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POLISH STUDIES CONCERNING THE HISTORY OF GEORGIA

Tadeusz Krusiński, an author from the early 18th century, should be considered the first Pole who dealt with studies on the history of Georgia. And although some Polish geographers and historians had been mentioning earlier of this distant Christian country, which similar to Poland had been forced to resist Muslim invasions, this had been for its most part rather imprecise and second hand information. Certain minor details were given by an orientalist from the first half of 17th century — Samuel Otwinowski in his works<sup>1</sup>. This information was not published, however, and did not exert any bigger influence on the Polish public opinion. In the same century, some more small information items about Georgia were provided by the West-European authors, whose books devoted to Turkish problems were translated into Polish<sup>2</sup>. Nevertheless, these works could be hardly included into the creative contributions of the Polish science and, anyway, information about Georgia contained in them was inaccurate and chaotic. That is why, Krusiński can be no doubt recognized as the first Polish author to deal with Georgian problems.

Despite the fact that many authors wrote about Krusiński, both his life history and writings are not properly known as yet<sup>3</sup>. Most proba-

<sup>1</sup> B. Baranowski, *Znajomość Wschodu w dawnej Polsce do XVIII wieku* [Knowledge about the East in old Poland till 18th century], Łódź 1950, p. 214.

<sup>2</sup> See e.g.: *Monarchija turecka opisana przez Ricola sekretarza posła angielskiego u Porty Otomańskiej rezydującego z francuskiego języka na polski przetłumaczona* [Turkish monarchy described by Ricot — a secretary of the English envoy residing with the Ottoman Port from French to Polish translated], Słuck 1678 and numerous other editions; M. Febure, *Zwierciadło albo opisanie tureckiej ziemi* [A mirror or description of the Turkish land], Warszawa 1688 and other editions.

<sup>3</sup> See e.g.: F. Zieliński, *Wiadomość historyczna o księdzu Krusińskim* [Historical information about father Krusiński], „Biblioteka Warszawska” 1841, vol. 4, p. 375—379; F. M. S. [Sobieszczański], *Krusiński* [Tadeusz], [in:] *Encyklopedia powszechna Orgelbranda*, vol. 16, Warszawa 1864, p. 172—174; *Krusiński Tadeusz*, [in:]

bly this author was born in Jarantowice near Radziejów (the former Brzesko-Kujawska province) in 1675. It is usually stated that he came from a nobleman's family carrying Dołęga coat of arms. This can be doubted as he could just as well be of peasant or burgher's origin. Equally unclear is the spelling of his name, and it is not quite well known whether it was Krusiński, Krosieński, Kruszyński or Krusiński. He was most probably using the first name — Jan at the beginning, adopting the name — Tadeusz when he entered a monastic order. After his studies in Jesuit schools, he became a monk, and in 1705 he was sent to do missionary work in the Caucasus. He stayed there till 1726 and, thus, over twenty years. To start with, he was working in a Jesuit mission in Gandja (today — Kirovabad), next in Yerevan and Djulfa. For a certain time, he stayed in Tbilisi where most likely he performed duties of a secretary to the King Wachtang 6th. It is difficult to determine whether he knew the Georgian language. And although he included to his works short texts in the Old-Georgian liturgical language, he might write them down from some statement made by one of his Georgian friends. It can be supposed, however, that while staying at the court of King Wachtang 6th, he must have mastered the language to some extent. And even if he did not know it well enough to read old historical texts, it must be admitted that he was quite well acquainted with the history of that nation.

On his return from the Caucasus, either in Italy or Poland, Krusiński prepared a bulky report on the changes which had occurred in the political situation of Iran at the request of the central monastic authorities. In this work, he devoted a great deal of attention to problems of the Caucasus since its predominant part was controlled by Persia. This work written in Latin was never published. Meanwhile, Krusiński published three books in Latin in Lvov, which were most probably revised versions or partly supplements to the report written for the authorities of the Jesuit's order<sup>4</sup>. Huge interest generated in Europe by major

*Encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. 11, Warszawa 1878, p. 442—443; s. [S. Krzemiński], *Krusiński Tadeusz Jan*, [in:] *Wielka encyklopedia powszechna ilustrowana*, vol. 41/42, Warszawa 1908—1909, p. 183—185; X. J. N. [Niedzielski], *Krusiński Tadeusz*, [in:] *Podręczna encyklopedia kościelna*, vol. 23/24, Warszawa 1911, p. 59—60; *Bibliografia literatury polskiej „Nowy Korbut”*, vol. 2, Warszawa 1964, p. 429; B. Natoński, *Krusiński* [Krusieński, Kruszyński] *Tadeusz*, [in:] *Polski słownik biograficzny* [further: PSB], vol. 15, Wrocław—Warszawa—Kraków 1970, p. 426—428; M. Kieffer-Kostanecka, *Polak pierwszym autorem europejskiej historii Persji* [A Pole the first author of Persia's European history], „Notatki Płockie” 1977, No. 4, p. 45—46.

