

THE ARARAT-ESKIJIAN MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NAASR)

PRESENT

Vishapakars: Dragon Stones of Armenia's Mountains

A webinar with

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Saturday, March 13, 2021

1:00 p.m. (ET) / 10:00 a.m. (PT)

**LIVE ON ZOOM (REGISTRATION
REQUIRED) AND YOUTUBE**

The mountains of Armenia are home to unique monuments traditionally called by the people *vishapakar* (dragon stone). The main centers of their distribution are Mount Aragats and the Geghama mountains. Today we know of approximately 150 examples of these monuments. Vishapakars are 150-550 cm high, are made, as a rule, of grayish basalt, and date to the Bronze Age and especially within the second millennium BCE.

Among the many archaeological questions vishapakars raise, one of the most important is the problem of their protection. Both their destruction and removal took place as early as the beginning of the first millennium BCE, in the Urartian period, increased during the Middle Ages, and unfortunately continues to this day. The lecture will present recent efforts towards increasing research on and protection of these remarkable monuments.

Dr. Arsen Bobokhyan was born in Yerevan in 1975. He received a PhD from the Institute of Prehistory, University of Tübingen, Germany, with the topic "Communication and Barter in the Highland between the Taurus and the Caucasus, ca. 2500-1500 BC." From 1998-2018 he was a Researcher at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, at the Armenian Academy of Sciences. Since 2019 he has been the Vice-Director of the same Institute. He has also taught at Yerevan State University since 2007.

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9GVWRwnoTN6BKuRFXM2_Qw

NAASR YouTube Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArmenianStudies>

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