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**OBSERVATION ON ONE MANUSCRIPT
BY ALEXANDER ORBELIANI**

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ABSTRACT

Alexander Orbeliani is an outstanding figure in our culture. Currently, a four-volume academic edition of the complete works of the writer is being prepared for publication by the Institute of Literature. The study of manuscripts has revealed many new and noteworthy aspects. It has become clear that the author performed a thorough work on his writings. It is confirmed by the corrections of style made by the writer at various times – some immediately, during writing, some later, and emendations made (with another pen) while reading, rereading, and revising.

“Notes on the present and the past times” is a very important piece of journalism that was kept in the writer’s archive for a long period. Strict censorship practiced in the 19th century and even further intensified one applied in the 20th century would interfere and prevent the publication. The article was first published in 1999 in the collection of works entitled Speech at a Communal Dinner published by the Alexander Orbeliani Society. It was, indeed, printed according to the final version of the author’s manuscript that corresponded to his will.

It turned out that he had himself crossed out several phrases – especially “dangerous” and “risky” ones. Despite slightly crossed-out places made with a pencil, these sentences are read effortlessly. Here he underlines the level of cultural development of Georgian, highlighting our advantage compared to conqueror country; he also addresses Europe and appeals for vigilance. He believed that a tyrant state was a threat to the entire Europe. I wonder what was the reason for removing these sections.

It is obvious that some of the sections finally removed from the text by the author once again demonstrate Alexander Orbeliani’s remarkable patriotism, uncompromising attitude to the conqueror, and striving for independence.

Keywords: Georgian literature, the 19th-century Georgian journalism, Alexander Orbeliani, Manuscript.