Florence Hellot-Bellier, Irène Natchkebia (eds). *La Géorgie entre Perse et Europe*

Giorgio Rota
Florence Hellot-Bellier, Irène Natchkebia (eds). La Géorgie entre Perse et Europe

Giorgio Rota

REFERENCES


The present volume is devoted to a subject of great interest: the history of a country where the avatars of Iranian and Western culture have met and clashed for a very long time, both between themselves and with local culture. The result is a peculiar mix and a nation (Georgia) that can appropriately, unlike other places, be called a “crossroads” and a “bridge”. All but one of the fifteen contributions are in French. The span, in chronological order according to subject, the period from the late 12th century to the present day. Each contribution has summaries in English, French and Georgian. The present issue of Abstracta Iranica has not retained five of them not because they are lacking in scholarly value but because they touch on Persia barely or not at all: Irène Natchkebia, “Tiflis/Tbilissi dans les écrits français du début du XIXe siècle”, p. 89-114; “La station séricicole du Caucase au XIXe siècle”, p. 237-260, by the late and regretted David Gudašvili; Guiorgui Sanikidzé, “Islam et musulmans en Géorgie contemporaine”, p. 275-297; Thierry Zarcone, “Tiflis/Tbilissi et l’émergence de l’intellectuel musulman”, p. 299-311; Charles Urjewicz, “Tiflis entre Orient et modernité, le temps des ruptures”, p. 313-336. For the abstracts of other contributions, see nos. 225, 233, 238, 241, 243, 245, 252, 261, 262.

La Géorgie entre Perse et Europe has a very useful index of personal and geographical names. The general high quality of the volume is ensured by the fact that its articles have been authored by nearly all of the most prominent Georgian Iranologists and specialists of Perso-Georgian relations (not to mention the four non-Georgian scholars).
On the negative side, the volume should have been more carefully edited. This would have avoided, for instance, the location of the puzzling “Ouzbeks Atabeg” in 13th-century Azerbaijan (p. 33, a mistake clearly due to the translator) and misprints of dates (p. 166: 1873 and 1896 instead of 1773 and 1796; p. 184: 1840 instead of 1804). Since knowledge of Georgian is not widespread, translating the titles of the scholarly works in Georgian cited in the footnotes and bibliographies usefully provides readers with an idea of the contents. However, it is not clear why the same has been (inconsistently) done for titles in English, which is no longer an exotic language for most of the world. It would have probably been better to adopt an internationally accepted transliteration than the French spelling. Finally, it is not clear why the name of the Georgian capital city should appear (again, inconsistently) as the pair Tiflis/Tbilisi.

AUTHORS

GIORGIO ROTA

Institut für Iranistik – Wien