

Books on Georgia for Bristol Central Library from the BTA

32 titles, 34 books (two titles are in two volumes)

Sourced by Bruce Allan with support and suggestions from Tony Anderson

Novels:

Journey to Karabakh Aka Morcheladze (2013)

Dalkey Archive Press. 2013

One of the best-selling novels ever published in Georgia, and the basis for two feature films, this is a book about the tricky business of finding - and defining - liberty.

Kvatchi Mikheil Javakhashvili (2014)

Dalkey Archive Press. 2014

Trans. Donald Rayfield.

The novel, which began as a series of sketches, hurtles from one of Kvachi's scams, scrapes, or seductions to the next, pausing every so often to drive home the monstrosity of its hero.

Sandro of Chegem Fasil Iskander (1983)

Faber&Faber.

Essential reading! Sandro's story is also the story of the Abkhazian people, with all their customs, superstitions, passions and sufferings.

The Book of Tbilisi Comma Press (2018)

Anthology of new Georgian writers, a collection of ten short stories.

A Hero of our Time Lermontov (1840)

Mikhail Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time* demonstrates the peculiar fascination of the Byronic antihero. First published in 1840, the novel recounts a series of adventures of the military officer Pechorin during his travels in the Caucasus. He kidnaps the beautiful Bela, daughter of a Circassian tribesman, becomes involved with smugglers, and schemes to win the affection of a Muscovite princess while embarking on an affair with his former lover Vera. Ultimately his intrigues culminate in a duel with fellow officer.

Master & Man & Other Stories. Tolstoy (1895)

Includes his marvellous "Hadji Murat" the true story of an Avar who commanded the peoples of Dagestan and Chechnya in their resistance against assimilation into the Russian Empire.

Art, Poetry

Pirosmani (Russian/English) E. Kuznetsov (1986)

Pirosmani remains the iconic artist of Georgia 100 years after his death (1918). A contemporary of Douanier Rousseau and a unique painter of animals, people and landscapes.

Discover Galaktion: Galaktion Tabidze: A Selection of His Poems in a New Parallel Translation Innes Merabishvili (2017)

Galaktion Tabidze, simply referred to as Galaktioni (November 17, 1892 – March 17, 1959) was a leading Georgian poet of the twentieth century whose writings profoundly influenced all subsequent generations of Georgian poets.

Food, wine and travel:

Tasting Georgia Carla Capalbo (2018)

A food and wine journey through Caucasian Georgia with 70 delicious recipes and many photographs of people, places and food.

History etc.:

The Land Below the Caucasus Peter F. Skinner.

Narikala Publications (2014)

A wonderfully clear history of Georgia.

Ancient Georgia: Greeks, Romans and the Advent of Christianity --
From the Arab Conquests to Georgia's Golden Age --
Invaders and Occupiers: Jalal ad-Din, the Mongols, and Timur-i-Leng, 1220s-Early 1400s --
Georgia Divided and the Turkish and Persian Invasions --
Independence Lost: The Russian Annexation of Georgia.

Excursions in the Caucasus. From the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, 1875-1881

Mme. Carla Serena - Peter F. Skinner

Narikala Publications (2015)

Carla Serena's astonishing, courageous, unusual and ground-breaking travels, has enabled a remarkable record of people, buildings, customs and nature at a time when such journeys were unusual for western travellers, particularly women.

Twenty Five Years in the Caucasus. 1842 – 1867 Arnold Zisserman.

Narikala Publications (2017)

Edited by Peter F. Skinner with maps and illustrations. The first English language personal account of high adventure in the Caucasus, Arnold Zisserman's Twenty-Five Years in the Caucasus, 1842-1867 is a rare and important work. The book brings

to life the voices of people who have long since sunk into oblivion and events shrouded in time and almost forgotten that nevertheless influence our present.

Georgia in Antiquity David Braund.

Clarendon Press. Oxford (1994)

Excellent scholarly account. Georgia in Antiquity: A History of Colchis and Transcaucasian Iberia, 550 BC-AD 562. The first full history of ancient Georgia to be written outside Georgia itself, this book also serves as a valuable introduction to the substantial archaeological work that has been carried out there in recent decades.

The Literature of Georgia: A History

Donald Rayfield. Garnett Press (2010)

The first comprehensive and objective history of the literature of Georgia, revealed to be unique among those of the former Byzantine and Russian empires, both in its quality and its 1500 years' history.

Sabres of Paradise Lesley Blanche.

John Murray (1960)

Brilliant retelling of one of the most famous events in Georgian History – the abduction of Princess Chavchavadze by Daghestani raiders and her eventual release in a hostage swap for Shamil's son in Russian custody.

Conflict in the Caucasus Svetlana Chervonnaya

Gothic Image (1994)

Foreword by Eduard Shevardnadze.

The build-up to Georgian-Abkhaz conflict by a Russian Academic. Edited by Tony Anderson.

The Abkhazians George Hewitt (ed). (1999)

Curzon Press.

A collection of writings, very pro-Abkhaz, by much loathed figure in Georgia, Professor George Hewitt, Prof of Georgian at SOAS. The other side of the story!

