

# 日本科学史学会

## Historia scientiarum : international journal of the History of Science Society of Japan

### **The Role of the Chavchavadze Estate in the Field of Education and Culture**

**Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Associate Professor Madona Kebabze**

**Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Doctor of Geographical Sciences**

**Zubitashvili Tamar**

**Mzia Maisuradze, Doctor of History, Mentor Teacher of History at LEPL Telavi, N: 5 Public  
School**

**Eka Kobiashvili, Doctor of History, Teacher of History and Civic, Education at LEPL Telavi N:  
6 Public School**

**Abstract:** During Tsarism period The Chavchavadze Estate in Tsinandali stood for the center of cultural life. The Chavchavadze house in Tbilisi and Tsinandali became the cultural center of aristocratic society and very often it became the place of meetings of historical importance. If during Garsevani's life Tsinandali Estate was visited by guests of aristocratic and diplomatic mission, during Aleksander's life the appearance of creative people, writers and public figures made this place more interesting.

Among respected guests there were Georgians and foreigners as well : Al. Dumas the elder, Mari Brose, Ambassador of France Chevalier Gamba, A.Pushkin, A.Lermontov, A.Griboedov, Professor of Yen University Carl Koch and others.

Tsinandali Museum represents wide complex in museum viewpoint and it comprises Alexander Chavchavadze house museum, dendro park and wine cellar which dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the oldest wines are presented there.

**Key words:** Alexander and David Chavchavadze, Tsinandali, Dendro park, Wine cellar, cultural tourism, eco museum, tourism.

**Main Part:** The history of Tsinandali Estates dates back to Garsevan Chavchavadze (1757-1811) – the father of famous poet-Aleksandre Chavchavadze. Garsevan was extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Kartl-Kakheti kingdom in Russia, at the kingdom of Georgian envoy and Russian Emperor during 1784-1801. He lived in Sankt –Petersburg. In return of his devotion, King Erekle II gifted him wide ranging estates which were stretched from Tsiv Gombori range to the south of Caucasus range. Garsevan Chavchavadze chose Tsinandali Estate for living.

According to historical sources, Tsinandali estate was built by Garsevan Chavchavadze. After his death, his son Aleksandre Chavchavadze (1786-1846) became the owner of these estates. The estates were stretched on the both sides of the river Alazani. Among them the most notable estates were Tsinandali, Napareuli and Mukuzani.

Tsinandali was powerful hearth of Georgian culture and it was called “literary heaven of writers and poets” in the XIX century. Exactly in the surroundings of this palace numerous public figures visiting Georgia from Russia and the West Europe were introduced the history of Georgian nation. Later they always carried with them the feelings of love and respect towards the Georgians. The Chavchavadze family played great part in intimating Russian-Georgian intellectuals. Together with the eastern customs and traditions the flow of European culture was actively promoted as well.

In the literary salon existing in Tsinandali palace, new original literary works were written, the world literary and cultural phenomenon’ were introduced, translations were done. The world famous writers and craftsman visiting Georgia introduced our country.

In this place, Griboedov who was enchanted with the spectacular environment and natural landscapes of Tsinandali wrote the main part of his work “vaichkuisagan” and here he presented this work to the society. Georgian public introduced the works Byron, Pushkin, Lermontov and other famous figures in Tsinandali. Nikoloz Baratashvili read his poems in that place. In this salon, Grigol, Vakhtang and Ilya Orbeliani, Giorgi Eristavi ad numerous famous writers of that time read out their own writings and translated works as well.

Al. Chavchavadze’s house caused amazement of visitors. The noble supervised the construction works and he himself looked after it. The garden is constructed by the architects of European landscapes and it is unique with its exotic variety and planning.

There exist numerous interesting legends about the heaven - high lime tree standing in Tsinandali which is the witness of our past. They say that in 1854 during Shamil's attack, this tree saved Davit Chavchavadze's daughter Salome from death who hid in the tree hollow. Today the tree again stands there and represents a very interesting tourist attraction.

We should definitely mention dendropark which surrounds the palace and is essential eco-tourist resource. Here you can see lots of rare species of trees and plants, fruit and flower gardens, vine lanes, evergreen bush labyrinths, "love lane" which is very popular among tourists. Tsinandali dendropark is the first European type recreative zone in Georgia. Nearly 400 hundred foreign and very important coniferous trees can be seen here. Certain amounts from them are of endemic species.

