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Վարդապետարան. Vardapetaran - was a University in medieval Armenia, the graduates of which were awarded a degree of Vardapet (highly educated Archimandrite) and the right to found schools, practice teaching independently.

The first University was founded in Vagharshapat, now Ejmiatsin.

The Vardapetaran's program initially included Bible study, the triple sciences (grammar, rhetoric, dialectic).

Subsequently the programs included theological, moral, economical, political, arithmetic, musical, geometric, astronomical and other subjects.

Notable Universities were: Sanahin, Sevan, Ani, Haghpat, Tatev, Goshavank, Khoranashat, Khor Virap, Msho Apakelots, Gladzor, Hermon, Erznka, Metsopa, Kharabasta, Amrdolu and some Universities of Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, that have given great figures in culture, science, social and political life.



In the first half of the 11th century at the Sanahin and Haghpat Universities were studied: rhetoric, philosophy, music, medicine and other subjects.

The school had a Matenadaran-Library, where manuscripts were collected through student copies, donations, and purchases.

Sanahin University was the educational center of medieval Armenia.

It was founded in 966 by the Queen Khosrowanush.

10 years later, the monastery of Haghpat was built not far from Sanahin (976).

According to the records of famous Armenian medieval historian Stepanos Asoghik, in 1004 the total number of Sanahin and Haghpat students was 500.



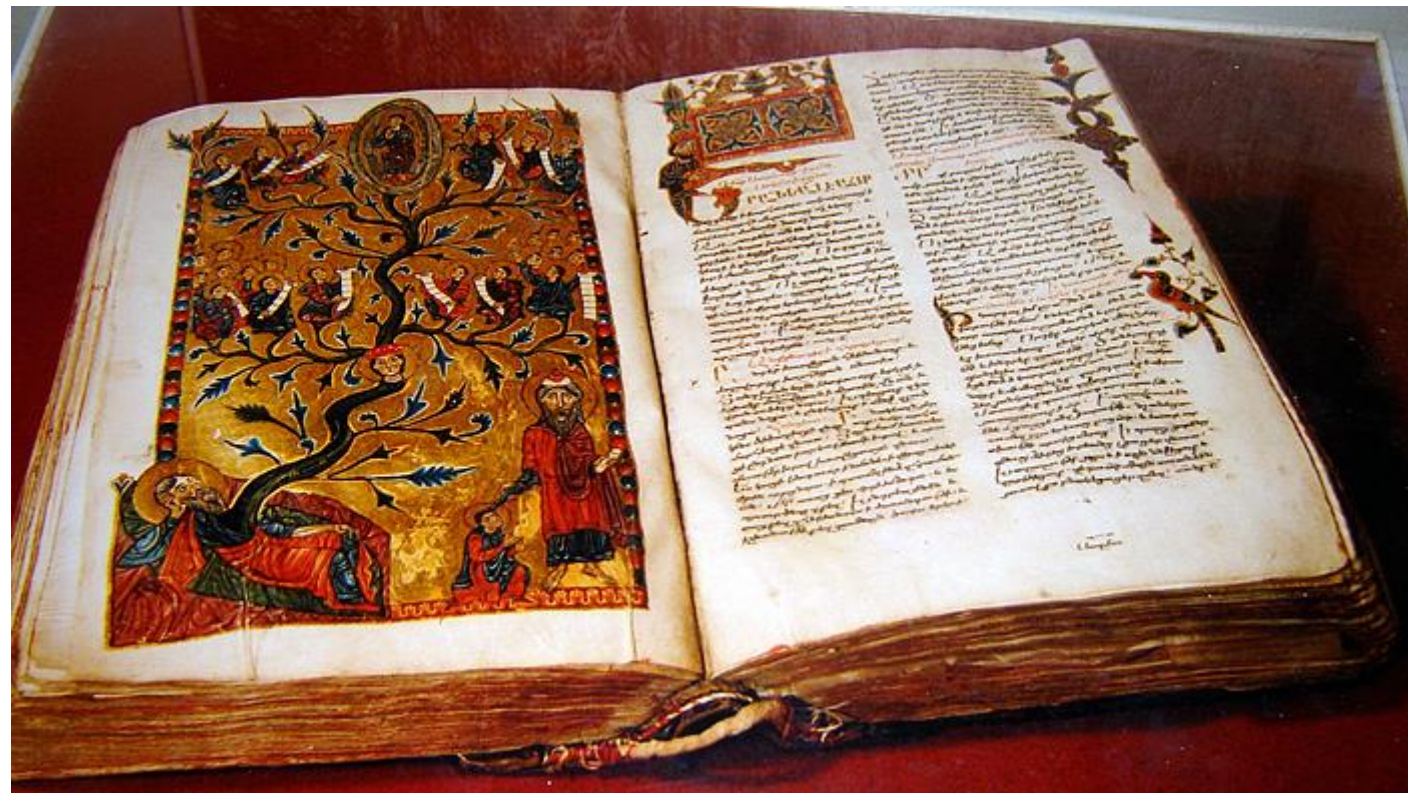
Haghpat monastery



About 642 it was built the monastery of Khor Virap.  
And in 1255 there was founded the University, where was studied languages, philosophy.

According to reports, at the University of Khor Virap studied more than 40 students.

More than a dozen manuscripts from the Khor Virap University have reached us and holds in the Matenadaran after Mesrop Mashtots.



Gladzor University was a famous Armenian University of the 13th and 14th centuries, a center for the development of religious, social, political, philosophical, as well as creative thought of its time. It had called "The Second Athens", "The Capital of Wisdom", "The Glorious University". In the spiritual, scientific and social life of medieval Armenia, it has played a significant role.



Tatev University was founded in 1373-1435 on base of the Vorotnavank College.

There were three faculties in the University: philosophical-theological, painting and miniature, music. There were taught philosophy, religion, Armenian language and grammar, literature, history, rhetoric, writing, miniature and painting, natural science and astronomy, mathematics, architecture, music and singing, teaching and social sciences, and other subjects. There were production of copywriting and designing of manuscripts. The University had a rich manuscript-matenadaran, where more than 10,000 manuscripts have been preserved. Studying, like at the University of Gladzor, have took 7-8 years. In addition to the 500 priests, there were philosophers, musicians, writers, and painters at Tatev University. The University was crashed in 1435 by Shahrukh, the younger son of Tamerlane.