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CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA IN ABKHAZIA

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Abstract. The article discusses the cultural and educational policy of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in Abkhazia. Based on a cyclic study of the Legal Acts of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, the press, archival documents, memories of statesmen and other historical sources of 1918-1921, the reforms carried out by the government of the First Republic in the field of education and culture are analyzed. The government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, right from the declaration of independence, on May 26, 1918, started reforms throughout Georgia, including Abkhazia: they laid the foundation for the formation of a modern educational system and a new type of educational relations, for the first time, all educational institutions were institutionally subordinated to the state, «nationalized» and regulated the educational process. They supported and financed the professional development of teachers, paid great attention to the educational rights of national minorities, especially Abkhazians, created several higher primary schools - in Sukhumi, Gagra, Ochamchire and Samurzakhano, and transformed the Sukhumi teacher's seminary into an educational institute with educational content. In Abkhazia, the first professional unions of teachers were formed at this time. At Tbilisi State University, for the first time in the history of the Abkhaz people, the foundation was laid for the scientific study and research of the Abkhaz language.

As a result of the policy pursued by the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in 1918-1921, the first music and theater societies were formed in Abkhazia by professional cadres sent from Tbilisi, which laid the foundation for the institutional development of professional music and theater collectives in the future. In the conditions of democratic

Georgia, the famous Abkhazian writer and public figure Dimitri Gulia, with the support of his friends from Tbilisi, was able to create the first Abkhazian-language newspaper, which was later canceled by the Bolshevik government.

Keywords: *Georgia, Democratic Republic, Abkhazia, education, culture, politics.*

Main text. Studying the history of education and culture of the Democratic Republic of Georgia was a taboo topic in the historiography of the Soviet period. According to Vakhtang Beridze, the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia at that time was recognized as the most evil enemy and traitor of the people, they mechanically removed from our history even what the people themselves created in those years, they drew a line on the creativity of the people at that time... But those years were very fruitful from the spiritual and creative point of view. In all fields of culture - science, education, literature and art - in that short period of time, despite the difficult economic conditions, Georgia, surrounded by hostile forces on all sides, created many new and important things. Creative life was amazingly diverse and intense. Such excitement is only possible during national upsurge. .. At the same time, these years cannot be «mechanically disconnected from the previous years and limited only to the years 1918-1921. What was created then was prepared earlier, it was an organic continuation of the purposeful creative activity that preceded independence and - this is the main thing - prepared this independence in the field of spiritual life (Beridze, 1992: 3).

The policy of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in the fields of education and culture is reflected in the legal documents, archival

materials and records that were issued by the National Council of Georgia, and then by the Constituent Assembly of Georgia, from the date of adoption of the Act of State Independence. The government's attitude towards the protection of the rights of national minorities living in Georgia can be read in the mentioned documents. First of all, the issue of representation of national minorities in the National Council of Georgia was regulated at the legislative level. National minorities were allowed to elect 26 deputies to the representative body of the country. Among them were Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Abkhazians, Russians, Ossetians, Georgian Jews and Jews, Greeks and Germans. Abkhazians had 3 representatives in the National Council (Collection of Acts, 1990: 62). This right gave national minorities new opportunities for active involvement in political, educational and cultural spheres.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, great importance was given to humanitarian studies in Georgia, in particular to Georgian studies, which was especially strengthened after the establishment of Tbilisi State University. During the years of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, in parallel with the Georgian studies, the professorship of the newly founded university laid the foundation for the scientific study of Caucasian languages, and field studies in the direction of the Caucasus were developed. Since the time of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, Tbilisi State University has turned into the main research and educational center of Caucasia. Ivane Javakhishvili laid the foundation for this work and paid special attention to the study and research of the Abkhazian language among the Caucasian languages. For this purpose, he introduced an Abkhazian language course at the university, and invited the Abkhazian writer and poet Dimitri Gulia to deliver it at Tbilisi State University. In fact, from that time the foundation of Abkhazology as a scientific research direction was laid and its institutional development began. This is where the real history of Abkhazology begins: staff training, scientific research and

teaching of the Abkhazian language, training of new staff for primary and high schools. Before that, nothing like this happened anywhere, in any university (Akhaldze, 2021: 102).

