

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARDS 2018 NOMINEE – EDWARD MILITONYAN DOSSIER



1. Biographical information on the candidate

Edward Gevorg Militonyan was born on the 12th of May, 1953 in Yerevan. In 1976 he graduated from the Yerevan State University, the faculty of Philology. In 1974 he worked for the magazine "Pioneer", then in 1975-1976 at the editorial office of the magazine "Garun" as a head of the department of poetry. From 1978 he worked at Young Communist League Central Committee first as an instructor, then a deputy head of the department. From 1982 he was the chief editor of children's journal "Tsitsernak' (simultaneously in 1992-1999), and from 1992 he worked as a first deputy head of radio and television department, then as an acting head, first deputy head of the minister of Information, a head of the department of Information and Propaganda of the RA Ministry of Defense, from 1999 as a head of the Department of Information and Book Publishing, then an Adviser to the RA Prime Minister. From 2000 he worked as a head of the department, then as a director at "Book Publishing" Company, a secretary of the Writers' Union of Armenia, in 2013 he was elected as a president of the Writers' Union of Armenia.

At present he also works as a head of "Publishing work" agency.

Many works by Edward Militonyan have been translated into many foreign languages.

He writes both for children and adults. He is the author of more than 40 books. He is also a well-known painter and a part of his books have been published in his illustrations. His pictures were exhibited:

- 1991-Journalists' Hall (Yerevan)
- 1994-Peshkyotourian Hall (Los Angeles)
- 2001-International Cultural Relations' Society Hall (Yerevan)
- 2002-Round Hall of the Writers' Union of Armenia (Yerevan)
- 2004-Hall of the Painters' Union of Armenia (Yerevan)

His books won many prizes and were translated into different foreign languages.

He is a member at Writer's Union of Belarus and since 2016 he is also a member at Writer's Union of Bulgaria.

2. A high-resolution portrait photograph of the candidate: this can be sent as a separate file (150dpi or higher).

Attached

3. A statement on the candidate's contribution to literature for children and young people

- 1. Edward Militonyan being the president of the "Writer's Union" of Armenia closely collaborates with the libraries of the county and guides the organization of children's reading.
- 2. The prose and poetry works of Edward Militonyan are also included in school textbooks for junior and high class children.
- 3. He is one of the main initiators of an annual event titled "Children's Literature Week" within the frameworks of which many activities are being organized and implemented for the promotion of children's literature.
- 4. He is also one of the initiators of an annual Yerevan Children's Book Fair in cooperation with the National Children's Library after Khnko Aper.
- 5. Previously being the chief-editor of one of the prestigious and most-wanted children's journal "Tsitsernak" he mostly put the stress on the articles that:
 - Reflect the current knowledge base in early childhood education
 - Awake love towards education, work, art, literature, sport and etc.
 - Show respect for gender, culture and home language.
 - Develop cultural knowledge and creativity of children

4. List of awards and other distinctions

Awards and prizes

- In 1977 Writers' Union of Armenia Prize "The First Best Book" for the book titled "Three Apples"
- In 1980 Prizes after V. Mayakovski of Georgia
- In 1980 Communist Youth Union Prize for the book titled "The Cloudy Hunter"
- In 1987 The Prize after Stepan Zoryan for the book titled "Mushegh everywhere"
- In 1987 the prize after Gorki in Moscow for the book "Kenac Tsar" /The tree of Life / Russian collection
- In 2003 "The Information Cat" was awarded as the best book for children by the Writers Union of Armenia.
- In 2005 the award of the president of the Republic of Armenia for "The Adventures of Vahagn Vishapachagh".
- In 2006 the first Pan-Armenian prize for novel "Chipo".

