

THE CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENOLOGY IN ARMENIA

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1. THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPABILITIES OF ARMENOLOGY IN ARMENIA

The modern infrastructure of Armenology in Armenia started its formation with the establishment of Yerevan State University (1919), the Ejmiatsin cultural and historical institution (1921) and the Armenian SSR Institutes of science and arts (1925). That was subsequently followed by bringing about other establishments of education and science, while a strong impact facilitating the development of Armenology was rendered by establishing the Academy of Sciences of Armenia in 1943 and the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (the Matenadaran, a scientific research institute in 1959) on the basis of the Ejmiatsin (then State) repository maintaining the manuscripts.

Armenology is regarded as one of the key directions of the national and scientific policy of the Armenian state¹. Therefore several important decisions have been adopted, aimed at the further development of that scientific domain.

- The Republic of Armenia Government N1 Protocol Resolution on January 12, 2012 established “The Concept of Developing Armenology”, “Strategy for Development of the Domain of Armenology in the RA in 2012-2025” and “The Timetable for Implementing the Arrangements of the Strategy for Development of the Domain of Armenology in the RA for 2012-2025”.
- The 1638-A decision of the RA Government on December 6, 2012 established an All-Armenian Foundation Financing Armenological Studies to be financed by 50 million drams from the budget.
- To coordinate Armenological works in the RA a board for Armenological problems has been established chaired by the Prime Minister of RA and consisting of Armenologists and state figures.
- The NAS RA Presidium and The Board of Trustees of the All-Armenian Foundation Financing Armenological Studies determined to establish publication of the five-lingual International scientific journal under the name of “Banber Haiagitutyan” (Journal of Armenian Studies) (2013) and the electronic journal “Fundamental Armenology” in English (2015).

¹ Suvaryan Yu. M., Armenian Studies in Armenia: the Current Status and Problems of Development. – The Second International Congress of Armenian Studies, Journal of Armenian Studies, N 2-3, 2013, pp. 20-33.

- By the decision of the NAS RA Presidium, the membership of the International Board for coordination of Armenological Research has been established including renowned Armenologists from Armenia and abroad.

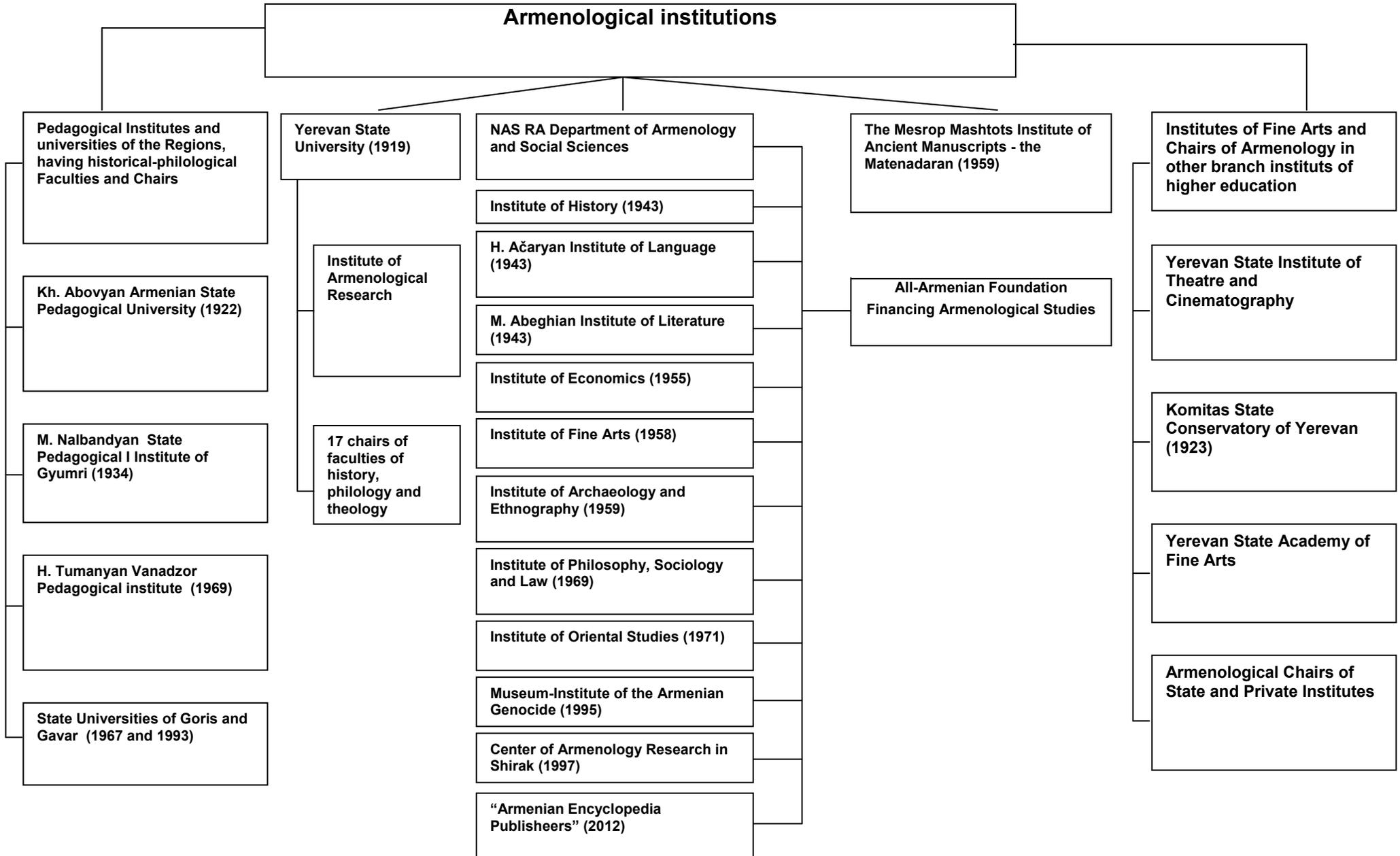
The three pillars of developing Armenology are: the RA National Academy of Sciences, Yerevan State University and the Matenadaran. Within the NAS RA Department of Armenology and social sciences there are 9 operational research institutes, the Shirak Research Center of Armenology, the all-Armenian Foundation for Armenological research and the Publishing House “Armenian Encyclopedia” (see the drawing).

