

ACTIVITIES OF AKAKI KHOSHTARIA IN PERSIA

აკაკი ხოშტარიას საქმიანობა სპარსეთში

MAMUKA JOLBORDI

PH.D in History,

Professor of Gori State Teaching University, Gori, Georgia

ORCID-0000-0002-9256-0990

jolbordimamuka@gmail.com

+995599136040

NINO LIPARTELIANI

PH.D in Economics,

Professor of Gori State Teaching University, Gori, Georgia

ORCID-0000-0002-1301-0238

nliparteliani69@gmail.com

+995599568344

Abstract

The XIX-XX centuries Georgia remembers many rich and influential merchants. They were not only good businessmen but also philanthropists and patrons. The name of Akaki Khoshtaria is associated with the production and transportation of petroleum products in the South Caucasus, the production of mechanical and agricultural machinery, the production of soap and oil. Akaki Khoshtaria's main industrial-commercial arena was Persia. The Persian government authorized A. Khoshtaria to drill oilfields by bore-holes in five northern provinces of Iran, West and East Azerbaijan, Gilan, Mazandaran and Khorasan on the basis of a concession. Here Akaki Khoshtaria built an electron-operated factory, had many workshops, owned a monopoly on soap production, fish farms, traded by wool, here he built a special railway (the first railway in Iran), founded a transport company and was the first to import automobiles to Iran. The name of Akaki Khoshtaria is less known to the modern society. The twentieth century erased everything about him, only information, told by other people are remained, which determined the purpose of our research. The theoretical and practical significance of the article is determined by the relevance of the issues under study, it is the theoretical significance that determined the main direction of the study - the identification of Akaki Khoshtaria as separate aspects of entrepreneurial activity. As for practical significance, it is obvious that the life and work of this entrepreneur is valuable even at the present stage.

Keywords: Entrepreneur, trade-industry, concession, monopoly, oil products, charity.

მამუკა ჯოლბორდი

ისტორიის დოქტორი,
გორის სახელმწიფო სასწავლო უნივერსიტეტის
პროფესორი, გორი, საქართველო
ORCID-0000-0002-9256-0990
jolbordimamuka@gmail.com
+995599136040

ნინო ლიპარტელიანი

ეკონომიკის დოქტორი,
გორის სახელმწიფო სასწავლო უნივერსიტეტის
პროფესორი, გორი, საქართველო
ORCID-0000-0002-1301-0238
nliparteliani69@gmail.com
+995599568344

აბსტრაქტი

XIX-XX საუკუნეების საქართველოს არაერთი მდიდარი და გავლენიანი კომერსანტი ახსოვს. ისინი არა მხოლოდ კარგი ბიზნესმენები, არამედ ქველმოქმედები და მეცენატები იყვნენ. მისი სახელი უკავშირდება სამხრეთ კავკასიაში ნავთობპროდუქტების წარმოებასა და ტრანსპორტირებას, მექანიკური და სამიწათმოქმედო მანქანების წარმოებას, საპნის და ზეთის წარმოებას. აკაკი ხოშტარიას ძირითადი სამრეწველო-სავაჭრო ასპარეზი სპარსეთი იყო. სპარსეთის ხელისუფლებამ ა.მ.ხოშტარიას უფლება მისცა კონცესიის საფუძველზე ეწარმოებინა ჭაბურღილებით ნავთობსაბადოების ბურღვა ირანის ხუთ ჩრდილო პროვინციაში, დასავლეთ და აღმოსავლეთ აზერბაიჯანში, გილანში, მაზანდარანსა და ხორასანში. აქვე აკაკი ხოშტარიამ ააშენა ელექტრონით მოქმედი ფაბრიკა, ჰქონდა მრავალი საამქრო, ფლობდა მონოპოლიას საპნის წარმოებაზე, თევზის სარეწებზე, ვაჭრობდა მატყლით, აქვე გაიყვანა სპეციალური რკინიგზა (პირველი რკინიგზა ირანში), დააარსა სატრანსპორტო კომპანია და მანვე პირველმა შეიყვანა ავტომობილები ირანში. აკაკი ხოშტარიას სახელი თანამედროვე საზოგადოებისათვის ნაკლებად არის ცნობილი, XX საუკუნემ ყველაფერი წაშალა მის შესახებ, მხოლოდ ზეპირი ინფორმაციის სახითაა შემორჩენილი ცნობები, რამაც განსაზღვრა ჩვენი კვლევის მიზანი. კვლევის ძირითად შედეგს წარმოადგენს ამ ბრწყინვალე ქართველი ბიზნესმენის საქმიანობის წარმოჩენა. აკაკი ხოშტარიას საქმიანობის შესახებ, ცნობები დაცულია ირანის ეროვნულ ბიბლიოთეკაში, რომელიც ასევე გამოუკვლევია და დაუდასტურებელი მასალაა. აბსოლუტურად შეუსწავლელია ბაქოს ეროვნულ არქივში დაცული ცნობები, რომელიც აზერბაიჯანში ხოშტარიას საქმიანობას უკავშირდება. ნაშრომის თეორიულ და პრაქტიკულ მნიშვნელობას განსაზღვრავს შესასწავლი საკითხების აქტუალობა, სწორედ თეორიულმა მნიშვნელობამ განსაზღვრა კვლევის ძირითადი მიმართულება-გამოგვევლინა აკაკი ხოშტარიას, როგორც მეწარმის მოღვაწეობის ზოგიერთი ასპექტები. რაც შეეხება პრაქტიკულ მნიშვნელობას, თვალნათელია ის, რომ ამ მეწარმის ცხოვრება და საქმიანობა თანამედროვე ეტაპზეც ღირებულია.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: მეწარმე, ვაჭრობა-მრეწველობა, კონცესია, მონოპოლია, ნავთობპროდუქტები, ქველმოქმედება.

