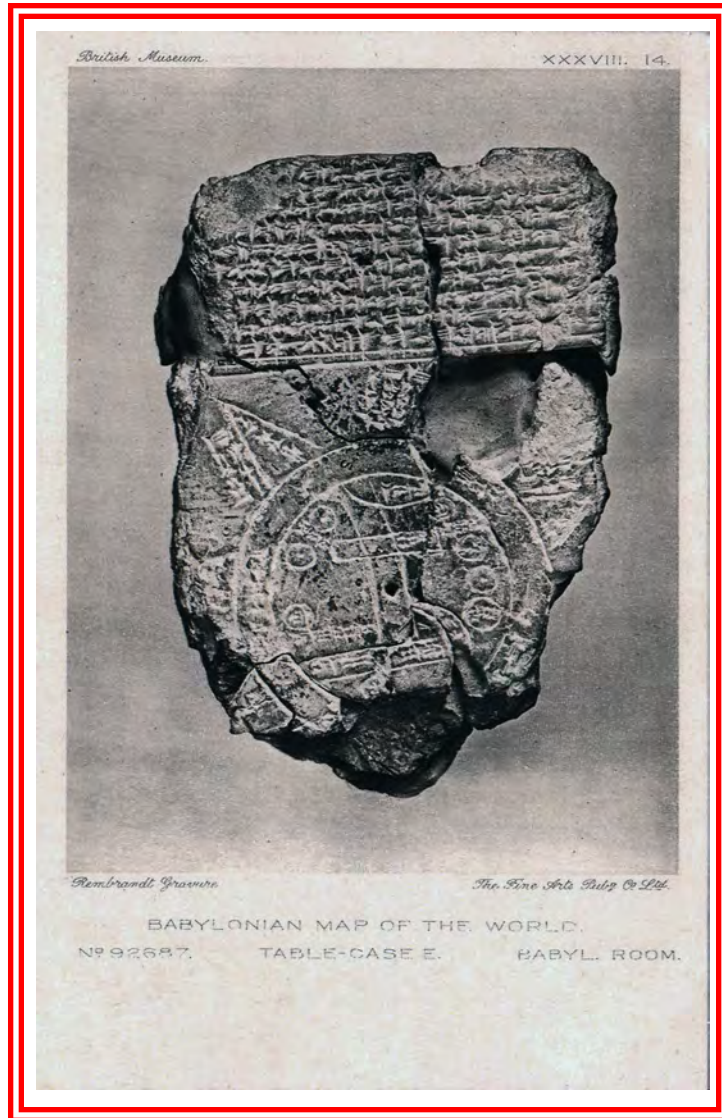


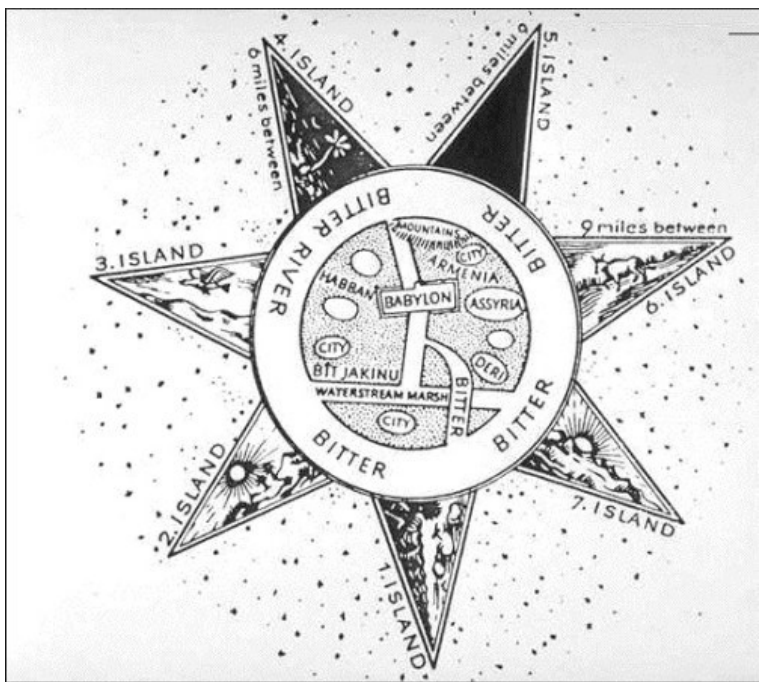
PRE-CHRISTIAN ARMENIA: FROM ORIGINS TO THE TEMPLE OF GARNI

Armenia is one of the most ancient place-names on Earth. It was called Hayasa, Mitanni, Nairi, Arrata, Urartu, Kingdoms of Van and of Ararat, Armina throughout its history. Babylonian clay tablet with the map of the world places Urartu to the North of Assyria.



Babylonian clay tablet *Map of the World* 6th century BC. The British Museum.

Picture postcard engraved by Rembrandt Intaglio Printing Co. for The Fine Arts Publishing Co. of London, approximately in 1920s. Seen once in the last five years of research.



Enlarged central part of the tablet
with English translation.

The purpose of this multi-frame display exhibit is an exploration of the history of Armenia from the earliest times to the mid-1st century AD, when the only surviving, and arguably the last built pre-Christian monument - Temple of Garni, was constructed, and when St. Bartholomew and St. Thaddeus arrived in Armenia to preach Christianity. The temple ruined by a devastating earthquake was brought back to life by the efforts of 20th century archeologists and architects.

The exhibit consists of 12 chapters, following the chronology of historical events and dynasties. The exhibit also explores religious beliefs, and the analysis will show that ancestral Armenians had refined knowledge of crafts, astronomy and geometry, and comparison with architecture of other well-known temples will show its uniqueness.

Care was taken to balance philatelic and non-philatelic material, and they are very limited in numbers. All items of significant philatelic and historical importance are presented in red frames. The narrative is presented in regular type font, while philatelic, deltiological and other supplemental information is presented in italic type font.

Temple of Garni, built in 77 AD, ruined by earthquake in 1679, excavated in 1909-1912, reconstructed between 1969 and 1975.



Photo postcard. 1986. Publisher - Plakat, Moscow. Photograph - V. Polyakov

Plan of the Exhibit

- 1. Biblical Origin of the Armenian People**
- 2. First Armenian States (12 c. BC) & Kingdom of Urartu (9 - 6 c. BC)**
- 3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods (9 - 6 c. BC)**
- 4. Demise of Urartu & Rise of the Orontid Dynasty (6 - 2 c. BC)**
- 5. New Pantheon of Gods (6 - 3 c. BC)**
- 6. Exposure to Hellenistic Influence (3 c. BC)**
- 7. Rome's Advancement in Asia (2 c. BC)**
- 8. The Artaxiad Dynasty (189 BC - 12 AD)**
- 9. Armenia and Rome in circa 14 - 54 AD**
- 10. Tiridates I (52 - 88 AD), 1st King of the Armenian Branch of the Arsacid Dynasty**
- 11. Temple of Garni (77 AD)**
- 12. Conclusion - Christianity Finds its Way Into Armenia**

For easy viewing and following the chain of events, sub-charters are shown at the beginning of each new chapter.

1. Biblical Origin of the Armenian People

1.1 - Noah

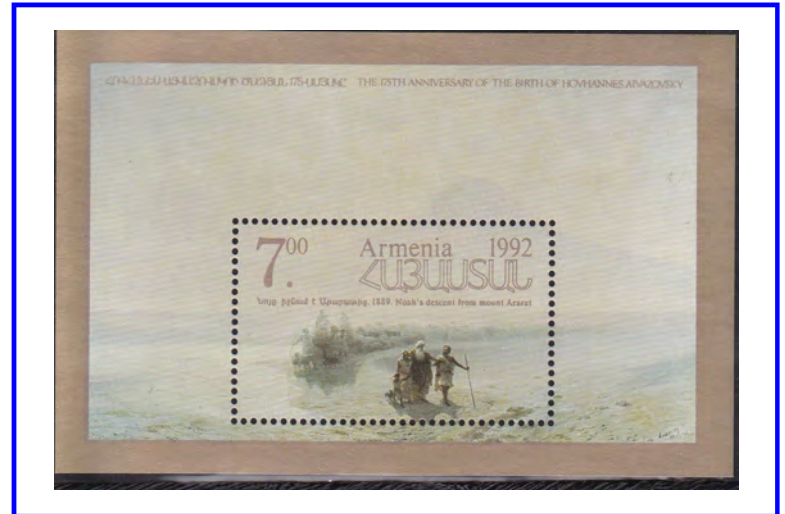
1.2 - Hayk Patriarch

1.1 - Noah

Armenians consider themselves direct descendants of legendary Noah, survivor of the Biblical flood.



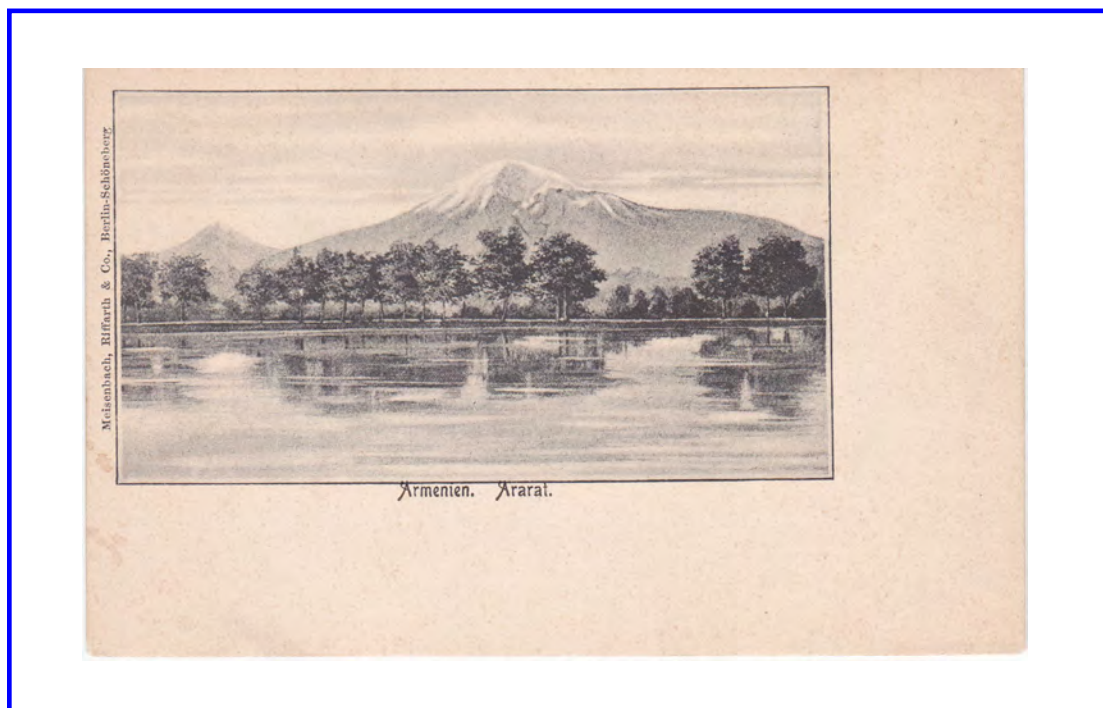
Noah's Ark



Souvenir Sheet - "Noah Descends from Mount Ararat", 1889, Hovhaness Aivazovsky.

According to the Genesis, the ark came to rest on the mountain in the Ararat range. Located in the heart of Armenia, Ararat was considered a Holy Mountain for the people of the ancient world. Mount Ararat (now in Turkey) is a dear symbol of Armenia.

View of Mount Ararat from Armenia.



Undivided back postal card, circa 1900s. Publisher - Meisenbach, Riffarth & Co., Berlin-Schöneberg

1. Biblical Origin of the Armenian People

1.1 - Noah

*December 1921 1st Constantinople issue, 25000 rouble stamp with Mount Ararat (not placed into circulation without surcharge).
Issued both perforated and imperforated.*



Color varieties.



Stamps in circulation surcharged with 50k new value.



Only few copies exist of the original perforated brown stamp (reprints are numerous).



Secret mark that allows to distinguish the original stamp (left) from the reprint (below).



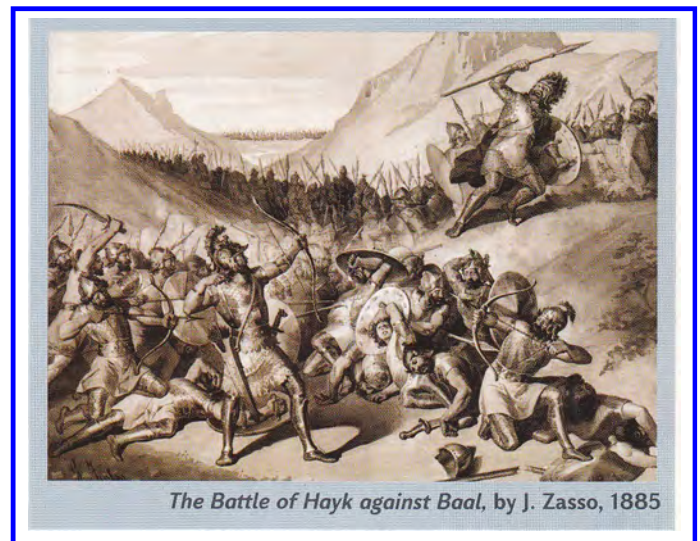
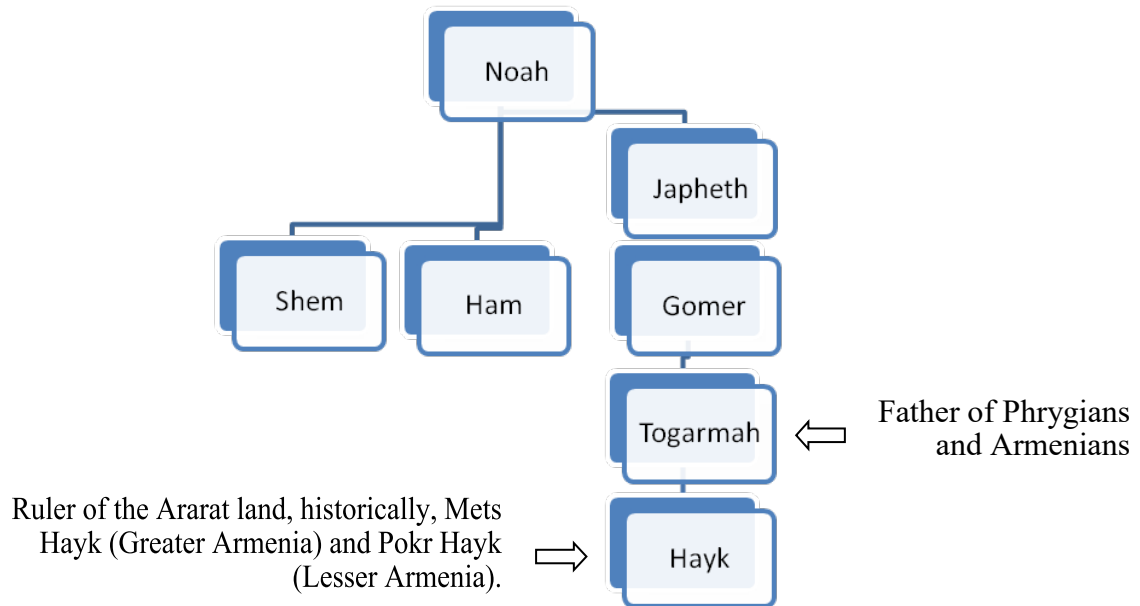
Even Scott Catalog illustrates the reprint of the blue Ararat stamp, and not the original one.



1. Biblical Origin of the Armenian People

1.2 - Hayk Patriarch

The ancestor of Armenian is the giant Hayk anciently believed to be son of Haya, god of wisdom and cosmic waters. In accordance with the Old Testament, Christianity adopted a theory that Hayk is the descendant of Japheth.



Original page from *Illustrated Guide of History of Armenia*, by Artak Movsisyan

Hayk Patriarch. *Undivided back post-card, lithograph. Publisher unknown.*

1. Biblical Origin of the Armenian People

1.2 - Hayk Patriarch



Monument to Hayk Patriarch. Yerevan, Armenia. Sculptor - K. Nouridjanyan. *Prepared by Maximafia Co.*



Progressive color proofs, printed at The House of Questa, in sheets of 10 (2x5). Three sheets of proofs reported.

2. First Armenian States (12 c. BC) & Kingdom of Urartu (9-6 c. BC)

- 2.1 - Hayk and Bell. Moving to Lake Van
- 2.2 - Queen Semiramis
- 2.3 - Boundaries of the states - Mitanni & Urartu
- 2.4 - Argishti I and Erebuni-Yerevan
- 2.5 - Urartian Artifacts

2.1 - Moving up to Lake Van

Area around lake Van played very important role in the history of ancient Armenia and Armenians. Hayk Patriarch moved to Van after uprising to King Bel (Baal, Belu) of Babylon. Hayk's great-grandson of the great-grandson **Aram**, considerably expanded the borders of his country, transforming it into a powerful state. It is believed that the word *Armenia* is derived from his name.



Movses Khorenatsi (Moses of Chorene) in his capital work *The History of Armenia* describes war between son of Aram, **Ara** the Beautiful, and Assyrian Queen Semiramis (Shamiram, Shammuramat).

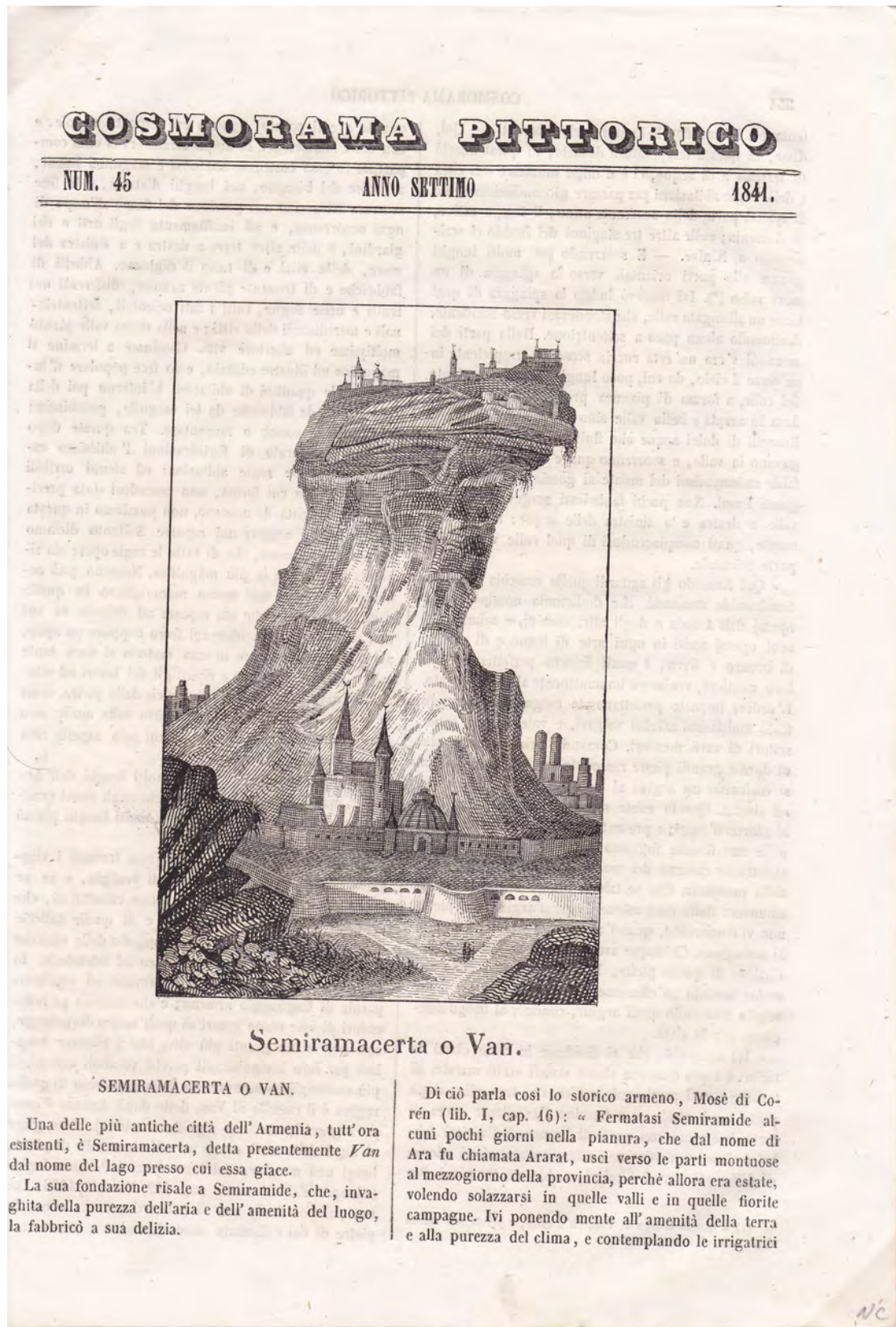
↑ Intra-city registered letter. 220 dram stamp satisfies 25 gr. rate.