At Yerevan State University on the basis of a long-standing Center of Armenology there is a recently established Institute of Armenological Research, also working for the development of Armenology are 17 Armenological-oriented Chairs having great contribution to the development of Armenology. The thematically oriented sections at the Matenadaran augmented to the number 9.

The faculties of philology, history and culture with their respective Armenological chairs function within the Kh.Abovyan Armenian State Pedagogical University. Chairs of the Armenian language and literature and Armenian history have been established in the institutions of higher education of art and in all the branch universities.

MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE OF ARMENOLOGY

Armenological institutions



About 1000 researchers work in four large Armenological institutions (NAS RA, YSU, the Matenadaran, Pedagogical University), including 11 Academicians and 19 Corresponding Members of NAS RA, 189 doctors of science and 550 PhDs. The volume of money financing Armenological studies from base funding, dram-based grants and other sources exceeds 1.3 milliard drams.

It is to be noted that the Institutes of the Department of Armenology and Social Sciences of the NAS RA receive 22.0 per cent of the total NAS funding by the basic program, “Applied researches having fundamental and important significance”.

The Department of Armenology and Social Sciences is responsible for publications of the institutions of NAS RA system of more than 90 per cent of monographs, about 60 per cent of scientific articles, as well as 39 per cent of monographs and 20 per cent of articles outside the country.

Within the total number of scientists of the NAS RA system the proportion of scientists of the scientific institutions of the Department of Armenology is about 23 per cent – 1.0 percentage point above the proportion of financing, however the researchers of the Department, as mentioned above, provide more than half of the academic publications which shows a comparatively high productivity of research work.

The institutes of Armenological studies are operational in all types of manpower development: MA course students, post-graduate students, doctoral candidates, seekers for scientific degrees. They enable training of highly skilled Armenologists to supply the young scientists to the relevant structures.

It is to be noted that the last years have seen a raised technological level of the Armenological research institutions which is corroborated by the dominant trends of the creation of electronic storage facilities and sites as well as the techniques of their operation.

