

Participants of the Conspiracy of 1832 as presented in the epistolary heritage by N. Baratashvili

Abstract: A small-sized epistolary work (18 personal letters) by Nikoloz Baratashvili, a Georgian romantic poet (1817-1845) presents significant material, not only for the exploration of the author's way of life and creative works but also for the characterisation of the socio-political life of Georgia in the first part of the 19th century. Due to his noble origin (on his mother's side Nikoloz Baratashvili was a direct descendent of the Kartli-Kakheti branch of the Bagrationi Royal family), Nikoloz Baratashvili lived among the country's political and cultural elite. As well as this, he had an active contact with the participants of an organised conspiracy of the nobles of 1832 against the Russian Empire. Moreover, the participants of this event make up a major part of the people mentioned in his personal letters which gives the letters certain significance from the point of view of historiography of the conspiracy. The present research aims at collecting the biographical data regarding the participants of the conspiracy and exploring their interrelationship to the poet.

Key words: Nikoloz Baratashvili, epistolary works by Nikoloz Baratashvili, the conspiracy of the year 1832, Russian Imperial Policy in the Caucasus

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An important acquisition of Georgian literature - Nikoloz Baratashvili's epistolary heritage deserves our attention from a number of points./angles. Despite its small size (only 18 of his personal letters have reached us) it presents valuable material regarding, primarily, the life and creative works of the author, his political beliefs, worldview, world perception and a spiritual biography of the poet. At the same time, the letters by Baratashvili can be considered to be a certain type of reliable documentary source to characterise social, political and cultural aspects of Georgia in the first part of the 19th century. These letters are also significant from the point of view of depicting the life of the closest circle of the poet: his relatives and friends.

As is known, Baratashvili was a representative of the highest aristocracy of Georgia. On his paternal side, the poet was the descendent of the Baratashvili house of nobles whereas on his maternal side, she was a representative of a well-known house of the Orbelianis as well as a direct descendant of the Kartli-Kakhetian Royal House of the Bagrationis.

The poet's mother, Ephemias Orbeliani was a great granddaughter of Erekle II. Owing to this distinguished origin Baratashvili lived among the country's political and cultural elite. Thus, exploration of the poet's circle is an interesting and urgent endeavour as he had close contacts with the participants of the nobles' conspiracy of 1832 and who made up a major part of the people mentioned in the letters. Consequently, the epistolary heritage of Baratashvili carries a certain significance regarding the historiography of the conspiracy and it ought to be explored from this point of view as well.

The main aim of our research is to collect and study the autobiographical data of the participants of the conspiracy of 1832 and the poet's relationship with them. Recent historical and literary research and comments prior to the letters, also genealogical research of the Georgian Nobles by Iuri Chikovani have made it possible for us to state more precisely and present differently the identity of historically identified people mentioned by some anthroponym. In addition, the information regarding their birth, death, marriage, relatives, friends, necropol and events about their lives and activities is more detailed. I will also discuss at greater length less-known facts about the people and events (including the issues of their participation in the conspiracy). For those people who are better known to the public, I will refer to and quote extracts from the relevant literature to enrich

their portraits with more data. We should also note that Baratashvili's political beliefs and his attitude towards the conspiracy of 1832 are well-studied by the poet's biographers. (Balakhashvili 1968: pp. 131-139; Jeiranashvili 1997: pp. 106-109) and I will just briefly tackle this issue as much as I need reference to such publications due to the aims of the present research.

