

interest, but, however defective, they are very valuable in a field suffering from a paucity of other materials.⁶

There does exist a sizable corpus of secondary source materials in Armenian, ranging from Fr. Arsen Pakraduni's manuscript work, written in 1856 and kept at the Mekhitarist library in Venice,⁷ to the most recent publication of Hagop Dj. Siruni on the history of the Armenian community of Istanbul.⁸ Most of the historical writings in Armenian deal with well-known personalities and families. Some writers, such as Menevishian,⁹ Boghosian,¹⁰ Papazian¹¹ and Alboyadjian,¹² trace the genealogies and dynastic histories of certain individual *amiras* or their families. Vahan Zartarian, who has written the most extensive and complete set of biographies of the better-known *amiras*, and who demonstrates some flair for history, is too involved in sketching the life of the individuals concerned to attempt to draw a collective, social portrait.¹³ Mrmerian scatters information almost incoherently, and remains too superficial and disorganized.¹⁴ Avedis Berberian was a contemporary of the later *amiras*, and his work is a reliable source, since it was based upon the records of the patriarchate of Istanbul.¹⁵ Unfortunately, his data are scant as they are valuable. Patriarch Ormanian fails to use the archival material available in his time and is too concerned with clerical figures, around whom everything else revolves.¹⁶ A true scholar, he uses Ar-

⁶ For a detailed discussion of the epigraphic evidence and sources see Chapter II.

⁷ **Arsen Pakraduni**, *Azgabanutiun ev Patmutiun Nshanavor Antsits Aznuazarm Tann Diuziants* [Genealogy and History of Major Events of the Diuzian Noble Dynasty], 1856, MS., Mekhitarist Library, Venice.

⁸ For **Siruni** see note 1, p. 3.

⁹ **Gabriel Menevishian**, *Azgatanutiun Zarmin Diuziants* [Genealogy of the Diuzian Noble Dynasty] (Vienna, 1890).

¹⁰ **Eprem Boghosian**, *Dadian Gerdastane* [The Dadian Dynasty] (Vienna, 1968).

¹¹ **Stepan Papazian**, *Kensagrutiun Harutiun Bezdjian Azgayin Anzugakan Barerari* [Biography of Harutiun Bezdjian, the Unique National Benefactor]. (Constantinople, 1864).

¹² **Arshag Alboyadjian**, *Les Dadian*, trans. Anna Naguib Boutros Ghali (Cairo, 1965).

¹³ **Vahan G. Zartarian**, *Hishatakaran* [Memoir] (Constantinople, 1910; reprinted, Cairo, 1933-1939).

¹⁴ For **Mrmerian** see note 3, p. 3.

¹⁵ **Avedis Berberian**, *Patmutiun Hayots* [History of the Armenian People] (Constantinople, 1870); (hereafter cited as **A. Berberian**, *Patmutiun*).

¹⁶ For **Ormanian** see note 1, p. 3.