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## HISTORY OF E.V. RTVELADZE'S SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE

**Abstract:** This scientific article is devoted to study the scientific activity, contribution and achievements of Academician E.V. Rtveladze in the field of history and archeology. During his activity, many scientific and popular articles were published, and its summary is also given.

**Key words:** research, archaeological excavations, geography, faculty, cotton picking, ethnography, epigraphs.

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### Introduction

E.V. Rtveladze was born on May 14, 1942 in Barjomi, Georgia. His father worked in in the town of Lycania. He provided the food for wounded soldiers at the front in the sanatorium of the city of Barjomi. He was a participant of the First World War. He was not called up for World War II because of his age. Rtveladze's house [1, P.160] was located in the source of nature literally opposite the palace of Emperor Alexander III. The dark forest of Barjomi started from their house. His apartment was large and it was divided into two. 2 families dwelled there; the Rtveladzes including Edward's parents and 2 sibling sisters and one brother were accommodated in one of the houses while the other part of the house was occupied by his father's bosom friend Nikolai Kamkadze and his wife Rusudan. Rtveladze also had a house in Kislovodsk, and his father decides to return to Keslovodsky. Later Edward left with his mother, and siblings to visit his father. During these years, Edward's interest in nature, history, and travel began to nurture. In 1949, Edward went to the 1st grade of the 17th school. Then he continued his education of senior years at the 14th school. In February 1949, Rtveladze's sister Tamara died of meningitis after which Eduard's father left for Klukhori, and from there they moved to Zelenchuk. In August 1950, he

worked as the head of tea house. Edward's parents were not educated. His father, Vasily Iosifovich, lived in his grandmother's house in mountainous areas in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He used to be homeschooled by teacher who came from upper Rachada Kutais. During the winter, he came before the closure of the pass and left before its opening. From a young age until the Ottoman rule, he mainly spoke in Georgian and Svan languages. Later when he came to Tbilisi he learned to speak in Russian but with a Georgian accent. Mother, Anna Timofeevna, graduated from the 3rd grade of the gymnasium. In Nikolaev and Sevastopol, her father Timofey Yakovlevich Khanin was engaged in repairing warships. Despite this, Edward's parents loved to read. His father learned Turkish and Persian when he traveled to Turkey and Iran. He also spoke Azarbaijani and Armenian language. In its turn, his mother, studied a lot depending on the circumstances. She is an ardent reader of many books. To put in a nutshell, his while family were simply keen on reading many books. From a young age, Edward read a lot of scientific literature and books on geography. He was interested in traveling and discovering new lands. When he was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, He read all books on geography in all libraries of Kislovodsk. Back in the years, upon reading the book<sup>1\*</sup> *Articles on the history*

\* The book tells about the discoveries of ancient peoples, about the role of ancient geographers in the history of geographical

discoveries. The reader will get acquainted with the ancient civilizations of the Middle East

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of geographical discoveries. Vol. 1 by Joseph Magidovich he made a draft roadmap of his own. This man included the drawings of all the mountains and surroundings of Kislovodsk. One day he reached to Byzantine monastery with his peer friends. He also reached the Upper Khasau and Harbaza Rivers, as well as the upper Malki River. Later he got to Kirtikaush and gorge of Baksaka, passing another impassable pass. In his teens, passing through Marinsky he reached to the Klukhor pass. Over time, Edward began to have an interest in books on history and archaeology. From geography, he became interested in archaeological excavations. In 1958, Edward independently conducted archaeological excavations together with his classmates and close friend Vladimir Bagdasarov. Later he worked as a translator in Egypt (Egypt). Then he worked for many years as the head of the library of the Academy of Sciences. On July 27, 1962, E.V.Rtveladze [1, P.19] arrived in Tashkent and found a place to reside to at Victoria Dolinsky's. He intended to be enrolled at university. At that time, the state exams began on August 1. At the Faculty of History, exams usually were taken in 4 subjects: history, foreign language, oral and written literature. He passed the first 2 exams with "excellent" in history and English, but he failed to pass the 4<sup>th</sup> exam in literature. As he said he poorly conveyed the novel of "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy. He learned the news of getting "satisfactory grade" from the subject from Dina Sidorovna, in its turn, it turned out be said by Lyala (Lidiya Bukinich-his would be wife). It is known from the memoirs of the scientist that the associate professor of the Faculty of Philology Malakhov, who took this exam said these words cunningly. "Your handsome Georgian failed the grammar exam. If he can't pass the oral literature exam with flying colors, he won't be able to achieve entrance points".

