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FROM THE HISTORY OF PRINTING GEORGIAN BOOKS IN ISRAELI

In the last quarter of the 20th century one of the most important cultural activities of the Jews emigrated from Georgia was publication of Georgian language newspapers "Alia" and "Drosha" (unfortunately their publications has ceased) and of Georgian books. Presently we witness publication of quite a number of books. These publications have made many Georgian language Hebrew authors famous. They are the people of different generations writing books of poetry and various prose collections; most conspicuous common sentiments in their works are nostalgia of Georgia, sense of gratitude, charm and the attraction to the country they have been cherishing for years. Technical level of these publications corresponds to highest standards, although their artistic merits, naturally, are of different qualities. The main themes are also memory and feelings experienced in Georgia.

Among the publications of the recent period I would like to single out the novel of Sulo Sepiashvili "Flight from Nowhere" the first and the second part of which were published in 2001 and 2002, respectively. The book has a summary in Hebrew. The novel aroused keen interest in Israeli and in Georgia.

The novel "Flight from Nowhere" is a vast saga of a Jewish family that provides realistic picture of the dramas of Jewish communities and the brightest parts of Jewish-Georgian relationships:

Sulo Sepiashvili's novel is a noteworthy phenomenon in the Jewish-Georgian relationship distinguished not only with the breadth but also with the complexity of exposition. The novel also reflects the change in the world-views among the different generations raising the question whether or not the new generations, born in Israeli, continue to maintain the same relations to Georgia? The answer to the question could only be entrusted to the Future.

Georgian books published in Israeli are interesting cultural phenomena. They preserve the information of the common life and development of the two nations, stories of historical co-existence. The publications as facts create an interesting literary process that ought to give birth to more examples of high standard literature.