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SILOVAN KHUNDADZE –EMIGRANT’S MEMORIES

Viktor Nozadze, the eminent Rustvelologist, political activist, writer and publicist, the editor and publisher of a number of journals and magazines, left a very interesting memory of the principal of Kutaisi Gymnasium, Ioseb Otskheli.

The author wrote down this recollection after 40 years in emigration and published it in Paris in the XII issue of the journal “Kavkasioni”. Along with the principal, he also recalls his favourite teacher Silovan Khundadze: “I remember very well when one day Mr. Silovan Khundadze, the famous teacher and writer, the inspector of the gymnasium called me and introduced me to a young man: ‘this young man is an Armenian from Erevan. He passed all his subjects, the only exam he failed is Georgian and we accepted him under one condition. You must teach him the Georgian language and I hope he will prepare for the Georgian language and literature in the future.’ I gladly agreed and at the end of that year, this young man successfully passed his Georgian exam”.

Viktor Nozadze portrays Silovan Khundadze as a strict, fair and dedicated teacher who was always distinguished by his directness. Silovan was a very kind man, but at the same time he was quick-tempered and did not believe in Social-Democrats. He called young social-democrats “Snakes” and we all knew it though we never took it as an insult.

Viktor Nozadze was grateful to Silovan Khundadze, the teacher of the Georgian Language and Literature because during his years at the gymnasium he encouraged national spirit, moral, particular way of thinking, and love of literature and art.