As English people say "forewarned is forearmed". Thus, he immediately rolled up his sleeve and made a hard effort not to flunk the test and did his best to the one of those chosen ones. Luckily, he managed to pass the test successfully. At that time there were a number of categories for students, he had a choice between 2 years of experience or service in the army. But during the first 2 weeks of study after enrollment, the cotton picking season began, many students were mobilized to pick cotton. Edward's mentor Mikhail Evgenevich Masson played a great role in his life. Only Junior and Senior year student archeologists sent to Old Marv for the university's field archaeological practice from mid-September to early November under the auspices of Masson. It was followed by a cotton picking season. But for him, the year of freshman began in a bit different way. He could not go to either field practice or cotton picking. Prior to his departure to Southern Turkmen Archaeological Complex Expedition (STACE- 1946), being suspected of cecum in a Persian language lesson

Edward was hospitalized to Tashkent Medical Institute by his course mate. 3 days after the operation, he was discharged from the hospital. Having lagged behind the course, he bought a ticket to Kislovodsk and arrived at the airport. Unfortunately, since the visit of the delegation headed by Khrushchev to Tashkent was expected, planes flying in all directions were temporarily postponed. Due to heavy delay in his flight he reached home early in the morning. Edward's young body quickly recovered after two weeks, he and his friend Rudik participated in archaeological excavations in the vicinity of Kislovodsk. On November the 10th, it was time to return to Tashkent. Fortunately, his student days were on the verge of beginning. The Faculty of History used to be located on the 2nd floor of the shopping center "Orzu". Before that, it was located on the site of the current cafe "Demir". The dean of the Faculty of History was [1, P. 34] Abdurakhman Khamrayevich Khamrayev, the brother of the famous actor Razzak Khamrayev. By nature, he was a very gentle and kind person. Dean had a good relationship with Masson. It came handy for the students of archeological faculty. The dean's attitude towards Edward was good enough. From the 1st year he was recommended to the Komsomol bureau of the faculty. However, Edward left the Komsomol on his own. After graduation (since then he firmly believed that membership was not suitable for him) and even it was written in his memoirs that he firmly decided to leave the party. The deputy dean of the Faculty of History at that time was Galina Barisovna Nikolskaya [1, P.99]. From the first year she gave lectures to Rtveladze on world ethnography. Galina Barisovna Nikolskaya was very kind to the students. She always stretched her helping hand to students even in the most difficult moments. At the Faculty of History, students were given discipline lessons that they could attend special courses in archaeology at the Department of Archaeology. Remembering about his student time at the faculty, he often touched upon the meticulous study of students and their heavy schedule that made them rush to the department after hearing a lecture at the history faculty during academic year. It is quoted in memoirs that the students often walked along the street of Uzbekistan that was shrouded with green plants which was much more pleasant for students. The academic discipline was given close attention at the Department of Archaeology. Students were taught historical sites related to the monuments of the Middle Ages and their architectural development by S.B.Lunin, Z.I.Usmanov, G.A.Pugachenkova. One of the most important areas of work at the Department of Archaeology was field archaeological practice from the sophomore year, students went directly to 2

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expeditions: in the fall to STACE\* (South Turkmenistan Complex Archaeological Expedition) which included old Kesh cities such as Kitab, Shakhrisabz, Karshi. Many students also had internships in the summer. During the summer holidays, they joined the expeditions of other scientific organizations. The main basis of the excavations was not only the discovery of various archaeological findings, but also archaeological research on other expeditions. It should be noted that, lectures were given at a high theoretical level by Tashkent State University scholars and, above all, members of the Department of Archaeology. The excellent academic speakers were considered to be talented research scientists as well. Their reports included a lot of empirical data obtained as a result of research. According to Rtveldzde he was happy to study and listen to their lectures as well as have an opportunity to subsequently maintain strong creative ties with them. Teachers were constantly changing in the department of the Faculty of History: some died, others left, changed jobs, other young specialists came to replace them. However, Levisky's death from the Department of Archaeology shocked Rtveldzde and made him remember about him as a great loss science. The lecture on "Muslim epigraphy" was delivered by a famous scientist A.A. Semenov.