Map of the region from the salvage of the stamp above.

Undivided back picture postcard circa 1900s. #1 in series. Printed in Venice, Italy, Publisher unknown, most probably printed on San Lazzaro monastery polyglot press.

After the death of Ara the Beautiful on the battle field distressed Semiramis came to Eastern shores of Lake Van and astonished by the beauty of the country decided to build her summer palace there. And this is semi-legendary history of how city of Van was erected.



2. First Armenian State - Kingdom of Urartu

2.3 - Boundaries of Urartu (Kingdom of Ararat).

Assyrian accounts describe about 60 different tribes and small kingdoms on the Armenian Plateau in the XII century BC. Several alliances (confederations) were made by them. Neighbors would call them Nairi (Land of Rivers), Hayasa-Azzi and Mitanni. In their native language the Armenians called their country Nairi or Hayastan.

Confederation was situated:



Between Tigris...

and Euphrates...

to the North of Taurus Mountains...



to the South of the Van
region in the North-East...



to Egypt in the
South - West...



to Babylon in
the South-East.

2. First Armenian State - Kingdom of Urartu

2.1 - Boundaries of Urartu (Kingdom of Ararat)



By the IX century BC Kingdom of Van (Kingdom of Ararat) united them under autocratic rule for the first time.

The kingdom spread from :

Phrygia (Hittite) in the West

to Lake Sevan in the North



to Assyria in the South

Note: Urartu or Ararat - that is the question. As vowels were omitted in cuneiform writings, it could be read both Ararat and Urartu. Use of the name Urartu in this exhibit was chosen in order not to confuse the spectators.

Urartian King Menuas (825-810 BC) initiated many reforms, including military. Professional troops substituted allied voluntary corps and watch/guard towers were erected in all military important directions.

Arin Berd cigarette pack (back cover) showing Urartian watch/guard tower. Cigarettes were first issued to commemorate the 2750 anniversary of Yerevan.



2. First Armenian State - Kingdom of Urartu

2.4 - Argishti I and Erebuni-Yerevan

King Menua's son, Argishti I (786 - 764 BC) expanded West beyond Euphrates river, North to Cyrus (Kur) river, and South conquering Babylon and reaching the Persian Gulf, thus encompass-



Commemorative bronze medal struck in 1968. Averse - Argishti I wearing helmet. Reverse (left, copy) shows Argishti I in a royal chariot.



Maps of the Persian Gulf region.



To strengthen his North borders, in 782 BC he established the fortress of Erebuni, where he resettled captive warriors from Hatti (western banks of Euphrates) and Cupani (later Sophene or Copk province of Greater Armenia).

Up-rated with the 4k Erebuni stamp on 4k pre-printed on postal stationary, probably to justify use of commemorative cancellation "Yerevan -2750 years". Leningrad postmark is on the back.



Urartian warrior with Mount Ararat in the background on the stamp and cachet of the cover.

2. First Armenian State - Kingdom of Urartu

2.4 - Argishti I and Erebuni-Yerevan

Built on top of a 65 meters high hill, the stronghold called Erebuni - Arin Berd, overlooked the Arax (Araxes) river valley and served as a strategic military center and royal residence (present day city of Yerevan, capital of Armenia).



↑
Envelope and
stamp as issued.

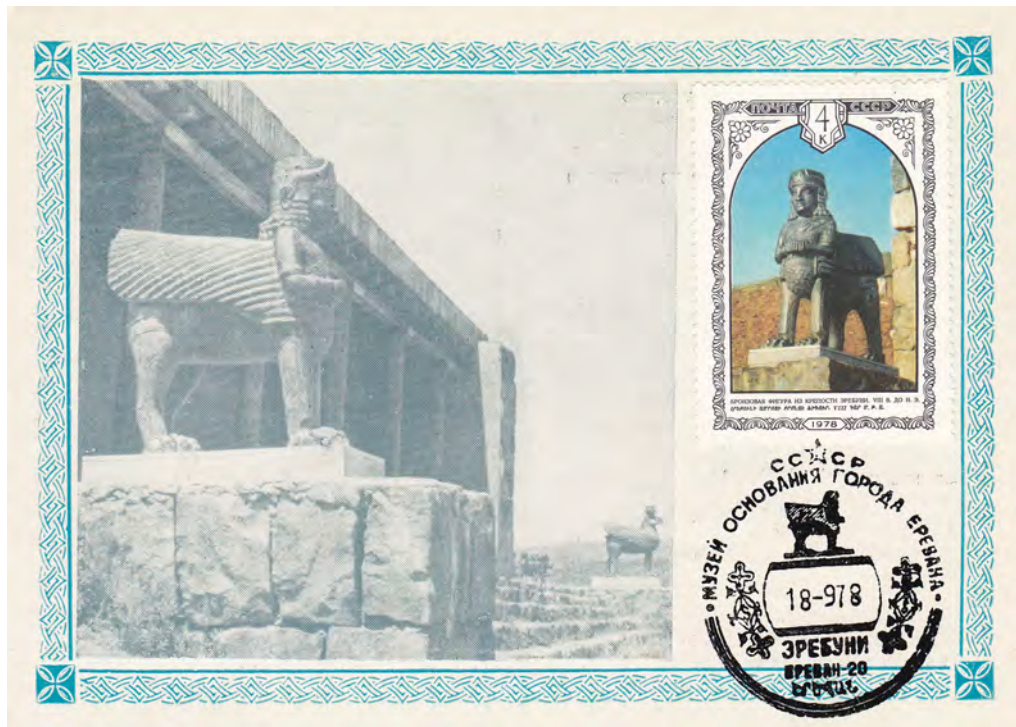
→
Stamp - Omitted
yellow color. On-
ly one reported.

Commemorative cover and postmark devoted to the Day of Yerevan, 2725th anniversary.

Cuneiform inscription on the cover: “By the grace of God Khaldi, Argishti, son of Menua, built this mighty stronghold and proclaimed it Erebuni for the greatness of Biainili (Urartu) and to instill fear among the enemy countries. By the will of Khaldi, Argishti, son of Menua, is a mighty king, king of Biainili land, and ruler of Tushpa city”

2. First Armenian State - Kingdom of Urartu

2.4 - Argishti I and Erebuni-Yerevan



Bronze figure from the stronghold, dated VIII century BC. *Maximum card prepared on postal card issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1978.*

Rusa II, the last great king of the Kingdom of Van/Urartu (680 - 639 BC) built a city named after him Rusahinili (site of large scale excavations at Toprak-Kale). Bronze figure from Toprak-Kale, 7th Century BC. *Original photo, privately prepared as maxicard.*



Souvenir magnet from the Erebuni Museum.



Printer's waste.



2. First Armenian State - Kingdom of Urartu
2.4 - Argishti I and Erebuni-Yerevan

2750th anniversary of Erebuni-Yerevan was celebrated in 1968. The Erebuni archaeological museum opened that year has been housing exhibits unearthed at the Erebuni and Teyshabaini (Karmir Bur) sites.



Pages from the advertising brochure of the Erebuni Museum. Uncut originals are behind this page.

Երևան. Մուզեյ օճովանիա Երևանա „Էրեբունի“.
Երևանի Երևանի հիմնադրման «Էրեբունի» թանգարանը:
Փոթո Բ. Կրուցո



Erebuni archeological museum building.
Postal card issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1978.

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods (9-6 c. BC)

3.1 - Haldi, the Supreme God

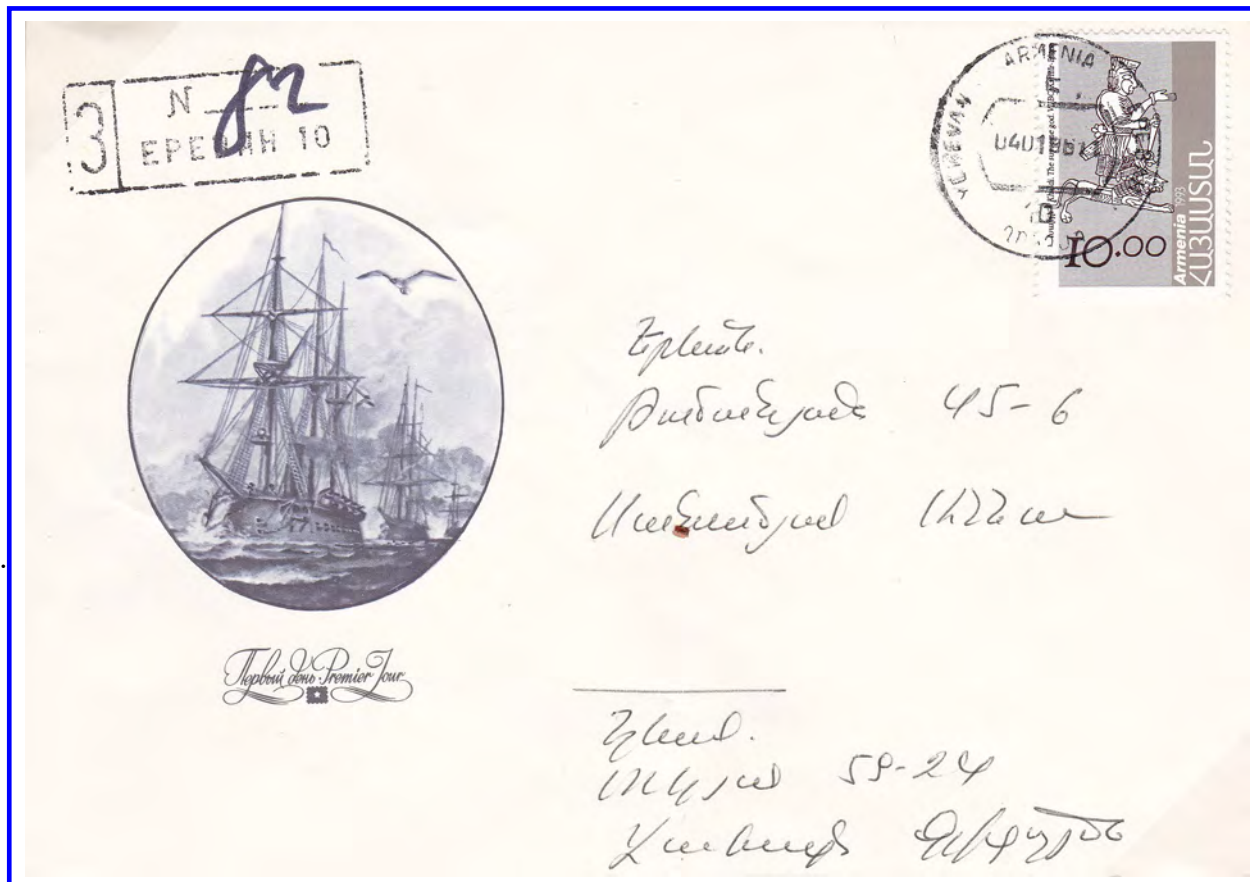
3.2 - Other Deities of the Ancient Pantheon

3.3 - Craft and Science

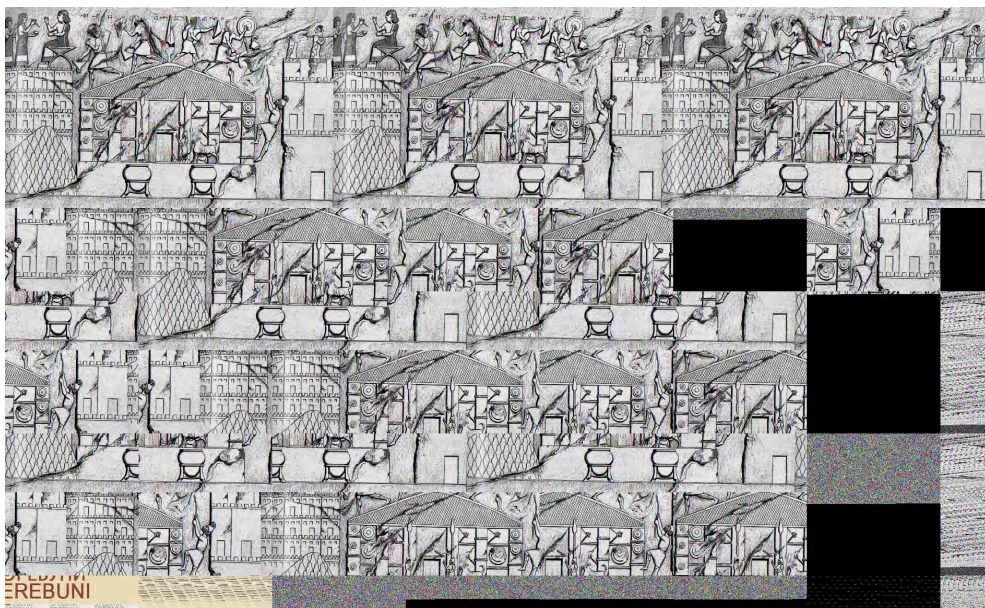
3.1 - God Haldi, the Supreme God



Haldi.
The Supreme God.



Yerevan intra-city local registered letter mailed on January 04 and delivered on January 10, 1996. The delay may well be accountable for Armenian Christmas Holliday.



Assyrian King Sargon II loots the Temple of Haldi at Musasir. The bas-relief was copied onto a drawing by an orientalist, archeologist and painter Eugene Flandin from its original location.



Urartian cauldron on tripod from Altyn-Tepe

“Long before Athenians, the kings of Urartu developed the classical architectural complex of the acropolis, as an entity uniting the nerve centers of the official cult, of military power and of civic activity.” Prof. David M. Lang, England

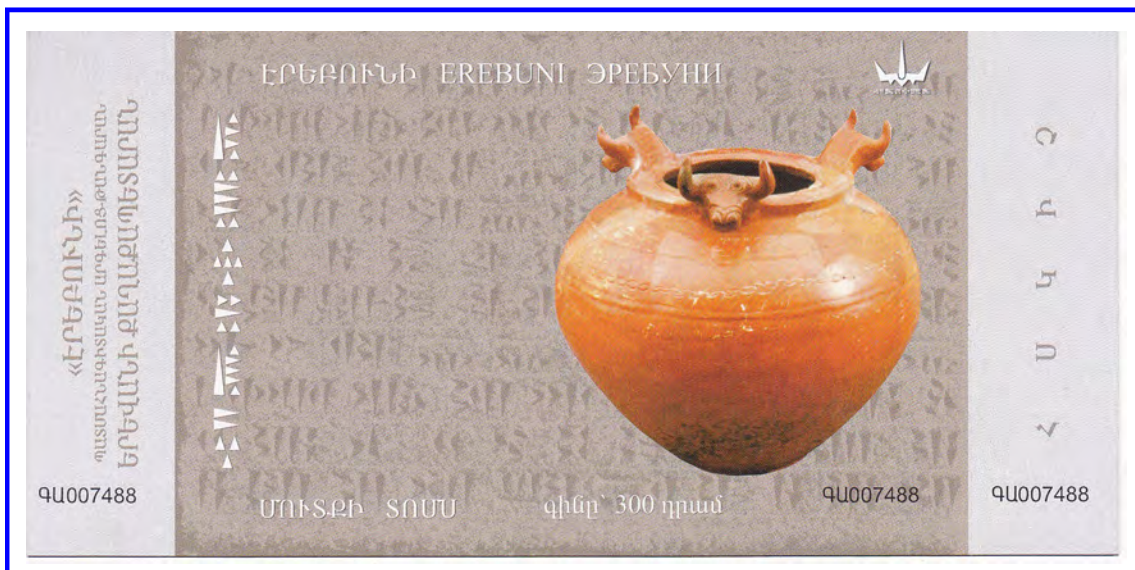
3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods 3.1 - Haldi, the Supreme God

Entry ticket to Erebuni Museum. Cauldron, ceramics.

The ancient city of Musasir was located in the vicinity of Lake Van.



City of Van



Airmail registered letter mailed from Istanbul, Turkey to Glendale, California, USA. 5 additional stamps of 60 k each on the back of the envelope are cancelled with a signature in the USA.



3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.2 - Other Deities of the Ancient Urartian/Armenian Pantheon.

The stamp was overprinted in 1995 with new values to allow for change to national currency, dram.



Shivini.
God of Sun

Additional postage was required to make up for 250 drams (international rate, so a 10 rouble stamp was used, although dram was already official Armenian currency at the time of mailing.



Taysheba.
God of
Elements.

Registered letter
sent intra-city
Yerevan, Arme-
nia. Local post-
al rate for regis-
tered letter- 2
roubles.



3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.1 - Other Deities of the Pantheon

Registered airmail letter mailed in 1994 from Yerevan to Moscow. Pre-stamped envelope was issued in 1990 by the USSR Department of Communications; two Armenian stamps with 1 ruble face value each were used to make up for then-current postal rate to the CIS countries.



Waroubini.
Goddess of
Craft and
Science.

Waroubini was
patron of Arme-
nian traditional
handicrafts.



3.3 - Crafts and Science

Silverwork

Silver objects, as well as semi-precious stone jewelry were made in Armenia in VI-V centuries BC. Main centers were located all over the Armenian Highlands (modern Armenia, modern Artsakh, modern day Turkey) - Van, Erznka, Dvin, Ani, Shushi, etc.



Cornelian beads from
a dig in Artsakh
(Mountainous Kara-
bakh), circa VIII - VI
century BC.



Entry ticket to Erebuni Museum. Rhyton with horse promote, silver.



Silver goblet, III millennium
BC. Karashamb, Armenia.

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.3 - Craft and Science

Progressive color proofs.



Wood work



Reading desk, circa 1272, Ani.



Stone masonry

Four-wheel stone carriages.
IV century BC. Lchashen.



Tombstone. VII--VI
century BC. Loriberd.



Pottery and ceramics

Piece of clay pottery from a dig in Artsakh. Late Bronze Age, circa 1250 BC.



Stamp as issued.



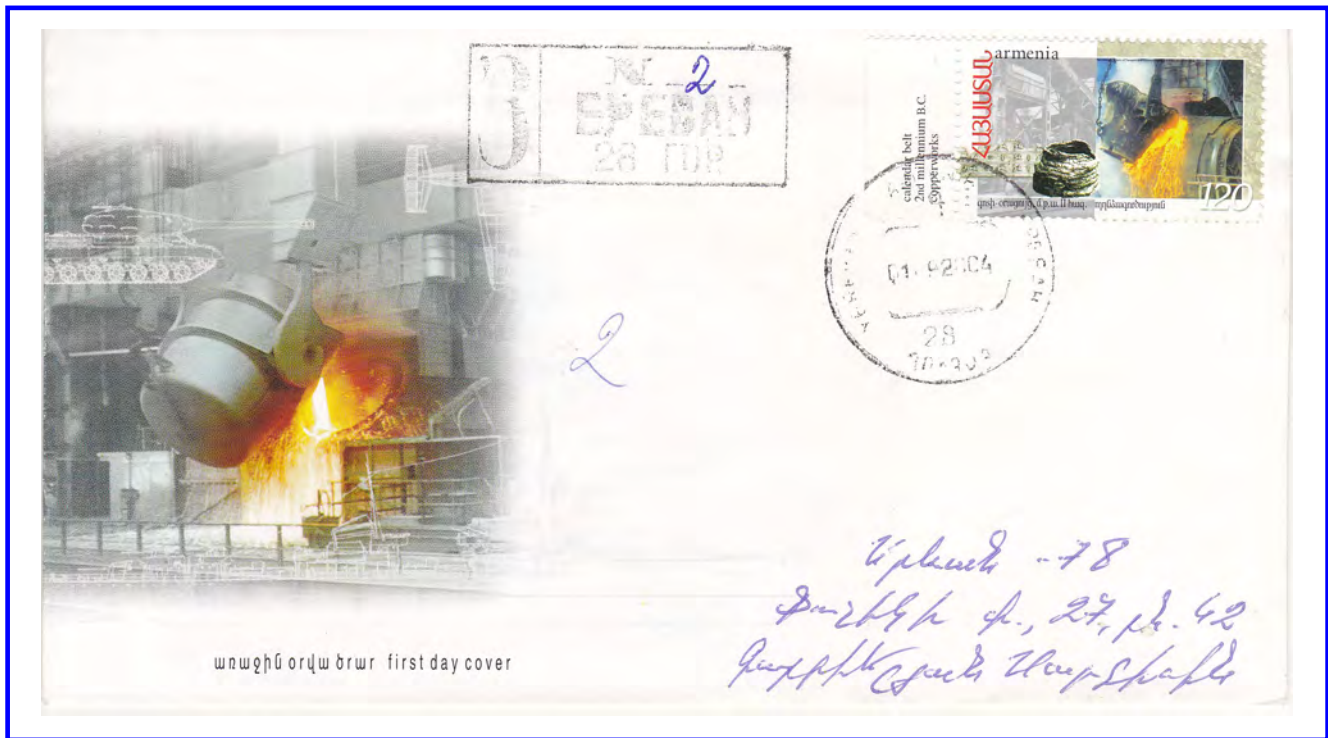
Black polished pottery. XIV - XII millennium BC.
Lchashen (Lake Sevan region). *Progressive color proofs*

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.3 - Craft and Science

Copper & Metal Works

In the 6th and 5th centuries BC Armenia became the cradle of copper and metal works.



