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Georgia within the European Integration as Seen in Coinage. Greeks in Colchis*

a) The Making of Europe. Climate determines economics. Hot and less humid environment defines an early advantage of the South over the North – indeed, the Egyptian state and the crafts confront entirely the primitive clan-system which existed in fact everywhere. Then the whole situation was changed.

Times after, some technical improvements towards the North created a very comfortable vegetation process, while the Egyptians still needed time to put the seed beyond the reach of the sun. In the 9th-8th cc. B.C. the Greeks are already vanguard by means of the technics and the structures. The countries being superb before, like Egypt and Babylon, or India, now face a new hegemonic power – Hellas, already overpopulated and needing grain and the raw materials to be imported. Then the perception of Europe has appeared. Europe is a special term for the part of the earth, which stipulates or will stipulate the same level of development. Even Scythia with its rough spring was thought to be reorganized in the Greek manner, than those countries which needed the additional finances for irrigation. So, the making of Europe started.

The Greek pattern was as follows: 1. occupying or even frequently being invited to the key-points of other economic structures like Caria, Thrace, Bosphorus or Colchis; 2. establishing the autonomous Greek social structures granted heavily with the technics from metropolis; 3. the natives being equipped with the best tools for agriculture; 4. the Greek industrial structures maintained on this background; 5. exporting supplies to Hellas and receiving back some industrial goods. The Aegean and the Pontic (the Black Sea) areas were

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supposed to form once unique economic space. Economic integration considered several stages to be realized: first it was Asia Minor, in fact mistakenly called so, to be Hellenized due to climatic similarity with Greece, then – West, North and East Black Sea countries. Two major waves of the colonists passed from Hellas – first one in the 8th-6th cc. B.C., and the next – in the 4th c. B.C. led by Alexander the Great. Asia Minor was a complete victory of Hellenism, even being integrated politically under Mithridates Eupator, king of Pontus, as far back as in the 1st c. B.C. The Roman overlordship gave a new sense to the economic prosperity of the Greek World. And at last the Byzantine metropolis was created with all that languages like Lydian, Cappadocian etc. vanished forever. But there were the serious failures too. Colchis (Western Georgia) offered a dangerous humidity to the Greek way of life. The Greeks living there had no chance to keep their industrial spirit as the agriculture was very slow in a development. Soon the Greek community became a bilingual one, and after – totally assimilated within the Colchian society. As to Bosphorus (at the Northern Black Sea coast), a corn-supply from Asia Minor to Greece had broken the traditional scheme, and the region soon lost its Greek style. And the case of Thrace was a certain conflict with the new concept of Europe.

The Romans did the same job for Gaul and Spain, putting the Latin population there and Romanizing these sites. They also cared much about their Greek colleagues in making Europe – starting from the 1st c. B.C. the Romans were running the whole administration within the Hellenistic World, while the Greeks used to build their integrated industry. Then the whole system collapsed.

Indeed, Italy never cared much for a maximum of technical improvement and power revolution. The result was catastrophic – a dangerous growth of population in Italy, insufficient economic progress, the high prices on the Italian industrial export, cheap supply from European provinces, indecisive military advantage of the metropolis over the provinces; the Roman imperial system vanished Italy being forced to the heavy Gothic reception. New Europe will pay its special attention to the technical progress employing more and more hands in a heavy industry. But what was supposed to be done with starving Italy?

East Rome (Byzantium) possessed the prominent food stocks from Asia Minor and Egypt. Emperor Justinianus put Italy within the Byzantine hegemony. But Byzantium itself was also a very old economic pattern. And Europe struck with the Slavs and the Bulgars penetrating beyond the Danube, establishing their national states in Thrace, Moesia and Dalmatia. The Asiatic provinces were lost too. From this very point on Byzantium had been steadily

degrading still being a predominant for East Europe and the Black Sea countries. Besides, the Byzantines kept some of the Italian provinces thus irritating the rest of Europe and provoking the emergence of Catholicism and Holy Roman Empire.

