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Coin Issues in Georgia. General Survey – Presentation of Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics¹

Abstract.

Having the sixth century BC as a starting point, Georgian money issues gradually absorbed all the types, styles and standards, which were popular around, especially those from the West. Greek deities and their symbols (Apollo, Helios, Hecate, Nike, Tyche, Dionysus, Dioscuri, Isis) were replaced by the Roman types (Emperor, Mars, Concordia, Annona, Victoria, Mithras), and pagan deities – by Christ and the saints from the Byzantine coins (St. Virgin Blachernitissa, St. Eugenius). On the other hand, for some time Georgians enjoyed even fire-temples and fire-altars on their coins. For millennia Georgia has been delivering tremendous services to Europe as European frontier and to international commerce as a bridge to Asia. Coins issued in Georgia facilitated both, defense and trade. Defense and trade shaped themselves as international issues, thus these coins are mostly bilingual. And this story is fully related in Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics.

Keywords: Colchis, Lazica, Georgia, Colchian tetri, drachm, stater, credit money, Phasis, Kutaisi, Tbilisi.

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Georgian numismatics as money issues in Georgia has the sixth century BC as a starting point. And Georgian numismatics as a science about these issues has the midst of the nineteenth century as a starting point. Since then much has been done towards attribution of the monetary groups and making the general numismatic narrative (Barataev 1844; Pakhomov 1910; Pakhomov 1970; Kapanadze 1955; Kapanadze 1969; Lang 1955; Dundua and Dundua 2006; Dundua and Dundua 2011; Dundua et al. 2003). Still, until 2013-2015 there was no catalogue for Georgian money.

Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics was project funded by Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation. Now it is finished (<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge>), together with its printed versions (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015; Dundua and Dundua 2013; Dundua and Dundua 2014; Dundua and Dundua 2015a; Dundua and Dundua 2015b; Dundua and Dundua 2021), still needing more popularization, as well as the Georgian coin issues themselves. This paper serves the purpose.

The catalogue covers all the major monetary groups struck in Georgia up to the thirties of the nineteenth century. They are as follows: Colchian money ('Colchian tetri (silver)', Kolkhidki); Georgian imitations to Alexander and Lysimachus' type staters; Coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat; The so-called Saulaces' coins; Municipal copper coins of Dioscurias; Anonymous copper coins struck in Vani; Drachm of Aristarchus the Colchian; Municipal copper coins of Trapezus; Georgian (Iberian) imitations to Roman coins; Georgian-Sassanian drachms; Arabic dirhems struck at Tbilisi and their imitations; Georgian-Byzantine coins; Georgian credit money (twelfth century-the twenties of thirteenth century); Coins of the Georgian kings in the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries; Mongol occupation coins; Western Georgian money of the thirteenth-fifteenth centuries; Coins of the Georgian kings and princes in the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries; Safavid and Ottoman money struck at Tbilisi; Coins of the Georgian kings in the eighteenth century; Russo-Georgian money. Each group is divided into different types, issues or subgroups. They are presented according to the scheme as follows: description, picture; scholarly commentary; mint; nominal; date; collection; bibliography; imported coins found in Georgia.

Pocket-size Georgia extends Southwards from the Caucasian Range, and Eastwards from the Black Sea. Likhi mountain divides the country into two parts. The West was Colchis/Lazica, and the East and South – Kartli/Iberia. Georgia is economic synthesis of the West and the East. The catalogue is

headed by the coins struck in Colchis.

‘Colchian tetri’ is a name of a coin group. Within the group eight types can be distinguished. Initially, the name ‘Colchian tetri’ was attributed to the second type hemidrachms. They are abundantly represented in West Georgia and are without doubt of the Colchian origin (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Second type hemidrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 189-196; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 50-57).

Second type hemidrachm. Silver. Weights range from 1,2 to 2,6 gr. $d \approx 12$ mm. (Fig. 1)

Obverse: Archaic female head to right/left within the linear circle or in border of the dots

Reverse: Bull’s head to right within the linear circle. Some of the coins are with the Greek letters – MO/ΣO, Φ, A, O, E, Π, Δ.

Three samples of the so-called tetradrachm are known but we know nothing about the place they were found in (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, The so-called tetradrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 150-156; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 11-17).

