

GIAKHOPERIA, NATO GULUA

TURKEY THROUGH THE EYES OF SCHOLAR AND WRITER

(“TURKISH DIARIES” BY AVTANDIL NIKOLEISHVILI)

To a certain extent, the development of travel genre in Georgian literature at the end of the 20th century is related to elimination of the visa regime between Georgia and several countries; for numerous Georgian public figures this made travel and free movement to different countries possible. Since 1990s various memoirs have been written that are interesting in many respects. Among them A. Nikoleishvili's “Turkish Diaries” has a special place; impressions of the visits to Turkey at various times, scholarly field trips as well as tourist travel served as a basis for such literary contribution.

“Turkish Diaries” consists of several chapters. Its parts are arranged thematically (rather than chronologically). The first part deals with the history of the Georgian cultural centers located in Turkey; while the second part outlines the relations developed between Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University and various Turkish Universities during the author's term in office as Rector of Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University; the third part describes the impressions of the field trips and tourist visits to Turkey.

A. Nikoleishvili provided us with his unforgettable memories accumulated over the years in the form of a diary, contributing to the strengthening of friendly relations between Georgia and Turkey.