

ИСКУССТВОВЕДЕНИЕ

THE COVERAGE OF THE THEATRICAL LIFE OF ARTSAKH IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY ON THE PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPER "KARABAKH" (1911-1912)

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Аннотация. Таким образом, обобщая наши научные исследования, можно однозначно подчеркнуть, что театральное искусство процветало в Арцахе во второй половине XIX - первой половине XX века. Следует отметить, что до второй половины 19-го века армяне Арцаха имели свои театральные традиции веками. Был театр в танцевальном искусстве, на вечеринках и мероприятиях. Но профессионального театра еще не было, предпосылки для этого были созданы только тогда, когда в 1865 году в Шуши приехали известные деятели армянского театра Геворг Чмшкян, Михрдат Америкян и Седрак Мандинян. А в 1891 году в Шуши был построен Театр Мкртича Хандамиряна. В нем был зал на 350 мест.

Некоторые вопросы, связанные с социально-экономическими, политическими и культурными событиями в Арцахе, освещались практически во всех выпусках трехдневной литературно-общественной газеты "Карабах". Освещая театральное искусство Арцаха 1911-1912 годов, газета подчеркивала, что в этот период театр продолжал процветать. Театрализованные представления состоялись в разных местах Арцаха. Ряд интересных и многожанровых театрализованных представлений состоялся также в Шушинской епархиальной школе, в женской школе Мариамяна, в женской школе Рипсимяна, в церковной школе Св. Аствацацин Агулецоц, в церковной школе для мальчиков Св. Аствацацин Мегрецоц, в школе Мариам-Гукасян, в школе Реалакана, в детских садах, в частных домах состоятельных людей и в других местах того времени.

В 1911-1912 гг также состоялись многочисленные разножанровые спектакли: "Адам и Ева", "Вардананк", "Дикарь", "Шарлатан", "Сердце - загадка", "Непослушный", "Долина слез", драма "Помолвка", комедия "Современные герои", драма известного драматурга Гордина "Дьявол", драма "Кристина", драма Найдоса "Убитый голубь", драма Месницкого "Я умер" и другие спектакли.

Abstract. Thus, summarizing our scientific research, we can clearly emphasize that theatrical art flourished in Artsakh in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. It should be noted that until the second half of the 19th century, the Armenians of Artsakh had their theatrical traditions for centuries. There was theater in dance art, at parties and events. But there was no professional theater yet, preconditions were created for that only when in 1865 famous figures of the Armenian theater Gevorg Chmshkyan, Mihrdat Americyan and Sedrak Mandinyan came to Shushi. And the Mkrtich Khandamiryan Theater was built in Shushi in 1891. It had a 350-seat hall.

Separate issues related to the socio-economic, political and cultural events in Artsakh were covered in almost all issues of the three-day literary-social newspaper "Karabakh". Covering the theatrical art of Artsakh in 1911-1912, the newspaper emphasized that the theater continued to flourish in that period. Theatrical performances took place in different parts of Artsakh. A number of interesting and multi-genre theatrical performances took place at the Diocesan school of Shusha, at the Mariamyan girls' school, at the Hripsimyan girls' school, at the school of the Saint Astvatsatsin church of Aguletsots, at the school of boys of the Saint Astvatsatsin church of Megretsots, at the Mariam-Ghukasyan school, at the school of Realakan. A number of interesting and multi-genre theatrical performances also took place at the Diocesan School of Shushi, at the Girls' School of Mariamyan, at the Girls' School of Hripsimyan, at the school of Aguletsots St. Astvatsatsin Church, at the Boys' School of Meghretsots St. Astvatsatsin Church, at the school of Mariam-Ghukasyan, at the school of Realakan, at kindergartens, in private homes of wealthy people and at other places at that time.

Numerous multi-genre performances also took place in 1911-1912: "Adam and Eve" Vardanank, "The savage", "The Charlatan", "Heart is a mystery", "Naughty", "The Valley of Tears", "The Engaged" drama, "Modern Heroes" comedy, famous playwright Gordin's drama "The devil", the drama "Christine", Nardos' drama "The Killed Dove", Measnitky's drama "I died" and other performances.

