



GEORGIAN
PUBLISHERS AND
BOOKSELLERS
ASSOCIATION

2017

Publishers and Booksellers in

GEORGIA

History of Georgian Book Printing

Mamuka Khantadze

Director of Publishing Studies Centre

The history of Georgian book printing dates back to the time when King Teimuraz I, a great patron of literacy, a poet himself and admirer of European culture, sent his ambassador to Rome to try to secure protection from constant attacks from Persia and the Ottoman Empire. The most noted achievement of Niceforo Irbachi (1585-1658, or Nikoloz Irubakidze-Cholokashvili), the ambassador to the Vatican, was the printing of the first Georgian book. Interestingly, the shapes and outlines of the first printed script for the publication were copied from the letter sent by Teimuraz I to the Pope. In 1629 the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda printed the Georgian-Italian Dictionary compiled by Stefano Paolini to be used by the missionaries sent by the Catholic Church to Georgia. Using moveable type,

The Iberian or Georgian Alphabet with Prayers was published in the same year. Francesco Maria Maggio's *The Georgian Grammar* was published in 1643 by the same printing house. In 1710 Anthim the Iberian, a theologian, scholar, calligrapher, philosopher, one of the greatest ecclesiastic figures of Wallachia, Metropolitan of Bucharest, printed the Gospels in the Georgian language.

The first printing house in Tbilisi, Georgia was established in 1709 initiated by King Vakhtang VI, a notable legislator, scholar, critic, translator and poet. He invited eminent translators, editors, grammar specialists, lexicographers, painters and graphic designers of the time to ensure that the standards were high in his printing house. The publications still amaze today:

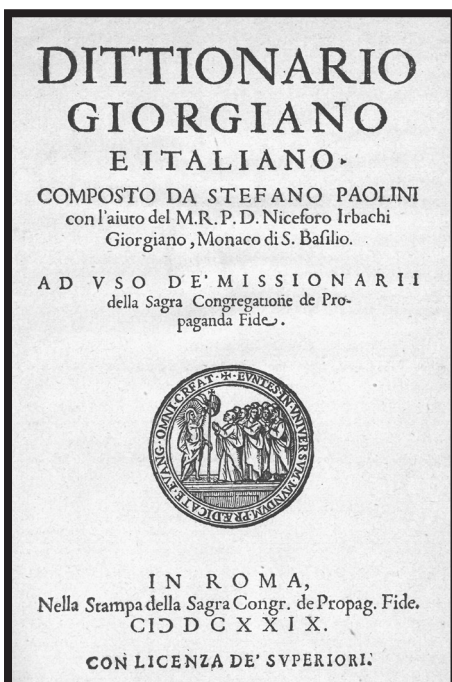
- * The Gospels, 302 pp.,
format 26,5 x 18,5
- * The Acts, 442 pp.,
format 27 x 19
- * The Psalms, 292 pp.,
format 11 x 8.

**The Condac
published in 1710
is printed using
two Georgian
alphabets:
Nuskha-Khutsuri,
or cleric,
principally used in
hagiography, and
Mkhedruli, or civic,
as well as the
Greek and Latin
alphabets.**

Although the origins of the Georgian alphabet are not completely finalized, it is widely accepted that it is one of the most perfect scripts used in the world today because its distinguishing criterion insistently assigns letters to both consonants and vowels on an equal basis. Considered to be descendant of the Semitic or Phoenician alphabet [following the consonantal writing system], the Georgian script added vowels inspired by the Greek alphabet. At the moment it is accepted that the first Georgian script adopted the 22-consonant system of the Semitic alphabet, but supplemented it with vowels and designed more letters to denote the distinctive sounds of the Georgian language.

One of the notable pieces of information about the writing system of the Kartvelian people (or Georgians) is given in Apollonius Rhodius' *The Argonautica*. Argus, one of the characters, instructs the sailors heading for Colchis, telling them about how the capital city of Aea was founded by king Aeetes of Colchis, and that the locals have preserved their ancient records of the roads and lands and seas.

◀ Stefano Paolini, *Georgian-Italian Dictionary,
Title Page in Italian, Rome, 1629*



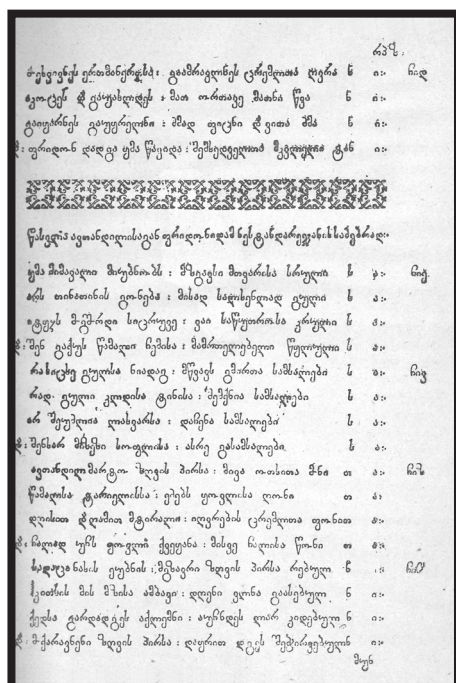
Iakob Tsurtaveli wrote his hagiographic masterpiece *The Passion of Queen Saint Shushanik* in the 5th century, the literary and ideological aspects of which impel many scholars to think that the Georgian language and script were developed well before his time.

The Georgian handwritten books were not created in isolation from the world civilization. In order to better adopt and spread Christianity, Georgian scholars turned their attention to the major Christian centres as early as the 3rd and 4th centuries. And later, in the medieval times as well, the development took a parallel course to those of the Eastern Christian world – Syria-Palestine and Constantinople through close cultural links.

The long history of producing handwritten books in Georgia was constantly enriched by the contemporary cultural influences regarding its diverse educational benefits, as well as its highly ornate design and other aspects known through the medieval times.

The importance of monastic life for the country determined an active in-

volvement of feudal lords in production of handwritten books as well as their copying. The book became the main feature of the country's prosperity and an expression of its cultural status. Such an attitude led to emergence of a wide variety of manuscripts, differing by their shape, design and function. Ultimately, it means that



alongside books designed specifically for monasteries and clergy, there appeared highly ornate manuscripts for personal use of the privileged circles.

The medieval Georgian education and literature focused not only on the cultural and political matters of the Christian country and the corresponding

aspects of statehood, but on discovering and studying the written culture of its nearest Islamic countries such as Persia.

At present there are nearly 11,000 Georgian manuscripts of the period kept in Georgia as well as in many significant libraries round the world.

The 12th century epic masterpiece *The Knight in the Panther Skin* by Shota Rustaveli was printed in Tbilisi in 1712.

