

## NINO KIPIANI – PORTRAIT OF A PUBLIC FIGURE WITH EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

ნინო ყიფიანი – ევროპული გამოცდილების საზოგადო მოღვაწის პორტრეტი

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**Abstract**

The study of Nino Kipiani's life and work is of particular significance for understanding the development of European vectors in Georgia. It can be argued that in the early 20th century, the intensive efforts to transfer European thought and culture to Georgia were primarily linked to several intellectuals who went to Europe to pursue their education during this period. Among them, Nino Kipiani occupies a particularly distinguished place. She was the first Georgian woman, not only from Georgia but from the entire Russian Empire, which included Georgia at that time, to receive a comprehensive legal education at the University of Brussels. This accomplishment facilitated Georgia's access to the leading trends in European political thought. It can be asserted with confidence that she was among those whose initiatives laid both the ideological and legal foundations for the country's independence in 1918.

This study is based on materials from Nino Kipiani's personal archive, which is distinguished by a particular degree of authenticity and provides insight not only into the portrait of the figure herself but also into the historical and cultural context. These sources offer a view of Georgian reality from a different perspective - through the lens of European life and thought. Observing from the outside enables Nino Kipiani to identify various dissonances that are often not apparent from the native context. Consequently, her methods of work and her decisions are far more radical and bold than those typically expected from her contemporaries of that period.

The study reveals a highly diverse portrait of a female public figure characterized by her familial, social, civic, and political roles, whose interests and experiences stand in radical opposition to even the most subtle manifestations of conformity.

**Keywords:** European vectors; Personal Archive; Human rights defender; Diplomat; Inter-party congress; Federalist; Anarchist.

ესმა მანია

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## აბსტრაქტი

ნინო ყიფიანის ცხოვრებისა და შემოქმედების შესწავლას საქართველოს ევროპული ვექტორების განვითარების კვლევისთვის განსაკუთრებული მნიშვნელობა აქვს. შეიძლება ითქვას, რომ მეოცე საუკუნის დასაწყისში ევროპული აზროვნებისა და კულტურის ინტენსიური ტრანსფერის მცდელობა საქართველოში, ძირითადად, უკავშირდება ამ პერიოდში ევროპაში განათლების მისაღებად წასულ არაერთ მოაზროვნეს, მათ შორის სრულებით განსაკუთრებულ ადგილს იკავებს ნინო ყიფიანი. რამდენადაც ის იყო პირველი ქართველი ქალი არა მხოლოდ საქართველოდან, არამედ მთელი რუსეთის იმპერიიდან, რომლის შემადგენლობაში იმ დროს საქართველო შედიოდა, რომელმაც საფუძვლიანი იურიდიული განათლება მიიღო ბრიუსელის უნივერსიტეტში, რომელმაც გაამარტივა საქართველოს წვდომა ევროპული პოლიტიკური აზროვნების საუკეთესო ტენდენციებზე. თამამად შეიძლება ითქვას, რომ ის იყო ერთ-ერთი იმათგანი, რომელთა ინიციატივებმაც შექმნა 1918 წელს ქვეყნის დამოუკიდებლობის როგორც იდეოლოგიური, ისე სამართლებრივი საფუძველი.

წინამდებარე კვლევა ეყრდნობა ნინო ყიფიანის პირადი არქივის მასალებს. ეს წყარო, თავის მხრივ, ავთენტურობის განსაკუთრებული ხარისხით გამოირჩევა და ხსნის არა მხოლოდ მოღვაწის პორტრეტს, არამედ – ისტორიულ-კულტურულ გარემოსაც. ეს დოკუმენტები გვთავაზობს ქართული სინამდვილის ხედვას სხვა პერსპექტივიდან – ევროპული ყოფისა და აზროვნების წიაღიდან. ხედვა გარედან ნინო ყიფიანს აძლევს არაერთი ისეთი დისონანსის აღმოჩენის შესაძლებლობას, როგორც ხშირად მშობლიური კონტექსტიდან არ ჩანს. შესაბამისად, მისი მუშაობის მეთოდები, მისი გადაწყვეტილებები ბევრად უფრო რადიკალური და გამბედავია.

კვლევისას იკვეთება საზოგადო მოღვაწე ქალის მეტად მრავალფეროვანი პორტრეტი ოჯახური, საზოგადო, სამოქალაქო და პოლიტიკური როლებით, რომლის ინტერესები და გამოცდილება რადიკალურად ეწინააღმდეგება კონფორმიზმის ყველაზე შეფარულ გამოვლინებასაც კი.

