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Mayor Mamagulashvili
LEPL Sukhumi State University
Doctoral student

UNKNOWN MATERIAL TO CLARIFY GRIGOL ROBAKIDZE'S FOREIGN CONTACTS

Abstract: *The first period of emigration of the Georgian émigré writer Grigol Robakidze (1931-1945) is connected with Germany. Überlingen, his place of residence, is at the same time a reflection of the literary relations between Georgian and European writers.*

According to the published materials, the close relationship of the German writer Charlotte Funder towards Grigol Robakidze's family is noteworthy. The letter that came into our field of view belongs to the German writer Charlotte Tronier Funder, which she wrote to Grigol's wife, Lena, in 1947 after a long pause, which she herself tells us.

Key words: Grigol Robakidze, German writer, Charlotte Funder.

Language: English

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Introduction

Charlotte Funder Tronier (née Klonik) (1899-1974) was born in Berlin. After the bombing of her house in 1944, she moved to Überlingen. From the letter it becomes clear that this is the person who had relations with Grigol Robakidze's family. Her biographers write that there is a reference to Charlotte's marriage to Leopold Ziegler in one of the letters; according to other sources: she was on close friendly terms with Ziegler. From personal letters it becomes clear that Charlotte Funder knew Goebbels, Schuenemann and Gotz well. It also appears that despite many obstacles, she actively helped Ziegler, bringing him food, medicines, etc. She also confided the intimate aspects of her personal life to Grigol Robakidze's wife, the writer Elena Fialkina.

Based on the published materials, we have attempted to reconstruct the biographical and creative portrait of Gr. Robakidze and his wife's close friend, Charlotte Tronier Funder. This lady's personal letters, which are currently kept in the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia, offer us interesting information about both Charlotte and her close circle, as well as Grigol Robakidze and his wife Elena Fialkina.

Charlotte Tromier Funder's literary and creative work is interesting. She was a writer and translator. The following novels belong to her pen: "Die große Führung" ("The Great Leader", published in 1943 by Diederich Publishing House. "Über die Grenze" ("Beyond the Border") was published in 1950. Charlotte Funder was also engaged in translation work at the same time. She translated the first and second volumes of Andersen's fairy tales. In 1948, Charlotte's "Der Krüllkopf" ("The Curly Head"), "Der lachende Mann" ("The Laughing Man") in neuer Webers. von. l. Hugo, Victor und Tromier Funder, Berlin Gefion-Verlag. In 1945, Leopold Ziegler's letter to Charlotte Funder was published in Überlingen.

Charlotte's letter to Niels Diederich was typed on 10.09.1943 in Wohnsheim-Rheinhausen-Blätter-Deutsch-Handschrift (two sheets of German manuscript). It is known that in 1956 Hans Fritz (1883-1966), a Frankfurt writer, wrote a letter to Charlotte on 4 June 1956. Of interest are the letters of Rainer Maria Rilke collected by Charlotte Funder, the journal articles: Rainer Maria Rilke's Manuskripten in Deutschen und Österreichischen Sammlungen ("Manuscripts of Rainer Maria Rilke in German and Austrian Collections"). Klaus W. Jonas und Ingeborg

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Schnack, Monatsheft B and 56, N2. (Februar 1964), S. 61-114. The above-mentioned letter by Charlotte Funder was written in the post-World War II period. At first glance, the autograph letter is quite voluminous. It concerns the close relationship between German and Georgian writers. The literary connections of Charlotte, Lena, and Grigoli are noteworthy here.

The material found in the information field regarding the life and work of Charlotte Tronier Funder is quite scarce, although it is somewhat important. The letter that Charlotte Tronier Funder wrote to Grigory's wife emphasizes her critical state of health and material poverty. Accordingly, according to Charlotte, the letter was received late due to Lena's serious health. She especially draws attention to the late response. The letter shows episodes reflecting their long-term relationship, which, according to Charlotte, would fill two volumes of a dictionary. The letter is written with artistic genius and aesthetic nuances, where we occasionally encounter grotesque elements and comparisons.

