

OTAR NIKOLEISHVILI

FRENCH DIPLOMAT VICOMTE MARIE-EUGÈNE-MELCHIOR DE VOGÜÉ ABOUT KUTAISI

Among the many famous foreign travelers visited in Kutaisi and the whole Georgia in the XIX century, we should undoubtedly mention French diplomat, orientalist, travel writer, archaeologist, philanthropist and literary critic Vicomte Marie-Eugène-Melchior de Vogüé(1848-1910).In 1875-1882 he served as a secretary of French embassy in Saint Petersburg. During this period, he travelled around the Russian Empire, including in our country. In 1882 Marie-Eugène-Melchior de Vogüé quitted his diplomatic career after which, in 1888 he became the member of French Academy. He had many books and works about his travelling impressions and experiences.Marie-Eugène-Melchior de Vogüé's one of the most important works for us, is "Through the Caucasus". It is one of the parts of the book called "The Tsar and his People: or, Social Life in Russia", which was published in 1891 in New York.Our interest in this book mainly was evoked by the fact that, it contains many interesting information about Georgian history, culture, traditions and social life of population in the second half of the XIX century.

Conclusively, it will not be an exaggeration if we say that Marie-Eugène-Melchior de Vogüé's above mentioned work, despite certain inaccuracies, should be considered to be a significant and very interesting material for the re-se-archers, studying the events taking place in Tbilisi and in whole Georgia at that period.