

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMENIAN
MONASTERY ON THE ISLAND OF ST.
LAZARUS-VENICE; FOLLOWED BY A
COMPENDIUM OF THE HISTORY
AND LITERATURE OF ARMENIA**

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Description of the Armenian Monastery on the Island of St. Lazarus-Venice; Followed by a
Compendium of the History and Literature of Armenia by Victor Langlois

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VICTOR LANGLOIS

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DESCRIPTION
OF THE ARMENIAN MONASTERY
ON THE ISLAND
OF ST. LAZARUS-VENICE

FOLLOWED
BY A COMPENDIUM OF THE HISTORY
AND LITERATURE OF ARMENIA
FROM THE FRENCH
OF
VICTOR LANGLOIS
LATE MEMBER OF THE ARMENIAN ACADEMY OF ST. LAZARUS OF
VENICE, OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AT TURIN,
KNIGHT OF THE ROYAL RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ORDER OF
SAINT MAURICE AND SAINT LAZARUS



VENICE
TYPOGRAPHY OF ST. LAZARUS
1874

PREFACE

BY

THE TRANSLATOR

In placing before the Public the English edition of the original work, entitled; "Notice sur le Couvent Arménien de l'île Saint-Lazare de Venise,, etc. , I take pleasure in announcing that, its translation has been solicited of me by the good Father James D^r. Issaverdenz, Member of the well known monastic Order, which bears the name of its founder, "Mekhi-thar,, , with whom some of my readers may already be acquainted. The very noble and worthy object of this Order (or Society) is, the propagation of knowledge and enlightenment

among their Eastern Brethren, of which the present work gives ample proof and information.

I need hardly refer to works of either ancient or modern writers, in which the interest, — so general for Armenian affairs and especially those of the “Mekhitharists,, — has been widely exhibited, since they are well known to friends of Oriental Literature; among the recent American publications I may mention M^r. Howell’s work, entitled: “Venetian Life,, in which he gives a very interesting account of “The Armenians,,; that of Mrs. H. H. called: “Bits of Travel,, in which the description of “The Convent of San Lazzaro,, etc. etc. will, no doubt, be read with interest.

In conclusion I sincerely hope, that my humble contribution to the Armenian Publishing-Institute of “San Lazzaro,, through the present translation, (to which — I beg to add — the kind services rendered me by an esteemed American Lady, deserve due claim), may be succeeded by others of greater merit and ex-

tent, and that the pages of this little work may be perused with as much pleasure as I have experienced in translating them.

FREDERICK SCHRÖDER

New York, January, 1874.

DESCRIPTION
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FIRST PART

History of Mekhithar; The Mekhitharist Congregation, and a description of the Isle of St. Lazarus.

The Monastery of the Armenians of Venice is situated in the Isle of Saint Lazarus, (San Lazzaro) a quarter of a league from the "Little Square," (Piazzetta) from which, near the Palace of Doges, rise the two columns which support the statue of St. Theodore, and the winged Lion of St. Mark, the Evangelist.

After passing Point Giudecca and entering the Lagoon, one beholds the Isle of St. Lazarus and the square belfry of the Monastery surmounted by a dome, rising with all the elegance and majesty of a Minaret between the Monastery of San Servolo and the old Lazzeretto, which are situated on adjacent Islets, separated by a branch of the Orfano Canal.

As soon as the elegant and swift Gondola which transports visitors, has cleared the Cape formed by the angle of the Isle, one sees St. Lazarus, which, with its brick-coloured buildings and its tufts of verdure resembles an Oasis in the Desert.

In this abode of peace, piety and science, an Armenian Colony has established itself, and there reside the Monks of the community, standing, one may say, in Europe and looking toward the East — the cradle of the Armenian race.