The story revealed by Charlotte is important, which leaves a disgusting impression, which, according to her, is associated with disgust and ugliness. However, the letter allows us to form a clear idea of Charlotte's physical and mental state, which in itself is connected with the ongoing events of World War II. The letter preserves an episode from the life of the German writer Charlotte, namely, the moment of her hair turning white due to nervousness. She writes: "Mir ist ein Haar eisgrau darüber geworden und das Herz ist so gebrochen von Abscheu von Menschen, dass ich eine uralte kranke Frau und nicht ein Schatten jener lächelnden Charlotte von einst bin." ("That is why my hair turned white and my heart broke due to the disgust caused by people, which means that I am an old sick woman and not the shadow of that smiling Charlotte"). (Our translation - M. Mamagulishvili). Here, the writer's humorous, yet grotesque gestures emerge, which are actually a reflection of his bitter memories.

Judging by the letter, World War II radically changed the active literary activity. It turns out that due to the current situation, Charlotte slowed down her creative work. According to her, chaos followed chaos, which was clearly reflected in her material and health condition. Here, the writer categorically indicates the loss of a finger phalanx, inflammation of the gallbladder and liver, as well as complications of the duodenum, which actually led to the deprivation of the ability to live and work. The letter exposes the current events, in particular, the so-called slander, which led Charlotte to spiritual destruction. She says that she broke away from the ladies and gentlemen of her close circle.

Judging by the letter, the war almost stopped the literary process. However, it is noteworthy that his friend Grigol Robakidze published noteworthy texts

about Hitler and Mussolini (followers of Nazism and Fascism). There is a point of view that he was interested in Hitler and Mussolini as outstanding, strong personalities, and not in their nationalist-fascist views.

The letter reveals the appropriate benevolence of the Nazi and fascist supporters of the political elite of that time towards Georgian and, consequently, European writers. As for Charlotte Funder's attitude, it is subjective. In her opinion, the aforementioned essays are distinguished by a rare artistic taste, mythological and metaphysical views.

Given the circumstances, Charlotte Tronier Funder shares her views with friends not publicly, but through letters, where her profound philosophical, religious, and literary concepts are clearly visible.

The above-mentioned letter, which Charlotte Tronier Funder wrote to Grigory's wife, Lena, as well as to a youth friend whose identity is unknown, also touches on political nuances. We believe that this life detail adds much more meaning to the letter, which makes us feel better about knowing and understanding the events of World War II and the following. We offer you one of the episodes from the letter:

Erinnern sie sich noch an meine 1. Tat in Überlingen – die Vorlesung eines Antikriegesgedichtes in Ihrer, Goetzens und Elisabeths Gegenwart? Worauf meine liebe SS – Kolegin, verschiedentlich Drohtöne vernehmen ließ? – Erinnern Sie sich weiter der Parteischwierigkeiten, die ich hier hatte, wie ich die Wohnung, einen Teil meines anständigen Rufes und die Begehrtheit meines Umganges einbüßte? Und ich ihnen 1945 erzählt, die ich streng verschweigen sollte unter Androhung von KZ und aus der nur der gute bürgermeister Spreng mich herauszog neben dem befürchtungsschreiben Dr. Ecermanns, den ich durch Rothe beannatt. (National Library, Archive Fund No. 12 , Description No. 2. Published document).

"Perhaps you remember my first activity in Überlingen - a lecture - on the theme of poetry, anti-war, which I read in the presence of you, Goetzen and Elisabeth? Why did my dear colleague hear threatening dissenting voices? Do you remember the difficulties associated with my party, such as the loss of a part of my apartment, my honorable reputation, due to my desire to make a deal with a company? I told you about the Gestapo story of February 1945, which I had to keep strictly in connection with the danger of concentration camps. The letter through which the honorable Mayor Spreng Dr. Eckermann brought me out, I received from Roth." (Our translation - M. Mamagulishvili).

According to the letter, Charlotte's female friends made her life even more difficult. Based on the historical situation, the writer Charlotte gives us a realistic picture. She mentions the following significant facts in the letter: In connection with the appearance of the French at that time, a friend of the

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Nazi activist Goebels and the writer (the person is not specified) caused great harm. Charlotte tells the story in its entirety against an emotional background: One evening, at 9 o'clock, a gendarme from the security police arrived and took away her nightgown.