The Ministry of Education of the Democratic Republic of Georgia paid a lot of attention to the schools of Abkhazia, teachers were sent to the schools there from Tbilisi, Kutaisi, but mainly the teachers were trained by the Sukhumi Educational Seminary (Chumburidze, 2000: 79), which existed since 1915. During the years of the Democratic Republic, its status was expanded and transformed into an educational institution.

One of the first legal acts in the Democratic Republic of Georgia regarding the protection of the cultural and educational rights of national minorities was the Law of the National Council of Georgia and the Republic of Georgia of September 13, 1918 on «Nationalization of Educational Institutes and Seminaries». The adoption of the mentioned document was preceded by the report of the Minister of Education of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, Giorgi Lashkhishvili, which he presented to the National Council on August 2, 1918. In the report, the author described the problem of bringing educational institutes and seminaries into conformity with national-state interests, which was of fundamental importance for the educational policy of an independent country. During this period, there were 4 pedagogical schools in Georgia: Tbilisi Institute of Mastery, Gori, Khoni and Sukhumi Educational Seminaries. In the report, the minister described the current situation in the country in terms of teacher training and talked about how the internationalization of these schools should be implemented. For this purpose, the non-Georgian classes had to be closed in the mentioned educational institutions, because the seminary for Azerbaijanis was already opened in Ganja, and for Armenians - in Yerevan. Georgian departments remained in educational seminaries and institutes of mastery, only in Sukhumi there would be Georgian and Abkhazian departments, for which Giorgi Lashkhishvili requested additional credit from the government for the new,

Abkhazian department of the Sukhumi seminary. After Giorgi Lashkhishvili's report, a special law project was prepared, which envisaged the transformation of teachers' seminaries of mastery into Georgian educational institutions. As mentioned above, the Law on «Nationalization of Educational Institutes and Seminaries» was adopted on September 13, 1918. According to the law, «a) the former national departments of Tbilisi Institute and Gori Seminary should be abolished, b) Tbilisi Institute of Mastery, Gori, Khoni and Sukhumi Seminaries should be declared as Georgian state schools, c) an Abkhaz department near the Sukhumi seminary should be opened d) all four schools should be given credit from the state treasury according to the budget attached here» (Collection of Acts, 1990: 63). The mentioned document provides important information about the national educational policy of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, which was founded in the first year of the state's formation. Three months after the adoption of the Act of Independence of Georgia, the government of Georgia adopted the state law, thus creating the foundation for the national education system. At the same time, for the first time in the history of education in Abkhazia, an Abkhaz department was institutionally established at the Sukhumi Seminary with state funding, which later became the precursor to the establishment of the Abkhaz National School. It is true that there were Georgian and Abkhazian sectors on an optional basis before the Sukhumi Educational Seminary, but from an institutional point of view, it was legalized and officially financed by the state during the Democratic Republic of Georgia (Akhaldze, 2021: 104).

The issue of the internationalization of the Sukhumi educational seminary is wrongly depicted in the Soviet historiography and is considered as a manifestation/fact of the pressure and oppression of the Abkhazian people by the Menshevik government of Georgia. In fact, the state of Georgia abolished the Russian educational system and began to build the Georgian educational system, abolished compulsory teaching in the

Russian language and declared the Georgian language as the compulsory educational language of the mentioned educational institutions. At the same time, with the creation of the Abkhaz branch of the Sukhumi educational seminary, the Abkhaz nation, for the first time, was given the opportunity to institutionally form their own national school at the state level. It was an official statement by the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia that the Abkhazian language was under the special care of the government and that the Abkhazian language should become the language of education and culture. There is no precedent in history for this historical decision regarding the Abkhazian language*. Nevertheless, the Soviet historiography ignores this fact in silence, and unfortunately, we have the same situation in the Abkhazian historiography of the separatist period (Akhaldze, 2021: 104).