## Introduction

The era that Nino Kipiani (1877-1921) – lawyer, diplomat, politician – experienced was marked by significant feminist struggles, although these efforts were constrained by geographical, political, and intellectual factors. The scope of these struggles was predominantly focused on women's education, their emancipation from familial confines, and their minimal integration into civil society. From the 1870s onwards, public and civil life for women primarily entailed participation in theatrical performances, public celebrations, artistic and literary evenings, benefit performances, and visits to photo salons... Women engaged in artistic creation, teaching, and translation work, which can be considered higher levels of involvement. Their studies in Europe and Russia prioritized humanitarian education.

This was, of course, a significant achievement for the time, yet there remained considerable progress to be made toward developing a society that transcended the bounds of national culture or subculture. While it is true

that from the 1870s onward, the status of women was not confined solely to that of a housewife, it must be acknowledged that this status still largely remained as an adjunct to male counterparts.

At the beginning of the XX century, spurred by international developments and the emergence of a pluralistic, multi-party environment, a significantly broader scope was afforded to the advancement of women and their elevation in public life. The roles of female human rights defenders, politicians, and diplomats represented entirely new experiences for the Georgian reality of that era. The first prominent example of this phenomenon was Nino Kipiani. She was the granddaughter of Dimitri Kipiani and the daughter of Nikoloz Kipiani, who was a distinguished critic, publicist, scholar, publisher, and polyglot.

Generally, when constructing a portrait of a historical figure, it is neither typical nor necessary to focus on the details of their ancestry. However, this particular case warrants such attention, as the progressive path taken by the ancestor not only transformed the life of the successor but also had a profound impact on the broader society. Therefore, it is worth highlighting this connection.

### **Methods**

As sources for this study, we utilized materials from Nino Kipiani's personal archive, as well as from archives that were directly or indirectly related to her. Accordingly, we had access to various types of sources, among which the most informative were personal correspondence, private notes, and memoirs. Additionally, materials discovered in the archives of other individuals connected to Nino Kipiani (such as Dimitri Kipiani, Archil Jorjadze, Ekaterine Gabashvili, and Iakob Gogebashvili) provided us with the opportunity to clarify several details from different perspectives. By integrating these documentary sources, we were able to reconstruct the historical and cultural context with a relatively high degree of accuracy. We also employed historical research methods, as well as comparative and empirical analysis.

### **Discussion and results**

Nino Kipiani's professional biography reveals several significant vectors, particularly her prominence as a renowned human rights defender. Among her notable cases was the defense of Iason Bobghiashvili (Iason from Tusheti), a political prisoner. The documents detailing these events (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №169-173) (Since the personal archives of the sisters, Nino and Barbara Kipiani, are preserved as a single archive at the National Center of Manuscripts, we adhere to this circumstance and use the initials of both sisters' names in the bibliographic references.) provide an unembellished view of the penitentiary structures of that era. In the spring of 1906, Nino Kipiani discovered that prisoners of both sexes were housed together in the cell for political criminals at the Metekhi prison, that they were punished as political criminals rather than soldiers, and that they lacked even the minimum living conditions. Demonstrating her commitment, Kipiani personally sent blankets, dishes, and money to the prisoners, and tirelessly advocated for their rights across various instances. This aspect of her professional life underscores her advanced demands on the state, reflecting a high standard of human rights awareness.

From a professional standpoint, Nino Kipiani's legal and diplomatic activities, particularly as a representative of the diplomatic mission in Italy, are especially noteworthy. She played a crucial role in the release of Georgian prisoners of the First World War and their subsequent return to their homeland.

In addition to her fruitful legal and diplomatic activities, Nino Kipiani's work prominently included the protection of women's rights. She devoted significant attention to issues concerning women's education and career advancement, establishing several extraordinary funds to support these causes. For instance, she requested her friend Aleksandre (whose full identity remains unidentified) to teach a female student in the fourth grade of the diocesan school all subjects. Elsewhere, she asked Aleksandre Kldiashvili, a Georgian chemist and human rights defender living in Odessa, to find a Georgian language teacher for an American woman in Odessa

(National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №302). Kipiani hosted numerous Georgian women who came to Brussels and offered her modest accommodation to Georgian students. Notably, Ekaterine Gabashvili's daughter Nino lived in her apartment in Brussels (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №180).

She frequently received letters from her friends and relatives, such as Daria Amirejibi and Tamar Amirejibi, informing her that women in Khashuri and Gori held literary evenings and performances every Sunday. The proceeds from these events were used to support village schools or assist impoverished families (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №150).