Ключевые слова: искусство, театр, деревня, школа, церковь, периодическая печать, культурный центр, учитель, ученик.

Keywords: art, theater, village, school, church, periodical press, cultural center, teacher, student.

THE CONTENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE

The culture of Artsakh stands out with its uniqueness in the centuries-old history of the development of Armenian culture^[1]. The second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century are important periods in the centuries-old history of Armenian culture. The preconditions for the development of culture of the period (movements in the field of socio-economic relations, socio-political tendencies, the process of national unification of the Armenian people, the strengthening of Armenian-Russian relations, strong relations with major Armenian cultural centers: Calcutta, Madras, New Julfa, Venice, Moscow, New Nakhichevan, Astrakhan, Saint Petersburg, Tiflis, etc, a powerful social and pedagogical movement that developed in Eastern Armenia in the 60s of the 19th century) also had a unique impact on the cultural life of Artsakh. It should be emphasized that although the cultures of Russia, European countries and neighboring peoples had a beneficial effect on the culture of Artsakh at that time, however, the Armenian intelligentsia has always retained its unique national spirit in the field of pan-Armenian culture.

The socio-political movements that took place in Eastern Armenia and the rise of the cultural life also had a beneficial effect on the development of the branches of the art of Artsakh (theater, music, fine arts, architecture, sculpture, applied arts: carpet weaving, embroidery, pottery, jewelry, etc.). Valuable information about the theatrical life of Artsakh (1865-1920) is contained in the studies of R. Zaryan^[2], B. Khandamiryan, S. Harutyunyan^[3], B. Harutyunyan^[4], H. Hovhannisyan^[5], R. Ter-Gasparyan^[6], G. Chmshkyan^[7] and others. The authors briefly analyzed the historical events of the formation and further development of the Armenian Theater of Artsakh in their works.

There is also valuable information about the art of Artsakh in the pages of the Eastern Armenian periodical press^[8] which are not covered in detail.

In our scientific article, we present interesting and valuable information about the formation and the development of the theatrical life of Artsakh in the second half of the 19th which are based mainly on materials published in the newspaper of "Karabakh".

The rapid rise of the theatrical life in Eastern Armenia provided opportunities for the further development of the Armenian Theater in Artsakh in the 1860s. It should be noted that until the second half of the 19th century, the people of Artsakh had their own theatrical traditions for centuries (that is, from ancient times). The feeling of the theater was specific to the people of Artsakh from their life, customs and rituals. There was a theater during their dances, festivities and other events. The people of Artsakh understood the theater as a reality, as a unity of stage and life. However, there was no professional theater in Artsakh in ancient times (appropriate theatrical building, necessary conditions). Preconditions for the theater were created only in the second half of the 19th century. That is, when in 1865 famous figures of the Armenian Theater Gevorg Chmshkyan, Mihrdat Americyan and Sedrak Mandinyan came to Shushi. Together with the students who returned to their homeland, as well as the teachers and students, they organized several performances in the Diocesan School Hall: Srapion Hekimyan's "Samvel", "Vardan Mamikonyan", "Shushanik" and other dramas^[9].

G. Chmshkyan mentioned in his "Memoir" that there was activity in the theatrical life of Shushi before they came there, "S. Mandinyan's friend, Ter-Hakobyan from Shushi, takes us out of the city which was near the city of Shushi, and stops us in front of a huge stone building, shouting, "This is our theater^[10]"..... " G. Chmshkyan and his friends performed the play "School Teacher" in the building of the theater with the help of teachers and students of the Diocesan school^[11].

The patriotic performances of Chmshkyan's theatrical group have acquired great national value in Artsakh. Decades later, the spectators who watched the performances of Chmshkyan's troupe retained memories about true art, shared their impressions with inspiration and the theater lovers continued his traditions.