An idea of the Transcaucasian and Pontic transit of the Asiatic goods was also very important one. As far back as in the 4th c. B.C. Alexander of Macedon took the Graeco-Macedonian armies towards the very heart of Asia, and there, particularly in India, the Europeans tasted the spiced meals for the first time, and they decided that their life would be dull without pepper. So, one could buy some spices for, perhaps, a drachm in the valley of Indus, and sell it in Rome, or maybe, in Athens for hundred. The profit from the trade was very handsome. In all there had been the following routes towards India – 1. Maritime route – from the Red Sea ports of Egypt via the Indian Ocean towards Malabar coast. 2. Transiranian transit. 3. The third route was amazingly cheap, for it was river-route via well inhabited and supplied districts, city of Phasis (Poti, Western Georgia) being a starting point together with a mouth of the river Phasis (Rioni), very comfortable for the large boats. Rioni is prolonged by the rivers Kvirila and Dzirula towards the Likhi mountains. They divide Georgia into two parts: the West (Colchis), and the East (Iberia). The merchants used to climb to the mountains, and then board again at the Kura-river boat-station in Eastern Georgia. A voyage down the river towards the Caspian Sea was swift and lovely. And the Caspian Sea could be easily covered in eight days on a large boat. One could find the river Amu-Daria (Oxus) in the past joining the Caspian Sea in its South-Eastern section. Amu-Daria – Balkh (Bactra) – Indus is the last section of the route. And the Greek merchants were already in the wonderful country of a leisure and the spices, in the homeland of Buddha. The Greeks and the Romans, the Byzantine soldiers and merchants were in Georgia for the transit purposes and within the frames of early European integration. From the 2nd c. B.C. the Chinese started to send the silk caravans via Chinese Turkestan. Then the usual Transcaucasian and Pontic transit took place. This route was cheap, but – very fragile. As soon as Iran recovered from the Hellenic onslaught, it cut the route organizing the Caspian fleet.

Till the 11th c. Byzantium had been a handsome and dominant power, the champion of Christendom again onslaught of Asia and Islam. But it was already very old European pattern of the Mediterranean trying to control North. Soon Empire found itself caught between two fires – the Crusaders and the Turks. Byzantium had to be calmed finally. The Crusaders (after 1204) and the Turks

(after Manzikert, 1071) did this job properly overpopulating the country. Towards the end of the 13th c. Byzantium is nothing but a lot of principalities with very different confessional visages (Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim). Orthodox World starts disputing about a new leader Serbian, Bulgarian and Georgian kings assuming formally the title of Caesar and Autocrat (and before the Georgian kings formally had been hailed as king and Kuropalates, king and Sebastos, even sometimes, king and Caesaros). The Italians were more pragmatic. Seizing the whole islands and the key-points over the Aegean and the Black Sea, they will control the complete output there until the 15th c. This was a disaster for building of Europe. Within the Holy Roman Empire Italy had been granted only moderate supplies of food and the raw materials from the northward. And now Venice and Genoa made a commercial onslaught upon what still can be called the Byzantine World destroying the local crafts. ex. In 1261 the Byzantine Emperor Michael Palaeologos had to sign a treaty with Genoa promising the republic the concessions, own quarters in Constantinople and other ports, and free access to those of the Black Sea. A comparative comprehension of the Hellenic and the Italian periods is as follows: the Greeks took up their permanent residence within the East Aegean and the Pontic areas stimulating everything, while the Italians placed the soldiers and the merchants there to empty the local markets. That is why the Ottoman reintegration was welcomed by the overwhelming majority in Asia Minor. And Greece since has formed a separate economic structure. Thus the Italian overlordship came to an end together with the handsome transit trade.

When the Transcaucasian transit was broken, the Byzantines did their best to reach Asia rounding the Caspian Sea in the north, and moving towards the Turks, dwelling already in the Central Asia. But this route – steppe route to the North of the Caspian Sea – failed to be nice because of a very low socio-economic level of the North-Caucasian tribes by that time. When this level was a bit higher, Genoa organized silk and spice supply of Europe via the North Caspian regions and the Northern Caucasus to Crimea (Caffa). And the rest of the route was as follows: Sebastopolis (Sukhumi, Georgia) – Trapezus – Galata – Italy. And when the Ottomans diminished the Italian trade, Africa was rounded by the Portuguese vessels.

