia's newspapers "Golos Armenii" ("The Voice of Armenia") and "Literaturnaya Armenia" ("The Literary Armenia") and in other periodicals, as well.



Aram Grigoryan, Zhora Harutyunyan, Norayr Adalyan

Hrachia Ghaplanyan writes about the performance of “A Bride from the North” in the newspaper “Sovetskaya Kultura”: “All humans resemble each other and can become close friends regardless of where they were born - in the radiant Armenia or in the North with birches and blue rivers?” (p. 173).

Sufficient space is provided for the parting words to the memory of

the writer. The poet David Hovhannes writes in a courageous and passionate way inherent in him, “You are recollecting unintentionally the Shakespeare's phrase, “He was a man, Horatio...!”, Yes! Georgi Saghatelovich was a MAN with a capital letter, and everyone loved him as he loved all” (p. 298).

Aram Grigoryan has called the jubilee speech, written on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the writer, “The friendship with Zhora was an everlasting joy”. Such characterizations confirm the writer's essence and the content direction of his composition.

The last section of the book (“In the Maelstrom of Years”) is a photo gallery in a chronological order, which makes visible the way of the writer as a capacious stage of history of Armenian theater and cinema.



Zhora Harutyunyan with his friends



34523 Wilson Road, Ingleside, Illinois 60041, Telephone (847) 546-5533



CONGRATULATIONS!

A star in the heavens has been named for you.

The certificate enclosed indicates the new name of the star and its telescopic coordinates. The booklet with constellation charts will help you in locating the area of your star and the large sky chart shows your special star encircled in red.

The new star names and telescopic coordinates will be registered in the International Star Registry's vault in Switzerland and recorded in the astronomical compendium YOUR PLACE IN THE COSMOS, Volume IV, copyrighted in the United States of America. Happy Star Gazing.

Interstellarly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E.M. Stolpe".

E.M. Stolpe
Registrar

Registry® Letter

Also in: Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Reunion, Switzerland

Zhora Harutyunyan was worthily appreciated by the government, too. So, the author received the state prize of Armenia for the drama "Crossroad" in 1979. He was also Honored Art Worker and had many other prizes, the snapshots of which as well as the copies of documents are contained in the book. We have to point out that the numerous articles, included in the collection, present the rich literary heritage of Zhora Harutyunyan. The collection provides rich materials with its content for the future specialists in drama study and historians of literature.

Gayane Harutyunyan, a philologist, literary critic and journalist, has erected a magnificent monument, dedicated to the memory of his father, Zhora Harutyunyan, a talented individual and playwright.

It may be called "A monument to my Father" by paraphrasing the title of the book "A monument to my Mother" of the great Armenian poet Hovhannes Shiraz.

***Translated from Armenian by
V. M. Gharakhanyan***