Today the park represents an alive museum. Artistically designed relief forms, amazing landscape and incomparable architecture are fascinating environment for visitors.

In the 30-ies of the XIX century, Aleksandre built underground wine cellar where you could see laboratory and viticulture hearth peculiar to that century. This place represents one of the important places in wine tourism viewpoint.

Wine depot is one of the first cellars in Georgia where Georgian wine was bottled for the first time. Aleksandre Chavchavadze was the first person in Georgia under whose leadership grapes pressing and wine bottling via European method was founded in the middle of Kakheti. Nowadays there are nearly 16500 bottles of wine bottled in different countries are kept in the cellar.

Among the unique collection of the cellar one can see the bottles of "Polish Honey" bottled in 1814 and Cha-teau D'Yquem bottled in 1861. Here there is "saperavi" bottled for the first time in 1841 by Aleksandre. Tsinandali wine cellar established by Aleksandre Chavchavadze is the part of Georgian culture.

Aleksandre Chavchavadze let the workers from Kakheti occupied in the estate, to learn and acquire various specialties of agriculture-European experience of working. A bit later, in the special school established by the prince estate, peasants from Kakheti acquired agro technique, accounting, specialties of cooper, machine-operator, vine grafting, etc.

Nowadays, The Chavchavadze estate which endured lots of danger and suffered a lot represents the house-museum where you can see the complete collection of personal belongings of the Chavchavadze family, various editions of the XIX century, XVIII century manuscripts, photos of Dimitri Ermakov, patterns of paintings and lithography, XVIII-XIX century antique furniture and numerous other things, among them high quality china dishes brought from Europe and musical instruments. Visitors can see Chavchavadze patrimonial candlesticks and lamps. Aleksandre's study room is remained unchanged.

The Chavchavadze museum represents a very distinguished resource in eco-museum viewpoint in the country and popularizes local traditions, culture and life style.

A very important monument “St. Marine’s Church” attracts a big attention too where famous poet Griboedov and Nino Chavchavadze got married. Only a little part from this church is left today.

**Conclusion:** One of the ways of spiritual enrichment of society is cultural tourism and museums occupy an important place in its development. Museums are spiritual subsistence for the nation which clearly describes the life of various nations, their history, culture and architecture.

It should be mentioned that cultural – educational work still takes place in the estate. Since 1998, cultural – educational works have been actively taking its place. “Tsinandali reward” named after Zurab Zhvania annually takes place in the house-museum which serves the popularization of modern artists and scientists and promotes the realization of young, clever and perspective creative workers.

Tsinandali house museum satisfies all those important criteria that are characteristic to eco museums. Accordingly, Tsinandali really possess an important tourist potential.

Tsinandali which was an essential hearth of education and culture in the past represents quite an important tourist zone even today.

#### References:

1. Megutnishvili S. Tsinandali-The Treasure of Georgian Culture. Tb. 2006;
2. Shavgulidze, M. The history of Aleksandre Chavchavadze Museum and prospects of its development. Tb.2010;
3. Rusishvili, N. The Prospects of Developing Eco Museums in Georgia.Tb. 2016
4. **Якунин В. Н. УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЙ КОМПЛЕКС.** по дисциплине «Экскурсоведение». Поволжский государственный университет сервиса, 2012;
5. **Гамба,1957** - Гамба А. Ф., Воспоминания об Ал. Чавчавадзе, 1957.
6. Georgian National Academy of Science, Collection from Korneli Kekelidze Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts. #30-a;
7. Bogvelishvili, G. 1976. Tsinadali, Tb. Publishing House “Soviet Georgia” 1976.
8. Bogvelishvili, G. 1997. Under the Sky of Tsinandali, Tb. Publishing House “Motherland”, 1997.

9. Goderidze, L. 2005. Cultural –educational Movement in Georgia in the II half of the XIX century and at the beginning of the XX Century (Georgian self governing societies), Tb. Publishing house “Universal”. 2005.
10. Orbeliani, Al. 1997. Telavi (The text was prepared for publishing by Giorgi Javakhishvili), Tb. Publishing House “Lomisi”. 1997.
11. Chikovani, I. 2002. The Noble Chavchavadze, Tb. Publishing House “Artanuji”. 2002.
12. Khmaladze. I. 1975. Tsinandali Haven, Tb. Publishing House “Soviet Georgia”. 1975.
13. Manuscripts of Telavi Historical Museum. #2520.