- In 2008 the second prize in the World Armenian Congress competition for the novel "Armenian Heliocentric Seal".
- In 2012 the Russian book "Aerial home" published in Alma-Ata won the second prize in the CIS "Book Art" Competition.
- In 2013 the RA State Prize for collection of poems "E".
- In 2016 Lanicius Prize Literary Award after Klemensa Janickiego for poetry book "Posznukiwania"
- In 2016 a diploma of International poetry festival in Poznan, Poland, for spreading the Polish literature

Titles and medals

- In 2002 the RA Ministry of Culture Gold Medal for contributing to the promotion of culture
- In 2012 Honored Worker of Culture of the RA
- In 2012 "William Saroyan's" medal of the RA Ministry of Diaspora
- In 2015 State Medal of Belarus after Francisc Scorin
- In 2015 a medal after Mikhayil Lermontov of Russia and a medal after Alexandr Griboyedov
- In 2016 a medal after Fridjof Nansen
- In 2016 the RA Ministry of Culture Gold Medal for contributing to the promotion of culture

5. Complete bibliography of the books for children and young people by the candidate, English translation of the titles, the year of publication and the place and name of publisher

POETIC COLLECTIONS						
№	Title in Armenian	Title in English	Place of	Year of	Publisher	
			publication	publication		
1		"Lusine in the	Yerevan	1976	Soviet writer	
		mirror"				
2		"The Cloudy	Yerevan	1979	Soviet writer	
		Hunter"				
3		"Gnel in the outside,	Yerevan	1982	Soviet writer	
		Gnel in the inside"				
4		"Armenia"	Yerevan	1985	Soviet writer	
5		"Mushegh	Yerevan	1986	Soviet writer	
		everywhere"				
6		"Fair of Surprise"	Yerevan	1988	Arevik	
				1001		
7		"Duck Lambada"	Yerevan	1994	Arevik	
		(77 11 G	**	1006		
8		"Family Concert"	Yerevan	1996	Arevik	
		"D: 4 C "	37	2001	7 1 07	
9		"Directory Cat"	Yerevan	2001	Zangak-97	
1.0		(I 'C X/ 1 ')	37	2006	XX7 '4 '2	
10		"I gift You a dog"	Yerevan	2006	Writer's	
11		"The Moon in the	Yerevan	2007	union Tsitsernak	
11			relevan	2007	1 Sitsernak	
		Tea Cup"				
12		"The Aerial House"	Yerevan	2005	Antares	
12		The Actial House	1 CIC Vall	2003	Alliaics	
13		"Pillow Fight"	Yerevan	2014	Tsitsernak	
13		I mow right	1 CIC Vall	2014	1 SHSCIIIAN	
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STORIES, FAIRY TALES, TALES-NOVELETTES, PLAYS, ART AND DOCUMENTARY BOOKS					
№	Title in Armenian	Title in English	Place of publication	Year of publica tion	Publisher
1		"Sugar-Prince" (stories, tales)	Yerevan	1990	Arevik
2		"Adventures of Vahagn Vishapaqagh" (novel)	Yerevan	2003	Tsitsernak
3		"What Dog Begins of"(story)	Yerevan	2004	Amroc group
4		"The Journey of the Inventive Duck" (tale-novelette)	Yerevan	2004	Tsitsernak
5		"Chipo" (tale- novelette)	Yerevan	2008	Tsitsernak
6		"Dream Knight's incursion" (novelette)	Yerevan	2009	Tsitsernak
7		"Princess Tarsine" (fairy-tale)	Yerevan	2010	Tsitsernak
8		"The Cat and the Ghost" (tale- novelette)	Yerevan	2012	Edit Print
9		"Devil's Bridge" (novel)	Yerevan	2012	Tsitsernak
10		"History of Chess, Chess History" (stories, chess tasks)	Yerevan	2012	Van Aryan
11		"My Miracle, My Magical Football" (Fine Arts Documentary Printing)	Yerevan	2014	Tsitsernak
12		"Traveler Madmen" (fairy-tale-novelette)	Yerevan	2015	Tsitsernak

