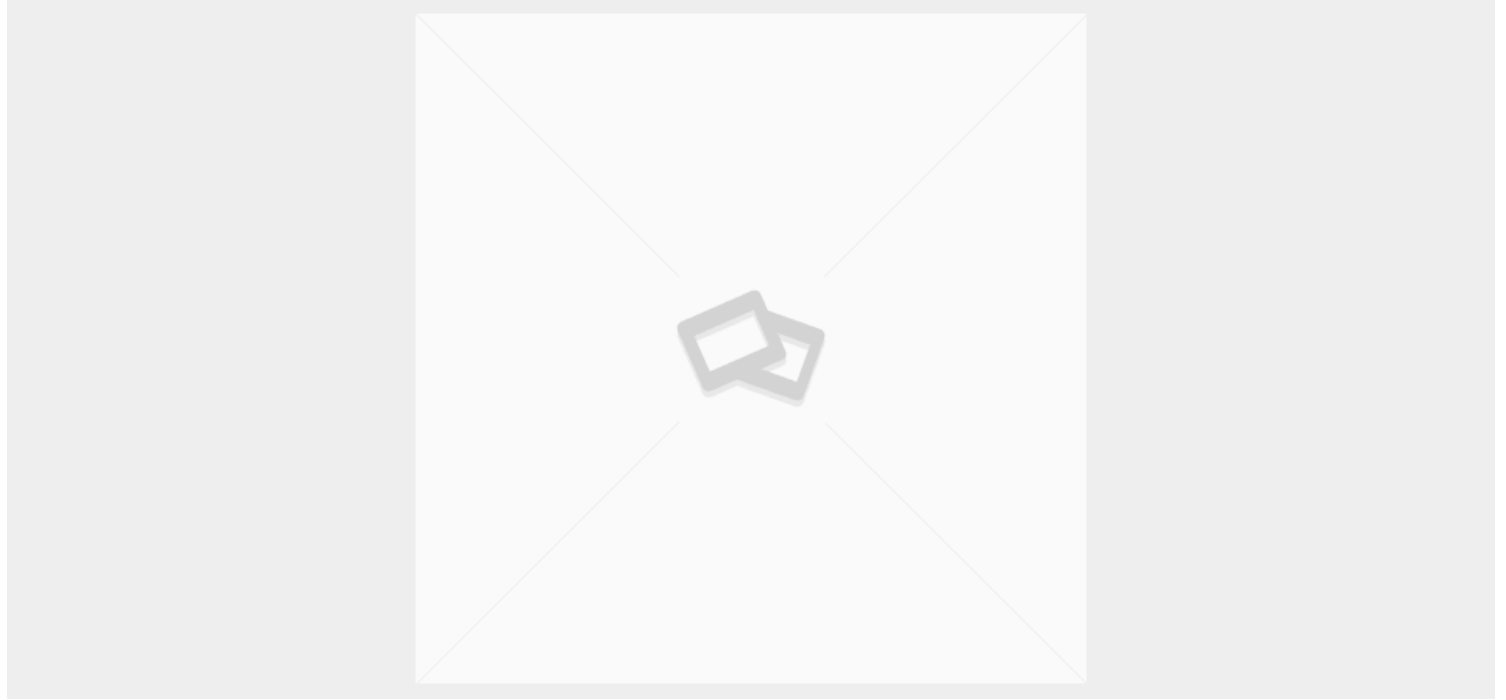


AKABI HIKAYESI

Posted on November 4, 2014 by Keghart



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"Akabi's Story" ("Akabi Hikayesi" in Turkish) is the first novel written in Turkish. Its author was Vartan Pasha (Hovsep Vartanian), a member of the Ottoman Privy Council, the first Ottoman academy. The story was about the doomed love of Akabi, a member of the Apostolic Armenian Church and Hagop, a member of the Armenian Catholic Church. Sectarian differences separate the lovers. The novel was in Turkish but printed in Armenian script. Between 1850 and 1870 many books were published in this manner in the Ottoman Empire for Armenians who could read the alphabet but didn't understand Armenian.

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