Papal primacy over the Byzantine church also failed. In the early days of Christianity the Third Person of the Trinity – Holy Spirit – was thought to proceed from God the Father. Then, in the 9th c., the formula “that proceedeth from the Father and the Son” was adopted in the West. To the Orthodox church

it was a heresy. But obviously in a great despair, needing the Western military help, some of the Greeks had agreed, that this Latin formula meant the same as the Greek newly established one – the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father through the Son. But the rest still used to say as determined as ever – “better the Sultan’s turban than the cardinal’s hat”. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 clearly meant the end of this unity. And the Byzantine galleys, all packed with refugees moving slowly to the open sea towards the safety of Italy meant a good supplement to the Italian Renaissance, while the Byzantine double-headed eagle – to the Russian heraldry. “The Christian Empires have fallen” – wrote the monk Philotheus in 1512 to the Grand Prince Basil III of Russia – “in their stead stands only the Empire of our ruler ...Two Romes have fallen, but the third stands and a fourth there will not be”. The Italians did their best to save the maritime empires but they failed. Galata or Pera was lost immediately. And the Ottoman control over the Straits endangered the existence of the Black Sea colonies like Caffa (Theodosia), which had passed over to the Ottomans in 1475. Quite soon the whole empire of Genoa had vanished. Venice triumphed at Lepanto (1571), but little good resulted.

The Italians also did their best to penetrate into a hinterland. ex. Georgia was flooded with the Catholic monks, while due to the Turkish menace the centre of the Catholic mission in the East had been transferred from Smyrna to Tbilisi. But again – with no successful outcome. The Orthodox churches were known either to regard the Latin Church with hatred, or simply – neglecting it. Hence the Italian supplies had been tied up neatly with the countries northwards, while Italy itself being reduced to a modest land.

Now the Ottomans tried to re-establish the “Byzantine” rule over Italy ravishing Otranto, financing the corsairs of Algeria, but, in all, it was just a sweet dream for the Sultan – already the “Emperor of Europe and Asia”.

So, after this Southern European empires gone forever, new Europe emerged with its rationalism and a traditional division into the West and the East still vital, with a very clear perspective of a collaboration, even creating the universal whole-European architectural style – a certain mixture of the Gothic (Western) and the Byzantine (Eastern) styles – that was Baroque, elaborated still in Italy in the 16th c. The West was lucky in evolution, more severe East had to arrange an economic tension losing the comforts and the services to catch the West. Both of them headed towards Asia for a supply. The colonial system was established. And if the imperial experiment happened to be used still within Europe, like the Austrians and the Russians did, no economic synthesis was

planned. Great Britain and Russia never thought even of America and Siberia as of some agrarian sections while sending the colonists there. World War I created the state-socialistic system in the Russian Empire and the USSR appeared. World War II widened the state-socialistic system and the Warsaw Pact appeared. The brutal rationalism like the state-socialism still did its job neatly. Towards the midst of the 19th c. East Europe with its serfdom seems to be a grotesque European province. Now the differences are hastily diminishing, and the making of Europe is close to the end. Soon entire North will face the South within the network of a collaboration affiliating some extremely Southern industrial countries like Australia and the Republic of South Africa, Chile and Argentina.

The West and the East (Balto-Pontic sites being a vanguard) reaching after are fixed on the chart below:

<i>Revolution Country</i>	<i>Abolishment of Serfdom</i>	<i>Civil Equality</i>	<i>Liberalism</i>
<i>England (Maritime West)</i>	<i>the 13th c.</i>	<i>the 17th c.</i>	<i>2nd half of the 19th c.</i>
<i>Germany (Humid Continental West)</i>	<i>in Prussia – 1806</i>	<i>1918</i>	<i>from 1949</i>
<i>Russia (Humid Continental East)</i>	<i>1861</i>	<i>1917</i>	<i>nowadays</i>
<i>Georgia (Humid Subtropical, Semiarid, Highlands)</i>	<i>1864-71</i>	<i>1917</i>	<i>nowadays</i>

Appendix and academic summary of this narrative is as follows:

Europe is part of the earth which stipulates or will stipulate the same level of development. That has been well acknowledged since the ancient times. An idea of the European integration is as old as a comprehension of Geographical determinism for technological evolution.