1. Grigol, son of Zurab (Dimitri) Orbeliani (1804-1883), general adjutant, poet, one of the distinguished representatives of Georgian romanticism, descendant (great grandson) of King Erekle II (1720 - 1798): his mother Khoreshan (1786-1833) was a daughter of Elene (1786 1833), daughter of King Erekle II. Grigol Orbeliani was Nikoloz Baratashvili's uncle. Orbeliani studied first in the School of Nobles, afterwards at the Artillery school. In March 1833 he was arrested in Novgorod and charged with participation in the conspiracy organised by the Nobles and immediately sent to Tbilisi. While searching his belongings in Novgorod, the Georgian translation of a famous Russian Decembrist's work, (Konraty Ryleev's, 1795 - 1826) 'Nalivaiko's Confession' was found. The fact that Orbeliani was closely connected with the conspiracy is not questioned now. However, presumably, he was not actively involved in it which can be explained by the fact that due to his work commitments in 1827 - 1832 he frequently had to change his address. He was not proved to be guilty and was only charged with a minor (7th category) offence. After spending three months imprisonment in the Avlabari barracks he was set free until the final investigation of the case and sent to the army located in the 'Caucasian line'. At the end of 1833 he was sent to the Neva Marine regiment located in Vilno (Vilnius). Orbeliani participated in military operations against the mountainous tribes, in the Russian - Persia (1826-1828) and Russian - Turkey (1828-1829) wars. From 1859 he worked as the acting vice-hent in Tbilisi. Together with his poetry, it is interesting to study his epistolary heritage, which presents abundant material about the political and social life in Georgia on the one hand and the author's private life on the other. Orbeliani was buried in Kashveti Church. He is the addressee for eight personal letters written by Nikoloz Baratashvili written on September 3, 1831 (I); February, 1837 (II); May 28, 1841 (IV); October 18 (V), May 2; 1841 (VI); August 21, 1843 (VIII), May 23, 1844 (XI), and the letters belonging to the first ten days of July, 1842 (Epistolary heritage of Georgian Writers of the 19 - 20th century...2011, Tsertsvadze 2015). Orbeliani is also mentioned in the letter to Zakharia Orbeliani, supposedly written from August 18 - 20 (Epistolary heritage of Georgian Writers of the 19-20th century...2011, Tsertsvadze 2015). [Letters in which the poet mentions certain people are referred to chronologically - M.Ts.]. Grigol Orbeliani was Nikoloz Baratashvili's uncle, his mother Euphemia Orbeliani's (1801-1849) brother. It is obvious from the letters that the relationship between the uncle and the nephew was not based only on family ties but reveals more friendly and warm contacts. Baratashvili looks at Orbeliani not only as a much-loved and 'looked up-to' relative but the lonely poet considers Orbeliani as a person with whom to be open and share one's happiness and sorrow, with whom to discuss 'black, foaming' thoughts and 'get sorrow off his chest'. He trusts his uncle's literary taste and sends him his poems seeking his advice about them. Baratashvili's poems: 'With Uncle G...', 'Night at the horse-race', 'I found a cathedral', 'Merani', 'The evil soul' and 'The grave of King Irakli'. It is also worth mentioning that Baratashvili was very close to and quite playful with his uncle who was 13 years older than him. The nephew often mentioned his lovers and poetical inspirations and teased the uncle regarding his married fiancée and other 'miscellaneous' women as if he was of the same age as him. It is also significant that the addresser refers to Orbeliani as an uncle only in two earlier (written in 1831-1837) of 8 letters. Later the address form is changed to 'My beloved brother Grigol' and the poet ends the letters by signing as "Yours forever and beyond, forever Nikolaos; "Always devoted to you, N. Baratov" and "Yours always devoted brother, Nikoloz Baratashvili".

2. Anton (Tarasi), son of Nikoloz Apkhazi (1805 - 1838) (Letter of May 28 (IV) to Grigol Orbeliani), second lieutenant, the youngest son of the Secretary of King Giorgi XII (1746 -1800) and his goddaughter Sopio Nikoloz Guramishvili (?-after 1832). He had two brothers: Ivane (1785 - 1831), a Major General of the Russian army and Giorgi (also known as Egor, Shanshe, 1796-1826), a captain.

