

GIA KHOPERIA

KITA ABASHIDZE'S *ESSAYIST ART*

Kita Abashidze is one of those who laid a foundation of literary criticism in Georgia. His "Etudes" adequately provide an insight into the process of development of the 19th century Georgian literature. Initially, Kita Abashidze published essays on literary works of Al. Chavchavadze, Gr. Orbeliani, N. Baratashvili, Iliia, Akaki, Vazha-Pshavela and Al. Kazbegi that have almost the same depth and intensity as monographs. These essays provide a highly professional discussion on the world view as well as artistic depths of the above-mentioned writers.

Kita Abashidze's creative mastery in literature deserves special mention. His "Etudes" or essays are not sufficiently studied in terms of literary devices. Apart from a literary critic's extensive experience and explicit criteria for the evaluation of works, the ability to touch the human soul and a unique temperament of written material are of particular importance. These qualities, combined with the features of K. Abashidze's writing manner, allow us to openly describe him as not only a *dry-style* critic but also a remarkably talented researcher.