The so-called tetradrachm. Silver. Weight: sample of the Hague Museum – 10,40 gr., sample of the British Museum – 12,72 gr., sample of the Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – 13 gr. The weights range from 10,40 to 13 gr. $d \approx 22$ mm. (Fig. 2)

Obverse: Exceptionally depicted lion’s head to the left/right.

Reverse: Winged Pegasus to the right in *quadratum incusum*.

Lion’s head depicted on the obverse of the so-called tetradrachm is stylistically identical to the one depicted on the obverse of the first type didrachm (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, First type didrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 157-164; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 18-25).

First type didrachm. Silver. Weight: 10 gr., 10,1 gr., 11,3 gr., 11,4 gr. – Persian stater; 7,9 gr., 8,1 gr., 8,6 gr., 8,6 gr., 9,4 gr. (?) – Attic didrachm. $d = 17/20-20/21$ mm. (Fig. 3)

Obverse: Lying hermaphrodite lion to the right/left with a head turned back.

Reverse: Kneeling female figure with a bull’s head to the right/left in *quadratum incusum*.

Five out of nine pieces of the first type didrachm were found in West Georgia, three of which – in Colchian coin hoards. The majority of the coins found in these hoards represent the second type hemidrachm. The genesis of the

latter is undoubtedly Colchian. The topography (West Georgia) of findings of the first type didrachm indicates exactly to its Colchian provenance.

The lion's head depicted on the obverse of the so-called tetradrachm is stylistically identical to the iconography of the first type hemidrachm (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, First type hemidrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 184-188; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 45-49).

First type hemidrachm. Silver. The weights range from 1,7 to 2,6 gr. $d=11/12-12/13$ mm. (Fig. 4).

Obverse: Lion's head to the right/left showing teeth.

Reverse: Lioness' protome to the right in *quadratum incusum*.

Four pieces of the first type hemidrachm are found in West Georgia along with other Colchian coins, which again attests to their Colchian origin.

The lion's head depicted on the obverse of the so-called tetradrachm is stylistically identical to the iconography of the so-called drachm. The so-called drachm held in the Kutaisi (West Georgia) Museum was most probably found somewhere in West Georgia. Otherwise this unique piece could not get into a local museum (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, The so-called drachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 177-183; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 38-44).

The so-called drachm. Silver. Weight – 5,52 gr. $d=17/19$ mm.

Obverse: Lion's head facing.

Reverse: Bull's head to the right in *quadratum incusum*.

The iconography of the reverse of the first type didrachm is typologically identical with the heads of bull depicted on the reverses of the so-called drachm and the third type didrachm (Obv. Archaic female head to the right within the linear circle; Rev. Two bull heads, facing each other each in *quadratum incusum*) (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Third type didrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 171-176; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 32-37). The latter typologically and stylistically is identical with the second type didrachm with the depiction of three female heads (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Second type didrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 165-170; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 26-31).

Second type didrachm. Silver. Weight: e.g. 9,6 gr., 9,9 gr., 10,4 gr. – Persian stater; e.g. 8,7 gr., 9,2 gr. – Attic didrachm. $d\approx 18/20-21/23$ mm. (Fig. 5)

Obverse: Archaic female head to the right within the linear circle (the same as on the second type hemidrachm).

Reverse: Two identical archaic female heads facing each other each in *quadratum incusum*.

The second type hemidrachms are found in their thousands in West Georgia (ancient Colchis), both in the seaboard as well as inner regions. The part of the second type didrachms as well as the third type didrachm are found in West Georgia.

The so-called hemitetartemorion. Silver. Weight: 0,150 gr., 0,111 gr., 0,110 gr. (Fig. 6)

Obverse: Archaic female head to the right (identical with archaic female head depicted on the second type hemidrachm).

Reverse: Bird (crane) to the right.

Hemitetartemorii were unearthed by the Pichvnari (West Georgia) archaeological expedition in 1968 in the fifth century BC burial. These are three identical small silver coins, whose weights are almost difficult to establish. They were placed in a vessel, otherwise they would have been lost (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, The so-called hemitetartemorion; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 197-202; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 58-63).

The topography of findings and both, typological and stylistic analysis of the above-mentioned types give us every reason to place them into the Colchian tetri group.

The lion depicted on the Colchian tetri is associated with both Apollo's cult and the main deity of the Georgian pantheon – Sun. Colchian tetri belongs to a synthesized category. Bull usually is associated with the Moon deity (Dundua and Dundua 2013, 153-156; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 14-17).

