

## JOSEF MARKWART (1864- 1930)



Jozef Markwart was a prominent German orientalist, an expert in the history, philology, geography, and ethnology of the Middle East, whose contribution into Armenology cannot be overestimated.

J.Markwart was born in Reichenbach, Württemberg in 1864. He attended Tübingen University in Germany, where he studied Catholic theology, and then later switched his studies to classical philology and history. In 1889 he worked as an assistant to Eugen Prym, an orientalist. His doctoral thesis *Assyriaka des Ktesias* was accepted and he graduated in 1892. In 1897 he began as a lecturer in ancient history. In 1900 moved to Leiden, The Netherlands and became a curator at the Museum Volkenkunde (Ethnographical Museum). In 1902 he was appointed to the position of assistant professor for languages of the Christian Orient at Leiden University. In 1912 he moved to Berlin and became full Professor of Iranian and Armenian studies at Berlin University. Here L.Markwart established chair of Armenian studies, first in Germany. He taught in Berlin for the remainder of his life, even giving a lecture on the day of his death in 1930.

Armenological studies of J.Markwart (about 30, some remain unpublished yet) deal with such fields as “Ashkharhacuyc”, the identity of Movses Khorenatsi and his time span, “Life of Mashtoc” by Koryun, Mesrop Mashtoc and Armenian alphabet, Pavstos Buzand, the institutions of *hazarapet* and *bdeshkh* in Greater Armenia, Armenian Bagratids, origin of Georgian Bagratids, early history of Armenian Arshakid dynasty and their king-list, king Zareh of Sophene etc.

Along with scholarly activities J.Markwart was deeply concerned with the tragic events of the Armenian history of late XIX – early XX centuries. In the book published in 1919 he sharply criticized the genocidal policy of the Ottoman empire.

J.Markwart was one of those unique scholars whose interests embraces all spheres of classical Orientalistics - Iranistics, Armenology, Caucasian studies, Arabistics etc., philology and history. He was fluent in great number of languages, dead and modern - Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Avestan Persian, Hebrew, Syriac, Armenian, Pahlavi, Turkish, Russian, and even some Chinese and Afghani.

### Selected bibliography

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