

**UNKNOWN DOCUMENTS DEPICTING  
AKAKI TSERETELI'S PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIFE  
(AKAKI AND GEORGIAN MUSLIMS)**

**ABSTRACT**

Current studies of Akaki Tsereteli's creative works have revealed many hitherto unknown new materials banned by the censorship. These materials present both publicist letters and business papers and documents of the poet that reflect Akaki's attitude towards Georgian Muslims living outside Georgia, particularly, in Turkey and Iran.

Adjara, having been cut off from her motherland and having become part of Turkey, joined Georgia in the 1870s. Georgians that had inhabited this area had lost their Christian belief and the native language, culture and traditions fell into oblivion. Adjara needed support in order to preserve the national identity. The Society for Spreading Literacy among Georgians undertook this mission, having opened a Georgian school in Batumi in 1881. It turned out to be a heavy burden on the budget of the Society. Among the materials of the Society for Spreading Literacy (description No. 481) preserved at the National Archives of Georgia, there is a protocol of the meeting that was supposed to resolve the issue of the existence of this school. The majority of members of the Society supported the operation of the Batumi school at any cost. Ivane Machabeli and Akaki Tsereteli were the most outspoken. They evaluated the functioning of the Batumi school as a matter of special importance making a point that it was an institution which could not be measured in money.

In addition to his practical work, Akaki described and analyzed the life of Georgians living in Iran and Turkey in his literary works and publicist letters. In his address to Fereydan Georgians attending the poet's anniversary in 1908, the poet dealt with the historical injustice that forced thousands of Georgians to leave their homeland, and praised them for their courage in preserving their native language pristine in a foreign land. Akaki's practical and creative activities contributed to the spread and study of the national culture among the Georgians living outside Georgia.

**Keywords:** Georgian Literature, Akaki tsereteli, Muslim Georgians.