Introduction

The name of a worthy Georgian man in the production and transportation of oil products in the South Caucasus also appears, a man whose activities went beyond the borders of the Russian Empire and were closely connected with the business circles of Near East and Western Europe of that time. The name of Akaki Khoshtaria is associated with the production and transportation of petroleum products in the South Caucasus, the production of mechanical and agricultural machinery, the production of soap and oil. Akaki Khoshtaria's main industrial-commercial arena was Persia. The Persian government authorized A. Khoshtaria to drill oilfields by bore-holes in five northern provinces of Iran, West and East Azerbaijan, Gilan, Mazandaran and Khorasan on the basis of a concession. Here Akaki Khoshtaria built an electron-operated factory, had many workshops, owned a monopoly on soap production, fish farms, traded by wool, here he built a special railway (the first railway in Iran), founded a transport company and was the first to import automobiles to Iran. The twentieth century erased everything about him, only information, told by other people are remained, which determined the purpose of our research. The theoretical and practical significance of the article is determined by the relevance of the issues under study, it is the theoretical significance that determined the main direction of the study - the identification of Akaki Khoshtaria as separate aspects of entrepreneurial activity. As for practical significance, it is obvious that the life and work of this entrepreneur is valuable even at the present stage. Many scholars have studied the activities of Akaki Khoshtaria, especially in recent years. However, they had very few materials: 2 documents preserved in the Emigration Museum (we are talking about Akaki Khoshtaria soap factory and agricultural materials factory in Georgia, dated 1919-1920), 3 photos preserved in the National Museum of Literature (2 photos were taken in 1923 in Tehran, at the opening of a bank, and 1 photo - Akaki Khoshtaria with his staff) and 1 document preserved in the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, which states that Khoshtaria sent 4 ships from Italy and the United States to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia" (tagvadze, 2018: 14). Information of journalist Tamar Tagvadze, who was consulted by Jemshid Giunashvili, about the life and work of Akaki Khoshtaria is very interesting. "Everything has been erased by the 20th century. Information about him, in the form of oral information, was preserved in Tehran, because here is the Russian Orthodox cemetery in Dulab, where Minadora Turkia-Khoshtaria is buried. 30 Georgians who lived in Iran and worked in Akaki Khoshtaria's companies are buried here. Copies of documents kept in the National Archives of Iran arrived in Georgia in the summer of 2017. These letters are processed, encrypted, documents written in Persian of the previous century. Which has already been deciphered, from those documents, one is dated 1913.

Methods

Scientific research has one result - to establish reality. Research asks a central question that does not have a definitive consensus answer, so data collection and analysis is necessary. The main question of our scientific research is who is Akaki Khoshtaria? Thoroughly forgotten by the communist regime, a person or businessman with American views. In the process of scientific research, we used inductive and deductive approaches. An inductive approach is a path from specific examples to general patterns. It starts with one, from a certain point of view, and ends with general theories. For us, such specific examples were the studies of Georgian and foreign scientists interested in the life and work of this person. An inductive approach led us to formulate a hypothesis - to study Akaki Khoshtaria as a successful American-style Georgian businessman. The deductive approach starts from the general from the patterns to the specific examples. The results either confirm or disprove the assumptions, which

leads to the confirmation or rejection of the hypothesis. We have conducted qualitative research, which includes academic or professional literature review.

Discussion/Results.

