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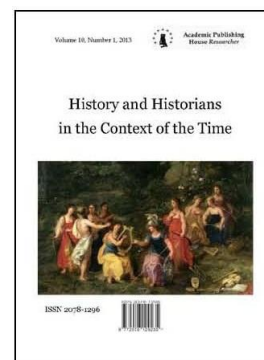
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### Articles and Statements

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### **For the Issue of Olympic Movement History in Georgia**

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#### **Abstract**

For its geographical location Georgia represents the part of old cultural world situated on the border of two continents-Europe and Asia. Such location always provided Georgia's cultural and agricultural promotion during its long history.

As it is well-known, from VIII century of old era, on the south-east of the Black Sea and later on the east (Georgian today) coast Greek settlements appeared. First settlements were Sinopi, Pazisi, Gienosi, Dioskuria, etc. Greek settlements also appeared on the west and north coasts of the Black Sea in the VII-VI centuries of the old era.

Greek settlements played an important role in the process of cultural-economic development of the Black sea population with the antique world.

Keeping in mind the history of old Greece and Georgia's military-political, economical and cultural relations, it should not be surprising that these relations revealed in sport life that made the basements of Olympic movement in Georgia.

**Keywords:** Valeri Ekletka; Vani; Tskhra Tskaro.

#### **Introduction**

There are notes in sport history that during the period when Olympic Games took place in old Greece, In Georgia, in the places of Tskra Tskaro, Olympic Games were held once in four years with the Greek Olympics program. Historic sources show that Sinopean Georgians – Ekletka and Repusin were the winners in Greek Olympics in III BC. In Hermes Big Sport Competitions that comprised medium distance running, people from Kutaisi and Meskheta were the winners.

Among those materials that are dedicated to Olympic movement in Georgia, first of all we should distinguish extensive correspondence from south region of Georgia, Meskhethian village Khizabakari by famous, XIX century historian and ethnographer Ivane Gvaramadze (nickname "someone Meskhi"). It was published by newspaper "Droeba" in October 17, 1882. Iv. Gvaramadze talks about boxing and points out that during Georgian games in Tskra Tskaro, boxers wore boxing

gloves, which had copper plate in the middle part..Till today we do not have any documentations to prove these notes but recently, after archaeological excavations in Vani, identical boxing gloves described by Iv. Gvaramdze appeared that was made by plaster and was surrounded by natural copper plate. It is quite possible that other notes given by Iv.Gvaramadze can be confirmed in the future.

We Consider that on the bases of all the information given above, we can talk about Greek – Georgian relations in the fields of physical education systems, that are well reveled in spreading Olympic movement in Georgia.

### **Methods and Materials**

Olympic movement and generally Olympism is constant and perfect, and Olympic games are the top of sport movement which have been developing for centuries. It is the most important phenomenon in the international life. Olympic movement is discussed as a connection of philosophical, moral-ethical, pedagogical and organizational principles that are based on the human, cultural and humanitarian values.

Olympic games are complex international games of sportsmen and it is the greatest festival of the world's youth. The games unify the sportsmen from different countries in fair competitions. International Olympic Games are reflected in social, aesthetical and moral aspects. Olympism ideas, aims of Olympic movement are realized in them.

Level of modern life is reflected in Olympic Games as it happens in the mirror. They attract the attentions of millions of people in our planet and express the aspiration towards peace and progress of all the mankind. [1, 3].

Modern Olympic Movement represents the greatest factor in the case of connecting people. It provides development of international trust and strives for people's physical and moral upbringing, social progress [2, 4].

Today, when the ceremony for opening Olympic Games begins, Olympic delegations of different countries occupy their place on the green field. According to the traditions, Greek delegation leads the event as Olympic Games were born exactly in Greek centuries before. This condition connects the Olympic Games of old and new world.

Panapinei-the antique age Olympic Game took place in old Athens, at Olimpo field, in the south of Greece, in the west part of Pelopones, on the right banks of the river Alpei. It was the place of sport and musical competitions of Hellens.

According to its geographical location, Georgia represents the part of old cultural world-situated on the border of Europe and Asia. Such location always provided agricultural and cultural promotion of Georgia.

As it is well-known, from VIII century of old era, on the south-east of the Black Sea and later on the east (Georgian today) coast Greek settlements appeared. First settlements were Sinopi, Pazisi, Gienosi, Dioskuria, etc. Greek settlements also appeared on the west and north coasts of the Black Sea in the VII-VI centuries of the old era.

Greek settlements played an important role in the process of cultural-economical development of the Black sea population with the antique world.

From these seaside Greek settlements, quite intensive economic and trade relations of Kolkheti population with the antique world took place. At the same time, these relations were not only with Greek but with the other regions of the old world, such as Syria, Egypt, etc. [3, 146].

In old antique era, in the place of south and east Georgia, in the eastern part of the west Georgia the most active population was Meskhetian unifications or the tribes created according to their management. They gradually spread their influence from Kolkheti to the east and from Meskheti towards the north-east. This process began in BC VIII-VII centuries. These processes wee favored by those great trade roads of international importance that passed Antique Georgian territories.

As a result of close political, cultural and economic relations, in the culture of old Kolkheti and Iberia lots of Hellenistic elements appeared, among them were elements of Physical culture.

Keeping in mind the history of old Greece and Georgia's military-political, economical and cultural relations, it should not be surprising that these relations revealed in sport life that made the basements of Olympic movement in Georgia.

It is a well-known fact that Georgians, once in every four years, held sport games like Hellens' Olympiads. All these make us think that Olympism was not strange and new for antique period Georgia [4, 13].

