

GEVORG ARTASHES TIRATSYAN (1926-1993)



G.Tiratsyan was a prominent Armenian archaeologist and historian, one of the leaders of Armenian archaeological schools.

G.Tiratsyan was born in September 18, 1926, in Akkerman, Romania in the family of the teacher and lexicographer Artashes Tiratsyan. In 1945 he entered the Department of History of the University of Bucharest. After repatriation in 1948 he became student of the Department of History, Yerevan state university. After graduating the university in 1952 G.Tiratsyan became postgraduate student of the Academy of sciences.

In 1957 he defended his PhD dissertation ("Material culture of Armenia in the first centuries of the I millennium BC") and entered first the Institute of History, later the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Armenian Academy of sciences where he worked until his tragic death in 1993. In 1986 G.Tiratsyan defended his Habilitation dissertation ("Armenia in the VI century BC - III century AD"). During 1974-1980 he held the position of the Archaeology of Ancient Armenia, then Deputy-director of the Institute in 1981-1988, and Director in 1988-1993.

The impact of G.Tiratsyan in the archaeology of Armenia could not be overestimated. He participated in various archaeological expeditions in different regions of Armenia (Karmir blur, Garni, Hatsavan, Armavir). From 1970 until his death G.Tiratsyan was the director of the Armavir archaeological expedition. He is the author of about 40 studies dealing with the excavated materials from Armavir.

G.Tiratsyan was fluent in many European languages (German, English, French, Romanian, Italian, Russian) that helped him in his highly valuable studies. His studies are devoted to different spheres of the history and material culture of ancient Armenia - the problem of Urartu-Armenia, Urartian civilization and Achemenid Iran, cities and their planning in ancient Armenia, border-stones of the Artaxiad period and the decipherment of Aramaic inscriptions, early medieval culture of Armenia etc.

SELECTED STUDIES OF GEVORG TIRATSYAN

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3. About trading connections of Armenia with Syria in the classical period, Palestinskij sbornik 4 (67), Moscow-Leningrad, 1959, 73-78 (in Russian).
4. The rise of ancient Armenian state, Patmabanasirakan handes, 1966/4 (in Arm.).
5. The Glass of ancient Armenia, Yerevan, 1969 (Archaeological monuments of ancient Armenia. 3. Monuments of ancient period. vol. 1)(co-authors B. N. Arakelyan, Zh. D. Khachatryan)(in Russian).
6. The History of Armenian people, vol.I (chapters "Armenia under the Dominion of Achaemenian Iran", "Armenian culture in the 6th-4th centuries BC", "Armenia in the Hellenistic Period", etc.), Yerevan, 1971 (in Arm.).
7. Excavations of Dvin, Lraber hasarakakan gitutyunneri, 1972/2 (in Arm.).
8. On the problem of the cities of Armenia in the pre-Hellenistic period (VI-IV c. BC), Ancient Orient. Cities and Trade, Yerevan, 1973, 87-98 (in Russian).
9. Urartian Armavir (according to archaeological excavations), The Culture of the East: ancient period and Middle Ages, Leningrad, 1978, 106-114 (in Russian).
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11. One more Aramaic inscription of Artashes I, king of Armenia, Vestnik drevnej istorii, 1980/4, 160-175 (in Russian).
12. The Territory of Yervandid [Orontid] Armenia (late 6th - late 3rd centuries BC), Patmabanasirakan handes 2, 1981, 68-84 (in Arm.).
13. Armenian Tiara: An Attempt at Historical-cultural interpretation, Vestnik drevnej istorii, 1982/2, 90-96 (in Russian).
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15. Non-Indo-European ancestors of Armenia. Hurrians and Urartians and the problem of Urartu-Armenia, Patmabanasirakan handes, 1985/1, 195-208 (in Arm.).
16. Urartu; Armenia in the VI-IV c. BC; Armenia in the III-I c. BC; Armenia in the I-III c. BC, in Ancient states of the Caucasus and Central Asia (series: Archaeology of the USSR), Moscow, 1985 (in Russian).
17. On the Problem of the Succession of the Official Cult in Ancient Armenia, Lraber hasarakakan gitutyunneri 10, 1985, 58-65 (in Russian).
18. The Culture of Ancient Armenia, VI c. BC – III c. AD (according to archaeological data, Yerevan, 1988 (in Russian).