# Contents

- 5 Prefaces
  - Thea Tsulukiani, Baron Philippe Vlerick
- 10 Introduction: A Brief History of Georgia – Bernard Coulie, Nino Simonishvili

### Chapter 1: The Origins of Georgian Culture

- 28 The Neolithic Revolution: Georgia, the Cradle of Viticulture
  - Mindia Jalabadze
- 38 From Exchanges to Big Changes: South Caucasia and Beyond in Late Prehistory
  - Mikheil Abramishvili
- 52 Amirani, the Georgian Prometheus – Jean-Pierre Mahé

## Chapter 2: Georgia in Antiquity

- Local Culture and Foreign Influences: Georgia
   between Greece, Rome, and the Near East
   Guram Kvirkvelia
- 72 The Myth of the Golden Fleece – Guram Kvirkvelia
- Jason, from Colchis to Bruges: The Burgundian
   Order of the Golden Fleece
   Bernard Coulie

## Chapter 3: The Formation of Medieval Georgia (4th-9th Centuries)

- 78 Between Rome and Persia:
   The Christianisation of Georgia
   Jean-Pierre Mahé
- 82 An Introduction to Georgian Architecture – Gia Marsagishvili
- 88 The Georgian Alphabet and the Georgian Scripts – Bernard Coulie
- 91 The Georgian Language – Bernard Coulie
- 92 Saint Nino, Enlightener of Georgia – Jean-Pierre Mahé
- 94 The Thirteen Syrian Fathers – Tamar Abuladze, Tamar Otkhmezuri
- 98 Artistic Exchanges between Sasanid Persia,
   Byzantium, and the Islamic World

   Nina Iamanidzé
- 104 Georgian Manuscripts – Tamar Otkhmezuri
- 108 Illuminating Georgian Manuscripts – Nino Kavtaria



## Chapter 4: The Unification of the Kingdom

and the Golden Age of Georgia (10th-13th Centuries)

- 116 From the Arab Invasion to the Golden Age– Stephen H. Rapp Jr.
- 124 The Ideology of War in Medieval Georgia – Mamuka Tsurtsumia
- 127 Georgia and the Crusades – Mamuka Tsurtsumia
- 128 The Representation of Royal Identity – Antony Eastmond
- 134 Women in Medieval Georgia: Power and Holiness – Antony Eastmond

#### Chapter 5: The Disintegration of the Unified Georgian Kingdom (13th-14th Centuries)

- 138 The Mongol Invasions in Georgia – Andrew C.S. Peacock
- 144 A Syncretic Image of Christian Faith:
   Georgian Art in the 13th-14th Centuries
   Nina Iamanidzé
- 148 Gurdji Khatun's Patronage of Sufi Mystic in Anatolia
   David Turashvili, Nino Simonishvili

## Chapter 6: Georgia between Ottomans, Persians, and Russians (15th-17th Centuries)

- 152 Georgian Kingdoms between Ottomans, Persians, and Russians
   – Jaba Samushia
- Looking at Georgia with a European Eye:
   Missionary Activities
   Nino Simonishvili
- 164 Georgian Elites in Muslim Countries – Jaba Samushia
- 167 The Beginnings of Georgian Printing – Tamar Abuladze

### Chap. 7: From the Late Kingdoms to the Russian Annexation (18th Century)

- The Struggle for Survival: The End of Georgian
   Political Independence
   Aldo Ferrari
- 177 The Embassy of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani in Europe – Valeri Asatiani
- 178 Georgian Elites at the Russian Court – Valeri Asatiani
- 184 Bibliography
- 187 Photographic Acknowledgements
- 188 Colophon