

LELA CHOGOVADZE

UNPUBLISHED PERSONAL LETTERS BY SAPO MGELADZE

Repressions carried out by the Soviet government destroyed the lives of many writers including Sapo Mgeladze living in 20s and 30s of the 20th century. Her way of writing was rather distinguished and popular. Her speech was always marked by courage when participating in meetings, discussions and evenings with the writers in the Writers Palace. That is exactly why the ideologized critics from the Writers Union were so ill-disposed towards her. Sapo is famous for her speech delivered at the meeting that was dedicated to Mayakovsky Jubilee: “you have killed Mayakovsky; you have made him write his poems on spittoons; having realized this, he would have surely killed himself”. Sapo’s work has been severely opposed. She did not give up her struggle... but she was rather alone in her endeavours. Sapo used to ask for help from high-minded people, her young readers; she wrote letters to them sharing her anguish and asked them to help her sell her books. The paper deals with two such letters that are dated to 1935. Apparently the government did not forgive Sapo Mgeladze her sharp remark regarding Mayakovsky’s death and committed physical violence against her.