

## **JEAN CHARDIN REPORTS ABOUT KUTAISI ACCORDING TO “THE TRAVELS”**

### **ABSTRACT**

The article presents an analysis of travel impressions of Georgia, particularly, Kutaisi by the 17th century French traveler Jean Chardin. The author provides a thorough description of countless facts and events that he personally encountered there.

There was little information about Georgia in the 17th century France. Probably, the purpose of Chardin’s trip to our country was to provide the Europeans with detailed information about Georgia.

In 1664, Jean Chardin traveled to India to arrange his father’s business and this was his first journey to faraway destinations during which he toured several countries of the East. From India, Jean went to Persia, where he spent six years. In 1671, he published his first work “Coronation of Suleiman” (the Shah of Persia).

On August 17, 1671, Chardin returned to Persia. This time he took a short and direct route from Constantinople to Persia via the Black Sea and the Caucasus. It was at this time that he wrote an essay, a considerable part of which focuses on Georgia.

In August 1672, Chardin arrived in Samegrelo. At that time, Pasha of Akhaltsikhe was ravaging western Georgia. The traveler gives a detailed account of these events.

In Georgia, Chardin especially bonded with Father Zampi, the Italian missionary whose writings, in the form of excerpts, he used in his own work.

The traveler stayed in Kutaisi from January 1 to January 25, 1673. He described the geographical location of the city, and met the King, the Bishop of Gaenati and the Queen. Despite the insufficient description, Chardin’s account of Kutaisi is rather interesting.

**Keywords:** History of Georgia (17th c.), Jean Chardin, French travelers in Georgia.