Scientific journals are published oriented mainly to Armenological research. The well-known Armenological periodical “Պատմա-քանասիրական հանդես” (“Historical-philological journal”) has been published since 1958. It currently is published 3 times a year. The NAS RA scientific journal “Լրաբեր” հասարակական գիտությունների (“Herald” of social sciences) founded in 1940 currently is also published 3 times a year.

The journal “Բանբեր Մատենադարանի” (“Herald of the Matenadaran”) is an on-going publication, started as “Collection of Scientific Materials” (1940-1956) published by the State Manuscript Repository controlled by the Armenian SSR Government.

In 1967 publication was started of “Բանբեր Երևանի համալսարանի” (“Herald of Yerevan University”), a predominantly Armenological publication.

The official monthly journal “Ejmiatsin” of the All-Armenian Catholocosate has been published for over six decades.

For the past two years, the new five-language scholarly journal, “Բանբեր հայագիտության” (“Journal of Armenian Studies”, since 2013) has been being

published. The first issue of the new electronic journal, "Fundamental Armenology" has been published in 2015.

Within the last few years international scholarly relations have been greatly activated. Particularly extended is the geographic disposition of the Institute of Archaeology and ethnography, which enables joint work and corporate results with collegiate institutions in France, Germany, Italy, USA, Australia and Japan. The Institutes of Oriental Studies, History, Fine Arts and Center of Armenology Research in Shirak are expanding their scientific relations.

The Matenadaran and YSU Armenological institutions have signed agreements with foreign colleagues on joint research projects.

The international scientific cooperation is indicated also by taking part in international conferences with joint scientific assemblies and joint scientific publications. In 2012, in particular, the scientists of Armenological institutes of NAS RA took part in 58, Yerevan State University in 34 and the Matenadaran in 30 international scientific conferences.

It can be drawn from what has been presented that the capabilities of Armenia's Armenological structures are quite substantial, although their need for an increase and upgrading is beyond doubt.

2. THE FUNDAMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARMENOLOGY

The dominant directions of research work of Armenological institutions are: systematic research of the history of the Armenian Nation, archaeology, ethnography, ethnosociology, folklore, anthropology, epigraphy, the history of the countries and peoples of Western Asia and East Asia, as well as their interrelations. The Armenian language and literature, the history of Armenian economic thought and present day problems, the history of Armenian philosophic and esthetic thought, philosophy and methodology of science, problems of the history of law and Armenian political thought, theory and history of architecture and fine arts, the basic theoretical principles and history of national music and theatre.

The mission of *historiography* is the basic research of the history of the Armenian Nation from the ancient to modern times.

Historical research has been developing in the following main directions:

- ancient and medieval history of Armenia,
- source studies,
- the history of Armenian liberation movements, the
- the history of Armenian-Russian relations and relations with other nations,
- the history of Armenian colonies,
- the history of the Armenian State of Kilikia.

The research efforts resulted in multiple valuable books from the series “Foreign Sources on Armenia and the Armenians” and a generalizing work, “History of the Armenian Nation” in 8 volumes (1971-1984) that has merited the State Prize of the Armenian SSR.

In the post-Soviet period the following research directions were added:

– comprehensive study of the developments of Armenian statehood and civilization in the Armenian Highland from ancient times, the history of Armenian kingdoms and principedom (nakharar) system,

– history and demographics of the regions of Armenia,

– elucidation of the legal-political issues of the Armenian Question and the Armenian Genocide and restitution and reparations, publication of documentary collections (in German, Russian and other languages) stating the facts of the Armenian Genocide.

The achievements of historiography exempt from Soviet ideological limitations will be published in the new academic issue, “Հայոց պատմություն” (“Armenian History”) (4 volumes in 2 books each).

– published in 2010 was Book One of Volume 3 (mid-17th c. to 1900) and Book One of Volume 4 (1918–1945), in 2014 - Book Two of Volume 2 (mid-9th c. to the mid-17th c.).

Also being published is “Հայոց պատմության հարցեր” “The problems of Armenian History” (a collection of scientific articles), 13 volumes of which have been published.

– The Matenadaran has published 7 of the planned 35 volumes of the “Master List of Armenian Manuscripts”. An on-going publication is the series of “Մատենագիտական Հայոց” “Armenian Bibliography” (16 volumes have been published, highlighting the bibliographic heritage of the 5th to 11th centuries).

Archaeology.