<sup>4</sup> T. Krusiński, *Prodromus ad historiam revolutionis persicae*, Leopoli 1733; idem, *Tragica vertentis belli persici historia*, Leopoli 1740; idem, *Analecta ad tragicam belli persici historiam*, Leopoli 1755 and others.

changes occurring in the system of political forces in the Middle East caused that quite big parts of Krusiński's works were translated into French<sup>5</sup>, English<sup>6</sup>, Dutch, Spanish, and even Turkish<sup>7</sup> and next published. A translated summary of Krusiński's works in Polish was not published and has remained in its manuscript form till today<sup>8</sup>. Anyway, it could be added here that some West-European authors were publishing recasts from Krusiński's books under their own names. In fact, he was the most widely-read author writing about Iranian and Caucasian problems in the mid-18th century<sup>9</sup>.

Krusiński revealed a far-reaching interest in the history of Georgia. Among others, he devoted a great deal of his attention to the ethnic origins of Georgians. It is no wonder that he gave a lot of misleading information about these problems, which had been derived both from ancient authors and local legends. It is worth noting here that quite accidentally he became a forerunner of well-known 20th century theories of N. Marr about the so-called Japhetic language group<sup>10</sup>. Basing on a certain similarity between the name Iberia, he put forward a thesis about a common origin of Georgians and peoples inhabiting the Iberian Peninsula<sup>11</sup>.

Information about the history of Georgia since early 18th century was dispersed in so many chapters of Krusiński's work. This information was sometimes not very precise. It can be easily guessed, however, that Krusiński sometimes obtained his materials from older Georgian chronicles, which he could reach, anyway, through his Georgian friends. For the Catholic ecclesiastic of the greatest interest were historical-religious problems, to which he devoted a great deal of attention.

<sup>5</sup> *Histoire de la révolution de Perse*, vol. 1—2, La Haye 1728; *Histoire de la dernière révolution de Perse*, vol. 1—2, Paris 1729; *Histoire des Thomas Koulikan*, vol. 1—2, Amsterdam 1741.

<sup>6</sup> *The history of the revolution of Persia*, London 1728; *The history of the revolution of Persia*, Dublin 1729 and other editions.

<sup>7</sup> J. Reychman, *Znajomość i nauczanie języków orientalnych w Polsce w XVIII w.* [Knowledge and teaching of oriental languages in Poland in 18th century], Wrocław 1950, p. 34—38; J. Bielański, *Książka w świecie islamu* [Book in the world of Islam], Wrocław 1961, p. 353—354 and other editions.

<sup>8</sup> Abbreviated Polish translation of T. Krusiński's work, manuscript in The Library of The Polish Academy of Sciences at Kórnik, No. 140.

<sup>9</sup> See e.g.: J. Hamway, *The revolutions in Persia*, London 1753; L. A. Cleirac de la Marnie, *L'histoire de révolutions de Perse*, Paris 1750 and other editions.

<sup>10</sup> See e.g.: E. Frankowski, *Etnografia radziecka* [Soviet ethnography], „Lud” 1952, vol. 39, p. 34—35 and others.

<sup>11</sup> Krusiński, *Tragica vertentis...*, p. 121—122.

Equally interesting were social problems of this nation so different from relations prevailing in Europe.

In a very interesting way, Krusiński presented development of Iranian-Georgian relations in 17th century, and especially during the reign of the Persian rulers Abbas I and Abbas II, who were trying to subordinate Kartli and Kakhetia to Persia.

Krusiński's works, and especially the most important of them published in Lvov in 1740, contained rich material concerning Georgia's history, and especially its eastern parts — Kartli and Kakhetia in the second and third decades of 18th century, and especially the years 1711—1726. These happen to be the years which Krusiński spent in the Caucasus. His stay there allowed him a good insight into the then social relations. In a precise way, this author presented complicated intrigues plotted by particular Georgian princes on the Iran court, where they were striving to secure for themselves the thrones of Kartli and Kakhetia. He also described their characteristics in great detail, as well as their political and even religious outlooks, namely their attitude to Islam, which they had sometimes to accept to all appearances. In his works, Krusiński laid quite a big emphasis on participation of Georgians in the wars fought by Iran with Afghan tribes. He also wrote extensively about the Georgian-Turkish and Georgian-Lezgin relations in those years, and provided a great deal of information about the Russian-Georgian relations, which were very animated at that time.