The twentieth century erased everything about Akaki Khoshtaria, only information, told by other people are remained, which determined the purpose of our research. The life and work of this entrepreneur is valuable even at the present stage. We have represented results of our research, which will give the information about Akaki Khoshtaria to not only Georgian students. Among scientists, the issue of buying and donating ships to the government of independent Georgia by Akaki Khoshtaria is causing discussion. One group of scientists agree with this view. The second group relies on the absence of well-reasoned sources. We support the first point of view. The democratic government of Georgia had a strategy to strengthen its navy. There is also evidence that on May 11, 1920, in a letter sent from Paris, David Alexandrovich Guramishvili wrote about this to an employee of the Georgian Transport Company.

The name of a worthy Georgian man in the production and transportation of oil products in the South Caucasus also appears, a man whose activities went beyond the borders of the Russian Empire and were closely connected with the business circles of Near East and Western Europe of that time. He was very close to the royal court of Iran, to Shah of Iran Mohammad Reza Pekhlav, then to his successor, Ahmad Shah, he knew Churchill and Roosevelt personally (ts'ots'k'olauri, 2010: 17).

This famous Georgian was distinguished by his wit, wide analytical point of view and astonishing scale of business projects. According to Zurab Avalishvili's estimation, A. Khoshtaria was "like as American businessman" (giunashvili, 2010: 5).

Researcher Rusudan Daushvili rightly states: "The XIX-XX centuries Georgia remembers many rich and influential merchants." They were not only good businessmen but also philanthropists and patrons. The name of Akaki Khoshtaria is less known to the modern society (daushvili, 2008: 3).

Akaki Khoshtaria was born in 1873 in the village of Sujuna, Abasha district. His father, Metode Khoshtaria, belonged to the circle of Nobility of Samegrelo (he was the Dadiani's estate manager and governed their economy). [He was known for his sobriety and wisdom, for this reason a Great Metode had been named him. Akaki's mother Vardiko Avaliani was quite a literate and educated woman. Akaki Khoshtaria had two siblings - Giorgi and Ana."] (lashkhi, 2016: 10). The economic strength of the family significantly conditioned his future education and career advancement.

After graduating from the Petersburg Agricultural Institution, Akaki Khoshtaria worked for ten years as a gardener-decorator with Prince Oldenburg (ts'ots'k'olauri, 2010: 17), for whom he made a garden in Gagra and thus was able to accumulate some capital.

In 1898, Akaki Khoshatria was appointed as the chief gardener of the city of Batumi, where he was named "King of Roses" for cultivating unique varieties of roses. "From February 1898 to 1902, Ak. Khoshtaria, a graduate of the Nikitin Institution, was invited as a gardener." (Маргиев, 2016.16) Akaki Khoshatria stayed in Batumi until 1902, and then he involved in extensive commercial activities (mskhiladze, 2001: 12).

The past way of Akaki Khoshtaria's life shows that his unwavering pursuit of professional perfection and his great desire to realize his full potential did not leave him with the choice of remaining a decorator for the rest of his life, so he decided to pursue a career in trade and industry, he, yet in his youth, was friend with Zodelava, a petty trader in Poti. Once friends decided to take kerosene by a merchant ship for sale in Odessa, but a storm that blew near Tuapse swept the ship to Turkey, where the kerosene was sold for gold prize. After that, Zodelava bought a house on Marjanishvili Street

in Tbilisi, while Akaki went to Baku and bought oil trades from the industrial Musanagiev. So, Akaki Khoshtaria's future way was determined to some extent by luck (mikeladze, 1989:13).

Although his career in the commercial field coincided with a very difficult period (World War I, the first years of independent Georgia, the annexation of Georgia), Akaki Khoshtaria soon succeeded in becoming a large-scale industrial and merchant with his capable trade and exact attitude toward entrepreneurial activities.

In the earlier period of the World War I, Akaki Khoshtaria set up a large industrial company in Baku which would conduct trade operations in the South Caucasus and Iran. The company was joined by well-known representatives of the oil industry at that time. Merab Kvitashvili recalls: "In Baku, my father contacted a large group of Georgians who worked in the oil production system. This group was headed by Akaki Khoshtaria, the only real millionaire in Georgia at that time, who bought oil concessions in Persia and established a firm called "Rupento". (Русско-Персидское Нефтяное Товарищество, Russian-Persian Oil Partnership). It was the largest and financially strongest company Georgians have ever created. Its president was Akaki Khoshtaria" (tagvadze, 2018:14). Merab Kvitashvili was a mining engineer by profession, a Colonel in the Army of Great Britain, the director of the Georgian editorial board of Radio "Voice of America", his father, Simon Kvitashvili, was one of the five directors of the Akaki Khoshtaria's Oil Partnership "Rupento" in Baku.