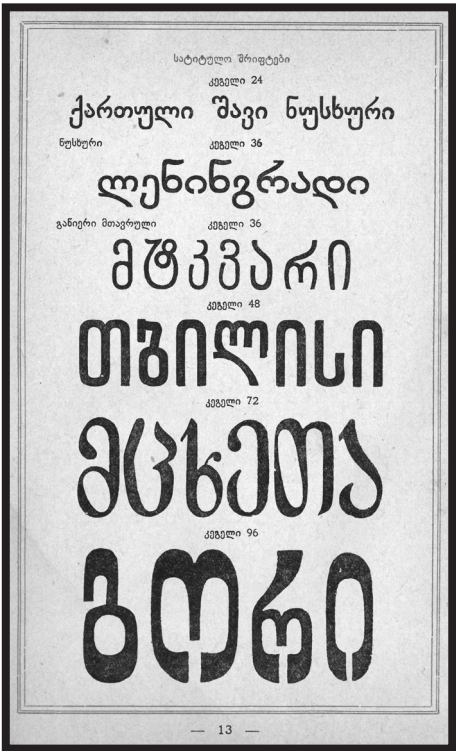
The exceptional importance of the epic poem is reflected in the fact that it is often referred to as the *Second Bible of the Georgians*. It used to be an indispensable item in a young woman's dowry for many centuries, some verses were sung at wedding parties and other social occasions. There were some who could not only quote long passages but recite the whole poem. Even on battlefields, some poetic lines assumed patriotic significance, encouraging the fighters to defend their homeland.

Without any exaggeration, the influence of *The Knight in the Panther Skin* on the medieval as well as modern Georgian literature is hard to overestimate. Rustaveli's epic has always been a powerful inspirational source being considered to be an ideal piece of poetry, the highest poetic standard to be followed.

The first Georgian newspaper *Sakartvelos Gazeti* published in 1819 was the first periodical in the entire Transcaucasia as well as the first non-Russian newspaper in the Empire.

The first Georgian literary magazine *Tsiskari* [Sunrise] was published in 1852 in Tbilisi, its editor was Giorgi Eristavi, the

▼ Samples of georgian fonts of linotype, 1940



founder of the new Georgian theatre. The works of many eminent writers and public figures were published in the magazine for the first time, among them Sul Khan-Saba Orbeliani, Davit Guramishvili, Nikoloz Baratashvili, Ilia Chavchavadze, Akaki Tsereteli, Mamia Gurieli, Grigol Orbeliani and others.

A group of Georgian women writers (Ekaterine Gabashvili, Ekaterine Melikishvili and Elene Kipiani) translated the works of popular foreign writers of the time and initiated the publication of the book for the general public.

In 1881 the Censorship Committee received a catalogue of all Georgian books published from 1629 to the date. Initiated by a group of Georgian publishers (Shamshiev, Kheladze and Melikishvili), the catalogue listed the books in the chronological order of their publication and included 556 titles, among them 116 theological, 181 scientific books and 269 fiction.

A shop selling books among other goods was opened in the 1820s near the Sioni Cathedral in Tbilisi, while a proper bookshop run by the

brothers Enpenjants was opened in 1846, followed by G. Berenstam's in 1857 and Ter-Mikaelian's bookshop in 1863.

The first centralized book distribution organization in Tbilisi was established in 1872. The impact on the capital was practically instant: there were 37 bookshops in 1889 and 56 in 1899.

In 1888 Grigol Charkviani published the first free catalogue of his book stock which was supplemented by a list of all the towns and villages where one could buy Georgian books.

From 1629 to 1920 when Georgia lost its short-lived independence from the Russian Empire, there were 974 book publishers and printing houses. In the period Georgian books were published in Rome, Berlin, Baku, Constantinople, London, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Paris, Istanbul, etc.

The first printers and publishers were: Kristepore Kezherashvili, Kristepore Guramishvili, Giorgi Paichadze, Mirza Muhammed Bakir ul-Tiflizi (who had a printing house in Baghdad, publishing books for Georgian Muslims), Romanos Zubashvili, brothers Arzanov, Ekvtime Kheladze (initiated by the GPBA, one of the streets in Tbilisi was named after him in 2017), Kotsia Tavartkiladze, Ivane Kereselidze, Grigol Charkviani, etc.

**93,659 titles
were published
in Georgia in the
Soviet period
(1921-1990).**

**The leading
publishers were:
*Merani, Sabchota
Sakartvelo,
Nakaduli,
Ganatileba,
Khelovneba,
Metsniereba, TSU
Publishing, the
Central Committee
Publishing.***

The first multi-volume Georgian encyclopedia saw light in the 1970s. The National Library was established in 1946 on the basis of the previously existing Tiflis Public Library, as well as the Georgian Book Chamber.

One of the first independent Georgian publishing houses *Azri* and *Paata Natsvlishvili Publishing* were established in 1993.

The Georgian Publishers' Association was founded in 1996, which later transformed into the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association. In the same year the latter launched the Tbilisi International Book Fair, which has become a regular cultural event since then.

Since 1998 Ivane Javakishvili State University offers a BA course in publishing industry.

In 2018 Georgia is invited as a guest of honour to the Frankfurter Buchmesse.

Georgian publishers take pride in the fact that in terms of development of publishing industry and its diversity Georgia holds a leading position in the region. Apart from feeling proud, they also realize it entails huge responsibility, hard work and dedication in such a competitive atmosphere.

