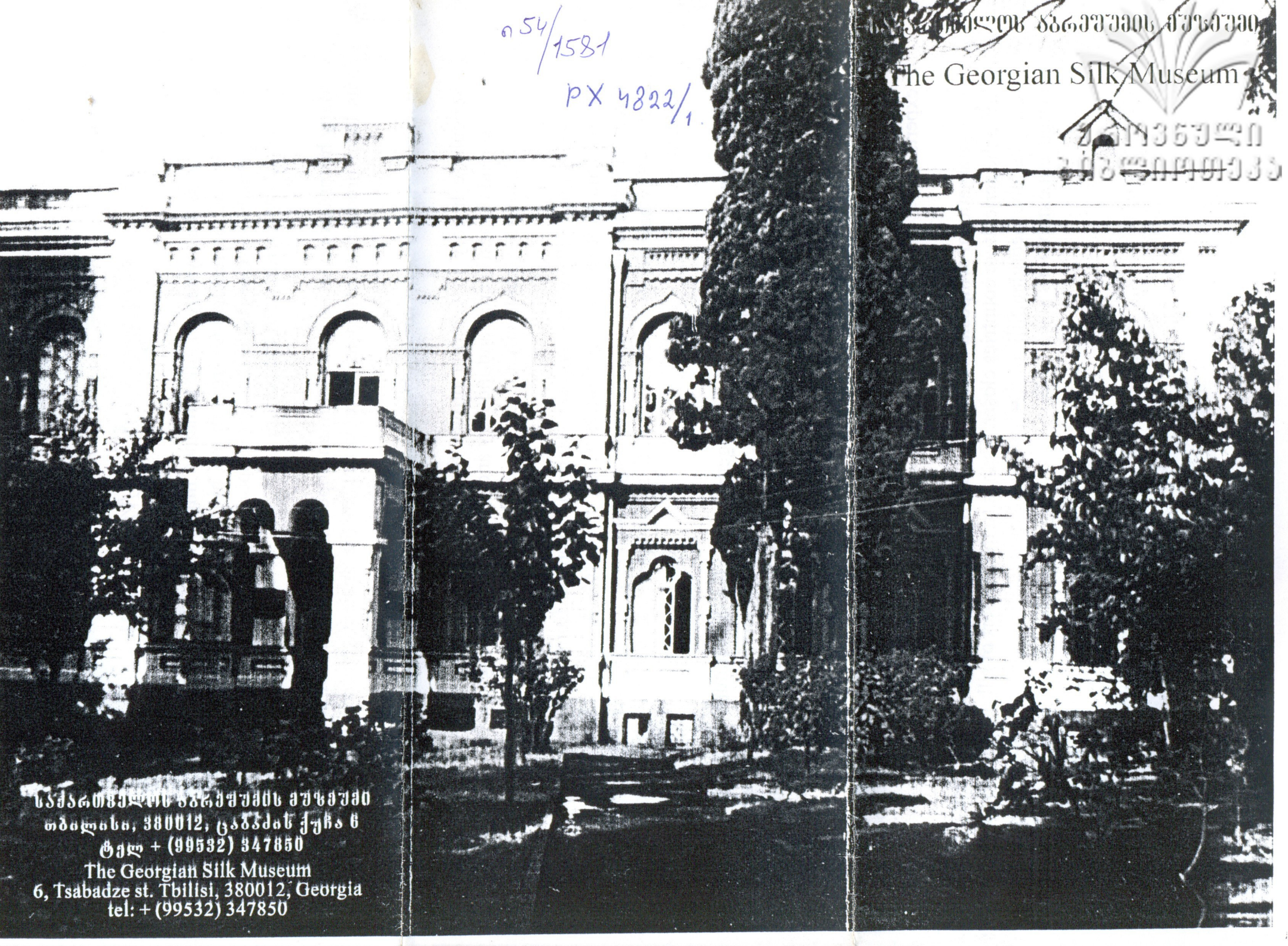
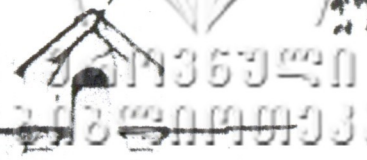


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საქართველოს საბავშვო მუზეუმი

The Georgian Silk Museum



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## *Georgian Silk Museum*

For centuries the mystery of silk remained impenetrable for the world. The secrets of silk production reached Georgia from China in 5 century A.D. during the reign of King Vakhtang Gorgasali, the fact supported by its mention in a literary work 'Sushanik's Martyrdom' of the period.

Many historians maintain that Georgian population was aware of silk well before its local production began as Georgia lay on the ancient transcontinental route linking the East to the Black and Mediterranean Sea countries. The route dated as far back as 2nd millennium B.C. is widely known as **The Great Silk Road**.

Sericulture history in Georgia proves that silk production was a common and widespread domestic craft and industry and that at a certain stage its volume made it possible to use silk not only for tax paying, but for export purposes as well.

A devastating silk worm disease 'Hebrona' spread from western Europe in 1860ies and as it reached the Caucasus, the endemic silk species faced a serious threat of extinction. The idea of creating a silk centre to protect local species enabled N. Chavrov, its future director, to set up closer contacts with his European colleagues.

The Caucasian Sericulture Centre together with the Sericulture Museum and Library was founded in 1887 in Tbilisi. Today the Museum houses a collection of 5,000 silk cocoon species and their variations from 61 countries. The Museum has accumulated items of international value including tools and equipment of domestic silk production, undyed and naturally dyed silk threads, carpets, scarves, samples of fabric and lace from Georgia, China, France, and much more. Due to its varied and rich collection the Museum is considered unique by European experts.

Two international symposia were held in the Museum in 1997 and 1999 aiming to bring the sericulture countries closer. Thanks to the support of silk experts from 23 countries, the Georgian Silk Museum is listed among European silk museums and permanent exhibitions since 1998.