The claim of separatist historiography that the Menshevik government of Georgia dismissed Vladimir Pardomenko, the director of the Sukhumi educational seminary, and appointed Georgian Alexander Giorgobiani in his place is also incorrect. In fact, Vladimir Pardomenko left his position much earlier than the formation of the government of the Democratic Republic. As early as in September 1917, he was unable to lead the seminary due to illness and appealed to the special committee of the Caucasus, whose resolution of October 20, 1917 appointed Alexander Giorgobiani as the director of the seminary (Gelenava, 2000: 40).

The appearance of Alexander Giorgobiani as a teacher and a leading public figure of his time is clearly visible in his report, which dates back to 1919 (SCSIA, Foundation 1935: 37-40; cf. Anchabadze, Pagava, Tutashvili, 2018: 410-415), and in which the first founder of the first gymnasium of Sukhumi addresses the fellowship

* It should also be noted here that another legal act of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, "Elections of the People's Council of Abkhazia", which for the first time in the history of Abkhazia created a specific electoral system focused on local needs, was unprecedented (The regulation of "Elections of the People's Council of Abkhazia" was adopted by the Parliament of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Georgia on December 27, 1918. Collection of Legal Acts of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, 1918-1921 pp. 176-196.

of the general assembly. The author discusses in detail and evaluates the current situation in the educational field of Abkhazia, lists the problems in education, pays special attention to the difficult situation created in primary schools, and discusses and plans in perspective the issue of continuing education of Abkhazian youth in high school. The report reflects the reality seen through the eyes of a compatriot and is the subject of a separate study.

After the adoption of the legislative act «Nationalization of Educational Institutes and Seminaries» adopted by the National Council of Georgia, the reform of existing schools or the establishment of new schools began throughout the country. Abkhazia was no exception in this regard. During the First World War, many families of Russian army servicemen left Abkhazia. Some of the previously existing schools were closed, while some continued to operate under the reform conditions.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia tried to facilitate the expansion of the educational school network. For this purpose, the Ministry of Education specially renewed the initiative of opening schools in the regions. We often get to know about such initiatives in the press pages of that time. In September 1918, the self-government of the city of Ochamchire petitioned the Minister of Education to open a secondary school in Ochamchire. Newspaper «Ertoba» newspaper published the information of Ochamchire city head B. Zhorzholiani, according to which «Ochamchire is the center of Samurzakhand and Kodori parts, with about 120,000 inhabitants, this district lacks a secondary school.» Due to the current high cost of keeping disciples in Sukhumi or any other city, most people are certainly deprived of it. That's why many young people, who would otherwise have had the opportunity to go to Sukhumi or Kutaisi, are forced to refuse to continue their studies. In Ochamchire, they could easily continue their studies, on the one hand, due to the relatively cheapness of life, and on the other hand, they could bring all kinds of food here from home» (Newspaper «Ertoba», 1918:3). The problems of

students described in the letter of Ochamchire are typical for the regions of Georgia of that era. To solve such problems, the government decided to open as many special schools as possible in the regions to study agricultural fields. This would allow the local youth to be employed in their native area after receiving education.

