

International Scientific Conference
“The Battle of Didgori – 900”

Report by Tedo Dundua (TSU), Natia Phiphia (TSU)
and Leri Tavadze (TSU)

Institute of Georgian History at the Faculty of Humanities of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University organized international conference, “The Battle of Didgori – 900”. August 12, 2021 served as the 900th anniversary of the decisive event in history of Georgia, known as the Battle of Didgori. The battle became a guarantee for strong Georgian political unity, a pattern of Georgian and Western European military cooperation as well as a splendid example of the Georgian military tradition. The international conference was dedicated to this important event.

Tedo Dundua, Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), opened the conference and served as a chair of the first session, *Georgia and the Rest of the World During David IV Agmashenebeli’s Reign and After (session language – English)*. He welcomed all the participants of the conference and gave an introduction speech about *Georgian and European Armies in Action*. He spoke about Georgia’s modern alliance with the West having historical background and general chronology of the Crusades showing well-coordinated warfare.

Leri Tavadze, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), in *Some Details on the Biography of David Agmashenebeli*, talked about Queen Elene, mother of King David IV Agmashenebeli, and assumed that she was a daughter of the King of Kakheti-Hereti Kingdom. The assumption was based on some recent discoveries.

Natia Phiphia, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Georgian history (TSU), and **Ketevan Tsimintia**, PhD student (TSU), focused their report on *Commensality in the Age of David Agmashenebeli and Queen Tamar*.

They summarized all reasons why the feasts were held during this age and also gave a detailed explanation of the form of commensality during the reigns of these two Georgian monarchs.

Emil Avdaliani, PhD in History at the Institute of Georgian History, generalized the situation on the Silk Road and emphasized activity of Georgians in this network. His report about *Georgia and Trade Routes in the Early 12th Century* stressed that the stronger Georgia was politically, the more actively it was involved in this major Eurasian trade network.

Zinaida Osborneva, representing V. V. Vinogradov Russian Language Institute at Russian Academy of Sciences, talked about *Participation of Greek Clerics in the Relations of the Tsardom of Russia and Georgian States in 1619-1645*. She paid attention to some new documents about Russian-Georgian relationships kept at Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts.

Mircea-Cristian Ghenghea and **Iulian Moga**, both representing “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, presented a paper about *Anthimus of Iberia – Memory and (Re)presentation within the Contemporary Romanian Society*. Anthimus’ memory cases in modern Romania were summarized by them.

Mircea Păduraru, from “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, talked about *Constructing Truth, Producing Authenticity. A Reflection on the Politics of the Romanian Ethnological Imagination*. His presentation was focused on the methodology of establishing truth during ethnological studies.

The second session of the conference was about *Georgia in the Epoch of David IV Agmashenebeli (session language – Georgian)* and **Leri Tavadze** served as a session chair. The first report, *One Section of Tao Border*, was presented by **Alexander Boshishvili**, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU). He paid attention to the inscriptions which are useful in establishing new information about the issue.

Apolon Tabuashvili, Associate Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), and **Vladimer Kekelia**, from Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts, presented a paper – *The 11th-12th Centuries Donations to the Monastery of Iviron at Mount Athos According to Synodikon*. Based on donations made by the Georgian nobles, the scholars calculated the financial strength of the different monasteries.

Ketevan Kutateladze, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), talked about *Battle for Samshvilde and Dmanisi between the Georgians and Seljuks in the 11th-12th Centuries*. She summarized all the

major battles which were held between the Georgians and the Turks for controlling Samshvilde and Dmanisi.

Mamuka Tsurtsunia, from State Council of Heraldry at the Parliament of Georgia, spoke about *Reconstructing the Past through Military History: Samshvilde Operation of 1110*. He gave a detailed explanation of the Samshvilde operation and paid attention to some details disputed in Georgian historiography.

Jaba Samushia, Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), spoke about the problem of *Localizing Didgori Battle*. He overviewed all the major ideas about the issue and expressed his opinion about it.

Third session was about *Georgia of King David IV and Modern Times (session language – Georgian)*, **Apolon Tabuashvili** served as a chair of the session. **Bondo Kupatadze**, Associate Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), gave a detailed account about *Darbazi, as a Means for Construction of Feudal State*. He paid attention to the term “darbazi” and its origin, also to the development of darbazi and transformations in it. He outlined all continuities and changes connected with the issue.

Giorgi Macharashvili, from Giorgi Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies, Ilia State University, in his paper *Battle for History* summarized his attitude towards current problems Georgian historiography has today. He paid attention to Georgian school text-books, museums, etc.

Nikoloz Javakhishvili, Associate Professor at the Institute of Georgian History (TSU), in his report *From Reminiscence History of the Greatest Georgian Monarch: David IV Agmashenebeli on Georgian Phaleristic and Bonistic Data* gave a detailed account about all initiatives, the Georgians had throughout history, to establish David Agmashenebeli award.

Mzia Tkavashvili, from Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology (TSU), talked about *19th-21st Centuries Foreign Historiography About the “Great Steppe” of David Agmashenebeli Epoch*. She outlined some major events of Kipchak/Cuman history and their connection to David IV’s decision to settle them in Georgia.

There was a discussion after each session.

Closing speech of Prof. Dr. Tedo Dundua was about the future international scientific conferences.