

« Joseph Rousseau on Georgia and the Planned Indian Expedition (1807) ». *Journal of Persianate Studies* 1, 2, 2008, p. 230-242.

Giorgio Rota



Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/39399>

DOI : [10.4000/abstractairanica.39399](https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.39399)

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2011

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Giorgio Rota, « Joseph Rousseau on Georgia and the Planned Indian Expedition (1807) ». *Journal of Persianate Studies* 1, 2, 2008, p. 230-242. », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 31 | 2011, document 157, mis en ligne le 11 octobre 2012, consulté le 26 septembre 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/39399> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.39399>

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- 1 Natchkebia deals here with a lengthy and still unpublished *Tableau général de la Perse moderne* (dated 1807) preserved in the archives of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting the issues concerning the authorship of this work (which was signed by Joseph Rousseau alone but was probably written to a large extent, if not completely, by his father Jean-François) and placing the circumstances of its composition into the wider context of Napoleon's Persian policy and his dream of an overland invasion of India. The article provides also interesting information on Jean-François Rousseau, who was born at New Julfa in 1738 and therefore was a living link between the Oriental policy of the Bourbons and the upstart Bonaparte's, and his efforts to forge a Franco-Persian alliance against Great Britain. Rousseau eventually failed to secure a place as French envoy to the Qājār court for himself or for his son: interestingly enough, the new ambassador appointed by Napoleon was Claude-Mathieu de Gardane, himself a grandson of Ange de Gardane's, appointed French consul at Eşfahān in 1715. The Author presents an English translation of the chapter about Georgia, together with three excerpts (also about Georgia and the Georgians) from other chapters. It is to be wished that Natchkebia may one day publish (or at least analyses in detail) the whole *Tableau*, which is different from Joseph Rousseau's *Notice historique sur la Perse ancienne et moderne* (Marseille, 1818).

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

AUTEURS

GIORGIO ROTA

Institut für Iranistik - Wien