In 1903, Nino Amirejibi wrote to inform her that Georgian women in Tbilisi organized weekly meetings where one participant would present the translation, and the others would collaborate on making corrections. For any unresolved issues, they would consult Grigol Kipshidze, who was nearby and provided additional assistance. Their translation efforts primarily focused on the works of Ilia Chavchavadze and other Georgian writers (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №167). Amirejibi also highlighted the increasing number of Georgian women pursuing studies abroad and described a Sunday school attended by the elderly, who learned eagerly.

Thanks to the initiatives of Nino Kipiani, 17 women candidates ran for the legislative body of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia, an unprecedented achievement not only for the country but also for the region. A primary focus of Kipiani's diplomatic work in Rome was the promotion of Georgia's sovereignty as an independent nation in Europe. She leveraged her extensive network of acquaintances: "I have a big circle of acquaintances, such as ministers, senators, scholars, journalists, and deputies, to achieve this goal. In her own words, "I have many acquaintances among ministers, senators, scholars, journalists, and deputies. I know the Italian language very well, and besides Italian, French, German, and English. I have great confidence in the government here (...) I sacrificed everything for the love of our motherland and people. I am the only Georgian in Rome and understand politics and life here like no one else in Georgia. I forgot the Georgian language, poor me! Don't judge me, I've been living in Europe for 16 years" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №77). Kipiani utilized this network to elevate Georgia's profile among influential European circles, thereby impacting international political discourse. Her and her correspondents' letters reveal that many European politicians and diplomats developed an interest in and awareness of Georgia's plight as a nation subjugated by Russia, largely due to Kipiani's advocacy.

Who could be Bissolati, mentioned almost 30 times in Nino Kipiani's letters? It appears that Nino Kipiani placed significant hopes in Leonida Bissolati (1857-1920), an Italian politician, socialist, journalist, and lawyer. Bissolati was a prominent member of both the Italian legislature and the executive. Kipiani frequently visited Bissolati, familiarized herself with his works, and encouraged him to speak about Georgia in his public addresses. In a letter to Mikheil Tumanishvili, Nino Kipiani wrote, "The man who was the greatest man in Italy passed away after two months of illness – you undoubtedly know what Bissolati meant for socialism, for Italy, and for our little Georgia. Unfortunately, the reason that kept me in Rome has vanished" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive, №70).

Nino Kipiani actively communicated with her friends and key contacts about any activity related to Georgia in Europe. She shared passages about Georgia from speeches of prominent European figures, news about meetings with influential individuals, and issues of periodicals such as *Sakartvelo*, *Petit bleu*, and *L'Étoile belge*, which included informative letters about Georgia that she had worked hard to get published. Kipiani also kept her correspondents informed about upcoming events and news. For instance, in 1904, she wrote to Archil Jorjadze that Giorgi Plekhanov was scheduled to present an essay on social revolutionaries in Brussels and that Kozlovsky, a professor at the University of Brussels and Geneva, would be giving lectures at the new university, etc. (National Center of Manuscripts, A. Jorjadze's Archive, №140).

In a letter to Archil Jorjadze, Nino Kipiani introduced a person with a particular interest in Georgia: "There is a professor (at Un. Houvelle) named Lafos, who wants to go to Georgia and work for the welfare of the people, but unfortunately for us, he holds a completely different opinion; he is against the revolution. He says that we should act in a peaceful, legal way. When he heard about the current situation in Georgia, he decided to

go there, but now we are making every effort to prevent him from going. I shared this with Sakartvelo (the newspaper); let's see what he says. You will surely be very surprised. I am also terribly surprised; he is just a man of such an amazing character that it should not be surprising; he is a very excellent person (he reads political economy). What do you think about it? Now, if you were prepared, what a good time it would be to rebel! Poles and Finns have already started, and we are always sleeping and who knows when we will wake up?" (National Center of Manuscripts, A. Jorjadze's Archive №140). This letter reveals Nino Kipiani's political visions and aspirations. In 1904, she aligned with the platform of the Georgian federalists for the political and legal organization of the country, advocating autonomy within Russia as a transitional step towards political sovereignty. Despite her association with the federalists and her experience of fighting alongside them, this fragment demonstrates that Kipiani favoured more radical political actions. For her, peaceful, transitional, and legal methods were merely time-wasting. In a 1903 letter, she wrote: "I understand a free Georgia only as completely separated from Russia" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №67). She advised the conference participants to establish a revolutionary committee to achieve Georgia's complete independence from Russia.

