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The Bridges of Artsakh
Samvel Karapetian

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Samvel Karapetian
The work treats the history and architecture of 98 bridges located in Artsakh Province of Historical Armenia. Intended for the general reader and specialists interested in Armenian history and architecture.
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ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆ

Հայաստանի բնակչության հասարակական գործունեությանը միջին տարիների սահմանների ծառայություն ապահովեց հայ սպասարտական կուսակցության տեսանկյունից առաջարկ։ Հայաստանի ժամանկային առաջնորդարանին սահմանված էր միջին տարիների ծառայություն պատմական շրջանակների վրա բնակչության սահմաններից առաջին շրջաններին, որոնց համար այդ ժամանակաշրջանների հիմնական ժամանակաշրջաններին պատմական շրջանների կարևորագրություն ուղղված էր։ Այսպես, հայ սպասարտական կուսակցության տեսանկյունից առաջարկում էր, որ միջին տարիների ծառայությունը պատմական շրջանների վրա բնակչության սահմաններից առաջին շրջաններին պատմական շրջանների կարևորագրություն ուղղված էր։

1 Հայկ Ղազանցյան, Հայաստանի ժամանակագրի հազարտարածությունները. Երևան, 1960, էջ 69. Պատմական կուսակցության հարցում, ուղղափակում, 1987, էջ 2, էջ 205-208:

2 Պատմական կուսակցության պատմական շրջանների վրա բնակչության սահմաններից առաջին շրջանների ապահովում, որպեսզի կարևորագրել այն գրողների, որոնք միջին տարիների ծառայությունը ցույց տվեց հայ սպասարտական կուսակցության տեսանկյունից առաջարկված հատուկ ծառայություն».
ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Среди бесчисленных памятников армянской архитектуры, имеющих “многотысячелетний” охват и многообразные функции, на территории исторической Армении (или Армении по “Ашхаракан”-у) свое особое место занимают мосты.

Города и села Армянского нагорья, покрытого сетью четырех главных рек и их нечислимых притоков, с древнейших времен сообщались друг с другом через многокомпозиционные мосты, преодолевавшие большие и малые реки.

Соответственную важность представляли как провинциальные, областные или межгосударственные дороги, так и обслуживавшие их мосты. Именно по этой причине мосты, расположенные на транзитных дорогах, например, по архитектурной композиции были вынуждены обеспечивать также таможенные функции, вследствие чего подобные сооружения имели помещения для сторожевых и таможенников; между тем как мосты, находящиеся вне транзитных дорог, независимо от их размеров, были лишены таковых композиционных дополнений.

Анализ трудов, посвященных сферу изучения памятников, показывает, что в частности область строительства мостов сравнительно меньше удостаивалась внимания специалистов.

Достаточно отметить, что труд почти пятидесятилетней давности, в котором представлена самая большая группа средневековых мостов, расположенных в пределах Республики Армения, содержит всего примерно 4 десятка подобных памятников: “Ныне из их числа на территории Советской Армении в сохранном, полуразрушенном состоянии или в виде незначительных остатков сохранилось около сорока памятников, относящихся к средневековью и позднему средневековью”1.

Эта область затрагивалась также и другими авторами исследований общего характера2.

Сей том охватывает 98 единиц как сохранившихся полностью или частично, так и давно исчезнувших памятников, зафиксированных на территории провинции Арцы Исторической Армении.

Мы убеждены, что список представленных образцов можно будет дополнить благодаря последующим исследованиям.

Подобно другим регионам Армении, среди арцских мостов, также, преобладают одно-пролетные сооружения, которые (в свое время) надежно соединяли друг с другом противоположные стороны долин и ущельев, обычно наиболее сжатых природой местностью.

Однако, испытание временем показало, что выстояли особенно те мосты, опоры которых были возведены на прибрежных, от природы незыблемых скальных массивах, и наоборот, рушились те, у которых хотя бы одна из опор не стояла на скальном основании. Доказательством к сказанному являются те многочисленные мосты, о былом существовании которых свидетельствуют остатки опор на одном из берегов, причем обязательно покоящихся на природном скальном грунте.

1 Арчанян В., Караванцев и мосты средневековой Армении, Ереван, 1960, с. 69. Гаспарян М., Древние мосты Арм. ССР, “Вестник Ереванского Университета”, 1987, № 2, с. 205-208 (на арм. яз.).
2 Шусев П., Мосты и их архитектура, Москва, 1953, с. 176-182, 188. Кстати, Шусевым в его труде, посвященном мостам всего мира, представлены около 2-х десятков армянских мостов, сохранившихся на территории Армянской ССР и Нахичеванской Автономной Республики.
Одинаковый принцип выбора местности оставался стержневым и в случаях двухпролетных, трехпролетных и многопролетных композиций.

Уместно заметить, что те места на реках, которые были удобны для преодоления течения, благодаря выступающим из воды скальным глыbam, по-ныне на арцахском наречии называются “караваз”, т.е. “место пробега по камням” (nekий аналог русского “брода”). Компонентами этого сложного слова являются “кар” (“камень”) и “ваз” (“бег”), а понятие от слияния этих корней говорит о наличии удобства “пробега” по этим камням речной местности. Примечательно то, что слово “караваз” применялось еще в средневековье, причем, иногда также в качестве собственного имени. Ярким примером сказанному является тот знаменитый мост, построенный в одном из подобных “бродных” мест, который еще в 13-ом веке назывался собственным именем Каравази (этот мост в более поздние времена был известен под названием Худаферинского).

Основным стройматериалом арцахских мостов являлся необработанный и полуобработанный камень на известковом растворе. Однако, до нас дошли также мосты, возведенные с сочетанием кирпича (нарп. Хахаги, Каравази Нор, Гандзаки и т.д.). При этом, даже в случаях этих последних, их опоры выложены исключительно из камня. Следует заметить также, что все арцахские мосты, построенные с применением кирпича, находятся в равнинных, лишенных камни районах края. Поэтому, при данных обстоятельствах применение кирпича было продиктовано не качественными преимуществами этого вида стройматериала, а попросту полным отсутствием стойких разновидностей камня в равнинной зоне. Что касается редкого явления гладко тесаного камня в кладке, то это объясняется качественными свойствами местных видов камня (насколько богат Арцах известняком и песчаником, настолько и беден он базалтом и почти лишен месторождений туфа). Арцахские мастера-каменщики, которые отлично владели секретами обработки местных камней, как правило, предпочитали применять их в необработанном или полуобработанном состоянии. Гладко тесаную кладку мы очень редко встречаем лишь в местах арочных сводов, да и то, в основном, только на краеугольных камнях арки.

В частности, в случаях мостов с пролетом свыше 5-6 метров, для того, чтобы не нагружать тяжестью свода только арку, арцахские мостостроители применяли строительный прием использования двойной арки, который встречается также в других областях Армении. Что касается средств повышения стойкости опор, то в них бросается в глаза наличие односторонних или двусторонних контрфорсов опор, напоминающих в плане полукруглые башни.

В случае многопролетных мостов также, водные опоры со стороны “потокопротивального” фасада обеспечивались контрфорсами с заостренными углами для облегчения рассеивания речных волн. Таким же, но в плане полукруглыми вариантами обычно укреплялись “потоконаправленные” фасады опор.

В связи с вопросом датирования мостов, следует заметить, что в случае наличия строительных надписей (сохранившихся лишь на некоторых мостах) или иных письменных свидетельств, это, безусловно, возможно осуществлять благодаря изучению различных строительных особенностей, комн мы и руководствовались в сем труде.

Очевиден также один факт: дошедшие до нас арцахские мосты, в своем подавляющем большинстве, появились на свет в условиях существования национальной власти.

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3 Пояснение переводчика.
4, 5 Эти оба термина предлагаются переводчиком сего текста, спец. редактором С. Мкртчяном.
INTRODUCTION

The bridges found throughout the territory of Historical Armenia—as specified in the Ashkharatsuyts, an Armenian manual on cosmology and geography with an atlas attached—have their unique place in the midst of the countless specimens of Armenian architectural heritage that come from the depths of many millennia and were created to perform different functions.

Since times bygone, the towns and villages of the Armenian Highland—that is covered with a network of four major rivers and their numerous tributaries—have communicated with each other by means of bridges of different compositions erected to withstand the currents of large and small rivers.

It is common knowledge that highways are generally classified into inter-district, inter-regional, or inter-state ones according to their significance. Similarly, bridges that form part of the infrastructure securing their functioning may be subjected to the same grouping. Thus, for instance, bridges located on transit roads used to fulfill the role of a custom-house, and for this purpose, they were originally designed to have a corresponding composition—bridges of this type have inner rooms intended for guards and customs officers. In contrast to them, bridges lying beyond transit roads do not have these additional elements of composition, irrespective of their dimensions.

Research into the existing works relating to the field of Monumentology reveals that so far specialists have not paid due attention to the sphere of bridge building. Suffice it to point out that one of them, published around half a century ago and considered to embrace the largest group of medieval bridges situated within the borders of the present-day Republic of Armenia, actually dwells upon only over forty of the monuments in question: “Currently about 40 of them—attributed to the Middle Ages and the late medieval period—can be found in the territory of Soviet Armenia; some of them are preserved standing, others being semi-ruined, or reduced to meagre remnants.”

The field of bridge building is known to have been studied by other researchers as well.

The present work enlarges on 98 bridges located in the territory of Artsakh Province of Historical Armenia; some of them are recorded as standing; others as partly preserved, or completely lost in the depth of time.

We are of the conviction that the list of specimens included in this work can be subsequently enriched thanks to further research in this domain.

Like other parts of Armenia, Artsakh has predominantly single-span bridges which reliably connect the opposite sides of river valleys, or gorges where the terrain is cramped.