Manya Ghazaryan in her work "The Treasures of the Art of Artsakh" noted that the theatrical life of Shushi began with Gevorg Chmshkyan 's performances. In 1868, the creative group formed by him (the group consisted mainly of teachers and students from Diocesan and girls' schools) staged "The War of Vardanants", "Cut your stick from your bush"

¹ See more about this Harutyunyan M., Cultural life in Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Yerevan, 2010(Հարությունյան Մ., Մշակութային կյանքը Լեռնային Ղարաբաղում (Արցախում) 19 -րդ դարի երկրորդ կեսին և 20-րդ դարի սկզբին, Եր., 2010):

² Zaryan R., Adamyan's life, Yerevan, 1961(Ռ. Չարյան, Ադամյանի կյանքը, Երևան, 1961).

³ Khandamiryan B., Harutyunyan S., Pages from the past of the Armenian Theater of Shushi, Yerevan, 1978 (Խանդամիրյան Բ., Հարությունյան Ս., Էջեր Շուշիի հայ թատրոնի անցյալից, Երևան, 1978).

⁴ Harutyunyan B., The chronicle of the Armenian Theater of XIX-XX centuries (1801-1900), Yerevan, 1980 (Հարությունյան Բ., XIX-XX դարի հայ թատրոնի տարեգրություն (1801-1900), Երևան, 1980).

⁵ Hovhannisyan H., The history of the Armenian Theater, XIX century, Yerevan, 1996 (Հովհաննիսյան Հ., Հայ թատրոնի պատմություն, XIX դար, Երևան, 1996).

⁶ R. Ter-Gasparyan, Shushi, Yerevan, 1993(Ռ. Տեր-Գասպարյան, Շուշի, Երևան, 1993).

⁷Chmshkyan G., My Memoir (text was prepared and annotated by S. A Meliksetyan), Yerevan, 1953(Չմշկյան Գ., Իմ հիշատակարանը (տեքստը պատրաստել և ծանոթագրել էր Ս. Ա. Մելիքսեթյանը), Երևան, 1953).

⁸"Meghu Hajastani", "Nor Dar", "Mshak", "Karabagh", "Taraz" and other newspapers («Մեղու Հայաստանի», «Նոր դար», «Մշակ», «Ղարաբաղ», «Տարազ» և այլն).

⁹ Chmshkyan G., My Memoir, pp. 51-52.

¹⁰ Chmshkyan G., My Memoir, p. 51.

¹¹ Chmshkyan G., My Memoir, p. 53.

and other plays at the house of the rich Hambardzum Hakhumyan^[12].

The 80s of the 19th century were significant in the history of the Artsakh Theater. After finishing his tours in Gandzak on July 23, 1882, the famous actor of the Armenian stage, the tragic Petros Adamyan came to Shushi on the advice of the editor of "Taraz" magazine Tigran Nazaryan.

Petros Adamyan with actress Zabel staged the best plays (William Shakespeare's "Hamlet", P. Giacomet's "The Family of the Criminal", Schiller's "The thieves", etc.) at the house of Tigran Nazaryan's relative Hambardzum Hakhumyan, where a theatrical stage was built on the initiative of Tigran Nazaryan. The Armenian youth from Shushi who came here on vacation often presented performances staged by Gevorg Chmshkyan. The prominent young Armenian historian Leon who was among the audience spoke enthusiastically about Adamyan's plays: "Petros Adamyan came to Shushi and I was lucky to see his play "Hamlet"^[13]".

Armenian performances were often staged both by local forces (mainly by students, teachers of the Diocesan school) and by traveling actors in Shushi. Outstanding representatives of the Armenian theater Stepanos Avetyan, Alma Safrazyan, young actor Grigor Avetyan who came to Shushi on tour from Armenia on September 4, 1882 formed an Armenian amateur theater group and staged the performances "Shushanik", "Yervand", "Samvel" and others. These performances were generally admired by well-known intellectuals. It is noteworthy that in that period and later, the ideological leadership of the Artsakh Theater was not in the hands of the patriotic people who financially supported the theater (the Atabekyans, the Hakhumyans, the Tarumyans, the Chagharbekyans, etc.), but in the hands of famous intellectuals of that time who contributed to the development of theatrical ideas.

