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PROF. TSISIA KAKHIANI AND ARABIC EPIGRAPHIC MATERIAL PRESERVED IN HER PRIVATE ARCHIVES

Keywords: *Prof. Tsisia Kakhiani, Arabic epigraphic monuments, epigraphic monuments, archival materials, inscriptions*

Prof. Ts. Kakhiani was born on May 8, 1925, in the family of Prokopi Kakhiani and Nina Leonidze.

In 1947, she graduated from the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Tbilisi State University.

Prof. Ts. Kakhiani started to work in the academy system in 1948 as a junior research worker of the Department of the Near Eastern Languages, the Institute of Linguistics. During the Institute years she collected material from various researches for the Arabic-Georgian dictionary. She participated in the preparation of the materials of volumes II and III of the Georgian Explanatory Dictionary, the Inversion Dictionary, and the Russian-Georgian Dictionary.

On July 1, 1960, as soon as the Acad. G.Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies was founded, Ts. Kakhiani was enrolled as a junior research worker at the Department of Semitic Studies.

On December 5, 1965, she defended the Candidate's thesis on the topic: Arabic Inscriptions from Dmanisi and on June 16, 1966, she was awarded the degree of Candidate of Philological Sciences.

In 1975, she became a senior research worker at the Institute and, on April 1, 1989 – a leading research worker.

In addition to the Arabic epigraphic monuments existing in Georgia, Prof. Ts.Kakhiani worked on the Arabic inscriptions of the collection of A.N. Kaznakov of Acad. S.A.Janashia Museum of Georgia, the collection of precious items, military weapons and other collections (swords, daggers, scimitars, offensive and defensive equipment, spears, arrowheads, helmets, armours, cups, phials, astrolabes).

She participated in the grant for the compilation of the Georgian-Arabic and Arabic-Georgian dictionaries.

Prof. Ts. Kakhiani published a monograph, Arabic Inscriptions from Dmanisi, which is based on the Dmanisi Muslim cemetery Arabic epitaphs discovered by her, along with the epigraphic monuments obtained by L.Muskhelishvili expedition of 1936-1937.

Prof. Ts. Kakhiani from 1996 delivered lectures on epigraphy of the Arabic language at Tbilisi Institute of Asia and Africa for students and from 1998 – for students engaged on degree theses and master's course students.

Under her guidance, a Doctoral thesis was prepared.

Prof. Ts. Kakhiani delivered presentations at scientific conferences and published articles.

In addition to the published works, Ts. Kakhiani's archives include numerous materials in the form of manuscripts and photos.

The material preserved in the archives of Prof. Ts. Kakhiani is unique. A number of inscriptions kept and recorded there are lost at present. Thus, their study and introduction to the general public is possible only on the basis of archival sources.

The archival material consists of 16 large and 39 small folders.

Large Folders:

1. Arabic Epigraphic Monuments Preserved on the Territory of Georgia, 1984;
2. Arabic Inscriptions of Georgia; completed and corrected version;
3. I) Draft Rules for Edition of "Corpus of Georgian Inscriptions";
II) Corpus of Arabic inscriptions of Georgia (handwritten);
III) List of Inscriptions to be included in the corpus;
IV) Chronological Repertoire of Arabic Epigraphy (vol. 1, Cairo) dedicated to the memory of Max van Berchem (in French, with Georgian translation);
V) Ts.Kakhiani's Biography, Bibliography (report);
VI) "Some Oriental Sources on Dmanisi" (handwritten);
VII) "Some Sources on Dmanisi";
VIII) Introduction;
4. I) Analysis of Kufic Inscriptions of the Collection of A.N. Kaznakov of the State Museum of Georgia (handwritten);
II) One inscription, with its translation;
III) Article on Nikodim Kondakov (Komunisti, 1988, March 15)
5. I) The North Caucasus (Inscription from Klukhori);
II) "A Few Words on Arabic Inscriptions from the North Caucasus" (handwritten);
III) Photos.
6. I) Gelati; "Arabic Inscription of the Gelati Gate;"
II) Arabic Inscription, Georgian translation, handwritten working version;
III) Photos.
7. В. А. Крачковская, Пособие по арабской эпиграфике, 1971, Тбилиси. (with resolution of Acad. G. Tsereteli, corrected version).
8. I) Astrolabe; "On Arabic Astrolabe of the Paris Royal Library" (handwritten);
II) "Astronomical Tool from Dmanisi" (presentation, handwritten);
III) "On Oriental Inscriptions of the Third Astrolabe in Russia" - handwritten;
IV) Dmanisi Astrolabe (Abastumani Astro-Physical Observatory). Article-research, handwritten;
V) "Astronomical Tool from Dmanisi", Arabic Inscription of Dmanisi Astrolabe, 1961 (handwritten);
VI) Card index, bibliography, discussion of Arabic inscription... photos;