6. List of translated editions, and their languages

Ŋoౖ	Title	Translated into		
1	"Tree of Life"	Russian		
2	"The Lesson of the River"	Russian		
3	"An Aerial House"	Russian, Kazakh, Belarusian, Ukranian		
4	"Give me"	German		
5	"The adventures of Vahagn Vishapaqagh"	Russian, English, French		
6	"The Strange Story of the Boy Named Areg Boy and the Turtle named Chipo"	Russian, Bulgarian, German, Kyrgyz,		
7	"The Mystery of the Pen"	Ukrainian		
8	"Never Again Genocide"	German		
9	"Anthology of the Massacred Writers"	German		
10	"Search"	Polish		
11	"Roses of Shiraz"	Persian		
12	"The Cat and the Ghost"	Russian		

7. Five of the most important titles by the candidate (even if out of print)

- 1. "Pillow fight"
- 2. "The Adventures of Vahagn Vishapaqagh"
- 3. "The Moon in the Tea Cup"
- 4. "The Journey of the Inventive Duck"
- 5. "Chipo"

8. List of the books sent to the jurors

- 1. "Pillow fight"
- 2. "The Adventures of Vahagn Vishapaqagh"
- 3. "The Moon in the Tea Cup"
- 4. "The Journey of the Inventive Duck"
- 5. "Chipo"

10. (Published) reviews of the books submitted to the Jury, no more than 2 reviews per book, and translated into English, if possible.

Ludwig Karapetyan a famous literary critic, publicist, doctor of philological sciences in Armenian, also a person who studies the issues concerning the children's literature has devoted a whole book to Edward Militonyan's works for children.

Hereby we are representing the translations of his reviews of the books submitted to the Jury.

The original texts from the book with the covers of the book is attached to the mail as jpg and pdf files.

1. "The Moon in the Tea Cup"

In 2007 the collection of poems for children called 'The Moon in the Tea Cup', outlining the true tendencies of our modern children's writing, it keeps the faith which in spite of separate reflux and fluctuations, of the child's planet 'The Dream Ship', nevertheless, floats along with the sea waves of time. One of the parts of the book has such a symbolic title The Dream Ship'. The little dreamer imagines to have such a ship which could travel around the world 'where mind blows' to travel and to recognize that world, to ascertain the answers to his questions of concern. Like his previous collection of poems, moreover the main 'heroes' of this book, surprisingly, are just the imagination and the dream which are inseparable from their holders: of Her Majesty children.

Like all real children's writers, Edward Militonyan also, while composing for children and about children, is guided by these symbols 'having in himself the child, the child thinking in that way, as the Little Prince by Exupery'. In the world of this book woven by simple, attractive, fascinating layers of word speech there take place amazing 'miracles', any kind of heroes are met in his pages: either 'crazy travelers' (one part is titled just like this), who in broad daylight want 'to fly to the moon', they walk around by 'bed jeep', without a hat... they play football, 'magical fruit' (the other part is titled in this way), which can 'appear' in the sly while eating or in far away Lebanon and 'again to fly back to Armenia', in the songs of the part titled 'Our Grandfathers' 'to meet' Sassoon Grandfather, Grandfather of Artsakh, Grandfather of Kapan, each of them is a wise symbol of a native land. While reading the poems and fabulist verse conversation of the biggest part titled 'The Dream Ship', you start unwillingly 'to swim' 'in the imagination ocean' and you listen the writer's cognitive-educational 'lessons' believing that the cat can be both a hunter, a jazzman, and that the giraffe can play football, that the ants are wizard tailors, the shoes are amazing roads, as if the cluster is a poem, every seed is a selected word which 'will learn by heart or eat full', that the dog named Fantuchi which is familiar to us

from the previous book, here already 'watches' TV and 'reports' news to his tribesmen..l. Finally what a strange thing, the moon is in the tea cup .

The full Moon is in the tea cup

Later we saw the half Moon

If it continues like this

You will melt away, Moon,

We will drink the tea

And also you with it.

We emphasized for many times that our friend is endowed with the talent of seeing the unusual in the usual, to see the fabulous in it, to imagine the funny, hilarious world of children. He doesn't sound cymbals of the native land, his nature, feeling love towards people and book, he doesn't read instructions about all of these, but in the 'veins' of his best poems rich with insights and invisible vibrations beat, they shroud the people's mind and soul with bright, kind feelings, to preserve and to beautify their 'little planet' their native land, with the contemplations of bearing responsibility for their fate, so as 'the little prince of Exupery was'. This is the real mission of children's literature and Edward Militonyan's 'Book' poem just emphasizes it.

