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ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ԲԱԺԱՆՄՈՒՄՔ

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter
Cultural Division

Get to Know...

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AVETIS AHARONIAN

JANUARY 6, 1866 — MARCH 20, 1948

Avetis Aharonian (January 6, 1866 - March 20, 1948) was an Armenian politician, writer, public figure and revolutionary, also part of the Armenian national movement. Avetis Aharonian was born in 1866 in the Igdirmava village of the Araratian fields, which is now located in Turkey. Aharonian was extremely influenced by the natural features of his entourage, such as the Arax river and Ararat mountain, both of which were located near his village. His mother, Zardar, was a literate person, who was able to educate his child by teaching him how to read and write.

After completing elementary education at the village's school, he was sent to Etchmiadzin's Kevorkian school, and graduated from there. He became a teacher for a few years, after which he went to Switzerland's University of Lausanne to study history and philosophy. During this period of time, he met Kristapor Mikaelian, who was then the chief editor of the Troshag (Flag) newspaper. He then began to write for the paper. In 1901, upon graduation, he went to study literature at the Sorbonne. In 1902, he returned to the Caucasus and became the headmaster of the Nersissian school and the chief editor of the Mourj (Hammer) newspaper. Thus, in 1909, he was captured by the Tsar's government and imprisoned in Metekhi's prison, where he fell ill.

Two years later, after a generous donation of 20,000 rubles, he fled to Europe. He returned to the Caucasus in 1917, and chaired the Armenian National Council, which proclaimed the independence of Democratic Republic of Armenia on May 28, 1918. He signed the Treaty of Batum with the Ottoman Empire.

In 1919, he was the head the Armenian delegation at the Paris Peace Conference with Boghos Nubar, where he signed the Treaty of Sèvres formulating the "Wilsonian Armenia"

in direct collaboration with the Armenian Diaspora.

Avetis Aharonian, died on March 20, 1948 in Paris.

