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**MEDIEVAL ARMENIAN PROSKYNETARION – THE ILLUMINATED “GUIDE BOOK”
MANUSCRIPT OF THE HOLY PILGRIM SHRINES IN JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY LAND**

Nkaragrutiwn Tnōrinakan teleac' (or *Proskynetarion* in Greek version) is the name given to manuscripts containing descriptions of the monuments of Palestine, especially the Christian ones. They have many points of similarity with modern travel books or tourist guides to archeological sites. Several illuminated manuscripts of this type are preserved in libraries and collections in all over the world – an indication of their great popularity, particularly in the period following the fall of Constantinople in 1453. They date, in fact, from the 16th to 18th centuries. The manuscripts compiled at the aim to acquaint the Armenian pilgrims with the Holy Shrines in the Holy Land.

Proposed Armenian manuscript is housed in the monastic library of the Mekhitarists Congregation in Vienna (W757). This is very interesting and important “guide book” richly illustrated and written by the miniaturist and scribe the monk Eremia Atanac'i (Jeremiah of Adana) at the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 1697. The *Tnōrinakan teleac'* are paper manuscripts of medium format (19,5 x 15 cm), containing 22 folios with the text written in *notrgir* in a single column. Eremia of Adana illustrates around 100 miniatures with the representations of the holy monuments. The subjects of miniatures are monasteries, cathedrals, churches, chapels, caves, mountains, rivers and lakes. Most of them are Christians, but there are also Jewish and Muslims ones. The pictorial cycle begins with the representation of the Church of St. Nativity in Bethlehem and it finish with the miniature of the Cathedral of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem at the end of codex. The master offers a comprehensive guided tour to the monuments that, at his time, were scattered over the territory of Palestine, several of which are still preserved on the same sites today. Analysis of their content at once reveals the great value of this manuscript for many branches of research, especially the history of art, geography, topography and archeology of the Palestine.

I will intend to elucidate the basic results of the investigation: traditions, dependence, iconography, influences and originality of the miniatures from Vienna codex in the comparison with other Greeks *Proskynetaria* as well as the significance of creative works by the monk Eremia of Adana, their place and role in the Armenian miniature painting in the context of the history of pilgrimage to the Holy Land.