Mikhail Evgenovich could not find a replacement of him throughout Central Asia. Rtveldzde began to study Epigraphy independently. His mentor Massons`\* reports and practice lessons helped a lot in the expedition. His first acquisition of epigraphy was began in 1965, when he went to the Katta Langar Topographic expedition with Anvar Bilolov. Masson. He was assigned to go on this expedition and closely study the epigraphy of the Muslim world. The lessons of Persian language by E.A.Kosmina's from the Department of Archaeology during his the 1<sup>st</sup> year and A. Raupova's lesson of Arabic language were of great assistance to analyze them thoroughly. Rtveldzde [1, Pp. 94-110] began writing his article of "Temur's invasion to the Eastern Caucasus in his senior year. The book of "Zafarnoma" by Nizamiddin Shomiy and Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi helped him a lot in this way. He also made extensive use of the famous Czech scholar Felix Tauera's "Kniga pobed" (book of victory). At that time, he read the original Arabic-Persian written sources. Mikhail Evgenovich constantly warned him about his belief in the correctness of the translation, since the copy in translation was common and several options for interpretation were recognized. The reason is that the translation does not reflect the smallest aspects of the

original language, especially when comparing archaeological data and written sources, it is important to localize a particular dwelling. In the future translator and scientist Rtveldzde repeatedly made sure that his words in historical and geographical research were different. Maria Ivanova Malohatova was a first-class specialist to give them a lecture about the archaeology of ancient China and Southeast China. She was also remembered as a woman with excellent knowledge of the Chinese language by Rtveldzde. It is mentioned by him that she had an excellent collection of Han, Tan, Sin and Ming dynasties. Prof. Yuri Alexandrovich Skvorsov, a famous geologist who was a close associate of Prof. Masson walked around Tashkent with his students and explain the rivers and geological layers. The subject of Central Asian Anthropology was taught by the founder of the Department of Anthropology K.M.Nadzhimov while the history of architecture of Middle Asia was taught by A.Pugachenkova. Rtveldzde remembers the teachers including S.B.Lunina, Z.I.Usmanova, G.N.Chabrova who taught them at the faculty with great gratitude. Professor of the Department of history and archaeology M.E.Masson is a high-ranking person who delivered lectures on numismatics and the topography of historical figures of Middle Asia. Prof. Mason delivered the lectures well enough relying upon the facts. He was really tough to students during the exam and most of student had to resit an exam many times. E. V. Rtveldzde failed the exam in the subject of the topography of the historical cities of Central Asia and had to resit it twice. For the first time, he was asked to find 10 errors by giving him a history of the Tajik people, but it turned out that Rtveldzde found 9 errors. Later, Masson let him pass the examination successfully as soon as his answer completely satisfied his requirement. Every year Prof. Masson delivered the lectures to the freshman students at the faculty of history to raise their awareness and interest in the Department of Archaeology. The hard effort paid off. As time passed, many students would leave. Those who wanted to connect with archeology for the rest of their lives would stay. As he said "Many are invited, but few are chosen". The ethnic structure in the Department of Archaeology was different in all years, as he said there used to be students from different nations including the Azarbaijanis, the Armenians, the Georgians, the Dagestanis, the Bashkirs, the Uyghurs, the Jewish, the Tatars, The Poles, the Ukrainians, the Russians, the Kazakhs, the Uzbeks, the Tadjiks, theTurkmens, the Koreans and there was no confrontation between them at all. It is

\* South Turkmenistan Complex Archaeological Expedition was originally organized by Mikhail Evgeniyech Masson in 1946. It had many excavation based on sites and periods and were spread over many years. It was endorsed by Turkmenistan Academy of Science

\* M.E.Masson-(5 December 1897 in Saint Petersburg – 2 October 1986) was an important Soviet archeologist. He was the founder of the archaeology school in Central Asia and a professor, doctor of historical and archaeological sciences and member of the Turkmen Academy of Science.

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not only scientific interests that connect them all within a state. Rtveladze also spoke extensively about the Greeks. They had been evacuated from Chernamory, Georgia in Tashkent. After World War II they settled down in present "Akademgaradok". They have their own party, cultural center even issued their own newspaper of "Neos domos" "New Way". The Greeks quickly adapted to Tashkent. According to Rtveladze, many of the Greeks became highly educated after coming to Tashkent.