In addition to the material situation, the political situation also hindered the development of educational affairs in Abkhazia. The interests of Soviet Russia, White Russia and the Ottoman states intersected in the region. In 1918, the Bolsheviks were able to temporarily capture Sukhumi and declare the Soviet government. It is true that the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia resolved this problem soon, but throughout 1918, the population was in a state of fear and war, and education was not an issue for the population. In November 1919, the newspaper «Public Affairs» wrote: «Last year's unrest in Abkhazia caused a lot of damage to education, because education was stopped in schools in Abkhazia. It takes a lot of energy and skill to restore it this year. Therefore, on October 12, the first congress of Kodori Mazra teachers took place in Ochamchire. Gr. M. Japaridze, the director of the boys' gymnasium, was unanimously elected as the chairman of the congress; I.S. Korkia as a secretary. The congress discussed the establishment of the teachers' union of Kodori Mazra, the needs of schools and the material condition of teachers. At the proposal of the chairman, the charter of the future teachers' union was developed. The primary importance was given to the cultural-educational side of the union and the material support of teachers» (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919:3-4). As can be seen from this information, at the first congress of teachers of Kodori Mazra, a professional association of teachers was founded, which was supposed to take care of the development of the school field and support of teachers. The reports from the places clearly showed the Congress the helpless situation of schools in Abkhazia, because of which «the Congress expressed the wish that the national board should pay more attention to

schools and discuss their issues together with experienced persons». Permanent presidium of the future congresses of the teachers' union was elected at the congress. Chairman of the Congress Gr. M. Japaridze was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Presidium, P. M. Gogia as his companion, Ps. Shaverbai as a secretary" (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919: 3-4).

The first congress of teachers of Kodori Mazri held on October 12, 1919 and the permanent presidium elected by it is the first independent professional union of teachers in Abkhazia, which for the first time publicly spoke about the challenges in school education and showed the government and society from the inside the need to move to a new level of development of the school as an educational institution.

In the budget of 1920, the Ministry of Education of Georgia allocated 12,779,676 manats for the schools of Abkhazia, which was quite a substantial amount at that time. This amount included the maintenance of schools, including the financing of the Sukhumi Seminary, Ochamchire Gymnasium, Gagra Real School, sending young people to study abroad, providing students with scholarships, etc. The budget separately considered expenses for education without school, for which 2 million manats were determined in the 1920 budget, «a part of which will be used in Abkhazia as well» - we read in the document (SCSIA, Foundation 1935: 8; cf. Songhulashvili, 2021: 252-253). Separately, money was allocated for the «purchase of manuals and teaching tools», to help poor students in secondary and lower schools, for example, 200,000 manats were determined in the budget for the scholarship for the youth of the opposite corner (SCSIA, Foundation 1935: 8; cf. Songhulashvili, 2021: 252-253).

As can be seen from the documents, the government of the Democratic Republic paid a lot of attention to the process of teacher training. For this purpose, they organized teacher's courses, for which they had a separate amount allocated in the budget. In the Georgian budget, 150,000 manats were allocated to organize educational

courses for Abkhazian teachers.

Similar references preserved in archival materials and press sheets provide the basis for multifaceted analysis. Among them, about the socio-economic, political and cultural situation of the local population, but at the same time, we learn from the documents about the cultural and linguistic identity of the population, ethnic identity, attitude towards the government of the democratic republic. The press of that time provides us with valuable information about the mood of Abkhazia's population after the question of nationalization of schools was raised. For example, on the pages of the newspaper «Georgia» we read «the motherland language of the people of Samurzakano is Megrelian, and as soon as the nationalization of the schools was announced, the teaching of the Georgian language was immediately introduced in all the schools of Samurzakano» (newspaper «Georgia», 1918:4). Naturally, the people of Samurzakano chose that language as the school-educational language, which for centuries was the language of their culture and national identity, literary, educational activities and worship.