Yerevan intra-city registered letter mailed in 2004, rate - 120 drams.

Metsamor has revealed foundries with 2 kinds of blast furnaces (brick and in-ground) that were processing metal as far back as 5,000 BC. The site contains the oldest large-scale metallurgical factory in the world; the complex of smelting furnaces and moulds date from the Mid Bronze to Early Iron Age (3,000-2,000 BC).



Reduced copy of the Metsamor brochure front page. Publisher - Vneshtorgizdat in 1991 (original is behind this exhibit page).

Picture of one of the 200 furnaces that produced an assortment of vases, knives, spear-heads, rings, bracelets, etc. (from Internet)



Rene Noorbergen in *Secrets of the Lost Races* states that Metsamor craftsmen wore mouth-filters and gloves while they laboured and fashioned their wares of copper, lead, zinc, iron, gold, tin, manganese and fourteen kinds of bronze. Steel tweezers were found to be made of exceptional high grade.

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.3 - Craft and Science

In 2012 the oldest leather shoe and matting dated approximately early 4th Millennium BC were found in the Areni-1 cave.



Beer and Wine Making

Greek historian Xenophon testifies that beer brewing in Armenia developed at the same time.



Letter mailed in 2008 from Yerevan, overpaid by twice the rate..

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.3 - Craft and Science



Recently unearthed wine making equipment dated early 4th century BC testifies that the Armenians were also wine makers.

Stamp was issued with a coupon attached.



First Day Cover depicting grapes and wine-making tools.

Some of the Armenian grape varieties that come from old times.



Voskehat



Khndoghni



Areni Black

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.3 - Craft and Science

Carpet weaving was widely spread in Armenia.



Carpet Gohar.



The *Dragoncarpet* is one of the oldest types of the Armenian carpet designs.

Stamp as issued and progressive color proofs.



Armenian girls weaving a large carpet.

Karabakh carpets had unique designs. ➡



Postal stationery mailed from Smyrna (Chadirvan-Alti post office branch) in 1914. Divided back postcard, circa 1910. Photo lithograph, Publisher unknown.



Carpet *Kasim Usak*



Carpet *Chelaberd*

3. Urartian Pantheon of Gods

3.3 - Craft and Science

The Armenians were also well-familiar with science, especially astronomy and mathematics.

So called Zorats Karer, or Mighty Stones, were found in the Southern part of Armenia near city of Sisian. On a high plateau sits Karahunge, or the Armenian Stonehenge.



Karahunge and Cygnus constellation. *Postcard prepared by Cardmaximum Co. in 2009*

Publisher of the Legendary Times magazine Giorgio A. Tsoukalos defines the structure as some kind of an astronomical model. Nicolas Howarth, a geographer from the Oxford University, claims that small holes made in the stones makes this site unique, and points to different positions in the night sky, which makes this oldest known observatory.

Estimated to be approximately 7500 years old, the Karahunge predates Stonehenge by 4500 years.

It is believed that the holes in the stones have pointed at the Cygnus (Swan) constellation.



Stonehenge, England.



A model of Geocentric Solar System. Lake Sevan, XI-X BC.



Cygnus constellation.

In 2004 Republic of Armenia Government adopted Act #29 which named the site “Karahunge - Observatory”.

4. - Demise of Urartu & Rise of the Orontid Dynasty (6-2 c. BC)

4.1 - Demise of Urartu

4.2 - Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.3 - Armenia - Persia Relations

4.1 - Demise of Urartu

Between 715-714 BC the Cimmerians have made several destructive incursions into the heartland of Ararat. Continuous pressure from the Scythians would have driven them tight into Urartu, and the King Rusa II (680-639 BC) used skilled diplomacy to make a pact with the Cimmerians against Assyria.

Cimmerian on a horseback.

Registered letter mailed from Tiraspol on 05/15/12. Letter "Д" equals 6.10 PMR rubles (\$0.44).

Map from the Illustrated Guide of History of Armenia by Artak Movsisyan



2. Тирасполь
Главпочтамт
востребования
ялн Артуру Борисову

He channeled their march into Cappadocia where they settled (in Armenian Cappadocia is still called by the name given to the Cimmerians, Gamirk), and later directed their armies towards his arch foe - Assyria.



Assyrian winged horse.

4. Demise of Urartu and Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.1 - Demise of Urartu

Another nomadic tribe, the Scythians, was destined to play key factor in ruining two of the most powerful empires of the time - Assyria and Urartu. The Median king Cyaxares made an alliance with Babylon and Urartu, had the Scythians join their forces, and in 605 BC put an end to the Assyrian Empire.



Scythian. Registered letter mailed from Tiraspol on 09/25/14. Letter "A" stamp covers inter-city postage rate, while letter «K» stamp covers surcharge for registration., total of 5.15 PMR rubles (\$0.37).



Archers on horseback



Warrior Commander



Swordsman in battle



Female Warrior

Being fearful of the Scythians, king Cyaxares in a dramatic intrigue invited Scythian lords to a feast where they were all slain.

4. Demise of Urartu and Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.1 - Demise of Urartu

The Scythians withdrew from Media and on their way to Europe razed Urartian city of Teishebaini (near Yerevan, Armenia) to the ground stealing all of her riches, thus sealing the fate of Urartu. In their turn, the Medes overran Tushpa and burned Rusahihinili to the ground. Most of the Urartian lands were made part of the Median empire.



Medean priests

4.2 - Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

At the same time one wing of the House of Hayk which became known as the Orontids (the Eruandunis) seized the power and became the rulers of Urartu.

Orontas I (Yervand I) declared Armavir as capital of his kingdom. He fought the Medes, but suffered a defeat and had to pay tribute.



Map of the region from stamp salvage.

Armavir, 2nd capital of Armenia.



Registered letter, mailed from Yerevan Armenia on 02/24/14 to Stepanakert, Artsakh.
160 dram stamp satisfied local registered mail.

4. Demise of Urartu and Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.3 - Armenia - Persia Relations

Yervand I's son, Tigranes (Tigran I) who succeeded him, had close ties with the Persian King, Cyrus the Great having been his hunting companion.

To avoid military confrontation with Median Empire Tigranes I wed his sister Tigranuhi with his Median sovereign Astyages (Azhdahak), but as Astyages was using Tigranuhi in various political intrigues, Tigranes I allied himself with Cyrus.



Cyrus the Great

To topple Median domination Cyrus rebelled. The war ended when Astyages was killed by Tigranes in a single combat. Cyrus established the Achaemenid Empire with the help of his chief ally - Tigranes I Orontid.



Achaemenid warriors - officers, spear bearers, and archers.



Lydia, Babylon and Egypt formed a powerful alliance against the newly established Achaemenid Empire. In order to reach Lydia, Cyrus the Great had to cross Armenia. It was erroneously assumed that he conquered Armenia, while, in fact, he was marching through territory of an ally.

In 546 BC Cyrus the Great was able to defeat Lydia and in 538 BC conquered Babylon.



Lydian Treasure



Gates of Ishtar, Babylon.



Persian Prince

The achievements of Cyrus the Great throughout antiquity are reflected in the way he is remembered today. The Iranians regard him as "The Father", the very title that had been used during the time of Cyrus himself, by many nations that he conquered.

4. Demise of Urartu and Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.3 - Armenia - Persia Relations



During his times, handicrafts were at their pick.



According to Xenophon, "What other man but 'Cyrus', after having overturned an empire, ever died with the title of **'The Father'** from the people whom he had brought under his power? For it is plain fact that this is a name for one that bestows, rather than for one that takes away!"



Tomb of Cyrus the Great



After the death of Cyrus the Great, Armenia fell to ambitions of his followers, turning from an ally to a valuable prize. Revolted but defeated in 521 BC, the Armenians had to pay tribute to Darius the Great. Stairways and walls of Persepolis are covered with detailed carvings of gift bearers from many nations.



The Armenian gift bearers are three and their gifts consisted of a horse and an elegant vase with griffin handles. A Persian nobleman at their front is holding the Armenian's hand guiding the delegate towards the King.

*Offset picture postcard.
Editor - Teheran Cart,
printed in Milan, Italy.*

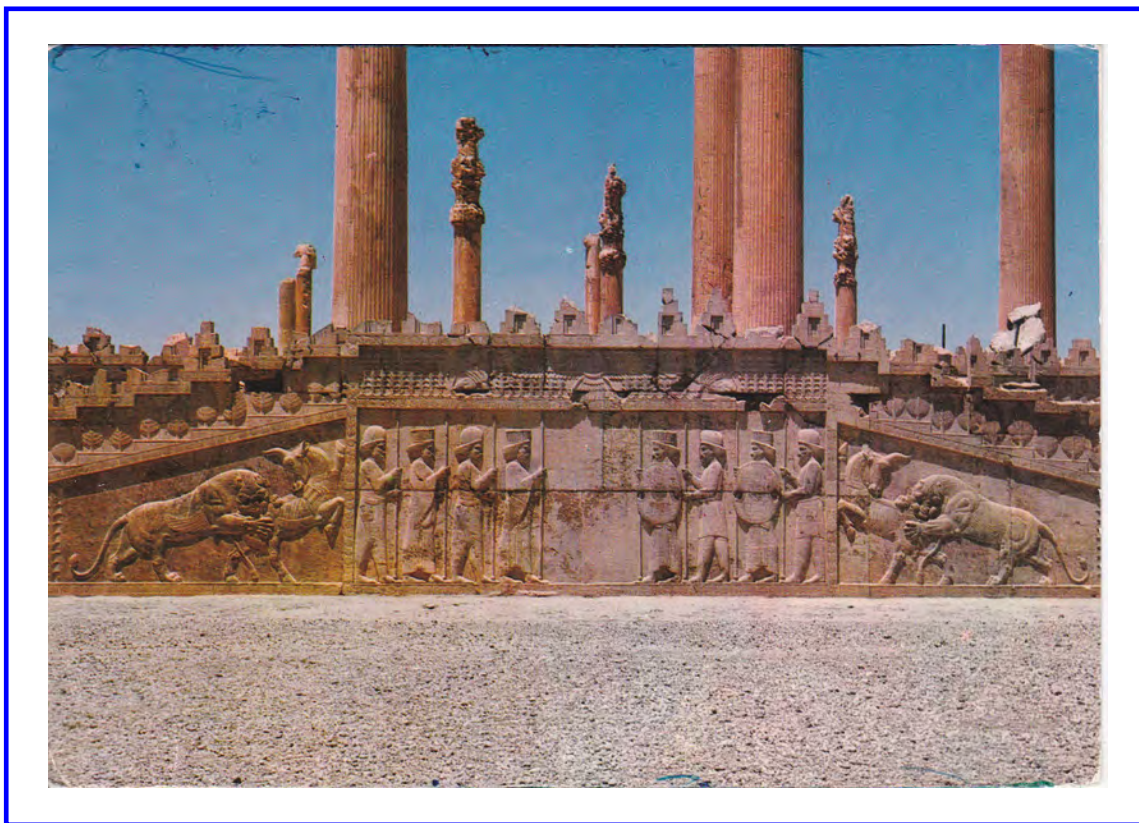
4. Demise of Urartu and Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.3 - Armenia - Persia Relations

It was during the reign of Darius the Great ...



...that Persepolis was built (518–516 BC). The city would serve as capital for several generations of Achaemenid kings.



Offset picture postcard. Editor - Teheran Cart, printed in Milan, Italy.

At the same time in Babylon ...

...an Armenian named Arakha, son of Haldite, claiming to be Nebuchadnezzar, son of Nabonid, led yet another revolt of Babylonians against Achaemenids. His reign was short-lived, and in 520 BC the revolt was suppressed.



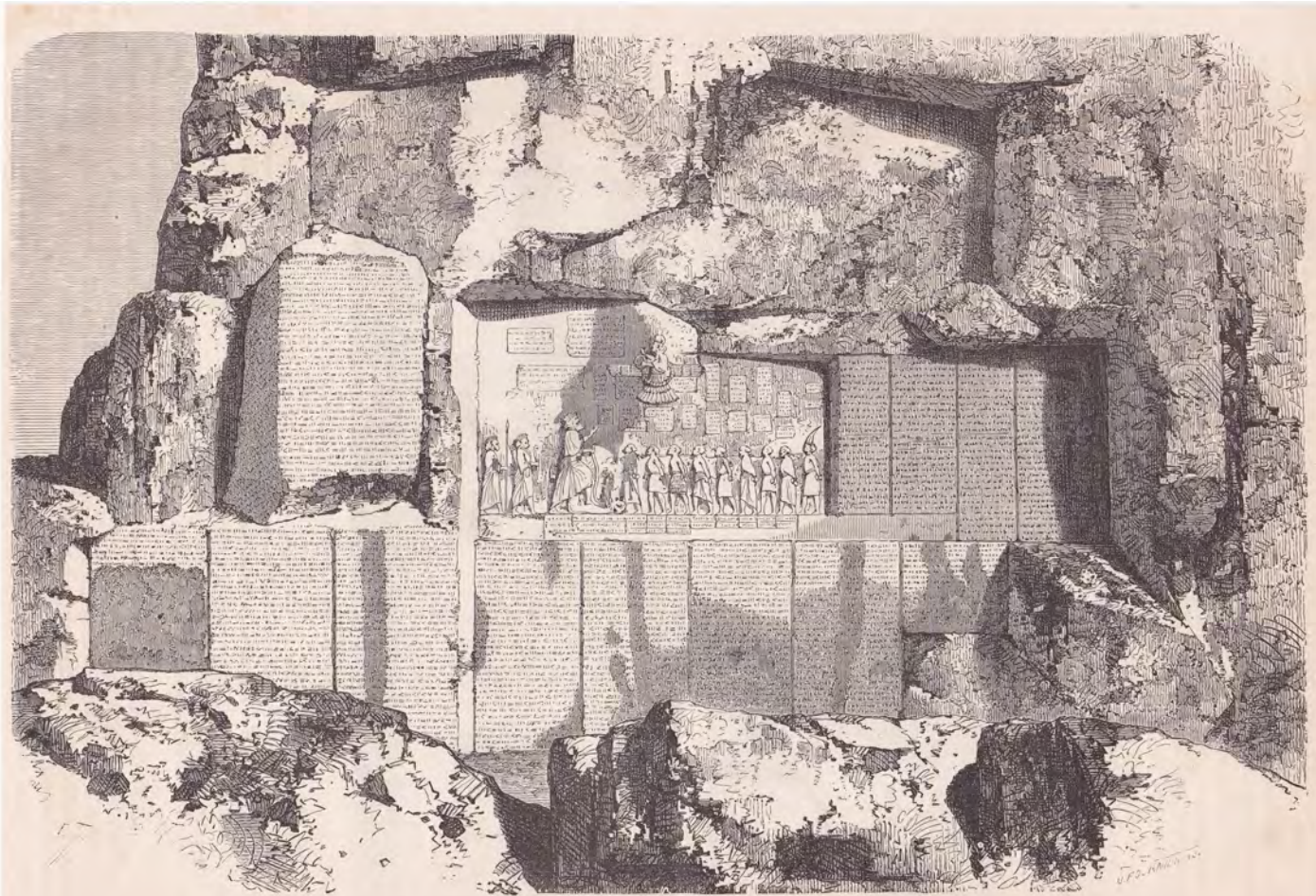
Details from Ishtar Gate, Babylon.



4. Demise of Urartu and Rise of the Orontid Dynasty

4.3 - Armenia - Persia Relations

The Behistun inscription gives us valuable information: not only it testifies that there was significant Armenian population in Babylon at that time, but Darius also calls Arakha a Haldite, i.e. son of Haldi, the supreme deity in the ancient Kingdom of Van - Urartu, which he was just able to conquer, and which he called Armina (Armenia) in the said Behistun inscription.



Rocher de Bisoutoun. — Dessin de Théron d'après le dessin original du colonel Rawlinson.

Behistun inscription. Photogravure. Original page from *Le Tour Du Monde* magazine, circa 1860-1880.

5. - New Pantheon of Gods (6-3 c. BC)

5.1 - Aramazd and Anahit

5.2 - Vahagn

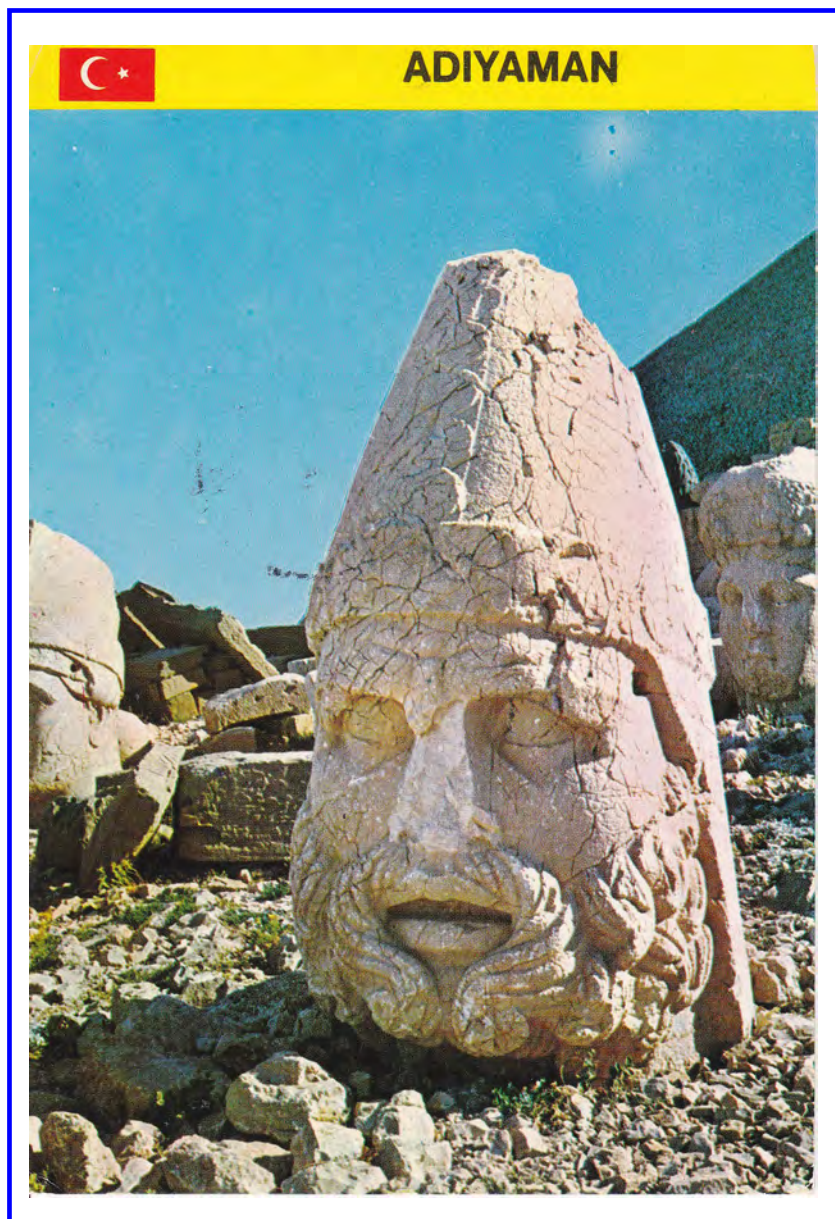
5.3 - Astghik and Naneh

5.4 - Mihr

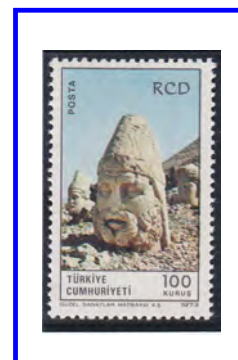
5.1 - Aramazd and Anahit

With the demise of Urartian power succession and rise of the Orontid (Yervanduni) wing, religion underwent transformation and adopted to the new reality. New all-Armenian pantheon of Gods has emerged. Aramazd and Anahit, the supreme couple, were the parents of the sacred family - daughters Astghik and Naneh, sons Vahagn and Mihr.

Aramazd, Creator of Heaven and Earth, God of Thunder and Fundamental Elements, Father of All Gods.



Joint issue of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan within the frames of Regional Cooperation for Development (1964 - 1979).

