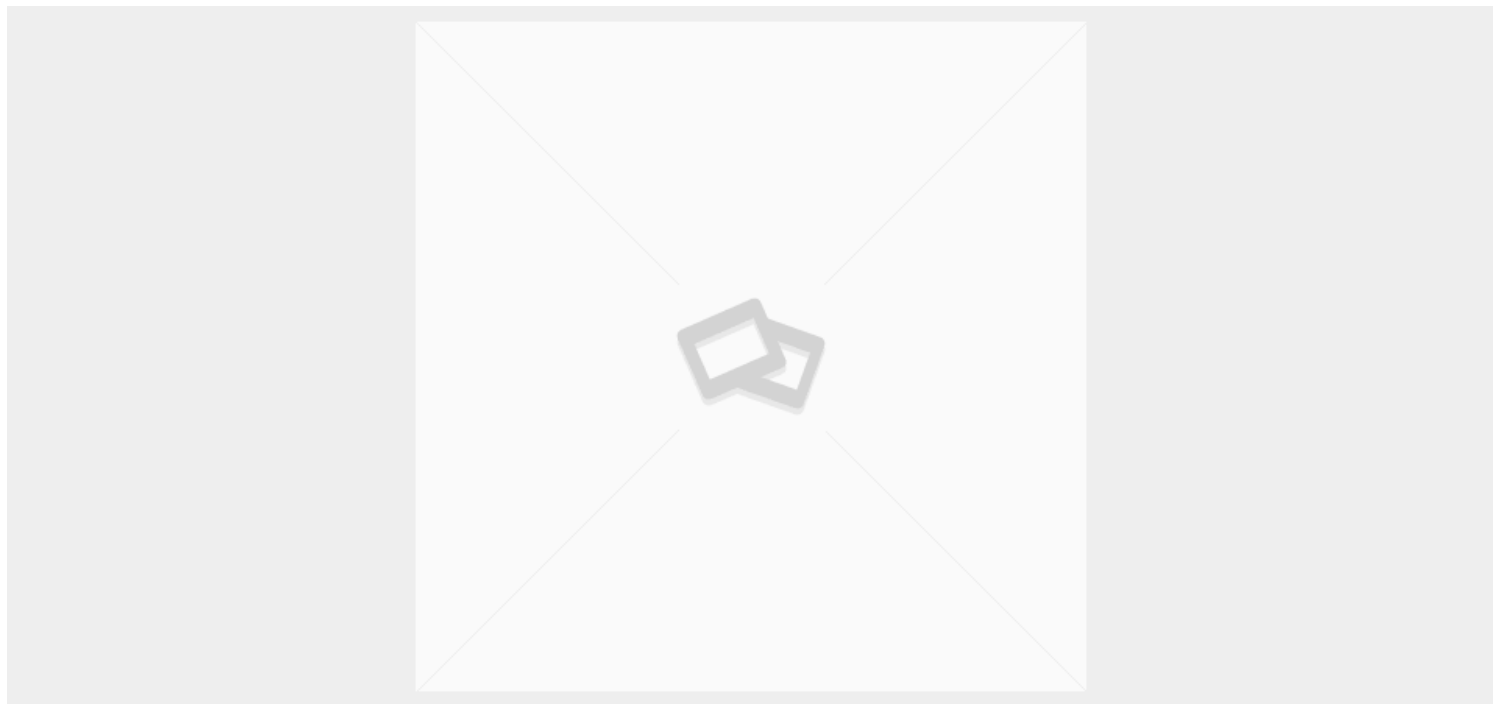


MANTASHEV

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Together with 12 other charitable Armenians Mantashev founded the "Armenian Benevolent Society in the Caucasus". He gave 300,000 rubles, which allowed the building of the Nersesyan Spiritual Academy. In 1910 he donated 250,000 rubles to Holy Echmiadzin, which was used to build the present sacristy of the Catholicos. Mantashev also financed the studies of 50 talented young Armenians at the best universities in Russia and Western Europe. Many of them later brought glory to Armenian culture and science, among them Gomidas, the founder of Armenian classical music. Mantashev also built the St. John the Baptist Church in Paris which cost 1,540,000 Francs. He was awarded the order of the "Legion d'Honneur". He died in 1911 in St. Petersburg. Following the Bolshevik Revolution, his company vanished.

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