12 Secrets of the Caucasus Essad Bey (1931/2008)

Author Essad Bey was born Lev Nussimbaum, a Jew from Azerbaijan who transformed himself into a Muslim prince in Nazi Germany, having earlier escaped the Russian Revolution in a camel caravan; writing as "Essad Bey" and "Kurban Said," he became a celebrated adventurer and the author of *Ali & Nino*.

Blood & Oil in the Orient Essad Bey (1931/2008)

An autobiography like something out of the Arabian Nights In this lively and witty autobiography, Essad Bey, a.k.a. Lev Nussimbaum, tells us the story of his childhood in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, and of his flight from the Russian Revolution in 1917, which brought him first straight through the Caucasus. When Essad Bey speaks of the people of the Caucasus and their customs so strange to us, a sort of anthropological cabinet of curiosities unfolds before our eyes, and we cannot help but be astonished.

The Orientalist Tom Reiss (2005)

Absolutely fascinating account of the author Essad Bey/ Kurban Said, by Tom Reiss.

Europe's Unknown Fairytale Land: Around Svaneti on Foot and Skis

Richard Bærug and Shako Margian (2016)

Richard Bærug tells the story how he and his Svan travel companion Shako Margian, both co-owners of Grand Hotel Ushba, became the first men in history to travel all the way around Svaneti on foot and on skis.

Tbilisi Archive of Transition Klaus Neuberg, Sebastian Pranz (2018)

The Archive of Transition is a joint project of Georgian and German journalists, artists, photographers collecting narratives of change in Tbilisi and aiming to document the process of social transformation with a transmedia website.

Medieval Georgian Romance: *The Man in a Panther-Skin* and Shakespeare's Late Plays

Elguja Khintibidze (2018)

Prof. Elguja Khintibidze on the influence of Shota Rustaveli on Shakespeare.

THE EXPERIMENT Georgia's Forgotten Revolution 1918-1921

Eric Lee (2017)

Though the Georgian Democratic republic lasted for just three years before it was brutally crushed on the orders of Stalin, it was able to offer, however briefly, a glimpse of a more humane alternative to the Soviet reality that was to come.

Classics of British writing about Georgia and the Caucasus:

The Russian Conquest of the Caucasus John Baddeley (1908)

A brilliant and unsurpassed account that everyone still refers to. A classic book. If you want a clear, well-written introduction to what's happening the Chechnya or Georgia now--- start with Baddeley.

The Exploration of the Caucasus Douglas Freshfield. (2 vols) (1902)

Ppbk reprint from abebooks.

Absolute classic, includes his account of his ascent of Mount Kazbek. Inspired a wave of travellers. Freshfield led an exploration of the Caucasus and was the first man, officially, to conquer Kazbek with guides from the village Gergeti. He described the denuded territories of Abkhazia in a moving chapter on 'The Solitude of Abkhazia', in *The Exploration of the Caucasus* published in 1892.

Russian Embassies to the Georgian Kings (2 vols) Ed. W.E.D. Allen (1970)

Brilliant! 17 embassies were exchanged between the Russian tsars and the Georgian kings ruling in Kakheti during the years 1564-1605. Mr Allen and Mr Mango (who undertook the translation) have selected the documents relating to the embassies of 1589-90 and 1604-05. Their observations give a clear picture of both current Russian administrative and diplomatic practice and of the life and customs of the peoples of the Caucasus and Georgia. The texts are further enlivened by dramas such as the murder of the Kakhetian king Alexander II and the secret negotiations for the marriages of the son and daughter of the Tsar Boris Godunov. The documents are of considerable geographical interest as they provide the earliest extant accounts of the crossing of the main chain of the Caucasus from north to south.

Georgia: A Cultural Journey through the Wardrop Collection Nikoloz Aleksidze (2018)

Great new work on our most important collection of Georgian books. The Wardrops gathered a significant collection of manuscripts dating from the eleventh to the twentieth century, including a seventeenth-century manuscript of Georgia's national epic poem, 'The Man in the Panther's Skin', which Marjory famously translated. A remarkable number of items in the collection, now housed at the Bodleian Library, illuminate an important aspect of medieval and modern Georgia.

Notes on the Caucasus by Wanderer

London: Macmillan and Co., 1883
British Library, Historical Print Editions

The adventures of Dunsterforce 1920 L C Dunsterville (1920/2015)

After the Revolution of 1917, Russia's armies melted away, and the Central Powers rushed eastwards to fill the void. Turkey raised a new army with the aim of conquering the Caucasus and the oil town of Baku, if not the whole of Central Asia. To counter this advance, a small British force was put together under the command of Major-General Lionel C Dunsterville.

To Catch a Tartar: Notes from the Caucasus Chris Bird (2002)

Chris Bird traces a personal journey through the violent decolonization of the Soviet empire, recording a war in which lightly armed Chechen fighters held their own against tens of thousands of Russian troops, a conflict that in many essentials has not changed since Lermontov and Tolstoy fought the *gortsy*, the 'mountaineers' of the Caucasus.

The First Toast is to Peace: Travels in the South Caucasus Stephen Powell (2018)

First hand accounts of distant trails, forays into history and conversations with local people about their hopes for the future. How is Stalin regarded today in his native Georgia? How do you reach Khevsureti by horse? What is life like in Europe's forgotten war zone, Nagorno-Karabakh?