It is evident that the test of time is overcome by especially those bridges that have piers resting on firm natural rocks towering on river banks. Unlike them, in cases where even one of the piers did not have a rocky base, the bridge proved vulnerable and was reduced to ruins in the course of time. This statement may be substantiated by the remains of a great many bridge piers that are found on river-sides necessarily resting on natural blocks of rock. The same principle of terrain

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2 Shchusev, P. Bridges and Their Architecture. Moscow, 1953, pp. 176-182, 188 (the original in Russian). Shchusev’s work, that is devoted to bridges found all over the world, also includes over twenty Armenian bridges located in the Soviet Republic of Armenia, and in the Autonomous Republic of Nakhijevan.
selection was of pivotal importance in the elaboration of the compositions of double-span, three-
span and multi-span bridges as well.

In the vernacular of Artsakh, the area where it is possible to resist the river current with the help
of natural rocks protruding from the water is called karavaz, the word deriving from the roots ‘kar,’
i.e. ‘stone,’ and ‘vazk,’ i.e. ‘running,’ and meaning the possibility of crossing the given piece of
land by running over stones.

It is interesting to note that the word ‘karavaz’ was used in this sense as early as the Middle
Ages, sometimes even turning into a proper name. An eloquent proof of this is a well-known
bridge erected over the river Arax, at a point that may be described by means of the word ‘kar-
avaz.’ As of the 13th century, it was already being mentioned by the name of Karavaz (in the late
Middle Ages, it was better known as bridge of Khudaperin).

The bridges of Artsakh are mostly built of undressed and semi-finished stones laid together with
mortar, although we also see blocks of brick in some of those that have come down to us—the
bridges of Khaghkhagh, Gandzak, Karavaz (the new one), etc. It should be mentioned, however,
that even where the bridge is constructed of brick, the foundations of its piers are laid exception-
ally with stone. Another fact to be stressed is that all the brick bridges of Artsakh are located in
those parts of the region that represent plains lacking stone; consequently, the use of brick was war-
anted not by the fineness of this kind of construction material, but simply by the total absence of
durable stone in the flat country. As for the rare application of finely-finished stone in the mason-
ry of Artsakh bridges, this is explained by the quality of local stones—although the region abounds
in limestone and sandstone, it is poor in basalt and has almost no reserves of tufa. The masters of
Artsakh had perfect command of the finishing secrets of the stones available in their region, but
they preferred to use them either in undressed, or semi-finished state. Finely-dressed stonework is
found only in the vault-bearing parts of bridges, and that mostly in the cornerstones of arches.

For bridges with spans exceeding 5 to 6 metres in length, the masons of Artsakh used a double
row of stonework in the arch to avoid overburdening it with the weight of the vault—a building
technique that is also manifest in bridges situated in other provinces of Armenia. Another method
of construction was the erection of counterforts—reminding of semi-circular towers in plan—on
either, or both sides of the piers for their additional firmness.

The piers of multi-span bridges usually have pointed buttresses planned to more easily with-
stand the waves in that facade of the pier that overlooks the upward movement of the water. The
pier facades overlooking the downward current of the river are strengthened by similar counter-
forts that are semi-circular.

Another important issue in research into bridges is their dating, which is carried out with the
help of preserved construction inscriptions, or other written records. We have attempted to speci-
fy the exact foundation time of certain bridges by using these sources, and also analysing their
building and composition peculiarities.

Finally, we would like to stress that the overwhelming majority of the preserved bridges of
Artsakh were erected thanks to the existence, and in the times, of ruling powers that were deeply
national in their actions and policies.
The bridge lies across the river Kondalan, on the border-line between Dizak and Varanda Districts of Artsakh Province, Metz Hayk, in the neighbourhood of Gharabulagh—the only village in Jebrail District that still remained Russian-populated as of the early 20th century. Despite the deep antiquity of this multi-span bridge, the earliest written record containing reference to it goes back to only 1902: “Within some two to three versts of the Russian [village of] Gharabulagh flows the river Kyondalan. At a distance of two sazhens of the river are preserved the remnants of a stone bridge deeply buried in grass. The foundation of this bridge is shrouded in the obscurity of historical times, and the local people do not remember any legends relating to the period it traces back to: some say it was erected by Alexandre of Macedonia parallel with the construction of the old bridge of Khudaperin over the river Arax; others attribute it to a certain King Bahman. The position of the bridge in relation to the river suggests that [initially] it was constructed over a river which later changed its channel; as a result, the bridge appeared some distance away from it. Thanks to the absence of inhabited localities in the neighbourhood, it has escaped final destruction by man. ...It is, however, most probable that both this bridge and that of Khudaperin were built by Shah Abbas the Great...”¹ This record comes to suggest that Sevakn Bridge was erected between the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. and was later repaired in the 17th century.

¹ Segal, I. Yelisavetpol Province: Memoirs and Impressions. In: Kavkazski Vestnik, Tiflis, 1902, No. 5, p. 31 (the original in Russian).
BRIDGE OF KHAHKGH

The bridge extends over the river Zakam, at the eastern extremity of Yankhli Village in present-day Touz District—Zakam District of Northern Artsakh, a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then—at an altitude of 110 metres above sea level. The period of its construction remains unrevealed, but the building and finishing peculiarities of the lower stonework of its piers are typical of the early Middle Ages, which allows us to trace it back to the first centuries of the Common Era, when Khaghkhagh still served as a place of winter residence for the Armenian kings of the Arshakid Family (66 to 428). Later the bridge repeatedly underwent overhaul, thanks to which, it was preserved standing until the early 20th century.

Folklorist Sargis Kamalian, who saw the bridge in 1890, writes the following about it: “...The bridge has three immense arches and broad-faceted walls which are hollow and serve as warehouses. Its middle pier has doors from two sides. The bridge is in a state of disrepair and does not function... ...the place is called Kh[el]khana.”

During our visit to the monument in 1980, we saw the remnants of its right-bank and middle piers still preserved on both sides of the river. It was entirely built of brick, except its main parts, which were laid with finely-dressed large blocks of basalt stretching in regular rows.

Span length: 8.80 metres; passage width: 4.23 metres; geographical coordinates: N 40°49’59.18", E 45°40’40.49’’.

1 Yeghishe Charents Art and Literature Museum: Sargis Kamalian Fund, copy-book No. 1, VI-11, p. 35 (the original in Armenian). A photograph showing the bridge as standing can be found attached to an anonymous article in Russian entitled Studies of the History of Azerbaijan (“Î÷åðêè ïî èñòîðèè Àçåðáàéäæàíà”) In: Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijani SSR (“Известия АН Аз. ССР”), 1946, No. 5, p. 95.

2 "Èçâåñòèÿ ÀÍ Àç. ÑÑД,
1946, No. 5, p. 95.

1 Музеї Літератури та Іскусства ім. Е.Чаренця (МЛИ), ф. С. Камаліяна, тетрадь № 1, VI-11, л. 35 (на арм. яз.). Копія, а непідписана стаття “Очерки по истории Азербайджана” є фото нерозпущеного моста (“Известия АН Аз. ССР”), 1946, № 5, с. 95.)

15
BRIDGE OF PARTAV

The bridge is situated over the old channel of the river Trtu (Tartar), in the neighbourhood of present-day Barda City, in the town site of Partav—once the capital of the historical region of Armenian Albania—a toponym used with reference to the historical districts of Artsakh and Utik of Metz Hayk (Armenia Maior), to differentiate them from Caucasian Albania proper, lying on the left bank of the river Kur—at an altitude of 77 metres above sea level. Undoubtedly, the foundation of this bridge dates back to the period when Partav enjoyed prosperity, namely, to the 5th to 7th centuries (subsequently it repeatedly underwent renovation). In the late 1880s, a traveller wrote the following about the monument, that had been long lying in ruins: “...170 metres long, 5 metres wide and 16 spans, whose arches are already destroyed, with only the piers and walls preserved on both sides. All its cornerstones seem to have been finely-finished, the other stones being undressed. It is said to have had an Armenian inscription, but it can no longer be found now...”

The bridge of Partav represented a structure of 16 spans with 17 massive piers—2 terminal and 15 middle ones. According to the results of subsequent measurement conducted amidst the remnants of the bridge, it had a passage width of 4 metres and a general length of 120 metres—these figures are more reliable as compared to those adduced in the quotation above. The main building material used in the erection of the bridge comprises cobblestone with mortar.

2 Barkhatarians, M. Artsakh. Baku, 1895, pp. 31-32 (the original in Armenian).
OLDER BRIDGE OF KARAVAZ (KHUDAPERIN)  

The older bridge of Karavaz (5th to 7th centuries) lies over the river Arax, at the foot of Mount Diri in Kovsakan District (present-day Kashatagh District), Republic of Artsakh (RMK: Republic of Mountainous Karabakh), at an altitude of 248 metres above sea level.

One of the earliest records mentioning this monument dates from the 13th century: “...Aghahej [District], that is crossed by the river Aghvano and reaches the bridge of Karavaz...”\(^1\) The available Arabic and Persian sources refer to the bridge by the names Hudaferin and Khudaperin.

Between 1975 and 1977—for the first time in its history—the older bridge of Karavaz was measured within the framework of the Soviet-Iranian joint project of revealing the power generation potential of the river Arax. According to measurement results, the bridge of 11 spans has a length of 130 metres and a width of 6 metres, its height above water level reaching 12 metres.\(^3\) The foundation of the older bridge of Karavaz is attributed to the ancient world, and even to the times of the Achaemenid Empire.


\(^1\) Orbelian, Stepanos. History of Siunik. Yerevan, 1986, p. 263 (the original in Armenian).
\(^2\) Barkhutariants, M. Artsakh. Baku, 1895, p. 62 (the original in Armenian).
The bridge extended across the river Shamkor flowing in the vicinity of the town site of Shamkor (ныне-городище) Северного Арцаха, for the preodolenie широкого течения которое, вероятно, построенный до 7-го века мост имел многопролетную композицию. Уже в середине 19-го века были заметны лишь его остатки: "...есть на воде мост, построенный из белого камня, который ныне в руинах...". Вероятное время строительства 6-7 века.

