

## **VLADIMER TSVERAVA, ELDAR TAVBERIDZE**

### **NINO THE QUEEN OF MEGRELIA (1772-1847)**

Nino, the daughter of George XIII and the granddaughter of Erekle II is among the most honorable Georgian women.

Due to the rivalry between Imereti and Samegrelo (Odishi) Erekle II had to make a decision regarding marriage arrangements between Nino and Prince Grigol Katsia Dadiani, and Mariam Katsia Dadiani and Solomon II, the King of Imereti. Erekle II regarded it to be a favourable opportunity for fostering friendly relations between Imereti and Samegrelo.

Grigol Dadiani died in 1804. The Russian government appointed Nino as a deputy ruler of Samgrelo. She decided to leave an extended Principality to her heir – Levan. Nino delivered numerous documents to the Russian government in order to verify the fact that Abkhazeti was an integral part of Odishi-Samegrelo in the past. When taking the Poti castle with Odishi troops Nino became famous. Governor-general in his letter to the Emperor informed him about her courage and asked him to reward her.

Nino's suggestions assisted her son-in-law, the Prince of Abkhazeti to reconcile with rebellious communities and feudals. Nino was finally convinced in treacherous behaviour of the Russians. She decided to leave for Saint Petersburg in order to assist her son. She had spent 35 years in Russian Empire and died in 1847 in Saint Petersburg. She is buried in the Alexander Nevsky Monastery.