Archival materials and documents of the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia prove that at that time school education in Abkhazia was conducted in Georgian, Greek and Armenian languages and the government tried to protect the educational rights of national minorities. In general, Georgian social democrats paid special attention to the issue of education and the rights of national minorities. This is clearly seen in the measures implemented by the government of the Democratic Republic in terms of protecting the rights of different nations living in Georgia. Special attention was paid to the protection of educational rights. This can be clearly seen in the example of the protection of the educational rights of the Armenian-speaking population. It is known that at that time, due to the Turkish-Armenian conflict, Georgia sheltered a large number of Armenian refugees from Turkey. Especially many families were sheltered by our country during 1919-1920, which was reflected

in the number of Armenian schools. If there were 16 Armenian schools in Georgia by May 1919 (SCSIA, 1935: 26-29; cf. Chumburidze, 2000: 20), by December 18, 1920, their number increased fivefold and became 80. This is especially visible in Abkhazia, where there were a couple of private Armenian schools before 1918. But by May 1919, there were already six Armenian schools in Kodori Mazra in Abkhazia: primary schools of 1. Labra, 2. Jerguni, 3. Atari, 4. Tsurgili, 5. Ataro-Armianski, 6. Arake-chinichi; 15 Armenian schools of Gumista Mazra, of which 8 primary schools and one higher primary school: of 1. Dranda, 2. Bogopochtini, 3. II Simaghle, 4. Merkheuli, 5. III Merkheuli, 6. Tsebeldi, 7. Lema, 8. Zakharovka, 9. Lechkopi, 10. Yashtukhi two primary schools, 11. Esheri primary school, 12. Gumista primary school, 13. Sukhumi two-grade school, 14. Gumista higher primary school. In Gudauta Mazra: five Armenian elementary schools: of 1. Gudauta, 2. Mtsara, 3. Anukhvi, 4. Veselskoe, 5. Psirtskhi; in the same document, three Armenian schools are recorded in Gagra: 1. Kavakluki, 2. Kaldekhvari, 3. Kirasheni primary schools (SCSIA, 1935: 70-71; cf. Chumburidze, 2000: 75-76). Some of these schools were financed by the state, while a large part existed through private donations and were mostly maintained by Armenian patrons.

It is significant that these types of schools sometimes refused to study the state language, because based on the above-mentioned legislation, the teaching of the Georgian language was considered a mandatory subject in all types of schools, although the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia could not completely protect this decision. Sometimes the population requested to learn Georgian by their own will. For example, the demands of the Georgians of Sochi regarding the issue of the Georgian language are known from the press of that period. The population filed a petition before the appropriate agency of the Democratic Republic of Georgia to introduce the state language as a compulsory subject in the Sochi gymnasium (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919,

N 694:3). These and similar steps contributed to the prevention of the anti-Georgian policy carried out by the empire over the years, and the population gradually managed to return to the historical regularity that was cut off by force at the time.

Among the preventive measures taken by the Democratic Republic of Georgia in the region, it is worth noting the issue of institutional formation of various fields of culture in Abkhazia. For example, on April 23, 1919, on the instructions of the Georgian Music Society, the famous Georgian musician Zakaria Chkhikvadze arrived in Sukhumi from Tbilisi, who, after consulting with local Abkhaz and Georgian public figures, opened the Sukhumi branch of the Georgian Music Society. The establishment of the department was aimed at the development of Abkhazian and Georgian musical art. It was the first institutional association of the Abkhazian musical society, which was named the Abkhazian-Georgian musical society of Sukhumi, and Astamur Inalifa and Niko Tavdgiridze were elected as its chairmen (Newspaper «Public Affairs, 1919, N 519:2). It is significant that financially this society was a branch of the Georgian Music Society and was financed from Tbilisi.

During this period, the famous Georgian musician and singer, Dzuku Lolua, embellished the music society of Sukhumi. As we mentioned above, he worked in Sukhumi from 1904 at the invitation of Masho Anchabadze, the head of the Sukhumi Board of the Society for the Promotion of Literacy. Dzuku welcomed the declaration of Georgia's independence with great joy. The Georgian press kept the information about how the first anniversary of Georgia's independence was celebrated in Sukhumi, with the active participation of Dzuku Lolua, on May 26, 1919: «The city Sukhumi celebrated the anniversary of the declaration of Georgia's independence in a magnificent way. According to the plan already drawn up by the commission, the city fussed from the morning and the festively decorated people marched towards the Freedom Square: from there, various organizations began to