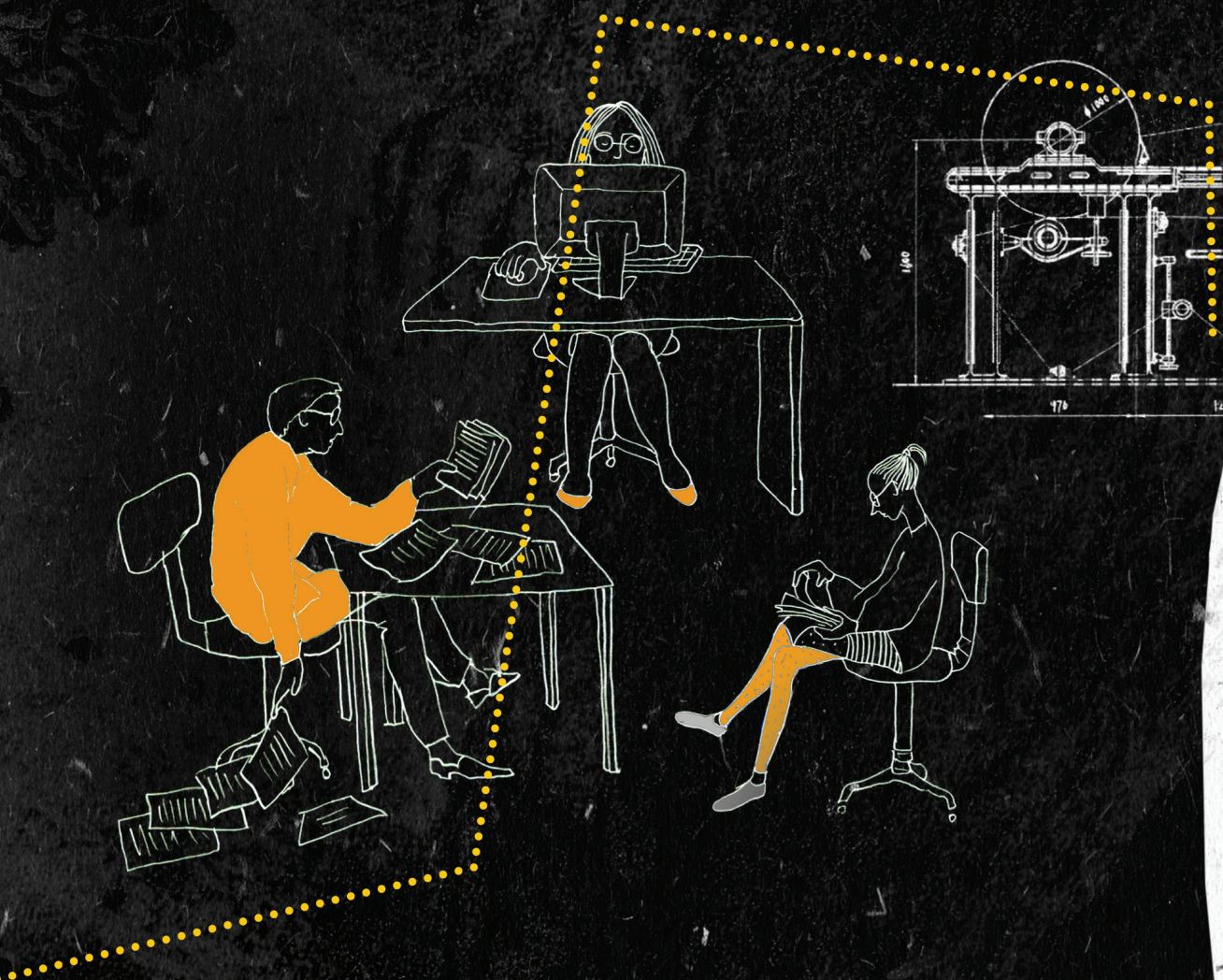
After the country acquired independence in 1991, Georgia went through a turbulent period full of political, social and economic problems. However, it was in this period that the country gradually adopted market economy, the concept accepted and actively supported by the Georgian publishers whose main goal was to publish, promote and sell books in the post-Soviet country. Without exaggeration, it was considered to be a rather idealistic approach, which was often met with certain skepticism.

During the transition, one of the most significant areas that the publishers developed in collaboration with the state and international educational foundations was publishing schoolbooks: a series of modern schoolbooks in different subjects was prepared for Georgian students as well as for those speaking and studying in the languages of ethnic minorities living in the country. The success enabled the publishing industry to concentrate on other projects and to plan further development.

In the last twenty-five years the number of publishers in Georgia has increased significantly. Most of them are actively involved in the cultural, educational and literary life of the country. Modern Georgian literature, new translations, academic and professional literature, books for children and culinary books – all of the highest quality – are widely available through a network of bookshops across the country. Moreover, most of the publications are also available electronically.

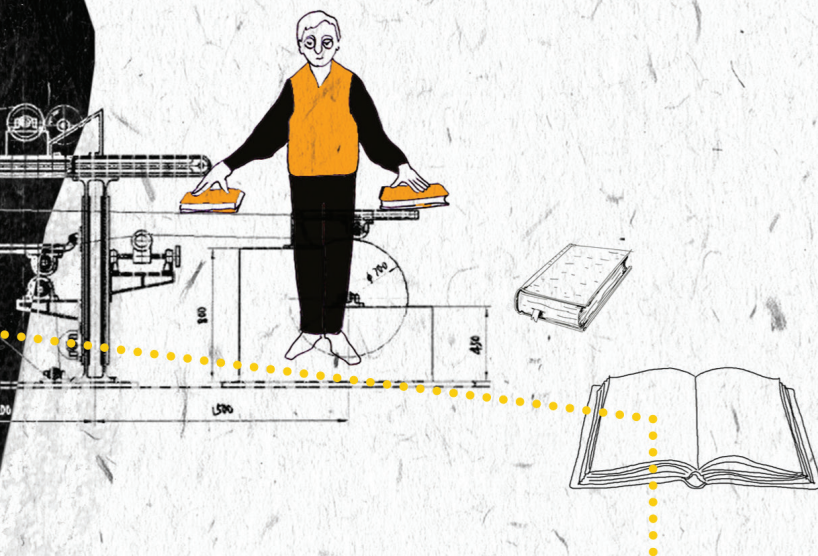
The process of publishing and promoting Georgian literature is viewed as vital for the entire industry. It comprises several stages: relations with authors of different generations, in conjunction with them preparing various texts for publication [novels, prose and poetry collections, documentary prose and critical essays], book presentations, critical reviews published in various professional periodicals as well as coverage by other media, promotion of books through different social networks and their nomination for literary awards. Copyright managers and agents deserve a special mention in this respect because due to their efficiency 190 books and anthologies of more than a hundred different Georgian authors were published worldwide in 2010-2017. The whole process was supported by establishment of the Georgian National Book Center, which has a special translation department promoting Georgian literature abroad.

Georgian as well as foreign readers are particularly interested in the novels, stories and documentary prose (biographies and memoirs) written in the last twenty years because they best reflect everyday life and aspiration of a post-Soviet society, complete with psychological and social crisis, problems related to living in a sovereign country and integrating with the international community, the opportunity that was recently made available for Georgian citizens. Readers might be attracted to the poetry that incorporates century-long traditions and world poetic experience, often offering something new and unexpected through breaking language clichés. Another interesting area is graphic design and publication of books based on original concepts when authors or compilers work in close cooperation with designers or illustrators.



The study of the Georgian book market carried out in 2013-2015 confirmed that translated literature comprises a formidable part of our publishing. The tradition of translating into the Georgian language which dates back to the ancient times is sustained through new translations from more than twenty world languages: Arabic, Old and Modern Greek, German, Spanish, English, Turkish, Persian, French, Swedish, etc.. Our readers are offered high-quality translations of classic as well as modern literature, including the most popular authors and their bestsellers.

One of the most frequented events for book promotion is the Tbilisi International Book Fair held every May in the capital. Seen as the best opportunity to present the hard work required by the industry and its impressive achievements, the Fair draws authors, translators, editors, illustrators, designers, project and PR managers, social media representatives, literary critics, bloggers, journalists, booksellers, marketing managers and bookshop consultants.



Galaktion Tabidze, the great Georgian poet, wrote in his 1949 diary: 'One thing is writing a book but the more important thing (and rather significant in our times) is getting it closer to readers. The book needs leading.' And today the Georgian publishers are trying to accomplish the difficult, highly-responsible task of promoting Georgian literature in Georgia as well as abroad – the undertaking which requires dedication and commitment.