1 Jalalants, S. Travel to Great Armenia, part 1, Tpghis, 1842, p. 171 (the original in Armenian).


This single-span bridge, whose construction is traditionally ascribed to King Ashot the Iron (10th century), stretches over the river Shamkor, at the foot of Charek Castle. Except for the cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch, which are finely-finished, all its other parts are laid with undressed stone and mortar. It is not certain when exactly it went to ruin, but this must have happened much earlier than the 1890s, for in 1893 a visitor wrote: “Down the castle, a stone-built bridge used to extend across the river. Its arch has collapsed, and now some pieces of wood cover its site, horrifying all those trying to cross the river. This bridge is in a state of utter destruction and dilapidation. No matter how cautiously you take your steps, all the pieces of wood shake while you are passing. I wonder who that poor wretch is that will one day fall into the deep river once this rotten heap of wood collapses underneath his feet...”¹ At present two piers constitute all the remnants of the bridge.

¹ Smbat M. Antiquities in the Neighbourhood of Getabek. In: Nor-Dar, 1893, No. 36, p. 2 (the original in Armenian).
BRIDGE OF KATOSAVANK

This single-span bridge, which may be traced back to the period between the 9th and 11th centuries, is situated over the river Hochants, 2 kilometres north-west of Katos Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It is built of entirely finely-dressed stone and mortar. At present only its left-bank pier is in a comparatively better state of preservation.

Geographical coordinates: N 39°46'26.63", E 46°19'59.21".
BRIDGE OF GLAMBAR

This is a multi-span bridge lying over the river Shamkor, west of Glambar (Gyulambur) Village, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. The date of its construction remains obscure, but the building and finishing peculiarities of its piers (undressed cobblestone and mortar) admit of the conjecture that it dates from the Middle Ages. Moreover, taking into account the fact that Dasno Monastery, situated opposite the bridge on the right bank of the Shamkor, enjoyed bloom and prosperity in the 12th century, we may conclude that it was erected earlier than the period specified.

BRIDGE OF GARNAKER

Another bridge extending over the river Shamkor, it is located in the neighbourhood of Garnaker Village, Shamkhor District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. The period of its construction is unknown, but it may be attributed to the Middle Ages. The bridge of Garnaker used to be a double-span one built of undressed stone and mortar. At present all its vaulted spans are in ruins.
NEW BRIDGE OF KARAVAZ (KHUDAPERIN)

The new bridge of Karavaz is located over the river Arax, at the foot of Mount Diri in Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 246 metres above sea level. A monument of the 12th to 13th centuries, it bears traces of rebuilding carried out in subsequent periods. One of the references to the new bridge of Karavaz is found in a 16th-century document specifying the borders of the Ottoman Empire: “And their reign extended up to Khudaf[ê]rin.”1 In 1817 German diplomat Moritz von Kotzebue wrote the following about the events of 1805: “...General Tsitsianov went to attack Abbas Mirza with twelve thousand men and several cannons and defeated him totally. The king [Fat Ali Shah], who was on this side of the Arax in command of a large army, retreated to the other bank of the river in all haste, and even destroyed the fine bridge of Huderapin, which is still in ruins.”2 A record of the 1890s offers the following description for the new bridge of Karavaz: “...the lower bridge is likewise built on natural blocks of rock and has fifteen spans with piers of stone and vaults of burnt brick and mortar.”3 According to the results of research implemented into the new bridge of Karavaz between 1975 and 1977, the longest of its 15 spans is 8.80 metres in length, and the shortest 5.80 metres.4

Geographical coordinates: N 39°09°02.01, E 46°56°24.01.

1 History by Arakel Davrizhetsy. Yerevan, 1990, p. 57 (the original in Armenian).
2 Hakobian, Hovh. Travel Notes, vol. 6, Yerevan, 1934, p. 520 (the original in Armenian).
3 Barkhutariants, M. Artsakh. Baku, 1895, p. 62 (the original in Armenian).
UPPER BRIDGE OF HIN GANDZAK

The bridge extends over the river Gandzak in the town site of Hin Gandzak, in the north of Gandzak Town (within 160 metres of an angular tower that forms the southern part of a fortification rising on the left side of the town), Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. It was studied during archaeological research conducted in Hin Gandzak from 1939 until 1940. Judging from the remnants of the left-bank pier of the bridge, it had a width of 4 metres. The monument may be attributed to the period between the 12th and 13th centuries.

\[1\] Jafarzade, I. Historical and Archaeological Studies of Hin Gyanja. Baku, 1949, p. 48 (the original in Russian).
BRIDGE OF JERVESHTIK (MAZI)

This is a single-span bridge situated over the stream Jerveshtik (Yeghishe Arakyal, i.e. Elisha the Apostle), in a deep gorge 400 metres north-west of the Monastery of Yeghishe Arakyal, within 5 kilometres of Mataghis Village, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK) in the same direction.

There exist no records as to the time of its construction, but its building peculiarities allow us to trace it back to the 12th to 13th centuries.

At present only the piers of the bridge of Jerveshtik are preserved. It remains unknown when it was destroyed, but this must have happened much earlier than the year 1884, as a traveller who saw it in the same year later wrote: "The bridge represents but three shaky beams covered with pieces of wood. About 200 feet beneath it in the opposite direction, amidst some prominent rocks runs the stream Yeghishe Arakyal [Elisha the Apostle] in tremendous roar..."1 It is already a long time since the "shaky beams" connecting the piers were levelled with the ground. The cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch of the bridge were finely-dressed; its other parts, and particularly, its elevated main pier were built of undressed stone and mortar.

Span length: 6.0 metres; passage width: 3.30 metres; height above water level according to the reconstruction of the bridge: 11.25 m.

1 Haykuny. Travelling Notes. In: Meghu Hayastani, 1885, No. 66, p. 3 (the original in Armenian).
The bridge used to stretch over the river Hakari, south-west of Meghvadzor Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK): "Senegh Kyopri [Kotrutz Bridge], which is totally reduced to ruins now, has only a single standing wall without any inscription. Apparently, once it represented an immense bridge built quite strongly and beautifully, but alas, it proved unable to resist the fierce current of the Hagari... it is constructed of finely-finished black stone."²

Exactly a century later, in 1985, the only vestige of this multi-span bridge was its right-end span (length: 7.77 m; width: 3.25 m), which is now (2009) destroyed. The composition and building peculiarities of the bridge are typical of the 12th to 13th centuries.

Geographical coordinates: N 39°34.02,°° E 46°34.08.°°

² Ter-Gaspariants, A., Travel to Ghapan. In: Meghu Hayastani, 1885, No. 101, p. 3 (the original in Armenian).

1 Ter-Gaspariants, A., Travel to Ghapan. In: Meghu Hayastani, 1885, No. 101, p. 3.
NAMELESS BRIDGE

A cross-stone, set in the apse of a church (rebuilt from its very foundations in 1892) located in Manashid Village, Shahumian District—stripped of its Armenian population and annexed by Azerbaijan since 1992—Republic of Artsakh (RMK), bears an inscription commemorating the construction of a bridge in 1259.

Four lines in the Armenian original (see it in the Armenian text) carved on the lower part of the cross-stone (165 x 110 centimetres):

Transl.: In the year 708 (1259), in the name of God, I, Sargis, ...Arevshat’s grandson, built... a bridge...

Published for the first time.
BRIDGE OF CHAPNI

The bridge (passage width: 4.10 metres) lies over the river Lev, at the south-eastern edge of Chapni Village (Karvajar District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK)), which is distinguished for an abundance of historical monuments—a village site, a church, a belfry also housing a funerary memorial, as well as a cemetery of cross-stones.

At present the right-bank pier—fortified with a semi-cylindrical tower in the current-resisting facade (i.e. the facade looking up-stream)—is the only vestige of this bridge, which probably used to represent a single-span structure of undressed and hewn stone (the latter only in the part of the vault-bearing arch).

- The composition and building peculiarities of the bridge of Chapni trace it back to the period between the 12th and 13th centuries. Geographical coordinates: N 40°13'41.46", E 46°09'57.25".
This single-span bridge extends across the river Hochants, north of Dziasar (Sonasar) Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Its only vestige is its left-bank pier built of undressed stone and mortar. The cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch of the bridge are finely-finished. Its building features trace it back to the 12th to 13th centuries. It also bears the traces of some repairs carried out between the 16th and 17th centuries.

Span length: 8.40 metres; passage width: 2.80 metres.
MIDDLE BRIDGE OF HIN GANDZAK

The Middle Bridge of Hin Gandzak is situated over the river Gandzak—240 metres down-stream from the Upper Bridge of the same town site—in the north of Gandzak Town, Northern Artsakh, a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. It was investigated during the archaeological studies of Hin Gandzak between 1939 and 1940. Most presumably, a structure of the 12th to 13th centuries, it was originally constructed of hewn stone. Close to the remains of the right-bank pier of the bridge can be seen the tower erected for its defence.1

1 Jafarzade, I. Historical and Archaeological Studies of Hin Gyanja. Baku, 1949, p. 48 (the original in Russian).
LOWER BRIDGE OF HIN GANDZAK

The Lower Bridge of Hin Gandzak lies over the river Gandzak—400 metres down-stream from the Middle Bridge of the same town site—in the north of Gandzak Town, Northern Artsakh, a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. It was studied during archaeological research carried out in the territory of Hin Gandzak from 1939 until 1940. The bridge, which probably goes back to the period between the 12th and 13th centuries, represents a structure of pebble and burnt brick with a width of 6.70 metres.1

1 Jafarzade, I. Historical and Archaeological Studies of Hin Gyanja. Baku, 1949, p. 48 (the original in Russian).
BRIDGES OF GETAVAN

Three piers, separated from each other by a distance of 3 to 4 metres, are preserved on the right bank of the river Trtu (Tartar), in Getavan Village, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 795 metres above sea level. Most presumably, the bridges were erected during the 10th to 13th centuries—each after the destruction of an older one in the site—and used to be single-span in composition. On the opposite, i.e. left, bank of the river, none of the bridges had a pier powerful enough to withstand the current for centuries so that no remains are found on this side of the river. All the three bridges were built of undressed stone with mortar. Comparatively better preserved is the pier of the lower bridge (passage width: 5.46 metres); then comes the one of the middle bridge with a passage width of 4.40 metres.
Находился в 6 км к западу от села Гетаван в Мартакертском районе Республики Армения (НКР), севернее храма Хачкар, на берегу реки Трут (Тартар).

