



KARTVELOLOGICAL INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

“GEORGIAN MANUSCRIPT”

19-28 JULY, 2016

Tbilisi, Georgia

General Program of the Summer School

The Kartvelological International Summer School “Georgian Manuscript” program comprises of six training modules, an exhibition, three workshops and five excursions.

Academic Program

Module 1 Georgian Manuscripts

This module will provide information about old Georgian scriptoria, writing materials and tools of Georgian manuscripts, miniatures and décor and manuscript book covers. The course also contains the following issues: essential structure of manuscript books (colophons, elements of text, philological-codicological analysis), a review of the history of Georgian secular and ecclesiastical literature and manuscript collection.

The students will be able to see unique manuscript collections that are preserved in the National Centre of Manuscripts. There are up to 10,000 Georgian manuscript books (5th-19th centuries) including 4,570 palimpsest pages and up to 4,000 foreign (Arabic, Turkish, Mongolian, Ethiopic, Armenian, Greek, French, German, Hebrew, etc.) manuscripts.

Module 2 Georgian Script

This module includes both theoretical and practical courses.

Theoretical courses of the first module will discuss the following issues: creation of the Georgian script; development and stages of the script (Asomtavruli-Majuscule, Nuskhuri-Minuscule, Mkhedruli-Military), Georgian epigraphy, the Georgian alphabetical system of chronology, Georgian calligraphy and schools of Georgian calligraphy.

Module 3 The National Centre of Manuscripts

This module will introduce the organizer of the Summer School—the National Centre of Manuscripts. The National Centre of Manuscripts will be presented as a unique institution which at the same time houses the biggest depository of ancient samples of Georgian script, a library of old and recently printed books and an important research centre of manuscript inheritance in Georgia. Students will also be introduced to the Georgian and foreign language manuscript collection and archival funds. Students will have a chance to inspect the digitization process in a modern laboratory where digital copies of manuscripts are made and observe the work of specialists in the restoration-conservation laboratory.

In this module there are two workshops. In the first workshop the students will be given an opportunity to participate in the restoration-conservation process, specifically in the simulation of restoring deteriorated leaf. In the second workshop the students will learn how to create paper using ancient techniques.

Module 4 Georgian Historical Documents

This course analyzes the structure and types of historical documents and their constituent structural elements. Examples that will be examined will be taken from the rich collection of the National Centre of Manuscripts which includes 40,000 Georgian and 5,000 foreign-language documents (10th -19th centuries). Attention will be focused on the calligraphic peculiarity of the historical documents.

The students will have the possibility to see historical-document collections that are preserved in the National Centre of Manuscripts.

Module 5 Georgian Printed Books

This course consists of information about the old Georgian printed books. Students will learn about the creation and development of the Georgian font.

During this module, participants will have the opportunity to see rare-book collections of the National Centre of Manuscripts.

Module 6. Private Archives of Georgian Writers and Public Figures

Students will have a chance to inspect personal archives of writers and public figures gathered at the National Centre of manuscripts.

Cultural-Educational Program

Schedule of Excursions:

Excursion to Old Tbilisi: Students will explore the historical part of Tbilisi (Church of Anchiskhati, Sioni, Abanotubani (district of baths), mosque, Narikala, Metekhi).

Excursion to the Georgian National Museum: Students will have a chance to examine and experience the epigraphic fund

Excursion to Bolnisi Sioni and Tsugrugashenii Church: Students of the school will visit the Bolnisi Sioni of the 5th century and see one of the ancient epigraphic samples of Georgian script which has reached our period.

Excursion to Ateni Sioni. The walls of the church contain the inscriptions in Nuskh-Khutsuri and Mkhedruli. One of the inscriptions at the church commemorates Adarnase, the first documented Georgian Bagrationi nobleman who was the father of Ashot I, the founder of the new royal line of Georgia.

Excursion to Mtskheta (Jvari Monastery, Svetickhoveli, Samtavro): Students will be introduced to the ancient part of town, its history, myths and legends. The students will be given the possibility of discussing and comparing manuscript miniatures and fresco paintings.

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