

Prelacy Central High School. When a subject is taught by an extraordinary teacher, it naturally becomes the student's favorite and a likely focus of future study.

I have scant information about the five or six years my father spent in Prague. All I know is that the group of Armenian students who studied at Charles University during that period remained active in the ranks of the ARF and organized cultural and political events in Prague. Coincidentally, I gained access to a rare book that was published by the Committee of the ARF Students Union of Prague in 1927 and dedicated to the sixth anniversary of the February 1921 uprising.⁹ The foreword spells out the students' continuing commitment to the ultimate goals of the ARF and the Armenian nation, which is clear throughout the book. These young Dashnaktsakans expressed their readiness "to toil and struggle for the realization of Free, Independent, United and Democratic Armenia."¹⁰ My father was one of these students, and his life and work would become the epitome of the charge he so wholeheartedly undertook as a young graduate student.

The stipend these students received was meager and their living conditions were harsh. Some of them could not stick it out and left after two or three years without earning a degree. My father and his close friend

9 This book is held by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan and was loaned to me by Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the museum.

10 Simply titled «Փետրվար 18» (February 18), the book comprises a few articles describing and analyzing the uprising, a chronology of the events, and documents pertaining to the correspondence between the leadership committee, Փրկութեան Կոմիտե (Rescue Committee), and the regional committees.

The entire book stands as a polemic against that Soviet Armenian historiography which distorts history and tries to show the popular movement against the despotic Bolshevik dictatorship to be the work of "a bunch of Dashnak adventurers."