– In the realm of archaeology serious results have been achieved in the study of anthropogeny and in the formation process of early agricultural societies, as well as in the historical and cultural research of Ancient and Medieval Armenia.

– For the discovery of the Bronze and Iron Ages archaeological cultures in Ancient Armenia, and the elucidation of peculiarities of social development characteristic to the Armenian Highland of special significance are the excavations done by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, research of the materials from Karmir Blur of the period preceding the Kingdom of Van, as well as the study of artefacts from Jrahovit, Metsamor, Haritch, Aigevan, Mokhrablur, Horom, Gegharot, Agarak. The integral description of the Bronze and Iron Ages Armenian culture and the formation of its systematic presentation in terms of historic periodization have become possible by virtue of important data from excavated burial grounds at different places of Armenia (Lori Berd, Ltchashen, Oshakan, Karashamb, Talin, Tsaghkalanj, Horom, Syunik, etc.).

– Studies have been done of the large settlements, capital cities in the epoch of the Kingdom of Van, the antique and Hellenistic, and medieval periods, particularly medieval monastic complexes (Vahanavank, Khamshi monastery, Marmashen, Ushi, Haritch, Akori, Aghitu, Handaberd, Tsakhats Kar, Teghenyats, etc.) having great importance for Armenian history.

– Along with different universities and scientific centers of the US, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Belgium and Austria archaeological research has been conducted in different regions of Armenia, enabling a complete updating to be made to the sources of the study of the oldest history and culture of the Armenian Highland and Western Asia in the whole.

– Collected, decoded and interpreted were hundreds of lapidary inscriptions in the Armenian Highland.

– The study of stone artifacts retrieved from Nor Geghi-1 (NG1), a site on the outskirts of Yerevan, has highlighted facts of particular importance. Analysis of artifacts from newly excavated site in Armenia considerably changes the accepted viewpoints about anthropogeny. According to previous notions, the Levallois technique was invented in Africa and about 350-300,000 years ago spread with expanding human populations to Eurasia through the “Levantine corridor” and replaced local biface technologies.. Outside Africa the stratigraphic section of NG1 is one of the most reliable monuments where artifacts were found in sediments between two ancient layers of basalt lava that could be accurately dated to a period between 325,000 and 350,000 years ago. The obsidian objects discovered from the deposits enclosed between its two basalt flows are 335-325,000 years old. The data from NG1 record the earliest synchronic use of the Acheulian bifacial technology and Levallois technology as evidence of the Lower to Middle Paleolithic transition.. Moreover, the co-existence of the two technologies at Nor Geghi 1 denotes their genetic relationship and origination from one another and provides evidence that local inhabitants developed Levallois technology on their own. It testifies to the fact that the emergence of the Levallois technique is the result of the technological evolution of the local population. The Nor Geghi-1 station can also be regarded as a source revealing the chronological limits of transition from the Lower Paleolithic to the Middle Paleolithic in our region which testifies to the fact that it happened about 300,000 years ago and is older than similar sites in the Levant. The study on the NG1 discovery was recently published in the journal *Science*.

– In the domain of archaeology and lapidary inscriptions the results of scientific research have been duly presented in the bibliographic series “Archaeological Excavations in Armenia”, “Archaeological Monuments of Armenia”, “Archives of Armenian lapidary inscriptions” and numerous monographs.

Ethnography.

– Many basic studies have been done in the domain of ethnography, particularly with regard to the Armenian material and spiritual culture, the individual historical-ethnographic areas and the theoretical and methodological problems of ethnography.

– The greatest success of the last years, integrating both traditional and modern achievements of Armenian ethnography is “The Armenians”, published in Russian (Moscow), which makes a high-level scientific presentation of all basic Armenian cultural legacy and is an important step along the way of popularizing and internationalizing the Armenian cultural heritage.

– Ethnographic research has been described by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography in the 26- volume bibliographic publication “Armenian Ethnography and Folklore” as well as in multiple books.

Oriental Studies.

– In the domain of Iranian Studies research was done with regard to the history of Iran, its domestic and foreign policies, Iranian philology, as well as the historical and cultural relations between Armenia and Iran.

– In the domain of Arabic Studies research was directed at the National Liberation movements of Arab countries, ways of socio-political and spiritual and cultural development, the history of political relations between the Arab countries and between the Armenians and Arabs, the role of Islam and the history of Armenian communities in Arab countries.

