

Heinz Fährnich

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Abstract: The article reviews the life and scholarly activity of the German Kartvelologist Heinz Fährnich. Fährnich has published 50 books and up to 200 papers in Kartvelology – mainly Georgian linguistics. He has translated into German many specimens of Georgian literature and folklore. For work in the field of Kartvelology he has been awarded prizes and honorary titles. He was the founder and permanent editor until 2006 of the German-language journal *Georgica*. A list of

books and translations published by Fährnich is appended.

Key words: Heinz Fährnich, Kartvelology

Heinz Fährnich was born in 1941, in the German village of Hamer. In 1960-1965 Fährnich studied at Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, specializing in Caucasian Studies. From 1967 Fährnich was engaged in doctoral studies at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University under the supervision of Professor Akaki Shanidze. Fährnich defended his doctoral thesis in 1965 at the University of Jena. In 1969 he was awarded the degree of Candidate of Sciences.

In 1971 Fährnich defended his doctoral thesis at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. He was Professor and Head of Caucasian Studies at Friedrich Schiller University of Jena until his retirement (1971). He taught the following subjects: Modern Georgian Language, Introduction to Kartvelian languages, Introduction to Caucasian languages, the history of research into Caucasian languages, the history of Georgian literary language, the practice of translating from Georgian into German, a course in

conversational Georgian, the vocabulary of Old Georgian, Georgian toponymy, vocabulary of the proto-Kartvelian language, the problem of relating Georgian to other languages, Avar language, Andi language, Udi language, Tabasaran language, Agul language, study of Georgian local lore, Georgian literature, urgent problems of Caucasian Studies, the situation of ethnic minorities in the Republic of Georgia, Georgian mythology, history of Georgia, history of Georgian statehood.

Fähnrich is the author of about 50 books and 200 papers. He was granted the following awards and honorary titles: Ivane Javakhishvili Medal, Akaki Shanidze Prize, Honorary Professorship of Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani University, Marie Brosset Prize, Honorary Membership of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Anton I Bargationi Gold Medal.

Fähnrich researched Georgian literature for decades. As a result of his profound research, he published the book *Georgian Literature* in Tbilisi in 1981: Fähnrich, H., *Die georgische Literatur*, Ein Überblick, Tbilisi: Sabtschota Sakartwelo 1981. The same book was edited in Aachen in 1993: Fähnrich, H., *Georgische Literatur*, Aachen: Shaker 1993. In this book Fähnrich gives a brief review of Georgian literature, describes the long process of its creation and development, discusses modern Georgian literature, etc.

Most literary critics agree that the articles on Georgian writers published in the three volumes of *The Dictionary of Foreign Writers* (edited by the Institute of Bibliography in Leipzig) are of a high quality, since the author of those articles is the famous German Kartvelologist, Prof. Heinz Fähnrich.

Fähnrich was engaged in translating Georgian literature into German. He translated and published *The Book of Wisdom and Lies* by Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani (1973), *My Little Shadow* by Giorgi Kechaghmadze (1974), *Lasharela* (1975) and *The Great Night* (1978) by Grigol Abashidze, The myth of Amirani, revised and rewritten by Mikheil Chikovani (1978), and Georgian fairy-tales (1980). Furthermore, he translated two poems by Galaktion Tabidze: the *Moon of Mtatsminda* and *Flags Quickly*. The poems were published

in the 29th and 30th volumes of the French journal *Revue de kartvelologie* in 1972. Fähnrich prefaced the translations of the poems with an introductory article and a brief biography of Galaktion Tabidze and general review of his poems.

S. Turnava, an eminent scholar who researched Georgian-foreign literary relations, compared Fähnrich's translations to Georgian originals and concluded that Fähnrich did an excellent job by translating both prose and poetry. In order to translate *Lasharela* into German, Fähnrich studied the history and geography of Georgia, read *Kartlis Tskhovreba* (The Life of Georgia) and the works of Georgian historians: I. Javakhishvili, N. Berdzenishvili, S. Janashia and others) in Georgian.

