



On March 10, 2010 presentation of the two-volume monograph by the Rector of Sokhumi State University, Professor Joni Apakidze – “Western and Central Caucasus in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages; Chronological Studies of Colchian Culture 1600-700 BC” was held at the Goethe Institute.

The monograph represents advanced and comprehensive work; it was written in German and published in Germany with kind support of the Humboldt Foundation. Editor of the book is Professor Bernhard Hansel (Free University of Berlin). His Holiness and

Beatitude Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II; Metropolitan Daniel of Tskhum-Abkhazeti Eparchy; Archpriest Bidzina of Cashueti Church, Vice Speaker of Georgian Parliament Rusudan Kervalishvili, Deputy Ambassador of Germany on Cultural Affairs Christian Plate, Head of German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD Tbilisi Information Center Gebhard Roill, Chairman of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia Giorgi Baramia, Chairman of Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia Giorgi Gvazava, Head of Higher Education Development Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Professor Nugzar Chitaia; Head of Science Development Support Division of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Mindia Okujava; Minister of Education and Culture of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia Dali Khomeriki; Rectors of different institutions of higher education and other honorable guests attended the presentation.

Presentation was conducted by the President of Georgian Academy of Sciences, Academician Tamaz Gamkrelidze.

Professor Joni Apakidze spoke about the most important issues presented in the book, the role and importance of Colchian Culture and nine interesting years, dedicated to the work over the book in Germany - at the Berlin and Tuebingen Universities, and in Georgia as well.

Welcome speeches were made by His Holiness and Beatitude Catholicos Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II, Director of Goethe Institute Werner Woell, Head of Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Giorgi Gvazava, Academician Rismag Gordeziani, Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili State University Giorgi Khubua, Director of Caucasian Business School Kakhaber Shengelia, and Rector of the Agrarian University Gela Javakhishvili. They congratulated Professor Apakidze on memorable occasion and underlined, that this kind of publication denotes author’s acknowledgement by foreign scientific society. It was noted as well, that the book will serve for further strengthening of Georgian-German cultural ties and contribute to further integration of Georgia into European scientific society.

Interesting and extensive reviews of the book were presented by Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia, Professor Konstantine Pitskhelauri and Full Professor of Sokhumi State University Vakhtang Japaridze.

Finally Joni Apakidze, wearing the highest award of Georgian Patriarchate – The Medal of Saint George (which was awarded by Catholicos Patriarch of Georgia to Sokhumi State University on May 17, 2009), thanked Catholicos Patriarch Ilia II and audience and promised, that Sokhumi State University will always

keep the high award with dignity both during its functioning in Tbilisi and after returning to its Homeland
- Abkhazia.