She soon distanced herself from the federalist platform, but before doing so, she played a pivotal role as an organizer and participant in one of the most significant political events of the early 20th century – the first inter-party congress of Georgians. Detailed information about this gathering, which included representatives of all parties living abroad from various European cities, is available through Nino Kipiani's correspondence with Giorgi Dekanozishvili and Archil Jorjadze.

In one archival document, she provides a succinct summary on the necessity of convening congresses for various parties. She emphasizes the importance of drafting a program not by specific individuals but by the Congress as a representative body that includes representatives from all sectors and political parties. She also places great importance on establishing "some kind of permanent unifying means upon which we should establish a fund for revolutionary activities". Nino Kipiani is deeply concerned that there is no developed "Georgian political thought" as a driving instrument for coordinated action, as an indicator of the correct direction for our struggle and work, which she attributes to the unpreparedness of our society. "This c[ongress]", writes Nino Kipiani, "should not belong to just one party but should be an agreement among all parties regarding the national question. We need to clarify our political ideal and try to reach a consensus on the nat[ional] question. We have not had the opportunity for free dialogue in Geo[rgia]. What prevents us now from coming together to think about our homeland as well as about ourselves? I see that we are perishing – how can we save ourselves, how can we preserve our Georgian identity?" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №34).

On February 18, 1904, Nino Kipiani received a letter from Giorgi Dekanozishvili, discussing the organizational matters of the secular assembly of Georgians in Europe. The correspondent expressed disappointment over the inability of Georgians to reach an agreement on technical details, fearing that this disunity would leave them lagging behind other nations. He lamented the absence of freedom fighters, emphasizing that freedom requires work, blood, sacrifice, death, suffering, and struggle. Dekanozishvili was particularly troubled by the failure to agree on the congress's location, whether it should be held in Brussels, Paris, or Geneva. He urged Kipiani to convey this information to the Georgians in Aachen and Mons (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №227).

In the subsequent letter, Giorgi Dekanozishvili expresses his hope that the meeting will be multi-party, with the attendance of Social Democrats, anarchists, and federalists. He anticipates that the congress will elucidate the political and ideological orientations of Georgians, highlighting both their differences and unity (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №228). In another letter, Dekanozishvili suggests that, since many Georgians from different European cities are unable to travel to Geneva, each city should ensure the presence of one representative who will be delegated an appropriate number of votes. This is essential because decisions at the Congress will be made based on the number of votes (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №229).

In one of his letters, Giorgi Dekanozishvili expresses gratitude for Nino Kipiani's meticulous preparations for the congress. He appreciates her participation, emphasizing the importance of Georgian women's

involvement in such gatherings and the presentation of women's issues. According to researcher Tamaz Jologua, at the inter-party conference in Geneva, Nino Kipiani, under the pseudonym "Tezreli," presented a report on women's issues (Jologua; 1996).

Nino Kipiani was among the first to advocate for state independence in the early 20th century, a stance substantiated by the report presented under her pseudonym at the inter-party conference in Geneva in 1904.

In the summer of 1905, at the request of Archil Jorjadze, Nino Kipiani met with Jean-Jacques Élisée Reclus, a French geographer, sociologist, political figure, and one of the theoreticians of anarchism, as well as a member of the First International. Kipiani described the meeting with notable highlights: How warmly they were received, how they were inquired if they spoke Georgian, and how someone was asked to read a Georgian poem. Then, one of them recited Mamia Gurieli's poem "Man", which was greatly appreciated for its meaning. It was then remarked that humanity is only possible when there is no inequality.

"We then discussed our lives, – იგონებს ნინო ყოფიანი – detailing the injustices the R[ussian] g[overnment] inflicts in Georgia and their efforts to Russify us. We recounted the actions of Velichko and his ilk (such as...), who advocate for the migration of Georgians to Siberia and other districts, send Georgians to Russia where they cannot survive the environment and perish, and then resettle Russians in their place. [This] news shocked him, and he repeatedly emphasized that our society must resist the Russian government, as there are different classes and various political directions within the opposition".

We also explained that within our society, including among the nob[ility] (m[ost] of th[em]) and the peasants, there is a growing awareness and need for a conscious struggle. However, perspectives differ significantly. Reclus laughed at this and said: "I understand that the nob[ility] opposes the Rus[sian] government because it longs for its former glory and the restoration of its rights. However, their resistance alone will not yield positive results; your true strength lies with the peasantry, which has now awakened". We further elaborated that the government is actively trying to keep the nob[ility] off the peasants. Reclus responded by drawing parallels with Polish history, advising us to ensure the nobility understands that you need them.

