The legendary contribution of the Armenians in the history of creating of the national alphabets in the world

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Various artifacts of tangible and intangible heritage point at the sources or carry information on the significant role of the Armenians (old Armenian civilization) in the creation of the alphabets of different nations throughout the world. Hereafter are presented the most significant of them:

1. **Ideograms** and **hieroglyphs,** that are identified in the Armenian Rock Art, are the prototypes and form the basis of the origin of the Armenian, Hittite, Urartian, Indian and Egyptian ideograms and hieroglyphs[1].

2. **Tir(as)** is the god of writing and wisdom in the Armenian pantheon of pagan gods. According to the medieval Armenian historians, **Askanaz** and **Torgom** (the founders of the Armenian house, who preserved knowledge of the old civilization) are listed among his sons.

3. According to Greek sources, Cadmus is the creator of the **Phoenician** and **Greek alphabets**. Cadmus (Armenian *Կադմոս* [Cadmos]) is the grandson of **Hayk Nahapet** (he is mentioned in the Biblical and Christian tradition as one of the descendants of Torgom [Togarmah]), the legendary founder of the Haykazuni dynasty, and the son of Aramaniak.

   Hayk Nahapet was the first to found the Temple of Knowledge (the dwelling of God); he later passes it over to his grandson **Cadmus** [**Cadmos**]. **Hayk Nahapet** was also the first (long before Moses) to create yearly **calendar comprising 12 months**[2]. The **months** were named after **Hayk's** children[3].

   The ancient territories of **Phoenicia** and **Cilicia** were passed over to the descendants of Cadmus (Draskhanakerttsi H.). Herodotus accurately mentions that Cadmus reached Greece from **Phoenicia**. According to Herodotus, one of the Phrygian (Thracian) tribes that resettled to Asia spoke a language similar to the Armenian language (or the language that Tiras and Cadmus spoke[4]). The authors relate to the deeds of Cadmus the foundation of the legendary city of Thebes (Greece), and also the chemical element "**cadmium**" (copper) and the notion "**academy**".

   Cadmus was familiar not only with the archaic **ancient philosophy**, but also with the art of **cryptography** and **writing** (hieroglyphs, ideograms and pictographs). It was

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[1] Source: http://www.iatp.am/vahanyan/articles/scandinavia-ru.pdf

[2] Thus, the method of correlation of numbers with the alphabet characters was used for the first time in the history of civilization (author's note). Alphabetic designations of numbers, according to experts, were borrowed from the ancient Greeks (from Miletus) by the Jews, who invented these designations in VII century BC. Since Cadmus invented and passed to the Greeks the alphabet signs (according to Greek sources), the Greeks used the alphabetic designations of numbers borrowed from the old Armenians. Cf. the Armenian language has a single letter construction for the notions "*letter*" [Armenian "*tar*"] and "*year*" [Armenian "*tari*"]. Anania Shirakatsi records that his aim is to present the works of our ancestors is the art of calculation, like the living voice of a good teacher. He encourages them to study on his tables, although he mentions that they are brief, presenting a little from many (Abramyan A., Petrosyan G. Anania Shirakatsi, YSU Publishing House, Yerevan, 1970, p. 46). Thus, the multiplication tables of Shirakatsi including alphabetic and numeric relations were more ancient for seven centuries of all similar tables known in the history of mathematics so far (same, p. 56).

[3] Khorenatsi M. History of Armenia, translation from Grabar: Sargsyan G. "Hayastan", Yerevan, Armenia, 1990. Draskhanakerttsi H. History of Armenia, translation from Grabar: Darbinyan-Meliqyan M.O., Yerevan, 1984.

[4] Author's note.

pointed that the archetypes of the signs of rock art of Ancient or Old Armenia were used as prototypes of the signs of Starcevo and Vinca (Old Europe) cultures. Cadmus was the first teacher to adapt the universal writing system (the so-called Danielian script) to a particular language, using the ancient Armenian worldview paradigm of the concept and principles of Natural Philosophy and Metaphysics. It was revealed and grounded that the Armenian, Phoenician (Aramaic, Hyksos) and Greek alphabets were formed based on the early worldview concepts (Babayan S.), and that the modern Armenian alphabet is a strict mathematical model and an encoded system (Pogosyan G.). Earlier, a hypothesis was put forward about the relations of ancient Armenian musical symbols (khaz) with the principles of Natural Philosophy and natural number of the Platonic sequence (Aroyan N.)[5].