There is no compromise over the dating of the second type hemidrachms. Most probably, they should be dated by the fifth-third centuries BC since they were found in the burials of this period. Moreover, these coins were found with other countries' well dated money, which again supports the above-given date. For defining their chronology very symptomatic is: 1. no further usage of *quadratum incusum*; 2. very large number of the coins belonging to this type; 3. gradual diminution of the fineness and the weight – all the above arguments give us every reason to date the second type hemidrachms to the fifth-third centuries BC. According to stylistic, technological and metrologic data, the other types can be dated by the sixth-fifth centuries BC (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Second type hemidrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 195; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 56).

The majority of the Colchian tetri is without inscription. However, some second type hemidrachms have the Greek letters as follows: MO/ΣO, Φ, A, O, E, Π, Δ. Although it is very difficult to decipher them, by virtue of

analogies it is possible to make a hypothesis that the letters are initials of Greek magistrates' names. The minting of coins in bilingual (Graeco-Colchian) Phasis (modern Photi, West Georgia) is their responsibility (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Second type hemidrachm; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 194-195; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 55-56).

Massive influx of lifetime and posthumous staters of Alexander and Lysimachus terminated issue of 'Colchian tetri'. Moreover, later they were imitated in Colchis. Aka stater is the earliest one (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Aka stater; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 208-210; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 66-68).

Aka stater. Pure gold. Weight – 8,5 gr. d=17/18 mm. (Fig. 7)

Obverse: Diademed head of Alexander, right, wearing horn of Ammon.

Reverse: Athena Pallas enthroned, left, holding Nike in an open right hand and resting left hand on an arm of a throne. Shield on the backside of a throne. Trident below, dolphins on both sides of trident. The Greek inscription behind the composition – ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, in front – ΑΚΟΥ.

Aka stater is exact copy of the posthumous staters of Lysimachus issued in Byzantium after 195 BC. Emblem of the city, trident with two dolphins on the handle, is depicted on the coins. Therefore, Aka stater can be dated to the times after 195 BC, the eighties of the second century BC. Only two specimens are known. Stylistically, technically and artistically the coins are no less than their prototype. The topography of the coin findings proves their local, Colchian origin (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Aka stater; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 208-210; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 66-68).

Aka stater is followed by the Georgian imitations of Alexander and Lysimachus' type staters.

Georgian imitations of Lysimachus' type staters. The weights range from 1,1 to 7,9 gr. d=18-24 mm. (Fig. 8)

Obverse: Non-naturalistic head, right; radiant hair-style sometimes ornamented with bird-effigies.

Reverse: Schematic Athena enthroned, left/right, holding Nike, trident below.

The Georgian imitations of Lysimachus' type staters are found along with other well-dated coins and also, in well-dated burials, eighteen of them – in West Georgia and eight – in East Georgia. Basing on this information, their emission is supposed to fit the period after the eighties of the second century BC till the last quarter of the first century BC (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Georgian

imitations to Lysimachus' type staters; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 211-216; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 69-74).

Georgian imitations of Alexander's type staters. The weights range from 1,6 to 3,7 gr. $d=13-18/19$ mm. (Fig. 9)

Obverse: Non-naturalistic head, right.

Reverse: Bull-headed, or ram-headed schematic Nike, facing.

The Georgian imitations of Alexander's type staters are found along with other well-dated coins and also, in well-dated burials, fourteen samples – in East Georgia, nineteen samples – in eastern part of West Georgia, twenty-six samples – in West Georgia. Basing on this information, the period of their emission is supposed to be the first century BC-first century AD (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Georgian imitations to Alexander's type staters; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 217-224; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 75-82).

Some scholars relate the coins below to the Colchian kingdom, another part of the scholars relate these coins to the kingdom of Bosphorus.

The so-called Saulaces' coins, first type. Billon, copper (or billon). Weight: sample of the Berlin Museum – 1,04 gr., samples of the Moscow State Historical Museum – 1,17 gr., 1,56 gr., 1,65 gr. The weights range from 1,04 to 1,65 gr. $d\approx 11/12$ mm.

Obverse: Male head to the right in radiant crown.

Reverse: Bull's head to the right. Greek inscription above and below – $\text{BA}\Sigma\text{I}\dots \Sigma\text{AY}\Lambda$ or $\Sigma\text{AYM}\dots$ meaning 'of king Saulaces', or 'Saumakos'. The king's name is only partially inscribed with the last letter read either 'Λ', or 'M' (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, The so-called Saulaces' coins, first type; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 243-245; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 93-95).