To his second inquiry, we answered that over the past two years, relations between the nob[ility] and the peasantry have significantly deteriorated. We recounted the Guria uprising, which he found inspiring and of great importance. He wanted us to show on the atlas the areas where the peasants are actively fighting for land rights.

We switched to discussing the G[eorgian] language, particularly the status of the G[eorgian] language in schools and in our daily lives. Reclus emphasized: "You can be helped only if you preserve your language, which is a great blessing for you, and also your morals" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №35).

This record clearly reflects the evolution of Nino Kipiani's political vision. Élisée Reclus, who enjoyed great authority at the beginning of the twentieth century, explored the ideas of state abolition and the necessity of anarchism in his work "Anarchy." It seems he touched on this topic during his meeting with Nino Kipiani, advising her to fight not based on national past and identity but through a united social-democratic struggle: "You must fight not only as Georgians, but also as Russians, Armenians, and all other nations, independently of the nation. ... You must not be guided in your struggle by your past, which is, indeed, glorious, but still the past. Now your need is not the restoration of your previous rights; the situation of the times has brought you completely different needs" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №35). This fragment not only illustrates that Nino Kipiani sought support and used all active political mechanisms to fight for her goals but also highlights the pluralistic tendencies and bold political visions prevalent in the early 1910s.

The 1919 correspondence between Nino Kipiani and Andria Dekanozishvili, a prominent public and political figure, is particularly noteworthy. At this time, Nino Kipiani resided in Italy, while Andria Dekanozishvili was in Argentina, serving as a representative of the Democratic Republic of Georgia. The content, style, and tone of their correspondence are of great significance. Their exchanges addressed the recognition of the official status of the independent, democratic Republic of Georgia by the world powers, the

return of Georgian prisoners of war from the First World War to their homeland, and various other crucial issues.

Nino Kipiani was the first to be informed by Andria Dekanozishvili that Argentina recognized Georgia's independence in 1919 (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №224). This correspondence also reveals that Akaki Chkhenkeli requested Nino Kipiani to relay this information to the Georgian government via the Italian Ministry of Foreign or Military Affairs and to notify newspaper editors. At the time, Akaki Chkhenkeli was serving as the special representative of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in Europe, striving to secure Georgia's legal status. This letter, preserved in Nino Kipiani's personal archive, is a significant artifact that underscores his political prominence.

It is notable that Andria Dekanozishvili, who possesses well-developed diplomatic skills, cautioned Nino Kipiani to exercise greater prudence in her personal letters, as her extreme boldness appeared quite perilous. From their correspondence, it is evident that Nino Kipiani addressed the Italian government in a way as if she had been entrusted with taking necessary steps to resolve the matters on behalf of Georgia. Andria Dekanozishvili considered this approach an overreach of her diplomatic authority, particularly regarding her role at the Italian Embassy and her work on issues concerning Georgian prisoners of the First World War. He advised her to adhere to her delegated responsibilities and avoid actions outside her official mandate (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №222).

These letters underscore both the influence Nino Kipiani wielded and the high degree of trust she enjoyed within the Italian government.

Additionally, these documents reveal her professional interactions with Akaki Chkhenkeli, highlighting her involvement in organizing the details of Chkhenkeli's official visit to Rome and his delegation.

During 1919, Nino Kipiani expressed disappointment regarding the Paris Conference, remarking, "I hear troubling news about the Paris Conference. I also hear that efforts (of ...) are underway to restore tsarism in Russia. I cannot confirm how accurate this information is. Here in Rome, Russians are actively propagating their reactionary ideas. Even Kerensky opposes Georgia's freedom, and England and France are supporting his exclusion" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №79). This observation by Nino Kipiani suggests her keen interest in the post-World War I political landscape and international attitudes towards Russia, recognizing their direct implications for Georgia's present and future.

In one of her reflections, Nino Kipiani notes the attitudes of Georgians towards other nations: "Georgians often treated each other unfairly and unjustly; however, people from other ethnic groups were treated with kindness and respect. This respect and admiration grew within us in proportion to Georgia's strength and unity, as seen during the times of Davit Aghmashenebeli and Tamar" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №33).