Anton Abkhazi was a close acquaintance of one of the leaders of the conspiracy of 1832, Solomon Dodashvili (1805-1836). He did not participate actively in the conspiracy and was assigned to the 6th category by the Investigation commission. This meant the people who knew about the plot and could plead guilty as being in agreement with the leaders. Anton Abkhazi was released from prison on September 7, 1833 and sent to the Infantry Regiment at the Caucasus line as a second lieutenant. On September 4, 1836 he was released from military service due to his illness and was

under secret surveillance (Berdnishvili, 1980: 158). The Abkhaz family lived in the Anchiskhati district of Tbilisi, close to the Baratashvilis.

3. Dimitri, son of Ivane Kipiani (1814-1887) (Letter of May 28, 1841 (IV) to Grigol Orbeliani), Georgian statesman, publicist, one of the founders of the national-liberation movement. In 1830-1859 he worked in the Chancellery of the Vice-regent. In 1864-1870 he became a leader of the Nobles of Georgia and in 1876 - 1879 – the Mayor of Tbilisi. In 1885-1886 Kipiani worked as a leader of the Nobles in Kutaisi Province. In 1886 in connection with the murder of the Rector of Tbilisi Theological Seminary Chudetski, Pavle, Georgian Egzarkhos, cursed the Georgian nation. Kipiani sent him a protest letter and demanded that he leave Georgia. As a result of this, he was sacked from his job, and soon exiled to Stavropol, where he was killed in the night, when he was sound asleep. Kipiani was buried in Mtastminda Pantheon and in 2007 the Georgian Patriarchy made him a saint. Dimitri Kipiani was a close friend of Nikoloz Baratashvili from the Noble's college where both of them started in 1825. Both Kipiani and Baratashvili were members of the literary circle. After Kipiani's death, his wife Noni Chilashvili wrote that "Baratashvili was a close friend to my Dimitri and he spent a lot of time with him from morning till night. He had meals with us although never stayed overnight".

A very interesting and significant memory about Baratashvili belongs to Dimitri Kipiani himself in the reply to the letter of his son, Nikoloz Kipiani, in which the son asked his father to tell him something about the poet (Leonidze 1940: 406 - 415). Dimitri Kipiani was considered to be guilty of the 4th category which included the people who agreed and participated in the conspiracy at some time, but not actively and were partly aware of the purposes of the mutiny. In 1834 he was sent to Vologda where he first worked as a clerk in the Governor's Department, later as a secretary and finally, the Head of the Governor's Chancellery. Kipiani returned to Georgia in 1837.

4. Egnate, son of Onisime Ioseliani (1766-1843) (Letters of May 28, 1842 (IV) and August 21 (VIII) to Grigol Orbeliani) was a church person, son of the Royal Court confessor, Onisime, and priest himself, confessor and writer of the Royal Court, father to a historian and archeologist Platon Ioseliani (1809 - 1875). The Investigation Commission assessed him as 9th category which meant that he was accused of listening to "inappropriate" talks and was not directly involved in organizing the conspiracy. While characterising Egnate Ioseliani it is significant to emphasise his critical attitude to Russia and the Russian rule in Georgia: "Nobody expected this of the Russians... We can now see how difficult a relative they are... Although stronger by being more numerous, they are weak regarding politeness, disregarding people, not appreciating virtues, coldblooded; their kings, far from their nation, are like hostages in their adviser's hands. Have you taken a look at the legal system of these people? What kind of man can build such justice and court? The Russians make fun of the Asian and our legal systems. Let them discuss which is better, easier and fairer? The Georgian kingdom, well-built regarding religion, churches, cathedrals, justice, learning and arts, ploughing, sowing and reaping, full of honesty and politeness. Such a magnificent Royal throne and nobles, religious rituals and secular wealth: with guns, cannons and courageous and cheerful people did join the Big Russian Empire!" (Ioseliani, 1995: 238).