Until the 90s of the 19th century, theatrical multi-genre performances took place at the schools of Diocesan and Mariamyan Girls, at the college of Realakan of Shushi, in private homes of wealthy people, in open air places, as well as in the villages of Shosh, Sos, Chartar, Khanabad and in other villages of Artsakh.

Since the beginning of the 90s of the 19th century, the Armenian Theater flourished in Shushi due to the efforts of the famous theatrical figure Nikita Khandamiryan (1847-1917), who introduced new ideas in the life of the theater. The building of the theater of Nikita Khandamiryan furnished according to the requirements of the time was built in 1891 and the

activity of the newly built theater started on July 7, 1891. The latter had a 350-seat hall. It opened a new historical page in the theatrical life of Shushi. Prior to that there was no permanent, stable professional acting group in Shushi due to the lack of a theater building and necessary equipment but the Khandamiryan's theater had a permanent professional acting staff and the necessary conditions. The performances took place mainly in the new building of the theater. The theatrical plays were staged on both historical and contemporary themes. Episodes from modern life were reflected in the theatrical performances.

Not only valuable Armenian theatrical performances ("Yervand II", "Smbat I", "Samvel", "The astronomer of Karabakh", "The wound of Armenia" by Khachatur Abovyan, "Ruzan" by Muratsan, "Baghdasar Aghpar", "Honorable Beggars" by H. Paronyan and other works) but also other wonderful Russian-Western-European classical performances ("The Mermaid", "The Miserly Knight", "The Stone Guest" by Pushkin, "The Appellant", "The Notes of Crazy" by Gogol, "The Bear" by Anton Chekhov, "Innocent culprits" by Ostrovsky, "King Lear" by Shakespeare, "Don Quixote" by Cervantes and other famous dramas) were included in the list of theatrical performances of the Khandamiryan's theater^[14].

The periodicals of the time ("Haykakan Ashkharh", "Gorts", "Ethnographic Magazine" (Ազգագրական համբն), "Ararat", "Luma", "Mshak", "Nor Dar", "Taraz", "Nor Dprots", "Murch", "Meghu Hajastani" "Karabakh", etc.) covered all the cultural events with great enthusiasm that took place in Artsakh at that time.

Miscellaneous problems of the socio-economic, political, cultural spheres of Artsakh were covered practically in all issues of the literary-public three-day newspaper "Karabakh". The newspaper was published in 1911-1912 in the printing house of Melkon Babajanyan in Shushi^[15]. The spiritual leader of the Diocese, Archimandrite Zaven, doctor Nikolay Yaramishyan, Zaven Mahtesi Babayan and others made great efforts to publish the newspaper^[16]. The first issues of the three-day newspaper "Karabakh" were edited by the famous writer, publicist Vrtanes Papazyan^[17]. He united around the newspaper famous writers Konstantin Melik Shakhnazaryan, Grigor Nersisyan, Suren Ter-Minasyan, Khoren Lorents, Leon Atabekyan, Hakob Khanlaryan and others.

In addition to issues related to cultural centers, education and public life, various issues of the newspaper also actively covered possible changes in the daily life of the people of Artsakh of that period.

¹²Ghazaryan M., The treasures of the Art of Artsakh, 1993, p. 23 (Ղազարեան Մ., Արցախի արուեստի զանձերը, Անթիլիսս, 1993, էջ 23).

¹³Leo, From the Past, Tbilissi, 1925, p. 18 (Լեո, Անցյալից, Թիֆլիս, 1925, էջ 18: <https://www.litres.ru/grigori-babakhanyan-leo/ants-yalits/chitat-onlayn/>).

¹⁴Khandamiryan B., Harutyunyan S., Pages from the Past of the Armenian Theater of Shushi, Yerevan, 1978, pp. 19-20.

¹⁵Avagyan S., History of the Karabakh Press (1828-1920), Yerevan, 1989, p. 148 (Ավագյան Ս., Ղարաքաղի մամուլի

պատմություն (1828-1920), Եր., 1989). Harutyunyan M., Cultural life in Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Yerevan, 2010 (Հարությունյան Մ., Մշակութային կյանքը Լեռնային Ղարաբաղում (Արցախում) 19 -րդ դարի երկրորդ կեսին և 20-րդ դարի սկզբին, Եր., 2010):

¹⁶Avagyan S., History of the Karabakh Press (1828-1920), p. 148.