– Specialists in Turkic studies have concentrated their efforts on the history of the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey, their domestic and foreign policy, social and economic affairs, ideological trends and other key issues. A special place has been assigned to the study of the Genocide against the Armenian Nation perpetrated by the Turkish authorities following a specially designed program.

– Research has been done on the study of the history and folklore of the Kurds, and Armenian-Kurdish relations.

– Research has been done on the issues of proper Aluank (Caucasian Albania), the history of political and confessional relations between Armenia and Byzantium, and the history of Armenian-Georgian relations.

– For Independent Armenia the study of the relations with the foremost countries of the East-Asian geopolitical arena – India, China and Japan – has become very significant.

– The research results have been published in different compilations of the Institute of Oriental studies: “The Countries and Nations of the Near and Middle East” (29 volumes already published), “The Turkish and Ottoman Studies” (8 volumes published), “The Near East” (8 volumes published), “The Caucasus and Byzantium” (6 volumes published), “The Ancient East” (5 volumes published), “East-Asian Research” (2 volumes published), “Modern Eurasia” (2 volumes published).

Linguistics.

– The Armenian linguists have dealt with and continue to deal with the Armenian language studies' fundamental problems, particularly with its structure and functioning, the study of its history and comparative grammar and in the last few years a closer scrutiny has been made of the Eastern and Western Armenian focusing upon streamlining the literary language, terminological adjustment, problems of teaching the language; creating etymological, bilingual, dialect and terminological vocabularies; certain assignments are being carried out aimed at applying computerized methods of linguistic research associated with applied problems of social, psychological, mathematical and computational linguistics.

– An original review of the contemporary Armenian language and its grammar and functionality is presented in a three-volume Academic edition of “Ժամանակակից հայոց լեզուն” (“Contemporary Armenian Language”).

– A substantial work has been done in the fields of general and comparative linguistics.

– Within the framework of historical and philological research studies have been carried out of word stocks of Old (Grabar), Middle and Contemporary Armenian (Ashkharhabar), their functional features and semantic strata. The original review of those historical descriptions with regard to phonetics, declinations, verbal systems and word combinations have been presented in a double-volume publication “Հայերենի պատմական քերականություն” (“Historical grammar of the Armenian Language”).

– A substantial work has been done with regard to the study of the Armenian dialects: publication has been made of dialect-related books, principles have been elaborated of phonetics, typology and multifeatured classifications.

– Since 1962 the Institute of Language after H. Ačarian has compiled and published Authors' concordances. Publications have been made of more than 40 volumes of authors' concordances of the Old Armenian original literature. During the last years several volumes of these publications were made: 2007, Tovma Metsopetsi's “Պատմագրություն” (“Historiography”, two-volumes), 2011-2013, Grigor Tatevatsi's “Գիրք հարցմանց” (“Book of Inquiry”) (volumes I-IV). Awaiting publication are electronic concordances of Movses Kaghankatuatsi's “Պատմություն Աղուանից աշխարհի” (“History of the Country of Aghuank”), Kirakos Gandzaketsi's “Պատմություն Հայոց” (“History of Armenia”), Ukhtanes Bishop's “Պատմություն Հայոց” (“History of Armenia”).

Literary studies.

– Being among of the founding fathers of the Academy of Sciences, Manuk Abeghyan laid the foundation of the academic study of the Armenian literature by publication of his two-volume monumental work “Հայոց հին գրականության պատմություն” (“History of Ancient Armenian Literature”). The genre-related system of

Medieval Armenian literature has undergone a comprehensive study. In the 1950s the interest in Medieval Armenian Poetry was at its highest. Individual books were dedicated to the study of the Armenian classics. The Institute of Literature after M. Abeghian published a five-volume work "History of New Armenian Literature" (1962-1979) and a two-volume "History of Armenian Literary Criticism" which are the ultimate standards.

- Special attention was focused on publishing modern literature (starting from the end of the 1910s) and the current literary life.

- Editorial work is being done with regard to the study of the history of the Armenian Diaspora literature to publish a two-volume "Encyclopedia of the Armenian Diaspora literature".

- A number of theoretical problems is being scrutinized concerning individual features of national literature within the context of the international literary processes.

