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THE FIRST STAGE OF TRADING RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GEORGIA IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 18TH CENTURY

Commercial communication between Transcaucasus and Russia began in the second half of the 18th century, following the opening of the so-called "Dariali road". Russia regarded Transcaucasus as a source of raw materials. Georgian merchants used to travel to the Mozdok, Astrakhan, Makarievo and Nizhegorod fairs mainly for conducting trade activities. During the above-mentioned period the merchants from Tbilisi played intermediary roles. Russian or European goods delivered through Russia used to transfer to Transcaucasian cities as well as Iran via Tbilisi.

Materials of administrative office of the Mozdok checkpoint indicate that the Merchants from Kutaisi played a noticeable role in trade activities with Russia. It is important that they used to export mostly local goods to Russia.

In the second half of the 18th century the trading activities with Russia were characterized as a petty retail trade with development prospects inherent in monetary and commodity connections.