



BAGAYARIČ

BAGAYARIČ, also BAGARIČ or BAGARINČ; Gk. *Bagaris (Strabo, 11.14.14), Basgoidariza (ibid., 12.3.28), and *Bagarizaka (Ptolemy, 5.13.4); Turk. Pekeric; a locality in the district of Daranaġi in northwestern Armenia; about 91.6 km (55 miles) west of Erzerum 40° 53' north latitude, 40° 13' east longitude) Bagayarič lay on the main road through northern Armenia linking Sebastea (Sivās) in the Roman Empire with Ecbatana (Hamadān) in Media via Satala, Bagayarič, Karin (Erzerum) and Artaxata (Artašat).

Bagayarič was celebrated as the site of the great temple of Mihr (Mithras, one of the eight principal pagan shrines of pre-Christian Armenia), traditionally built by Tigranes II the Great (r. B.C. 95-56). It is possible that all of the surrounding district of Daranaġi formed the domain of this temple for after its destruction at the time of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity (ca. A.D. 314), Daranaġi became the property of the Armenian church. At the turn of the twentieth century, Bagayarič consisted of two adjoining villages Verin “upper” and Nerkin “lower” Bagarič, consisting respectively of 80 and 130 homes, half of which were inhabited by Armenians and the rest by local Muslims, the two together forming the larger village in the *caza* (district) of Derġan. Ruins of the temple and an old castle could still be seen at Bagarič at that time.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

L. Ališan, *Ayrarat*, Venice, 1890.

S. T. Eremyan, *Hayastanə əst “Ašxarhac’oyc”-i*, Erevan, 1963, p. 42.

T. X. Hakobyan, *Hayastani patmakan ašxarhagruṭ’iwnə*, 2nd ed., Erevan, 1968, pp. 221, 226.

Idem, “Bagarič,” in *Haykakan sovetakan hanragitaran II*, Erevan, 1976, p. 196.

H. Hübschmann, *Armenische Grammatik*, Leipzig, 1897, p. 113.

Idem, *Die altarmenischen Ortsnamen*, Strasburg, 1904, repr. Amsterdam, 1969, pp. 284, 287, 379.

I. A. Orbeli, *Izbrannye trudy*, Erevan, 1963.

A. Perikhanyan, *Khramovye ob-edineniya Maloĭ Azii i Armenii*, Moscow, 1959.

Search terms:

□□□□ bagayrich