

Armenian writers and poets, titled *A Panorama of the Istanbul Armenian Literature of the Republican Era* (1957), encapsulated the spirit and the direction of Istanbul Armenian poetry of the time and attempted to reach Armenians outside Turkey.¹⁵ In the epilogue to this publication, co-editor Vardan Komikian wrote,

As it can be clearly seen, the Istanbul Armenian literary-artistic movement continues its evolution in parallel with Diasporan Armenian and international progress in this domain, within the limits of circumstances and influencing factors. Nevertheless, this movement has been able to free itself from the inferiority complexes imposed by today's egocentric and unyielding critics as well as by the unaware and thus indifferent observers outside Turkey.¹⁶

This was not only a rationalization of the state of Istanbul Armenian art and literature of the time, but even more, it was a manifesto bridging the gap of 35 years since the *Bardzravank* movement, proudly announcing the birth of new literary figures who shared their predecessors' talent and drive.

Later on, as the grip of the military regime tightened, many of these writers and poets, who entertained themes of human justice, brotherhood, and equality among human

¹⁵ Tsovak, Komikian, and Haddejian, *Hamaynapatker hanrapetakan shrjani Istanbulahay grakanutian*.

¹⁶ Cited in Haddejian, *Hushatetr - 15* (1999), p. 219. For a comprehensive description of this important work and its role and place in Istanbul Armenian literature, see pp. 222-4.