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### FROM THE HISTORY OF PUBLISHING GEORGIAN BOOKS IN ISTANBUL

The Georgian Catholic Church established in Istanbul in the 60s of the nineteenth century by the active efforts and guidance of Petre Kharistchirashvili became strong Georgian spiritual culture centre abroad. From the start the heads of the centre founded printing press that made it possible to publish Georgian books. Before that Petre Kherischirashvili having been a priest in Venice had gained valuable experience in publishing business. He made specialists cast Georgian types of various kinds and began printing Georgian books from 1855.

From 1870s to the 30s of the 20th c. tens of books were published in the Istanbul Georgian printing press. Naturally, majority of those books were religions ones, however, there were quite a number of text-books, fiction and historical and political themes. Unfortunately, Petre Kharistchirashvili and his friends could not realize all their wishes to publish many books they had planted to print. The process was thwarted because of the prohibition of disseminating their production in Georgia.

Apart from Istanbul Petre Karistchirashvili and his brethren established one more Georgian catholic cloister in a small town of Montobant. France by the close of 70s of 19th. c. Andria Tsinamdzgvashvili, the head of the cloister, began publishing Georgian books in France by the active support of Petre Kharistchirashvili. Montobant Georgian printing press did not reach the scales of the Istanbul Georgian cloister publications; nevertheless this was also one of the most important facts in the Georgian immigrant culture.