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SVIMON EGNATASHVILI (IGNATIEV)

In the 70s of 18th century a man from the Georgian emigrant society of Petersburg published two works that had initials of the translator. "...". As is known in the specialist literature these initials

are of Svimon Egnatashvili (Ignatiev)'s.

Svimon Iagorovich Egnatashvili (Ignatiev) comes from a nobility of Kartli kingdom whose family moved to Russia after the demise of King Vakhtang VI. Svimon Egnatashvili graduated from the Moscow University and worked at the same University for a certain period. In the literary circles he was known as an interpreter and translator. He helped Georgians to translate from Georgian into Russian as well as Russian officials to translate from Russian into Georgian.

Svimon Egnatashvili (Ignatiev) worked as a secret agent for the Russian empire at the end of the 18th century. He had sworn the oath to Gregory Potyomkin and got in touch with him through Colonel Popov. Svimon Egnatashvili assisted Garsevan Chavchavdze, an ambassador of Erekle II, to furnish his translations and earned his trust. This fact is attested from the letter which was found and published by professor I. Tsintsadze.

In spite of the fact that Svimon Egnatashvili is a prominent public man in the Russian empire at the close of the 18th century and a promoter of Russo-Georgian relationships at the same time he carries out clandestine activities in favor of the Russian empire. However, some scholars (N. Makhatadze, G. Kikodze) find justification of his steps in the sense that his motivation was not betrayal of his country. But he opposed King Erekle II for the purpose of bringing heirs of Vakhtang VI to the Kartli throne.