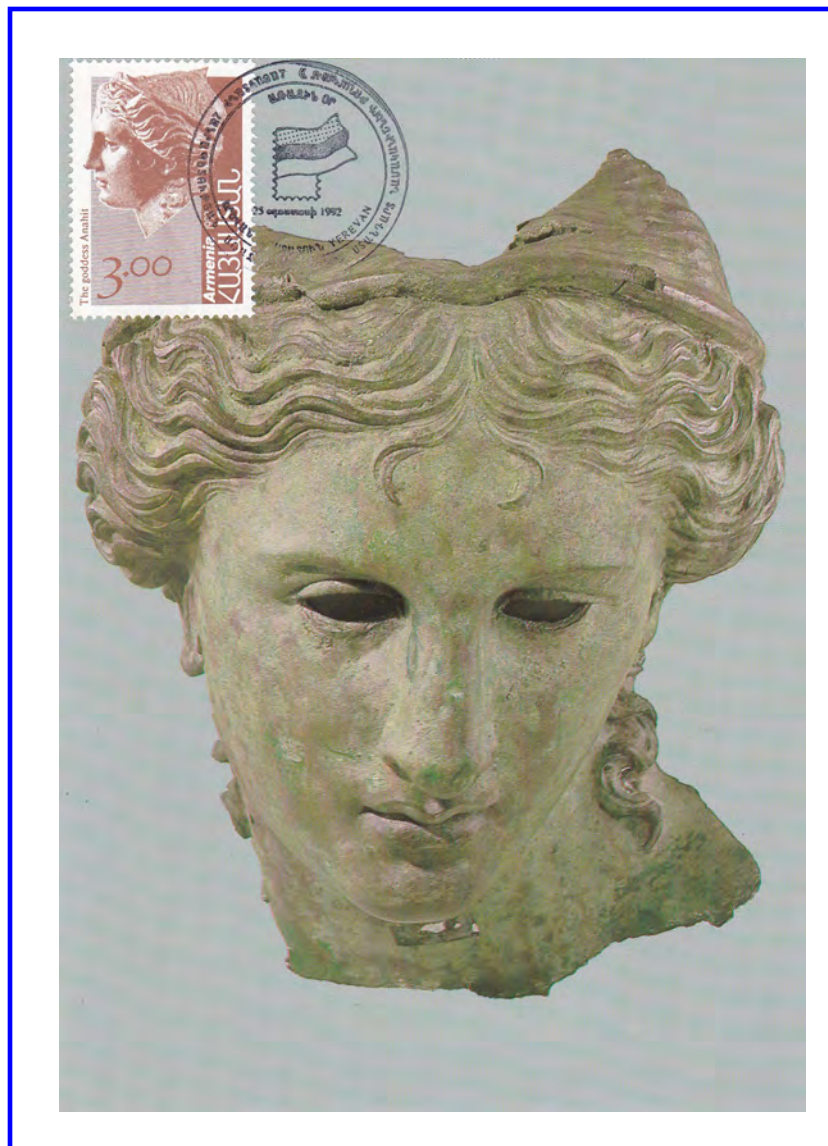


Offset picture postcard mailed in 1978. Publisher - Antiochos Tursistik Tesisleri, Adiyaman, Turkey.

5. New Pantheon of Gods

5.1 - Aramazd and Anahit

Anahit, Goddess of maternity, fertility and beauty.



Privately prepared maxicard on picture postcard printed by the Trustees of the British Museum in 1986 in London. One of a kind.

5.3 - Vahagn, God of Storms, of War, Bravery and Victory



Among Armenians, Hercules constellation was known as Vahagn.

He enjoys the title Vishabakagh, "Dragon Reaper".



5. New Pantheon of Gods

5.2 - Vahagn

Progressive color proofs.



In an ancient Armenian poem *The Song of Vahagn* the idea of perpendicular three-part construction of the world - sky, earth and sea, lies in the description of the birth of Vahagn.

In travail were heaven



and earth



In travail, too, the purple sea!



The travail held in the sea the small red reed



*Through the hollow of the stalk came forth smoke,
Through the hollow of the stalk came forth flame,
And out of the flame a youth ran!*

5. New Pantheon of Gods

5.3 - Astghik and Naneh

Astghik, Goddess of beauty, water, love, devotion and virtue.

It is said that when she walked on earth, roses would appear under her feet. During Vardavar (festival devoted to Astghik: “vart” is rose and “var” means grow) people used to drench her statue and each other with water and offer Astghik roses. By another historical tradition she was the daughter of Noah and stepping forward as a dove of peace smoothed over the quarrel between brothers Shem, Ham and Japheth.



Dove of Peace



Waterfall in Garni.



Roses



Astghik symbolizes the most beautiful star Venus.

5. New Pantheon of Gods
5.3 - Astghik and Naneh

Naneh, Goddess of maternity, personifies ideal wife and mother, keeper of home



Fragment of a khachkar (cross stone). Sodk, XVI century.
Maximum card prepared by Maximaphilia Co. circa 2005.



Maternity by Zhansem, 1978. *First day cover* printed by Namakanish
CJSC, issuer of Armenia's postal stamps, postcards and FDCs.

5. New Pantheon of Gods

5.6 - Mihr

God of Light, Sun and Justice

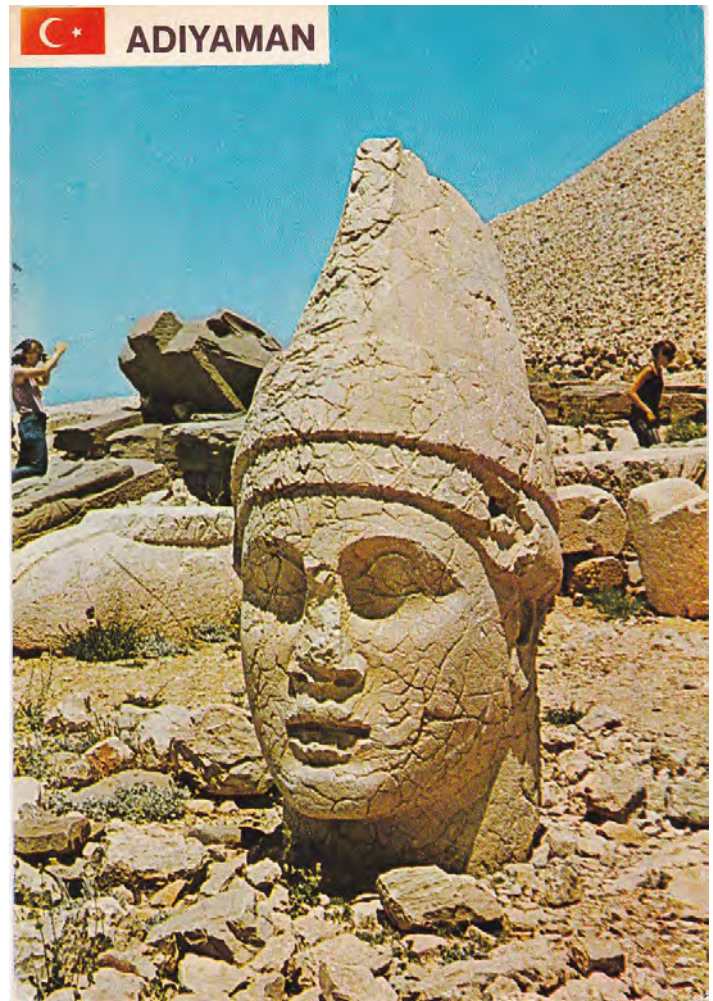
Sun God (Mithra, Mihr) regularly appeared on stamps of Iran.



Perforated & imperforated varieties



Stamps issued in November 1949 by Soviet Union for the puppet communist government in Azerbaijan province of Iran (high values)..



Statue of Mihr at Mount Nemrut. Advertizing postcard airmailed in 1973. Photo - Fadil Binzet, Offset printing.



1881 Mithra issue



1910 unissued Saatdjian issue, Postal Packet Stamps for Coronation (high values)



6. - Exposure to Hellenistic Influence (3 c. BC)

6.1 - Alexander the Great

6.2 - Last Orontid King

6.3 - Greek Influence on the Pantheon of Gods

6.1 - Alexander the Great



As stated in the Behistun inscription, Armenia became the 11th Satrapy (province) paying tribute to its sovereign, Last Achaemenid kings were little interested in the Armenia's inner state of affairs.

Armenia's commerce and agriculture prospered. Invasion of Greek troops under Alexander the Great put an end to this period of relative welfare.

The battle of Issus (333 BC) was a decisive Macedonian victory.

Alexander the Great & his horse Bucephalus.

Maximum card prepared on a postcard (1st day of issue cancel). Card editor - Vincenzo Carcavallo, Napoli, Italy. Circa 1930s.



Darius III was defeated in the battle of Gaugamela (Arbela) in 331 BC (as was his ally and satrap King of Armenia **Orontes/ Yervandes II**). After death of the former, Macedonian influence spread on all conquered lands.



Mosaic from the National Museum of Naples - Battle of Issus between Alexander the Great and King Darius III. *Imperforated variety.*

6. Exposure to Hellenistic Influence

6.2 - Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great died in 324 BC in Babylon.



After his death three of his commanders divided the Empire among themselves. Antigones took Macedonia, Ptolemius - Egypt, and Seleucus took Persia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Asia Minor.

Alexander the Great appointed Yervandes II's son Mithrines (Mihran) as the Viceroy of Armenia (apparently Armenia Minor). Yervandes II who survived the battle of Gaugamela declared independence in Armenia Major. In the times of first Seleucids Armenia remained independent in spite of many attempts by the Seleucid kings to conquer her.

6.2 - Last Orontid King

Ervand-Orontes IV (212-200 BC) was destined to become the last Orontid king of Armenia. As the river Araxes changed her flow, he moved his capital to a site near the confluence of the river Akhurian (Arpa Cay) and Araxes, naming it Ervandashat, It was a strongly fortified city with high walls, where the rivers constituted natural moats.



Map of the region from the salvage of the stamp.



Ervandashat. 3rd capital of Armenia. First Day Cover mailed registered 02-24-14 to Artsakh with correct postage.

6. Exposure to Hellenistic Influence

6.2 - Last Orontid King

At the time of the Orontids, four Armenian kingdoms existed: **Greater Armenia (1)** under Orontes (Yervandian) dynasty; **Lesser Armenia (2)**; **Sophene (3)** and **Commagene (4)**. In 222 BC power-hungry Antiochus III ascended to the throne of the Seleucid Empire. The first to fall to his ambitions were Sophene and Commagene.



Map of Armenian Kingdoms. Reprinted from Internet.

Antiochus III instigated successful revolt against Yeruanes IV by two princes of his own royal house, Zareh (Zariadres) and Artashes (Artaxias). Two tribute-paying provinces appeared in Armenia: Greater Armenia to the East of Euphrates all the way to the Caspian Sea under Artashes and the province of Sophene under Zareh.

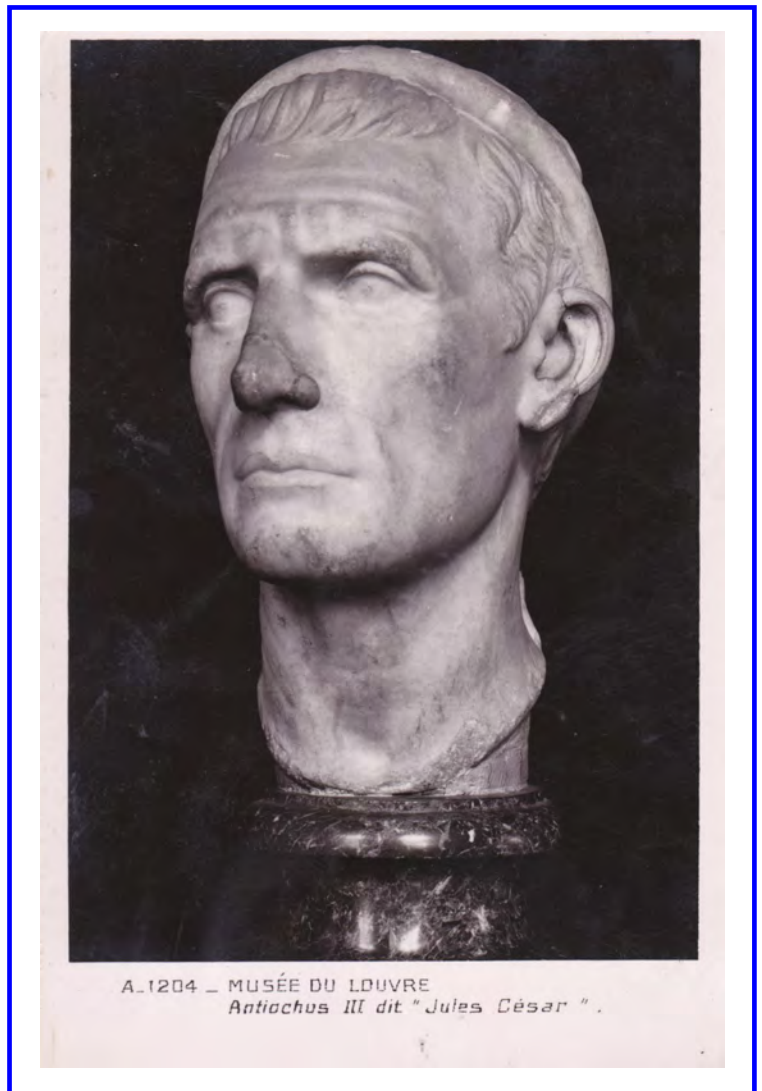


Commagene is now Adiyaman Province in modern day Turkey.



Sophene (Dzopk) is now Elazığ Province in modern day Turkey.

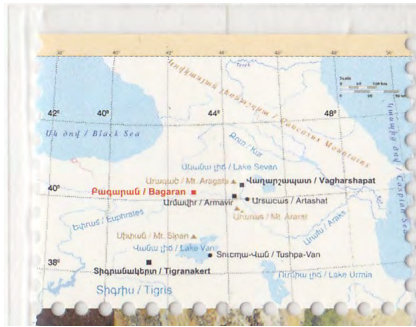
Antiochus III. Real photo postcard, written on the back and probably mailed in an envelope. Edition of National Museums, France.



6. Exposure to Hellenistic Influence

6.2 - Last Orontid King

A new religious center, Bagaran, was established nearby, to which all the idols were transferred by King's brother, Ervaz-Mithras, who was the high priest of the temples of the Sun and the Moon at Armavir.



Map of the region from the salvage of the stamp.



Bagaran later became the 8th capital of Armenia.

6.3 - Greek Influence on Pantheon of Gods

Starting with conquests of Alexander the Great (and his successor Seleucid Empire) Armenia and Persia entered the Hellenistic orbit and began identifying their gods with the Greek Pantheon. This characteristic syncretism appeared in both countries.



Aramazd (Persian: Ahura-Mazda) became identified with Zeus.

Aramazd. Advertising picture postcard, circa 1970s, printed by AND Offset Matbaacilik (AND Offset Typography Co.)



Zeus. Imperforated variety

6. Exposure to Hellenistic Influence

6.3 - Greek Influence on the Pantheon of Gods

The best example of such an influence is preserved at Mount Nimrut. King Antiochus of the Kingdom of Commagene in his quest to immortality, built an enormous site with colossal statues. These statues had Greek features, but were wearing Armenian/Persian attire.

Mihr (Mithra) became identified with Hephaestus, (Persian: Mithra with Apollo).



Mihr



Hephaestus



Apollo



Offset picture postcard, produced by TICA Photo Kartpostallari, Turkey, printed by Ticaret Matbaacilik T.A.Ş. - Izmir; circa 1970s.

Photo postcard mailed from Izmir in 1953. Publisher unknown.



6. Exposure to Hellenistic Influence

6.3 - Greek Influence on the Pantheon of Gods

Anahit became identified with Aphrodite, Greek Goddess of love, beauty and fertility.



Above: original interior part of the booklet.

Philatelic souvenir for the Armenia-Greece 2007 joint issue. Designed by Ed. Kutghinyan for HayPost.

Right: reduced scan of the exterior of the booklet.



7. - Rome's Advancement in Asia (2 c. BC)

7.1 - Roman Military Force

7.2 - Hannibal Finds Refuge in Armenia

In accordance with the nature of conquerors, Antiochus III did not stop after conquering all of Asia, from the Mediterranean to the Indus. He crossed into Europe and occupied Macedonia. Rome, which has just won the battle over Carthage, looked on the growing power of Antiochus III with concern, and intervened with all might of its armies.

7.1 - Roman Military Force

The Army



Roman Warriors
in Battle



Romanian postal stationery, EDIPOST Code 071/99.

The Navy

Early Roman Sailing Ship



Roman Anchorage



Battle Ship - Trireme



Roman Galley



7. Roman Advancement in Asia

7.2 - Hannibal Finds Refuge in Armenia

When Antiochus III conquered Asia Minor, the Romans could no longer sit and watch the entrance to their empire falling into the hands of a rival. They met at Thermopylae where Antiochus III was decisively defeated.



Thermopylae, general view.

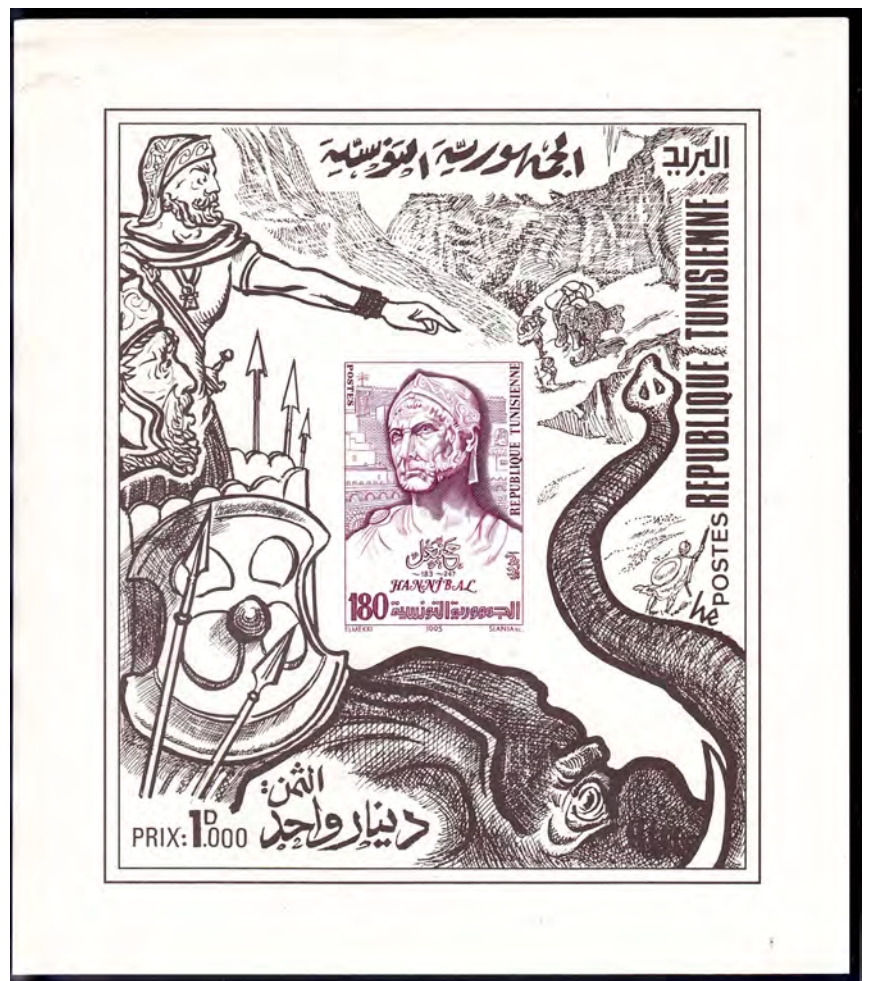
Divided back picture postcard, circa 1910. Engl. Photo Co., B.P. Prop., Athens.

The Battle of Magnesia (190 BC) put an end to Antiochus III military expansion. The Peace of Apamea (188 BC) divested him of all his possessions in Anatolia forever, leaving him within the borders of Syria.

Fleeing from the Romans after the defeat at Zama and having joined Antiochus III at the times of the battles, Greek commander Hannibal fled again, sought and received hospitality at the Armenian court.

Hannibal

Imperforated souvenir sheet from Tunisia (1995), a masterpiece by engraver Czesław Ślania.



8. - The Artaxiad Dynasty (189 BC—12 AD)

8.1 - Artashes, Founder of the Dynasty

8.2 - Caravan Route Between East and West

8.3 - Tigran II and the Great Armenia

8.4 - Artavazd II (55 - 34 BC)

8.1 - Artashes, Founder of the Dynasty

Following Antiochus III defeat, Artashes immediately seized the Armenian throne and declared himself King of the Greater Armenia (188-159 BC). Hannibal who found refuge at his court, repaid the king by suggesting a site which was singularly well situated and beautiful, but was lying unattended. When he had taken initial measurements for a future city, he called Artaxias, showed him this site and convinced him to build there... A large and very beautiful city grew up, to which the king gave his name and declared it the capital of Armenia” (Plutarch).



Map of the region on stamp salvage.



Artashes II the Great. *Divided back postcard.*
Printed in Italy, publisher T.A.V.

“Statues of national divinities, particularly that of Anahit were transferred from Bagaran to Artashat thus giving the new city not only the status of political but also that of the religious capital of Armenia...” (M. Chahin, *The Kingdom of Armenia*). That is why the cancellation incorporates the head of Goddess Anahit, while the stamp itself depicts her headless statue.



