

**Armenia: Hovhannes Tumanyan, “Nazar the Brave”
By Greg Balagian**

HayPost, the official postal operator of the Republic of Armenia, issued a set of three stamps on December 30, 2014. The drawings are by Armenian students who are studying art at the Children and Youth Creative and Aesthetic Education Center in Yerevan, affiliated with the largest museum of children’s art in the world.

One of the most popular tales in Armenian literature, “Nazar the Brave,” is by Hovhannes Tumanyan (1869-1923).

Tumanyan is considered one of the greatest Armenian writers and poets.

Armenia issued a child’s illustration of the Armenian folk tale, “Nazar the Brave.” Issued in 2014, the stamp’s motif is dominated by a large tiger.



Many movies and animated films were based upon his works, as well as two popular Armenian operas. He also authored numerous, wonderful literary tales which are extremely popular in Armenia and loved by children.

“Nazar the Brave” is one of Tumanyan’s tales. It is a comical story of a cowardly man, who by the twist of fate and silly anecdotes, was believed to be extremely brave and powerful. Those rumors snowballed to the point that everyone, including even menacing forest giants, were extremely fearful of him, so at the end he was crowned king. One of his imaginary “heroic” labors was the invented victory over a vicious tiger.

The beautiful tiger, by 11-year-old artist, Anahit Kostanyan, dominates the design on this colorful stamp.

Another famous literary tale by Hovhannes Tumanyan, “The Dog and the Cat,” was a motif on a 2004 stamp from Armenia (Scott 691) commemorating prominent Armenian animated films [at the left].

**“The Dog and the Cat”
By Hovhannes Tumanyan**



Armenia 691, issued in 2004, pictures “The Dog and the Cat,” another tale by Armenian author Hovhannes Tumanyan.

Cat was a furrier who was paid by Dog to make a warm hat for him. Instead, Cat swindled Dog, made a new hat for himself and ran away with the supply of furs.

To this day, dogs growl and cats hiss whenever they see one another. 🐾