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ANACREONTIC-EPICUREAN MOTIF IN ALEXANDER CHAVCHAVADZE'S POETRY

Alexander Chavchavadze has been perceived and assessed by the Georgian literary criticism as the one who celebrated wine, "roses and nightingales", and the representative of bacchic and erotic poetry. It was a rather incomplete assessment. His verses written on the above themes do not represent the poet's spiritual credo. The wine cult is the topic of Alexander Chavchavadze's many verses. That allowed for grasping the parallels between the literary works of the Georgian Romanticist poet and the ideas of Anacreon and Epicurus. According to I. Grishashvili, Anacreon's path was followed by Alexander Chavchavadze in Georgia. In V. Kotetishvili's opinion, the anacreontic-epicurean motifs in the poet's legacy are generally typical to the European Romanticism.

Al. Chavchavadze had been acquainted with Anacreon's poetry. It is of special interest for us to compare Anacreontic verses by A. Pushkin to the original. There is an Anacreontic verse among Chavchavadze's compositions. Epicurean elements are also found in Alexander Chavchavadze's poetry. Like Epicurus, Al. Chavchavadze assesses pleasure through mind. "Live unnoticed" is the advice of Epicurus. As opposed to Epicurus, Chavchavadze's entire literary legacy is against such understanding of life. His aspirations for patriotism and healthy love are evident in his poetry which combines a long tradition of the old Georgian literature, on the one hand, and the origins of new romanticism, on the other hand.