Согласно памятной надписи на хачкаре (см. текст надписи в армянском варианте), установленном в честь сооружения моста, строительство было завершено в 1301 году.

Неизвестно, сколько веков мост оставался невредимым, однако, он должен быть разрушен до 19-го века. Во всяком случае, свидетельствующий о нем первый автор, по сути, видел в 1838 году не мост, а лишь тот хачкар, который повествовал о его существовании: “Сия надпись на хачкаре, что у реки, который под мостом” 1. Буквально повторение местоположения и идентичное переиздание надписи было сделано также С. Джалалиным 2.

Пер. Волею Господа я, Аспай, — дочь великого князя Тарсаина и Минахатун и супруга могущественного Григора — сына великого князя Асана, повелителя Аганака, установила крест сей, построила мост сей в память о душах наших пройдных, нынешних и будущих.


Данные последующих перезидателей этой надписи показывают, что они не видели не только моста, но и этого хачкара с надписью, повествующей о строительстве 3.

1 Шахратунц Ов., Описание Кафедрального Собора Эмидзин и пяти Аратжинских провиний, т. 2, Эмидзин, 1842, с. 363 (на арм. языке).
2 Джалалин С., Путешествие по Великой Армении. ч. 1, Тифлис, 1842, с. 206 (на арм. языке).
BRIDGE OF KHATRAVANK

The bridge of Khatravank used to extend over the river Trtu (Tartar), north of Khatravank Monastery, 6 kilometres west of Getavan Village, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

According to an inscription carved on a cross-stone erected on the occasion of the construction of the bridge, it was completed in 1301.

It remains unrevealed how many centuries the bridge of Khatravank was preserved standing, but it must have been ruined prior to the 19th century. The first researcher to mention the monument actually saw not the bridge—in 1838—but the cross-stone attesting to its existence: “It is the inscription of the cross in the gorge down the monastery.”¹ This inscription (see it in the Armenian text) was also published by S. Jalaliants, who offers exactly the same decipherment with a word-for-word repetition of the location of the aforementioned cross-stone.²

Transl.: By the Lord's will, I, Aspa, the daughter of Great Prince Tarsayij and Minakhatun and the spouse of powerful prince Grigor, the son of valorous prince Hasan, Lord of Aghvank [Caucasian Albania], erected this cross [and] built this bridge in memory of the souls of our present-day and future family members.


Judging from what is reported by the authors of the subsequent republications of this inscription, they did not see the bridge of Khatravank; nor even the cross-stone with the inscription commemorating its construction.³

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¹ A Study of the Domed Cathedral of Echmiatzin and Five Districts of Ararat by Bishop Hovhan Shahkhatuniants of Shahriar from the Monastic Community of Holy Echmiatzin, vol. 2, Echmiatzin, 1842, p. 363 (the original in Armenian).
² Jalaliants, S. Travel to Great Armenia, part 1, Tpghis, 1842, p. 206 (the original in Armenian).
BRIDGE OF KHOJAMISAK

This single-span bridge extends over the river Kashuny in Khojamisak Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). The remnants of its piers, built of undressed stone and mortar, are preserved on both banks of the river. The bridge of Khojamisak traces back to the period between the 13th and 14th centuries.
MAZI BRIDGE

Mazi Bridge used to stretch over the river Artinajoor, 0.5 kilometre south-west of Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. Most probably, a monument of the 12th to 13th centuries, it was built of undressed stone and mortar, and survived until its destruction in the late 19th century. Before the deportation of Banants Armenians (1988), its piers could still be seen on the elevated river banks facing a narrow gorge.

Span length: 10.15 metres; passage width: 3 metres.
BRIDGE OF Tsertnot

The bridge of Tsertnot extends across the river Trtu (Tartar), 2 kilometres north-west of Tsertnot Village, Karvajar District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 1,645 metres above sea level. Built of undressed stone and mortar, it shares the building peculiarities of similar monuments dating from the 13th century.

Span length: 7.10 metres; passage width: 2.05 metres; height above water level: 4 metres.

МОСТ ЦРТНОТА

Находится в 2 км северо-западнее села Цртнот района Карвачар Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Трту (Тартар). Расположен на высоте 1645 м над уровнем моря. Сооружен из необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. Мост обладает строительными особенностями, присущими всем подобным памятникам. Длина пролета — 7,10 м; ширина проезжей части — 2,05 м; высота над уровнем воды — 4 м.

БРЮГГЕ ТСЕРТНОТ
Мост Джарванес

Находится в 2.8 км северо-восточнее села Туми Гадрутского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Туми. Композиционные и строительные особенности моста характерны для 13-го века (вероятно, это ровесник церкви 1246 года монастыря Гтич, расположенного неподалеку). Длина пролета — 5,30 м; ширина проезжей части — 3,01 м; высота над уровнем воды — 6 м. Координаты: N 39°36.11.98°, E 46°55.18.38°.

BRIDGE OF JARVANES

The bridge of Jarvanes lies over the river Tumi, 2.8 kilometres north-east of Tumi Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Its composition and building peculiarities are typical of the 13th century—probably, it dates back to the same year (1246) as the main domed church of Gtich Monastery located nearby.

Span length: 5.30 metres; passage width: 3.01 metres; height above water level: 6 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°36.11.98°, E 46°55.18.38°.
The bridge is situated over the river Hochants, north of Shervakan Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 1,405 metres above sea level. Its composition and building peculiarities are typical of the 13th to 14th centuries.

Span length: 12.40 metres; passage width: 3.70 metres; height above water level: 7 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°46.49.52°, E 46°17.32.19°.
**MOCT TAGISA**

Находится между селами Мец Тахк и Тох Гадрутского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Ишханагет. Сравнительное исследование композиционных и строительных особенностей с другими аналогичными памятниками позволяет датировать мост 15-16 веками. Он однопролетный, сооружен из необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. Длина пролета — 6,95 м; ширина проезжей части — 3,30 м; высота над уровнем воды — 4,80 м. Географические координаты: N 39°36'23.86", E 46°57'09.17".

**BRIDGE OF TAHIS**

This bridge stretches over the river Ishkhanaget, in the area between Metz Taghk and Togh Villages in Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

A comparative study of the composition and building features of this single-span structure of undressed stone and mortar allows us to trace it back to the 15th to 16th centuries.

Span length: 6.95 metres; passage width: 3.30 metres; height above water level: 4.80 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°36'23.86", E 46°57'09.17."
МОСТ ТАНДЗУТА (ЧАНАХЧИ)

Находится на территории села Тандзут или Чанахчи Северного Арцаха, аннексированного Азербайджаном (ныне — район Гетабек), на реке Шамкор, в 2,5 км юго-западнее села Астаф, на высоте 1248 м над уровнем моря. Мост сооружен в 15-16 веках. Однопролетный, построен из необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. В 1980 годы мост был еще в сохранности.

БРІДЖ ОФ ТАНДЗҮТ  (ЧАНАХЧІ)

The bridge (15th to 16th centuries) extends over the river Shamkor, 2.5 kilometres south-west of Astaf Village, in the territory of Tandzut (Chanakhchi) Village Site (in present-day Getabek District), at an altitude of 1,248 metres above sea level. A single-span structure of undressed stone and mortar, it was still preserved standing as of the 1980s.

МОСТ АЙКАЗН (ЕРІ ІГЯКУЦ)

Находится в 2,2 км северо-западнее села Туми Гадрутского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Иыак. Мост характерен для подобных сооружений 15-16 веков. Строиматериал — необработанный камень и известковый раствор. Длина пролета — 4,43 м; ширина проезжей части — 2,56 м. Высота над уровнем воды — 4,55 м.

БРІДЖ ОФ ХАЙКАЗН (ЕРИ ІГЯКУЦ)

The bridge of Haykazn, which shares the architectural features of similar monuments of the 15th to 16th centuries, is situated across the river Igak, 2.2 kilometres north-west of Tumi Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It is built of undressed stone and mortar.

Span length: 4.43 metres; passage width: 2.56 metres; height above water level: 4.55 metres.
PARAVI (OLD WOMAN’S) BRIDGE

A medieval structure which is known to have repeatedly undergone renovation, this bridge lies over the river Trtu (Tartar), at the eastern extremity of Mataghis Village, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

Presumably, its last overhaul was carried out between the 16th and 17th centuries: “...the stone-built bridge of Parav is ascribed to an old woman who is said to have left some money for its [future] repairs somewhere inside it. In order to find this money, the villagers have considerably destroyed and half damaged this bridge as well.”

Span length: 7.64 metres; passage width: 4.78 metres; height above water level: 11.10 metres.

МОСТ ГАНДЗАКА

Находился в городе Гандзак Северного Арцаха, на одноименной реке. В середине 19-го века по свидетельству очевидца, остатки многопролетного моста, из-за изменения русла реки, оказались на суше: “...мост многоводчатый, однако вода прорубила и открыла иную стезю, оставив мост на суше”. Этот, сооруженный целиком из кирпича мост, по всей вероятности, является строением 16-17 веков.

1 Джалаляны С.. Путешествие по Великой Армении, ч. 1, Тифлис, 1842, с. 172 (на арм. яз.).

BRIDGE OF GANDZAK

The bridge stretched over the river Gandzak, in Gandzak Town of Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. As reported by a traveller, by the mid-19th century, the remains of this once multi-span bridge had appeared overland due to the deviation of the river channel: “...a multi-span bridge, but the water dried up and did not flow in another bed, leaving the bridge on land.”1 Most presumably, the bridge of Gandzak, that was entirely constructed of brick, dates back to the period between the 16th and 17th centuries.