4. Beautiful **Europa** (**Phoenician Princess**, **sister of Cadmus**) was abducted by the Greeks (according to mythology, by Zeus) from Asia. In Cyprus she had a son (Minas or Minos) – the founder of the Minoan civilization[6], the legendary King of the "capital city" of Ancient Crete – Knossos. Minos founded the cities of Knossos, Phaistos and Kydonia. The legendary **Phaistos Disc** from Crete depicts writing script, which has not been decoded yet[7].

5. The **Golden Fleece** (ancient knowledge encoded with runic symbols) was kept in **Colchis** (Sarmatia – the territory, bordering old Armenia). The golden pelt of a ram, which ensured the welfare of the people of Colchis, was guarded by a dragon in the Grove of Ares. It was stolen and taken away to Greece by the Argonauts, under the leadership of Jason. According to Ancient Greek Mythology, the Golden Fleece is a golden pelt of a ram (sent by the cloud goddess Nephele, or Hermes by order of Hera, or by Zeus himself), on the back of which the children of King Athamas, Phrixus and Helle, left for the **Asian** coast (they ended up in **Colchis** – the ancient border between Asia and Europe) to escape from their stepmother **Ino**, the daughter of **Cadmus**. Phrixus reached the fabulous "**east land**".

The first philosophical teaching on the principles of Natural Philosophy and Metaphisics (stated in the old epic song "Birth of Vahagn"), the compound worldview of old sages, students of **Cadmus**, formed the basis for early knowledge of ancient Greek philosophers, and became the frame of creating a number of writing systems aiming to transform tacit knowledge into explicit knowledge, and to accumulate, preserve and transfer this knowledge. Ancient knowledge was translated into Greek (after Cadmus had created the Greek alphabet and the Golden Fleece was stolen from

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[5] Source: http://www.iatp.am/vahanyan/articles/xram-znaniy-vahanyan-2016.pdf

[6] According to Evans, the Minoan civilization was the first Pre-Greek civilization on the island of Crete and in Continental Greece having a writing system. This point is criticized by William Ridgeway, mentioning that Minos was an intruder and not of the autochthonous population of the island (source: https://ru.wikipedia.-org/wiki/Минос).

[7] A unique artifact with a written text on it dating to the middle or late Minoan Bronze Age, discovered in the city of Phaistos on the island of Crete. Its purpose, and even its original geographical place and time remain disputed. According to the majority of the specialists, attempts at decipherment are generally thought to be unlikely to succeed unless more examples of the signs are found. The **Phaistos Disc** is now on display at the archaeological museum of Heraklion (Crete, Greece). In the northern part of the main cell, in the same cultural layer, a few inches south-east of the disc, Linear A tablet PH 1 was found (A. Pernier L. Il disco di Phaestos con caratteri pittografici - Ausonia: 1908. Vol. 3. Roma, 1909. P. 255-302). Trojan script is a series of signs on the vessels discovered in Troy during H. Schliemann's expedition. A Russian linguist and historian of antiquity Kazansky N.N. finds them similar to the Crete signs. The Linear A has mixed features. 80 signs are of open-syllable character, and about several hundreds of them are ideograms (Kazansky N.N. Trojan script // Antique Balkan Studies. The Carpathian-Balkan region in diachrony. M., 1984).

Colchis) and became the asset of the Greeks, giving them an opportunity to dominate in Europe and Asia for over 1000 years[8].

6. **Aesir Odin** created the **Runes**. According to Norse mythology and Snorri Sturluson, the Aesir and the Vanir are Norse gods, the leaders and kings of the antiquity. **Aesir Odin** with a large number of people resettled to the North and whatever countries they passed through "*they seemed more like gods than men*". Odin was the descendant of Askanaz (the brother of Torgom and the ruler of Sarmatia). Askanaz left his house (inherited from Tiras) to Torgom, who later renamed it into the house of Torgom. The symbols, identified in the Armenian rock art, was the prototype for the creation of the Runes. Moreover, they formed the bases for the "ethnogenesis" of the signs of the cultures of **Old Europe** (Starcevo and Vinca).