All in all, Krusiński gave a plentiful and very interesting material about the history of Georgia showing his good familiarity with the problems discussed. This information is of the greatest significance for the first two or so decades of 18th century. It also deserves to receive more attention of the Georgian science. Hitherto, it has been utilizing Krusiński's information derived from not too accurate translations, in which the problems concerning Caucasian affairs have been largely abbreviated.

In the first half of 19th century, many Poles went to Georgia either as political exiles sent to tsarist garrisons in the Caucasus or voluntarily as officers, clerks, physicians or engineers. Many of them were describing this country later on or making marginal mentions about its past. For their most part, these were not very precise mentions based on the Russian literature of the subject encountered by some chance, and sometimes it was information obtained from friends belonging to the Georgian intelligence. Such mentions can be found, for example, in the first Polish book on Georgia written by Stanisław No-



wacki sent for the military service in the Caucasus<sup>12</sup>. A little information about the history of Guria was provided by Adam Trzaskowski (also sent to do his military service in the Caucasus several years later) in his book written in Russian<sup>13</sup>. Historical information can be also found in articles about Georgia written by Leon Janiszewski, a former army bandmaster, later on a teacher of music in schools of Georgia's capital, but also a talented man of letters<sup>14</sup>. Some details concerning the history of Tbilisi can be found in Jan Załęski's article about this town<sup>15</sup>. In turn, some details about the history of Georgia were given by Michał Butowt-Andrzejkowicz<sup>16</sup>, Romuald Klonowski<sup>17</sup>, Hipolit (Jan) Jaworski<sup>18</sup>. There could be also mentioned here the names of many other authors, who were including in their works, anyway, marginally more or less exact information about the history of Georgia.

From among these authors, Mateusz Gralewski deserves a special attention<sup>19</sup>. A son of a peasant from some village near Łęczycza, as a student of grammar school he was arrested for his patriotic activity

<sup>12</sup> S. Nowacki, *Podróże do Georgii w czasie mojej niewoli w Rosji odbyte w roku 1813, 1814 i 1815* [Travels to Georgia during my imprisonment in Russia made in 1813, 1814 and 1815], Poznań 1833.

<sup>13</sup> A. Tšaškovskij, *O sostave Gurii*, „Kavkaz” 1847, No. 40; See: G. A. Dżidzarija, *Učastniki pol'skogo nacional'no-osvoboditel'nogo dviženija 20—40 gg. XIX v. v Abchazii*, „Izvestija Akademii Nauk Gruzinskoi SSR” 1973, p. 49—50.

<sup>14</sup> L. Janiszewski, *Obrazy i myśli z podróży do Tyflisu z 1841 r. odbyte* [Pictures and thoughts from travel to Tiflis made in 1841], „Rubon” 1849, vol. 10; idem, *Pielgrzymka do Aleksandra Gribojedowa na górę św. Dawida w Tyflisie* [Pilgrimage to the grave of Aleksander Gribojedov on St. David's mountain in Tiflis], „Biblioteka Warszawska” 1843, vol. 3. For more information about this author see: M. Inglot, *Janiszewski Leon*, [in:] PSB, vol. 10, p. 525—526.

<sup>15</sup> J. Z. [Załęski], *Tiflis*, „Dziennik Warszawski” 1854, No. 65 and others.

<sup>16</sup> M. Butowt-Andrzejkowicz, *Szkice Kaukazu* [Caucasian Sketches], vol. 1—2, Warszawa 1859.

<sup>17</sup> R. Klonowski, *Wycieczki po Kaukazie i Gruzji* [Excursions in the Caucasus and Georgia], „Tygodnik Ilustrowany” 1875, vol. 1.

<sup>18</sup> M. Terlica [H. Jaworski], *Wspomnienia Kaukazu* [Memories from the Caucasus], „Gazeta Codzienna” 1858—1859; H. Jaworski, *Wspomnienia Kaukazu* [Memories from the Caucasus], parts 1—3, Poznań 1877. For more information about this author see: *Wspomnienie pośmiertne o Jaworskim* [Posthumous memories of Jaworski], „Rocznik Towarzystwa Historyczno-Literackiego w Paryżu” 1873—1878, vol. 2, p. 331—332; E. Kozłowski, *Jaworski Hipolit* [Jan], [in:] PSB, vol. 11, p. 106.