1 Jalaliants, S. Travel to Great Armenia, part 1, Tpghis, 1842, p. 172 (the original in Armenian).
BROUGHTANTS (POTTERS’) BRIDGE

The bridge is situated 0.5 kilometre west of Getashen Village—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since May 1991—Shahumian District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It can approximately be traced back to the 16th to 17th centuries.

BRIDGE OF CHANAGHCHUDZOR (KYOPRI GYOZ)

The bridge of Chanaghchudzor is located near Aghbashlar Village in present-day Touz District (Zakam District of Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then). The exact time of its construction remains unknown, but most probably, it was erected prior to the 17th century. The bridge was destroyed earlier than 1890, as in the same year, Sargs Kamalian found only its two piers: “Down Atti-Bulagh, on the left bank of the river is [situated] the gorge of Meharlu, at the beginning of which, several people live. Farther downwards is the gorge of Chanaghchi, on the right side of which can be seen the ruins of a bridge, with all its sections preserved except its middle part. The bridge getting destroyed, the road remained incomplete. As my companion told me, nowadays this gorge is not difficult to cross—there is a cart-road here—whereas in the years bygone, this was something absolutely impossible when the river was especially abundant in water. Opposite the ruined bridge, on the right bank [of the river], there is a watch-house called Kyopri Gyoz; downwards on the left, the gorges of Shamlut and Agh-dara lie.”

1 Yeghishe Charents Art and Literature Museum: Sargs Kamalian Fund, copy-book No. 1, VI-11, pp. 34-35 (the original in Armenian).
The bridge (16th to 17th centuries) lies across the river Artinajoor, at the western end of Verin (Upper) Karhat Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then—at an altitude of 1,485 metres above sea level.

Span length: 6.92 metres; height above water level: 5.10 metres; geographical coordinates: N 40°29’59.81" E 46°04’53.01".
BRIDGE OF TOP

The bridge (16th to 17th centuries) is located across the right tributary of the river Tzav running at the western extremity of Top Village Site, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 780 metres above sea level. It is single-span, built of undressed stone and mortar.

Span length: 5 metres; passage width: 3.55 metres; height above water level: 4.90 metres.
The bridge (1607) used to stretch near Aghbashlar Village in present-day Touz District (Zakam District of Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then). The exact time of its destruction remains unrevealed; supposedly, this must have happened earlier than 1890, when Sargis Kamalian found only its right-bank pier and construction inscription engraved below a cross relief on a nearby rock: “...I noticed a natural block of stone whose southern face bore a big cruciform [relief], with the following words carved near it: ‘May the Holy Cross protect gracious David, who built the bridge of Jasat in memory of his soul in the year 1056 (1607)’ [see the original in the Armenian text]. Having read this piece of writing, I looked back and saw the remains of the pier of an old bridge on the right bank [of the river].”

BRIDGE OF JASAT (DAVID)

The bridge (1607) used to stretch near Aghbashlar Village in present-day Touz District (Zakam District of Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then). The exact time of its destruction remains unrevealed; supposedly, this must have happened earlier than 1890, when Sargis Kamalian found only its right-bank pier and construction inscription engraved below a cross relief on a nearby rock: “...I noticed a natural block of stone whose southern face bore a big cruciform [relief], with the following words carved near it: ‘May the Holy Cross protect gracious David, who built the bridge of Jasat in memory of his soul in the year 1056 (1607)’ [see the original in the Armenian text]. Having read this piece of writing, I looked back and saw the remains of the pier of an old bridge on the right bank [of the river].”

BRIDGE OF AVETARANOTS

This 17th-century bridge extends over a tributary flowing down Koosanats Monastery, in Avetaranots Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Its vestiges comprise the remnants of its right-bank pier built of unfinished stone and mortar.

MOCT ДЖАСАТА (ДАВИДА)

Находится в провинции Закам, аннексированного Азербайджаном Северного Арцаха, близ села Ахбашлар нынешнего Тузского района. Построен в 1607 году. Время обрушения моста неизвестно, однако это имело место до 1890 года, когда очевидец Саргис Камалян увидел правобережную опору и в нижней части крестообразного изваяния на ближайшей скале — строительную надпись моста (см. текст надписи в армянском варианте): “...приметил я отсюда природой каменную глыбу, на южной поверхности которой изваян крест, а рядом — надпись: Святой крест сей во ходатаись о добромыселенном Давиде, который построил мост Джасата в память души своей, в году 1607-ом”. После прочтения сей надписи я стал рассматривать и увидел остатки опоры старого моста на правом берегу”1.

1 МЛИ, ф. С. Камалына, тетрадь № 1, VI-11, л. 34 (на арм. яз.).
The bridge is found at the south-eastern extremity of Avetaranots Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at the beginning of a road leading to Jaghatsner Village, at an altitude of 1,023 metres above sea level.

According to its construction inscription (42 x 30 centimetres), it was erected in 1663.

Four lines in the Armenian original (see it in the Armenian text):

Transl.: This bridge is in memory of Mahtesy Aran, in the year 1112 (1663).

Published for the first time.

Note: Mahtesy is a title used with reference to Christian believers who are known to have gone to Jerusalem on pilgrimage.

Span length: 6 metres; passage width 3.10 metres; height above water level: 4.35 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°42'13.73, E 46°50'21.57.
BRIDGE OF AKNAGHBYOOR

In the north-east of Avetaranots Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK) can be seen another single-span bridge (17th century) built of undressed stone and mortar.

Span length: 6.21 metres; passage width: 2.80 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°42'06.30, E 46°50'59.53.
METZ (HIN) BRIDGE OF BANANTS

Metz (Greater) Bridge, which is also known as Hin (Older) Bridge, lies over the river Artinajoor, at the south-eastern extremity of Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then—at an altitude of 916 metres above sea level. All its parts are built of undressed stone and mortar, except the cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch, which are finely-finished. Special mention should be made of two vaulted inner rooms—one on either side of the bridge—that used to serve as guardrooms, guest chambers or a custom house. The building peculiarities of this single-span bridge are typical of the 17th century.

Span length: 9.25 metres; passage width: 4.90 metres; geographical coordinates: N 40°33’08.70, E 46°09’04.99.”
BRIDGE OF BOLORANTS

This single-span bridge used to extend over the Bolorants—the right tributary of the river Artinajoor—at the south-eastern edge of Banants Village, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. A monument of the 17th century, it represented a vaulted structure of finely-finished cornerstones, its present-day vestiges comprising its piers that are laid with undressed stone and mortar. It is evident that the passage of the bridge was widened in the late Middle Ages.

Span length: 9.20 metres; original passage width: 2.50 metres, and 4.50 metres after its widening; geographical coordinates: N 40°33'08.77", E 46°09'12.68'.
BRIDGE OF GOGHTANIK

The bridge used to lie over the river Hakari, a kilometre east of Goghtanik Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Except for the finely-finished cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch, all its other parts are laid with undressed stone and mortar. The bridge of Goghtanik was destroyed in the aftermath of military operations during the liberation struggle of Artsakh.

Span length: 11.95 metres; passage width: 3.25 metres.
Находится в 200 м юго-западнее села Аветараноц Аскеранского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Хегхетскот. Расположен на высоте 1875 м над уровнем моря.

Это характерный для 17–18 веков однопролетный мост, построенный из речного булыжника, на известковом растворе. Краевой камень несущей свод арки гладко тесаны. Длина пролета – 5,50 м; ширина проезжей части – 4,35 м; высота над уровнем воды – 4,25 м. Координаты: N 39°41'51.06" , E 46°09'43.48".

**BRIDGE OF HEGHETSKOT**

The bridge is located across the river Heghetskot, 200 metres south-west of Avetaranots Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 1,075 metres above sea level.

A single-span structure typical of the 17th to 18th centuries, it is built of undressed pebble and mortar; the cornerstones of its arch are finely-finished.

Span length: 5.50 metres; passage width: 4.35 metres; height above water level: 4.25 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°41'51.06", E 46°09'43.48".
МОСТ ХРОВАЦ


KHROVATZ (INDIGNANT) BRIDGE

The bridge is found in the area of the original channel of the river Sevjoor, within around 50 metres of the bank, east of the township of Verishen, Shahumian District—stripped of its Armenian population and annexed by Azerbaijan since 1992—Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 965 metres above sea level. It is built of pebble and slate, and is known by the names Anjoor, i.e. Waterless, or Khrovatz, i.e. Indignant. Although still preserved standing as of 1992, the bridge has not fulfilled its function since the early 19th century due to the deviation in the river channel.

Span length: 7 metres; passage width: 3.40 metres. Khrovatz Bridge may be traced back to the period between the 17th and 18th centuries.
MOCT НЕРКИШЕНА

Находится в поселке Неркишен или Шаумян (армянское население в 1992 году было на- силственно изгнано) — райцентре Шаумянского района, аннексированного Азербайджаном, на реке Севджур. Сохранились руины правобережной опоры (построенной из речного бульджика, на известковом растворе) однопролетного моста. Строительные особенности моста характерны для 17-18 веков.

BRIDGE OF NERKISHEN

This single-span bridge extends over the river Sevjoor in Nerkishen (Shahumian) Township, the centre of Shahumian District—stripped of its Armenian population and annexed by Azerbaijan since 1992—Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Its remnants comprise the remains of its right-bank pier built of undressed pebble and mortar. The building peculiarities of the monument trace it back to the period between the 17th and 18th centuries.
BRIDGE OF NERKI IGYAKOTS

This is a single-span bridge over the river Haykazn, 1.5 kilometre north of Tumi Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Its vestiges constitute two piers of unfinished cobblestone and mortar. The building peculiarities of the bridge trace it back to the 17th to 18th centuries. The local inhabitants have replaced its ruined vault with a structure of beams.

Span length: 4.50 metres; passage width: 2.20 metres; height above water level: 3 metres.
МОСТ ИНН МАСАНЦ АНАПАТИ

Находится между селами Мохратах и Кусапат Мартакертского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке, протекающей по юго-западной окраине пустыни Инн Масанц. Построен из необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. Длина пролета — 4,46 м; ширина — 3 м.
Время строительства 17-18 века.