Ioseliani was close to the Baratashvili family. According to Konstantine Mamatsashvili, in the poet's house one could see our learned Georgians and among them priest Egnate Ioseliani (Father of a Georgian writer Platon Ioseliani) who visited Meliton Baratashvili every day. Egnate Ioseliani knew Georgian and Armenian literature exceedingly well, was already very old at that time, raised in the Royal palace and a witness of our Georgia's life in the last century, from King Irakli to the death of King Giorgi. (Mamatsashvili 2005: 213) N. Baratashvili characterises Egnate Ioseliani in this way: "This is the man who suffered most because of his position. The past was flowing in front of him, rough as huge seas and oceans". These words are a periphrasis of the words of the chronicler monk of the miraculous monastery, Father Pimen from Pushkin's tragedy "Boris Godunov".

“На старости я съзнаю живу,
Минувшее проходит предо мною —
Давно ль оно неслось, событий полно,
Волнуясь, как море-окиян?”

Pimen stands out in this work by Pushkin. It is obvious that this man reminded Baratashvili of Egnate Ioseliani because of his personal properties-gentleness, naivety, piety as well as by wisdom and zeal.

5. Elizbar, son of Shanshe Ksnis Eristavi (1810-1871) (Letter of May 2, 1842) (VI) to Grigol Orbeliani and the letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani presumably written between 18 - 20th of August, 1844), Major General, one of the leaders and active participants of the mutiny of 1832, son of

Lieutenant-Colonel Shanshe (in Russian documents referred to as Pavel) Iese (Aghababa) Ksnis Eristavi (1765-1831). On his mother's side he was the descendent of King Erekle II. His mother Elene Ioane Orbeliani (1785-1817) was a granddaughter of the Princess Tamar (1749 - 1786) from her son, Commander-in-Chief and Administrator ("Sakhlukhutsesi") of Kartli Ioane, son of David, Orbeliani (1765-1808). He lived in St. Petersburg in 1823-1830 where he studied first in boarding school and later in the Artillery School. After returning to his motherland Elizbar Ksnis Eristavi served as a second lieutenant in the Third Artillery unit in the Caucasus Grenadier division. Because of his father's death he gave up his job and settled in Gori. During his stay in Petersburg Elizbar Eristavi got involved in the conspiracy through Dimitri, son of Prince Julon, and became one of the organisers and leaders. The investigation commission found Elizbar guilty of the second group of the crime which meant "initiating the conspiracy and encouraging others to be involved in the conspiracy". Elizbar Eristavi was exiled to Finland and he worked as a soldier first in Kronstadt, later in Helsingfors (now Helsinki). Upon returning to his motherland he started cultural and social activities. He was one of the founders of the 'Tbilisi private library' initiated by D. Kipiani as well as one of the initiators of founding a magazine "Sinatle" in Gori.

Elizbar Eristavi also managed the Journal 'Tsiskari' and increased its circulation in the Gori district and obtained official gratitude from the editor. He started work in the public sector in the 1840s, became Head of Gori district in 1869 and finished his career as a colonel. However, when he retired, he was given the rank of major general. In 1848 he started a family business. Together with his brother, Dimitri (1811-1854) he set up a factory producing bottles and sold their produce in Tbilisi. In 1845 Elizbar Eristavi married Ketevan Eristavi (1826-1906), daughter of Shalva Eristavi (1798-1849) and Ekaterine Orbeliani (1802-1877). Ketevan was Nikoloz Baratashvili's friend and relative to whom the poet dedicated a poem "Ketevan". Elizbar Eristavi was a cousin to Nikoloz Baratashvili's lady-love Ekaterine Chavchavadze. Eristavi died in Gori and was buried within the fence of the cathedral "Soboro". His wife was also buried there, although their graves are lost nowadays. Elizbar Eristavi's life is described in R. Chkheidze's biographical novel "Over the river Ksani".

