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DORA SAKAYAN

AN ARMENIAN DOCTOR IN TURKEY

GARABED HATCHERIAN:
MY SMYRNA ORDEAL OF 1922



CRETE

M E D I T E R R A N E A N

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ԶՄՅՈՒՌՆԻԱ 1922

**ԲԺԻՂԿ Կարապետ Խաչերյանի
օրագիրը**

**Նախաբան՝
Թեսսա Ղոֆմանի**

ԵՐԵՎԱՆ
ԵՊՀ ՀՐԱՏԱՐԱԿՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
2011

DORA SAKAYAN

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IN TURKEY**

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**The Armenian Original and the Translations of
Dr. Hatcherian's Journal
General Editor: Dora Sakayan**

1. **Տօթ. Կարապետ Ռաչերեան, Զմիռնիական արկածներս 1922-ին**, Montreal: Arod Books, 1995 et 1997.
2. *An Armenian Doctor in Turkey. Garabed Hatcherian: My Smyrna Ordeal of 1922*. Translated and expanded English edition by Dora Sakayan, 1st Edition: Montreal: Arod Books, 1997.
3. *Un Doctor Armenio en Turquía, Garabed Hatcherian: Mis Visicitudes en la Esmirna de 1922*, Translated from English and Armenian by Juan R. S. Yelanguézian, Montreal: Arod Books, 2000.
4. *Smyrne 1922: Entre le feu, le glaive et l'eau. Les épreuves d'un médecin arménien*. Translated from English into French by Ethel Groffier, Paris: L'Harmattan, 2000.
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6. *Bir Ermeni Doktorun Yasadıkları. Garabet Haçeryan'ın İzmir Güncesi*. Translated from the English version by: Atilla Tuygan, Istanbul: Belge, 2005.
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8. *Смирна 1922. Дневник Каранета Хачеряна*. Translated into Russian by Lusine Engibarjan, Yerevan: National Academy Press, 2005.
9. *Smyrna 1922: Das Tagebuch des Garabed Hatscherian*. Translated into German by Dora Sakayan, Klagenfurt: Kitab, 2006.

"The immensity of the Smyrna disaster could have been, if not avoided, but at least attenuated, if a double illusion would not exist: the confidence of the Allied Powers in the Turks, and the confidence of the Oriental Christians in the Allied Powers."

René Puaux

Les derniers jours de Smyrne, Paris 1923

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PREFACE

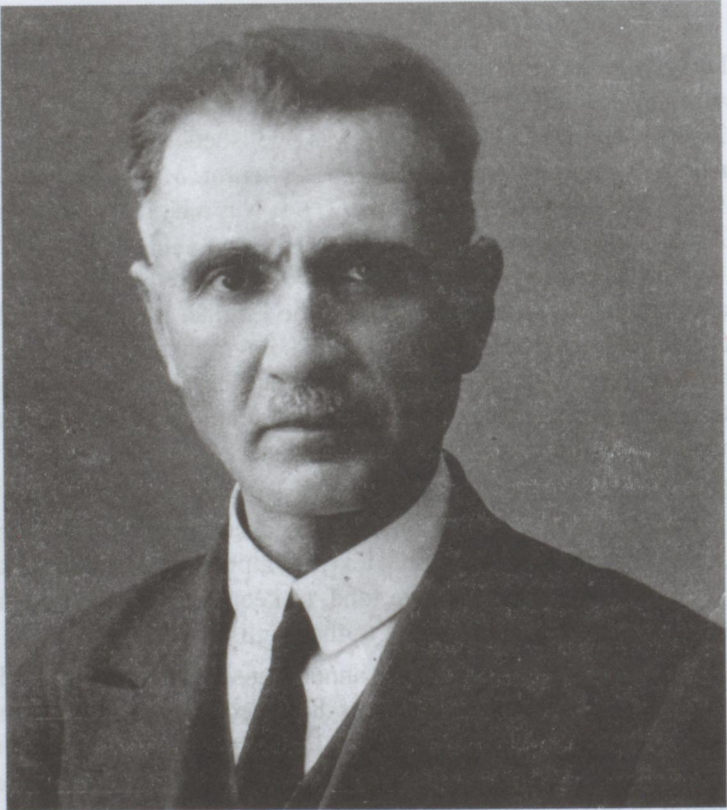
This is the 2nd English edition of Dr. Hatcherian's journal "*My Smyrna Ordeal of 1922*" [Armenian: «*Զմիւռնիական արկածներս 1922-ին*»]. The 1st English edition was published under the title "*An Armenian Doctor in Turkey. Garabed Hatcherian: My Smyrna Ordeal of 1922*" (Montreal, Arod Books: 1997). It was a larger volume than the Armenian original edition «*Զմիւռնիական արկածներս 1922-ին*» (Montreal (Arod Books: 1995 and 1997) authored by Dr. Garabed Hatcherian, since it included not only the English translation of Dr. Hatcherian's journal, but also his detailed biography, an expanded introduction, 70 annotations, a list of pertinent literature to the subject matter, many photographs, and an afterword that I, as Dr. Hatcherian's granddaughter, thought was owed to the reader.