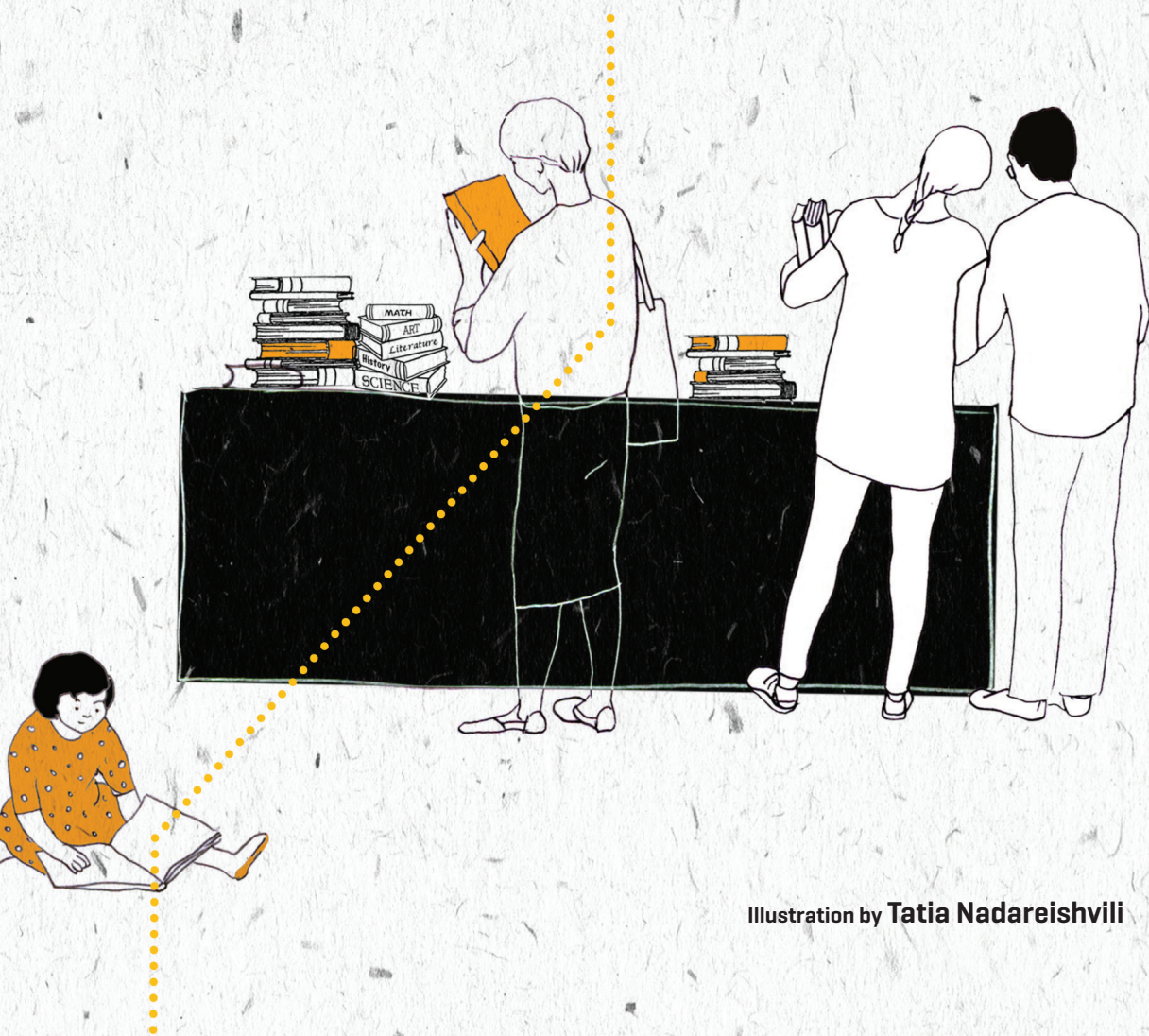


Illustration by Tatia Nadareishvili

About the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association

Gvantsa Jobava

*Vice President of
Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association*

The independent Georgian publishing sector dates back to the 1990s, to the times of the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the last twenty-five years the industry has gone through hard times, faced challenges and overcame difficulties. And finally, in 2018 the Georgian book publishing sector is invited to participate at the Frankfurter Buchmesse as a guest of honour. From the start GPBA [the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association] has taken the responsibility of development and consolidation of the whole publishing sector. The Georgian Association

of Publishers was established in 1996, but in 1998 it transformed into the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association, which joined IPA (International Publishers' Association) in 2007. Today about 90% of Georgian publishers and booksellers are members of the GPBA.

The primary functions of the Association are to define and protect book publishing interests, authors' rights and freedom of publishing, to lobby the sector at various levels. The Association has created the code of practice as well as certain legislation to enhance the publishing industry.

Some of the ongoing projects of the Association are:

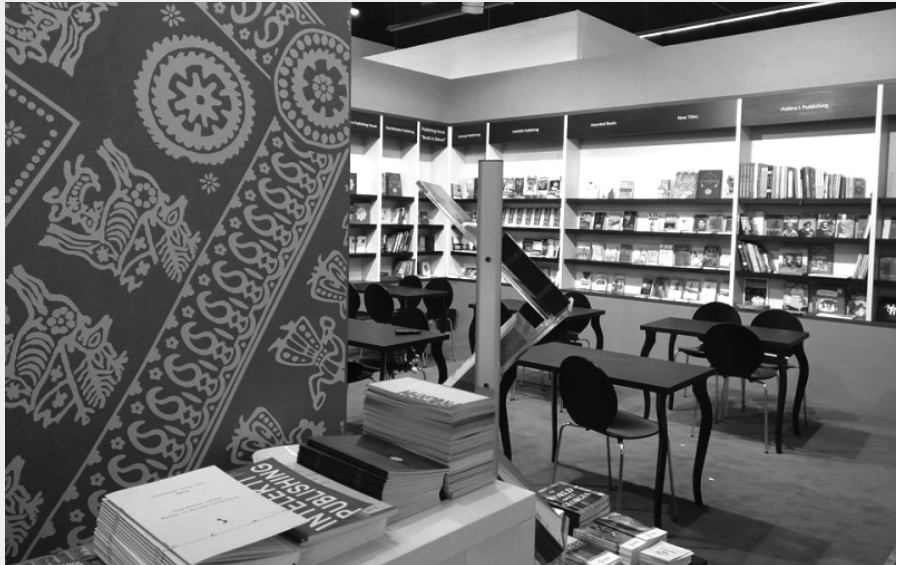
Georgian stand at the Frankfurter Buchmesse

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection and a bit later with the Georgian National Book Center, the GPBA has been responsible for the Georgian national stand since 2007 when the country started to attend the Frankfurter Buchmesse on a regular basis.

The national stand at the Fair serves the purpose of exporting Georgian books and making Georgian culture popular in the world.

In order to introduce national writers and national literature in general, Georgian delegations meet foreign publishers and partners during specially organized events and public reading sessions.

The primary aim of the GPBA is to promote modern Georgian literature abroad, to make it known to foreign publishers as much as possible, to translate it into the main European languages and publish it.