- The Institute of Literature since the inception has published the academic complete collections of a number of Armenian classical authors.

Folkloristics.

- Research of Armenian folklore culture is mostly realized along the following trends: the gathering of folklore, compilation of folklore originals, taking notes of folklore stories (particularly of the narrations of "Մասնա ծեր" - "Sasna tsrer"), research studies and publication. The history of folklore recording and research, the study of folkloristic fiction borrowings, the study of folkloristic textology and the relevant tasks, the gathering and research of the Armenian Genocide eyewitness testimony, etc.. By virtue of gathering the integral originals of individual folklore genres and the work done in the direction of research composition and publication has become possible of traditional discourses, as well as synthesized originals "Armenian Folk Riddles", "Armenian Magic and Folk Prayers", "Armenian Folk Combat and Soldiers' Songs", "Armenian Folk Lullaby and Childrens' Songs" and "Armenian Folk Epic and Historical Vocal Folklore".

Philosophy.

- Research in the domain of the history of Armenian Philosophy has enabled the discoveries to be made of renowned Armenian thinkers (Eznik Koghbatsi, Davit Anhaght (Invincible), Anania Shirakatsi, Grigor Magistros, Hovhannes Sarkavag, Vahram Rabuni, Grigor Tatevatsi, Hovhan Vorotnetsi, Simeon Jughaetsi, Stepanos Lehatsi, et al.), their places and ideological legacy in the historical context of Armenian philosophy and culture. Presentation has been made of a completely new outlook of the history of Armenian philosophy since Antiquity up until the 18th century.

- Research has also been done on the general problems of philosophy, particularly in the realm of logic. A multi-logic concept has been suggested, with a special focus being centered on traditional formal logic and mathematical logic. The principle of linguistic complementarity has also been formulated.

– One of the principal trends of the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law is the philosophy and methodology of science. In the 1960s and 70s there was a transition from the epistemology of traditional general tasking towards the domain of philosophy, methodology and logic, thus bringing widespread recognition of the Armenian school of scientific knowledge with its logical solutions of philosophical problems.

– In the domain of aesthetics research has been done on the essential concept of beauty on the subject of arts and the problems of their origin, as well as on the aesthetic manifestations of national consciousness.

– In the domain of social philosophy research has been done on the problems of labor, engineering and the progress of science and technologies.

Sociology.

– After the disastrous 1988 Spitak earthquake there came about the discipline of disaster sociology as a new trend of sociological research which was only in the former Soviet Union. Another research effort developed towards the sociology of migrants and refugees, family, the sociology of youth and children, as well as ethnosociology.

Law.

– In the legal domain research has been dedicated to the legal history and legal relics, Armenian Statehood, as well as the problems of the theoretical formation of law, legal support and protection of the environment.

Architecture and Art.

– In the domain of the history and theory of Architecture one of the most important achievements is the scientific substantiation of the restoration of the heathen temple of Garni.

– Due to the cooperation of the Institute of Fine Arts, the Architectural Group of Milan Polytechnic and the “Center for the Study of Armenian Culture” in Venice, 23 issues of the series “Armenian Architectural Documents” were published in Italian, Armenian and English in Milan (1968-1998), presenting the most treasured specimen of the Armenian construction art to the international community, the jewels. The six-volume “History of Armenian Architecture”, is a landmark phenomenon. In 1996-2004 three volumes were published, the next books are ready for publication.

Applied Arts

– In the domain of Applied Arts monographs have been written on the subjects of the of Kilikia, Gladzor, Vaspurakan, Artsakh and the Crimea Miniature Art Schools. The scales of the study of Medieval Armenian Applied Arts has been expanded, the creative legacy of prominent Armenian manuscript illuminators Toros Roslin (13th c.), Sargis Pitsak (14th c.), Hakob Jughaetsi (mid-16th to beginning of the 17th cc.), et al. were subjected to detailed analysis, research has been done to Armenian ornamentation, frescos, sculpture, cross-stones (khachkars), problems of comparative studies of medieval Armenian architecture and some Applied Artistic domains. The fundamental research results of generalizing the most significant stages of Armenian Applied Art and

its historical development is described in the collective publication, “Очерки по истории армянского изобразительного искусства” (“Essays on the History of Armenian Fine Arts”) and “Հայ արվեստի պատմությունը” (“History of Armenian Art”), the latter having been awarded the Armenian State Prize in 2009.