<sup>19</sup> M. Gralewski, *Kilka słów o Gruzinach* [A few words about Georgians], „Braterstwo” 1865, vol. 3; idem, *Polacy na Kaukazie* [Poles in the Caucasus], „Dziennik Literacki” 1869; idem, *Gruzja z Osetią* [Georgia with Osetiya], „Sobótka” 1875, vol. 3, idem, *Kaukaz. Wspomnienia z dwunastoletniej niewoli. Opisanie kraju. Ludność. Zwyczaje i obyczaje* [The Caucasus. Recollections from 12 years' imprisonment. Description of the country. Population. Customs and Traditions], Lwów 1877.

and sent into exile to the Caucasian garrisons. During his twelve years' stay in that region, he grew well acquainted with problems of those countries. In his book about the Caucasus, which he published many years after his return to Poland, he wrote a lot about Georgia, life of its inhabitants, and development of its culture. Also the problems connected with the past of this country received a little of his attention. In an interesting way, he drew attention of his readers to a certain resemblance between the history of Georgia and that of Poland.

Yet another author, who was interested in Georgia's history, was Julian Strutyński. He held quite a special place in the Polish literature dealing with the problems of the Caucasus. Although he came from a nobleman's family, which had not been promoted to the social stratum of the well-to-do gentry until 18th century, through his mother — Karolina Lubomirska he had aristocratic connections, and he was even using a count's title. He had chosen the army service hoping to work his way up. In the forties of 19th century, he lived in Tbilisi holding the office of an aide-de-camp for the governor general — Borys Neuhardt<sup>20</sup>. His interests included both geology and history of the Caucasus. Having left Tbilisi, he published a book entitled *Kilka badań geologicznych i dziejowych Kaukazu* (Several geological and historical studies on the Caucasus)<sup>21</sup>, in which he presented a great deal of information about Georgians and their history. In this work, which proved to be rather chaotic, he even included extracts from the chronicle of Wachtang 6th, the King of Kartli<sup>22</sup>, which had been translated most probably by one of his Georgian friends. Some historical information could be also found in another book written by Strutyński and entitled *Miscellanea*<sup>23</sup>. In a very interesting way, he described in it the life of Georgian aristocracy and its connections with the tsarist authorities. The book contained also quite interesting information concerning the economic relations in Georgia, which was, unfortunately, presented again in a chaotic manner<sup>24</sup>. A separate mention can be made here about Strutyński's other Caucasian writings, which were not published and in which he devoted quite a lot of attention to the history of Georgia<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> Jan ze Ś. [A. H. Kirkor], *Juliusz hrabia Strutyński (Berlicz-Sas)* [Juliusz earl Strutyński (Berlicz-Sas)], „Kłosy” 1878, vol. 26, p. 340.

<sup>21</sup> J. hr Strutyński, *Kilka badań geologicznych i dziejowych Kaukazu* [Some geological and historical studies on the Caucasus], Berlin 1857.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 53—56.

<sup>23</sup> J. hr Strutyński, *Miscellanea*, Wilno 1855.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 70—78.

<sup>25</sup> More information on this subject can be found in the publication quoted in point 40.

A man with such a wide range of interests but, simultaneously, unfamiliar with the method of scientific work, Strutyński wrote about Georgia's history in a chaotic way. He was giving plenty of very interesting information but, at the same time, he mixed it with different insignificant details, which, in the conviction of this author interested mainly in the environment of the Georgian aristocracy, were raised to the level of significant and essential problems.

Kazimierz Łapczyński deserves one of the leading places in the Polish literature concerning Georgia<sup>26</sup>. The young man with a technical educational background was sent into exile as a soldier to the Caucasian garrisons for his patriotic activity. Owing to his professional qualifications, he held managerial posts during erection of fortifications. Thanks to this, a few years later he was promoted to the officer's rank, while his management of various engineering-military projects allowed him to get well acquainted with almost entire Georgia. During his several-year stay in Tbilisi, he made friends with Georgians and most probably learnt the Georgian language. Łapczyński was a translator or perhaps co-translator of the classical masterpiece of the Georgian literature, namely, of the 20th century poem of Shoa Rustaveli *Rycerz w tygrysiej skórze* (Knight in tiger's skin). The Polish translation of a well-known fragment of Rustaveli's masterpiece was preceded by a large introduction, in which Łapczyński provided his readers with a great deal of information about the history of Georgia<sup>27</sup>. Also in his numerous essays describing his wanderings in the Caucasus, Łapczyński presented some information regarding the history of Georgia<sup>28</sup>.

