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**PRINCIPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF IDENTITY OF GEORGIAN PEOPLE
IN JEAN CHARDIN'S WORK "THE TRAVELS OF SIR JOHN CHARDIN INTO
PERSIA AND THE EAST-INDIES".**

The work of the famous French traveler John Chardin contains interesting information about Georgia of the XVII century. Chardin came to Georgia in September 1672 and left Tbilisi in February 1673.

In his work he writes about culture, history and socio-political situation of Georgia. He describes the cities and the villages, geographic location of Georgia in detail. He emphasizes the significance of the trade route through Georgia.

It is noteworthy that while narrating he relies on the records of the Greek and Roman historians, reports of Catholic missionaries and works of European travelers of the XIII-XVII centuries, Marco Polo, Contarini, Pietro Della Valle and others, in addition to what he has seen and felt himself.

While narrating about principle characteristics of identity of Georgians he pays attention to appearance of Georgians, "I have not met a single ugly person, whether male or female, I have met only angelic faces", - writes Chardin. He speaks of the features and nature of Georgians, mentions that they are reserved and dignified, and their customs are a mix of traditions of neighboring people. Chardin pays attention to tolerant nature of Georgians that in no other place of the world there are so many foreigners as here, "they have a right to live here with their religion and customs, discuss it and protect it" (Chardin).

Chardin pays special attention to the state of Christian faith, notes that Georgians accepted Christianity in the fourth century, narrates about ecclesiastical hierarchy,

churches and temples. He thinks that the clothes of Georgians resemble to the clothes of Polish people.

Chardin tries to characterize the identity of Georgians in relation to Europeans.

His records about Georgia are an important source for researchers.