Although Akaki Khoshtaria had factories of mechanical, agricultural machineries and soap in Tbilisi, his main industrial and commercial arena was still Persia (ts'ots'k'olauri, 2010: 17).

The Persian government authorized A. Khoshtaria to drill oilfields by bore-holes in five northern provinces of Iran, West and East Azerbaijan, Gilan, Mazandaran and Khorasan on the basis of a concession from August 7 1907. Here Akaki Khoshtaria built an electron-operated factory, had many workshops, owned a monopoly on soap and timber production, fishery, traded in wool with the British, grew rice, here built the first railway, founded a transport company and he was the first to bring a Ford model car in Iran. At the same time, the most difficult trade combinations of Turkish-Persian Bank, so-called Khoshtaria's Bank, established in Istanbul interested world leading trade circles (ts'ots'k'olauri, 2010: 17)

Georgian writer, translator, public figure Ambako Chelidze recalls: "Pehlev is small, it is connected by a narrow-gauge railway to the town of Resh, on eighteen or twenty verses distance. This railway was built by Georgian businessman Akaki Khoshtaria. I supposed it was the biggest event to connect the two trade centers at that time" (ch'elidze, 1964: 2).

Later, Akaki Khoshtaria founded the Russian-Persian Oil Partnership (РУСПИЕН-ТО Русско-Персидское Нефтяное Товарищество), which was to carry out geological exploration. [According to the grandson of Akaki Khoshtaria's brother, art historian Giorgi Khoshtaria, Akaki was the godfather of Shah Muhammad Reza Pekhlev. According to the Shah the whole of Iran was owed by him. Akaki presented the legs of a royal decorated with diamonds to the godson, which clearly proves his great financial capabilities.] (mikeladze, 1989: 13).

In evaluating entrepreneur Akaki Khoshtaria, we think that one part of the letter of researcher Jemshid Giunashvili is important, in which he asks a question and answers it himself: "A. Khoshtaria had close relations with the leaders of the ruling Kajar dynasty and high-ranking officials of the state apparatus, and this is a paradox, during the coronation ceremony of the overthrower of the Kajar dynasty Reza Khan, Khoshtaria is given the opportunity to present the precious presents taken from Italy to the new crowned head. Obviously, without effective and weighty petition and assistance, a Georgian businessman close to the Kajars could not have approached Reza Shah, and the new Shah, of

course, would not have had an almost domestic conversation with him ... It is highly probable that A closed person with Reza Pahlev, head of staff of brigade of Reza-Khan, Nikoloz Markov, who made undoubtedly a close friend of Akaki Khoshtaria after construction of Akaki Khoshtaria's wife Mrs. Mindora's Tomb, petitioned him before the new king" (giunashvili, 2010: 5).

In Iran, in the province of Gillan, in a resort town on the Caspian Sea coast Enzeli, Akaki Khoshtaria had a palace with 17 hectares of land. Then he granted it to the Shah Reza of Iran (today the building is not preserved in its original form). There is a suspicion that there set fire and the Shah later rebuilt it. Now on the first floor of this building is the Naval Museum, and on the second floor there are displayed Akaki's personal belongings. Also, there is a photo at the entrance where the building is presented in its original form (tagvadze, 2018:14).

The United Kingdom, particularly the British financier William Knox D'Arcy, was very interested in Iranian oil products, who before Akaki Khoshtaria, still in 1901, had purchased from Muzaffar ad-Din Shah of Persia a concession to explore, obtain, refine, on-site market and export oil and gas during 60 years. The terms of the contract stipulated that the Shah received 16% of the sale of petroleum products in the form of royalty [Royalty - Fees for the right to use minerals in the process of extraction of minerals and processing of technogenic formations. " Georgian Tax Code", Article 12]. The concession covered almost the entire territory of Iran except the five northern provinces. In 1909, at the initiative of the British government, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) (Англо-Персидская нефтяная компания) (Исаева, Даушвили, 2020: 6), was established, which turned out to be the most serious competitor for Akaki Khoshtaria's firm and finally overcame it after a number of political battles. The UK government owned the controlling interests in the oil company. London tried to join the five provinces of northern Iran that were not part of this concession. The Government of Iran was, of course, interested in investing as much foreign capital as possible in the exploitation of the country's natural resources, but saw a threat to spread English capital throughout the country.

Still on March 12, 1916, Akaki Khoshtaria had ransomed from one of the Iranian nobles Nasr-al-din-Shah's firman about oil-field in the northern provinces of Iran. His plan was thwarted by the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the British occupation of Iran.