The above remarks point at a big interest taken by Łapczyński in the history of this Caucasian country. Not only did he read various works in this field but together with his Georgian friends among whom were the greatest writers of this century i.e. Giorgi Eristavi and Wachtang Orbeliani, he studied old Georgian chronicles. In the introduction

<sup>26</sup> A. Ślusarski, *Kazimierz Łapczyński. Wspomnienie pośmiertne* [Kazimierz Łapczyński. Posthumous memories], „Wszechświat” 1893, vol. 12, No. 1, p. 1–4; A. Zaleski, *Kazimierz Łapczyński. Kilka słów wspomnień* [Kazimierz Łapczyński. Brief memories], „Pamiętnik Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego” 1893, vol. 14, p. 71–74; W. Eliasz-Radzikowski, *Przyczynek do wspomnień o ś.p. Kazmierzu Łapczyńskim* [Some memories about Kazimierz Łapczyński], *ibidem*, 1905, vol. 25, p. 35–43.

<sup>27</sup> *Skóra tygrysa. Poemat gregoriański XII wieku, po części w tłumaczeniu, po części w streszczeniu podał Kazimierz Łapczyński* [Tiger's skin. Georgian poem from 12th century — prepared partly in translation and partly in summary by Kazimierz Łapczyński], „Biblioteka Warszawska” 1863, vol. 4, p. 1–18.

<sup>28</sup> K. Łapczyński, *Z Tyflisu pod Ararat* [From Tiflis to Ararat], „Tygodnik Ilustrowany” 1866, vol. 2; 1867, vol. 1; *idem*, *Przejazd przez szczyty Kaukazu* [Trip across the Caucasian summits], „Tygodnik Ilustrowany” 1868, vol. 2.

to his translation of Rustaveli's masterpiece, he wrote, „studies of Georgian chronicles, which sometimes lasted well into the night, have remained the most pleasant memory for me from Tiflis till today”<sup>29</sup>.

On the other hand, little is known about another work of Łapczyński devoted to the history of Georgia and written for Polish readers. It is said to have been entitled *Historia Georgii* (History of Georgia). It is interesting to note that Łapczyński was fighting stubbornly with a common use of the name „Gruziya” instead of Georgia in many languages, believing that it was a form created by the Muslim invaders. This book never came out. According to one version, the tsarist censorship did not give its permission to publish the book, while according to the other version, this work being a result of many years' searches conducted by the author was not accepted by publishers. The manuscript of this first major Polish outline of Georgia's history was lost after the author's death<sup>30</sup>.

A little information about Georgia's history was given by a the botanist Edward Strumpf in his book about the Caucasus<sup>31</sup>. Still as a student of Warsaw University he was exiled to that region for his patriotic activity. He spent some time in Georgia, where he established close contacts with representatives of the Georgian intelligentsia. In his book, apart from descriptions of life in Tbilisi, Kutaisi or Batumi, he also presented the provinces, villages and small towns. Simultaneously, descriptions of this type were enriched by a great deal of information about Georgia's history. One of the chapters was devoted to the history of Georgia's culture with a major focus on the history of literature and of the press in this country. Despite the fact that this author could be qualified for a naturalist by his education and interests, he was writing about problems connected with Georgia's history and culture with quite amazing erudition.

Simultaneously, it is not quite clear whether Artur Leist's book about Georgia should be included into the Polish popular scientific literature. Leist was probably born from a German father and Polish mother but despite this he proved to be closely connected with the German science with almost all his scientific works concerning the Caucasus published in Germany. On the other hand, his book entitled *Szkice o Gruzji* (Georgian sketches) was published in Polish. In this book, he devoted a great deal of his attention to the history of Geor-

<sup>29</sup> *Skóra tygrysa...*, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> For more information see the publication quoted in point 48.

<sup>31</sup> E. Strumpf, *Obrazy Kaukazu. Kartki z podróży* [Images of the Caucasus. Notes from travel], Warszawa 1900.



gia<sup>32</sup>. The question that arises here is whether it was an original work or an adaptation of his treatises and articles written in German.