– A rich trail has been left behind by the Armenian Theatrical Studies, from gathering the factual material to artistic research and generalizations, from monographic compositions to the theoretical studies and history of theatre. The knowledge of the history of Armenian theatre has been sorted out and integrated for the period since Antiquity to the mid - 20th century.

– Certain progress has been made by Movie Research. Published works focused their attention both on creative achievements of outstanding personalities of the Armenian film industry, as well as on the historical development of the National Cinematic Art.

Armenian Musical Studies development has proceeded in three principal ways: the history and theory of Armenian music, preparation for publication of the compositions of Armenian classical music and musical folklore studies.

3. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS IN THE DOMAIN OF ARMENOLOGY TO BE ADDRESSED

Armenology as a system of sciences about the intellectual and material culture of the Armenian nation has well-known immanent problems and development patterns and in the current conditions are added the important functions of ensuring national security and strengthening the independent statehood. Thus, together with developing in line with world science and contributing to the progress of human civilization it is important for this branch of science to spread and activate practical and political Armenology at least in the following two directions:

– Protection of the Armenian history and culture from the forgeries and falsifications organized at the official level by countries pursuing well-known regional geopolitical goals. For this purpose it is necessary to translate into foreign languages and publish valuable works concerning the Armenian history and culture. The newly-founded scientific journals “Herald of Armenology” and “Fundamental Armenology”, the internet websites of the foundation financing Armenological studies and YSU Institute of Armenology, the paper and electronic publications of other Armenological institutions should work towards to a solution of this problem. For this and overall scientific purposes it is essential to activate international cooperation, to increase the number of publications in foreign reviewed journals. Our strategy should be to inform the civilized world community in a coordinated way on the rich history and comprehensive and unique culture of the Armenian nation.

– Armenology as a system of sciences about the intellectual and material culture of the Armenian Nation has specific familiar problems and regular features of development. Currently two more important functions are added to them: guaranteeing national security and consolidating independent national statehood. Therefore for this scientific trend to be developed in parallel with International science, to facilitate the progress of human civilization, it is important to expand and activate the applied and political subject of Armenology in at least two directions as follows:

Protection of Armenian history and culture from the state-arranged falsifications and forgery committed by the states pursuing notorious regional and geopolitical goals. With this purpose it is necessary to publish translations of valuable significant pieces of Armenian history and culture. Resolution of this problem should be facilitated by the newly established scholarly journal “Բանբեր Հայագիտության” (“Journal of Armenian Studies”), the electronic scholarly journal, “Fundamental Armenology”, the WEB sites of the Foundation Financing Armenological Studies, Yerevan State University and its affiliated Institute of Armenian Studies, as well as by other hard-copy and electronic publications. For those and other scientific applications, the essential thing is activation of international cooperation and a growing number of references in international publications. Our strategy must be an orderly supply of information to the civilized international community on the rich history and informative and original history of the Armenian Nation. It is urgent to activate scientific research and top-level expertise in political knowledge, sociology, international relations, statesmanship, administrative and civil law.

It remains on the agenda within the framework of developing the historical knowledge to publish the single-volume “Armenian History” in foreign languages, restructuring the problems of national importance to achieve a new elucidation exempt from the shackles of former ideology so as to resolve the contentious issues scientifically and with regard to the national interests.

Incidentally, the need to review the scientific ideas formulated in the conditions of ideological limitations of the Soviet regime prompted the reformulation of scientific ideas and new elucidation of phenomena also relating to literary criticism, study of art, the history of philosophy and Armenian social-political thinking. It is important to emphasize that the relevant experts in the named fields as has already been mentioned, do essential work, but it has to be expanded.

An essential problem is regulation of the development of Western and Eastern Armenian, scientific processing of the problems of modern terminology, the rich legacy of dialects and comparativism.

Despite significant achievements of archaeology, ethnography and folklore, it is important geographically to expand them to include the areas of Artsakh and other historical Armenian territories.

Published in 2012 was a 1164-page Encyclopedia “Հայաստան” (Armenia), which after declaring Independence of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh is the first complete encyclopedic publication covering Armenian history, science, economy and culture, however the time has come to publish a multi-volume Encyclopedia in Armenian. It is to be remembered that the Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia was published in 12+1 volumes in 1974–1987.