In 1918, Akaki Khoshtaria began negotiations with representatives of the APOC, but due to protests from the British side, this agreement could not be reached in Tehran. Later, Akaki Khoshtaria took a decision to sell part of his concession right in Iran. In 1920, APOC bought 55% of Khoshtaria's concession for 335,000 pound sterling (different sources name different amounts) and the organization set up a branch there (Косторниченко, 2001: 9), formed the North Iranian Oil Company with authorized capital of 3 million pound sterling.

Despite such a tense life, Akaki Khoshtaria has never forgotten Georgia. He sponsored a number of events in the Democratic Republic of Georgia, purchased 4 ships in the United States and Italy, and donated them to independent Georgia to have its own navy (ts'ots'k'olauri, 2010: 17). Rusudan Daushvili writes about this fact: "Akaki Khoshtaria had close ties with the government of Noe Zhordania, he also helped financially. The generous and thoughtful businessman for the future of the country, bought four ships in the United States and Italy and named them "Sakartvelo", "Tamar Mepe", "Shota Rustaveli" and "Noe Zhordania" (daushvili, 2008: 3). There are different opinions among Georgian researchers about this fact. Durmishkhan Lashkhi disagrees with Lali Mikeladze's view that the Georgian Democratic Government has purchased two Lincoln-type ships: "As Lali Mikeladze writes, the Democratic Government of Georgia bought two Lincoln-type ships, which Akaki Khoshtaria brought with his money from the United States and Italy. This opinion said by Lali

Mikeladze is not confirmed from the discussed sources and literature, as the members of the Democratic Government do not speak about it and as it is known, the Democratic Government of Georgia did not have Lincoln type ships, so we cannot agree with this opinion said by Lali Mikeladze“ (lashkhi, 2016:10). We can not share such a categorical opinion of D. Lashkhi, because there is a report according to which: "Akaki Khoshtaria bought 4 military ships in Italy and the United States in 1920 to create the Georgian Navy, brought them himself and chose the names: "Sakartvelo", "Tamar Mepe", "Rustaveli", "President Zhordania". On May 11, 1920, he wrote about this in a letter sent from Paris to Davit Guramishvili patronymic Aleksandre, an employee of the Georgian Transport Company“ (tagvadze, 2018:14).

The fact that the democratic government of Georgia had a strategy to strengthen its navy is also confirmed by other sources. In the article "Ships for Georgia", printed in the newspaper of the National Party of Landowners „Land” # 16 on 1920- The economic agent of the Georgian government in Constantinople reports: In recent days, representatives of the United States and Japan have expressed a desire to sell ships to Georgia. At the same time, the Americans are asking fees for the ships not with money, but with manganese (The newspaper of the National Party, 1920: 16).

In the following years a tense confrontation began between the former Soviet Russia and Great Britain on the exploitation of oil-rich fields of Iran. Akaki Khoshtaria tried to establish contact with Russian officials, assisted by Georgian Bolshevik Budu Mdivani, who introduced People's Commissar for Foreign Trade LB Krasin and responsible official B.C. Stomoniakov. "He sponsored the members of the Soviet delegation Giorgi Chicherin, Mikheil Vronsky and Budu Mdivani at the Genoa Historical Conference. He also met with Stalin and established the company "Khoshtaria-USSR Relations", through which flour was brought to starving Baku from Persia. The bread baked from this flour was called "Khoshtaria bread". Khoshtaria also met with Lenin along with Budu Mdivani. He wanted to set up a private bank in Tbilisi and offered Stalin to establish relations with Turkey, but the Bolsheviks decided to arrest him in order to avoid financing the flour fees and seize all of Khoshtaria's property" (daushvili, 2008: 3).

The Russian side used the name of Akaki Khoshtaria as much as possible and started a fight ostensibly to restore his rights. The Soviet geologist D. Golubiatnikov was sent to study the northern regions of Iran, after which the USSR Politburo decided to create a mixed Soviet-Persian oil-producing society and not to allow foreign capital, especially English, to land in these fields. The Soviet geologist D. Golubiatnikov was sent to study the northern regions of Iran, after whose report the USSR Political Bureau decided to create a mixed Soviet-Persian oil-producing society and not to allow foreign capital, especially English, with these fields.

