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## **European Sources on Catholic Missions in Georgia**

### **Description of the *Propaganda Fide* Historical Archives, Rome. Vol. 1**

(Roma, Archivio Storico de Propaganda Fide,  
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The publication and study of Georgian and foreign sources of Catholic missions in Georgia have a long history. In 2011-2012 the Ministry of Culture of Georgia organized a research expedition to study the documents preserved in Italy in the Archive of the Congregation of the Eastern Churches of Rome, Propaganda Fide Historical Archive and the archives of Theatines and Capuchins. The idea of the research project belonged to the then Minister, Mr. Nika Rurua. The Embassy of Georgia in Vatican City, and Ambassador Ketevan Bagrationi in particular, was actively involved in the implementation of the project. Professors and researchers from Ilia State University, Tbilisi Free University and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University participated in the expedition.

The Institute of Linguistic Research at Ilia State University started intensive research and translation of these sources in 2013. Respective articles have been published in Georgian and international scientific journals. Two doctoral theses are currently being developed, including an international doctoral research project in cooperation with the University of Bologna. Two volumes were prepared for publication in the framework of the project “Unknown Georgia. Georgian-European Sources for the Reconstruction of Historical Memory” at the Institute of Linguistic Studies.

The present publication, prepared by Maia Damenia, is a description of sources from the first volume of the Propaganda Fide Historical Archives dedicated to Georgia. The Volume contains 194 documents (1r-510v) dating from 1626 to 1707, including those reflecting important relations, letters, lists and information cards on Georgian history, ethnography, culture and religion.