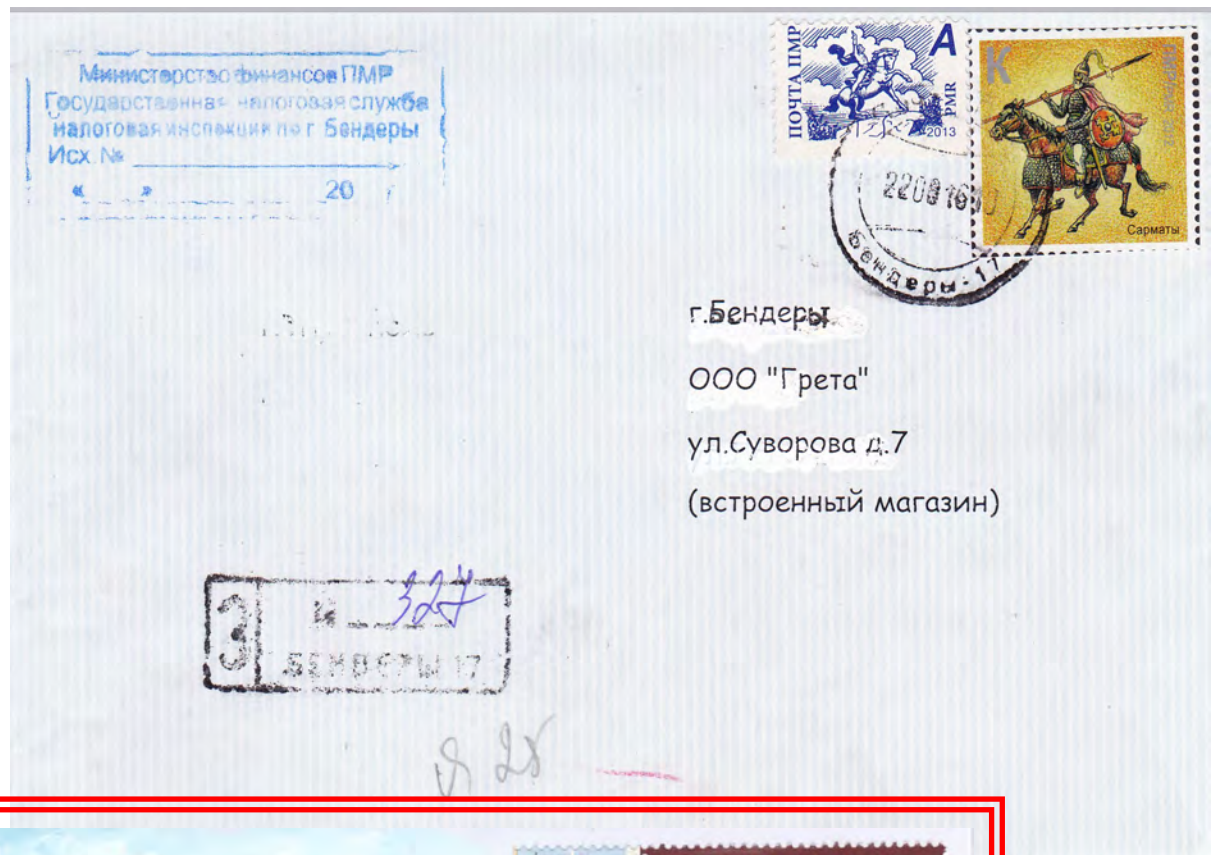
8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.1 - Artashes, Founder of the Dynasty

Soon, Armenia was invaded by Alans (part of Sarmatian group of tribes). Artashes I defeated them, pursued them beyond Cyrus river and captured the chief's son. In spite of the chief's pleas Artashes refused to return the son to his father, but the beauty and the plea of the Alan princess, Satenik, made him cross the river and capture the princess.

Sarmatian.

Registered letter locally mailed from Benderi on 22/08/16. Letter "A" stamp covers intracity postage rate, while letter «K» stamp covers surcharge for registration, total of 5.15 PMR rubles (\$0.37).



Capturing the Alan princess.

First Day Cover with the hand-painted cachet by award winner cachet maker Argineh Zadorian. 1 of 4 painted.

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.1 - Artashes, Founder of the Dynasty



There was love and reconciliation; and inevitably king's marriage to the princess:

*“For Artashes, the
gallant groom,
Showers of gold
brightened the land;*

*Pearls rained from
smiling heaven
For Satenik, the
comely bride.”*



Having lost control of large territory in the East to the Parthian satraps of Bactria (who seized the ancient Achaemenid throne in 171 BC), Seleucid king Antiochus IV unleashed his rage by breaking the terms of the *Treaty of Apamea* and invaded, unprovoked, Armenia in 165 BC, in defiance to Rome. However, Artashes bought him off his lands.



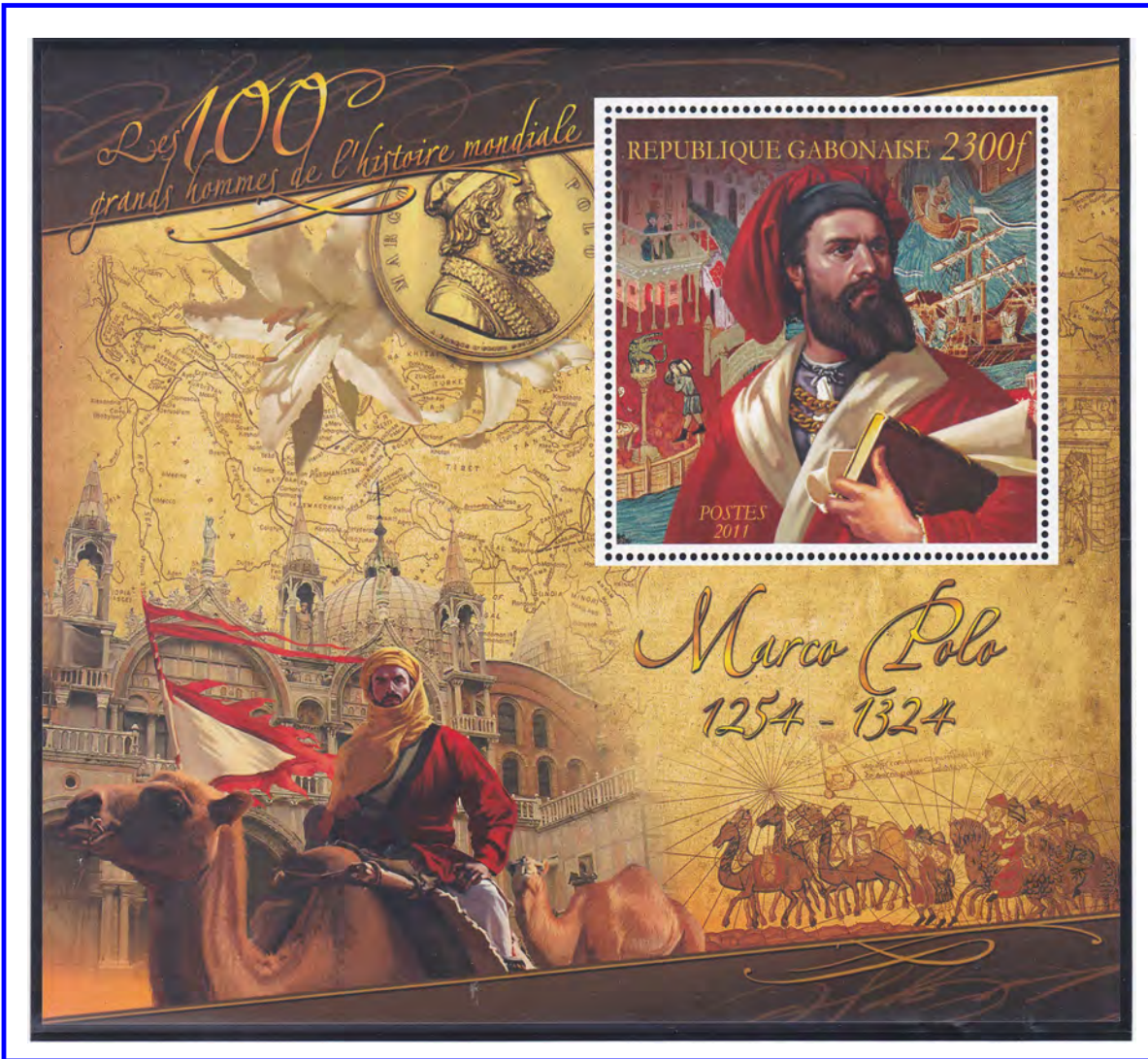
He continued to rule until 159 BC when he died murmuring the words: “Woe that my glories are in the past!”

Meanwhile, Artashes and Zareh jointly increased territories of their kingdoms, annexing parts of surrounding peoples. Strabo writes, “... these peoples all now speak the one language” (namely, the Armenian). However, a unified language does not develop overnight, or even a decade, so “it is plausible to maintain that in widening the boundaries of Armenia, King Artashes I (189-160 BC) was simply gathering together former Armenian lands ... of ancient Armenia of the times of Hayasa and the kingdom of Van, which had been divided during the times of the Achaemenids and the Seleucids”. (B. Baratov, “The Armeniad”)

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.2 - Caravan Route Between East & West

Lying at the foot of Mount Ararat amidst pastures and vines of the fertile valley, Artashat became an important trading center on the caravan route, linking East and West. Business relations opened up by Mithridates of Parthia with the Han Emperor of China were beneficial for all countries on the caravan route, so in spite of political rivalries and wars, trade between East and West continued, uninterrupted.



It was later, during the times of Marco Polo's travels, this caravan route would be identified as the Silk Road.



Magnified image of the part of the souvenir sheet showing the Silk Road passing through Greater and Lesser Armenia.

The reign of Artavazd I (Artavasdes - 159-95 BC), son of Artashes and Satenik, was marked by numerous unsuccessful attempts by the Parthians to invade Armenia. Eventually, Artavazd was defeated, and had to give up some lands and his brother's son, Tigran (Tigranes), as a hostage to the Parthians in exchange for peace.

Professor Cyril Toumanoff identifies Artavazd with the Armenian king who, according to medieval Georgian annals, interfered in Iberia at the request of local nobility and installed his son, Artaxias, on the throne of Iberia, thereby inaugurating the Iberian Artaxiad dynasty.



On the map:

7 - Adiabene.; 8 - Atropatene

Artavazd I was succeeded by Tigran I who died in 95 BC.

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.3 - Tigran II (95 - 55 BC) and the Great Armenia

In 95 BC the Crown Prince Tigran, making territorial concession of Seventy Valleys to the Parthians bought his freedom and returned to Armenia. He was crowned as Tigran II at a location of his choice that kept many contemporaries wandering.



Tigran II the Great. *Divided back postcard, Printed in Italy, publisher T.A.V.*



Tigranocerta (Tigranakert),
the 5th capital of Armenia.



Map of the region from
the salvage of the stamp.

Only two decades later the mystery was solved - he built new capital city of Armenia Tigranakert in that same location, which, as he planned while in captivity, would be relatively in the center of his future empire.

Tigran II continued the policy of gathering together the ancient Armenian lands which was started by Artashes

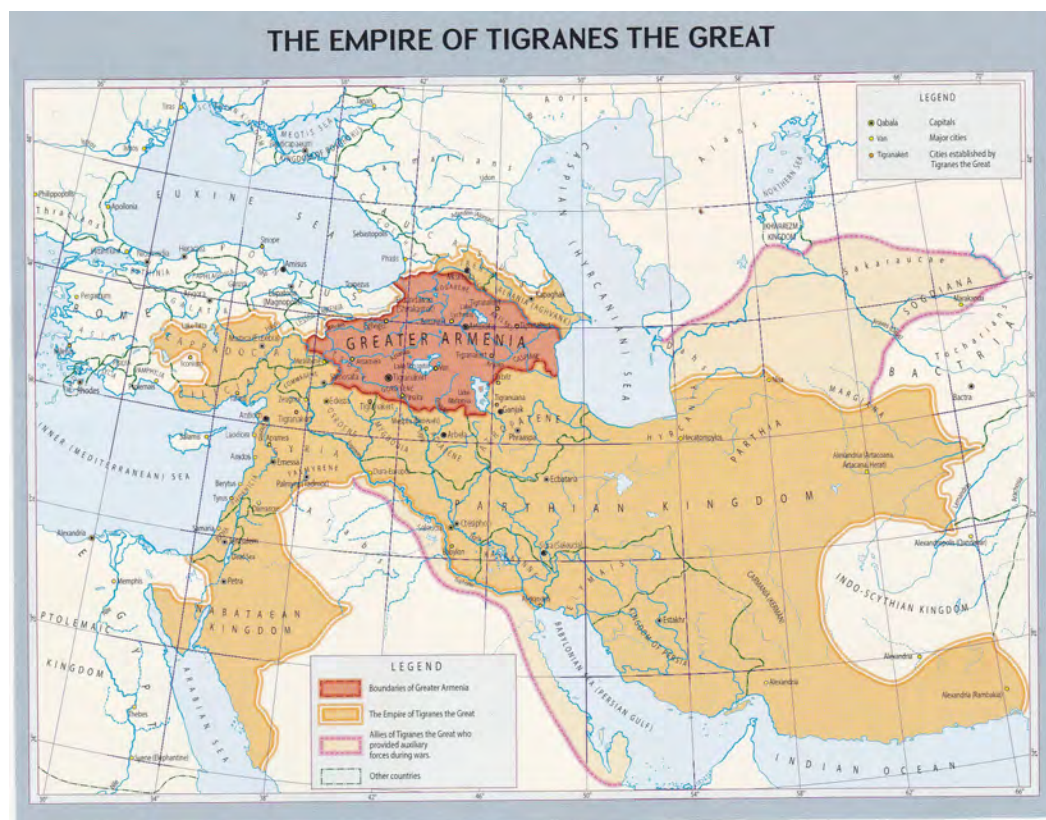
Fridge magnet showing the heart of the Armenian Empire at the time of Tigran II.



8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.3 - Tigran II (95-55 BC) and the Great Armenia

He reunited Sophene with the Greater Armenia. He did not incorporate Lesser Armenia; Tigran II took all transportable possessions (goods and prisoners) to Armenia, but allowed it to unite with Pontus under Mithridates VI Eupator, thus creating a buffer state between Armenia and Rome, again avoiding direct confrontation.



Map showing further expansion of the Armenian Empire.
Original from *Illustrated Guide of History of Armenia* by Artak Movsisyan

Tigran II was invited to become a new emperor of the Seleucid Empire; two years later Commagene, Cilicia Pedias (Lowland Cilicia) and Phoenicia became part of the growing Armenian Empire. While in Phoenicia, Tigran II met emissaries of the queen of Judea, who acknowledged the predominance of the Armenian Emperor. In 72 BC his decisive victory against the Nabateans near Damascus (Syria), extended Armenian borders to Egypt, which was ruled by Ptolemy XII who rose to the throne with the help of Tigran II.



Longest running definitive sets devoted to Tigran Great.
Only the highest values from each of five sets are shown.



Self adhesive stamp from the 4th set.

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.3 - Tigran II (95-55 BC) and the Great Armenia

In 87 BC, Mithridates II passed away. As Parthia was weakened because of the confusion over succession, Tigran II used the opportunity and took back Seventy Valleys he gave up to Mithridates II earlier. He continued his conquests to the East, so in state of panic, the Parthians even conceded the title of the “King of the Kings” to Tigran II, thus recognizing his supremacy.



As seen on the 1988 charitable stamp, Tigranes' tiara is decorated with a single sun/star with elongated and curved rays.

Tigran the Great surrounded by the four accompanying kings, by the Italian artist G. Fusaro, 1885. *Undivided back postcard, printed in Venice, Italy. Rarely seen.*

The symbol on his crown that featured a star with a curved tail, per V. Gurzadyan and others, may represent passage of Halley's Comet which was seen in Armenia in 87 BC.



This resemblance could be noticed on the pair of imperforated stamps above and the souvenir sheet on the right.

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.3 - Tigran II (95-55 BC) and the Great Armenia

Many wars and battles were won and lost; treachery accompanied aging Tigran the Great during his reign. His own son Tigran the Young offered to lead Pompeius and his legions to Artashat. Instead of fighting the war, this time Tigran the Great concluded a treaty with Romans, giving up his conquests West of Euphrates and heavily paying off Pompeius.



Yerevan, Armenia. Monuments to Tigran the Great. Sculptor - L. Tokmadjyan, Architect - R. Ohanyan
Maximum cards prepared by Maximafileia Co. As no commemorative cancellation was prepared the maximum card was cancelled by the calendar date stamp on the first day of issue.



Tigran Great coin. 2 chalcoi. Bronze, Tigranocerta mint, circa 80-68 BC.

Tigran the Great, King of Kings, who “even in his conquests, was a liberator” (A. Movsisyan, *Ten Outstanding Armenian Kings*) died at the ripe age of 84 in the capital city of Artashat. His death marked the end of a great epoch.

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.4 - Artavazd II (55 - 34 BC)

Tigran the Great was succeeded by his son, Artavazd II who ascended to the throne of a powerful and still independent state. He faithfully followed the Treaty of Artaxata which was still in effect. Armenia found herself in the center of clash between two superpowers, that of Rome and Parthia. The best option was to maintain relative neutrality.

In 60 BC the First Triumvirate was formed in Rome, and Marcus Lucinius Crassus became the ruler of the Eastern Roman provinces. Crassus attacked the Parthians and launched his military campaign via Northern Mesopotamia. The Parthian King Ordes II sent commander Suren against Crassus, while he himself moved against Armenia.

Armenia during the reign of Artavazd II.



Receiving no help from Crassus, Artavazd considered himself free of any obligations to the Romans, concluded a treaty with the Parthians, and married his sister to the Parthian Crown Prince Pacorus.



FDC mailed on 10/30/12 from Yerevan. 220 dram satisfies intercity registered mail rate.

Crassus was defeated and beheaded. Suren sent his head to Artashat as a sign of the victory. It was delivered to the kings while they were enjoying the *Bacchae* of Euripides, and the actor, Jason, taking up the head, sang:
"We've hunted down a mighty chase today, And from the mountain bring the noble prey".

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.4 - Artavazd II (55-34 BC)

After assuming rule in the East following the proclamation of the Triumvirat, in 34 BC Mark Antony invaded Armenia. In order to prevent bloodshed, Artavazd II agreed to meet with him. Along with some members of his royal family, he was arrested and brought to Alexandria to the court of Cleopatra VII in golden chains to led in Mark Antony's own Triumph in that city.



Alexandria Lighthouse
and Pyramids of Egypt.



Cleopatra

1914 issue, chalked-faced paper, watermark 119
(Crescent and Star).



Above left - perforated, as issued. Above right - im-
perforated, not known to be issued in that format.



1914 issue, control block #2



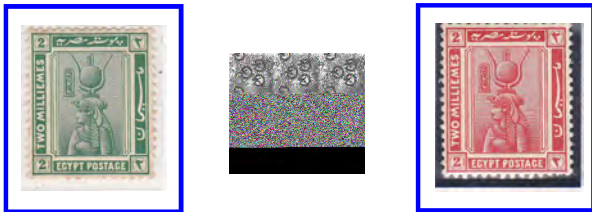
Undivided back postcard, sent in 1903 from Paris,
France to San Francisco, USA. Publisher unknown.

8. The Artaxiad Dynasty

8.4 - Artavazd II (55-34 BC)

Cleopatra tortured them mercilessly in unsuccessful attempts to discover secret repository of the Armenian crown jewels. Artavazd II, the queen and the princes were asked to bow their heads to show adoration of Cleopatra in exchange to their freedom. They refused, and were put to death. His head was sent to his foe - the king of Atropatene, Antony's and Cleopatra's ally, whose name also happened to be Artavazd.

1921-22 Issue. Regular stamps.



Chalked-faced paper, watermark 120 (Triple Crescent and Star).

Overprinted for Independent Kingdom.



Type I

Type II

Type III



*Overprinted for official use.
Left - On His Highness Service.
Right - On His Egyptian Majesty Service.*



Plutarch describes Artavasdes II as a well educated man, who had a great fondness for all things Greek and was an accomplished scholar who composed Greek tragedies and histories. No wonder his likeness is carved on the wall of the Armenian Drama Theater.



Artavazdes II
bass-relief on the
right side of the
wall of the thea-
ter entrance.



