

Less-known pages of the history of Georgian-Baltic scientific relations: George Akhvlediani and Jānis Endzelīns

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Abstract

Professor George Akhvlediani (1887-1973) was the great Georgian scholar with multiple interests. He worked in several areas of linguistic inquiry. He wrote major works on general linguistics, general and experimental phonetics, speech therapy, Indo-European and Kartvelian languages, some of them being seminal. After having received higher education at Kharkiv and Petrograd universities, Akhvlediani returned to his homeland and became one of the founders of Tbilisi University (26/1/1918). He pioneered in such disciplines as general linguistics and general phonetics. He was in charge of the Department of General Linguistics which played a historical role in the emergence and development of the linguistics thought in Georgia. It should be noted that Jānis Endzelīns (1873-1961), the great Latvian philologist and linguist, immensely contributed to Akhvlediani's training as a scholar. He has been acknowledged as a major expert of the Baltic languages and an ornament in the field of comparative-historical linguistics. George Akhvlediani was awarded a gold medal for his oeuvre "An essay of the history of liquid and nasal consonants in Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, and Slavic languages". Professor Endzelīns wrote a comprehensive review on the work and highly appreciated it. George Akhvlediani always recalled the consideration and care shown by Jānis Endzelīns with great gratitude, evidenced by their correspondence. Five letters, sent by Endzelīns to Tbilisi, addressed to Akhvlediani, are kept in the Museum of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Keywords: George Akhvlediani, Jānis Endzelīns, Latvian linguist, Tbilisi State University, Georgia.

Comedy against socialist realism in Georgian theater performances of the twentieth century

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Abstract

Since the establishment of the professional theater, about half of the repertoire of Georgian theaters has been comedies. The production of plays by Carlo Goldoni and Carlo Gozzi, brilliant representatives of Italian dramaturgy, was considered appropriate by any censor at every stage of Georgian theater history.

With an observation of the Italian and Georgian peoples, many common features can be discovered. Southern temperament, emotions, expressive manners. Because of these similarities in characters, the Georgian audience loves Italian plays and especially Italian comedies.

The period of Goldoni staging in Rustaveli theatre was a very tragic time in the history of Georgia. In 1936, when Dimitri Aleksidze staged "The Mistress of the Inn," was the beginning of the period of Soviet repressions in all Soviet Union. The culmination of these tragic years was 1937: the sequences of violence, most of the Georgian intellectuals were executed. And it may seem strange, that Rustaveli Theater had been busy with comedy performing. However, in fact, it was a way of survival. The play becomes the hope of Georgian public, that normal life will return in Georgia and laugh, something very natural for humanity, will save their homeland.

Keywords: Comedy, Goldoni, Rustaveli Theater, Repression, Dimitri Aleksidze, Robert Sturua, Georgia.