Book is an aquarium,

Words are fish

They swim one up one down

Blessed is he

Who reads a book

Look there is a fish

In an awake mind

Of course there is word-'fish' in the miraculous 'aquarium' of the book titled 'The Moon in the Tea Cup', This fish 'swimming' up and down do not leave visible traces. The author's separate brush segments have difficult stripes but even in those cases in the little reader's mind 'there is awake fish'. This means that after saying goodbye to the book he will continue his voyage by 'dream ship' and the children's writer Edward Militonyan's next meeting is also going to take place on that ship.

2. 'Pillow Fight'

At the end of 2014 in 'the children's world' of Edward Militonyan there took place a new amazing and 'strange' event... pillow fight. It was surprising for the readers who were unfamiliar with his world or who were briefly familiar with it. The permanent 'travelers' of that world probably accepted that even just with smile. It is right, a fight among pillows or more correct, pillow fight... among children. To be more correct, it was about the poet's collection of the same name, a new wonderful book (after having read the book in one breath it was impossible not to use this word) a gift for the readers of five, to five times ten and more years-old people. The 'Gift' sums up the new poems of the last years authored by Militonyan together with his annotation 'After having read the book the children will forget about fighting with each other, and even if they fight, they will fight only by pillows. Tatevik and Anushik, dwarves and magpies, mosquitoes and the elephant and also the other kind and peaceable heroes share this opinion'. Now 'everything is in its place'. One of the favorite funs of little children is playing war by pillows. The poet faithful to his original fictions, content hilarious vibrations presented the readers by that clear and easily accessible methods... But let's not interpret, let the poem speak itself.

This is the day of fighting by pillows

They fight like a cock

And the feathers of the big pillows

Fly dreadfully, terribly.

A boy or a girl

They beat each other,

They scream happily

Grandmother, grandfather!

Everybody wins

In this fight, look!

Let the war be like this.

However, let's return to the main collection. It can be considered as a focus point where there are revealed all the peculiarities specific to the children's poetry in the books titled 'The Moon in the Mirror' and 'The Cloudy Hunter'. A mixture of usual and unusual, of real and imaginary, believable and unbelievable, hilarious and funny, of children's thinking and psychology, with the specific use of the expressive means in the poetic speech content structures. Homologous and

opposite 'poles' of allegory and comparison. An emphasize of speech with strong, ringing verses, with word-plays and with word repetitions, with the mastery of presenting the' figures 'of animate or personified 'inanimate' heroes. These and other methods of expressions which were in the previous books totally emphasize Militonyan's unique presence in modern Armenian children's writing. All these thickened from collection to collection and still it was focused in the last book.

Let's not interfere the 'common' even 'geographical headlines of separate sections: 'clothes and shoes', 'Tatevik and Anushik sisters', 'The world's cities', 'Good recommendations', 'Italian Pasta', 'Gardener', 'In Liliputan Cabin'. Let's open the doors of this new book and enter, and already the sense of surprise immediately transferred from his headline does not leave us any more and it takes us the readers to a new wonderful world, the name of which is 'Edward Militonyan's children's writing world'.

Here a girl placed herself in a vase of flowers and is asking her mother to find her, as she wants 'to donate her flowers of seven colours' ('the girl'). And the poem 'The Smile in the Flowerbeds 'shrouds the reader with kind and bright sense.

The girl smiled in such a beautiful way

She seemed to be a colorful flower

Let's sow her seed into the soil

And open a garden of smiles.

And doesn't the poet treat like this with his various songs, he sows magic seeds into the children's souls as they could grow and could color their world with their green fairy tales.