1973 USSR postal stationery depicting the Armenian Drama Theater after Sundukyan.

9. Armenia - Rome Relations in 14 - 54 AD

9.1 - Augustus Caesar

9.2 - Tiberius

9.3 - Caligula

9.4 - Claudius

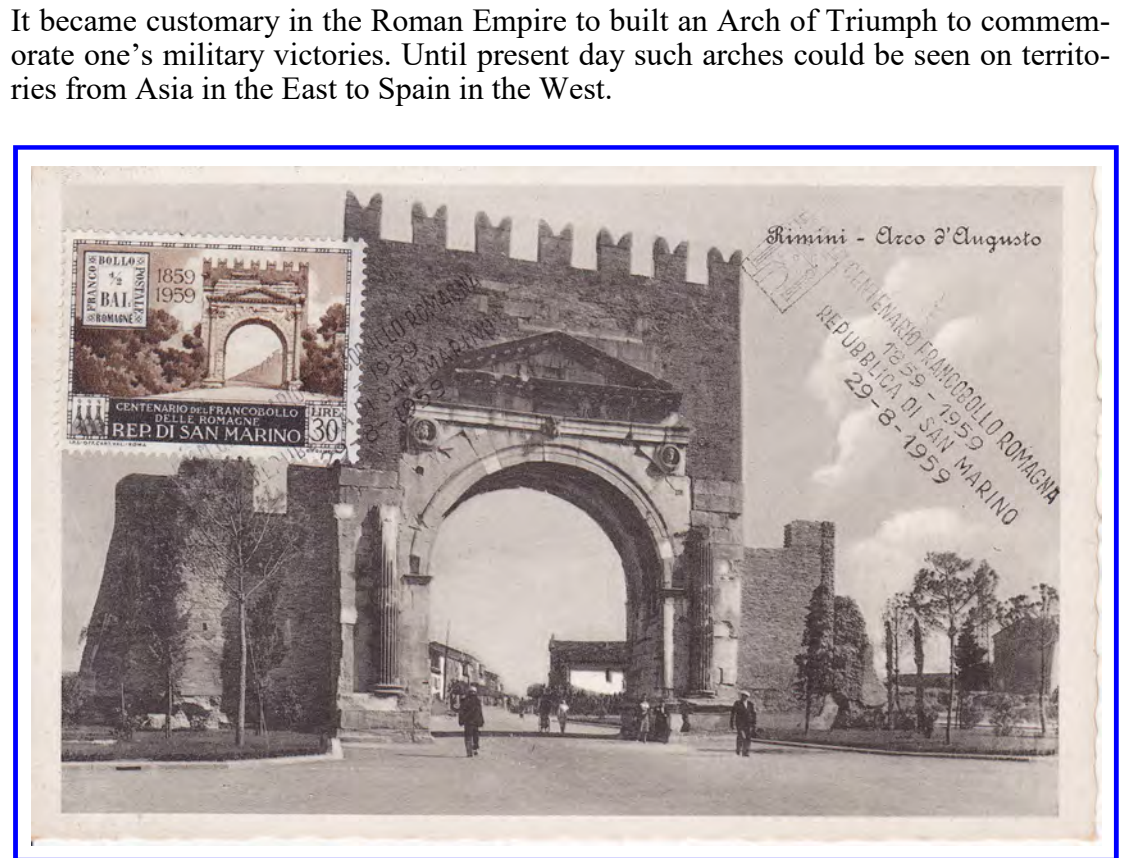
9.1 - Augustus Caesar (27 BC - 14 AD)

Following King Artavazd, six shadowy kings ruled Armenia from 14 AD through 54 AD who defied the Romans from time to time. The son of Anthony and Cleopatra, young Alexander, couldn't take over the throne because of Parthian opposition. The Armenian nobles placed upon the throne Artashes II, the eldest son of Artavazd, who promptly massacred all Romans in the territory of Armenia in revenge for his father's death. But his presence on the Armenian throne was repugnant to Rome, so Octavius (later, Augustus) drove out Artashes II in 29 AD.



Augustus Caesar, 1st Roman Emperor and founder of the Roman Empire, halted imperial expansion and defined her borders.

A maximum card prepared in San Marino in 1959 pictures Arch of August.



Artashes II was followed by Tigran III, Artavazd III, Tigran IV, Queen Erato who was dethroned in AD 14, thus ending the Artaxiad dynasty lineage on the throne of Armenia. The Artaxiads had by then been the royal house of Armenia, continuously, for some 200 years. Political chaos prevailed in Armenia after 14 AD.



9.2 - Tiberius (14 - 37 AD)

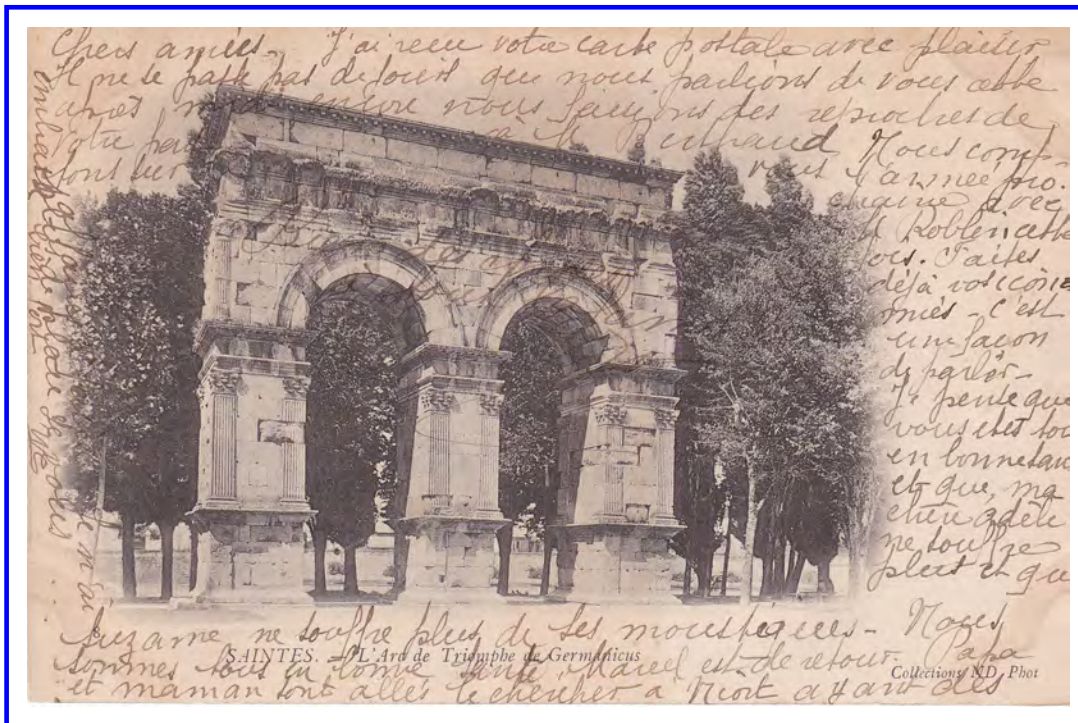
After the death of Emperor Augustus and with ascension of Tiberius to the throne of the Roman Empire the fight over possession of Armenia between the Romans and the Parthians sparkled once again, and one short lived king followed an other.

Tiberius

9. Armenia - Rome Relations in 14 - 54 AD

9.2 - Tiberius

The Arch was built by a rich citizen of Saintes and dedicated to the emperor Tiberius, his son Drusus Julius Caesar, and his adoptive son Germanicus.



Arch of Tiberius. Undivided back postal card mailed in 1903 from Saintes to Luçon, France. Photograph and printing by Neurdein Brothers, circa 1900.

Tiberius encouraged Pharasmanes I of Iberia to invade Armenia in 35 AD; the later captured Artaxata and installed his brother Mithridates on the Armenian throne.

9.3 - Caligula (37 - 41 AD)

In 37, new emperor Caligula had Mithridates arrested.



Postal stationery printed in 2011 in Czech Republic devoted to 2000th anniversary of Caligula's birth.

9. Armenia - Rome Relations in 14 - 54 AD

9.3 - Caligula



Arch of Caligula. *Divided back postal card mailed in 1909 from Pompeii, Italy to France. Publisher unknown, was printed for Grand Hotel Suisse in Pompeii for advertising reasons. #34 in series.*

9.4 - Claudius (42 - 54 AD)

When Claudius became the Emperor he restored Mithridates on the Armenian throne in 42 AD.



Claudius

Feeble in body but not in mind,
expanding Rome's empire into Britain.



Subsequently, Mithridates' relationship with Pharasmanes I deteriorated and the Iberian king instigated his son, Rhadamistus, who was married to Mithridates' daughter Zenobia, to invade Armenia and overthrow Mithridates in 51 AD. Mithridates surrendered being betrayed by his Roman commanders, but was put to death by his nephew Rhadamistus, who usurped the crown.

10. - Tiridates I and Armenian Line of the Arsacid Dynasty (54-428 AD)

10.1 - Rhadamistus and Tiridates I (54-88 AD)

10.2 - War With Rome and Meeting With Nero

10.3 - Tiridates I and Mithraism

Roman procurator of Cappadocia Julius Paelignus acting without instructions, recognized Rhadamistus as the new king of Armenia. Taking this opportunity, Parthian king Vologases I invaded Armenia and proclaimed his brother Tiridates as a king.

Privately prepared First Day Cover with an add-on cachet depicting Tiridat I statue in Versailles.

10.1 - Rhadamistus and Tiridat I (54 - 88 AD)



Հայաստանի Տրդատ Ա արքայի
արձանը Վերսալ պալատի այգում
Statue of King of Armenia Tiridates I
in the park of the Palace of Versailles



The winter epidemics and insurrection in Parthia forced him to withdraw from Armenia, thus allowing Rhadamistus to come back and punish locals as traitors. In 55 AD the Armenians eventually revolted and replaced him with Tiridates I, who has been taking refuge at the Parthian court. Rhadamistus with his pregnant wife Zenobia escaped.

10.2 - War With Rome and Meeting With Nero



By proclaiming a new king of Armenia himself, Vologases I violated the treaty that had been signed by the Roman emperor Augustus and Parthian king Phraates IV which gave the Romans the explicit right to appoint and crown the kings of Armenia. **Nero (54 - 68 AD)** who succeeded Claudius in 54 AD was very unhappy with growing Parthian influence on his doorstep.

10. - Tiridates I and Armenian Line of the Arsacid Dynasty

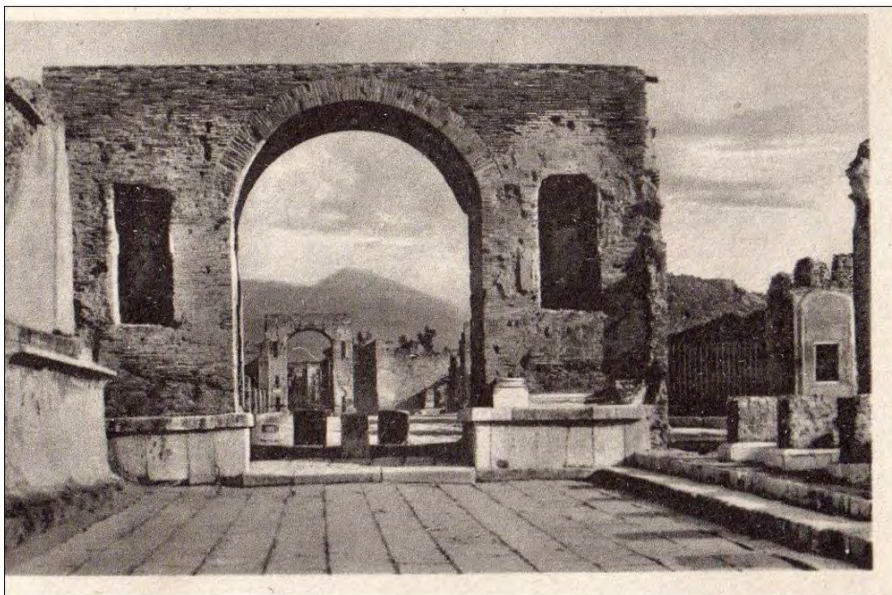
10.2 - War With Rome and Meeting With Nero

Nero sent General Corbulo with a large army to the East to restore Roman client kings in Lesser Armenia, Sophene, Commagene. Tiridates I fled from the capital, and Artaxata was burned to the ground.

To make a peace, Corbulo and Tiridates I met at Rhandaia where Tiridates I put his royal diadem at the bottom of Nero's statue, agreeing to receive it back only from Nero in Rome.



Big and small battles followed, and in 62 AD in the battle of Rhandaia Roman commander Paetus suffered a humiliating defeat. The command of the troops returned to Corbulo who led the strong army into Miltene and further into Armenia.



Arc of Nero in Pompeii. *Divided back photolithograph, published by S.A. Berretta, Termini, Italy.*

10. - Tiridates I and Armenian Line of the Arsacid Dynasty

10.2 - War With Rome and Meeting With Nero

Trip to Rome lasted 9 months. Tiridates I was accompanied by a retinue of many feudal lords and 3000 horsemen.



At Puteolis (modern Pozzuoli near Naples) Nero ordered athletic games to be staged in honor of his guest.

The King of Armenia himself had an opportunity to display his ability as a marksman by shooting an arrow through the bodies of two buffaloes.



On the day after Tiridates I's arrival in Rome, Nero came to Forum clothed in triumphal vestments surrounded by dignitaries and soldiers, all resplendent in expensive attire and glittering armor. While Nero sat on the imperial throne, Tiridates I and his retinue advanced between two lines of soldiers.



Roman Forum.

While Nero sat on the imperial throne, Tiridates I and his retinue advanced between two lines of soldiers. Arriving in front of the dais, Tiridates I knelt, with hands clasped on his breast. While looking at the sunlit face of the emperor Tiridates I addressed him, "I have come to you, my god, worshipping you as I do Mithras".

Mithras.



This was an important point. As an initiate, Nero would know it - for Zoroastrians the sun was the eye of Mithras, and Mithras was in general associated with the sun, so Tiridates I was essentially worshipping the sun, while for Nero this was a splendid theatrical affirmation of his role as the new god of Sun.

10. - Tiridates I and Armenian Line of the Arsacid Dynasty

10.2 - War With Rome and Meeting With Nero

Divided back picture post-card mailed in 1935. Photo-gravure, published by Cesare Capello, Milan, Ita-



The original Temple of Janus in Rome has not been preserved. This temple from Autun, France provides the impression of how it might look.

Ruins of the Roman Forum.



The interior of the Theater of Pompey and every piece of its furniture was entirely gilded for the occasion; for this reason, Rome thenceforth recalled that date as "the Golden Day." Peace prevailed at this time throughout the Roman Empire. Nero therefore closed the gates of the Temple of Janus, which were never shut save in times of universal peace.



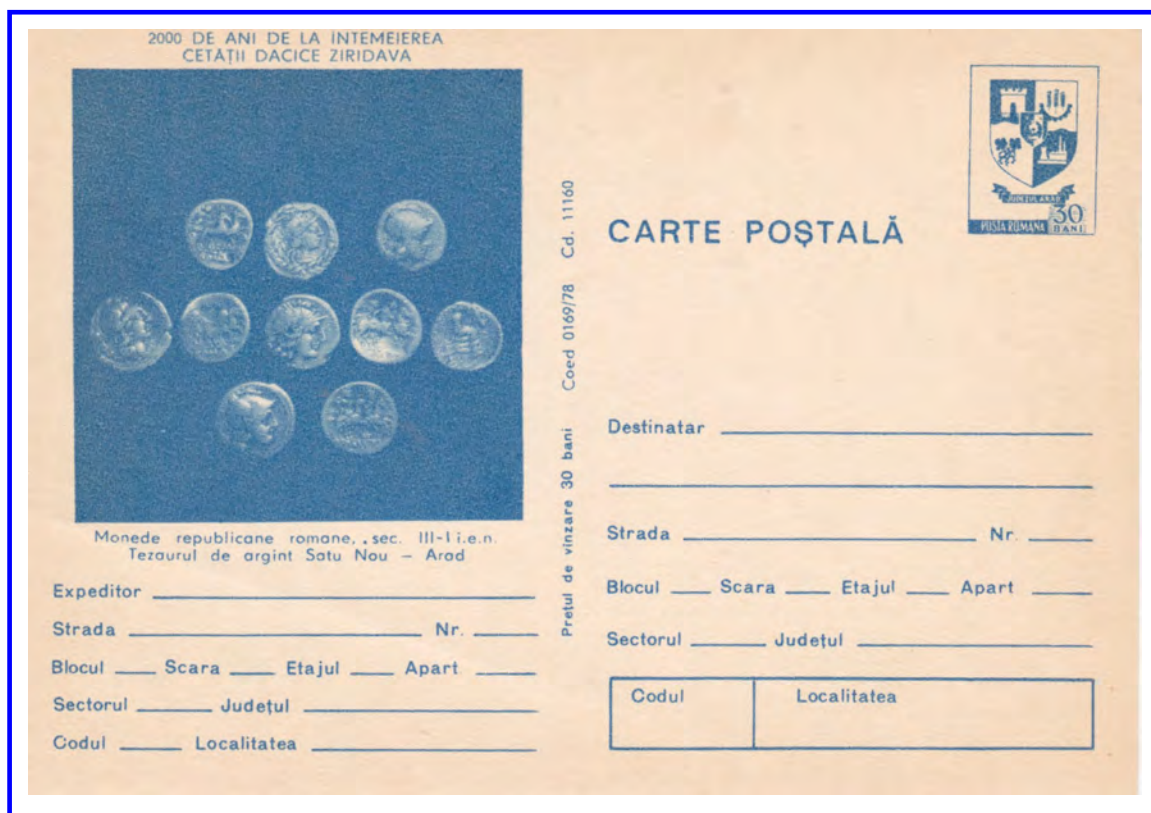
*Bronze coin of Nero (photocopy of averse).
Reverse of the coin showing Temple of Janus
with the doors closed. Minted in 66 AD.*

Divided back picture postcard mailed in 1914. Photogravure, published, possibly by Nouvelles Galeries, Autun, France.

10. - Tiridates I and Armenian Line of the Arsacid Dynasty

10.2 - War With Rome and Meeting With Nero

Besides the enormous sum spent in festivities, the Roman Government bore the entire cost of the journey of Tiridates I and his retinue, both from and to their homeland. Nero also made a gift to Tiridates I of fifty million sesterces (close to \$5 mln in today's money) for reconstruction of the burned capital Artaxata.



The sestertius was introduced in 211 BC as a small silver coin valued at one-quarter of a Denarius (and thus one hundredth of an Aureus). With the coinage reform of Augustus, the denomination of sestertius was introduced as the large brass denomination.

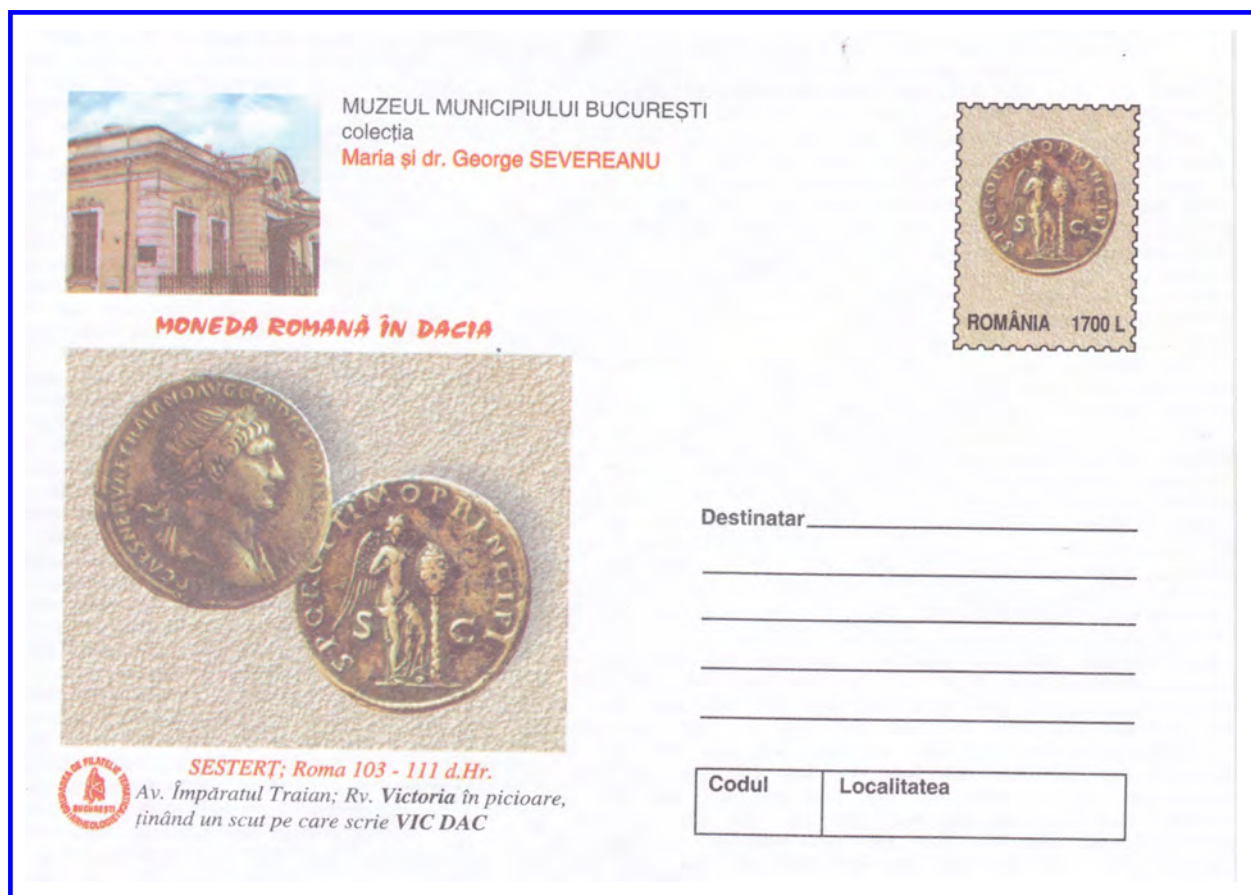
Examples of silver sestertius (small coins)

Undivided back postal card. Romania, 1978.

