

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...

Proverbs 9:10

St. Sahag and St. Mesrop



Before the 5th century, Armenians had a spoken language, but it was not written. State documents were written either in Persian or in Greek. Church services were conducted either in Greek or Syriac. St Sahag (354 -436 AD) was a visionary Catholicos who was also one of the longest reigning heads of the Armenian Church. The last male descendant of St. Gregory the Illuminator, he was married and had one daughter, who became the mother of St. Vartan. St Sahag wisely saw the need for a written language and commissioned a scholarly monk, St. Mesrop, to create an Armenian alphabet. St. Mesrop traveled widely to consult other scholars/alphabets and finally created a unique set of letters which he then presented to St. Sahag. Together they fine-tuned the 36-characters. (Two more letters were added in the late Middle Ages.) Translation of the Bible was the first priority which began in 405 AD and was completed in 435 AD. The first sentence to be translated comes from the book of Proverbs. The Liturgy, along with the translation of other works of history, literature and philosophy followed, which launched the Golden Age of Literature in Armenian history. Scholars cite the Armenian translation of the Bible as “The Queen of the Translations.” Armenian was the fifth

language into which the Bible was translated; the first was Greek, the second Egyptian, the third Syriac, and the fourth Latin, which was finished in the year 405, almost at the time when the Armenian translation was begun. The first English translation was completed in the year 1380, more than 900 years later! Today, the number of translations exceeds 1000.

Windows installed during 1965 construction and inscriptions read:

St. Sahag – In Memory of Our Loved Ones by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Azarian and Family

St. Mesrop – In Memory of Bedros Kazanjian

Source: Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, Saints and Sacraments of the Armenian Church, 1969.