6. Manana, daughter of Mirmaniz Eristavi-Orbeliani (1807-1870) (Letters of October 31, 1842 (VII), February 9, 1845 (XIII) and August 10 (XV) to Maiko Orbeliani (1916-1849) as well as the letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, dated presumably August 18-20, 1844). Manana was the wife of David Ioane Orbeliani (1801-1830), a woman well-known for her beauty who was referred to as Madame Récamier. Manana Orbeliani had a literary saloon and pleaded guilty to the 7th category which meant that she knew about the conspiracy although did not agree with its ideas. She was kept under severe supervision. Manana Eristavi-Orbeliani was buried in St. Sameba church of Kumisi (Jologua 2010: 58 - 62). Manana was on close friendly terms with Nikoloz Baratashvili.

7. Elene, daughter of Luarsab Orbeliani (nicknamed 'Tsakalo') (1815-1888) (A letter of October 31, 1842 (VII) to Maiko Orbeliani and a letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, dated presumably by August 18-20, 1844). Elene was a daughter of Manana Orbeliani's brother-in-law (her husband's brother), one of the participants of the conspiracy Luarsab (Iovel) Ioane Orbeliani (1793-1834) and wife of Prince Zakharia Giorgi Eristavi (1814-1850). Elene was greatly influenced by Manana Orbeliani, her aunt and made some contribution to the conspiracy: "Elene and Manana sewed the banner of freedom in Georgia", wrote Elisabed (1864 - 1949) a younger daughter of Elizbar Eristavi (Tsertsvadze, 2012: 42). Her father, Luarsab Orbeliani's house was the place in which it was planned to invite Russian soldiers and murder them. (Chumburidze, 2012). N. Baratashvili dedicated a joyful epigram to Elene and her sister Mariam 'To Elene and Maro' (or, in some editions 'To Elene and Mariam'). I would like to mention here that some scholars do not ascribe this poem to Baratashvili (Nanitashvili 2010:). Elene Orbeliani-Eristavi lived in the part of Tbilisi, referred to as "the district of the Orbelianis", in the house with the Atlases, next to the "Grand Hotel" (currently 31, Atoneli street).

8. Giorgi, son of David Eristavi (nicknamed 'Glukharich') (1813-1864) (A letter of October 31 [VII] to Maiko Orbeliani.) was a dramatist and a poet. Giorgi was the initiator of the founding of Georgian Dasi and a Georgian magazine 'Tsiskari'. In 1844 he married Elisabed, daughter of Iagor Alikhanov, (?-1854), mother of dramatist David Eristavi (1847-1890) and after her death Giorgi Eristavi was married to Martha (1831-1908), daughter of Mimbash David Zaza Tarkhnishvili (1762-1839) and the widow of David Giorgi Baratashvili (1818-1851). Giorgi David Eristavi is buried in Ikorta (Khutsishvili 1961:44). The Investigation Commission found Giorgi Eristavi guilty of the 3rd

category which meant that he “actively participated in the conspiracy and supported it”. Giorgi Eristavi spent a year in Avlabari barracks, and later, due to his young age and the fact that he had admitted to being guilty, he was appointed to one of the squads of the Russian first infantry corps. In January 1834 he was sent to the third infantry division in Vilno and in 1838 he returned to Georgia. Giorgi Eristavi is the author of the poem “About the death of Nikoloz Meliton Baratov”, presumably written soon after the poet’s death. He is the author of two poems dedicated to the close friend of Baratashvili, Maiko Orbeliani: ‘To M...ko O’ and ‘The Recipe M. O.’”