BRIDGE OF THE CLOISTER OF INN MASANTS

The bridge (17th to 18th centuries) lies over a stream flowing on the south-western edge of the cloister of Inn Masants, in the area between Mokhratagh and Koosapat Villages, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It is built of undressed stone with mortar.
Span length: 4.46 metres; passage width: 3 metres.
DZAKHLIK (JERGHATSADZOR) BRIDGE

The bridge of Jerghatsadzor (17th to 18th centuries) extends over the river Karkar, a kilometre west of Shosh Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 885 metres above sea level. Except for the cornerstones of its vault, its other parts are built of undressed stone and mortar. The arch of the bridge has a double row of stonework to be able to bear the weight of its massive vault.

Span length: 8.07 metres; passage width: 3.06 metres; height above water level: 5.75 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°46'20.82", E 46°46'16.92".
The bridge of Melik [Melik is a hereditary Armenian noble title in various Eastern Armenian principalities known as Melikdoms] is situated over a stream flowing through the south-western quarter of Khendzristan Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It was erected by Melik of Khachen Mirzakhan in the mid-18th century, the main building material used comprising undressed stone and mortar. In the Soviet years, the passage of the bridge was widened by 130 centimetres.

Span length: 5.15 metres; passage width: 4.80 metres; height above water level: 7.80 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°58’08.90”, E 46°40’59.80’’.

BRIDGE OF MELIK

Находится на речке, протекающей по юго-западной части села Хидахстан Аскеранского района Республики Арцах (НКР). Мост построен Мирзаханом — меликом Хачена, в середине 18-го века. Длина пролета — 5,15 м; ширина проезжей части — 4,80 м. Построен из необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. В советские годы проезжая часть была расширена на 130 см. Высота над уровнем воды — 7,80 м. Географические координаты: N 39°58’08.90”, E 46°40’59.80’’.

МОСТ МЕЛИКА

The bridge of Melik [Melik is a hereditary Armenian noble title in various Eastern Armenian principalities known as Melikdoms] is situated over a stream flowing through the south-western quarter of Khendzristan Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It was erected by Melik of Khachen Mirzakhan in the mid-18th century, the main building material used comprising undressed stone and mortar. In the Soviet years, the passage of the bridge was widened by 130 centimetres.

Span length: 5.15 metres; passage width: 4.80 metres; height above water level: 7.80 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°58’08.90”, E 46°40’59.80’’.

BRIDGE OF MELIK

Находится на речке, протекающей по юго-западной части села Хидахстан Аскеранского района Республики Арцах (НКР). Мост построен Мирзаханом — меликом Хачена, в середине 18-го века. Длина пролета — 5,15 м; ширина проезжей части — 4,80 м. Построен из необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. В советские годы проезжая часть была расширена на 130 см. Высота над уровнем воды — 7,80 м. Географические координаты: N 39°58’08.90”, E 46°40’59.80’’.

МОСТ МЕЛИКА
BRIDGE OF HIN TAGHASER

The bridge (span length: 3.68 metres; passage width: 2.90 metres) stretches over the Przaget flowing at the western extremity of the village site of Hin Taghaser (Hingshen, Hinshen), 1.5 kilometre north-east of Verd Nashat Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

According to an inscription (see it in the Armenian text), carved on two finely-dressed stones (130 x 44 centimetres) set in the downstream-looking face of the left pier of the bridge, it goes back to the year 1763.

Five lines in the Armenian original:

Transl.: This bridge is in memory of Yapon Yekan’s son Paghtasar, Pers’s spouse. May you pray for his soul just once. In the year 1212 (1763).

The Armenian original published in: Corpus Inscriptionum Armenicarum, part 5, Yerevan, 1982, p. 190 (the original in Armenian).
The bridge is located across the river Karkar running on the eastern edge of the village site of Honut, a kilometre north-east of Shooshi Town, Shooshi District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Judging by its building peculiarities, it was erected in the 18th century, the main building material used comprising pebble, limestone and mortar—finely-dressed are only the cornerstones of its vault-bearing arch.

Span length: 5.87 metres; passage width: 4.05 metres; height above water level: 8.10 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°45'40.45", E 46°45'56.78".
BRIDGE OF GYULISTAN

The bridge is situated over the river Inja, on the road leading from Gyulistan Village, Shahumian District—stripped of its Armenian population and annexed by Azerbaijan since 1992—Republic of Artsakh (RMK) to the castle of Gyulistan. The two piers of this single-span bridge, erected in accordance with the building and stylistic peculiarities of the 17th to 18th centuries (undressed cobblestone and mortar), are still preserved on the river banks.
The bridge which presumably goes back to the 18th century lies over the stream Seldakhants, 1.5 kilometre south-west of Mokhrenis Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It is built of undressed and hewn stone with mortar.

Span length: 4.60 metres; passage width: 2.70 metres; height above water level: 2.90 metres.
The bridge (Kare, i.e. built of stone, is the name with which the local people used to refer to it) extends in quite a deep and extremely narrow section of the river Pokr Kurak, close to prominent rocks towering on both sides of the gorge, 1.5 kilometre north-east of Buzlukh Village, Shahumian District—stripped of its Armenian population and annexed by Azerbaijan since 1992—around 300 metres north of a cemetery preserved in a site called Gyune. Its building peculiarities trace it back to the 18th century, its construction being traditionally ascribed to Pullu Tiuny from Manashid.1 The cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch—the vault is semi-circular—that stretch in two rows are finely-finished, but the stones used in the other parts of the bridge are either totally undressed, or semi-finished.

Span length: 3.4 metres; passage width: 3.7 metres; height above water level: 8.7 metres.

МОСТ МЕЛИКА МНАЦАКАНА

The bridge is found over the river Kurak in the north-east of Getashen Village—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since May 1991—Shahumian District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It was built in the 18th century on the initiative of the meliks of Getashen.
**BRIDGE OF YEKEGHETSADZOR (KILISADARA)**

The bridge (span length: 5.50 metres) lies over a stream named Yekeghetsadzori Joor (i.e. River of the Church Gorge), 6.5 kilometres south-west of Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. It represents a single-span vaulted structure dating back to the 18th century. In 1932 the bridge was repaired by Hovhannes Gyurjian (Gurjunts Hovhan).
The bridge of Yesayi, which goes back to the late 18th century, used to extend across the river Ishkhanaget in the vicinity of Salakyatin Village—formerly populated by Turks—Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Its builders were Baba Bey Melik-Bakhtamians’s father and his grandfather on maternal line, Isay Dayi, both of them from Togh Village in origin. In 1842 a certain Zehnali and Mezhnu from the adjacent Turkish village of Salakyatin destroyed the monument\(^1\) (in the same year, Baba Bey Melik Bakhtamians informed Aslan Bey Atabekians about this).\(^2\)

\(^1\) National Archives of Armenia, fund 57, list 1, file 3, p. 79 (the original in Armenian).

\(^2\) Father Topchian H. List of the Collections by Archimandrite Khachik Dadian, part 2, Vagharshapat, 1900, p. 27 (the original in Armenian).
Mazi Bridge is located across one of the left tributaries of the river Karkar, at the south-western extremity of Stepanakert, the capital of the Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It represents a single-span structure of undressed stone and mortar (the cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch are finely-finished). According to an inscription (see it in the Armenian text) engraved on the capstone of the finely-finished arch of the current-resisting facade [namely the facade looking up-stream] of the bridge, it was erected in 1825.

_Transl._: In the year 1274 (1825).
Published for the first time.

Span length: 4.13 metres; passage width: 7.68 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°48'27.39" E 46°46'02.98".
YANTS BRIDGE

Yants Bridge is situated over the river Artinajoor at the south-western extremity of Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then—at an altitude of 930 metres above sea level. Ranking second in significance among the bridges in Banants after Metz (Hin) Bridge, it represents a single-span structure of a semi-circular vault and shares the building peculiarities of other similar monuments of the 18th century. In its facade looking downstream, the capstone of the arch is carved with a relief representing a horse head—most probably, the emblem of an outstanding family. In the 19th century, Yants Bridge was repaired by Shami Saki.

Span length: 10.70 metres; passage width: 4.90 metres; height above water level: 7.25 m. Geographical coordinates: N 40°32.59.66, E 46°08.50.43.°°

The bridge also underwent overhaul in 1918, a five-line inscription (see it in the Armenian text) carved on a white marble stone (60 x 40 centimetres), set at the top of the arch in the centre of the current-resisting facade [the facade looking up-stream] of the bridge, commemorating this event.

Transl.: This bridge was repaired by Sargsis Virabian Hakobiants in perpetual memory of his parents, 9 June 1918.

Published in: Karapetian, S. Northern Artsakh. Yerevan, 2007, p. 82.
BRIDGE OF HALIVOR

The bridge of Halivor lies over the river Ishkhanaget, 2 kilometres south-west of Metz Taghk Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). According to its construction inscription (42 x 30 centimetres)—seven lines in the Armenian original—preserved on its facade looking downstream, it was built in 1835 (see the inscription in the Armenian text).

Transl.: This bridge is in memory of Gevorg’s son Harutian. I built it for my parents. May passers-by pray for their souls, 1284 ¥1835¤.

Published for the first time.

Span length: 5.50 metres; passage width: 3.0 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°36’39.26", E 46°56’01.40’’.
**SIMONENTS BRIDGE**

Simonents Bridge is situated over the river Karkar in Karintak Village, Shooshi District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK), at an altitude of 1,085 metres above sea level.

Span length: 6.25 metres; passage width: 3.30 metres; height above water level: 5.40 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°44'23.62", E 44°44'58.71".

As attested by the construction inscription of the bridge (see it in the Armenian text), it was founded in 1838 by Hakob Simonian:

*Transl.: I had this bridge built. Servant of Christ Hakub Simonov, in the year 1838.*

Published for the first time.
BRIDGE OF TADEVOS

The bridge extends over the river Karkar, 0.8 kilometre south-west of Karashen (Dashushen) Village, Askeran District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). As reported by the local people, it was built by Village Head Tadevos Arakelian in the '40s of the 19th century. It represents a double-span bridge of undressed stone and mortar, with the cornerstones of its arch laid with finely-finished limestone. The larger span of the bridge is 6.44 metres in length, and the smaller one 3.03 metres. Passage width: 3.53 metres; height above water level: 6.30 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°47'44.09", E 46°46'28.77".