Nino Kipiani, who spent much of her professional and public life outside Georgia, continually received information about the ongoing situation in the country from close friends and relatives. Since 1905, she has been aware that there is an awakening in Georgia, marked by a significant movement. She learned about the violent suppression of a demonstration in Khashuri, which was held to demand the increase of salaries and improvement of poor working conditions; this resulted in the deaths of 28 people, including women (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №156). She also received updates about similar movements in Batumi and Baku, significant disturbances in Tbilisi and Baku, and workers' revolts. The Baku road was blocked for a week, rails were disrupted, and there were shortages of bread and meat in Tbilisi for several days. Additionally, proclamations were being printed in local printing houses (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №162). She was informed about the frequent rallies, including women's rallies, and the pervasive sense of an impending revolution (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №186).

Nino Kipiani displayed a keen interest in the events unfolding in the Republic of Guria in 1905. Correspondence reveals that there was significant unrest in the region, leading to Ozurgeti district being divided

into two separate governorates with the deployment of a substantial military force, although there was hope for the eventual withdrawal of this army. In the absence of functioning administration and courts, the people took up arms, resulting in the deaths of nobles and officials. Merchants and workers were also not spared in this turmoil. Despite Guria's once-prominent reputation, the status and mention of princes and nobles had significantly diminished (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №265).

Although Nino Kipiani views the Guria rebellion with a sense of hope, she is also critical of its darker aspects. She expresses her concerns in the following manner: "We read in one of the Russian revolutionary newspapers that there was a significant rebellion in Chkhoni and that the men from Guria had cut off the ears of the Megrelians [because] they were working on landlord's land. It's terrible! What will it achieve? Such actions are marked by great stupidity. I believe that the peasants, instead of opposing the government, are opposing the nobility themselves. Additionally, we receive reports about the Guria rebellion that cause us great worry" (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №66).

A notable aspect of Nino Kipiani's multifaceted profile is her interest in Georgian metallurgical raw materials. In 1920, she sent a letter to Niko Nikoladze, requesting information about the purchase and sale of black stone, its composition, and other relevant details (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №356). In response, Niko Nikoladze wrote that the extraction of black stone had been organized by an invited assembly, which decided that the material would be sold and shipped exclusively to steel factories and other producers, rather than to intermediary merchants who had previously damaged its reputation and devalued its price. The continuation of this matter and Kipiani's ongoing interest in it warrant further investigation through additional sources (National Center of Manuscripts, N. and B. Kipiani's Archive №356).

## Conclusions

At the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, it would be challenging to identify another figure who executed his/her thoughts and actions on a global scale as effectively as Nino Kipiani. The breadth and geographic scope of the documentary sources related to her activities are remarkably extensive, encompassing a diverse array of toponyms: Brussels, Liège, Florence, Venice, Rome, Naples, Pompeii, Catania, Capri, Anzio, Paris, Montpellier, Nice, Monaco, Geneva, Vienna, Klosterneuburg, Berlin, Hamburg, Konstanz, London, Istanbul, Odessa, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Penza, Vladikavkaz, Nukha...

The significance of Nino Kipiani's personal archive lies in the ability to illuminate an entire era, providing a comprehensive view of the political and social life of the early 20th century. These documentary sources reveal the bureaucratic tendencies of the time, the hopeful yet ultimately exhausting reflections on revolution within Georgian society, and the political significance of the Republic of Guria, one of the outstanding political gains in the region of that period; They also highlight the dangerous boundaries public figures had to navigate to achieve political or social outcomes, the living conditions in hostels, the extent of liberal tendencies in personal and family life, and the evolving role of women. Furthermore, these documents shed light on the economic and social environment, the relationship between higher education obtained in Europe and in Russia, and the international figures whom Georgian society looked to for support in their struggle for national sovereignty. They also provide insights into how international opportunities were perceived and the broader perspectives of the time.

Our research materials once again highlight how one individual fought for national identity, the effort they invested in perceiving the severity of the country's occupation from an external perspective, and their search for allies both domestically and abroad in pursuit of a solution. An indicator of the intensity and legitimacy of her activities is the fact that, due to this and other initiatives deemed dangerous to the empire, Nino Kipiani was banned from staying on the territory of the Russian Empire and was exiled abroad.

Most importantly, this study underscores the pivotal role of Nino Kipiani as a progressive political and public figure in her era. She utilized every conceivable avenue and resource to illuminate new paths and possibilities for her country. Nino Kipiani's contributions, both public and professional, significantly broaden



the scope of the role and impact of Georgian women. Our research sources illustrate how this remarkable individual, through personal effort, expanded the limited boundaries of her homeland with her dignified and impactful work.

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