Abstract:

Inauguration of Tbilisi State University (TSU) was performed in January 26, 1918. This was the memorable day of the Georgian King David Agmashenebeli (David the builder). Foundation of the University was inspired by the famous Scientist Ivane Javakhishvili. At the beginning of the 20-th century (1900-1905) surrounding territory of the future University was encamped, ruby and shrubby, full of weeds. The shrubby slopes of the gorge of r. Vere were overgrown with black thorn, elder and blackberry thickets. It is known that the first building of the University was constructed on the place of the Nabelman’s gymnasium. Since 1908 following the instructions of the director of the Gymnasium – Nikoloz Tskhvedadze, fruit trees and vine trellis were planted on the nearby territory by the gardener Nikoloz Ketskhoveli (father of the Academician Niko Ketskhoveli). These plantations existed till 1914. The first landscaping works were performed in 1915, which was entitled as "The Nature’s Day" by Luarsab Botsvadze. Among the green plantations distinguished seven plane trees, decorating the street till now. Since 1934 landscaping of the University is under the permanent control. Since the academician N. Ketskhoveli became the Rector of the University the “Golden age” of the University has begun. In 1948-59 many bushes and trees and representatives of the wild flora were planted on the territory, counting about 30 families and 80 species of plants. In 1966 I was invited by the Academician N. Ketskhoveli for landscaping the University garden. Landscaping of the garden aimed: elaboration of the general layout and planting works, improvement of the toilet facilities, organization of entertainment and resting, conduction of the practical studies in botany and zoology, equipment with modern services and utilities: creation of flower compositions near the vestibular canal and ramps, equipment of sport fields, planning of traps and small architectural forms, setting up of collection plots, weather-station etc. Generally, landscaping of the territory depends on natural conditions, climate, and level of accomplishment, architectural and planning specificity. According to landscaping norms, tall and dasyphyllous tress are planted with 5-7m intervals. The selected choice must be agro technically simple. Acad. N. Ketskhoveli’s desire was to make full description of the green cover, with exact pointing of traps and roads, buildings and fencing. N. Ketskhoveli’s dream was “....to create a permanent garden, with plenty of evergreen, grown-up trees and bushes…” Because of it the future assortment of trees consisted of: pine, spruce, fir, yew, juniper, cedar, incense cedar, sequoia, western red cedar, dafnifillum, thuja. From deciduous ever green trees were selected: magnolia, tenstroemia, camellia, nandina, laurel, olive, rosemary, cherry-laurel, dragon tree, loquat, everlasting thorn, euonymus, privet, jasmine, mahonia, buckthorn, butcher’s broom, white-rod, barberry etc. According to botanical description the University vegetation cover consisted of 62 families, 84 genera, and 390 plant species. Little by little the decorative status of the garden changed into teaching and exponential one.