9. Weapons:
 - I) Description of swords;
 - II) "Inscriptions of Leonidze's Sword" – "Leonidze's Sword of Asalula's Workmanship" (two photos);
 - III) Military weapons with Arabic inscriptions preserved in the State Museum;
 - IV) five photos (of swords);
 - V) Inscriptions brought by Ioseb Megrelidze (one photo);
 - VI) Eight photos (with Arabic inscriptions);
 - VI) Large thick notebook: Inscriptions executed in the Oriental languages, 1986 (for exhibition);
10. Dmanisi photos;
11. Dmanisi tables and photos;
12. Materials on Siavush;
13. Newspapers;
14. Translations by Dato Kvitaishvili;
15. Translations by Dato Kvitaishvili;
16. Translations by Dato Kvitaishvili. Three notebooks.

Small Folders

1. List of inscriptions to be searched on the territory of Georgia;
2. Milestone from Tbilisi – one photo and description (handwritten);
3. Machkhani Church construction inscription (published) three photos;
4. Fragment of Inscription from Tbilisi St. Gregory Armenian Church (published) one photo, accompanies the published text;
5. Tbilisi, Sololaki Inscriptions, working version, 21 photos, graphic sketches made on the spot;
6. "On Some Arabic Inscriptions from the North Caucasus" - (handwritten) 12 pages written on both sides;
7. Photocopy of a Kufic inscription, data on Arabic-Persian inscriptions in the Caucasus (in Georgian, in Russian);
8. Achara, Khulo district, village Danispirauli (Kufic inscriptions) one photo;
9. Icons: four cards – on Mamadaviti, Oskhki or Khakhuli icons; icon from Urbnisi (overview, description);
10. Qvareli, Eniseli: one photo Georgian-Arabic inscription (transferred by J.Giunashvili);
11. G.Lomtadze, Rustavi Letters as Ornaments (handwritten, overview); handwritten, glossary – worksheet;
12. Vardisubani Inscriptions (published) of the 13th-14th cc. (two photos, overview, handwritten);
13. Akhaltsikhe – compositions copied on paper by pencil, two photos (three versions) - Maghradze; Akhaltsikhe inscriptions: 5 photos;
14. Borjomi (article) – four photos;
15. Kiziqi, E.Ghviniashvili (working version);
16. Martvili: newspaper Kolkhuri Koshki; Islamic Inscriptions in Georgia; Arabic Inscriptions in Samtavisi (handwritten list); "Martvili Monastery" by Ekvtime Taqaishvili;

17. Tusheti – K.Chrelashvili: two inscriptions written on paper 1. Vil. Omalo; 2. Vil. Dani;
18. Trialeti Inscriptions; 32 photos; article by G.Narimanishvili, printed, corrected.
19. "On the Silver Bracelet Found in Koda" (six photos); handwritten, working version;
20. Stamps: seven photos, their description (handwritten), executed on several sheets. In addition, notes, comments on cards;
21. Three photos, location to be ascertained;
22. Photo with an Arabic inscriptions, unknown origin (two copies);
23. Gravestone from Armazi, inventory book #1. #260;
24. Khasav-Yurt (Dagestan) 2 pages (handwritten); gravestone – four photos;
25. Samtavisi: eight photos and inscription. Explanation is given (handwritten);
26. Vil. Khelugumi (Akhalkalaki district) "Arabic Inscription" on the cradle stone of the gravestone from the Christian cemetery.
27. Akhaltsikhe, Inscription of the Gate, 1 page printed on printer;
28. 2 photos of epitaphs;
29. Photos with Arabic Inscriptions (unknown origin);
30. Photos of the bilingual epitaph of Svetitskhoveli and the Life-Giving Pillar;
31. Item with an Arabic inscription from Rustavi;
32. Arabic inscriptions from Omalo cemetery, photos;
33. Bowl with a Circular Inscription from Kutaisi Museum;
34. Photos of epitaphs;
35. Articles by Ts. Kakhiani;
36. Dmanisi photos;
37. Diplomas, copies, medals;
38. Personal photos;
39. Two boxes – photographic films, photos, copies of plaster and plasticine.

We would like to note here that we have systematized the archival materials as far as possible, arranged them thematically and united parts and photos of some materials scattered in different folders.

Our objective is to complete the rich archival materials presented as photos and working versions and to introduce them in the form of separate works, articles to persons interested in epigraphy; in addition, to search for the monuments about which only information is preserved in the archives (without photos and working version).