

## Khachatur Abovyan (1809-1848)

By a governmental decree of 1939, Abovyan's ancestral home in Ganagert was reconstructed and turned into a museum with the help of information in a book written by one of Abovyan's friends, ethnographer August Hagstauzen, entitled Transcaucasia. A museum was added in 1978 with later repairs following in 2005 and 2006.



The museum, with an enormous exhibit hall, has about 7000 items that retell the story of a poet's life considered to be the father of Modern

Armenian literature, best known for his novel *Verg Hayadani* (Wounds of Armenia) in the vernacular.



Photo by R. Bedevian/Groong

The exhibition hall displays Abovyan's literary, pedagogical, and social works; chronicles the writer's family life and education; memorabilia that document Abovyan's ascent to the top of Mount Ararat with his mentor Dr. Friedrich Parrot of Dorpat University (presently Tartu University in Estonia) in September 1829; a miniature globe he made under Parrot's direction; a letter by Catholicos Nerses Ashtaraketsi describing Abovyan as a person of great talent; and the first pages of Armenian Hymns Abovyan presented to Tartu University library in 1831. Abovyan disappeared mysteriously on April 2, 1848. His wife, Emily, did not report him missing for a month.