Example of a sestertius (struck in the times of Emperor Trajan).

Most were struck in the mint of Rome, but from AD 64 during the reign of Nero and Vespasian (AD 69–79), the mint of Lyon (Lugdunum), supplemented production.

Postal stationery. Romania, Edipost, 2000.



10. - Tiridates I and Armenian Line of the Arsacid Dynasty

10.3 - Tiridates I & Mithraism

Tiridates I was also a Zoroastrian priest and was accompanied by other magi on his journey to Rome. Although Franz Cumont speculates that Mithraism was simply Romanized Zoroastrianism, recent research shows that Mithra has already been worshipped in the Armenian kingdom of Mitanni (Mitann = Mithra - anni = Land of Mithra) as the god of Sun, from ancient times forward. It is widely accepted point of view that the Armenians were the only people that were at some time almost all Mithraists. The God of Sun was known in Armenia as Mihr; spreading East, he became known as Mithra in Persia and Mitra in India.

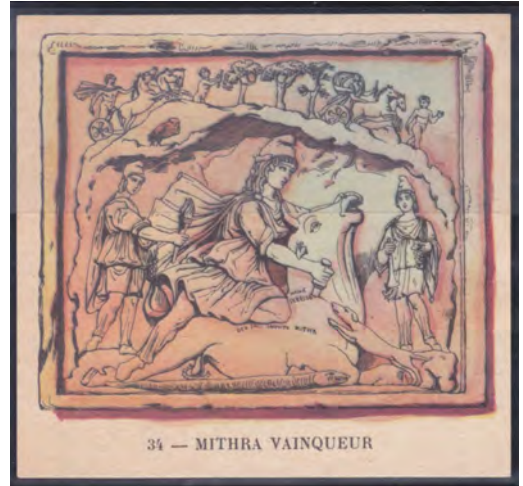
Trading card Cacao & Chocolat Kwatta, Epiney-Sur-Seine.



Mithra of wild cattle pastures, also known as the “cattle-thief”.



Mithra the Conqueror or “Bull-Slayer”



Persia that already had Magianism as their religion under the influence of Mithraism developed Zoroastrianism which later penetrated through Armenia into the West through Roman conquests. Cumont also considered that Tiridates I was instrumental in the development and spreading of Mithraism in the West.



Divided back picture postcard mailed in 1932. Photogravure, publisher Laurent.

11. - Temple of Garni (77 AD)

11.1 - The Temple and its Sacred Geometry

11.2 - Construction Material

11.3 - Other Well-Known Monuments of Similar Architecture

11.4 - Ruins of the Temple

11.5 - Temple's Reconstruction

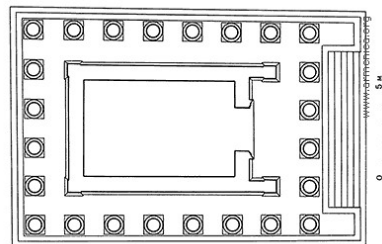
11.1 - The Temple and Its Sacred Geometry

Upon his return to Armenia, king Tiridates I rebuilt the capital city of Artaxata with the money received from Nero. Some of the money was used to rebuild Garni (Gorneas) fortress which served as summer residence for the Armenian Orontid and Artaxiad royal dynasties. Tiridates I brought many artisans with him from Rome, and erected the Temple in an old Armenian stile (compare with the Temple of Mussasir (section 3.1) which was later erroneously described as a Greco-Roman one.



Temple of Mithra (Garni) was built in 76 AD. The temple itself was built on top of an Urartian temple, and has floor dimensions of 5.05 by 7.98 meters. The actual building is a peripteris temple resting on an elevated podium. The entablature is supported by 24 Ionic columns resting on Attic bases.

Temple of Garni on 1995 Armenian 5,000 dram banknote. *Scarce, as at the time it represented the highest monetary value in Armenia at the time.*



Floor plan of the Temple.

Left - regular stamp.

Right - Imperforated variety. Only 2,000 imperforated stamps printed. Rarely seen in block of 4.

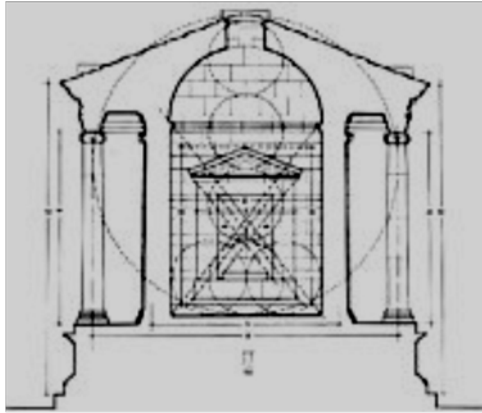


The stamp was issued for the Yerevan-93 International Philatelic Exhibition, the first exhibition in the newly formed independent Republic of Armenia.

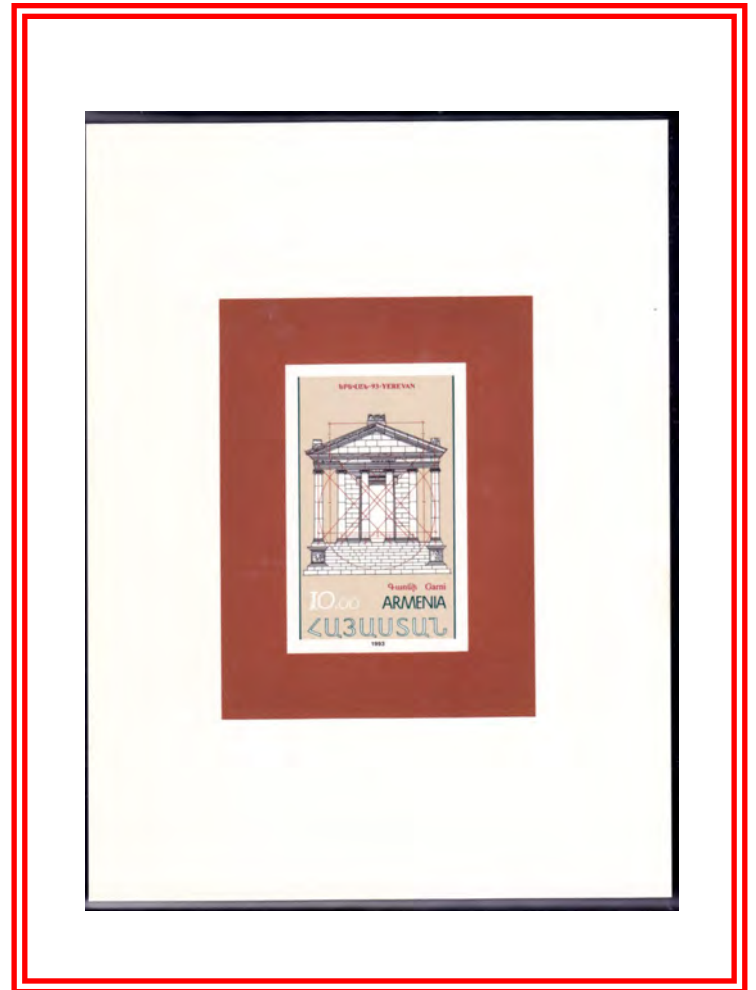
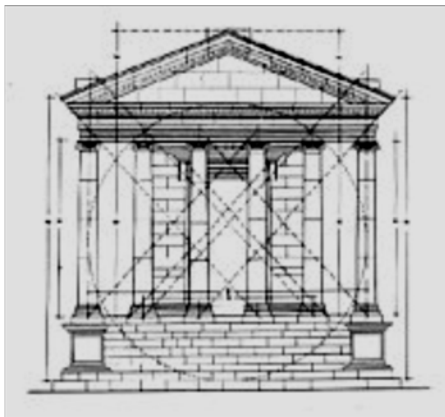
11. - Temple of Garni

11.1 - The Temple and Its Sacred Geometry

The stamp shows the front of the temple with geometric patterns. A circle can be made beginning with the first step and rising to the top edge of the cornice. Note how the circle is dissected by imaginary lines drawn from key points in the building.



Two perfect equilateral triangles are formed, which draw your attention to another three equilateral triangles inside, which again draw your attention to another set of triangles - six triangles having 3 sides (6 x 3 or 18).



Deluxe souvenir sheet, only 1000 were issued. Scarce.

This temple was the holiest of holy, a symbol of the deities controlling all earthly matter to represent everlasting time, all that is, all that was, all that ever will be. The circle and triangles draw your attention - even if unconsciously - to the inner sanctum, exactly to the point where the statue of the God Mithra used to be.



Regular overprinted stamps.



To adjust to new national currency and to commemorate the Armenia - Argentina philatelic exhibition, in 1994 the Garni stamp was overprinted with new values of 40 drams in two colors - brown and blue, and "Armenia-94" in blue and abbreviation of the Armenia-Argentina Philatelic Exhibition in brown.

11. - Temple of Garni 11.1 - The Temple and Its Sacred Geometry



Major and minor errors

Left: Inverted overprints.
Right: Mirrored images of
the overprints.
Only 50 each exist.



Broken 9

Other overprint errors.



Broken 0



Receiver cancellation
on the back of the
letter below.

Հարգելի
ժողովրդական
Կառավարություն
Հայաստանի Հանրապետության
Հայաստանի Հանրապետության
Հայաստանի Հանրապետության



Side by side use of
regular and over-
printed stamps
(120 amd). Regis-
tered letter sent
from Garni to Ye-
revan. In 2003
Correct rate - 70
amd satisfies let-
ter rate within
Armenia, 50 amd
is charged for
registration.

11. - Temple of Garni 11.1 - The Temple and Its Sacred Geometry



Side-by-side use of stamps with regular and inverted overprints on covers mailed to the Armenian Embassy in Moscow.

Additional stamps make up the correct rate for air-mail and registration.

1 of 3 each reported.

It was here where Mithridates of Armenia found his last refuge prior to being executed by his son-in-law and nephew Rhadamistus.



11. - Temple of Garni

11.1 - The Temple and Its Sacred Geometry

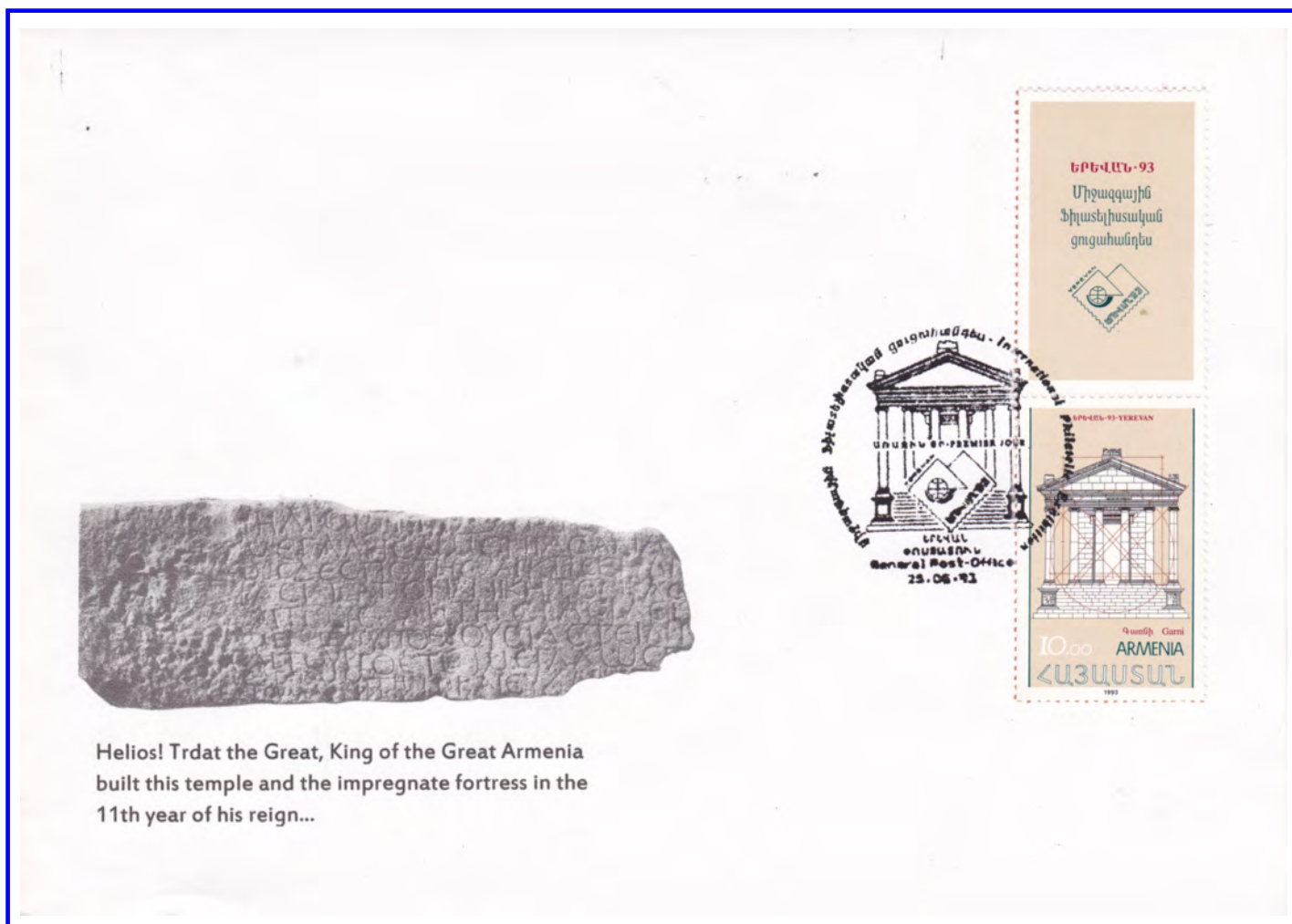
As a true Zoroastrian - Mithraic priest, Tiridates I devoted the Temple to God Mithra.



It was known that Tiridates I made an inscription regarding the construction of the temple and of the fortress, but it was no where to be found. In 1945, while viewing Garni, Armenian artist Martiros Saryan accidentally discovered a 1.5 meter long basalt slab in the village cemetery, lying like a tombstone with inscription in Greek letters.



Martiros Saryan
(booklet stamp)

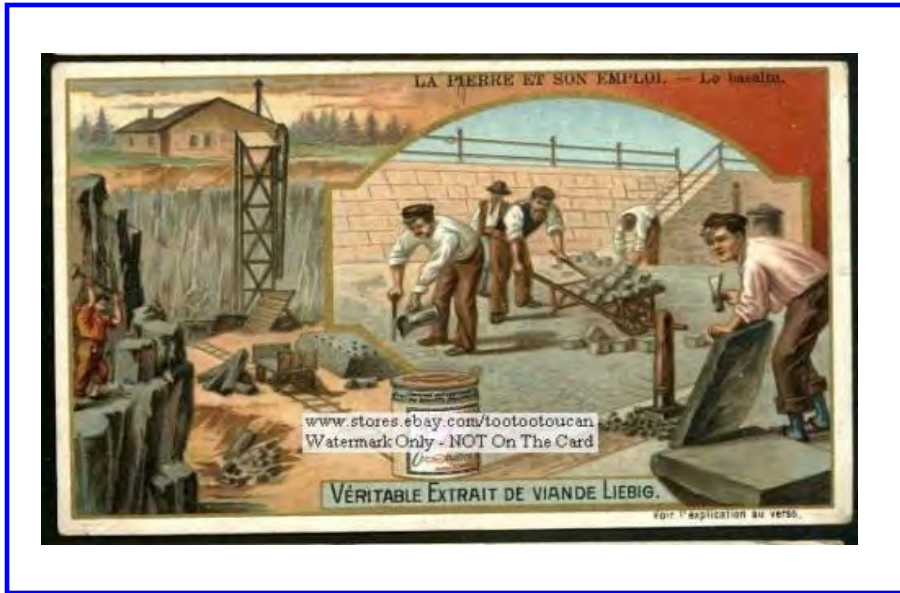


Yerevan intracity letter mailed on FDC in 1993.

11. - Temple of Garni

11.2 - Construction Material

Basalt was used for the construction of the temple. The Garni Canyon was the mining field - conveniently located and easy to mine.



Basalt Quarry Mining. Trade Advertising Card, c1903.
Printed by Compagnie Liebig,



Basalt deposits in Garni.

Basalt rock in Garni.



Postal stationery issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1969.

11. - Temple of Garni

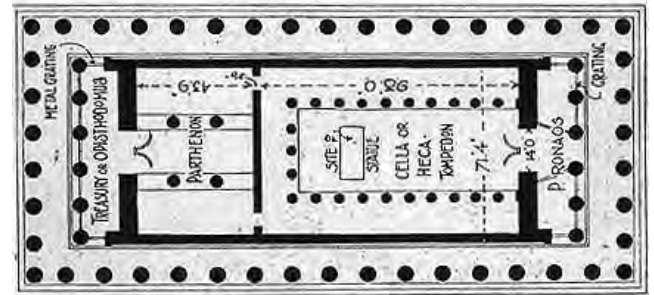
11.3 - Other Well-Known Monuments of Similar Architecture

Parthenon, Athens, Greece.

Parthenon, Athens, Greece (circa 438 BC). Measures 69.5 by 30.9 m. Eight Doric Order columns at either end are supplemented by seventeen on the sides.



Parthenon. *Imperforated variety.*



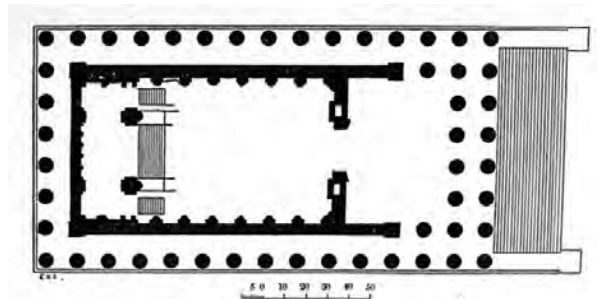
Floor plan of the Temple.
Construction material - marble.

Heliopolis (Baalbeck), Lebanon.

Temple of Bacchus, Baalbek, Lebanon (circa 150 AD). The temple is 66m long, 35m wide, and 31m high. Its walls are adorned by forty-two unfluted Corinthian columns.



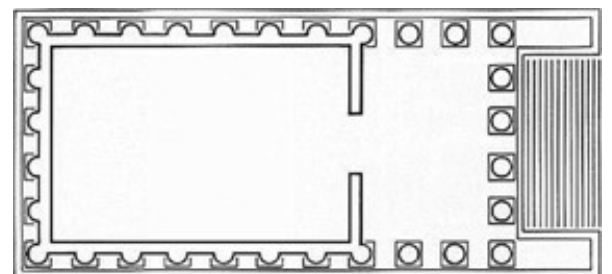
Floor plan of the Temple.
Construction material - pink granite,



Maison Carrée, Nimes, France

Maison Carrée, Nimes, France (circa 16 BC) was devoted by Augustus to his adopted sons. The temple forms a rectangle almost twice as long as it is wide, measuring 26.42 m by 13.54 m with six Corinthian columns under the Pediment at either end.

Photo Essay



Floor plan of the Temple.
Construction material - limestone.

11. - Temple of Garni

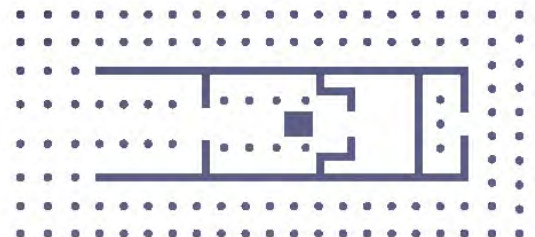
11.3 - Other Well-Known Monuments of Similar Architecture



Maison Carrée. Divided back photo postcard mailed in 1906. Photolithograph, publisher Maison Universale & Nouvelle Galeries,. Nîmes, France.

Temple of Artemis, Ephesus, modern day Turkey

Temple of Artemis, Ephesus (75 km south from Izmir), modern Turkey (around 323 BC). It was 115 m long and 46 m wide with 127 columns.