The so-called Saulaces' coins, second type. Silver. Weight: sample of the Berlin Museum – 0,98 gr., sample of the Vani (Georgia) Museum – 1,7 gr. The weights range from 0,98 to 1,7 gr. $d\approx 10/11$ mm.

Obverse: Male head to the right in radiant crown.

Reverse: Rose, Greek inscription above and below – $\text{BA}\Sigma\text{I}\Lambda\text{E}\dots \Sigma\text{AY}\Lambda$ or $\Sigma\text{AYM}\dots$ meaning 'of king Saulaces', or 'Saumakos' (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, The so-called Saulaces' coins, second type; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 246-248; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 96-98).

The so-called Saulaces' coins, third type. Silver (?), copper. Weight: sample of the British Museum – 1,75 gr., sample of the Berlin Museum – 1,83 gr. The weights range from 1,75 to 1,83 gr. $d\approx 12/13$ mm.

Obverse: Male head facing in radiant crown.

Reverse: Winged thunderbolt with Greek inscription above and below – ΒΑΣΙ... ΣΑΥ... ((Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, The so-called Saulaces' coins, third type; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 249-251; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 99-101).

As we see, none of the coins has a full inscription of the king's name. This fact generated discussions lasting for more than a century. Doubtful is the fourth letter of the king's name on the reverse of the coin. Some scholars read it as 'Λ', and therefore, the inscription is deciphered as ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΑΥΛ(AKOY) – 'of king Saulaces', since the latter name appears among the names of the Colchian kings. Other scholars read the fourth letter as 'Μ'. Thus, according to this group of scholars, the name on the coin should be read as ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΣΑΥΜ(AKOY) – 'of king Saumakos', since such a king is known in the history of the kingdom of Bosphorus (Dundua and Dundua 2013, 244-245; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 94-95).

On the second type of these coins a rose is depicted which allows us to date approximately the whole monetary group. This type is taken from the Rhodian numismatics. The rose-depicted coin is the exact copy of those Rhodian coins struck in 166-88 BC. This, in turn, allows us to date those discussed samples by second-first centuries BC (Dundua and Dundua 2013, 244-245; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 94-95).

The most justified way to argue for these coins' Colchian origin is the fact that five samples out of eight were found in West Georgia (near Sokhumi and in Vani) (Dundua and Dundua 2013, 244; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 94).

Pontic coins issued during the rule of Mithridates VI (120-63 BC) found in Western Georgia indicate to intensive political and economic relations between Pontus and Colchis. The coins issued locally are far more important. Municipal copper coins of Dioscurias (modern Sokhumi) are among them (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Municipal copper coins of Dioscurias; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 254-256; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 104-106).

Municipal copper coins of Dioscurias. The weight range: chalkos e.g. – 1,3-3,1 gr., dichalkon e.g. – 3,7-5 gr., tetrachalkon e.g. – 6,1 gr. d≈14 mm. (Fig. 10)

Obverse: Caps of Dioscuri, surmounted by six, or eight-pointed stars.

Reverse: Thyrsos of Dionysus, i.e. of Mithridates Eupator in the center of the coin, the Greek three-line legend on both sides ΔΙΟΣ/ΚΟΥΡΙΑ/ΔΟΣ.

The coins typologically are connected to the municipal copper coins of Pontus – obverse type is taken from Amisus' coins, issued in 120-111 BC and

reverse type is borrowed from municipal numismatics of the Southern and Northern Black Sea coasts, from the coins struck in 105-90 BC. To sum up, the coins of Dioscurias should be dated back to the end of the second century BC and the beginning of the first century BC. The Dioscurians, subjugated to Mithridates VI, preserved their municipal structures and struck their own copper money (Dundua and Dundua 2013, 254-255; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 104-105).

Anonymous copper coins struck in Vani (?). The weight range: hemichalkon – 0,8 gr.-1,1 gr., chalkos – 1,2 gr.-2,1 gr. d=12-13/14-15 mm. for hemichalkon, d=11/13-16 mm. for chalkos.

Obverse: Stylized effigy of lotus, Isis' decoration.

Reverse: Eight-pointed star (dynastic emblem of the Mithridatids).