Greek archaeologists Janis Krikis, Kostos Kauris, K.Kachuris collaborated with Prof.Masson in Moscow and participated in archaeological excavations. A number of archeologists from Greek background completed the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of history. Yet, a great number of them went back to their native country. Scientific archaeological circle of students (SACS) was founded by M.E. Masson in 1940 at the Department of archeology at the Faculty of history. Rtveladze was elected as a chairman. The meetings of SACS used to be held firmly twice a month at the department. During a students` conference in 1966, when the earth tremor occurred, some panic-stricken students wanted to leave the building but they were rejected curtly by M.E.Masson. Prior to each meeting of SACS, they made a thorough preparation and prepared the text of the subjects that were to be raised. Their lectures were mainly about excavations during the holidays, including archaeological excavations that took place in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Each of SACS meetings solemnly passed [3]. During the meeting, the chairman of the circle Rtveladze used to sit next to M.E. Masson. While Rtveladze was on the right side, Prof. Masson was on the left. The students, teachers and invited guests were seated in front of them. M.E.Masson gave questions to the one who delivered lectures expressed his pure opinion on shortcomings and advantages of the lecturer but never interrupted a meeting. SACS's meetings were attended by many famous scientists with their lectures. A mural newspaper was "the Archaeologist" [4] began to be published. In the circle, various events and anniversaries, celebrations, scientific conferences were held. Students were actively engaged in all activities. They also issued a special badge for honorary participant of SACS, which was the first time worn by M.E.Masson on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SACS. He wore this badge for the rest of his life. Rtveladze served as chairman at SACS for 4 years. In his final year, he had to write a diploma and asked them to elect another chairman but Masson got angry when he learnt about it. Rtveladze mentioned other appropriate candidates at the faculty such as G.Afanasev, Gulyamov, E.Kudryasov, Sh.Pidayev for

that position. Later, M.E. Masson agreed and elected another chairman in 1967. Rtveladze's collection of artistic and cultural materials on architecture, numismatics, ethnography relating to Central Asia were largely based on his lectures delivered by his mentors and teachers at the Department of Archaeology due to a loss of teaching aids. He knew all ins and outs about the lectures delivered by his mentors and teachers, even some of his drawings in the synopsis he wrote during his student days are still being preserved. He never stopped seeking and receiving knowledge. To improve his knowledge, he read a lot of scientific literature. He worked in scientific registries in prestigious cities around the world; Italy, America, France, London (Royal Society of Association). Rtveladze mentioned about the wonderful features of libraries in Tashkent in his letter to Pugachenkova. Furthermore, paid a visit to the library named after A. Navoi [7, Pp. 28-34] and library under the Tashkent State University. Mostly he loved to visit there during the winter time and spent his whole day there reading many books since these libraries held large amount of foreign scientific literature.

M.E.Masson and G.A Pugachenkova also set up their own library at their humble abodes where their students were allowed to read within 2 hours, but books were not allowed to checked out. One day, when Rtveladze asked Masson to take one of the books to read at home, he was rejected at once and was received a reply from Masson in the following manner below "what will be the fate of the book if you get stuck under a tram or a car on the way home?" Years later, Rtveladze managed to establish his own personal library and it was composed of the books he bought during his student time as well as his spouse, Lydia Lvovna`s book resources. The number of books in his personal library increased significantly within a short period of time and they did not fit to the shelves and even the tables and floors in his study become cramped full with books from his personal library. But M.E.Masson, L.I.All the books that Rempel and other scholars collected in their personal library turned out to be discarded after their deaths, except some of them that were placed under the protection of the NPU [1, P.47] memorial while others were sold.

In 1963 Rtveladze took part in the excavation of the Old Marv when he was a sophomore student [2; 5, Pp. 119-130; 6, Pp. 339-351]. He was early to go on an expedition and was the last to return home after expedition. There was not a tiny space in old Marv that has not been excavated by him. In September 1963, when he returned from Keslavodsk to Tashkent M.E. Masson summoned Rtveladze to his house and gave him 1,000 soms to cover the expenses of expedition.

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