7. The scientific literature holds diverse views on the origin of the **Danielian scripts**. According to Harutyunyan I., the Danielian script proves the existence of original Old Armenian alphabet in the pagan epoch. Abrahamyan G. shares this opinion, referring to a number of historical sources. The Orthodox Encyclopedia mentions the Danielian script as the oldest variant of the Armenian writing script.

   Armenian King Vramshapuh tells **Mesrop Mashtots** and the Catholicos **Sahak Partev** [Isaac or Sahak of Armenia], that being in Mesopotamia (Edessa, the capital city of one of the Armenian Kingdoms, where the archives from a number of temples were taken to by Armenian King Abgar[9]), a priest named Abel told him about bishop **Daniel**, who has the **Armenian scripts**. It was said that Daniel came across the **forgotten old scripts of the Armenian alphabet**. They asked the King to send a messenger to Daniel, asking him to bring along these scripts. **Koryun**, a disciple of Mashtots, mentions that for about two years Mashtots was teaching and taught using this script. But it turned out that these letters cannot fully express all the sounds of the Armenian language. Movses Khorenatsi [Moses of Khorene] writes that later Mesrop himself, accompanied by his disciples, goes to Mesopotamia and visits Daniel, but finding nothing else, he decides to solve the problem himself. After his searches of the needed principle and graphics, Mashtots created the Armenian alphabet; moreover, holding to old tacit principles of alphabet formation, he improved it. The result was an original graphically and phonetically accomplished alphabet. The Medieval Armenian historian **Movses Khorenatsi** describes the process of creation of the Armenian alphabet by **Mashtots**: "*And he (Mashtots) sees whether in a dream or awoken in the depth of his heart the right hand, which appears before the eyes of his soul, which writes on the stone the letters Ա, Ե, Ի, Ո, Ու. As on the stone, like on the snow there appeared the traces of the letters[10]*". And not only this appeared to him, but all the circumstances gathered in his mind like in a vessel.

   In the hypothetical table of the Danielian script by Muravyov S., the lines correspond to the shortest sequence of the elements mentioned by Aristotle: **earth, water, air** and **fire**, which can be made from each other. According to Poghosyan G., a manuscript in Matenadaran mentions that the 4 rows of the Armenian alphabet (starting from the left) are called **fire, air, water** and **earth** correspondingly; the sequence of the elements (as compared to the abovementioned) is reciprocal. The possible reason is that when rotated 90 degrees clockwise, the sequence of the lines gets reverse order. Thus, the principles of Natural Philosophy and Metaphysics are implemented not only in the works of pagan ancestors of the Armenians, but also in the structure of the

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[8] Source: http://www.iatp.am/vahanyan/articles/academy-cadmos2016.pdf

[9] A number of sources mention the correspondence exchanged between King Abgar and Jesus.

[10] Source: http://japanarmenia.com/the-ancient-armenian-alphabet-the-hiksos-alphabet-as-a-basis-for-the-mash-tots-letters/

Danielian script and the Armenian alphabet (the Armenian alphabet [V century] is arranged in four rows, representing the four classical elements)[11].

8. There are other historical sources pointing the relation and impact of the scientists of Armenian origin on the history of alphabet creation. **Leo the Mathematician**[12] was the teacher of **St. Cyril** (baptized **Constantine the Philosopher**), the enlightener of the Slavs, who with his brother Methodius created the old **Slavic alphabet (Cyrillic alphabet**.

9. The scientific literature of historical studies widely mention the view, based on the Armenian primary sources of V-VII centuries, which record the fundamental role of Mesrop Mashtots in the creation of the first Albanian alphabet (Caucasian Albanian alphabet) and the first Georgian script – Mrgvlovani[13]. Many characters of the **Ge'ez script** (Ethiopian alphabet) are similar to the letters of the **Armenian alphabet** created by M. Mashtots.

The chronological analysis of the mentioned data grounds the indisputable fact of the dominant impact of the civilization of the old Armenians on history of creation and formation of old writing systems.

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[11] Source: http://www.iatp.am/vahanyan/articles/nachala2014.pdf

[12] **Leo the Mathematician** (or **Leo the Philosopher**) (c. 790 – c. 870) was a Byzantine philosopher, archbishop of Thessalonica from 840-843. He founded the Magnaura School of philosophy in Constantinople. A number of sources mention his Armenian descent, which stems to the biographical records telling he is a relative of the Patriarch John the Grammarian.

[13] Source: https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%93%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%81%-D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B5_%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%8C%D0%BC%D0%BE