Economic systems having physical substrata with temperature

approximately 20⁰ C. and above for the vegetation period and needing further irrigation come together within the Asiatic integration. Being a vanguard at the bay for a lot of the sun, it gradually loses top position for the same higher temperature, penetrating well into the depth and thus partly spoiling a seed. The same seed in moderate latitudes, passing slowly down from the dangerous cold at the surface, finds ideal spot with just internal temperature promoting the best vegetation at the lesser depth and within a smaller period of time. Good agriculture releases a lot of the hands for industry, also benefiting from it. Protofeudal and Feudal 5% for city population comes to revolutionary changes. First it was Hellas and *Italia* to be obsessed by them; then – England and the lands Eastwards, at approximately same latitudes, step by step. And last century saw almost simultaneous revolutions in the South. Having even free economic choice, those countries would suffer for the climate, keeping the hands in irrigation thus rejecting the industry. There are several definitions of Europe. Will they meet the classics?

Europe is right there we have liberties and democracy. But once there was no liberty and democracy. Europe is defensive-system from the American and Asiatic economic alliances. At least, one can be sure for the American alliance to be quite a recent one.

Anaximandres the Milesian was the first to spread the term “Europe” upon the Northern spaces, regardless the catastrophic divergency of the ideas up there from the Hellenic one. Tacitus claims the same for *Brittania et Germania*. Some Greeks even move the marches of Europe as far as the wild steppes of the Turkestan with the Massagetes dwelling there. Southern borders of Europe partly ran North from the river of Phasis in Colchis.

Now Europe is well-shaped: from the Britain Eastwards towards the Massagetes, from the North Sea Southwards up to the Northern Mediterranean and the Black Sea Basin.

There are some other Greek academic divisions with Trans-Caspian steppes, Colchis and Anatolia being already part of Asia.

Pragmatic and vital could had been only the thesis fitting the real integratory processes.

Integration for today that is a military alliance and market-distribution.

Graeco-Roman way was a creation of the markets, stimulating them with more cultivated hands, having a metropolitan supplies, i.e. colonizing the sites. To know the basic directions and the results of the project is a way to have Europe in Graeco-Roman dimension.

For Italy nothing is sophisticated. The bulk of immigration headed towards Gaul, Spain and Britain; some went to Africa. Gaulo-Iberic full-scale Romanization lasted for centuries, and if it failed towards the multicultural perception, Graeco-Roman European pattern was not to be blamed at all.

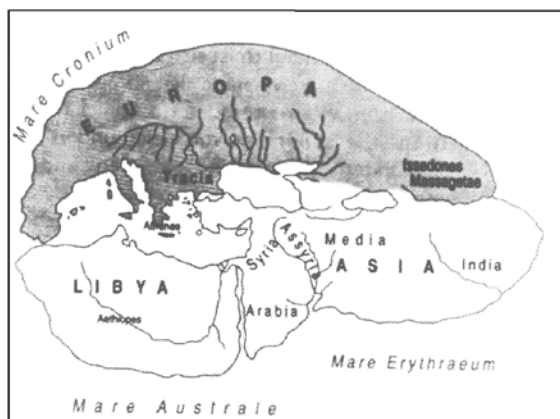
Neglecting totally the prospectives of power revolution and the steam-machines already invented, Italy degenerated itself into bad industrial supplier for the farming places, thus firing the zonal conflict. With the Huns attached to this clash, it becomes clear that total non-irrigative massive was thought to be Europe.

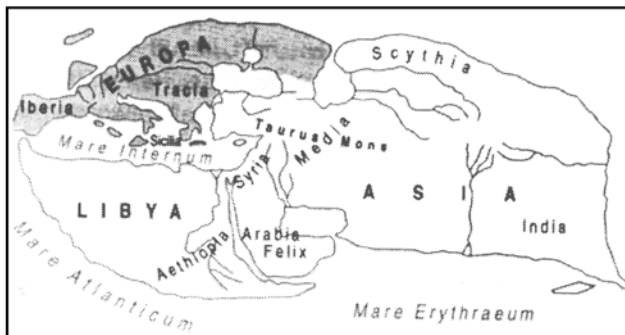
Greek case with the Hellens scattered everywhere is a bit complicated. But still, completely losing identity in heavy-irrigative (ex. Bactria), or super-humid (ex. Colchis) areas, never really covering the Aramaic (Syria) and Coptic (Egypt) villages, Hellenism gained its major victory in Anatolia, mineral and food stock for the Greek industry.

