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VAKHUSHTI BAGRATIONI AND THE ISSUES OF HISTORIC GEOGRAPHY OF TEKHURI GORGE

The research work by Vakhushti Bagrationi, the well-known Georgian scientist and statesman of the 18th century, represents a very important treasure in the history of Georgian culture and science.

For the thorough study of historical-geographical and social-economic situation of Georgia in the Middle Ages his major work “Description of the Kingdom of Georgia”, based on his own observations and the study of historical sources, and his cartographic atlas are priceless.

Vakhushti deals with the small kingdoms and principalities created as a result of disintegration of the unified Georgia (the second half of the 15th century) and provides us with a description of historical past and geographic specificities.

In his work Vakhushti described Qartli, Kakheti, Hereti, Kukheti, Didoeti, Samtskhe-Saatabago, Klarjeti; and some regions of Western Georgia. Vakhushti's description of these regions (especially Abkhazia, Odishi, Guria, Svaneti) is schematic and less precise. This was caused by the lack of information about these regions.

The proposed paper is dealing with the study of historical geography of Tekhuri gorge as reflected in Vakhushti Bagrationi's work. In terms of investigation of the above-mentioned issue the geographical atlases compiled by the scientist in 1735 and 1745 are very important.

While examining the issues of historical geography of Tekhuri gorge, the author discusses the etymology of hydronym „Tekhuri”, and the settlements (Isuleti, Senaki, Nakalakevi). At the same time, the history of Salipartiano as the feudal unit and localization of mountain Unagira are highlighted, taking into consideration the modern historiography.