

Condolence Letter for Tedo Dundua

Institute of Georgian History at the Faculty of Humanities, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, reports with great sorrow that Tedo Dundua, Head of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Georgian History of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences, passed away on October 14, 2025.

Tedo Dundua was engaged in pedagogical and scientific activities at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University for nearly four decades. He authored hundreds of publications in Georgian and foreign languages on the history of Georgia, Georgian numismatics, epigraphy, and philosophy of history. His scientific works were distinguished by a new vision, especially, a philosophical understanding of historical processes.

With his works published in foreign languages, Tedo Dundua made a major contribution to the study and popularization of the history of Georgia abroad. Most of his works are published in English and this brought many issues related to Georgian history to the forefront of academic discussion. It is noteworthy that the subject of his research was the creation of Europe and the historical forms of European integration, which he taught to students of the Master's Program in Georgian History for decades. His contribution to the development of the philosophy of history is worthy of special mention. He revived the theory of cyclical dialectics, which existed in early historiography, and further developed it based on relevant evidence. At the same time, he created a theoretical framework within which historians can understand the historical past. It is noteworthy that his theory is an important acquisition not only for the Georgian, but also for world historiography.

His doctoral dissertation **“Georgian Ethnocultural Evolution and the West According to Numismatic Materials”** (Tbilisi, 1994) discusses many issues related to the history of Georgia within this conceptual framework. Moreover, everything is understood on the basis of numismatic materials. It can be even argued that with this work, Tedo Dundua was the last dialectician for Georgian historiography.

Georgian numismatics was a subject of his special interest. He published a two-volume work on Georgian numismatics in co-authorship with Giorgi Dundua. Later, in 2013-2015, under his leadership, on the basis of the Educational and Scientific Institute of History of Georgia, with the involvement of a significant part of the institute's members, the project **“Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics”** was launched. The catalogue received significant recognition and feedback from leading universities. In 2022, at the XVI World International Congress of Numismatics, Tedo Dundua chaired a special session on Georgian numismatics, which was entirely dedicated to the presentation of Georgian numismatics. The reports read at the session were a certain continuation of the catalogue.

In recent years, Tedo Dundua worked on his yet another project, **“Abkhazia is Georgia. Historical-Numismatic Tale** (Tbilisi, 2025).” In his work, he argued that coins that historically circulated on the territory of Abkhazia were also in circulation on the territory of the rest of Georgia, or Western Georgia, which confirms that the Abkhazian coin market was fully consistent with the coin market of the rest of Georgia, and in historical periods when Georgia was not united, it was identical to the coin market of Western Georgia.

Tedo Dundua's lectures were listened to with admiration by generations of historians. In addition, he has raised a generation of researchers - historians who are distinguished by their exceptional professionalism and dedication to their work. He actively collaborated scientifically with the historians he raised and has co-authored a number of articles and books with them.

Not only the Georgian academic circle but the country as a whole have lost a distinguished, exceptionally erudite lecturer, internationally renowned researcher, and the scholar endowed with oratory talent.

***Natia Phiphia,
Emil Avdaliani***