

Scientific Life

REISSUE OF THE “ATLAS OF HISTORICAL CARTOGRAPHY OF ARMENIA” – THE REVIVAL OF CLASSICAL CARTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE

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<https://doi.org/10.46991/PYSUC.2025.59.3.688>

A significant portion of works published before the mid-twentieth century and of exceptional scientific interest for various reasons remains largely inaccessible to researchers. Among such foundational works is the “Atlas of Historical Cartography of Armenia” by Commandant Zadig (Zatik) Khanzadian (1886–1980). Zadig Khanzadian was an eminent 20th-century French cartographer of Armenian descent, geographer, researcher, and public figure. He was a recipient of France’s highest honor, the *Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur*.

Published in Paris in 1960 in French, this Atlas was the first large-scale collection of historical maps in the Armenian reality. Its primary purpose was to visually depict, through maps, the centuries-old history of one of the world’s most ancient peoples – the Armenians, as well as their historical homeland, Armenia. The publication consistently reflects the changing historical eras and territorial transformations shaped by key past events.

The reissue of the Atlas in 2025 is of exceptional importance for the preservation of historical knowledge, providing a broad public with access to this rare work. The ancient maps contained in it play a vital role in shaping public consciousness, national identity, and understanding of the historical past. In today’s context, the Atlas’s significance is greatly enhanced by efforts to counter modern information warfare, where historical truth often becomes the object of ideological manipulation, and facts become a tool for propaganda interpretations.

Strictly faithful to the original edition, the reissued Atlas consists of a Title page supplemented by a Heartfelt gratitude from the Project’s Initiators (p. I), an Introduction (p. II), a Biography of Zadig (Zatik) Khanzadian (pp. III–IV), and the Table of contents (pp. V–X), as well as the original’s explanatory text (pp. 1–18),

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and the main body, which includes artistic illustrations, maps, and schematic representations (pp. 19–199). The total volume comprises 210 pages. The page format is 42×59.5 cm; the “Atlas of Historical Cartography of Armenia” enclosed in a specially crafted wooden case.

According to the materials presented in the Atlas, the “Land of Armenia” was consistently regarded by the authors of the included maps as an integral part of the widely recognized geographical picture of the world. The Atlas represents a unique testimony to Armenian history and serves as an indisputable documentary archive.

The reissue of the Atlas primarily addresses three main objectives:

1) the unjustly forgotten work of Commandant Zadig Khanzadian – as a man, cartographer, geographer, researcher, military, and public figure – has been restored and brought into scientific and public circulation;

2) this creates a real opportunity for this rare publication to be used by wider public, which is of fundamental importance for the preservation and transmission of historical knowledge;

3) this is a significant step in countering historical falsifications in the context of the contemporary information warfare.

The Atlas, including its additions, has been reissued in three languages: French, English, and Russian (textual sections).

We believe that this multilingual approach will make the information contained in the Atlas more accessible and visually comprehensible for historians, geographers, cartographers, teachers, and anyone interested in the heritage of one of the most ancient peoples – the Armenians – and the history of their homeland, Armenia.

The realization of this reissue was made possible by the collaborative efforts of numerous specialists and enthusiasts, who contributed their knowledge, experience, and labor to the project. In particular, YSU representatives from the Research Laboratory of Armenian Historical Geography, Cartography and Armenian Diplomatic Problems after Babken Harutyunyan at the Institute for Armenian Studies, as well as representatives of the Faculty of Geography and Geology, took part in the work. The project was implemented at the initiative of public figure and benefactor R. Grigoryan with the support of Professor R. Mirzakhanyan.



“Atlas of Historical Cartography of Armenia” by Commandant Z. Khanzadian.

On April 21 of the current year, in Yerevan, with the participation of the Tekeyan Cultural Association, and on May 20 in Moscow, with the participation of the Armenian Museum of Moscow and Culture of Nations, presentations of the reissued “Atlas of Historical Cartography of Armenia” by Commandant Zadig Khanzadian took place (see Figure).

Dozens of copies of the Atlas were donated to secular and ecclesiastical libraries, as well as to scientific and educational institutions in the Republic of Armenia, foreign countries, and the Armenian diaspora.

*Public presentation of Commandant Zadig Khanzadian's
“Atlas of Historical Cartography of Armenia”*