

Project Summary

The goal of the given project is to collect and systematize the letters of Georgian scientist-historians, whose activity covers the period from 19th c. 70s including 20th c. 60s, investigate and prepare their scholarly edition. Studying-editing epistolary legacy of writers or public figures is at appropriate level in Europe and America, which can be said about Georgian reality. Georgian historian's private letters have been issued in a small volume, the major part of which is scattered in different editions and is hardly accessible for interested people. The most of them has no appropriate scientific apparatus, which complicates using the text, as historian source and makes urgent to gather them in one scholarly edition as a volume set. Gathering Georgian scientist-historians' epistolary legacy in one edition has particular importance from the viewpoint of source studies, providing that complex approach towards problem makes it possible to comprehend development process of historian thinking more perfectly than publishing private letters or correspondence of separate historians. Following development of epistolary tradition, we are given possibility to keep eye on personal relations existed in Georgian scientific society and evaluate their role on the development of Georgian culture. Exposing and publishing epistolary legacy of Platon Ioseliani (1809-1875), Dimitri Bakradze (1826-1890), Zakaria Chichinadze (1853-1931), Tedo Jordania (1854-1916), Mose Janashvili (1855-1934), Mikael Tamarashvili (1858-1911), Ekvtime Takaishvili (1863-1953), Tedo Sakhokia (1868-1956), Ivane Javakhishvili (1876-1940), Sargis Kakabadze (1886-1967) and many others is especially important for comprehending development processes of Georgia historiography and history of culture. Not only historical-cultural occurrences going on in Georgia are reflected in their letters, but also social life of neighboring countries, occupation of Georgians in those countries and so on. In this respect, correspondence of Ivane Javakhishvili with Archie Jorjadze, Kita Abashidze, Niko Marry, and other scientists and public figures is worth to be mentioned. In the result of proper scientific analysis, each letter will be supplied by relevant scientific apparatus: passports, notes, comments, indexes, dictionary, linguistic review. Two volumes will be edited within the project: Volume I will contain the letters of Platon Ioseliani, Dimitri Bakradze and Zakaria Chichinadze, and volume II – the letters of Tedo Jordania, Mose Janashvili and Mikael Tamarashvili. Each volume will contain approximately 120 letters. Providing its large-scale character, the given project will give a birth to many new ideas, which conditions its sustainability. Private letters represent worthwhile historic source, divers analysis of which provides with interesting information about author, epoch and different aspects of development of society. Private letters of Georgian historians are not only important cultural treasure, but also one of the invaluable sources for investigation modern history of Georgia, however, in the conditions of development of modern technologies, epistolary genre is gradually disappearing. Together with

scientific results, our project has educational mission as well. Our researchers are integrated into teaching process, serving University mission and, in general, University idea. Department of History at Telavi State University will successfully use edited volumes and propose the students conference, master and PhD thematic according to epistolary legacy. Publishing the volumes will promote emergence and investigation of the new actual problems of Georgia history. The epistolary legacy of public figures is the inseparable part of national culture. The results received after the project implementation will be valuable not only for the researchers of the history of Georgia, but for literary scholars, linguists, sociologists, psychologists, ethnologists or representatives of other scientific fields as well.