Her friends reported this to Charlotte's friend Ziegler, which put them both in danger. Leopold Ziegler was one of the most prominent political figures in Nazi Germany.

Leopold Ziegler, a German philosopher, was born in 1881 in Karlsruhe, Germany. His father was a merchant and owned a picture frame shop. His mother, Magdalena Ziegler (1856-1936), took on the upbringing of her 12-year-old son, Leopold, after the death of her husband. She put him in touch with the artist Karl Hofen, who provided him with a scholarship. Hofen introduced Ziegler to the artist Emil Rudolf Weiss in 1897, who became his loyal friend after Hofen. In 1902, Ziegler enrolled at the University of Heidelberg. His famous works include: "Das Wesen der Kultur" ("The Essence of Culture"); "Goethe in unserer Not"; (Goethe in our Needs); "Gestaltwandel der Gotter" ("The Transformation of the Gods") (1920). His famous books are: "Das heilige Reich der Deutschen" (1925) ("The Holy Empire of the Germans"), "Der europäische Geist" (1929) ("The European Spirit").

For us, and also for the public, Ziegler's close relationship as a friend with Charlotte Funder is noteworthy, as evidenced by Charlotte's letter to Grigol Robakidze's family dated 1.9.47. Address: Überlingen, Gallerstr. №6. [http de. Wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold Ziegler](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopold_Ziegler).

Ziegler defended his thesis on the topic: "Das Grundproblem des nachkantianischer Rationalismus" ("The Basic Problem of Kantian Rationalism", "Der deutsche Mensch", Berlin, 1915 ("The German Man").

Ziegler fell ill with tuberculosis of the hip in 1907. He married a certain Johanna. Due to his health, he was no longer able to pursue academic work and was content to devote himself to his writing career.

In 1918, Ziegler purchased a small plot of land on Lake Constance, near Lindau, in the Dobereiswalde, and in 1925 the couple moved to Überlingen, where they lived until the end of their lives (1958).

Ziegler also published "Neues Mittelalter" ("The New Middle Ages"). We know that he considered Buddhism an atheistic religion, and in 1948 he returned to his Christian roots with his work "Menschenwerdung" ("Becoming Human").

His merits:

He was awarded the Goethe Prize in Frankfurt.

In 1951, he was awarded the honorary title of theologian by the Philipp University. In the same year, he was awarded the honorary title of professor by the University of Freiburg.

In 1956 he received the Überlingen Literary Prize.

In 1956, he was awarded the honorary title of Minister of Culture and Economy of Germany.

It is important to note that Ziegler, a conservative political writer, was in the circle of Edgar Julius Jung and Franz von Pape.

It is known that Leopold Ziegler was well acquainted with the personality and work of the Georgian writer Grigol Robakidze.

"Of particular value to us are the assessments included in the text of Pro do mo sua, which were expressed at various times regarding Grigol Robakidze and his works by famous European thinkers of the time: Esd Bays, Fred Honch, Hans Peschke, Leopold Ziegler, Neander Nilsson, Marcel Brion; each of them gives the highest assessment to the writer and his work (Robakidze, 2012, p. 30).

According to a letter written by Charlotte Funder to Lena, she and Ziegler had a fairly serious relationship.

The letter talks about a narrow circle of friends, from which not very pleasant information was leaked to the German writer Charlotte. The writer herself tells us: "I am a person of a well-known satanic nature" (which comes from the aforementioned Elisabeth dictionary), politically difficult, therefore, I am dangerous for you and your house, I am a complete hypocrite - everyone knew about this, they recognized me as a swindler because I have a relationship with Ruth, the coal seller. Therefore, I am morally inferior.

In our opinion, this characterization shared by friends portrays Charlotte as an uncompromising and courageous person.

During World War II, events took their course; it was clear that it had a negative impact on the spiritual and physical well-being of many people. We see a similar situation with the German writer Charlotte, which, according to her, was caused by the indifference of her colleagues. Charlotte writes: "What else can a man think, my imagination cannot go further than this."