These coins are found only in West Georgia, the majority of them, 118 pieces – in Vani, as a hoard including Amisus' 105-90 BC copper coin, several samples – in Eshera. So, the hoard can be dated by the beginning of the first century BC, and the coins could be struck in Vani (ancient Surion) with Mithridates Philopator Philadelphos, son of Mithridates VI, king of Colchis in 85-84 BC, as the only potential authority to do this (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Anonymous copper coins struck in Vani (?); Dundua and Dundua 2013, 257-261; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 107-111).

Drachm of Aristarchus the Colchian. The weights range from 3,2 to 3,7 gr. Berlin Museum – one sample; Ashmolean Museum, Oxford – one sample; British Museum – one sample; Cabinet des Médailles, Paris –one sample; Hermitage, Saint-Petersburg – two samples.

Obverse: Radiate head, right (Helios with Gnaeus Pompejus' features).

Reverse: Tyche seated on a throne, wearing a tall crown, right. Vessel in her left hand, right hand resting on a rudder. Greek inscription on both sides of depiction and below: ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΕΠΙ ΚΟΛΧΙΔΟΣ/ΒΙ ('of Aristarchus, the viceroy of Colchis, or of Aristarchus, who is ruling over Colchis', and the date – twelve, which corresponds to the twelfth year of his rule, i.e. 52-51 BC).

In 63 BC Gnaeus Pompejus appointed Aristarchus as ruler of Colchis. Six silver coins struck in his name are preserved. One of them is found in Sokhumi (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Drachm of Aristarchus the Colchian; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 262-264; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 112-114).

Since ancient Trapezus was located on the territory of Upper Colchis and majority of population around consisted of local, 'barbarian tribes',

municipal copper coins of Trapezus (the second-third centuries AD) should be included also in the list of the Georgian numismatics. Archaeological excavations in Bichvinta (ancient Pitius) and Sokhumi unearthed more than 200 municipal copper coins of Trapezus. Before Bichvinta and Sokhumi findings coins of Trapezus were something of a rarity. Mithras, the god of the Sun and light, is portrayed on the majority of the samples. But equestrian on the municipal copper coins of Trapezus is not 'pure' Mithras, he looks like a syncretic deity, unifying the functions of solar, lunar and stellar deities. Municipal copper coins of Trapezus with the effigy of Mithras have parallel in synchronous gems found (or made) in Georgia (Colchis/Lazica and Kartli/Iberia). So, claim about Georgian origin of this syncretic deity is logical one (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Municipal copper coins of Trapezus; Dundua and Dundua 2014, 170-177; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 115-122).

Now about Kartli. Silver coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat (second half of the third century BC) are wrongly attributed as a produce of Persis. The only Bagadat (Bagarat), known from the historical records, who could be Biurat's son, acted in Southwest Georgia and was linked to Pharnavaziani royal house of Iberia (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat; Dundua and Dundua 2013, 228-236; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 84-92).

There were four states in Classical Antiquity Southwards from the Caucasian Range and Eastwards from the Black Sea: Colchis/Lazica (modern West Georgia), Kartli/Iberia (modern East and South Georgia), Albania (modern Azerbaijan) and Armenia. All of them, more or less influenced by the Roman Empire, had Roman money in circulation. Aurei and Augustan denarii formed a bulk of the money in circulation in Iberia. Then they were imitated (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Georgian (Iberian) imitations to Roman coins; Dundua and Dundua 2014, 186-193; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 123-130). Several dozen samples are briefly described below.

Imitation of Trajan Decius' aureus. Weight – 3,73 gr. From Armazi necropolis (East Georgia) (Fig. 11)

Obverse: Bust of Trajan Decius, radiate, draped, r. Distorted legend, still ANVS DEC is well traced.

Reverse: Concordia standing l., sacrificing out of patera in r. hand at altar and holding cornucopiae in l. hand. CONCORDIAE EXERCITI slightly distorted.

Imitation of Valerian I's aureus. Weight – 3,51 gr. Vashlovani (East Georgia) (Fig. 12)

Obverse: Bust of Emperor, laureate, r. Illegible legend.

Reverse: Victoria driving biga l. Illegible legend.

The same dies for gold imitations unearthed in East Georgia, imitation found together with its prototype, i.e. original coin, speak about local origin of mentioned gold coins. Chronology of existence of this phenomenon, according to the burials and prototypes, seems to be roughly second half of the third century AD (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Imitations to aurei; Dundua and Dundua 2014, 190-193; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 127-130).