There are notes in sport history that during the period when Olympic Games took place in old Greece, in Georgia, in the places of Tskhra Tskaro, Olympic Games were held once in four years with the Greek Olympics program. Historic sources show that Sinopean Georgians – Ekletka and Repusin were the winners in Greek Olympics in III BC. In Hermes Big Sport Competitions that comprised medium distance running, people from Kutaisi and Meskhети were the winners [5, 213].

Among those materials that are dedicated to Olympic movement in Georgia, first of all we should distinguish extensive correspondence from south region of Georgia, Meskhetian village Khizabakari by famous, XIX century historian and ethnographer Ivane Gvaramadze (nickname "someone Meskhi"). It was published by newspaper "Droeba" in October 17, 1882. [6].

According to Iv. Gvaramadze's notes, "Famous Olympic Exercise" took place in Georgia from the very past. In Gvaramadze's materials there existed the same bases in Greek and Georgian Olympic games. If Greek games were held "near the Olympia town and that's why it was named Olympia", in Georgia these events were held in Meskhети, mainly" towards the Vani mountain, on the fields of Tskhra Tskaro".

To clearly understand this issue, it is important to draw parallels between old Greek and Georgian games to make sure how close these two events were according to its content, program and other data.

As we know, old Greek Olympic Games took place once in four years. Previous selection Olympic tournaments were not firmly distinguished. Instead, a month before the Olympic Games began, participants were invited in order that referees find out if they were suitable to take part in the games. The same process took place in old Georgia, but here the selection tournaments were clearer.

The symbolic prize for winners in Greek Olympic Games was crown made of olive branches. In Georgia, in the games of Tskhra Tskaro, the winners were rewarded with the crown which was made of pine-tree branches or with laurel leaves and the weeping willows.

As for the program of old Greek and Georgian Olympic games they were the same.

It is well known that in old Greek Olympic Games, wrestling took the main place. Greeks considered it as one of the useful exercise and comprised it in the Panthathlon. At the same time they wrestled barely, but put fat and sifted sand on their bodies. Here are some of the tips how Ivane Gvaramadze describes wrestling in the program of Tskhra Tskaro:

1. "At first they wrestled with clothes and in bare forms. Later they put oil and sand on their bodies in order someone to be able to touch them".

The same could be said on boxing. Greek participated held competitions with laces on their hands and it had metal rolls inside. The same was in Tskhratskaro.

2. They fisted with leather copper gloves and hit each other this way.

Like Olympic Games, in the programe of Tskhra Tskaro, walking was implied as well, also horse riding, phaeton racing, disc throwing. We also meet such sport games in Tskhra Tskaro Programe which were not implied in Greek Olympic games. These were playing ball, women exercises, etc. Women also participated in running. Iv. Gvaramadze remarks that

3. Women running. They hid some kind of rags with certain signs and those women were winners who could hide it well while running

Except of Iv. Gvaramadze's materials other facts also prove Greek-Georgian relations. It is well-known that lots of Georgian athletes participated quite successfully in the competitions which were held in the Black Sea settlements and in Greece. The most famous were Blastos and Kratinos from Kutaia (nowdays Kutaisi) who diserved laurel crown in short distance running in Gorgi Pra (nowdays Anapa). Besides Kutationi (Kutaisi Residnts) other famous Greeks, Hellenistic Sinds and bouncy Skvits participated in competitions.

Together with Kutaisi, many other Georgian towns were famous in competing famous Athlets. Among them was Sinopi, which was settled by Georgians those days. Valeri Ekletka, resident of this town participated in sport arena of Olimpia, Delpos, Argo, Athens and Rome. For his victories Ekletka was chosen as honorable citizen of various towns.

Martsiane Refuss, a boxer who was grown up in Sinopi successfully participated in 50 competitions. He won 150 times in competitions held in Rome, Neapol, Istria, Delpos, Plimpia,

Athens, Asia, Ponto, Galatia, Kabadokia, Makedonia and Antiokia. Gymnasts who were skilled in Sinopi were often invited teachers in Greek towns. The following inscription was carved on one of the stone of Pantikapea cemetery in which one invited Gymnastic teacher Parnaki was buried: "Farewell Parnak, son of Parnak! Traveler, look at Parnaki's statue, broken by Pida's weight. Poor boy was wrapped into its net who was gymnastics teacher, young and with his devotion moved from native Sinopi to the west. Bospori land keeps his bin, all of the people in Gymnasium cry for his death. His stepfather loves him more than his own father and put stone statue on his tomb".

If we trust to one of the Aristotele's notes, Pazisian (Poti) athletes often participated in the Atenel's competitions. After archaeological excavations in Vani, golden Nikea statue was found and athletes who won in Greek competitions were rewarded with this prize. Maybe, this statue belonged to one of the Kolkh athlete who won this statue after his victory and brought it into Vani.

### **Conclusion**

As we already mentioned, one of the confirmatory documentation regarding Olympic movement in Georgia could be Iv. Gvaramadze's correspondence. For its originality these documentation remains as the primary source. Recently found materials point to the fact that Iv. Gvaramadze's materials have appropriate bases. For example: Iv. Gvaramadze remarks that in Tskhra Tskaro boxing games boxers wore gloves that had copper plate in the middle part. Till today we do not have any documentation to prove these notes but recently, after archaeological excavations in Vani, identical boxing gloves described by Iv. Gvaramadze appeared that was made by plaster and was surrounded by natural copper plate. It is quite possible that other notes given by Iv. Gvaramadze can be confirmed in the future.

We consider that on the bases of all the information given above, we can freely talk about Greek – Georgian relations in the fields of physical education systems, that are well revealed in spreading Olympic movement in Georgia.

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