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THE KARTVELOLOGIST

GEORGIAN STUDIES

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In a broad sense Kartvelology embraces study of Georgian culture, history and all fields of the humanities: linguistics, literary criticism, art, archaeology, folklore, ethnography, source study.

Georgia, Sakartvelo, successor to ancient Colchis and Iberia, lies at the boundary of Europe and Asia, east of the Black Sea, in the southwestern part of the Caucasus.

The Kingdom of Kartli – referred to in Classical sources as Iberia – emerged at the turn of the 4th-3rd cent. B.C., approximately on the territory of modern Georgia. The recorded history of the country dates from that time.

Interest to the Kartvelian problems commenced in Europe in the 17th century. In the 19th The French scholar Marie Brosset, the German scholar Arthur Leist, the English brother and sister Wardrops, and others laid the scholarly foundation for this activity, contributing to the West's broader familiarity with Kartvelology.

Over the last decades the interest of the humanities in the key points of Kartvelology has been increasing, viz. in the problems of Georgian ethnogenesis, medieval Georgia in the context of cultural and political relations with Western and Eastern countries; the originality of the Georgian parent language and its relation to the families of Indo-European and Semitic languages; Georgian mythos and the Georgian-Caucasian world in Classical mythology; direct or typological relations of the rich Georgian literary culture to Byzantine and Eastern literature, to the European Renaissance thought, and Modern European literature, etc.

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**GEORGIAN LITERATURE IN FOREIGN
TRANSLATIONS**

The Canon of Repentance by DAVID THE BUILDER

Translation, preface and commentary by Lali Jokhadze



The Canon of Repentance by King David the Builder is a beautiful example of old Georgian literature. It still excites the Georgian spiritual world.

David the Builder (1073-1125) won his place in the history of Georgia not only as a powerful king and adroit politician, but also as an outstanding humanitarian and poet.

Crowned at the age of 16, he reigned wisely and with balance for 36 years. Having inherited a totally devastated country, he brought it to the

highest standard of political and economic development, expanding the frontiers of the country. Thanks to his shrewd policy and clever strategy he liberated Georgia from foreign invaders, delivered the capital (Tbilisi) from Moslem occupation and introduced regulations for the church and the state. Having united Georgia, David the Builder created a multinational state where people of different creeds lived side by side in perfect peace.

David the Builder came to be widely acclaimed in his life-time. In the East and in the West, he was recognized as the most powerful ruler sent by the Almighty to save Christendom from perdition. The Georgian Church canonized him, and the people connected their lofty ideals with his name.