flow with national and revolutionary flags, representatives of different nationalities with their flags and political parties. Local Socialist-Federalists gathered on the beach street «Kiosk» and marched to the square at eleven o'clock. The procession was preceded by a choir of singers dressed in national costumes and Dzuku Lolua chanted revolutionary and national songs. The people who refused to leave gathered on the square, and the second regiment also lined up nicely, waiting for the parade» (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919, N543:3; cf. Akhaladze, 2021: 111).

In this report, together with the attitude of Dzuku Lolua, it is impossible not to notice the amazing efforts of the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, which in one year was able to gain such trust among the then multi-ethnic population of Abkhazia and was able to celebrate the country's independence at an appropriate level. The same report talks about the solemnly decorated Sukhumi and the attitude of people of different nationalities towards the independence of Georgia: «After the public prayer, Colonel Tukhareli*, the senior colonel of the detachment, addressed the army with a beautiful speech. Then the representative of the government, Isidore Ramishvili, passed by the army and all the organizations and addressed everyone. From here, the entire procession moved to the beach street, where where the students had beautifully decorated the ceremonial arch with flags and flowers. Here were exhibited the portraits of Georgian gene expressionist Shota Rustaveli, Ilia and Akaki, Archil Djorjadze and Zdanovich, N. Jordania, N. Chkheidze and I. Tsereteli. When the cannons sounded, the national flag, which covered the state emblem, fluttered and a knight in white on the horse appeared (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919, N543: 3). From this report, it can be seen how balanced and cautious the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia was in such multi-ethnic

regions and specifically in Abkhazia.

The politics of the Democratic Republic of Georgia affected the theatrical life of Sukhumi as well. It is significant that Tbilisi theater society, directors and actors often performed on the stages of Sukhumi, Gagra, Ochamchire at the invitation of Sukhumi City Council and stage lovers. It is known that Georgian actors and directors worked here: Shalva Dadiani, Elo Andronikashvili, Davit Kobakhidze, Evelina Tsutsunava, Vaso Agulishvili, Natalia Javakhishvili, Mikheil Sultanishvili and others. From 1918, Zakaria Urushadze was appointed as the director of the theater in Sukhumi, under whose leadership several plays were staged on the stage of Sukhumi, including Shalva Dadiani's «My child or Love» in 1919.

In the summer of 1919, actor V. Barveli was invited to be the director of the Sukhumi troupe by the Georgian Council of Sukhumi» - informs us the newspaper «Public Affairs» (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919, N642: 2). V. Barveli is a Georgian writer, actor and director. Ivane (Vano) Barveli (Mgeladze), who was a member of the Baku Georgian troupe, on his initiative, on November 20, 1920, the comic and romantic operetta «Arshin Mal-alan» by the famous Azerbaijani composer Uzeir Abdul Hajibekov was staged on the stage of the Sukhumi troupe. In addition to Georgian, it was performed in Russian, Armenian and Greek languages. It is significant that Georgian, Russian, Armenian and Greek actors supported each other in one performance staged in different languages. On November 8, 1920, «Death Punishment» by Erhatatsmindeli, «Against Marriage by Davit Atskureli's (Gamkrelidze)», etc. were staged in the Sukhumi Theater.

Theatrical societies of Sukhumi and Gagra and the musical a cappella held cheering concerts at the front in support of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. According to one of the reports, in the summer of 1919, the society «Capella» received a telegram of greetings and thanks from the horsemen and officers of the Horsemen Guards Division from the Gagra Front

* Giorgi, son of Alexander, Tukhareli (1891-1927) - Georgian military figure, colonel of the People's Guard of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. In 1918, he led the operation to suppress the anti-government rebellion of the Bolsheviks in Abkhazia.

due to the concert held by the troupe on the front (Newspaper «Public Affairs», 1919, N642: 2).