The Journal *Georgica*, that was published in German and was a joint project of Tbilisi State University and Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, played an important role in developing Kartvelian Studies in Europe. The journal was first published in 1978 and the editors of the journal were Heinz Fähnrich (on the German side) and first Shota Dzidziguri and later Mariam Lordkipanidze (on the Georgian side). Prior to the publication of *Georgica*, three volumes of works were issued at Friedrich Schiller University of Jena: *Georgica* (1973, 1975, 1977). From its foundation, *Georgica* came out in Jena. In 1990-2002 the journal was published in Konstanz by four universities: those of Jena, Tbilisi, Saarbrücken and Konstanz. In 2002-2005 the journal came out in Aachen. Since 2006 the journal has been edited in Berlin. The editor of the journal is the well-known German Kartvelologist Steffi Chotiwary-Jünger.

Heinz Fähnrich was mainly interested in linguistics, namely scholarly research into Georgian and Kartvelian languages. One of the most important books in this field for specialists of Kartvelian languages is the *Etymological Dictionary of Kartvelian Languages*, issued in German and Georgian by Heinz Fähnrich jointly with Z. Sarjeladze. In 2007 Heinz Fähnrich published the third updated and revised fundamental work: *Kartwelisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch von Heinz Fähnrich* (Brill) Leiden, Boston 2007.

Recently Kartvelian studies were enriched by an important work on Georgian history: *Geschichte Georgiens von Heinz Fähnrich* (Brill) Leiden, Boston 2010. These are the main works by Heinz Fähnrich (monographs and translations).

Monographs:

1. Fähnrich, H., Criteria for substantiating the genetic kinship of languages and some questions of the structure of the root morphemes of the common Kartvelian protolanguage. Tbilisi University Press, Tbilisi, 1978, 136 p. (in Georgian).
2. Fähnrich, H., Die georgische Literatur, Ein Überblick, Tbilisi: Sabtschota Sakartwelo 1981, 272 S.
3. Fähnrich, H., Kurze Grammatik der georgischen Sprache, Leipzig: Enzyklopädie 1986, 191 S.; Second and third printings 1987, 1993.
4. Nadareishwili, N., Babunashwili E., Fähnrich, H., Georgisch-Russisch-Deutsches Gesprächsbuch, Tbilisi: Ganatleba 1987, 224 S.
5. Fähnrich, H., Sarjeladze, Z. An Etymological Dictionary of the Kartvelian Languages, Tbilisi University Press, Tbilisi, 1990, 620 p. (in Georgian)
6. Fähnrich, H., An der silbernen Stirn der Erde, Reisen in Georgien, Aachen: Shaker 1993, 282 S.
7. Fähnrich, H., Georgische Literatur, Aachen: Shaker 1993, 219 S.
8. Fähnrich, H., Geschichte Georgiens, Von den Anfängen bis zur Mongolenherrschaft, Aachen: Shaker 1993, 200 S.
9. Fähnrich, H., Georgische Schriftsteller, A-Z, Aachen: Shaker 1993, 306 S.
10. Fähnrich, H., Grammatik der altgeorgischen Sprache, Hamburg: Buske 1994, 269 S.
11. Fähnrich, H., Sardshweladse S., Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Kartwel-Sprachen, Leiden/New York/Köln: Brill 1995, 682 S.
12. Fähnrich, H., Gedanken zur kartwelischen Rekonstruktion, Jena: FSU 1998, 54 S.