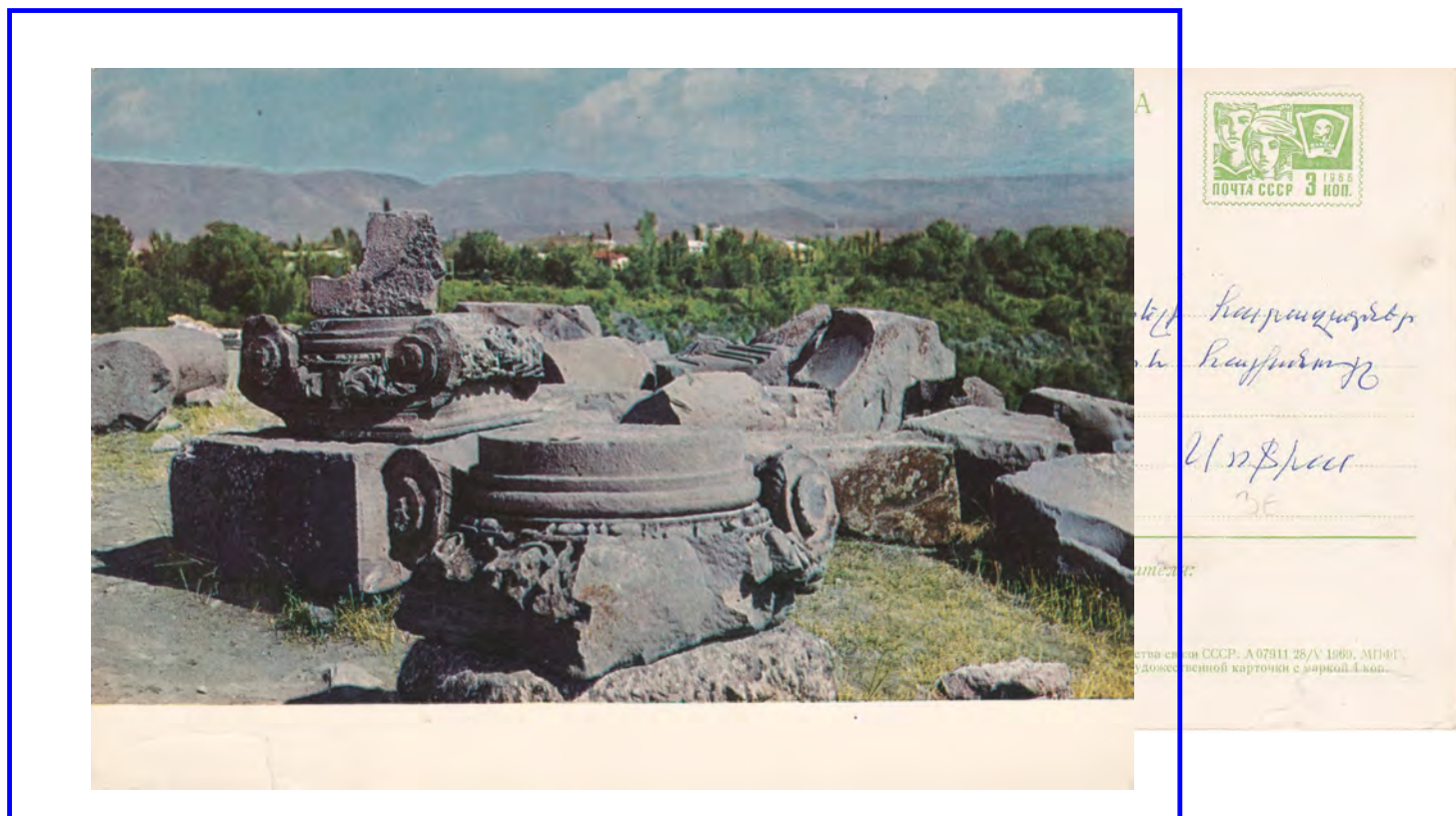
Floor plan of the Temple.
Construction material - originally limestone, later rebuilt with marble.

11. - Temple of Garni

11.4 - Ruins of the Temple



Postal stationery issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1966.



Postal stationery with pre-printed 3 kop stamp issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1969.

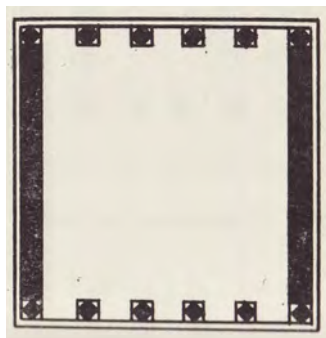
11. - Temple of Garni

11.5 - Temple's Reconstruction

First attempt to reconstruct the appearance of the temple as one with antae was done by a Frenchman Frédéric Dubois De Montperreux in 1830-is, followed by Konstantin Romanov (Russian Empire), Nikoghayos Buniatian and Alexander Sahinian (Armenian SSR).



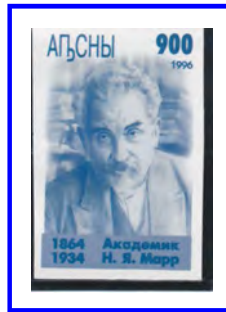
Dubois De Montperreux, Nikolay Marr, Konstantin Romanov, Nikoghayos Buniatian and Alexander Sahinian on a First Day Cover, designed by K. Kabaskalian.



Floor and façade layout prepared by Dubois De Montperreux.

11. - Temple of Garni
11.5 - Temple's Reconstruction

Around 1912 excavations of the temple were conducted by Academician Nikolay Marr.

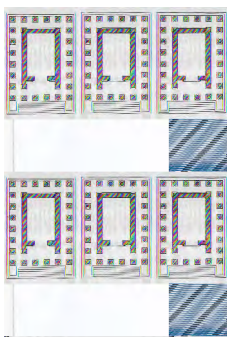


Academician Marr on the stamp of the break-away Republic of Abkhazia.

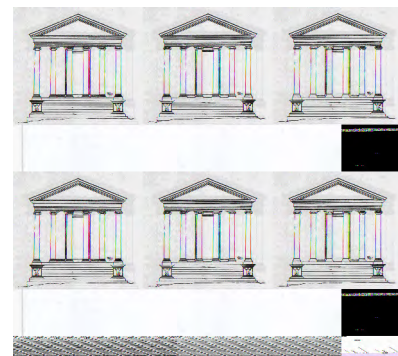


Letter mailed from Yerevan, Armenia in 2014 to Glendale, California. 350-dram pays international rate.

Member of his expedition architect Konstantin Romanov drew a peripteral plan of the temple.



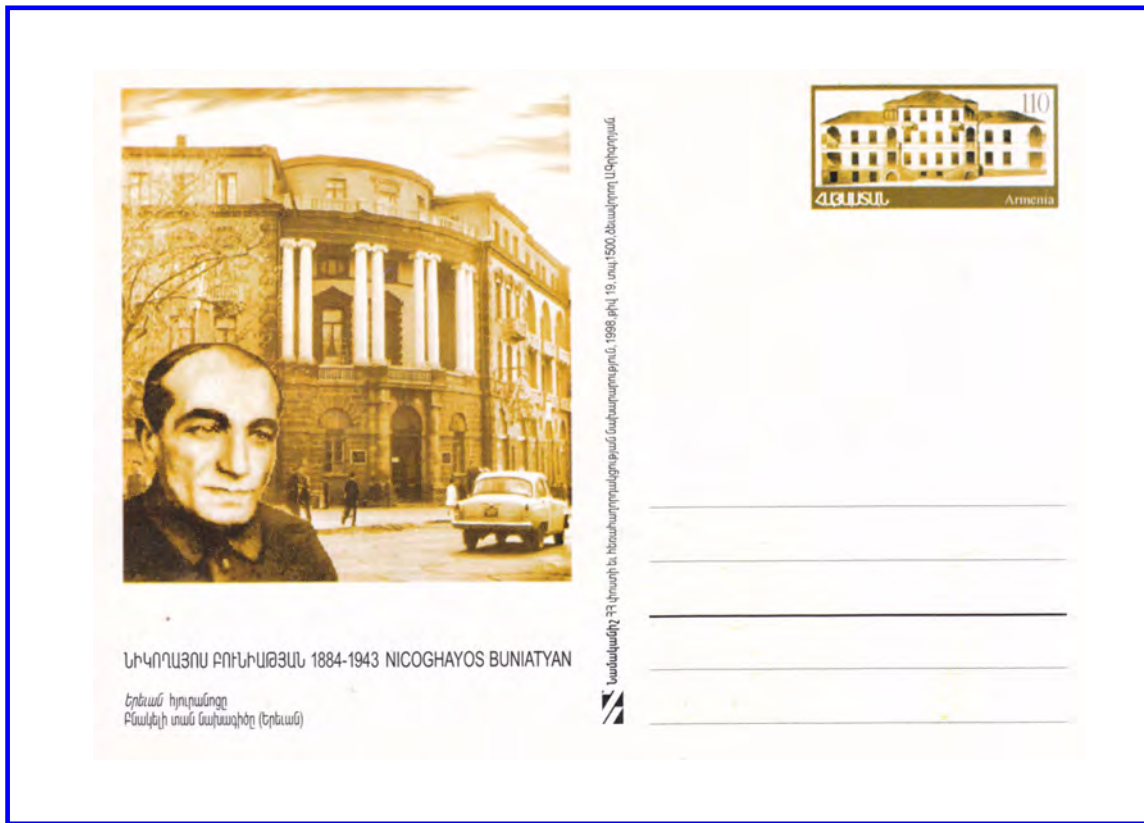
Floor plan and façade prepared by Konstantin Romanov.



11. - Temple of Garni

11.5 - Temple's Reconstruction

In 1933 Nikoghayos Buniatian, at the times Chief Architect of Yerevan, presented the third, most comprehensive approach to reconstructing the temple's appearance.

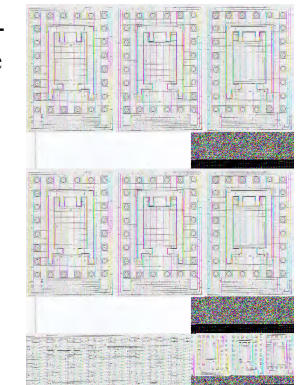


Postal card printed by Namakanish for the Armenian Ministry of Post and Communications, 1998, #19 in series, print run 1500. Designer - A. Grigoryan.



Upon N. Buniatian's death, architect Alexander Sahinian undertook the task to complete reconstruction of the temple in circa 1969-1975.

Floor plan and façade presented by Alexander Sahinian. Based on this layout the temple received its reconstructed look.

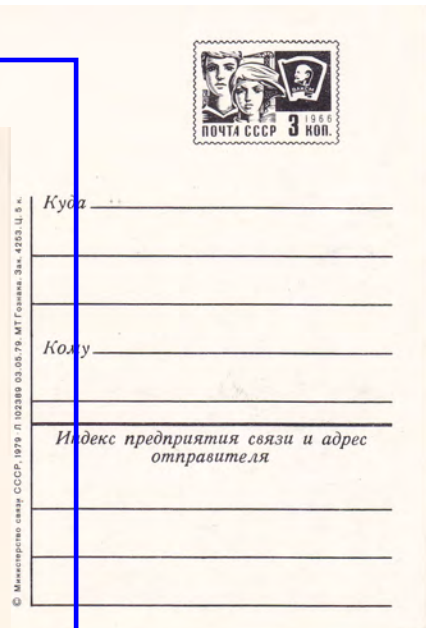
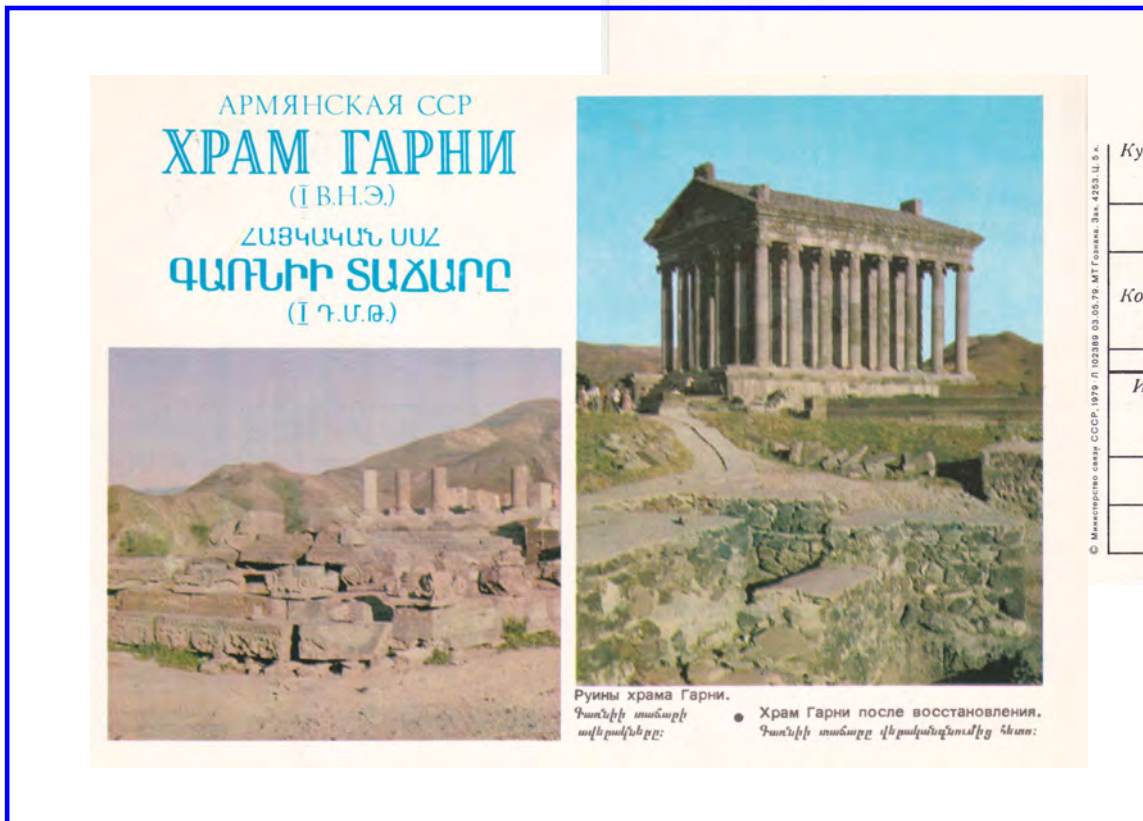


Well-known Armenian architect-scholar Toros Toronian, examining the ruins of the temple, wrote that the temple of Garni “*is the queen of the Armenian art*”.



Architect Toros Toromanian

11. - Temple of Garni
11.5 - Temple's Reconstruction



Ruins of the Temple
and Temple after
Reconstruction.

Postal card issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1979 with a 3 kop stamp on the back.



Registered letter send to Vilnius, Lithuanian SSR on 02/09/1984.

12. Conclusion

History of Armenia has been often presented very tendentiously. Roman accounts had strong tendency to either alter the facts on Rome's favor, or to praise Romans, while defaming their enemies. Greek accounts, while more reliable, also demonstrated shortcomings of certain passages. Persian accounts cannot be accepted as totally reliable as well.



Single-sided postal card issued by the USSR Ministry of Communications in 1990. Mailed from Moscow same year.



Receiver Cancellation from the back of the postal card.

The earliest accounts of the history of Armenia came from “Armenian Herodotus” Movses Khorenatsi, Father of the Armenian History (5th century). 1500th anniversary of his manuscript *The History of Armenia* was celebrated in 1991,



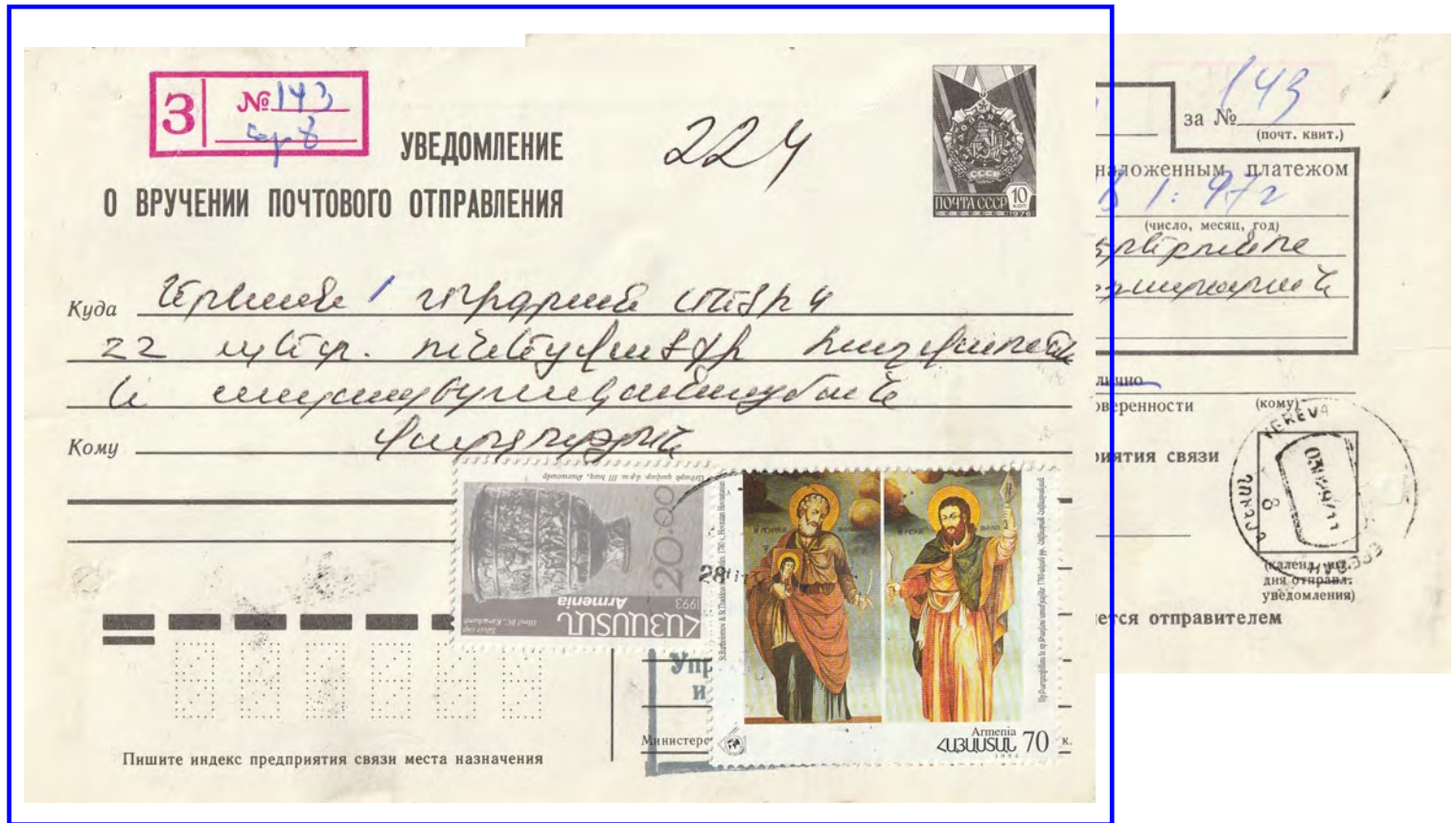
Souvenir medallion. Bronze. Minted in Yerevan. Obverse: bust of Khorenatsi. Reverse: eagle over a book, encrypted with “5th century” and his name.



Armenia and Pontus had their own historians; should their works have been saved after the destruction of the Hellenistic culture in the region, the history of Armenia would certainly appear in a very different light.

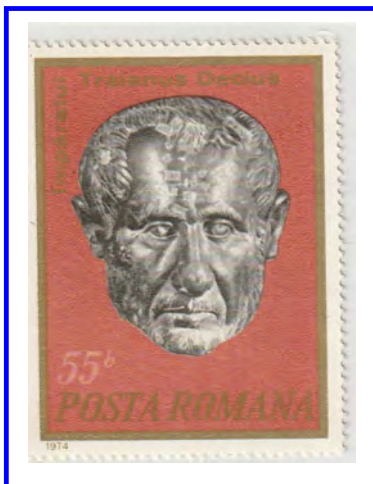
12. - Conclusion

St. Bartholomew and St. Thaddeus came to Armenia in the 2nd half of the 1st century to preach Christianity. They are depicted on 1994 Armenian stamp. Struggle between old and new religious beliefs continued for almost two centuries. Adopting Christianity as state religion in 301 AD forever changed the course of the Armenian history.



St. Bartholomew and St. Thaddeus were depicted on 1994 Armenian stamp. *Return receipt certifying that the mailing has been delivered to the addressee on 02/03/1997.*

More wars followed. Situated in the key location in the Armenian Highlands where Europe and Asia meet, Armenia was an obstacle on the way to expansion for both West and East.



In 114 Emperor Trajan (left) accomplished Rome's dream. He conquered all of the Armenia and made it a full Roman province.



In 118 Emperor Hadrian (right) decided not to maintain Armenia as a province and gave it up.

Further confrontation between the Romans (later the Byzantines) and the Persians and their Struggle for world domination caused Armenia loss of her independence for many centuries.