Byzantine conflict between Anatolia and coastal industry was of old Roman pattern. Again the steppe-people, the Seljuks, were involved for a solution.

For Graeco-Romans the case seems clear enough: those lands and climates which had already contributed for top-civilizations could be joined by others, except semiarid one. So, they rushed to stimulate Europe, like Europe went to America in the 18th c.

Greek Perception of Europe





Appendix and academic summary for Georgia being a permanent subject of the European integration is as follows: as far back as in the 6th c. B.C. Themistagoras from Miletus made Phasis in Colchis home for himself and his Greek colonists. Thus West Georgia has been involved in the European matter. Greek commercial superiority was substituted by the Roman hegemony over the small coastal strip of Colchis, already called Lazica in the 1st c. A.D. And that hegemony was based upon well-manned castellum-system from Pitius up to Aphasaros. Lazi client-kings, dwelling in the hinterland, largely enjoyed Roman *pax* and prosperity, gaining a handsome profit by trading with the gallant Pontic cities, like Sinope, Amisus and Trapezus. The whole Black Sea area might be looked upon as a multicultural region of which the general principles were still based on Hellenism, but that was facilitated mostly by the Roman money and defended by the Roman soldiers. Further towards the East, Iberian kings, sometimes even possessing Roman citizenship, welcomed Graeco-Roman transit from Central Asia and India. Spices, precious wood and stones were brought to Europe via Transcaucasian trade-route.

Byzantium was not a betrayal of all that was the best in Hellas and Rome. Great oriental bastion of Christendom, she seems to be a formulator of the Orthodox Christian Commonwealth. The Georgian kings being within had been heiled as king and Kuropalates, king and Sebastos, king and Caesaros. Again dual citizenship is applied. For the Christian monarchs there were the Byzantine titles to make them feel as the citizens of the Orthodox Empire, being at the same time ascribed to their own country.

After adoption of Christianity, Eastern Slavonia, with Kiev as capital, joined the Byzantine Commonwealth. That clearly meant enlargement of the Eastern European unity towards Eastern section of Humid Continental Europe, into the direction of the river Volga. Russians were the loyal subjects of the

Commonwealth, looking calmly at the decline of Constantinople's hegemony, and the Bulgar and Georgian kings seizing the titles of "Tsar" and "Autocrat".

Becoming stronger, Russia vividly protested Ottoman reintegration of what was formerly labelled Byzantium, and Muslim overlordship over the Orthodox World by taking the title of "Tsar" for Grand Prince Ivan in 1547. New centre of East Europe has been shaped, and then long-term war started for hegemony, Russia being victorious.

Seeing itself as East European super-power, thus Russia claimed Byzantine political heritage. For Russians Georgia had to be within the East European Union, and at the beginning of the 19th c. Kartalino-Kakhetian Kingdom (Eastern Georgia) became a part of the Russian Empire. The USSR was a substitute for the Russian Empire. And now Georgia is searching for her room within unified Europe.



b) Attic Half Mina from Dioscurias. Athenian Talassocratia over the East Pontus. "If anyone mints silver coins in the cities and does not use Athenian coins or weights or measures, but foreign coins, weights and measures, I shall punish him and fine him according to the previous decree which Klearchos proposed". This is what a secretary of the Athenian Council (Boule) had to add to the Bouleatic oath from the famous Athenian decree

enforcing to use of Athenian coins, weights and measures within the Athenian Alliance. The Athenian officials in the cities were responsible to carry out the decree, and the local officials too. The date of this decree is problematic, but still between 450 and 414 B.C. The text was carved on stelai and set up at Athens and the other cities – members of the League. Seven fragments of this text have been already discovered in various places. There are several attempts to interpret the decree. One thing is clear – this decree is imperialistic in tone, and if some of the cities within the Athenian “Empire” were still supposed to issue own money, Attic weight coins had to be used only. Electrum staters remained popular. Later this decree is parodied in the “Birds” of Aristophanes.

The decree seems to be very comfortable for trade and taxation – indeed, Athenians were scrupulous while collecting taxes within the League.

