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Liberties and Phrygian Caps in Georgia¹

Some common European symbols were in usage for millennia.



Central figure on reverse above is *pileus*, a cap of emancipated slaves in Rome, i.e. symbol of liberty. Following the assassination of Caesar, M. Iunius Brutus used this symbol to declare end of the tyranny.

¹ https://www.academia.edu/43553444/Liberties_and_Phrygian_Caps_in_Georgia



Figure above wears Phrygian cap, associated in Antiquity with several people, like Phrygians, Dacians, Thracians etc.



Figure above is Mithras, Graeco-Roman god of Persian origin, god of the sun, light and justice, in a Phrygian cap. That means as follows: *pileus* was often confused with Phrygian cap, latter also becoming a liberty cap.



French revolution, in its turn, maintained this confusion, taking Phrygian cap as symbol of liberty.



This is again Mithras as equestrian on the municipal copper coins of bilingual (Graeco-Colchian/Western Georgian) Trapezus under the Roman rule. He wears a Phrygian cap.²



Here are the municipal copper coins of Dioscurias in Colchis (modern Sokhumi, Western Georgia) with the effigies of Dioscuri's caps and thyrsus. Typologically the coins are connected to the municipal copper coins of Pontus – obverse type is taken from Amisus' coins, issued in 120-111 B.C., and reverse type is borrowed from municipal numismatics of South and North Black Sea coasts, from the coins struck in 105-90 B.C. Coins issued in Dioscurias should be undoubtedly dated back to the end of 2nd c. B.C. and the beginning of the 1st c. B.C. Accordingly, Mithridates VI, king of Pontus, annexed East Black Sea coast exactly in those times. Dioscurians, now subjugated to Mithridates, restored their diminished municipal structures, and struck their own copper money with the “caps of liberty”. Still, Mithridates' garrison was located in Dioscurias and the official appointed by him controlled the mint.³

Thus, like everywhere in Europe, in Georgia (Colchis and Iberia) the Phrygian caps meant liberty.

² T. Dundua and Others. Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. 2013-2015 <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=26>

³ T. Dundua and Others. Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. 2013-2015 <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=22>