13. Fähnrich, H., Georgische Toponymie, Jena: FSU 1998, 124 S.
14. Fähnrich, H., Kleines Udisch-Deutsches Wörterverzeichnis, Jena: FSU 1999, 43 S.
15. Fähnrich, H., Lexikon Georgische Mythologie, Wiesbaden: Reichert 1999, 359 S.
16. Sardshweladse, S., Fähnrich, H., Altgeorgisch-deutsches Wörterbuch, Hamburg: Buske 1999, 313 S. ·
17. Fähnrich, H., Kartwelischer Wortschatz, Ergänzungen zum etymologischen Wörterbuch der Kartwelsprachen, Jena: FSU 2000, 59 S.
18. Fähnrich, H., Sarjveladze, Z. An Etymological Dictionary of the Kartvelian Languages, Orbeliani University Press, Tbilisi, 2000, 815 p. (in Georgian)
19. Fähnrich, H., Kleines Fachwortverzeichnis Sprachwissenschaft, Georgisch-Deutsch, Jena: FSU 2001, 54 S.
20. Fähnrich, H., Batsisch (Zowatuschisch) – Deutsches Wörterbuch, Jena: FSU 2001, 104 S.
21. Kadshaia, O., Fähnrich, H., Mingrelisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch, Wiesbaden: Reichert 2001, 688 S.
22. Fähnrich, H., Kartwelische Wortschatzstudien, Jena: FSU 2002, 54 S.
23. Tschantladse, I., Babluani R., Fähnrich, H., Tscholurswanisch-Deutsches Verbenverzeichnis, Jena: FSU 2003, 96 S.
24. Fähnrich, H., Kleine Schriften, Jena:FSU 2003, 97 S.
25. Fähnrich, H.: Zur kaukasischen Sprachverwandtschaft, Jena:FSU 2005, 97 S.
26. Sardshweladse, S., Fähnrich, H., Altgeorgisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch, Leiden/Boston: Brill 2005, 1632 S.
27. Fähnrich, H., Beiträge zur Kartwelologie, Jena: FSU 2005,118 S.
28. Fähnrich, H., Kulturland Georgien, Kurzführer für Touristen. Wiesbaden: Reichert 2007, 352 S.
29. Fähnrich, H.,Kartwelisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch, Leiden/Boston: Brill 2007, 873 S.
30. Fähnrich, H., Linguistische Termini, Georgisch-Deutsch, Aachen: Shaker 2008, 82 S.

31. Fähnrich, H., Kartwelsprachen, Wiesbaden: Reichert 2008, 344S.
32. Fähnrich, H., In den Bergen der Götter, Alte Glaubensvorstellungen, Überlieferungen und Bräuche bei den Georgiern des Kaukasus, Wiesbaden: Reichert 2009, 151 S.

Translations (published in book form):

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2. Giorgi Ketschaghmadse, Der kleine Schatten, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Berlin: Neues Leben 1974
3. Grigol Abaschidse, Lascharella, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Berlin: Rütten & Loening 1975.
4. Grigol Abaschidse, Die lange Nacht, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Berlin: Rütten & Loening 1978.
5. Das Buch vom Helden Amirani, Ein altgeorgischer Sagenkreis, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Leipzig/Weimar: Kiepenheuer 1978.
6. Georgische Märchen, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Leipzig Insel 1980.
7. Der Sieg von Bachtrioni, Sagen aus Georgien, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Leipzig/Weimar: Kiepenheuer 1984.
8. Märchen aus Swanetien, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Konstanz: Südverlag 1992.
9. Ein Wort zur rechten Zeit, Georgische Sprichwörter, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Aachen: Shaker 1994.
10. Lasische Märchen und Geschichten, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Aachen: Shaker 1995.
11. Märchen aus Georgien, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, München: Diederichs 1995
12. Mingrelische Sagen, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 1997.
13. Georgische Sagen und Legenden, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Blieskastel: Gollenstein 1998.
14. Chroniken der georgischen Königin Tamar, Deutsch von S. Sardshweladse und H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 1998, Aachen: Shaker 2004.

15. Mose Choneli, Amirandaredshaniani, Deutsch von S. Sardshweladse und H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 1999.
16. Abchasische Volksdichtung, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 2000.
17. Giorgi Mertschule, Das Leben des Grigol von Chandsta, Deutsch von S. Sardshweladse und H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 2000.
18. Zwischen Felsen und Geschichten, Erzählungen aus Georgien, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 2000, Aachen: Shaker 2004.
19. Mingrelische Märchen, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 2001.
20. Giorgi Mzire, Das Leben des Giorgi Mtazmindeli, Deutsch von S. Sardshweladse und H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 2001.
21. Georgischer Wein, Kurzgeschichten vom Tschorochi bis zum Diklos Mta, Deutsch von H. Fähnrich, Jena: FSU 2001, Aachen: Shaker 2009.