The whole story about the Greeks shaping Europe has been already told. Macedonia contributed much as a recruitment area, but earlier Athens had been thought to be a leader. It was merely a frustration – indeed, if the best city had to be striped from a population, nothing would be created at all. While the Greeks still in this mistake, Athenians made a good deal – seizing the markets and imposing taxes.

Athenians cared much for the Black Sea areas; and Pericles even launched a special expedition (Plut. Pericl. 20). Then numismatic visage of Colchis was changed as Athenian tetradrachms came in sight together with the Attic ceramics. Moreover, Milesian, Aeginetan and Persian standards used for the autonomous issues of Phasis now disappear and Attic standard becomes unique.

The types appearing on the coins of Graeco-Colchian bilingual community, Phasis, were the following /Pl. I-II/:

- I. Lion’s head /Rev. Winged Pegasus in *quadratum incusum*
- II. Lying hermaphrodite lion /Rev. Kneeling female figure with a bull’s head in *quadratum incusum*
- III. Archaic female head /Rev. Two identical heads, facing one another, each in *quadratum incusum*
- IV. Archaic female head /Rev. Two bull’s heads, facing one another, each in *quadratum incusum*
- V. Lion’s head /Rev. Bull’s head in *quadratum incusum*
- VI. Lion’s head /Rev. Lioness’s foreparts in *quadratum incusum*
- VII. Archaic female head /Rev. Bull’s head
- VIII. Archaic female head /Rev. Crane.

The first design seems to be used for, at least, three times. Phasis produced the staters of Milesian (13 gr.), Aeginetan (12.7 gr.). and Persian (10.4 gr.) standards.

The second design was applied, perhaps, twice for a stater of the Persian system (the weights range from 10 gr. to 11.4 gr.) and a didrachm of the Attic standard (the weights range from 7.9 gr. to 9.4 gr.).

This scheme fits the third design too with the weights 9.6 gr., 9.9 gr., 10.4 gr. for the Persian standard and 8.7 gr., 9.2 gr. for the Attic one.

We are completely ignorant of the weight of the fourth design.

The fifth type is siglos (5.5 gr.); the sixth – Attic hemidrachm (the weights range from 1.7 gr. to 2.6 gr.); the seventh – the same (the weights range from 1.2 gr. to 2.6 gr.), and the last one – hemitetartemoron.

The result is as follows:

Lion's head /Rev. Pegasus type forms the first Graeco-Colchian series.

Then the hermaphrodite lion type appears first issued as a Persian stater together with a siglos, i. e. the fifth design.

After the third design was established as a Persian stater.

The hermaphrodite lion type seems to be restored later as Attic didrachm accompanied by lion type hemidrachm.

Then we do have to revert to the third design as Attic didrachm.

On the one hand, the seventh design follows the Attic standard, on the other hand, it is a simplification of the fourth design. That does mean that the fourth design should be considered as something within the Attic system first issued together with a small denomination, which is alone prolonged after up to the 3rd c. B.C.

Here is the whole story about Graeco-Colchian issues, and Attic standard being victorious.

Dioscurias was a splendid Greek city dominated by a mercantile oligarchy, a foundation of Miletus, sometimes – being troubled by the natives from hinterland. Then it seems to be completely assimilated. History of Dioscurias is packed with tremendous events and clashes. And the clashes were back again in summer of 1993 as the civil war had broken out in Abkhazia. Still one missile was especially lucky as it buried itself deep in the earth and showed coin-shaped white metal. The description is as follows: weight – 300.37 gr. d=70mm. Head of Athena wearing crested helmet (the fashion is that of “old style” coinage)/Owl. Obviously Athenian weight, it was offered for sale, and

witnessed by the Section of Numismatics, Tbilisi State Museum, together with special expert, Prof. Dr. G. Dundua (Centre for Archaeological Studies, Tbilisi). 1993 is a dark hour for Georgia; and the weight was neither bought, nor fixed properly.

The greatest number of the marked weights found in the Agora are small roughly square lead plaques. Sometimes this official weights are marked with the same symbols as the coins – head of Athena/owl. Large circular stamp with helmeted head of Athena appears on the lead weight of the Roman time /Pl. III. N 1/. Bronze weight too of some 69.9 gr. has an owl incised. This seems to be a coin weight, 1/6 of mina /Pl. IV N 2/. Even countermarks for the weights represent double-bodied owl and helmeted head. Dry measure also has two stamps: the double-bodied owl and helmeted head of Athena /Pl. IV N 3/.