In 2013 an agreement was signed among the Georgian government and the Frankfurter Buchmesse by which Georgia is invited as a guest of honour in 2018.

Georgian stand at the London Book Fair

In partnership with the Georgian National Book Center, the GPBA is responsible for presenting the national stand at the London Book Fair. The organizers hold regular meetings of Georgian publishers with their foreign counterparts with the aim of promoting Georgian literature. It has become a tradition for the Georgian authors to attend the Fair and participate in various events within the Fair framework.

Tbilisi International Book Fair

Initiated by the GPBA, the Tbilisi International Book Fair held since 1997 in the Expo Georgia has proved to be one of the most popular events in the cultural life of Georgia. It is noteworthy that the number of Fair visitors has exceeded 60,000 in the last years.

The aim of the Fair is to promote book reading in Georgia, ensure that the book market reaches all regions of the country and enhance further development of publishing industry. All these

years have resulted in marked popularity of books, which is also proved by the continual increase in the number of visitors, as well as a genuine interest demonstrated by the media and a rising number of new participants.



Every year the Fair hosts local as well as foreign publishers, embassies, state museums, international organizations and foundations. Authors from various countries are regularly invited to participate as guests of honour. The Fair includes different activities and events connected to publishing, bookselling and literature in general: introduction of new publications and writers, public readings, discussions with authors, award ceremonies, professional conferences and seminars.

Children's corner complete with entertaining and learning activities is another regular feature of the Fair.

Under the aegis of NORLA, Norway was the focus country at the 2017 Tbilisi International Book Fair. It is the country that in 2019 will be the next guest of honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse.

Tbilisi New Year Book Fair

Initiated by the GPBA, the Fair has been held since 2014 at the end of December in the National Library of the Georgian Parliament with a regular participation of publishers, booksellers and bookshops.

The aim of the Fair is to promote books in Georgia and support literature, to make books and education available for everyone, as well as to introduce a new tradition of giving books as gifts to family members, friends and the loved ones.



Alongside various events linked with literature, the Fair in-

cludes award-giving ceremonies. Three awards – for teachers, civil activists and different project authors – are given to those who have demonstrated exceptional initiative in further promotion of book reading and education in the country.

The Bestseller of the Year

Based on the statistics provided by bookshops and the GPBA, three bestsellers are identified which are awarded at the New Year Book Fair. The year-by-year list of the bestsellers can be viewed on www.gpba.ge

World Book Day celebration in Georgia

The World Book Day dedicated to book promotion and copyright protection is celebrated in more than 100 countries on the 23rd of April. The GPBA introduced the idea to Georgia in 2003 and since then the tradition has become one of the annual cultural events.

The celebration includes one-day book exhibitions and sales in the open air (streets, squares, university courtyards) with the participation of different publishers who offer their publications at discount prices. Other events are: presentations of new books and authors, public readings, costume parties and other entertaining events.

The aim of the GPBA is to ensure that more and more people get involved in the project. In order to promote its goals, the organization involves art college students, TV companies that have programmes dedicated to books and literature, as well as those responsible for copyright protection. A poetry or prose night traditionally finishes the World Book Day in Georgia.

World Read Aloud Day in Georgia

Initiated by the literacy advocates Litworld, the popular event is organized in more than 100 countries, drawing over 31 million people around the world.

The one-day event held in Georgia includes authors' visits to schools, universities, libraries, bookshops and various cultural centres, where they read extracts from their work. The media involvement in the project is quite impressive, as well as those of individuals, which make the event a truly popular event of the year, ensuring book reading remains attractive and diversified.

Writer, Playwright Davit Gabunia

Book Promoter Award

Initiated by the GPBA, the award was introduced in 2015: a person identified is awarded on the World Read Aloud Day. The person should not be professionally linked to publishing or literature or work for the industry, but his or her vocation,

initiative, activities or financial support were directed towards promoting book reading, once again reminding the public about the significance of literacy and education.



Vouchers for Libraries

For several years now the GPBA has been implementing the project of issuing vouchers to libraries across the country.

The project involves financing regional libraries to enable them to purchase more books, upgrade their stock with modern literature. The libraries are given absolute freedom to select the books they consider worth buying with the voucher received. The ultimate goal of the project is to motivate regional libraries to have modern literature, which they can enrich every year. As a result, it reflects on further development of book publishing and promotion of literature in Georgia.

Books in Print

The GPBA provides an important link (www.booksinprint.ge) to its site that enables any user to find information about those books which are in print by different publishing houses.

Apart from the projects listed above, the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association organizes: professional workshops and seminars for Georgian publishers and booksellers, local book Fairs across the country, participation in international book fairs and festivals. The ultimate goal of the GPBA is to further develop publishing industry and promote book reading in Georgia.

The trusted partners of the GPBA are: the administration of the President of Georgia, the Georgian Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, the Tbilisi Mayor's office, the Georgian National Book Center, the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia, the Writers' House of Georgia, etc.

The Big Book Week

Masho Samadashvili

*International Projects' Coordinator of
Georgian Publishers and Booksellers Association*

When Ilia Chavchavadze, one of the most important Georgian writers and public figures, was returning home in 1861 after being away from his homeland for a long time, he posed a question in his Traveller's Essays, his most significant prose piece: 'How am I going to face my country and how is it going to meet me?'

Georgia has been enjoying its independence for the last twenty-six years, while its fully independent and diverse book publishing

is about twenty years old. Having received a special guest status at the Frankfurter Buchmesse, now the questions for our country can be: How can a small country with rich literature and culture in general return to its European roots and present itself to the world? How is Europe going to welcome it? Can it impress the world? Can it demonstrate its uniqueness? What the new opportunities will the Book Fair offer after 2018 which our country didn't have until now?

Can we actually realize the scale and complexity of the aims connected to the Fair and the emotions caused by their achievement?



We will surely find the answers in slightly more than a year, but in the meanwhile we are certain that:

Starting from 27 February 2013, when the German and Georgian sides signed the historic agreement, the entire Georgian literary world has lived following a new chronology because authors, their literary agents, book publishers and readers are looking forward to October 2018. The Frankfurt Buchmesse 2018 is even more exciting for those who are actively involved in putting the project to life.

We are extremely happy that we, the Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association, are the main

partner of the Georgian National Book Center in organizing such a historic event. The closer the date of Georgia presenting itself as a guest country at the Book Fair, the more vigorous our joint preparation becomes.

The Georgian Publishers and Booksellers' Association has been actively working with various publishers and authors in order to insure that the Georgian corner is as diverse and appealing to all visitors as much as possible. In the five days allocated to us, it is our aim to show the history of publishing in our country, the dynamics of the present day, to demonstrate our goals and identify challenges that face us.

Moreover, we plan to make our authors known to the world, to convince all visitors of the book fair that Georgia is capable of producing the literature that can be of interest to the rest of the world, that we can offer the works that are worth their attention, that Georgian literature can be viewed among thousands of books written and translated into various languages.