In the last years, as has already been noted, essential work has been done with Armenian bibliography and Classical Literature, in fact with the general librarian resources in the way of the role played by the Fundamental Library of NAS RA. From the point of view of efficient development of Armenology and prospective preservation of manuscripts and archival documents the foremost priority falls upon the manuscript and printed legacy of the Matenadaran. The collection of manuscripts on the sites has been steadily growing from day to day since the establishment of the department of digitalization in 2007. However, that is only the beginning, the digitalization of Armenian manuscripts has to be continued to establish electronic libraries specializing in Armenian bibliography, history, fine arts, scientific literature and fiction, archival materials and dictionaries.

On 24 April, 2015 was commemorated the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide. The large-scale international events organized in April and dedicated to the Centenary were a mighty blow against the attempts of the present Turkish authorities, the heirs of the Ottoman Empire, to deny the Armenian Genocide. The condemnation of the genocide as a horrible crime against humanity and the urgent necessity to prevent new genocides were highlighted; the legal-political problems of restitutions for elimination of consequences of the genocide were widely discussed in international auditoriums for the first time. So, a transition is made from the phase of recognition of the Armenian Genocide and honoring the memory of the victims to the phase of their canonization and to restitutions. Thus, in this new phase it is necessary to deepen profoundly and comprehensively the study of the historical-political facts of the first genocide of the 20th century, expanding the investigation of results as well as publishing the facts in foreign languages about the Turkish government’s genocide policy. It is urgent to make assessments of the losses incurred by the Armenian Nation, as the result of the genocide, in terms of population and homeland territories, material and moral-political losses and losses of intellectual and material culture with an intent to demand rightfully reparations and restitutions.

The following problems are still waiting to be resolved: training of young specialists for centers of Armenology, instituting a contemporary school of scientific translation, upgrading the technical capabilities of the Armenian research institutions, raising the quality of life and operational environment of the Armenologist researchers.

Let us consider two more methodological problems. A generally accepted viewpoint is that Armenology as a scholarly trend came about in the early 18th century by virtue of the valuable research by the Mechitarists and was explosively developed during the 19th and 20th centuries. It is quite certain that the solid support for that subject had been afforded by the preceding centuries and their enormous legacy left by the Armenian historians and other Armenian and foreign thinkers. There is yet another forceful viewpoint suggesting that Armenology as a scientific trend started in the 5th century and the first Armenologists were Mesrop Mashtots and Movses Khorenatsi². From this viewpoint it is an almost irrefutable assumption that it would be quite impossible to create the Armenian alphabet or to write "History of Armenia" that would gain an international recognition without serious research. And it testifies to the development of Armenology since the early Middle Ages.

It is also to be considered that the Mechitarists had two typical trends:

– estimating the cultural legacy created in the preceding centuries not only as the original source, but also as a cultural and cognitive value, they prepared and published the critical originals by Armenian historians, the works of the world's classics and Armenian classics,

– published valuable autonomous historical, philological, geographic, lexicographic research works.

It is suggested to discuss Armenology within the aspect of its following development³:

- Stage 1. 5th-9th cc. - the Golden Age and the subsequent period,
- Stage 2. 10th-17th centuries – the period of explosive development of Armenology and the preservation of the potential,
- Stage 3. 18th-19th centuries - development of Armenology in the centers of Europe, Russia, Eastern Armenia (Shushi and Ejmiatsin), Western Armenia, Asia Minor, India,
- Stage 4. 20th-21th cc. – with some fluctuations a rise in Armenology in the operating centers of Armenia and western countries, as well as Armenian populated districts of the Near East.

² See Սարգսյան-Կատվայան Ս. Ա., Հայագիտության ձևավորման ժամանակի և հիմնախնդիրների հարցի շուրջ, Ե., 2013, 68 էջ:

³ With regard to Armenian Studies as a scientific subject, as a task to characterize the development, it is to be noted that until now there has been one known periodization, that is Pre-Soviet and Soviet (Հայկական սովետական հանրագիտարան, հ. 6, Ե., 1980, էջ 130). Naturally, this viewpoint is unacceptable today.