

CENTRE FOR EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW
AND THE CENTRAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVE IN TBILISI
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
POLISH INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE , WARSAW
AND THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN TBILISI

have the honour to invite to

**THE 2ND CONFERENCE
OF THE POLISH-GEORGIAN HISTORIANS' COMMISSION**

*on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Transcaucasian Sejm
and Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic*

NINTH OF THE ANNUAL PROMETHEAN SESSIONS



*Noe Zhordania (1868-1953)
Prime Minister of Georgia (1918-1921)
Emigré in France (1921-1953)*

TBILISI

24-25.IV.2018



Tuesday, April 24
(Central Historical Archive, 1 Vazha Pshavela Ave.)

4.00 PM **Opening of the Conference**

**Teona IASHVILI, General Director of the National Archives of
Georgia**

**Mariusz MASZKIEWICZ, Ambassador of Poland
in Tbilisi**

**Włodzimierz SULEJA, Institute of National
Remembrance, Warsaw**

**Jan MALICKI, Centre for East European Studies University
of Warsaw**

**David KOLBAIA, Chairman of the Polish-Georgian Historians'
Commission, CEES UW**

Session I (4.30-7.00 PM)

Moderation: Georges MAMOULIA

Wojciech MATERSKI

The Russian Empire's Collapse and Forms of Transition to Nation-States

Henryk PAPROCKI

Russian Arguments Against Recognition of Orthodox Churches' Autocephaly in States that Emerged after World War I

5.45-6.00 PM coffee break

Otar JANELIDZE

Transcaucasian Sejm and Georgian Political Spectrum

David KOLBAIA

Transcaucasian Sejm and the Creation of the Independent Transcaucasian Republic in "Qartuli Gazeti" published in Berlin (1916-1918)

7.00 PM

David KOLBAIA, editor-in-chief,
presentation of the new issue of *Pro Georgia. Journal for Kartvelological Studies*

Dimitri SILAKADZE, opening of an exhibition of special documents preserved by the Central Historical Archive
Transcaucasian Sejm and Transcaucasian Federation on its 100th Anniversary

Wednesday, April 25

(National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, 7 Gudiashvili Str.)

10.00 AM Opening of the second day of the Conference

Session II (10.15-11.45 PM)

Moderation: David KOLBAIA

Georges MAMOULIA

Committee for the Liberation of Georgia during World War I (1914-1918)

Mikheil BAKHTADZE

Military Operations during the Transcaucasian Sejm's Functioning (January-May 1918)

Dimitri SILAKADZE

Formation of Military Units during the Existence of Transcaucasian Secretariat, Sejm and Republic

11.45 AM -12.00 PM break

Session III (12.00-1.30 PM)

Moderation: Wojciech MATERSKI

Grzegorz MAZUR

Events in Transcaucasia in 1918-1921 on the Pages of Polish Current Press

Paweł LIBERA

Wacław Ostrowski's Diplomatic Mission to Georgia

1.30 PM -3.00 PM break

Sesion IV (3.00-5.15 PM)

Moderation: Otar JANELIDZE

Shorena MURUSIDZE

Members of the Transcaucasian Sejm's Delegation in Trabzon and on Peace Conference in Batumi in 1918

Paweł OLSZEWSKI

International Situation of the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic

Beka KOBAKHIDZE

Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic and its Legacy in British Documents

**5.15 PM David KOLBAIA, Paweł LIBERA, opening of the exhibition:
Georgian Contract Officers in the Polish Army**

**5.30 PM Closing of the Conference, address by:
Marek KUCHCIŃSKI, Chairman of Sejm of the
Republic of Poland
Irakli KOBAKHIDZE, Chairman of Parliament of the
Republic of Georgia**



Presentation of the new issue of
**„PRO GEORGIA.
 Journal for Kartvelological Studies”**

No 28/2018

David KOLBAIA, editor-in-chief



The October revolution in St. Petersburg initially had little effect on the situation in Georgia, where support for the Bolsheviks was small. On November 24 1917, delegates of workers' councils and political parties in Tbilisi voted to disobey the new authorities. The following day, elections to the Russian Constituent Assembly took place in the region, in which the Mensheviks were definitely victorious in Georgia. Together with the dominant Armenian parties (Armenian Revolutionary Federation - Dashnakcutyun) and Azeri (Musawat), they created the Transcaucasian Commissariat. It did not define itself as a government but only a temporary administrative body. The dissolution of the Constituent by the Bolsheviks in January 1918 forced the Transcaucasian Commissariat to make unambiguous decisions on the future of the region. At that time, the decision was made to create the **Transcaucasian Sejm**. The author of that name of parliament was **Noe Zhordania** (Georgian Social Democrat, the future prime-minister of the Republic of Georgia) and it was inspired by the Polish parliamentary tradition. The body included: 30 Georgian Mensheviks, 30 Azeri Musawatists and 24 Armenian Dashnaks. The Sejm's Chairman was Nikola Czcheidze. The Sejm granted itself legislative powers, which was the first sign of gaining independence from Russia.