Находится в 0,8 км юго-западнее села Карашен (Дашушен) Аскеранского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Каркар. Согласно свидетельству местных жителей, мост построен в 40-ые годы 19-го века старостой села Тадевосом Аракеляном. Мост — двухпролетный. Кроме гладко тесаных краеугольных камней арки, остальные части сложены из необработанного камня. Длина большого пролета — 6,44 м; малого — 3,03 м; ширина проезжей части — 3,53 м. Высота над уровнем воды — 6,30 м. Географические координаты: N 39°47'44.09", E 46°46'28.77".

MOST TADEOCA

Находится в 0,8 км юго-западнее села Карашен (Дашушен) Аскеранского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Каркар. Согласно свидетельству местных жителей, мост построен в 40-ые годы 19-го века старостой села Тадевосом Аракеляном. Мост — двухпролетный. Кроме гладко тесаных краеугольных камней арки, остальные части сложены из необработанного камня. Длина большого пролета — 6,44 м; малого — 3,03 м; ширина проезжей части — 3,53 м. Высота над уровнем воды — 6,30 м. Географические координаты: N 39°47'44.09", E 46°46'28.77".
The bridge of Lalazar stretches over the river Vorotan—in the area of its lower course, where it is more known by the name Bargushat—in Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Built by Hovakim Lalazariants from Khendzoresk in 1867, it was later repaired by his son Simeon between 1900 and 1902: “The stone bridge over the river Bargyushat, erected by Hovakim Lalazariants from Khentzoresk Village in the 1860s, used to be in a state of dilapidation; now it has undergone overhaul and is almost ready [for further use]. The renovation was conducted by the deceased Lalazariants’s son Simeon; thanks to his financial assistance, the bridge was under repairs for exactly a year and a half, he himself supervising the work.”

The years marking the foundation and renovation of the bridge of Lalazar can still be read in its construction inscription (10 lines in the Armenian original) once engraved above its left-bank pier, on its facade looking downstream. In the Soviet years, this inscription was deliberately scraped away by the Azeri vandals. To enjoy using a bridge built by the Armenians, at the same time obliterating the words of commemoration left by its founders—a mode of behaviour so typical of Azeris and Turks (cf. the bridges of Shamakhi, Vagharshavan, Moks, Shatakh and many other places). The spans of the bridge are 13.84 and 12.66 metres in length. Passage width: 4.31 metres; height above water level: 9.10 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°26′27.66″, E 46°27′45.90″.

1 Mshak, 1902, No. 161, p. 2 (the original in Armenian).
BRIDGE OF SHEN

The bridge of Shen is situated over a tributary in the vicinity of a spring called Sheni, in Mariamadzor Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

The bridge bears three inscriptions carved on separate stones (see the originals in the Armenian text). One of them reports the year of its construction, i.e. 1869.

Six lines in the Armenian original carved on the current-resisting facade (the facade looking up-stream) of the bridge:

Transl.: This spring and bridge are in memory of our parents, David and Grigor Asriyan, 1869.

Engraved on the capstone of the arch:

Transl.: Grigor Asriyan ... I, usta, built...

Carved on the north-eastern part of the bridge:

Transl.: ...Shati David...

Published for the first time.

MOCT ШЕНА

Находится в селе Мариамадзор Гадрутского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на протекающей по селу притоке, близ родника “Шен”.

Согласно высеченным на трех камнях надписям (см. тексты надписей в армянском варианте), мост построен в 1869 году. На потокопротивном фасаде моста — 6 строк:

Пер. Сии родник и мост в память о родителях наших, Давида и Григора Асриянов, 1869 году.

На замковом камне арки моста:

Пер. Григор Асриян Хо... Построил мастер...

В северо-восточной части моста:

Пер. ...ный... Шати, Давид...

Изд. впервые.
NEW BRIDGE OF GANDZAK

This bridge lies over the river Gandzak, in the town of the same name in Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. On 26 June 1870, the river overflowed its banks and damaged the wooden bridge connecting the left-bank quarters of the town with Kilisakyand Quarter located on its right side.1 Prior to that, late in February of the same year, the construction of a new bridge had started in Gandzak with a budget of 70,000 rubles allocated by the Government, including 20,000 rubles for the stone part of the future monument. By the end of June, the bridge was almost completed, representing a structure of quite a remarkable composition: “...the foundations of the bridge were within 12 sazhens of its piers, but despite that long distance, it was to have lattice girders of iron and not ordinary arches.”2

In 1880 a correspondent of the Kavkaz wrote: “The iron bridge of Ganjinka... is a magnificent structure of stone piers...”3

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1 Kavkaz, 1870, No. 76, p. 2 (the original in Russian).
2 Ibid. (see the quotation in the Russian text).
BRIDGE OF NERKI HAND

The stone-built bridge of Nerki Hand is situated over the river Artinaajor, 3.5 kilometres north-east of Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. Erected in 1870 parallel with the construction of the road Banants-Gandzak,¹ it was ruined in the aftermath of explosion during the building of the railway line of Gandzak-Karhat in 1945.

NEW BRIDGE OF SHAMKOR

The new bridge of Shamkor Town Site, Shamkhor District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then—which is located close to an older bridge, goes back to the mid-19th century. It was built of stone under the patronage of Altuniants from Gandzak, with the support of the local inhabitants (3,000 carts were used for only the transportation of building material).¹

BRIDGE OF TARGMANCHATS CLOISTER

The bridge stretches on a road leading to Khachakap Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then—in the north-east of Targmanchats Cloister. A single-span vaulted structure, it was erected through prominent benefactor Alexandre Tayiriants’s means between 1880 and 1883. Its construction inscription (see the original in the Armenian text) reads:

Transl.: This bridge [and] two-verst road [leading] to the holy monastery were built under the patronage of Alexandre Mkrchian Tayiriants from Yerevan, 1880 to 1883.


Another inscription commemorating the foundation of the bridge is preserved on the entrance to the church of the cloister.1

1 Ardzagank, 1886, No. 21, p. 309 (the original in Armenian).
BRIDGE OF GYURGYUR

The bridge extends across the river Suvjoor at the northern extremity of Gharachinar Village, Shahumian District—stripped of its Armenian population and annexed by Azerbaijan since 1992—Republic of Artsakh (RMK). Until 1992, its construction inscription (see it in the Armenian text) was preserved on its facade looking downstream:

Transl.: Gharachinar Village, 1885. This bridge is in memory of Mirap, Petros, Avagians Hovhannes and his three sons.

Published for the first time.

The bridge of Guryur represents a single-span structure of entirely finely-finished and roughly-dressed stones with mortar.

Span length: 6.18 metres; passage width: 5.20 metres; height above water level: 5.60 m.
MOCT XELENDENDORFA

Находится в 5 км северо-восточнее села Восканапат (армянское население в 1988 году было насильственно изгнано), аннексированного Азербайджаном Северного Арцаха, на реке Гандзак. Этот трехпролетный мост был построен в 19-ом веке руками армянских мастеров из окрестных сел на месте старого моста—явно существовавшего еще со средневековья.

BRIDGE OF HELENENDORF

The bridge of Helenendorf is situated over the river Gandzak, 5 kilometres north-east of Voskanapat Village, Khanlar District, Northern Artsakh, a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. It represents a three-span structure of the 19th century that was erected in the site of an older bridge—most presumably, still standing as of the Middle Ages—by masters invited from the neighbouring Armenian-inhabited villages.
BRIDGE OF STEPAN

This is another bridge lying over the river Artinajoor in Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. The building material used in its construction comprised undressed stone and mortar.

1 Nor-Dar, 1887, No. 113, p. 3 (the original in Armenian).

BRIDGE OF BAGHER

This single-span bridge, which goes back to 1886, extended over the river Artinajoor, “at the edge of Kurdunts Gorge,” in a site called Bagher in Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. The building material used in its construction comprised undressed stone and mortar.

1 Nor-Dar, 1887, No. 113, p. 3 (the original in Armenian).
The bridge is situated over the river Shamkor in the neighbourhood of Barsumshen Village—purely Armenian-inhabited until 1988—Shamkhor District, Northern Artsakh, a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in the same year and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. Its construction began in 1884 on Priest Yeprem Melik-Arustamiants’s initiative financially supported by Police Officer Javad Bey Melik-Shahnazariants. Upon the completion of the work in 1893, it represented a double-span bridge of pebble and mortar. Within several decades, however, its vaults were reduced to ruins so that the local people had to replace them with a structure of logs.

1 Nor-Dar, 1884, No. 121, p. 2 (the original in Armenian).
2 Nor-Dar, 1893, No. 47, p. 3 (the original in Armenian).
MAKUN BRIDGE

Makun Bridge (span length: 5.15 metres; passage width: 3.50 metres) lies over a tributary flowing through Metz Taghk Village towards the river Ishkhanaget, at the southern extremity of the same village (Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK)). According to its four-line construction inscription, carved in Armenian (see it in the Armenian text) on a finely-finished piece of stone (33 x 30 x 13 centimetres)—once set in the facade of the bridge looking downstream, but at present fallen off its original place—it dates back to 1890.

Transl.: In memory of Ghazar Harutiam Bejaniants, 1890.

Published for the first time.
BRIDGE OF ARAJADZOR

This is another 19th-century bridge situated across one of the left tributaries of the river Khachen, at the northeastern edge of Arajadzor Village, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

Span length: 4.30 metres; original passage width: 3.20 metres, and 4.27 metres after its widening.
The bridge is located in Tzamdzor Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). A structure of hewn and undressed stone with mortar, it dates back to the period between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Span length: 5.20 metres; passage width: 4.06 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°29′44.76″, E 46°57′58.26″.