¹⁷"Karabakh", 1911, N 1, pp. 1-2.

Under the headline "Politics", the newspaper referred to the problems of Western Armenians and strongly criticized the policy pursued by the Young Turks.

The newspaper "Karabakh" considered one of its main goals to cover the problems of the educational sphere, many aspects of the cultural life, the activity of the educational and cultural centers of the country. Valuable information about the theatrical life of Artsakh in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century was published in almost all issues of the newspaper.

In the scientific article, "The role of theater in people's life" published in the 1st issue of the "Karabakh" newspaper in 1911, describing the importance of theatrical performances in the life of people, the author emphasized: "The educational role of the theater is undeniable. The theater educates, ennobles the heart and soul of a person, corrects and softens his rude manners, instills in him the ideas of kindness and beauty, love for the sublime. The theater also refines a person's artistic taste, giving him the opportunity to love the good and the beautiful. The theater allows a person to listen to their native dialect with a beautiful and clean accent^[18]".

We agree with the author's observations and based on it, let us emphasize that the theater is one of the most important schools of public life, which civilizes the society in a unique way.

A number of interesting and multi-genre theatrical performances also took place at the Diocesan School of Shushi (founded on June 22, 1838), at the Girls' School of Mariamyan (opened on April 7, 1864), at the Girls' School of Hripsimyan (the school was opened by the efforts of Archimandrite Aristakes Sedrakyan, in 1876), at the school of the St. Astvatsatsin Church of Aguletsots, at the Boys' School of the St. Astvatsatsin Church of Meghretsots, at the school of Mariam-Ghukasyan, at the school of Realakan, at kindergartens^[19], in private homes of wealthy people and at other places at that time.

The newspaper "Karabakh" noted in the next issue that a performance dedicated to the anniversary of the branch of the Armenian Benevolent Society of the Caucasus took place at the Diocesan School of Shushi in November 1911^[20]. The same issue of the newspaper mentioned that on November 25, the American "Electro" Theater was opened in the Atabekyans' house, the hall of which was comfortable and spacious. Interesting performances were staged here^[21]. Information about the performance dedicated to the anniversary of the branch of the Armenian Benevolent Society of the Caucasus was also published in the newspaper "Karabakh" 1911, N 5: "An event dedicated to the anniversary of the branch of the Armenian Benevolent Society of the Caucasus was held in the hall of the Diocesan school on Sunday evening, November 27. The leaders of the event spared no effort and tastefully decorated the hall, the entrance, the stairs

with fresh tree branches The event opened at 9 a.m. with a beautiful music by the city school orchestra conducted by Mr. Teimurazyan. The teacher of the Diocesan school G. Ter-Minasyan went on stage and read a brief history of the Armenian Benevolent Society of the Caucasus of Shushi. Then the pupils of the schools of Diocesan and Mariamyan sang. During this event V. Papazyan played the violin ^[22]".

In another issue of the newspaper "Karabakh", the article writer described about the theatrical performances that took place in the village of Taghlar of Artsakh on December 18, among which the performance "Adam and Eve" was noteworthy. Highly appreciating the play, the author of the article mentioned that the theatrical performance took place in the parish school of the village with the support of actor Kocharyan. He also noted: "A large crowd gathered. The hall was full. After the performance, the senior teacher of the school spoke about the importance of the theater, after which people with a joyful heart left the school taking with them new impressions^[23]".

Interesting theatrical performances also took place in other villages of Artsakh. The performance that took place in Khnushinak village is remarkable, about which the newspaper "Karabakh" wrote: "On December 28, a performance took place in the school hall of Khnushinak village with the participation of the students of the village school (boys and girls studied at the school) and the teacher Mr. A. Ghazaryan. The curtain opened with the song "Brother Hunter" and various verses. The interesting performances "Education is not a problem" and "Two hungry" also took place there. Both went smoothly and successfully. The hall was full of spectators. The performance ended at 1 o'clock. The people left in a good mood^[24]".