The first interwar years in Poland witnessed appearance of quite numerous books, brochures and articles written both by Polish authors and Georgian emigrants<sup>33</sup>. The level represented by this literature was very much diversified. For the most part, it was giving superficial information about the country itself, its inhabitants, literature and political problems. Historical issues were tackled in an imprecise and marginal way. Among this literature, a relatively higher level was represented by Ludwik Kulczycki's brochure<sup>34</sup> published in 1921, a popular book of Kazimierz Król about Georgia's history<sup>35</sup>, which came out in 1924, or an article by a well known novelist who had been in the Caucasus before the First World War — Waław Sieroszewski<sup>36</sup> published in 1928.

Two works written by Georgian emigrants and published in Polish deserve more attention here. One of them was a legal treatise of Aleksander Godziašvili<sup>37</sup> dealing with problems of the Georgian state in the light of international law, in which quite a lot of attention has been devoted to Georgia's history. The outline of this country's history written by Ian (Vano) Kavtaradze<sup>38</sup> was of quite a different character. And although this book was preceded by an introduction prepared by one of the most eminent Polish historians of the interwar period — Marceł Handelsman, its literary level was not too high, and it contained, moreover, many errors and inaccuracies. Anyway, the problem of literature concerning Georgia written in Polish but by

<sup>32</sup> A. Leist, *Szkic z Gruzji* [A sketch from Georgia], Warszawa 1885, p. 62–75.

<sup>33</sup> S. Kurulišvili, *Gruzja* [Georgia], Warszawa 1921; *Pro Georgia. Ku uczczeniu czwartej rocznicy ogłoszenia niepodległości Gruzji* [Pro Georgia. To celebrate fourth anniversary of Georgia's independence], Warszawa 1922; *Pro Patria. Ku uczczeniu piątej rocznicy ogłoszenia niepodległości Gruzji* [Pro Patria. To celebrate fifth anniversary of Georgia's independence], Warszawa 1923; T. Szpotański, *Gruzja* [Georgia], Warszawa 1934 and others.

<sup>34</sup> L. Kulczycki, *Odrodzenie Gruzji* [Renaissance of Georgia], Warszawa 1921.

<sup>35</sup> K. Król, *Gruzja. Opisanie kraju i jego dzieje* [Georgia. Description of the country and its history], Warszawa 1924.

<sup>36</sup> W. Sieroszewski, *Daleki kraj, o którym wiedzieć coś trzeba — Gruzja* [Georgia — A distant country one know something about], „Wyzwolenie” 1928, No. 25.

<sup>37</sup> A. Godziašvili, *Zagadnienie państwa gruzińskiego w świetle prawa międzynarodowego* [Problem of the Georgian state in the light of the international law], Warszawa 1926.

<sup>38</sup> J. Kavtaradze, *Gruzja w zarysie historycznym* [Georgia in historical outline], Warszawa 1929.

Georgian authors goes beyond the limits imposed by the subject of this article.

After the Second World War, there could be observed an enhanced research interest in Georgia's history and Polish-Georgian contacts in the past. Jan Reychman, professor of Warsaw University, could boast remarkable achievements in this field. He was an author, among others, of books about Polish Alpinists making their climbing expeditions to the Caucasus Mountains<sup>39</sup>, about Polish travellers in the Middle East, and among others in Georgia in 19th century<sup>40</sup>, or about the Polish-Georgian cultural relations in that century<sup>41</sup>. Quite a lot of information about Poles in Georgia in 19th century and their literary output was provided by Mieczysław Inglot — historian of literature<sup>42</sup>. Finally, one cannot bypass a popular-science book written with a great dose of erudition by Waław Kubacki — historian of literature and, at the same time, a writer, in which a lot of attention was devoted to Poles living in Georgia in the past<sup>43</sup>.

The author of this article also wrote about knowledge of Georgia in Poland in 17th century<sup>44</sup>, about the Polish-Georgian political relations in the same century<sup>45</sup>, or about descriptions of Georgia given by the already mentioned Mateusz Gralewski<sup>46</sup>, Tadeusz Krusiński<sup>47</sup>,

<sup>39</sup> J. Reychman, *Polacy w górach Kaukazu do końca XIX w.* [Poles in the Caucasian mountains till the end of 19th century], „Wierchy” 1954, vol. 23, p. 19—58.

<sup>40</sup> J. Reychman, *Podróznicy polscy na Bliskim Wschodzie w XIX w.* [Polish travellers in the Middle East in 19th century], Warszawa 1972, p. 176—247.

