

MARIE-FELICITE BROSSET (1802-1880)



M.-F.Brosset was a prominent orientalist whose studies were devoted also to different problems of Armenology.

Brosset studied classical and oriental languages (Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese), first in the theological seminary at Orleans then at the College de France. But soon after, from 1826 onwards Brosset switched on two other oriental languages and cultures and fully devoted himself to Armenian and Georgian languages, history and culture.

By the invitation of Count S.Uvarov, the president of the Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences, in 1837 he went to Saint-Petersburg. His studies on Georgian language and history carried out in 1840-1850s became long-standing authority in Georgian history.

Still in 1838 Brosset had published some Armenian inscriptions on gravestones, later to be continued by studies on the medieval Armenian city of Ani. In 1848 he visited Armenia, particularly the citadel of Yerevan and the church of St. Sargis. Here, in Echmiatsin Brosset studied Armenian manuscripts. Later, in 1848 he published in French the list of Armenian manuscripts compiled by H.Shakhhatunyants; in that same study figure also several inscriptions found in Ani.

In 1861-1870s Brosset was focused mainly on Armenian studies, primarily on medieval Armenian historiographers. He translated from classical Armenian and published works of Stephannos Orbelian, Mkhitar Airivanetsi and Arakel Davrizhetsi. M.-F.Brosset was elected as a member of the council of Lazaryan gymnasy in Moscow and Armenian congregation of San-Lazzaro, Venice (Italy).

M.-F.Brosset was one of those scholars whose highly professional pioneering studies had laid firm grounds for the formation of scientific Armenology in Europe.

Selected Armenological studies of M.-F.Brosset

1. Catalogue de la bibliothèque du d'Edchmiadzin, St.-Pétersburg, 1840.
2. Rapports sur un voyage archéologique exécuté dans la Géorgie et dans l'Arménie en 1847-1848 sous les auspices du Prince Vorontzof Lieutenant du Caucase, St.-Petersburg, 1851.
3. De Quelques inscriptions arméniennes remarquables au point de vue chronologique, St.-Petersburg, 1859.

4. Les ruines d'Ani, capitale de l'Arménie sous les rois bagratides aux Xe et XIe siècle: histoire et description, 2e volumes, St.-Petersburg, 1860-1861.
5. Analyse critique de la *Всеобщая история de Vardan*", p. 1, Saint-Pétersbourg, vol. 4, issue 9, 1862.
6. Notice sur l'historien arménien Thoma Ardzrouni, X^e s., St.-Pétersbourg, 1862.
7. Histoire de la Siouni par Stéphanos Orbélian, St.-Pétersbourg, 1864.
8. Études sur l'historien arménien Mkhitar d'Airivank, XIII^e s., St.-Pétersbourg, 1865.
9. Études sur l'historien arménien Oukhtanés, X^e s., St.-Pétersbourg, 1868.
10. Sur l'histoire ancienne de l'Arménie, d'après les textes hiéroglyphiques et cuneiformes, St.-Pétersbourg, 1869.
11. Deux historien arméniens Kiracos de Gantzag, XIII s., Histoire d'Arménie, Oukhtanés de Ourha, X s., Histoire en trois parties, St.-Pétersbourg, 1870.
12. Des historiens armeniens des XVIIe et XVIIIe siecles. Arakel de Tauriz. Registre chronologique. Annote, St.-Pétersbourg, 1873.
13. Collection d'historiens Armeniens, vol.1, St.-Pétersbourg, 1874.