The Athenian coin mina, consisting of 100 drachms, weighted approximately 436.6 gr. There was also another mina, used for weighting market produce, equal to 138 coin drachms, or 602 gr.

So, the piece from Dioscurias should be considered as Athenian trade - weight – half mina.

What conclusions are we to draw from all this?

1) Dioscurias had to receive or was glad to receive the official Athenian weights as the city became a subject of the Alliance.

2) And Phasis should had accepted even a coin mina and Attic standard too while already in the Alliance. Was there any legislation in the favour of democracy; what does a maintenance of “Archaic smile” on the Athenian (“Old Style” coinage) and Phasian (the seventh design) coins mean? We shall never know.

3) One thing is clear – Attic standard was installed in Colchis between 450 and 414 B.C. And the effect was that of introducing Euro within the European Union.

Plate I



Plate II



Plate III

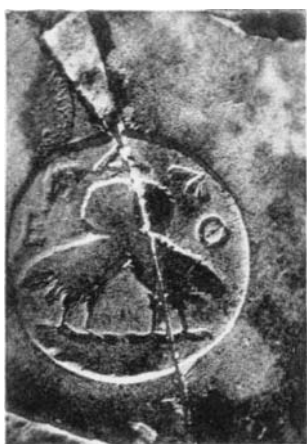


1.

Plate IV



2.



3.

c) Mithridates the Junior – Was He Rome's Ally? Mithridatic Wars are of special concern for the Georgian historians – thus Colchis and Iberia had been involved in the full-scale European war for the first time.

Mithridates VI Eupator, king of Pontus, selected different patterns for those countries – that of satrapy for Colchis, and symmachia – for Iberia.

In 85 B.C., being in a great despair, with his armies and fleet totally

destroyed by the Romans, Mithridates VI had to satisfy demand of the Colchian rebels – they needed their own kingdom to be restored with Eupator's son as a king. His name was Mithridates Philopator Philadelphos (App. Mithr. 64).

We do not know much about him: he was left in a charge of Bosphorus, Colchis and Pontus itself as his father marched westwards to face the Romans. Then he fought Fimbria, the Roman general, bravely, but unsuccessfully. As king of Colchis, Philopator issued the coins, both silver and copper, with Pontic dynastic eight-pointed star on reverse, and rather strange for his new country lotus – on obverse. Even more strange it seems the way he manifested his regalia – that is in no way, the coins are unepigraphic. Was he afraid of his father? Then why? For conspiring against him, having Colchians as friends?! We shall never know. Yet, Mithridates was to be feared much. Indeed, with Rome obsessed with heavy civil war, and the Greeks having had no final choice to whom they could entrust the Greek affair, Colchis felt itself hopelessly isolated. Eupator's reaction was quick and brutal, as usually. First capture, then golden chains and death was bad epilogue for Philopator (84 B.C.). But he is not to be blamed. Junior, perhaps, did the best he could to gain efficient support of the Republic; but in vain.

Epigraphics can provide some information for Philopator looking for strong ally. N375 from OGIS could be about him: [Βασιλεὺς Μιθραδᾶτης Φιλ]οπάτωρ καὶ Φιλᾶδελφος/[υἱὸς βασιλέως Μιθραδᾶ]του, τὸν δῆμον τὸν/[Ῥωμαίων, τὸν φίλον καὶ] σύμμαχον αὐτοῦ, /[εὐνοίας καὶ εὐεργεσίας] ἔνεκεν τῆς εἰς αὐτόν/[πρεσβευσάντων Ναυμ]ῶνους τοῦ Ναυμᾶνους/[καὶ Μᾶου τοῦ Μᾶου].

There are two Mithridates with the same cognomen – Philopator and Philadelphos. One of them ruled Pontus after war-like Pharnakes I and was actually his brother, son of Mithridates III, who bore no cognomens, like those Mithridates in the inscription. The length of the reign is well shown on the Attic tetradrachms having the legend as follows – ΒΑΣΙΑΕΩΣ ΜΙΘΡΑΔΑΤΟΥ ΦΙΛΟΠΑΤΟΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ; very naturalistic head is getting elder. Then it is him mentioned in the inscription, because next Philopator and Philadelphos has Eupator, as father. But there could be no βασιλεύς at all. Nobody knows for sure. Now it is much easier to discuss the Junior's case. Ruling over totally new kingdom and not the ancestral one, he could label himself as “son of Mithridates”, and not – “of king Mithridates”.

