TRANSLATORS' DAY

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Category: Opinions

Armenians worldwide celebrated Թարգմանչաց Տօն (Tarkmantchats Don), Translators' Day, on the 9th of this month. The commemoration refers to the pioneers of the 5th century who translated the Bible and other contemporary landmark books following the invention of the Armenian alphabets by Mesrop Mashtots in 406.

It is said that the first sentence written in the new alphabet was from Solomon's Book of Proverbs:

> *Ճանաչել զիմաստութիւն եւ զխրատ, իմանալ զբանս հանճարոյ:*
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> *To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding.*

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The first book translated into Armenian was the New Testament from Syriac. In Armenian it is called Աստուածաշունչ (Asdvadzashuntch), Breath of God, and not Bible as in other languages.

Armenians consider October a month dedicated to Culture. They discuss authors, poets, their schools, art activities, science, etc. and exalt in their rich heritage. On this occasion Hrayr Jebejian, a regular contributor to Keghart.com, has forwarded a video clip about *Tarkmantchats*, Vahé Apelian a fragment of Armenian history *Keurkune's Church, a Cultural Landmark* and Prof. Khatchatur I. Pilikian a translation of *The Centuries Old Armenian Epic Song - Mogkatz Mirza*. Also included in this issue is Lalai Manjikian's *Parlous State of Diaspora Armenian Schools*.