

SYNOPSIS

On History of Cognac Production in Armenia, Parts I & II

Purpose & Scope: Although history of wine production in Armenia goes back at least 6100 years (as evidenced by findings in Areni cave) cognac production in Armenia did not start until late 19th century. The purpose of the article is to introduce to the reader largely unknown to most subject, cognac, and history of its production in Armenia. The article was supposed to be of three parts, but for now modern production (1992-current) is not in the scope, as much more research on the producing entities (over five currently) and search for philatelic material is complicated due to political and military situation in Armenia, and inability of the author to travel there due to same reasons.

Treatment (of content): The article starts with the origins of grapes, beginning of distilled spirits by Dutch merchants, continues to first cognac manufacturers in France, then goes to Russian Empire and south to Armenian part of it. Part I ends with the October Revolution of 1917. Part II examines cognac production in the Soviet Armenia, up to 1992 when the independent Armenia was announced.

The author hopes that with the change of the situation in Armenia he would be able to visit the country and conduct his research on current production and manufacturers.

Originality, Significance, and Research: This is the first attempt to research history of cognac production in Armenia through philatelic and related material. I have not seen any article that addresses philatelic aspect of this topic, so it is original by definition. It is also a significant part of the postal and philatelic history of Armenia under the tsar and the USSR era. An intensive research was needed to present and illustrate the story, using philatelic and non-philatelic material from different parts of the world.

Publication History: The article was published first in the *ARPA* (Armenian Philatelic Association) *Journal* in September and December 2020 (vol.24, No. 1-2, Whole Number 91-92 and No. 3-4, Whole Number 93-94) followed by the publication in *Enophilatelica* (*Journal of Wine on Stamps Study Unit*) in February (part I) and May (part II), 2021 issues (Vol. 24, No.3 & 4). It was recently published in *Topical Time* (Vol. 73, No. 5-6). It received thumbs-up in *Linn's Stamp News* (March 8, 2021 issue) and *Canadian Stamp News* (May 11, 2021 issue).