<sup>41</sup> J. Reychman, *Ze stosunków literackich polsko-gruzińskich w XIX w.* [Some aspects of the Polish-Georgian literary relations in 19th century], „Przegląd Humanistyczny” 1961, vol. 5, No. 3, p. 119—124.

<sup>42</sup> M. Inglot, *Polacy piszący na Kaukazie w pierwszej połowie XIX w.* [Poles writing in the Caucasian in the first half of 19th century], „Pamiętnik Literacki” 1957, vol. 46, p. 539—551.

<sup>43</sup> W. Kubacki, *Malwy na Kaukazie* [Mallows in the Caucasus], Warszawa 1969, p. 7—90.

<sup>44</sup> B. Baranowski, *op. cit.*, p. 3.

<sup>45</sup> B. Baranowski, *Kaukaz i Pol'sa v XVII v.*, [in:] *Rossija, Pol'sa i Pričernomor'e w XV—XVIII vv.*, Moskva 1979, p. 248—262.

<sup>46</sup> B. Baranowski, *Sakvartvelos mecchramate saukunis poloneli mterlis Mateusz Gralewskis šemo knedebaši*, [in:] *Razyskanija po istorii Gruzii i Kavkaza*, Tbilisi 1976, p. 348—356; idem, *Z dziejów polsko-gruzińskich stosunków kulturalnych z połowy XIX wieku (opisy Gruzji Mateusza Gralewskiego)* [Some aspects of the Polish-Georgian cultural relations in mid-19th century (description of Georgia by Mateusz Gralewski)], „Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska” 1974, sec. F, vol. 29, No. 16, p. 175—182.

<sup>47</sup> B. Baranowski, *Znaczenie relacji Tadeusza Krusińskiego dla historii Gruzji pierwszej połowy XVIII w.* [Significance of Tadeusz Krusiński's relation for history of Georgia in the first half of 18th century] „Acta Universitatis Lodziensis” 1981, Folia historica 10, p. 21—33.

Kazimierz Łapczyński<sup>48</sup>, Julian Strutyński<sup>49</sup>, and about Poles sent away for the army service in the Caucasus<sup>50</sup>. He also wrote a book about the interest taken in Poland in 18th and 19th centuries in the Georgian culture<sup>51</sup>.

A professor of history at Łódź University — Władysław Bortnowski described participation of Georgians in the anti-nazi partisan war during the Second World War<sup>52</sup>. Julian Karol Janczak — an assistant professor at Łódź University presented the demographic and nationality structure of the Transcaucasian region towards the end of 19th century in one of his works<sup>53</sup>. It is worth mentioning here a small sketch written by an Orthodox clergyman — Mikołaj Lenczewski about an archimandrite of the Orthodox church in Poland and, at the same time, a professor of Warsaw University, a Georgian — Grzegorz Peradze and his heroic death in the nazi concentration camp<sup>54</sup>.

Historical-ethnographic problems of Georgia were discussed by Andrzej Woźniak — an ethnographer, who focussed his attention on the so-called „great family” in the Caucasus and Georgia's ethnic structure<sup>55</sup>.

<sup>48</sup> B. Baranowski, *Gruzińskie zainteresowania Kazimierza Łapczyńskiego* [Kazimierz Łapczyński's interests in Georgia], „Acta Universitatis Lodzianensis” 1981, Folia historica 8, p. 3—14.

<sup>49</sup> B. Baranowski, *Georgia and Georgians in the works of Juliusz Strutyński*, „Acta Universitatis Lodzianensis” 1983, Folia caucasica 1, p. 5—21.

<sup>50</sup> B. Baranowski, „W żołdacy na Kaukaz”. *Położenie polskich działaczy politycznych wysłanych karnie do służby wojskowej na Kaukazie w drugim trzydziestolecu XIX w.* [Army service in the Caucasus. Situation of Polish political activists penalized with deporting to army service in the Caucasus in the second thirty-year of 19th century], „Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska” 1982, sec. F, vol. 37, No. 15, p. 279—293.

<sup>51</sup> B. Baranowski, *Polskie zainteresowania z XVIII i XIX wieku kulturą Gruzji* [Polish preoccupation in 18th and 19th centuries with Georgia's history], Wrocław 1982.

<sup>52</sup> W. Bortnowski, *K voprosu ob učastii Gruzín v pol'skom partizantskom dvizhenii v 1941—1944 gg.*, „Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego” 1975, ser. I, No. 111, p. 29—40.

