

Old Armenian prints in libraries In the former area of the First Polish Republic

The purpose of the research will be to acquire and systematize knowledge about the old prints in Armenian, stored in Polish and Ukrainian libraries in the former borders of the First Polish Republic. Therefore, the query will cover Armenian prints from the 16th to 18th centuries, created both in the territories of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as well as in foreign printing centers. The basic purpose of the research will be provision of basic information about the existence, condition and content of the preserved Armenian ancient prints.

This will be a pioneering work in this regard, since no one has ever undertaken to carry out an inventory of Armenian books printed in the area of the influence of Polish culture. This would be a natural continuation in the field of research of Piruz Mnatsakanyan, who in 2015 at the Jagiellonian University defended her Ph.D. thesis dealing with Armenian manuscripts from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, kept in libraries in the former borders of the First Polish Republic.

The subject matter is of great importance both to Polish culture in which the Armenian legacy has left its clear mark and to the culture of Armenia, which has been created in the Diaspora outside its native territory for centuries. Inventory of collections of Armenian ancient prints, stored in Polish (not only) libraries, would allow to recognize the scale of this phenomenon and analyze the types and nature of the texts written in them. This would be a very helpful resource for all the researchers dealing with Armenian history and tradition in the lands of the former Commonwealth. Such an inventory of collections of books also allow scholars, dealing with the history of the dialogue of Armenian culture with European tradition, to gain insights into the linguistic and communicative dimension of these contacts.

The inventory and elaboration of the collections of the old Armenian books will be inscribed in the perspective of research on the history and culture of Armenians in Polish lands. The reader will be able to get acquainted with the development of Armenian publishing houses in the territories of the First Republic of Poland and in other European countries, from where old prints originated and were stored in the Polish libraries. The profiles of printers and publishers as well as owners of Armenian books, including Poles will be represented. The profiles of important figures for Armenian cultural in Poland, who have played an important role in the formation of individual collections of books, will be approximated.

Acquiring knowledge about the presence of old Armenian prints thanks to the planned English-language publication will enable foreign researchers to discover world the problems of cultural relations between Armenians and Poles almost unknown to the world.