

menian and Western sources for his monumental three-volume work, but does not demonstrate any particular interest in *amiras*. Torkomian has valuable information scattered throughout his three-volume study on Eremia Celebi, the outstanding seventeenth-century figure of the Armenian *millet* of Istanbul.<sup>17</sup> Others, like Piuzant Ketchian,<sup>18</sup> Hrand Asadur,<sup>19</sup> Arshag Alboyadjian,<sup>20</sup> all of whom wrote about the Istanbul community, have little data on *amiras*, while still others, such as Toros Azadian<sup>21</sup> and Arakel Ketchian,<sup>22</sup> glorify the *amiras* from the town of Akn (Egin in Ottoman Turkish, now Kemaliye); inevitably, their analyses fail to make proper use of their data.

Almost without fail, all these authors praise the charitable and cultural endeavors of *amiras*, their devotion and support for the Armenian “mother” church, and their monetary contributions to various philanthropic undertakings, educational institutions and cultural organizations. Little is recorded in these works about the *amiras*’ financial transactions and business activities.

Varantian<sup>23</sup> and Leo<sup>24</sup> make extensive use of non-Armenian sources in their examination of *amiras*. Critical of the *amiras*’ role in general, these two

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<sup>17</sup> **Vahram H. Torkomian**, ed., *Eremia Tchelepii Keomiurdjian Stampoloy Patmutiun* [History of Istanbul by Eremia Çelebi Keomiurdjian], 3 vols. (Vienna, 1913-1938).

<sup>18</sup> **Piuzant Ketchian**, *Patmutiun S[urb] Prktchi Hivandanotsin Hayots i K[onstandnu] Polis* [History of the St. Savior Hospital of the Armenians in Constantinople] (Constantinople, 1887); (hereafter cited as **Ketchian P.**, *Patmutiun Hivandanotsin*).

<sup>19</sup> **Hrant Asadur**, “K[ostandnu] Polsoy Hayere ev Irents Patriarknere” [“The Armenians of Constantinople and their Patriarchs”] *Endardsak Oratsoyts S[urb] Prktchean Hivandanotsi Hayots* [Great Calendar of the St. Savior Hospital of Armenians] (Constantinople, 1901, pp. 77-258; reprint ed., Watertown, Mass., 1973).

<sup>20</sup> **Arshag Alboyadjian**, “Azgayin Sahmanadrutiune” [“The National Constitution”] *Endardsak Oratsoyts S[urb] Prktchean Hivandanotsi Hayots* [Great Calendar of the St. Savior Hospital of Armenians] (Constantinople, 1910, pp. 76-528).

<sup>21</sup> **Toros Azadian**, *Akn ev Akntsik* [Akn and Akners] (Istanbul, 1943) **Idem**. *Akn* (Istanbul, 1956); (hereafter referred so respectively as **Azadian**, *Akn I* and *Akn II*); *Dadian Gerdastane ev ir Akanavor Demkere* [The Dadian Dynasty and Its Outstanding Figures] (Istanbul, 1952).

<sup>22</sup> **Arakel Ketchian**, *Akn ev Akntsin, 1020-1915* [Akn and the Akner, 1020-1915] (Bucharest, 1942) (hereafter cited as **Ketchian A.**, *Akn*).

<sup>23</sup> **Mikayel Varantian**, *Haykakan Sharjman Nakhapatmutiun* [Introductory History of the Armenian Movement], 2 vols. (Geneva, 1912-1914).

<sup>24</sup> **Leo** [pseud.], *Khotjayakan Kapitale ev Nra Kaghakakan-Hasarakakan Dere Hayeri Metj* [Khoja Capitalism and its Political-Social Role Among Armenians] (Erevan, 1934).