9. Aleksandre, son of Garsevan Chavchavadze (1786-1846) (A letter of August 21 (VIII) to Grigol Orbeliani), A Georgian romantic poet, Prince, Lieutenant-General of the Russian army, participant of the Mtiuleti rebellion of 1804. He married Salome Inane Orbeliani (1795-1847), a distant relative of Nikoloz Baratashvili’s mother. Aleksandre Chavchavadze is buried in the Shuamta monastery in Kakheti. There are two plaques dedicated to him in the monastery. One of them, made of white marble, adorned with the coat of arm and the inscription in two languages (Georgian and Russian) is on the wall of the monastery. The inscription runs as follows: “Prince Aleksandre Chavchavadze died at the age of 60, on November 6, 1846. Evening brings mourning and morning brings happiness”. The other plaque, from his son-in-law, Prince of Megrelia, David Dadiani (1812-1853) is on the floor and reads as follows: “I, Prince David Dadiani, put this plaque in the eternal memory of my father-in-law” (Georgian Statesmen’s Necropol 1961:113). Although Aleksandre Chavchavadze supported the concept of freedom in the conspiracy of 1832, he still believed that the idea of a conspiracy was wrong. He was exiled to Tambov. Nikoloz Baratashvili was very much appreciated as a poet among the members of the Chavchavadze House, in front of which he publicly read his poetry. He was on friendly relations with Aleksandre Chavchavadze’s children. Chavchavadze’s daughter, Ekaterine Chavchavadze was the poet’s inspiration, muse and his lady-love. In 1839 Ekaterine Chavchavadze married Megrelian Prince David Dadiani (1812-1853) which was painfully perceived by Baratashvili and conditioned his spiritual drama.

10. Aleksandre, son of Giorgi Orbeliani (nicknamed Baklana) (1800-1870) (Two letters to Zakharia Orbeliani, one on May 10 (X) and the other presumably written between August 18 - 20, 1844), Prince, retired second lieutenant, Baratashvili’s mother’s cousin: Aleksandre Orbeliani’s father Giorgi (? -1819) and Euphemia Orbeliani’s father Zurab (Dimitri) (1766-1827) were brothers. In the materials of the conspiracy of 1832, responding to the questions of the Investigation Commission, Aleksandre Orbeliani presents his biographical data (February 8, 1833) in this way: “I am 34, single, have a mother and two brothers. The elder is married (implied Kaikhosro Oreblani (1792-1851), Maiko Orbeliani’s father - M.Ts.) and the younger (implied: Anton (Tato) Orbeliani (1803 - 1855), to whom Grigol Orbeliani dedicated his poem ‘To Anton’- M. Ts). I served as a second lieutenant in the Grenadiers’ regiment. My estate and serfs are in the Town district and Borchalo district... I learnt at school for two years and served in the Erevan regiment in 1818 as a cadet and as there was no vacancy in that regiment, I was sent to the Megrelian regiment and served there as a second lieutenant in 1826, when I was obliged to leave as there was nobody else to look after my estate and serfs. I came to my house from Imereti and Persia started the war and I served for four months under the leadership of Mayor Davidof; then I returned and the town district community elected me as the chairman and I worked there for three years. In 1832 I accompanied the commander of the Georgian corps, General Baron Rosin and we went into the entrenchment and I was wounded by a stone and limped for three weeks”. (Gozalishvili 1935: 356 - 357). For participating in the conspiracy he was sent to the Selengin Infantry regiment.

11. Bidzina, son of Revaz Eristavi (1800-1876) (a letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844), a son of Revaz Giorgi Eristavi (1757-1813) and Princess Anastasia (1763- 1838), daughter of King Erekle II. In 1827 for taking part in military expeditions led by Paskevich, he was awarded the rank of warrant officer. Regarding his punishment for participating in the conspiracy of 1832 there is the following information: “Due to the fact that he confessed and repented his guilt, he is to be arrested and sent to one of the units of the First Infantry Division; later to be set free under strict supervision” (Gozalishvili 1935:495). Bidzina Eristavi was married to Tamar Ioseb Melikishvili (1806 - 1867) and is buried in Ikorta.