Akaki Khoshtaria was able to negotiate in favor of the Russian side (Брукс, 1949: 3). He signed an agreement with the owners of the Shah's firman who had the right of oil field in the northern provinces of Iran for 70 years. The Soviet side ransomed these firman each for 4.5 million tumans. Thus created the company "Kevir-Khurian Limited" with 4.5 million tumans of authorized capital. An additional 250,000 tuman were contributed by Khoshtaria himself and the Bank of Russia-Iran („Русперсбанк“). 100 thousand shares worth 50 tuman were issued, which were sold for 2 years. The shares in the society were distributed as follows: 64% of the shares were owned by Soviet Russia, 20% by Akaki Khoshtaria, and the remaining 16% by the Iranian side, including Iran Shah Reza Pekhlev, Minister of the Palace A. Teimurtash, Minister of Public Affairs Davar and others. The company is managed by two representatives of the Soviet side, Akaki Khoshtaria with an assistant and an Iranian entrepreneur. P. Chamrov was appointed as the responsible director. Joint-Stock Company "Kevir-

Khurian Limited" is registered with the number 740 in the main notary office of Tehran (международная жизнь, 2019: 16). Later, the Russian side, due to the low profitability of the company, redistributed the public shares differently, where Akaki Khoshtaria is no longer remembered. "The communists could not do anything to Khoshtaria, but they arrested his friend Budu Mdivani. Akaki had no other choice and finally left the country, first to Turkey, then he moved to Paris" (daushvili, 2008: 3).

According to the memoirs of Babo Dadiani, who married Aleksandre Maskharashvili, a manganese industrialist, on January 20, 1921, Akaki Khoshtaria had a great friendship with her husband, so he made them a wonderful wedding gift. "Akaki Khoshtaria, a famous industrialist and Maecenas, gave us a large Persian carpet that covered the whole room. I remember it for the rest of my life - gold stars were embroidered in the corners of the carpet. "Then I accidentally saw this carpet in one big state institution" (Мемуары фрейлины императрицы, 4).

In the memoirs we read that the newlyweds left Georgia on February 25, 1921, they arrived in Batumi from Constantinople. In describing this period, Babo Dadiani names two Georgian millionaires, Akaki Khoshtaria and Grisha Beridze, as representatives of the British firm „Cosmo”, which owns manganese mineshafts in Georgia. Aleksandre Maskharashvili was also a shareholder of this company. „In the morning, Alyosha was going to bureau, he had shares in the case of millionaires Akaki Khoshtaria and Grisha Beridze, who represented the famous British firm „Cosmo” and owned manganese mines in Georgia. Akaki had so much money that not much snow came from the sky " (Мемуары фрейлины императрицы, 4).

Akaki Khoshtaria's contribution as a public figure and philanthropist is the greatest. With his direct funding, the Makhinjaurim Botanical Garden and the New Athos Central Park were built. At the initiative of Niko Nikoladze, Akaki Khoshtaria built the railway line between Poti and Abasha at his own expense; he sent 8 thousand rouble from Baku to the newly created historical-ethnographic community. Many Georgian students studied at the universities of Paris and Berlin on scholarships assigned by him (ts'ots'k'olauri, 2010: 17).

Akaki Khoshtaria helped General Giorgi Mazniashvili. In this regard, Giorgi Mazniashvili recalls in his memoirs: "Going and settling in Russia did not bode well for me. My wish was to get to Persia somehow, because the famous Khoshtaria was in Persia at that time, and I hoped that this more-than-kind man would give me some work, and thus I would not die of starving. To this end, I wrote a letter to Khoshtaria, while I was still in prison. After many trials and tortures, I was allowed to go to Persia. One of Khoshtaria's companions, Nikoloz Ioseliani father's name Petre, was traveling to Persia from the Transcaucasian Special Commission at that time. This circumstance was very favorable for me during the trip" (lashkhi, 2016: 10).

This does not end Akaki Khoshtaria's charitable activities. In France, one of the most expensive and prestigious galleries, at the Madeleine Square, called the „Rosenberg Gallery”, where only famous artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Derain, Braque, and a number of representatives of Cubism were allowed to exhibit their paintings, he bought pictures of famous artist Lado Gudishvili and Cubist André Lhote and sent them as a gift to the Georgian Art Museum (mikeladze, 1992: 13) The donation to the Georgian University and the theater is also a result of his charity. In 1918, Georgian lottery tickets began to be sold publicly. The money would be spent on the university and the theater. Akaki Khoshtaria donated 50 thousand ruble to the lottery. Akaki Khoshtaria funded the study of abroad of the following people: Sergi Danelia, Mate Mirianashvili, Mikheil Sabakhtarishvili, famous engineers: Zhorzhika Keshelava, Kucha Alania, brothers Melia and others.

Akaki Khoshtaria spent the last years of his life in emigration, hoping that his homeland would appreciate his merits and deeds and set an example for future generations. He died in 1932, at the age of 59, in Paris.