The present volume appears with no substantial changes to the 1st English edition. In my translation of Dr. Hatcherian's journal into English, I strictly adhere to the source text, attempting to preserve the author's concise style and discrete tone, to keep its content and spirit intact, and to convey his message to the English-speaking reader.

Since I am not an historian, the annotations are not to be regarded as a conclusive commentary on events discussed in the journal. Rather, these annotations are intended to shed light on the historical and cultural context and to give to the readers less familiar with this context an insight to my grandfather's story. All notes here are based on reliable sources, published documentation and my personal knowledge.

Dora Sakayan

Montreal, November 2010



Dr. Garabed Hatcherian (1876-1952) .

DR. GARABED¹ HATCHERIAN (1876-1952)

Dr. Garabed Hatcherian² was born in 1876 in Bardizag³, also known by the Turkish name Bakhchedjik. The name Bardizag was given to a group of eight small villages in the province of Izmit (Nicomedia). Five of these villages were populated by Armenians, one by Greeks, and two by Muslims. At the turn of the century, Bardizag had a predominantly Armenian-speaking population of 10,500 (Der-Hagopian 1960: 32). Hence the Armenian name Bardizag, meaning "little garden." Bardizag borders the Sea of Marmara in northern Turkey, not far from Constantinople. The town was founded at the beginning of the 17th century by Armenians fleeing from their original village, Bardizag in Sebastia which, at that time, had become the battlefield of the Turko-Persian war.

The favorable geographical location of the new Bardizag on the wooded hillside slopes with its salubrious sea air, charming stone houses, and picturesque flower gardens, made it an attractive summer resort for the wealthy Armenian intelligentsia from Constantinople and environs. Bardizag was known not only for its natural physical beauty, but also for its vibrant cultural life, with eight Armenian schools (including a college), several Armenian churches representing three Christian denominations (Apostolic, Catholic, and Protestant), at least three Armenian newspapers and periodicals, and a lively amateur theatre. Bardizag was also known for its fine medical and pharmaceutical services, and for its many fine physicians and pharmacists. Despite its modest size, Bardizag was a hive of literary activity, where both oral and written Armenian were held in high esteem. In short, the stimulating environment of Bardizag was representative of the Armenian literary and cultural revival in 19th century Anatolia.

It was under these circumstances that the young Garabed Hatcherian began his schooling at the local Armenian and American schools and at the Turkish school in Nicomedia. In 1895, he began his medical studies at the Constantinople School of Medicine⁴, from which he grad-

uated in 1901, specializing in general medicine and gynecology. During the last years of his medical studies, he worked in the Armenian and French hospitals of Constantinople. He was then appointed a municipal doctor in the province of Bursa⁵ where he worked for almost 10 years. Returning to his home town of Bardizag in 1910, he pursued his career as a private physician. During this time, he also taught courses on health and hygiene, as well as civic education at the local Armenian schools until the World War I. In 1907, he married Elisa Costanian (born in Akhisar, near Smyrna) and they had three boys: Hatcherer (1909), Krikor (1913), and Hovhannes (1916), and two girls: Sirarpi (1911) and Vartouhi (1921).

In 1914, along with 1,500 young men from Bardizag, Dr. Hatcherian was conscripted into the Turkish army and served there as a medical officer for the duration of World War I. For his excellent military service in Constantinople, the Dardanelles, Smyrna, and Romania, he was decorated with high military medals and the Golden Crescent. During his military service in 1915, the Armenian population of Bardizag was massacred or deported, and the Armenian villages of Bardizag was ravaged and destroyed (Mkhalian 1938, Der-Hagopian 1960). After his discharge from the army in 1918, Dr. Hatcherian settled down with his family in Smyrna, to be close to his wife's family and their estate in her ancestral birthplace Akhisar. In Smyrna, Dr. Hatcherian soon achieved social prominence. He held the position of general surgeon and gynecologist⁶ at the Armenian National Hospital. Concurrently, he also became the physician in charge of general and internal medicine at the outpatient clinic of this hospital. In 1922, during the Smyrna catastrophe his career came to an abrupt end. Within a matter of days, Dr. Hatcherian lost his livelihood and his home, and was arrested by the Turks for the *crime* of being Armenian. After suffering greatly himself and witnessing the agony of his fellow Christians for six days, he was released from prison. On September 24, 1922, the Hatcherian family managed to escape to the Greek Island of Mitilini, leaving behind in Akhisar 10 members of the extended family on both sides. All ten family members, including the mothers and brothers with their families, were brutally massacred after the occupation of Akhisar by the Kemalist army.