12. Levan, son of Luarsab Eristavi (1805-?) (A letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844) , the elder brother of Baratashvili’s elder sister, Ekaterine’s (1821-1853) son –in-law, Revaz Eristavi (1812-1881). Levan Eristavi was a warrant officer. First he married Ketevan Bagrat Baration-Mukhraneli (1807 - ?) and later, he remarried Tamar Grigol Cholokashvili. In 1832, in the documents describing the conspiracy, he gave the following evidence: “I am Levan, my father’s name is Luarsab, I am a warrant officer. I am 25 years old and married to the daughter

of Mukhran Baton Bagrat. I have got three minor sons, mother and two minor brothers, I own serfs and an estate in Gori District and in Dusheti District I have only 180 households left as 160 households were confiscated. The annual income which I needed to live on and did not have in cash, I would take from my serfs and estate. I was raised with my parents. During the first Turkish war I served under Major General Davidoff for four months. Later I accompanied Baron Paskevich in the Turkish war, I was awarded the rank of warrant officer for Kars and for bravery in Akhaltsikhe I was awarded St. Anna's fourth degree [order]. Later I was in the expedition with General Reinkaf and served but did not get wounded. I did not go either to Petesburgh or Moscow. I go to church as a true Christian and get saint communion annually". (Gozalishvili 1835: 350). "Unemployed Levan Eristavi to be arrested and sent to prison in Tbilisi for six months and then to remain in Georgia under the surveillance of the Police"- can be read in the address of the Military Minister to Rosen. (Gozalishvili 1935: 495 - 496).

13. Mamuka (Makar), son of Tamaz (Tomas) Orbeliani (1800-1871) (A letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844), Prince, Major General, participant of the conspiracy of 1832, and the following wars: the Caucasian, Russian-Persia (1826-1828), Russian-Turkey (1828- 1829) and the Crimean war (1853-1856). As well as this, he was a distinguished horseman and a well-known courageous, manly man. Orbeliani learnt at Tbilisi School of the Nobles. He started work in 1816 in the 13 Leib-Grenadier Yerevan Regiment. In 1829 he took part in the resistance movement against enrolment in the militia, for which he was first arrested but later found innocent of any charge. After participation in the conspiracy of 1832 he was sent to the First Molorossian Kazak regiment as a Major. Involuntarily, Mamuka Orbeliani played a fatal role in Baratashvili's life. On December 21, 1844 he was appointed as a governor of the Elizavetpol governorant (an ancient town Ganji) and invited Baratashvili as his assistant. Nikoloz Baratashvili spent the last months of his life there. Mamuka Orbeliani was married to Ketevan (1808-1897), daughter of Prince Giorgi Eristavi (The Senator) (1760-1863) and Princess Gaiane (1780-1820). His daughter Aleksandra (1835-1914) was married to Levan Melikishvili (1818-1892), who was N. Baratashvili's classmate in the Gymnasia and his best friend. Mamuka Orbeliani is buried in the cathedral of Sioni, Tbilisi. He is often referred to as Baratshvili's relative in the literature dedicated to the poet which is not true. I want to emphasise that although he shared a surname with the poet's mother and was a representative of the noble family of the Orbelianis, he belonged to a remote branch of the family and thus can not be considered to be related to Baratashvili.

14. Melania, daughter of Shanshe Eristavi (1808-1836) (A letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844), sister of Elizbar Eristavi (1810-1871). She was married to the College adviser, Chief of Police of Tbilisi Andrei Jacob Melnikov (?-1836). According to Elisabeth Elizbar Eristavi (1864 -1949), Melania was given a house on Egzarkhos square as a dowry. Melania Eristavi and her husband participated in the conspiracy of 1832. Their house, where Elizbar Eristavi lived, became a headquarters for the participants. Melania was involved in this conspiracy from the very start and became a secret friend to the sworn brothers. "It was in this woman's family where the main document of the sworn brothers 'Act Reasonable' a well-known 'order of the first night'" and other significant acts were read. Here gathered all the responsible members of the Headquarters. Presumably, under Melania's influence, her Ukrainian husband also became part of the Georgian conspiracy and assisted the leaders.(Papava 1990: 71-73). Andrey Melnikov was ascribed to the 7th category by the Commission which meant that he knew about the conspiracy but did not openly express his agreement to it. By the decision of the court he was kept under severe surveillance. Dimitri Kipiani mentioned that "Melnikov was considered to be a strict and honest Chief of Police. He is still remembered by old people in Tbilisi, and if he had behaved the way other public workers did, he could have easily become very rich. However, when he left work, he fell in poverty" (D. Kipiani 2003: 250). Melania Eristavi is one of the beautiful ladies referred to by the poet Solomon Razmadze in his poem 'Diana's ball'. (Gogoladze 2002: 98-101). In the materials of the commission Melania's young daughter, who died on November 4, 1832, was also mentioned (Gozalishvili 1970: 387) together with her other children.