During the first phase of its existence, the Transcaucasian Sejm did not select the government of the Transcaucasia, focusing on the organization of resistance to the Turkish army and building the new administration, as well as waiting for outcomes of peace talks in Brest. Rumours that the Bolsheviks were ready to make territorial concessions to Turkey in the Caucasus resulted with the Sejm's decision to engage in direct talks with Turkey. On March 10, 1918, the Turkish delegation demanded that the representatives of the Sejm should separate themselves unambiguously from Russia. It made such a decision on April 22, 1918, while announcing the creation of the sovereign **Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic**.

The Sejm remained the main legislative body of the Republic. Its prime-minister became Georgian politician Akaki Chkhenkeli. On May 26, 1918 the Sejm announced the corrosion of the Republic and its self-dissolution. As a result three Transcaucasian countries proclaimed their independence: Democratic Republic of Georgia (May 26, 1918), Democratic Republic of Armenia (May 28, 1918) and Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (May 28, 1918).



*Viceregent Palace in Tbilisi,
White Hall, seat of the Transcaucasian
Sejm, 1918*



CENTRE FOR EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW was created in 1990, and its organizational and intellectual roots stem from the underground journal „Obóz”, created in 1981 as well as the underground Institute of Eastern Europe, created in 1983.

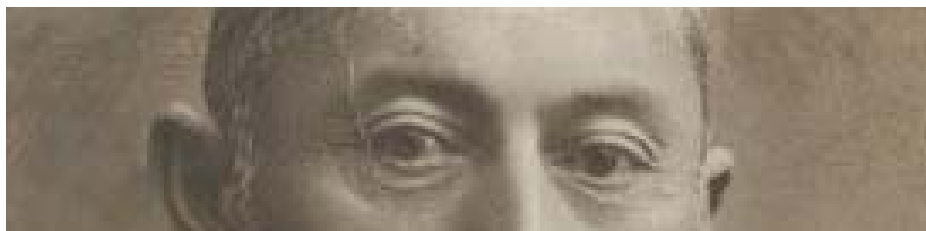
The East European Summer School was established in 1991 and started offering courses as part of a three-week international visiting scholarship programme in 1992. In 1998 master-level „Eastern Studies” were established. Soon the „Postgraduate Eastern Studies” were created and in the academic year 2012/2013 – bachelor-level „Eastern Studies”. A significant part of the Centre’s activity is dedicated to academic conferences dealing with the most important issues in the region – the most important are „Warsaw East European Conference”, „St. Grigol Peradze Caucasus Sessions” and „Promethean Conference”. The Centre – either independently or in cooperation with others – publishes: „Obóz”, „Przegląd Wschodni”, „Pro Georgia”, „Nowy Prometeusz”, „Warsaw East European Review”, „Rocznik Centrum Studiów Białoruskich”, „Bielaruski Istaricznyj Ahliad” and „Polskii Studii”. It also edits the Internet publication „BIS” – the Centre’s information bulletin dedicated to “Eastern issues”. In addition, the Centre coordinates numerous scholarship programs, among others: Konstanty Kalinowski Scholarship Program as well as the Scholarship Program for Young Scholars. As of 2006, the Caucasian Bureau has been functioning at Tbilisi State University within the framework of the Centre, intended to support Caucasian-Polish academic collaboration. In 2015, a Kyiv Bureau was established at Kyiv Mohyl Academy. In 2011, the Centre launched an M.A. degree “East European Studies” program in Ukraine, with the participation of students from Kyiv Mohyl Academy, Prykarpattya National University in IvanoFrankivsk and National University “Ostroh Academy”



CENTRAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVE, located in Tbilisi, is the main depository of historical documents in the Republic of Georgia and a major archive in the Caucasus region. Famed for its large collection of ancient Georgian manuscripts and Imperial Russian documents, the archive also preserves primary sources that are of great value to Ottoman and Middle Eastern scholars.

The origins of the archive lie with the historical department of the Russian Caucasus Army Headquarters, created in 1878, and the Caucasus Military Archive that was established in 1908. In 1918, historical documents were collected from all over Georgia to be stored in a central location in Tbilisi. This collection formed the basis of the Central Scientific Archive, founded in 1920. It was further reorganized as the Central Historical Archive of Georgia in 1939, known to students of Russian and Soviet history as Tsentral’nyi gosudarstvennyi istoricheskii arkhiv. In 2006, the archive became part of the newly formed National Archives of Georgia, which also includes the Central Archive of Contemporary History, the Archive of Audio-Visual History (all three occupy the same building), and the Archive of Kutaisi.

The collection of the Central Historical Archive covers the period between the ninth century and the beginning of Soviet rule in 1921. It preserves documents in Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Ottoman Turkish, and Persian. Most medieval and early modern manuscripts deal with Georgian dynastic and ecclesiastic history. The archive hosts rich nineteenth- and early twentieth-century collections of documents on the civil administration of the South Caucasus, including information on urban planning, industrial and mining enterprises, railway construction, agricultural development, banking, customs, educational and medical reforms, and religious and charitable institutions.



THE CONFERENCE WAS SUPPORTED BY:



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