We find another episode in the letter noteworthy for presenting a tense situation: "I told myself that if I had special luck, I would be saved, otherwise my case would be lost. Luck did not delay and he remained without questioning for some time." This case is related to a German concussion doctor, a certain SS – Brieftaube, who initially served with the French. He met him on the street and taunted him thus: "Na, Sie ham ja im Gefängnis jesessen wie mich!" "Ah, you were in prison, weren't you?" (Our translation – M. Mamagulishvili).

During World War II, the Nazi regime severely punished innocent and guilty people. For example, Charlotte names the same letter carrier SS – Brieftaube, who suffered a similar fate, i.e. was also destroyed. The writer also uses artistic techniques to assess the situation and calls such a phenomenon

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collegiality. The same person allowed, he says, to contribute to me, because the young man no longer greeted me. I heard hints about this. What else can I say? In this case, I will resort to a folk saying: "What I think and do, I would say the same about others."

The same episode clearly shows the ongoing events of World War II, in particular, the active measures of the French military garrison stationed on German territory, and their aggressive attitude towards the Germans.

The letter written by the German writer Charlotte Funder in 1947 is quite extensive. We tried to draw attention to the nuances that are interesting to us. In this regard, the letter is quite informative and clearly reflects the intense stories of World War II based on real circumstances. Obviously, representatives of the literary sphere, including the writer Charlotte Funder, whom we already know, secretly covered the events of that time in letters addressed to friends.

Charlotte Funder, as we have mentioned, is one of the uncompromising and courageous creators who had a permanent and long-term relationship with Grigol Robakidze. Her goal was to improve the financial situation of the emigrant writer and maintain literary ties. Charlotte Funder had a special attitude towards the Georgian mythical world, which, in her opinion, was fully revealed in her letters to Robakidze and her famous essays.

European writers of that period, when familiarizing themselves with Robakidze's mythological world, felt close to their own roots. The creation of artistic elements for the mythological world, rhetoric, and subjective transfer of symbols, which completely corresponded to Robakidze's creative style, turned out to be quite acceptable for Charlotte Funder, as a writer with special concepts. Accordingly, Grigol Robakidze's method as a writer stems from his own beliefs.

"My purely artistic task was to creatively formulate a deep understanding of the Georgian East - European symbolism ("Georgian modernism"). It is also indicated here that "my creative path, - in the field of poetic speech or aesthetic experiments, - was

marked by the creative introduction of the symbolic worldview formed in Europe and complicated in Russia into the artistic consciousness of the Georgian people.¹

In conclusion, it can be said that the letter of Charlotte Funder, written in 1947, became the subject of our observation in that it is a logical explanation of the subjective and objective opinions of the addressee, which is directly related to the ongoing events of World War II. The mentioned letter, as one of the historical documentary materials, is based on our own perception and quality of assessment. In our opinion, the best version would be to further search for the material in the German literary space, which would further strengthen the real picture. However, the personal emotional nuances conveyed in the letter with artistic gestures clearly indicate the literary and aesthetic taste of the writer.

The aim of the article is to introduce the public to the details of the relationship between Georgian and German writers. The letter, which Charlotte Tronier Funder sent to Gr. Robakidze's wife Lena from Überlingen, is interesting for its conceptual passages and unique manner of narration.

It is noteworthy that in the same letter, the German writer Charlotte Funder secretly reveals her biographical details, episodes reflecting her spiritual and physical condition to the family of the Georgian emigrant writer, which in itself indicates a benevolent attitude towards friends. In addition, the letter is constantly accompanied by constant sympathy and financial support for Grigol Robakidze's sick wife Lena and the search for ways to publish Grigol Robakidze's famous letters, essays, and publications.

The above-mentioned letter, which is kept in the National Library, archive fund No. 12, description No. 2, is an unexamined document. We have tried to convey as much as possible the events of World War II, the terrible storms, the slanders from the circle of friends, as well as the secret close relationship with a famous person at that time, a philosopher by profession and also an important political figure, Ziegler.

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¹ Kvataia Manana. Grigol Robakidze, Philosophical Concepts, Creative Orientations. - Magazine "Atinat", 2020, №2, p. 239

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