We also work on presenting other aspects of publishing, paying particular attention to children's books, book design, art books, modern technologies used in Georgian publishing and many other aspects.

We are preparing to share our knowledge, experience and achievements. In return, we hope you will be willing to share your knowledge and experience, as well as your impressions that will doubtlessly enhance our skills.



Meet you at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018!

Publishers and Booksellers in Georgia

AGORA PUBLISHING HOUSE

ARETE PUBLISHING HOUSE

ARTANUJI PUBLISHING

AZRI PUBLISHERS

BAKMI-PUBLISHERS

BIBLUS

BOOKS IN BATUMI

BOOKCAFE

BOOKS IN VAKE

CREATIVE ANGEL PUBLISHING

DIOGENE PUBLISHERS

ELF PUBLISHING

INTELEKT-PUBLISHING

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY IRIATONI

KARCHKHADZE PUBLISHING

LIT.GE

LOGOS PRESS Ltd

OCHOPINTRE PUBLISHING

PALITRA L PUBLISHING

PEDAGOGIKA

POEZIA PRESS

PROSPERO'S BOOKS

PUBLISHING HOUSE PEGASI

PUBLISHING HOUSE SAKARTVELOS MATSNE

eBOOKS HOUSE SABA

SIESTA

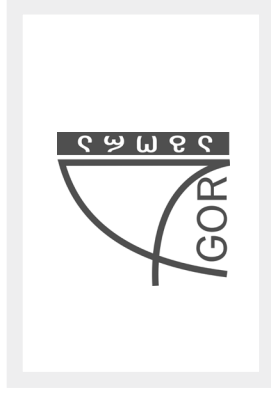
SHEMETSNEBA PUBLISHING

SULAKAURI PUBLISHING

TSIGNI+ERI

USTARI PUBLISHING

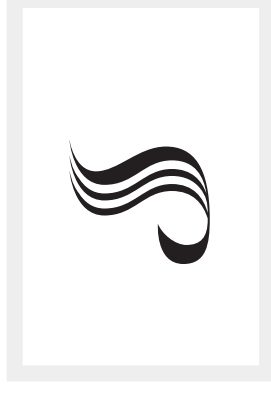
ZEBRA GROUP



Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Translations
Contact Person: Marina Balavadze
Address: 2 Uznadze St., Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: (+995) 555 54 19 00
E-mail: agorageo@hotmail.com
Website: www.agorabooks.ge
Rights Manager: Ekaterine Chachkhiani
E-mail: eka@agorabooks.ge

AGORA PUBLISHING HOUSE

Established in 2006, its editorial policy is fiction - novels, short stories, poetry; philosophical, historical, sociological and anthropological essays, children's books. *Agora's* publishing priority is translations, mostly from the French language.



Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Fiction, nonfiction
Contact Person: Giorgi Darsalia
Address: 25 Chavchavadze Ave.,
Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: (+995) 32 2 25 02 55
E-mail: Gdarsalia@gmail.com

ARETE PUBLISHING HOUSE

Publishing House *Arete* was founded in 2003. Current priorities of the publishing house are works by a renowned Georgian author Otar Chiladze and a series of world classics.





ARTANUJI PUBLISHING

Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Foreign fiction, Georgian and foreign non-fiction, textbooks, academic, historical and children's books, postcards
Contact Person: Gvantsa Jobava
Address: 5 Chavchavadze Ave., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: [+995] 32 2 25 05 22
Fax: [+995] 32 2 25 05 22
E-mail: artanujipublishers@gmail.com
Website: www.artanuji.ge
Rights Manager: Gvantsa Jobava



AZRI PUBLISHERS

Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Fiction, non-fiction, textbooks
Contact Person: Mamuka Khantadze
Address: 18 Mtskheta St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel: [+995] 570 70 00 30
E-mail: azribooks@gmail.com

The publishing house *Artanuji* was founded in 2000 based on the history magazine of the same name. Consequently, its main area of interest is history, historical research and academic aspects. Apart from historical books, *Artanuji* publishes foreign fiction, books on popular science, biographies or autobiographies of famous people, political literature, textbooks, books for children and dictionaries. *Artanuji* is the leader in the diversity and quality of postcards it produces.

Azri Publishers, founded in 1993, is one of the first independent publishing companies in the post-Soviet Georgia. Our priorities are publishing and popularizing young prose authors, documentary prose and books for specialists, including textbooks for universities and colleges.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Children's books

Contact Person: Rusudan Mosidze

Address: 7 G. Robakidze Ave., Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: [+995] 32 2 72 54 99; [+995] 597 75 65 35

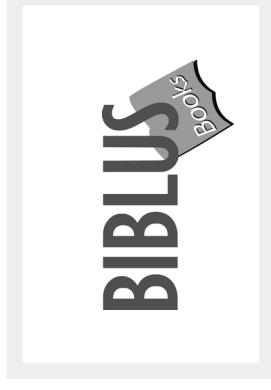
E-mail: bakmipublishing@gmail.com

Website: www.bakmi.ge

Rights Manager: Nino Khinchagashvili

E-mail: nino55560@mail.ru

**BAKMI-
PUBLISHERS**



Profile: Bookstore

Contact Person: Tinatin Peikrishvili

Address: Central: 7a Chavchavadze Ave., Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: [+995] 32 2 48 68 44

E-mail: t.peikrishvili@biblusi.ge

Website: www.biblusi.ge

BIBLUS

The publishing house *Bakmi* was founded in 2000 by Bon-do Matsaberidze and Rusudan Mosidze. Our main aim is to stay loyal to the Georgian literature, raise the coming generation so that they appreciate literacy, equipping them with encyclopedic education, assisting them to master the standard language and develop their thinking; to provide the public with quality literature printed in accordance with the world standards, which is ensured by all our books being produced abroad in trustworthy printing houses.

Bookstore chain *Biblus* was founded on 23 May 2008. The network includes 54 branches throughout the country. Biblus offers a wide variety of books in all genres of literature in different languages as well as stationery.

Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Fantasy, science fiction, romance, classics, young adult series, culinary literature.

Contact Person: Nino Matcharashvili, Deputy Director

Address: 66 Chavchavadze Ave., Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: [+995] 591 90 60 15

E-mail: Ninia@booksinbatumi.ge

Rights Manager: Nino Kiknadze

E-mail: nino@booksinbatumi.ge



BOOKS
IN
BATUMI

Books in Batumi is an independent publishing company that specialises in fiction series with a diverse selection of genres including fantasy, science fiction, romance classic, young adult series, culinary literature.



BOOKCAFE

Profile: Organisation of Art Literature and Selling-Exhibition

Contact Person: Lia Shalvashvili

Address: 15 Guramishvili St., Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: [+995] 599 55 05 54

E-mail: bookcafe841@gmail.com

Website: www.bookcafe.ge

The Ltd. *Bookcafe* is a publishing company that aims at organizing book exhibitions and sales, holding meeting with authors, new book presentations, as well as offering various events enhancing the level of literacy in the country.





