

THE DEFENDANT OF ARMENIA'S HISTORICAL, POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITY IN HISTORICAL CARTOGRAPHY

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Suren T. Yeremyan

Owing to more than half a century research work academician Suren T. Yeremyan bridged the past, present and future of Armenian historiography, historical geography and cartography. His historical concept was more vividly expressed in the field of historical cartography, the result of which has been historical atlases and maps reflecting historical realities of ancient and medieval epochs of the history of Armenia and neighbouring countries.

Due to the scrupulous work of the renowned historian-cartographer, Suren Yeremyan, the important position of Armenia in Western Asia was emphasized in the historical maps reflecting the most important epochs of the ancient and medieval history of the Armenian nation. In the 30s of the 20th century and later, S. Yeremyan published maps concerning trade routes crossing Armenia, according to the Peutinger Map and Anonym of Ravenna, as well as a political map depicting Armenia and neighbouring countries (the 1st millennium AD) based on Armenian and foreign sources.

Suren Yeremyan's "Atlas of Armenian history" contains the following maps: "The Armenian Highland", "Armenia in the 2nd-I centuries BC", "Armenia in the 5th-7th centuries", "Armenia at the end of the 10th century and at the beginning of the 11th century". He continued the series of thematic maps of Armenian history (from the 9th century BC to the first decades of the 20th century AD) which were published in the "Atlas of the Armenian SSR" (Yerevan, 1961). It contained historical maps of the periods when the Armenian Kingdom existed. The wide chronological coverage is an important peculiarity of S. Yeremyan's works.

By comparing the data of antique cartographical sources, particularly those of "Manual of Geography" by Claudius Ptolemaeus (Ptolemy) ("Third map of Asia") to the data provided by "Ashkharhatsuyts" [(«Աշխարհացոյց» - Geographical Atlas) the authors of which are Movses Khorenatsi (the 5th century) and the continuer and editor of his work, Anania Shirakatsi (the 7th century)], S. Yeremyan drew the map of the Kingdom of Great Armenia.



Owing to all of this Suren Yeremyan created a valuable book and map, **“Armenia according to Ashkharhatsuyts”**¹. He also began restoring the initial original of “Ashkharhatsuyts” and published several of the 15 maps of the World Atlas. S.Yeremyan published the map of “the known world” (the oikumene) as well. It occupied only one part of the globe of the earth, the model of which S. Yeremyan restored, according to “Ashkharhatsuyts”.

Historical cartography as a means of expressing a centuries-long history conceptually gives an opportunity to create an interrelated series of maps. Each historical map drawn by Suren Yeremyan is a thematic continuation of the previous map and this creates links between different historical epochs and sets in one common chain the historical and political and socio-economic phenomena, demographic data, the development of statehood, struggle for freedom, cultural values, thus documenting the history of the native Armenian nation in the territory of the Armenian Highland through maps.

The maps drawn by academician Yeremyan have taken their stable position in the treasury of historical cartography. They were published in the academic edition of history (1966), in the manual of the history of the ancient Orient (Yerevan, 1979), in the respective volumes of the academic 8-volume history of the Armenian people (Yerevan, 1971-1984) and in other publications.

¹ Երեմյան Ա.Տ., Հայաստանը ըստ Աշխարհացոյցի, Երևան, 1963:

With their accuracy S. Yeremyan's maps containing the Armenian Highland and Great Armenia serve the purpose of solving historiographical problems in scientific and socio-political spheres, preserving the historical memory for future generations and truthfully presenting the historical picture of the Armenian territories. For all his life S. Yeremyan remained true to his calling, working in the sphere of historical cartography. Among the voluminous maps dedicated to different epochs of Armenian history and published in the 80s of the 20th century, the map dedicated to the Armenian Empire of Tigran II the Great has a special significance.

Suren Yeremyan continued the traditions developed by previous generations of Armenian historians and cartographers, thus greatly contributing to the progress of the Armenological school of historical geography and cartography.