

post-Genocide Diaspora and the newcomers' struggle to adjust. Karapents, whose work will be discussed under various headings in this book, was born in Tabriz, Iran, in 1925. He immigrated to the United States to seek higher education and became a successful reporter, contributing to major American newspapers and periodicals. His short stories in the Armenian language began to appear in Armenian periodicals in 1955. He was a prolific writer with penetrating insight into the darkest depths of the inner world of his characters, most of whom were Armenians in the Diaspora who shared the common traits of the exile yearning for the homeland, whether it was a real, tangible locus as the place where they were born (as for those who had expatriated, or those who fled from Soviet Armenia), or it was an imaginative spiritual construct of the places where their parents were born and which they nostalgically looked back upon all their lives. Karapents was the author of nine volumes published between 1970 and 1994, the year of his death.

Expressing his appreciation of the first-generation writers, Karapents views the second-generation writers as the bridge between the first generation and the new Diaspora. And indeed, the literature produced by the first-generation survivor-writers is the foundation upon which the responses of the second and third generations are constructed. Unless one understands this primary literature, the artistic history of the Armenian Genocide, the responses of the next generation—historical novels, short stories, metaphysical poetry—would seem fantastical, unreal, figments of the imagination of

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Karapents: His world perception and art] (Yerevan: "Gitutiun" Press, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, 1999).