Besides, some scholars made an attempt to identity those ambassadors with Eupator's contemporary political figures (App. Mitr. 19).

One can really feel sorry for Junior. He could even had become Rome's formal ally in order to secure the safety of the country, much more depended on his Pontic garrisons. Indeed, he needed his copper issues just to pay them since the Colchians totally ignored the small change. But that was pocket-money. With, perhaps, no banking-system in West Georgia, those soldiers were thought to keep most of their salaries at home – in trapezas of Sinope, or Amisus. Then lotus-type silver issues used to be transfered there. Thus they could be brought upon Eupator's suspicious eyes. Philadelphos did his best for his coins to look like old Pontic satrapal issues. He did his best to secure his headquarters; as the lotus-type copper is mostly grouped in the hinterland town of Surion/Vani, it is thought to be his capital.

Alas, Philopator was granted no time. Appian narrates about his punishment – he had been brought by forth. And archaeology reveals the traces of heavy clashes and fire in the early 1st c. B.C. layers of Eshera, suburb site of Dioscurias at the coastal strip, and Vani itself.

70 B.C. saw a great treachery performed by Makhares, Philopator's brother. He generously sent all supplies to the Roman general Lucullus, besieging Sinope, the capital. And a ground for his high-treason was again Colchis, Makhares was there. We know for sure that he had other province too – that of Bosphorus. If it could happen as follows: leading a sea-borne expedition to Colchis in 84 B.C., he was the person, who captured Philopator. Thus Makhares had been allotted with a satrapy – namely Colchis, having in abundance every supply for naval power. Then he could march victoriously against also mutinous Bosphorus, thus unifying the two provinces.

Mithridates VI Eupator Dionysios was fortunate in children, but – not their behavior. And Colchis seems to be a certain kind of stimulus for their political misbehavior.



d) The Portray of Gnaeus Pompejus Magnus and the Georgian Numismatics. For Antique republics there were the gods to justify a legitimacy of a coin. With the decay towards autocracy the first persons started to be portrayed.

Julius Caesar became the first living individual to be portrayed in Rome, and it was done by special senatorial decree.

Was he really the first Roman to be honoured this way?

The case of Flaminius with his head on the gold coins struck in Greece is beyond the interest. It happened too long before and the republic was too strong.

But what about Gnaeus Pompejus; that is exactly him on obverse of the light drachm struck in Colchis in 52/51 B. C.

Obv. Head of Gnaeus Pompejus in solar diadem right.

Rev. Tyche seated, ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΕΠΙ ΚΟΛΧΙΔΟΣ ΒΙ.

Aristarchus, dynast from Colchis, was a part of Pompejus' Eastern reorganization after the Mithridatic Wars. He is put in a charge of Colchis in 63 B.C. (App. Mithr. 114). This coin is his legislation and the regnal years – 12 (52/51 B.C.) – are also his. Besides, he is a client of Pompejus. So, the drachm stands outside the Roman numismatics and the Roman conjuncture generally.

But – only *de facto*. What is the position of Aristarchus? Ὁ ἐπὶ τῆς βασιλείας – the vice-roy. Whose vice-roy could had been him, if there was no king in Colchis by that times. Only that of the Republic's. Then what an immediate reaction of the Senate might be on Pompejus shown as *rex et deus*?

Who designed the coin – Aristarchus himself, completely ignorant about the democratic principles, or there was a prompt and stipulation from the outside?!

Caesar tested public opinion by staging the scene with himself being offered a diadem. The sign of total disappointment was indeed a bad omen and he demonstratively rejected the offer (Plut. Caes. 61).

Was Pompejus doing the same a bit earlier – checking the general political sympathies by making his client to act this way?

Could be. With M. Licinius Crassus dead, and Caesar in Gaul making his name, Pompejus was only big man in Rome. And after all he was illustrious and ambitious general.