The newspaper "Karabakh" N 2, 1912 stated that in 1911 the theatrical life of Shushi was in a very good condition and good preconditions were created for the establishment of a theatrical-musical company, which later took over the organization of theatrical performances. The city club was very active at that time, which was expanded and endowed with various facilities, where various performances were staged in Armenian and Russian languages. There were also many parties and concerts there. During the summer, three members of the Armenian drama group, Mrs. Melikyan, Avetyan and Ageyan were there. They staged a number of performances there ^[25].

The newspaper "Karabakh" made a very interesting reference to one of the theatrical performances held at the Diocesan School of Shushi: "On February 2, a school event dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of Vardanants was held in the hall of the Diocesan School of Shushi. The event consisted of two parts: the first of them was opened with the "Our Father" Lord's Prayer, after which the teacher of the same school Mr. G. Ter-Poghosyan read a brief overview of the relationship between the

¹⁸ "Karabakh", 1911, N 1, November 17, p. 3.

¹⁹ "Karabakh", 1911, N 50, July 12, p. 4.

²⁰ "Karabakh", 1911, N 4, November 27, p. 4.

²¹ "Karabakh", 1911, N 4, November 27, p. 4.

²² "Karabakh", 1911, N 5, December 1, p. 4.

²³ "Karabakh", 1911, N 13, December 29, p. 4.

²⁴ "Karabakh", 1912, N 1, January 1, p. 4.

²⁵ "Karabakh", 1912, N 2, January 6, p. 1.

ministerial dynasties and Armenian people as well as and about other events. He also mentioned the heroic deeds performed by the rebels of Vardanants. During the event, students read two poems by Al. Tsaturyan and Hovhannes Tumanyan, after which one of the students read "Vardanank". During the event, two teachers of Mariamyan school, Mr. S. Ter Ghukasyan and Mr. S. Ter Minasyan made a speech, the first of which touched upon the issue of "national consciousness". S. Ter Ghukasyan emphasized that only self-conscious nations have been able to withstand the problems of history.... At the end of the event, S. Ter Minasyan pointed out the activities of the Armenian woman in the historical past, emphasized the current inconsolability and the serious work that needs to be done to achieve many future goals [26].

There is interesting information about the theatrical life of Artsakh in the newspaper "Karabakh" N 13, 1912, where the author of the article wrote about some original performances that took place in the schools of Diocesan and Realakan of Shushi. One of the performances was staged on February 10, the day of Saint Gregory the Illuminator at the Diocesan School which had a charitable purpose. The funds received from the theater were sent to the needy students of the schools of Diocesan and Mariamyan. And on February 17, an interesting event took place at the Realakan School of Shushi in which the senior pupils of the Russian Marinsky School for Girls also took part[27]. Theatrical performances with regular, interesting content and deep ideology for charitable purposes took place at the Diocesan School of Shushi in March. On March 21, Schnitzler's drama "Fun" and Emin Ter Grigoryan's play "The Savage" were staged to help schoolchildren[28]. And on March 29, the pupils of the Diocesan School staged Shirvanzade's play "The Charlatan". According to the author of the article, the theatrical performance went smoothly and well, the spectators left the hall in a high mood[29]. Professional actors Arusyak, Anahit, Margarit, Avetyan, Manuelyan, Alikhanyan, Haykazyan and Tarlanyan took part in the theatrical performances in Shushi[30].

Interesting theatrical performances were held at the summer clubs of Shushi. The newspaper "Karabakh" wrote about this: "On June 19, actor Mr. Y. Stepanyan and other actors performed a new play "David Beck" in the local summer hall, the material of which was taken from the novel of our immortal novelist Raffi. A large crowd gathered in the theater to see the brave heroes of Syunik and their activities about which Raffi wrote so interestingly and beautifully[31]. Analyzing the course of this theatrical performance in detail, the author of the article highlighted the shortcomings of the one.

