

## MAKAKATSADZE CERTAIN ISSUES OF AKAKI TSERETELI'S EPISTOLARY LEGACY

Akaki Tsereteli's epistolary legacy is priceless not only for writing the poet's biography and understanding his spiritual world but also for the study of works by the great Georgian writer. In some cases the poet's letters represent the best tool for identifying facts and artistic ideas in his creative works.

These letters reflect the entire epoch, Akaki Tsereteli's social circumstances, his grief and joy, and his moderate sensitivity and self-restraint. The poet is often laconic, briefly expressing his thoughts in a distinctive outspoken manner. The letters sent to his mother from Petersburg during his student years in 1860s have a vital importance for identifying young writer's intellectual interests. They reflect the ideas of a young and intelligent man.

The poet's letters reveal Akaki's public and literary works in many spheres of life, namely, his efforts in gathering limitless treasure of the Georgian folk art. For example, in his letter (dated 15th of July, 1879) to educator Tedo Kiknadze, Akaki wrote: "the folklore is my main motivation, I should put my final attempt into it and let it find its way."

In his private correspondence he is impartial, persistent, and full of regret, love and gratitude, striving to encourage others and alleviate their suffering.

Akaki Tsereteli's private correspondence sheds light on his struggle in the period of social and national suppression, and manifests the fate of outstanding individuals in the past.

These letters prove that Akaki's life and poetic ideals were inseparable.