

An appeal from

Leaders of the project for screen adaptation
of the book by A.Z. Melik-Shakhnazarov
«Olympic champion from Artaxata»

Dear friends, sponsors, patrons, investors and everybody else,

It is known, that nowadays state-of-art technologies in animated cartoons brings real possibility to create beautiful and enjoyable pieces of art for viewing . That is the reason, why, let along financial difficulties (comparing to feature film), the decision has been made to bring the historic novella "Olympic champion from Artaxata" by A. Z. Melik-Shakhnazarov to the screen in the form of 3D animation film.

The plot of the novella is based on the events of the second half of the IV century, where Armenian youth, Varazdat, took part in the contest, called “fist fight” and, after having gained the victory honorably, he became the first outlandish Olympic champion in 291-st Olympic games (year 385, A.D.).

By an unlucky train of events, these games were the last in the history of the world sport. After centuries had passed, French baron Pierre de Coubertin, led by the idea to conduct international tournament, succeeded in restoration of the Olympic Games. It took place in the summer of 1896 – therefore invaluable contribution for the popularization of sport was made. The world civilization got the exceptional chance to continue sports competition, which had successfully been conducted in ancient Olympic Games since 776 b.c. and then was prohibited by the roman Emperor Theodosius I in 394 a.d.

Youthfulness, love, patience, wit and courage of the protagonists are truthfully hypnotizing and make us think about men’s noble nature in those ancient times. It is true, that only man of virtue, power and fineness of intellect can win a competition, as well as mount the throne: the Olympic champion Varazdat was one of those honorable sons, who became the king of the Great Armenian Empire, Varazdat I afterwards.

All the nations have its heroes, but Armenian people, at any time of the world civilization existence, endows the history with great number of strong and wise characters, so we all need to be proud of them and their names should never be forgotten. “Hundred Armenians should be enough to defeat the enemy!”, so spoke the russian general, veteran of the Patriotic War of 1812, Denis Davydov. These words excellently describe brave Armenian warriors and experienced generals, who also could be Varazdat’s ancestors.

Each of us carries genes of our ancestors, and we will make everything possible to honor our legacy. That is the reason why this animated movie “Olympic champion from Artaxata” is dedicated to them. Moreover, it is our duty to bring the part of Armenian history to attention, as well as our commitment before the world culture.

The film is funded by sponsor money and private donations, and in case you, dear friend, have the possibility to help us, even a little bit, your name will be perpetuated in centuries. This is pure truth!

More information is presented at: <http://olympionikvarazdat.ru> (or <http://олимпиониквараздат.рф>).

Faithfully yours,

**Arsen Melik-Shkhnazarov,
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05.08.2012,
Moscow