THE CELL PHONES

With a new cell phone they go to lesson

And wait they start ringing together

Sometimes classical, sometimes jazz

Sometimes kochary

Every type of ringtone sounds

Without a pause

The teacher holding his head in his arms

Is running away from school

And his ruthless cell phone

Rang from the other side

You can't get rid of a phone

Especially of a cell phone

Cats make fun of us

With a jazz cry.

So after all these how we can leave the poet's 'children's world', when entering his house and enjoying the 'benefits' granted by him you don't want to leave it until... The writer visits the children's planet on the fairy tale horseback and he will surprise the readers with a new wonderful book

3. "The Adventures of Vahagn Vishapachagh"

In 2003 Edvard Militonyan's subsequent book "The Adventures of Vahagn Vishapachagh" was published. Originating from folklore sources, it is a work giving newly meaning to the symbols of the abiding values of the roots of nation connecting time and generations This work is an original page not only in the writer's work but also in our children and youth literature of the era.

When our literature mainly children and youth literature appeared in a 'closed scallop 'after the collapses at the end of the century, indifferent to other nations' literary new values, Edvard Militonyan brings back to the memory the values created by Exupery, Lewis Carroll, and world's other notable individuals emphasizing the necessity of continuing traditions, of 'Little Prince's 'contact with the spiritual element on the way of the development of Armenian children writing. The "closed scallop' must be opened and those developments, must be again reversed and harmonized to the world arteries of the children writing. "The Adventures of Vahagn Vishapachagh" is one of the interesting reflections of those turnings.

Vahagn's probable and improbable amazing adventures which the writer provides with the same simple and fascinating texture, with the exaggeration and conditionality associations, with unbelievable-incredible but at the same time with narrations creating illusion of natural-real, that is 'quiet and ordinary', that you believe in the substance of the adventures of this mythological

hero not only in Armenian Lake Sevan, around Lake Van, in the stone observatory of Sisian and ... in the sky, but also in the countries of the ancient world (Egypt, Rome, Persia, India, China) where Vahagn was leaving for by the invitation of the nations knowing about his feats, he wins dragons and monsters in fights. At the foot of Mount Ararat he also wins the dragon called Sarsapik and 'after getting rid of the dragons he got married with Goddess Astghik.

However the novel doesn't end here. The astonished reader sees a more astonishing fight. This time Vahagn finds himself in a new World, in our days and he fights not only against real dragons, but... with the World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov, he plays draw on the chess board by a Sicilian 'Dragon' defense version.

Thus such an amazing narration about the 'human' adventures of fabulous youngster Vahagn Vishapachagh.

4. 'The Journey of the Inventive Duck'

The readers were probably more surprised by the next fairy-story though they were so surprised in Edvard Militonyan's previous books' 'In the Amazing Fair' that...But his 'the Journey of the Inventive Duck' was beyond the imagination of any border.

The 'hero' of this fairy-story, the Duck whose name was Badal, was domestic and he couldn't flit to other countries and return in Spring as other ducks do, but 'he was endowed with great dignity and, in addition to it, he had a natural unmatched finesse and together with it a great desire of travelling'. And here one day already not being able to tolerate the 'mocking' of the wild ducks who have returned from their subsequent journey, they mocked him telling' you have stayed here again, why did Mother Duck grace you wings?' and continued 'don't worry you are flying in the sky reflected in the lake, you are guested in the clouds edifice reflected in the water, those are the countries you have seen, get satisfied with them', this Badal Duck makes an amazing invention 'to travel standing on the place'... by great magician wings called imagination, that is the world goes around the world itself, and the duck 'standing in the air with spread wings' waits 'till France comes under his legs'. Then, you should only imagine, he found himself in Paris, 'goes down the Eifell Tower, then he 'walks' with his new friend Italian Chizi dog in St. Peter's Square, 'visits' Venice to the Pope of Rome, to the spiritual fathers of St. Lazarus Island, he appears in America through the Atlantic Ocean by the accompaniment a famous scientist, oceanographer Jacque Cousteau, visits the Zoo park of Los Angeles, 'Disney Land'. Hollywood, gets acquainted with popular movie stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez, he receives an offer to act in a film (about his feats). And so on, and so on. Here in this way Badal Duck travels around the world without moving from his place, he falls into many funny adventures, he rescues an airplane and passengers from terrorists, performs much courage and is guested at the end...in the Republic of Armenia... and the Prime Minister 'the honorable citizen of the USA, a member of the geographers' global