Many scholars have studied the activities of Akaki Khoshtaria, especially in recent years. However, they had very few materials: 2 documents preserved in the Emigration Museum (we are talking about Akaki Khoshtaria soap factory and agricultural materials factory in Georgia, dated 1919-1920), 3 photos preserved in the National Museum of Literature (2 photos were taken in 1923 in Tehran, at the opening of a bank, and 1 photo - Akaki Khoshtaria with his staff) and 1 document preserved in the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, which states that Khoshtaria sent 4 ships from Italy and the United States to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia." (Tagvadze,2018.14). Information of journalist Tamar Tagvadze, who was consulted by Jemshid Giunashvili, about the life and work of Akaki Khoshtaria is very interesting. "Everything has been erased by the 20th century. Information about him, in the form of oral information, was preserved in Tehran, because here is the Russian Orthodox cemetery in Dulab, where Minadora Turkia-Khoshtaria is buried. 30 Georgians who lived in Iran and worked in Akaki Khoshtaria's companies are buried here.

Copies of documents kept in the National Archives of Iran arrived in Georgia in the summer of 2017. These letters are processed, encrypted, documents written in Persian of the previous century. Which has already been deciphered, from those documents, one is dated 1913.

This is an agreement between the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the company of Akaki Khoshtaria, which allowed the latter to conduct exploration and extract oil, gas and minerals in northern Iran for 99 years. There are points on how to extract the extracted oil and so on. This was the first fact confirmed by the news before us. The second document that was deciphered is a letter from the then Iranian Ministry of Labor about Akaki Khoshtaria's transport company. The document says that a Georgian merchant imported cars to Iran that need customs clearance. The document is dated 1915. Information about Akaki Khoshtaria's activities supposedly is kept in the National Library of Iran, which is also unexplored and unconfirmed material. The information kept in the National Archives of Baku related to Khoshtaria's activities in Azerbaijan is absolutely unexplored" (tagvadze, 2018:14).

Summary. The name of Akaki Khoshtaria is less known to the modern society. His name is associated with the production and transportation of petroleum products in the South Caucasus, the production of mechanical and agricultural machinery, the production of soap and oil. Akaki Khoshtaria's main industrial-commercial arena was Persia. The Persian government allowed Akaki Khoshtaria to drill wells in five northern provinces of Iran, West and East Azerbaijan, Gilan, Mazandaran and Khorasan. Here Akaki Khoshtaria built an electron-operated factory, had many workshops, owned a monopoly on soap production, fish farms, traded in wool, built a special railway (the first railway in Iran), founded a transport company and was the first to import automobiles to Iran. Many scholars have studied the activities of Akaki Khoshtaria, especially in recent years. However, they had very few materials at hand. Information about Akaki Khoshtaria's activities supposedly is kept in the National Library of Iran, which is also unexplored and unconfirmed material. The information kept in the National Archives of Baku related to Khoshtaria's activities in Azerbaijan is absolutely unexplored.

Bibliography:

- Брукс, М. (1949). *Нефть и внешняя политика*. М.: Изд. Иностран. Лит. Стр. 107-108.
- ch'elidze, a. (1964). „*ekvsi ts'eli sp'arsetshi*“. tb. gv. 15. (ქელიძე, ა. (1964). „*ექვსი წელი სპარსეთში*“. თბ. გვ. 15).
- daushvili, r. (2008). „vin gaiqvana sp'arsetshi p'irveli rk'inigza da rogor gakhda galak't'ionis muza shahis pavorit'i“. zhurnali „*tbilisebi*“. 15-21 dek'emberi #51(41). gv. 18-19. (დაუშვილი, რ. (2008). „ვინ გაიყვანა სპარსეთში პირველი რკინიგზა და როგორ გახდა გალაკტიონის მუზა შაჰის ფავორიტი“. ჟურნალი „*თბილისელები*“. 15-21 დეკემბერი #51(41). გვ. 18-19).
- Мемуары фрейлины императрицы. Царская семья, Сталин, Берия, Черчилль и другие в семейных дневниках трех поколений. (Авт.Оболенский, И.) ст..35. http://loveread.ec/read_book.php?id=47411&p=1 (Date of access: 5.08.2020).
- giunashvili, j. (2010). „ak'ak'i khosht'aria reza-shahis inauguratsiaze“. gazeti „*sakartvelos resp'ublik'a*“. #85 (6451), 7 maiisi, p'arask'evi. gv. 3. (გიუნაშვილი, ჯ. (2010). „აკაკი ხოსთარია რეზა-შაჰის ინაუგურაციაზე“. გაზეთი „*საქართველოს რესპუბლიკა*“. #85 (6451), 7 მაისი, პარასკევი. გვ. 3).
- Исаева, Г.Г. Даушвили, Г.Д.– *Проблемы и стимулы развития Энергетики северной африки и ближнего востока*. Иран, Саудовская аравия, Алжир, Ливия (Борьба за концессию в северном Иране). М. Стр.285-289 <https://docplayer.ru/30180564-G-g-isaev-g-d-daushvili-problemy-i-stimuly-razvitiya-energetiki-severnoy-afriki-i-blizhnego-vostoka-iran-saudovskaya-araviya-alzhir-liviya.html> (Date of access: 17.05.2020).
- Нефть России в XIX веке. Североиранская нефть-из истории дипломатических баталии. Журнал „*международная жизнь*“. <https://interaffairs.ru/paged/show/lukoil/sixteen> (Date of access: 18.05.2020).
- khosht'aria a. „amerik'uli qaidis“ biznesmeni da „namdvili kartveli milioneri“. sainpormatsio, p'olit'ik'uri, sazogadoebrivi da shemetsnebiti p'ort'ali-*kartuli azri*. (ხოსთარია ა. „ამერიკული ყაიდის“ ბიზნესმენი და „ნამდვილი ქართველი მილიონერი“. საინფორმაციო, პოლიტიკური, საზოგადოებრივი და შემეცნებითი პორტალი-*ქართული აზრი*). http://qartuliazri.reportiori.ge/inside.php?menuid=67&id=21701&fbclid=IwAR3TK5C3VKgq1P2ixn-zlS6PeW6N3JFQH8NEZl_BSGwI-keSYvLzZlf1Mc (Date of access: 2.05.2018).
- Косторниченко, В.Н. (2001). *Северный Иран, Советский Союз и западные нефтяные корпорации*. Ежегодный выпуск центра региональных исследований Волгоградского государственного Университета, №1 Стр.85.