<sup>53</sup> J. K. Janczak, *Population relations in the Transcaucasian area at the end of the 19th century*, „Acta Universitatis Lodzianensis” 1983, Folia caucasica 1, p. 23—49.

<sup>54</sup> M. Lenczewski, *Ks. prof. dr archimandryta Grzegorz Peradze* [Rev. prof. dr archimandrite Grzegorz Peradze], „Wiomości Autokefalicznego Kościoła Prawosławnego” 1974, No. 2, p. 61—67.

<sup>55</sup> A. Woźniak, *Wielka rodzina we współczesnej literaturze etnograficznej Gruzji i Armenii* [Great family in modern ethnographic literature of Georgia and Armenia], „Etnografia Polska” 1970, vol. 14, p. 296—300; idem, *Struktura etniczna współczesnej Gruzji i jej historyczne uwarunkowanie* [Ethnic structure in today's Georgia and its historical determinants], „Etnografia Polska” 1971, vol. 15, No. 1, p. 285—301.

The first critical outline of Georgia's history to be published came out in 1976. It was written by a Georgian historian — Ilia Tabagua and a Polish orientalist — Wojciech Hensel. Despite its popular-science form, it is a book written with very big erudition and analyzing in bigger detail the most important problems connected with Georgia's history<sup>56</sup>. Another more detailed outline of Georgia's history is in print now<sup>57</sup>.

Quite a lot of material about Georgia's history can be also found in a popular book about the Caucasus and Poles who lived there in the past written by Ryszard Badowski and published in 1977<sup>58</sup>.

Till the present day, the Polish studies on Georgia's history have not been developed to a desirable extent. The main obstacle here is the language barrier, which only very few Poles managed to surmount. There are also missing monograph studies in this field, and the only exception here are outlines of Georgia's history of different kinds and different value. A relatively better situation can be observed in the field of the Polish studies on history of the Polish-Georgian relations, where we can boast quite remarkable achievements. Many subjects, however, continue to await their special monographic studies.

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#### POLSKIE BADANIA NAD HISTORIĄ GRUZJI

Za pierwszego Polaka, który zajął się historią Gruzji uznać można zakonnika Tadeusza Krusińskiego, który przebywał na tamtym terenie w początkach XVIII w. Jego dzieło tłumaczone na wiele języków informowało Europę Zachodnią o sprawach Kaukazu i Iranu. Uchodziło też za najpoważniejszą pracę osiemnastowieczną o tamtych terenach.

W drugim ćwierćwieczu XIX w. wielu Polaków odbywało służbę w wojsku rosyjskim na Kaukazie. Niektórzy z nich pisali również o historii Gruzji. Na uwagę zasługują takie nazwiska, jak: Leon Janiszewski, Adam Trzaskowski, Jan Załęski, Michał Butowt-Andrzejkiewicz, Hipolit (Jan?) Jaworski, Juliusz Strutyński. Szczegół-

<sup>56</sup> W. Hensel, I. Tabagua, *Gruzja wczoraj i dziś* [Georgia yesterday and today], Warszawa 1976.

<sup>57</sup> B. Baranowski, K. Baranowski, *Historia Gruzji* [History of Georgia], Wrocław 1987.

<sup>58</sup> R. Badowski, *Lechici znad Terku* [The Slavs from Terek], Warszawa 1977.



nie cenne materiały z tego zakresu podał Mateusz Gralewski. Kazimierz Łapczyński, tłumacz na język polski fragmentów dwunastowiecznego autora gruzińskiego Szota Rustaweli, napisał historię Gruzji, która jednak nie została wydana drukiem, a rękopis jej zaginął. Na przełomie XIX i XX w. sporo informacji o historii Gruzji podał, przebywający na Kaukazie, Edward Strumpf.

Kilka prac z zakresu historii Gruzji wydano w języku polskim w latach między pierwszą a drugą wojną światową. Częściowo były to jednak prace gruzińskich emigrantów (np. Wano Kawtaradze). Bardzo poważnie wzrosło w Polsce zainteresowanie przeszłością Gruzji po drugiej wojnie światowej. Wymienić tu można prace historyków — Jana Reychmana, Bohdana Baranowskiego, Władysława Bortnowskiego, Juliana Karola Janczaka, historyków literatury — Mieczysława Inglota, Wacława Kubackiego, etnografa — Andrzeja Woźniaka. W 1976 r. ukazał się w języku polskim zarys historii Gruzji. Jego autorami był polski orientalista Wojciech Hensel i gruziński historyk — Ilia Tabagua.