Profile: Bookstore

Contact Person: Mariam
Kikacheishvili

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**BOOKS
IN
VAKE**



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Guidebooks,
history, fiction, dictionaries,
translation

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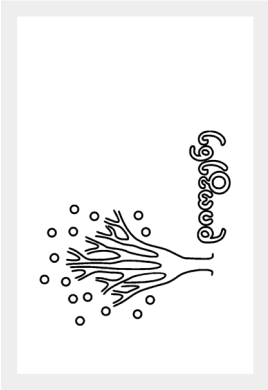
Rights Manager: Irakli Beridze

**CREATIVE
ANGEL
PUBLISHING**

The company was founded on 14 December 2009 and soon opened a bookshop of the same name. The bookshop offers a wide range of books provided by Georgian publishers and booksellers [fiction, educational, scientific, biographic, dictionaries, etc.]. Apart from books, the shop has a rich choice of stationary, gifts for children as well as publications imported from the UK, Russia and the US. We have successfully cooperated with *Tashen*, *Wordsworth Classics*, *Assouline*, *Garage*, *АМФОРА*, *ТЕКСТ*, *ЭКМО*, *А3БУКА*, *АСТ*, with the plans of expanding our products by establishing links with other foreign publishers.

We have been around long enough to know a thing or two about this business. And since, ultimately, the tree is known by its fruit, we let our books speak for themselves.





Profile: Publishing House
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Rights Manager: Zaza Shengelia

DIOGENE **PUBLISHERS**

Founded in 1995, *Diogene Publishers* is one of the oldest publishing houses in Georgia. Known for its literary quality, *Diogene* published several prize-winning Georgian authors. Translations are at the core of *Diogene Publishers'* identity.

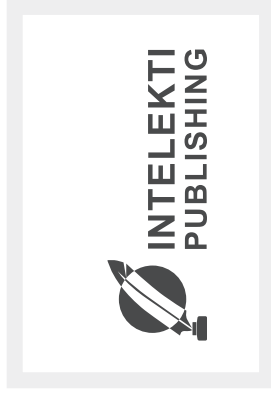
Our priorities are adult fiction and non-fiction.



Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Children's literature
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Website: www.elf.ge
Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/Elf.Publishing.House/?fref=ts>
Rights Manager: Leila Kirtadze
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ELF **PUBLISHING**

Elf Publishing was founded in 1996 by a journalist and translator Tinatin Didebulidze. The publishing house co-operates with the biggest and most famous publishers. *Elf Publishing* is annually presented at Frankfurt Buchmesse and Bologna Book Fair. Publishing Priorities: Children's books, fiction, cognitive literature, encyclopedias, fresh translations of the world classics and publishing unknown literary works into Georgian.



Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Georgian contemporary fiction, classics, foreign fiction, non-fiction, textbooks, children's books
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INTELEKTI PUBLISHING

Intelekti Publishing is one of the most active and prominent organizations in the Georgian cultural, educational, and publishing realms. School textbooks for Georgian and non-Georgian schools, classic and modern literature, international masterpieces of literature and the most important authors that Georgian readers have become acquainted with for the first time are the themes and projects that Intelekti has been working on for over twenty years.

Intelekti regularly participates in various international book fairs, actively promoting Georgian literature outside Georgia.



Profile: Book Distribution Company
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DISTRIBUTION COMPANY IRIATONI

Founded in 2013, the distribution Company *Iriatoni* operates throughout Georgia by mainly distributing books, postcards and souvenirs. In total, the company has more than 1,500 points of sales in the country.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Children's books, new books, fiction, non-fiction, encyclopedias, atlases and art books.

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**KARCHKHADZE
PUBLISHING**

One of the leading Georgian publishers of children's books, references, encyclopedias, atlases, children's fiction, Georgian modern classics, art books and Georgian cultural heritage editions.



LIT.GE

Lit.ge is the first and the largest eBook publisher and seller company in the Caucasus operating since 2011. *Lit.ge* is collaborating with all Georgian publishers and authors. Since 2014 *Lit.ge* is offering eBook solutions, including eBook reader apps and websites to different companies.

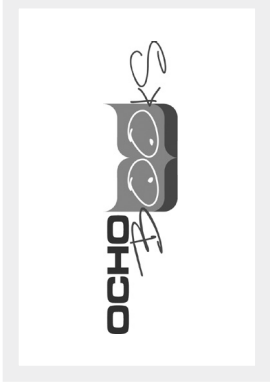


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Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Books for children, art books
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LOGOS PRESS
Ltd



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OCHOPINTRE
PUBLISHING

Logos Press Ltd was established in 2000. The publishing priorities include books for children and art books. Being one of the leading school textbook publishers from 2006 to 2012, the company has published in Georgian language such prominent titles as *Story of Art* by E. H. Gombrich and *Clockwork Orange* by George Orwell. Among the most recent big projects there is a special series of picturebooks titled *The Georgian Treasury for Children*: selected Georgian verses, short stories, fables, myths and fairy tales.

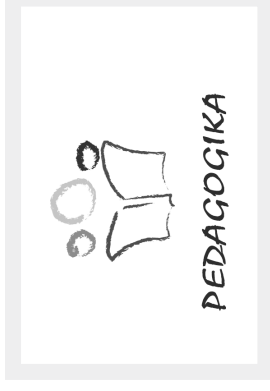
Ochopintre Publishing is a young and growing company with publishing priority of translated adult fiction.





PALITRA L PUBLISHING

Profile: Publishing House
Publishing Priority: Fiction, children's books
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PEDAGOGIKA

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Publishing Priority: Textbooks and scientific literature
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Palitra L Publishing is a subsidiary of *Palitra Media Holding*. Today it boasts the title of the largest and most successful enterprise in the Georgian publishing market. Each year, we publish over 400 books of various genres, by Georgian and foreign authors alike. Cooperating with the world's leading publishing houses and agencies. We release books for readers of all ages and tastes.

We've implemented a multitude of innovative and large-scale projects, including world classic series *50 Books to Read Before You Die*, *Illustrated History of Georgia*, YA series *Liberteens*, business literature series *Blue Ocean* and others.

Established in 1994, the Publishing House *Pedagogika* produces educational, methodological, scientific and children's literature. Our audience are teachers, pupils, their parents, students and other educational specialists.



POEZIA PRESS

Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Translation of Georgian poetry into English and documentary prose from English to Georgian.

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Website: FB.com/PoeziaPress

Right Manager: Nato Alhazishvili

Poezia Press is a boutique publisher that started with the publication of the first poetic translation of the Georgian medieval classic *The Knight in the Panther Skin*. The translation, by Lyn Coffin, received literary prize SABA in 2016. Apart from translations of Georgian poetry, Poezia Press publishes historical non-fiction, focusing on the period of the First Georgian Republic.