15. Luarsab (Iovel), son of Ioane Orbeliani (1793-1834) (A letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844), Mayor (1833), brother-in-law (wife's brother) of poet Aleksandre Chavchavadze (1786-1846), and brother-in-law (husband's brother) of Manana Orbeliani. He learnt in the Noble's School and was married to Ana, daughter of Tamaz (Tomas) Orbeliani (1796-1844), well-known for her beauty. He pleaded guilty to the 3rd category for participation in the conspiracy which meant active participation and support to the rebellion. He was set free from imprisonment and was ordered to stay in Georgia.

Together with the above-mentioned people, from the addressees in Baratashvili's letters and the people who are not mentioned by their names, several people may be singled out whose family members were participants of the conspiracy of 1832. These are, for instance, Mikhail Tumanishvili (pseudonym Kheltubneli, talkative), the addressee of the letter written on August 6, 1838 (III), poet, critic, publicist, translator and historian of the theatre, public figure and best friend and classmate of the poet. His father Birtvel Tumanishvili, a secretary and titled advisor to King Giorgi XII (1746-1800) was also part of the conspiracy. He was found guilty of the 7th category, one of the people who knew about the conspiracy but did not agree with the idea. Birtvel Tumanishvili was kept under severe surveillance in Tbilisi (Berdznishvili 1983: 40-41). Sisters-in-law of the poet's older sister, Ekaterine, also deserve to be mentioned here (referred to in a letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani, presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844). These were Anastasia Eristavi, daughter of Luarsab (1809-1886), who married Givi Amilakhvari (1810-1877), son of the participant of the conspiracy Bardzim David Amilakhvari (1781-1861) and Mariam Eristavi daughter of Luarsab (1816-?), wife of the Prince from Enisi, David Ivane Jorjadze, (1810-1866) who also participated in the conspiracy. It is also worth noting that a letter of August 10, 1845 to Maiko Orbeliani (XV) mentions the husband of "just engaged of just married" Sophio (Khoreshan) Konstantine Orbeliani (27.08.1827-07.01.1884), Zakharia (who is also referred to as Zurab or Zaal in his documents). Dimitri Cholokashvili (1802-1851), son of the ruler of Tianeti-Pshavi-Khevsureti Governance, Dimitri Cholokashvili (1802-1851), killed in 1804 and Princess Ripsime (1780-1847) daughter of King Giorgi XII. Later, in 1846, Zakharia became a colonel. Zakharia is mentioned together with his brother Aleksandre, (1803-1833). (The letter (XII) to Zakharia Orbeliani (presumably written from 18th to 20th of August, 1844) also mentions Salome Tarkhnishvili, wife of Ivane Karl Depner (?-1844), daughter of the participant of the conspiracy, court adviser, captain Dimitri Zakharia (Zaza) Tarkhnishvili (1774-?). Salome Tarkhnishvili was a godmother of Baratashvili's sister Sophio Baratashvili-Sumbatashvili (1841-1916). In the christening book there is a record which reads: "The godmother was Salome, wife of Dimitri Tarkhanov" (Balakhashvili 1967:87).

Clearly the circle of relatives and friends of Baratashvili cannot be narrowed only to the above-mentioned people, it is much wider. The present research aimed to present information only about the life and activities of those people, who were mentioned in the epistolary legacy of Baratashvili, which reached us and their relationship to Nikoloz Baratashvili.

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