

Matt'ēos Urhayec'i and His Chronicle

History as Apocalypse in a Crossroads of Cultures

by

Tara L. Andrews



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Contents

Acknowledgments XI

Transliteration of Names and Places XIII

1 The Origins of the *Chronicle* 1

The Author of the *Chronicle* 3

Urhayec'i's Edessa 9

The Armenian Historiographical Tradition 12

Urhayec'i's Sources of Information 15

2 The New Age of Prophecy: The *Chronicle's* Place in Armenian Historiography 23

Armenian Historical Philosophy 23

Urhayec'i's Historical Philosophy 27

The Prophecies of Yovhannēs Kozeṛn 30

The Prophecies Fulfilled: The Structure of the *Chronicle* 37

Conclusion 43

3 'The Violent Massacres, This Dreadful Wrath': Armenia in the *Chronicle* 44

The Idealized Past: The Presentation of Pre-1020 Armenia 46

The Loss of the Armenian Kingdoms: 1000–1045 49

471–472 (1021–1024): *Basil II's Eastern Campaign and Its Consequences* 52

490–494 (1041–1046): *Turkish Invasions and the Loss of Independence* 57

The Occupied East and the Armenians in Exile 60

The Royal Families in Exile 62

The Rise and Fall of Philaretos 64

The Armenian Magnates of Cilicia and Syria 66

The Slow Revival: The Armenians and the Crusaders 68

The Rise of Georgia, 1121–1129 70

Conclusion 71

4 'Under the Aegis of the Roman Emperor': Urhayec'i on Byzantium 74

The Era of Growing Byzantine Domination over the Armenians 79

The Waning of Byzantine Influence 91

Conclusions 98

- 5 Muslim, Persian, or Turk? The Armenian Chronicler and the 'Infidels' 101
- The Role of Muslims within Armenian History 105
 - Which Muslims?* 108
 - Tenth-century Muslims in the Chronicle* 110
 - The Appearance of the Turks* 112
 - Reality and Myth: The Armenians under Turkish Domination* 114
 - Conclusion 119
- 6 'The Nation of Valiant Ones': The Crusaders in Urhayec'i's Eyes 121
- The Local Background to the Crusade 123
 - The Place of the Crusaders in the Prophetic Framework of Kozein 127
 - Urhayec'i as a Source for Crusading Politics 133
 - Conclusion 138
- 7 'Many Break Away from the Faith': Eastern Christianity in the *Chronicle* 139
- Before the Fall: Ecclesiastical History before 1033 142
 - The Recent Past: Urhayec'i's Church in Uncertain Times 148
 - The Armenian Church in the Wake of the First Crusade 151
 - The Community of Clerics as Seen in the Chronicle* 152
 - Aftermath: Byzantium in Cilicia and the Council of Jerusalem* 153
- 8 The History of the *Chronicle* 155
- The Text of the *Chronicle* 155
 - Use by Later Armenian Historians 158
 - Grigor Erēc'* 158
 - The Earliest Witness: Smbat Sparapet* 159
 - Recognition by Later Historians* 162
 - The Manuscript Tradition of the *Chronicle* 164
 - The Venice Group* 165
 - The Vienna Group* 167
 - The Copyist of Lviv* 169
 - The Vataršapat Primary Text* 170
 - Print Publication and Modern Reception 171
- 9 Conclusion 177

**Appendix A: Text and Translation of Selected Excerpts from the
Chronicle 183**

Appendix B: Lists of Rulers of the Period 232

Appendix C: List of all Known Manuscripts 233

Maps 235

Bibliography 238

Index 251