Translating the Adamgirk' of Arak'el of Siwnik'

Michael E. Stone

The task of translation of the early fifteenth-century biblical epic on Adam and Eve by Arak'el, Abbot of Tat'ew and known as Siwnec'i, raised a series of problems arising from the attempt to preserve a strict accuracy of translation of the Armenian text on the one hand, and to convey the various literary characteristics of the mediaeval Armenian poems on the other. The writer's solutions to these problems are presented. Moreover, the significance of the publication of a full English literary translation of this major Armenian poetic composition is considered in terms of the domestication of Armenian creativity in the universe of discourse of modern scholars and students of literature.