- lashkhi, d. (2016). „*brdzola erovnuli ghirebulebebis p'rakt'ik'uli realizebisatvis sakartveloshi metskhramet'e sauk'unis bolos da meotse sauk'unis dasats'qisshi*“ (*kvelmokmedni da metsenat'ni*). disert'atsia. sakartvelos sap'at'riarkos ts'mida andria p'irvelts'odebulis sakhelobis kartuli universit'et'i. tb. gv. 193. (ლაშხი, დ. (2016). „*ბრძოლა ეროვნული ღირებულებების პრაქტიკული რეალიზებისათვის საქართველოში მეცხრამეტე საუკუნის ბოლოს და მეოცე საუკუნის დასაწყისში*“ (*ქველმოქმედნი და მეცენატნი*). დისერტაცია. საქართველოს საპატრიარქოს წმიდა ანდრია პირველწოდებულის სახელობის ქართული უნივერსიტეტი. თბ. გვ. 193).
- Маргиев, З. "Батумский бульвар. История в документах и фотографиях". http://zaurmargiev.sitcity.ru/stext_3110142657.phtml (Date of access: 6.09.2020).
- mskhiladze, r. (2001). „mamulishvilebi, romlebits chrdilidan unda gamoviqvanot“. gazeti *ajara.ge*. tb. 4 noemberi. (მსხილაძე, რ. (2001). „*მამულიშვილები, რომლებიც ჩრდილიდან უნდა გამოვიყვანოთ*“. გაზეთი *ajara.ge*. თბ. 4 ნოემბერი).
- mikeladze, l. (1989). „ak'ak'i khosht'aria“. gazeti „*lit'erat'uruli sakartvelo*“. #40 (2716), 6 okt'omberi, p'arask'evi, gv. 10-11. (მიქელაძე, ლ. (1989). „*აკაკი ხოშტარია*“. გაზეთი „*ლიტერატურული საქართველო*“. #40 (2716), 6 ოქტომბერი, პარასკევი, გვ. 10-11).
- tagvadze, t. ak'ak'i khosht'aria – „*amerik'uli qaidis*“ *biznesmeni da „namdvili kartveli milioneri*“!. sainpormatsio, p'olit'ik'uri, sazogadoebriv-shemetsnebiti p'ort'ali-sazogadoebrivi azri. (თაგვაძე, თ. აკაკი ხოშტარია – „*ამერიკული ყაიდის*“ *ბიზნესმენი და „ნამდვილი ქართველი მილიონერი*“!. საინფორმაციო, პოლიტიკური, საზოგადოებრივ-შემეცნებითი პორტალი-საზოგადოებრივი აზრი). <http://qartuliazri.reportiori.ge/inside.php?menuid=67&id=21701&fbclid=IwAR3TK5C3VKgqF1P2ixn-zlS6PeW6N3JFQH8NEZlBSGwI-keSYvLzZlflMc> (Date of access: 2.05.2018).
- ts'ots'k'olauri, a. (2010). „kartveli metsenat'ebi“. k'rebuli „*didni sakmeni*“. tb. gv. 507-512. (წოწკოლაური, ა. (2010). „*ქართველი მეცენატები*“. კრებული „*დიდნი საქმენი*“. თბ. გვ. 507-512).