In the autumn of 1920, the Sukhumi Council invited the famous Georgian director Mikheil Koreli (Koridze) * to the troupe, and the 1920-1921 season began under his leadership. Earlier, Georgian actors Nutsa Chkheidze, Niko Godziashvili, Mikheil Sultanishvili, Aleksandre Mgaloblishvili and others were invited by the Sukhumi City Council. Together with them and the troupe of the local stage lovers, Mikheil Koreli staged «Samshoblo» by Davit Eristavi, «By the Sea» by Engeli, «Arsena» by Alexander Kazbegi, «Of Yesterday» by Shalva Dadiani, «Firefly» by Niko Shiukashvili, «Groundless» by Valerian Shalikashvili and others. Before that, these performances were very popular in the capital and continued to live on the stage of Sukhumi with the same popularity.

Based on the critical analysis and understanding of the presented historical documents and press materials, we can draw conclusions: the Democratic Republic of Georgia has systematically reorganized the sphere of education and culture. For the first time in Georgia, including Abkhazia, the formation of a modern educational system began and the

* Mikheil Koreli – Mikheil, son of Filimon, Koridze (1876-1949) - Georgian director and honored artist (1941), he graduated from Moscow's Lazarev Institute of Oriental Languages in 1902, but his love for the theater prevailed and he moved to the theater. At first he acted in the Georgian theaters of Tbilisi and Baku in 1902-1910. He was engaged in professional stage work in Georgian theaters as an actor, and since 1910 as a director. He directed theaters and staged plays in Kutaisi, Batumi, Tbilisi, Chiatura and other cities. He was a realist artist, a propagandist of the principles of the Moscow Art Academic Theater. He performed “Macbede” by William Shakespeare, “Nora” by Henrik Ibsen, “Man-Mass” by Ernest Toler, “Destruction of Hope” by H. Herans, “Oedipus the King” by Sophocles, “Of Yesterday” by Shalva Dadiani and other plays (KSE, 1986: 549).

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КУЛЬТУРНО-ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНАЯ ПОЛИТИКА ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ ГРУЗИЯ В АБХАЗИИ

Резюме

В статье рассматривается культурно-образовательная политика Демократической Республики Грузия в Абхазии. На основе циклического изучения правовых актов Демократической Республики Грузия, прессы, архивных документов, воспоминаний государственных деятелей и других исторических источников 1918-1921 годов анализируются реформы, проводимые правительством Первой Республики в сфере образования и культуры. Правительство Демократической Республики Грузия с момента провозглашения независимости 26 мая 1918 года начало реформы по всей Грузии, в том числе и в Абхазии: они заложили основу формирования современной образовательной системы и нового типа образовательных

отношений, впервые все учебные заведения были институционально подчинены государству, «национализированы» и регламентированы образовательный процесс. Они поддерживали и финансировали профессиональное развитие учителей, уделяли большое внимание образовательным правам национальных меньшинств, особенно абхазов, создали несколько высших начальных школ — в Сухуми, Гагре, Очамчире и Самурзахано, а Сухумскую учительскую семинарию преобразовали в образовательный институт с образовательным содержанием. В Абхазии в это время были сформированы первые профессиональные союзы учителей. В Тбилисском государственном университете впервые в истории абхазского народа была заложена основа научного изучения и исследования абхазского языка. В результате политики, проводимой правительством Демократической Республики Грузия в 1918-1921 годах, в Абхазии были образованы первые музыкальные и театральные общества профессиональными кадрами, присланными из Тбилиси, что заложило основу институционального развития профессиональных музыкальных и театральных коллективов в будущем. В условиях демократической Грузии известный абхазский писатель и общественный деятель Димитрий Гулиа при поддержке своих друзей из Тбилиси смог создать первую газету на абхазском языке, которая впоследствии была закрыта большевистским правительством.