Находится в селе Цамджор Гадрутского района Республики Арцах (НКР). Длина пролета — 5,20 м; ширина проезжей части — 4,06 м. Построен из грубо тесаного и необработанного камня, на известковом растворе. Время строительства — рубеж 19-20 веков. Географические координаты: N 39°29′44.76″, E 46°57′58.26″.

The bridge is located in Tzamdzor Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). A structure of hewn and undressed stone with mortar, it dates back to the period between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Span length: 5.20 metres; passage width: 4.06 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°29′44.76″, E 46°57′58.26″.
**MOCT TÉRI (TÉRUNC)**

Located in the village of Getashen (Armenian population expelled in 1991 and occupied by Azerbaijan since May 1991—Shahumian District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK)). The bridge was built either in the late 19th, or early 20th century, on the initiative of Village Head of Getashen Arstam Yepiskopossian with an amount of money accumulated on account of the fines paid by the local disobedient inhabitants.1 The bridge piers were built of stone, and the span of wood.

1 “Nor-Dar”, 1887, No. 127, p. 3; Mshak, 1913, No. 123, p. 2 (in Armt. trans.).

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**BRIDGE OF TER (TERUNTS)**

The bridge of Ter stretches across the river Kurak in Getashen Village—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since May 1991—Shahumian District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It was erected either in the late 19th, or early 20th, century on the initiative of Village Head of Getashen Arstam Yepiskopossian with an amount of money accumulated on account of the fines paid by the local disobedient inhabitants.1 The bridge piers were built of stone, and the span of wood.

1 Nor-Dar, 1887, No. 127, p. 3; Mshak, 1913, No. 123, p. 2 (the originals in Armenian).
BRIDGE OF KCHAGHBYOOR

The single-span, vaulted bridge of Kchaghbyoor (late 19th to early 20th centuries) is situated at the south-eastern extremity of Khachakap Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. Except for the cornerstones of the vault-bearing arch that are finely-finished, the other parts of the bridge are laid with undressed stone and mortar.

Span length: 3.95 metres; original passage width: 4.05 metres (subsequently widened by 3 metres).
BRIDGES IN BANANTS

These bridges extend over one of the left tributaries of the river Artinajoor flowing through Banants Village, Karhat (Dashkesan) District, Northern Artsakh—a region that suffered deportation of its Armenian population in 1988 and has been annexed to Azerbaijan since then. Each of them has a semi-circular vault with a span length of 3 metres on average. The main building material used in their construction comprises undressed stone and mortar.
BRIDGES NAMED MAZI (GETI GOMERI)

This name is used with reference to two adjacent bridges lying in the middle of the road running from Mataghis towards Jraberd via the valley of the river Trtu (Tartar), on the border-line between Metzshen and Tonashen Villages, Martakert District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). According to a preserved construction inscription (see it in the Armenian text), the second of these bridges was built in 1902 through master Abraham Kamaliants’s efforts, with the financial assistance of Harutiun Hayrapetian from Tonashen:

Transl.: This bridge was erected in 1902 with the means of Harutiun Hayrapetian from Tonashen Village. The master of this bridge is Abraham Kamaliants from Gyune Jartar, 1902.

Published for the first time.

Unfortunately, the bridge known by the names Mazi, or Geti Gomeri was blown up in the aftermath of hostilities during the liberation struggle of Artsakh. At present the site is occupied by a new bridge of metal which is situated in a position higher than the annihilated one.

Mazi Bridge used to have a span length of 8.62 metres with a passage width of 4.20 metres, its height above water level amounting to 10.75 metres.
BRIDGE OF YERKATAVORK

This is a single-span bridge (1912 to 1913) of undressed stone and mortar located in Yerkatavork Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

Span length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres.

Its facade looking downstream bears a construction inscription in Arabic (see it in the Armenian text) carved on two separate stones (the inscription conveys the name of one of the builders of the bridge, Michael).

Five lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Span length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

KARE (STONE) BRIDGE

This bridge is found on the eastern edge of Brajoor Village, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was erected with the local inhabitants’ means in 1910.

Span length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

Five lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Spans length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

MÖST KARÉ (kamenney)

Mختصسيه SURTS

 onstage to the east of Brajoor Village, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was erected with the local inhabitants’ means in 1910.

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

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Span length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

Five lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Spans length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

MÖST KARÉ (kamenney)

Located in the eastern part of the village, Brajoor, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was erected with the local inhabitants’ means in 1910.

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Spans length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

KARE (STONE) BRIDGE

This bridge is found on the eastern edge of Brajoor Village, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was erected with the local inhabitants’ means in 1910.

Span length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

Five lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Spans length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

MÖST KARÉ (kamenney)

Located in the eastern part of the village, Brajoor, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was erected with the local inhabitants’ means in 1910.

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Spans length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

KARE (STONE) BRIDGE

This bridge is found on the eastern edge of Brajoor Village, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was erected with the local inhabitants’ means in 1910.

Span length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.

Five lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: Built under the patronage of Sama’s son Mah-Pet’s..., may the Lord grant him a lot of blessings, in the year 1331 (1912 to 1913).

Six lines in the Arabic language engraved in embossed characters:

Transl.: ...with the participation of a select group of..., one of whom is Michael...

Published for the first time (decipherment by Raffi Kortoshian).

Spans length: 9.15 metres; passage width: 3.10 metres; height above water level: 5.50 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°18’51.72”, E 46°36’11.46”.
BRIDGE OF SULUK

The bridge of Suluk (1900s) stretches at the southern edge of Azat Village—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1990—Khanlar District, Northern Artsakh.

Span length: 3.61 metres; passage width: 4.51 metres; height above water level: 7.10 metres.
BRIDGE OF SMBOTAN (BAST SHOE STRINGS)

The bridge of Smbotan, which traces back to the early 20th century, extends 1.6 kilometre south of Tzamdzor Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

Span length: 4.15 metres; passage width: 3.28 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°28'55.26", E 46°57'49.38".
BRIDGE OF DZORIN KHACH (CROSS OF THE GORGE)

The bridge is located at the southern extremity of Tzamdzor Village, Hadrut District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). According to its construction inscription (see it in the Armenian text), set in the right-bank pier of its facade looking downstream, it was erected through the local people’s means in 1913:

Transl.: This (bridge) of Sourb Tzor is in memory of all the people of Tzamtzor, 1913.

Published for the first time.

Span length: 4.96 metres; passage width: 4.72 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°29’37.02", E 46°57’49.20’’.

MOIST DZORIN XACH

Находится на южном краю села Цамдзор Гадрутского района Республики Арцах (НКР). Согласно строительной надписи (см. текст надписи в армянском варианте) на потоконаправленном facade правобережной опоры, мост построен в 1913 году на общественные средства:

Пер. Сей мост Святого Ущелья в память о всем Цамдзорском народе, году 1913.

Изд. впервые.

Длина пролета — 4,96 м; ширина — 4,72 м. Координаты: N 39°29’37.02", E 46°57’49.20’’.

ÌÎÑÒ ÄÇÎÐÈÍ ÕÀ×

Íàõîäèòñÿ íà þæíîì êðàþ ñåëà Öàìäçîð Ãàäðóòñêîãî ðàéîíà Ðåñïóáëèêè Àðöàõ (ÍÊÐ).

Ñîãëàñíî íàäïèñè (ñì. òåêñò íàäïèñè â àðìÿíñêîì âàðèàíòå) íà ïîòîêîíàïðåâëåííîì ôàñàäå ïðàâîáåðåæíîé îïîðû, íîñò ïîñòðîåí â 1913 ãîäó íà îáùåñòâåííûå ñðåäñòâà:

Ïåð.

Ñåé íîñò Ñâÿòîãî Óùåëüÿ â ïàìÿòü î âñåì Öàìäçîðñêîì íàðîäå, ãîäó 1913.

Èçä. âïåðâûå.

Äëèíà ïðîëåòà – 4,96 ì; øèðèíà – 4,72 ì. Êîîðäèíàòû: N 39°29’37.02", E 46°57’49.20’’.
The bridge of Hak (1900s) is situated over one of the left tributaries of the river Aghavno, at the southern extremity of Hak Village, Kashatagh District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK). It represents a double-span structure of finely-finished and undressed stone with mortar.
**МОСТ ОВСЕПА**

Находится в юго-восточной стороне села Браджур (армянское население в 1988 году было насильственно изгнано) Ханларского района, аннексированного Азербайджаном Северного Арцаха. Мост построен в 1927 году браджурцем Освепом Григоряном.1

1 Григорян Б., Браджур, “Гардманк”, 1996, № 1, с. 3 (на арм. яз.).

**BRIDGE OF HOVSEP**

The bridge extends in the south-east of Brajoor Village, Khanlar District—stripped of its Armenian population and occupied by Azerbaijan since 1988—Northern Artsakh. It was built by an inhabitant of the village named Hovsep Grigorian in 1927.1

1 Grigorian, B. Brajoor. In: Gardmank, 1996, No. 1, p. 3 (the original in Armenian).

**МОСТ БЕРДАДЗОРА**

Находится в 1 км северо-восточнее села Метшена Шушинского района Республики Арцах (НКР), на реке Бердадзор — левом притоке реки Акари (Агари). Мост — однопролетный, длина пролета — 5,30 м; ширина — 5,05 м. Построен в 1920-ые годы. Координаты: N 39°40'17.28", E 46°36'05.64".

**BRIDGE OF BERDADZOR**

This is a single-span bridge (1920s) lying over the Berdadzor—the left tributary of the Hakari—a kilometre north-east of Metzshen Village, Shooshi District, Republic of Artsakh (RMK).

Span length: 5.30 metres; passage width: 5.05 metres; geographical coordinates: N 39°40'17.28", E 46°36'05.64".
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Measurement and preparation for publication by Ashot Hakobian
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Measurement by Samvel Karapetian

Photographs

(M. Chantre, A travers l’Arménie russe, Paris, 1893, p. 61)

Perpetuatska (M. Chantre, A travers l’Arménie russe, Paris, 1893, p. 61)

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