Among these performances, the "Karabakh" newspaper covered several other performances that also took place at the Summer Club. The newspaper wrote about the first: "On Friday, August 10, 1912, the Society of Armenian Dramatic Actors performed the comedy "The Heart is a Mystery" and the performance of "The Naughty" dedicated to the anniversary of the director Mr. Grigor Avetyan in the hall of the Summer Club. The hall was full. The curtain opened at exactly 9 o'clock and Mr. Avetyan was greeted with loud applause. After the first and second actions, the whole group was invited to the stage, in the presence of which the jubilee received a gold watch with the following inscription to the applause of the society: "To the talented actor Gr. Avetyan by the fans, Shushi, August 10". This performance by the power of its ensemble surpassed all performances. Actors Arusyak, Avetyan, Beroyan, Alikhanyan stand out. The performance ended at 12 o'clock, the public left with a satisfied heart[32].

The newspaper made the following comment about the second: "The Society of Armenian Dramatic Actors headed by Mr. Gr. Avetyan performed Avetik Aharonyan's drama "The Valley of Tear" in the hall of the Summer Club. The hall was half full ... The society of Shushi has seen the valley on the stage for the third or fourth time, the valley that has sometimes replaced a rock for itself. The people of Shushi also had their "The Rock of Tear". The performance was very successful. Famous actors Arusyak, Anahit, Avetyan, Beroyan and others stood out with their roles. The performance ended at exactly 12 o'clock. This time the society met with great sympathy the honored and famous employees of the Armenian stage. The applause of the spectators was heard everywhere[33].

The drama "The Betrothed", the comedy "The Modern Heroes[34]", the famous playwright Gordin's drama "The devil[35]", the drama "Christine[36]", Nardos' drama "The Killed Dove[37]" and Measnitski's play "I am dead" were staged in the hall of the city summer club of Shushi. These were described in a very original way in the pages of the newspaper "Karabakh". These performances were organized by the Armenian Association of Dramatic Actors. I would like to highlight the play "The Betrothed" in which the Armenian playwright Al. Abelian told a beautiful love story that ended in a great tragedy: a loving man, suspecting his girlfriend of infidelity, stabbed her at the instigation of a friend.

The "Karabakh" newspaper described the "Christine" drama in detail: "On Monday, July 30, a group of Armenian dramatic actors under the leadership of Gr. Avetyan performed the drama "Christine" in the hall of the Summer Club. The play stands out with its staging and complete types. The

²⁶ "Karabakh", 1912, N 9, February 5, p. 3.

²⁷ "Karabakh", 1912, N 13, February 19, p. 3.

²⁸ "Karabakh", 1912, N 22, March 25, p. 4.

²⁹ "Karabakh", 1912, N 23, April 1, p. 4.

³⁰ "Karabakh", 1912, N 46, June 28, p. 4.

³¹ "Karabakh", 1912, N 47 July 1, p. 4.

³² "Karabakh", 1912, N 61, August 19, p. 4.

³³ "Karabakh", 1912, N 49, July 8, p. 4.

³⁴ "Karabakh", 1912, N 52, July 19, p. 4.

³⁵ "Karabakh", 1912, N 53, July 22, p. 4.

³⁶ The drama "Christine" was taken by Tsereteli from the novel of the same name by the famous folk writer Ninoshvili. This drama was translated from Georgian by G. Pirumyan ("Karabakh", 1912, N 54, July 26, p. 4).

³⁷ "Karabakh", 1912, N 55, July 29, p. 4.

content of the play is as follows: Datia, a girl from the village, fell in love with the nobleman Jason (Եսան). And the man cheated on the girl and after continuing his love affair for a year, he left the girl and her illegitimate child. Christine's frequent written pleas could not move the nobleman's hardened conscience. Unable to bear her daughter's crying anymore, the girl's father beat and cursed her and asked her not to cry anymore. Christine asked her friend Marine to help her get out of the current situation. And Marine advised him to go to town with Sona, their neighbor's daughter, saying that Sona would find him a job. Christine ran away from home leaving even her only son. Sona gave Christine money for the trip, brought her to the city, to a brothel, where she was forced to receive guests. The defenseless girl had to engage in immorality and ruin her health. Then she went outside letting every street boy use it. Some time later, Christina began to drink a lot and gradually began to lose her health. She eventually died in the arms of her son and blind father [38].

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