PROSPERO'S BOOKS

Profile: Bookstore & Coffehouse

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Fax: [+995] 32 2 92 09 01

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Website: www.prosperosbookshop.com

Prospero's Books mission is to create the environment for the local and expatriate customers to experience the best quality services and products. We strive to be valuable resources to our customers and help them to benefit from each buy.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Fiction, children's literature, youth literature, documentary prose, cognitive literature.

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**PUBLISHING
HOUSE
PEGASI**

We are happy that since our foundation we are actively trying to introduce novelty to Georgian readers, to promote still unknown authors. Also, the aim of our editorial staff is to translate into the Georgian language the works of previously unknown foreign authors and make them available for Georgian readers. Our publishing priorities are: Fiction, children's literature, youth literature, documentary prose, cognitive literature.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Fiction, schoolbooks, dictionaries, children's literature, journals, magazines, etc.

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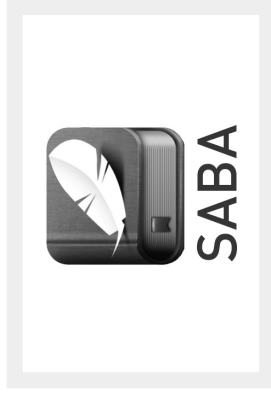
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**PUBLISHING
HOUSE
SAKARTVELO
S MATSNE**

Since the foundation in 1996, the publishing house *Sakartvelos Matsne* is actively trying to introduce novelty to Georgian readers, to promote still unknown authors. Also, the aim of our editorial staff is to translate into the Georgian language the works of previously unknown foreign authors and make them available for Georgian readers. We publish almost 50 new books each year. We also publish primary schoolbooks and books for high school education.



Profile: eBook Company

Publishing Priority: All categories

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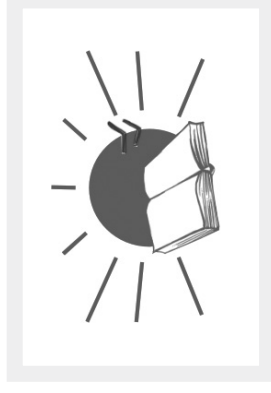
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E-mail: service@saba.com.ge

Website: saba.com.ge

SHEMETSNEBA PUBLISHING



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Comprehensive books for children and youth, fiction, textbooks, journals, scientific literature, guidebooks for tourists, reference books and postcards

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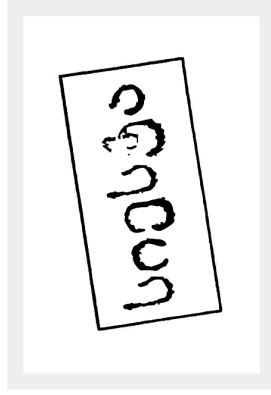
Website: www.shemetsneba.ge

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Machavariani

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eBOOKS HOUSE SABA sells eBooks of all categories. It brings together a diverse literature published in English and Georgian, as well as foreign classics, masterpieces of the contemporary literary scene, bestsellers, and nominees and laureates of the most prestigious and notable Georgian literary prize **SABA**. **SABA** is the leading eBook retailer in Georgia founded in 2012. Users registered on the website can download and read eBooks without the internet, on any device through specially designed application **SABA Reader**. **SABA** also enables writers, editors, bloggers or any other individuals to register themselves as electronic publishers and publish their texts on the website along with the other well-known publications. **SABA** serves as the platform for the largest audiobook collection in Georgia. The audiobook reader is adapted for people with visual impairment and lost vision.

The independent Georgian publishing house *Shemetsneba* was founded in 2005 by Ms. Lia Shalvashvili (Founder and Director). *Shemetsneba's* publication priorities are comprehensive books for children and youth, fiction, textbooks, journals, scientific popular literature, guidebooks for tourists, reference books and postcards.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Fiction, modern Georgian authors, modern classics, translations.

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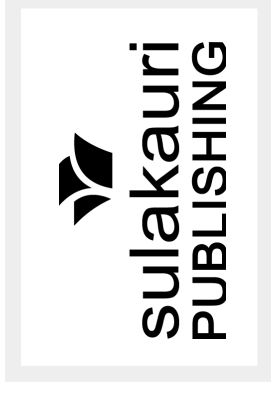
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Rights Manager: Ketevan Kighuradze

SIESTA

Siesta Group, which is providing publishing, advertising and distribution services, was founded in 2004. During 13 years of its existence *Siesta* published more than 300 books. Our authors are the nominees and winners of all major Georgian literature prizes such as: *Saba*, *Gala*, *Tsero* and *Litera*. *Siesta* is the founder and organizer of literature festival *Lit-Tour*. Our team is developing new projects in order to offer Georgian readers a wide variety of editions and diversity of choices.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priorities: Adult, Teenage and Children's Fiction; Contemporary Georgian fiction; Activity Books; Textbooks.

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**SULAKAURI
PUBLISHING**

Sulakauri Publishing was founded in 1999 as a small independent publishing house, but after years of hard work it gained a well-deserved reputation and nowadays stands as the leading publisher in Georgia. The invariable priority for the publishing team is to provide valuable, high-quality, timeless and timely books for Georgian readers. *Sulakauri* offers the widest range of publications, covering the interests of all age groups. Apart from providing high quality translations, *Sulakauri* actively publishes contemporary Georgian literature. They seek and support new talents and keep publishing the most prominent authors, including Aka Morchiladze, Lasha Bugadze, Dato Turashvili and Archil Kikodze.



Profile: Publishing house
Publishing Priority: Psychological, popular scientific, children's books, encyclopedias, bilingual editions
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TSIGNI+ERI



Profile: Publishing House
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USTARI
PUBLISHING

Publishing House *Tsigni+eri* was founded in April 2012 by Paata Khunashvili. *Tsigni+eri* publishes popular scientific and educational literature for all generations. It has published a multivolume edition *Our Virtues (Chveni Girse-bani in Georgian)*, representing Georgian spiritual and material values. The publication includes short stories by Vazha-Pshavela, *The Canon Of Repetance* by King David the Builder, *On the Gallows* by Ilia Chavchavadze and *Fishes of Georgia* in two (Georgian-English) languages, as well as School Encyclopedia, and Georgian and Foreign Tales. One more trend that the publishing house develops is psychology.

The women-owned company *UstariPublishing* was founded in 2010. The main interest of our business is to publish supporting educational literature for students and teachers, in accordance with the standards and requirements of the *Georgian Ministry of Education and Science*. We can say that *Ustari Publishing* is one of the leading Georgian publishers providing educational materials, technologies, assessment and related services to teachers and students of all ages. We are proud that competent and specially invited education experts, textbook authors, teachers and psychologists work with us. *Ustari* also publishes artistic, technical, educational and children's literature, both original and translated, dictionaries and references.



Profile: Publishing House

Publishing Priority: Children's books, fiction for adults

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ZEBRA
GROUP

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Translated by:

Maya Kiasashvili

Illustration Credit:

Tatia Nadareishvili (page10-11)

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GEORGIAN
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BOOK
CENTER



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