

Perj Proshyan (1837-1907)

The Perj Proshyan house museum is at 4 Proshyan Street in the town of Ashtarak, the capital of the Aragatsotn Province. The house where the educator, novelist and translator Perj Proshyan was born and lived was turned into a museum on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1937, by a decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenian SSR. But the decision was implemented only in 1948. The complete rehabilitation, undertaken on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the writer was finished in 1991. Over a period of years it was enlarged and has become a two story edifice with a balcony.



Photo by R. Bedevian/Groong

Much of the collection was donated by 6 of his children and amounts to more than 1500 items. Included in the collection are furniture, the writer's belongings from his home in Tbilisi, a baby piano, theatrical posters, a poster of Alumni of the Nersessian Seminary, a family tree dating from the 15th century indicating that he came from a princely family in Garni, and a photo of the family's coat of arms that is also seen in Geghard.



Photo by R. Bedevian/Groong

One section of the museum is about his son Prosh, once a member of the Law Faculty at Odessa University but banished to Siberia in 1905. He would later take part in the October Revolution in 1917 and subsequently received a ministerial post under Lenin, only to be disillusioned after Lenin granted Armenian territory to Turkey.