company, universal writer (talented Badal also writes many wonderful poems during his travel) and the ordinary mortal duck is awarded with 'Golden Duck' medal and is titled as 'Honored Rescuer.' The animals which live in the Republic of Armenia deserve praise, because a part of them are in the Red Book and the other part knock on the cover of that book. We are the inhabitants of our country, however, some of the birds flit to other countries for reasonable reasons. They, of course, return again, because an Armenian is an animal lover and a travel lover. Let's love our country...'

The novelette with such layers of allegorical meaning of the narration and with the opposite images of imaginary and reality, with humorous -satirical-comic and also with mild humor, with other colours of speech teaches a good lesson for their recognizing the world and for their upbringing and education through interesting and unique plot ramifications.

5. "Chipo"

The novelette "The Strange Story of the Boy Named Areg Boy and the Turtle named Chipo" was awarded with the first prize at the Pan- Armenian Contest "Literature for the Youth", it was translated and published in Russian, German, Bulgarian, Kyrgyz language. With the accents of "travel" episodes typical to the author, it "is presented" to the readers with simple, homely stylistic textures, the unique fictions of the 'inhabitants' of the animal world (in this case the turtle called 'Chipo'). The main hero is one little boy whose name is Areg. This boy being not so aware of the secrets of the nature, of the world surrounding him, has an irrepressible desire to find out all these secrets with the help of adults.

The turtle who was called Chipo by the little, palm-size hero named Areg, having found a shelter in the pocket of Lilit Mother, 'flies' by plane from Marmarik riverside and reaches to Hocheim city of Germany where an Armenian family lived... And here Chipo's new fascinating adventures with the accompaniment of its owner Areg and with foreign nations' friends, German Hans, Serbian Areg and Spanish Jew Abraham. The world, the people, and everything is regarded through Chipo's eyes. He thinks, speaks and argues with those 'Big-Giant' children, sleeps in Mother Lilit's boots, follows computer games, in short, he becomes 'a simple citizen of Hocheim'. Then he travels in other German cities together with Areg, hidden from Lilit Mother. He went to Mainz where "Gutenberg invented Printing Machine", in Luxemburg where Areg's friend Anna was spending her holidays. Then 'school time' arrives and Chipo, getting bored of staying at home, goes to school with Areg...his adventures continue and in this way the reader's "lessons" of recognition continue about the cities of the country called Germany, about people and about many another things and phenomena. But whether asleep or awake his native Marmarik river valley was in his memory, and Chipo was looking forward to Summer, but... the family is leaving for Armenia for a holiday deciding to leave Chipo in Hocheim, However he manages 'to place himself' in the suitcase secretly, to fly by plane and to reach by car to the

summer house of Dzoraghbyur, and from there he moves to river valley of Hankavan for days and months long, that is the side of the homeland which is his home...and Areg, the other relatives of Chipo, sadly think as if he disappeared in their house in Hocheim. The end of the novel is a moving and symbolic

The most important, however, is those educational things which beat in the' heart' of the novelette: to saturate children with love to their native land and living creatures. Also with one beautiful, wonderful feeling to the cherished, indispensable edge the name of which is the motherland. And all these, without moral loud sermons, so familiar to a child's psychology and mentality, by natural modulations, with convincing layers of the content, the 'relationship' of Areg Boy and Chipo Turtle, with the touching and emotional texture of their friendship. So, through these 'signs' the story about Areg boy and Chipo Turtle is somehow incredible, somehow fairy-imaginary, also seeming strange is presented to the reader very credible, real-natural and not with 'the eccentricity' described by the author. Just by the author's 'fault' 'Chipo' being as such, is a wonderful work.

11. Reproductions of book covers and illustrations in the dossier are welcome.