Imitations of Augustus' denarius. The weights range from 1,28 to 3,55 gr. (Fig. 13)

Obverse: Head of Emperor, laureate, crude in style, r./l. Latin inscription CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F. PATER PATRIAE distorted.

Reverse: Gaius and Lucius Caesars, standing front, each with a hand resting on a round shield. Spears behind the shields. Simpulum and lituus above the shields. Latin legend C. L. CAESARES AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT distorted.

Even the third century AD burials from East Georgia show Augustan denarii, while most of their imitations at Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia, are without proper indication about place of finding. Some of the imitations were found in the complexes (two samples in West Georgia, four – in East Georgia), which cannot be dated precisely. Still, general consideration leads to the conclusion that, together with the imitations of aurei, imitations of Augustan denarius were produced locally in the second half of the third century AD (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, imitations to denarii of Augustus; Dundua and Dundua 2014, 186-189; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 123-126).

Drachms, struck according to the Sassanian monetary type, with Georgian inscriptions and the depiction of cross, were already known in the nineteenth century. There is a special term for these coins in the scholarly literature: Georgian-Sassanian coins, or the drachms of Kartli's erismtavaris (princes) (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Georgian-Sassanian drachms; Dundua and Dundua 2014, 198-252; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 131-185).

Through the "Eternal Peace", signed in 532, Byzantium acknowledged Iranian right upon East Georgia. The kingship in Kartli was abolished. In the course of the sixth century there was a constant struggle for the independence of Kartli. This was well reflected on the Georgian-Sassanian coins. As was already mentioned, in this period the coins in Kartli were struck according to the

Sassanian type. On the obverse there is always depicted a bust of an Iranian shah, whereas on the reverse – the emblem of Sassanian fire-worshippers, holy fire – **ātar** – protected by two armed guardians. To this standard depiction, rebellious Georgians added above the shah's shoulder cross which served as a symbol of Christianity and of Georgian nationalism. This was an act of great importance. Sometimes, above ruler's depiction on the edge of the coins we encounter Georgian letters or monograms giving information about the names of Georgian erismtavaris. Moreover, the Georgians replaced the fire on the altar with cross, symbol of Christianity, and thereby got rid of the Iranian emblem. Erismtavari Stephanos placed fully his name in the centre of the coin, next to ruler's depiction. The coin group's (end of the sixth century) classification is as follows: Coins with the depiction of fire on altar. Gurgen's drachms (Fig. 14); Coins with the depiction of fire on altar. Jonber//Juansher's drachms; Anonymous coins with the depiction of cross on the obverse (Fig. 15); Anonymous coins with the depiction of cross on altar (Fig. 16); Coins with the depiction of cross on altar. Stephanos I – first emission.

Coins with the depiction of cross on altar. Stephanos I – second emission. 11 pieces of the second emission are held in several museums across the world. Silver. The weights range from 2,03 gr. to 3,02 gr. d= 25/26-28 mm. (Fig. 17)

Obverse: shah/ruler to the right. Instead of Pehlevi, Georgian inscription (Asomtavruli) – სტეფანოს (Stephanos) to the left and right. Twofold circle around it.

Reverse: Cross on altar, protected by two guardians. No Pehlevi inscription. Threefold circle around it.

From the first half of the eighth century Arabs became dominant in Georgia. 'Arabic dirhems struck at Tbilisi and their imitations' is the name of a coin group. The earliest among them are the Umayyad dirhems. The first Arabic coin of Tbilisi mint was struck in AH 85 (=704). Tbilisi mint became active again in AH 210 (=825/26). The first Abbāsīd dirhem of Tbilisi mint is dated by this year. After AH 248 (=862/863) the Abbāsīd dirhems of Tbilisi mint bear the name of Caliph. Date of issue is changed every time and the Islamic formulas are mainly repeated. Issues were struck in AH 249-335 in the name of the 'Abbāsīd Caliphs at Tbilisi mint. Emir of Tbilisi was the governor who issued the coins in the name of 'Abbāsīd Caliphs. The representatives of Ja'farid dynasty struck the coins in their own name (second half of the tenth century-beginning of the eleventh century). Bagrat III's (king of Georgia in

975-1014) coin also imitates the Arabic dirhems (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Arabic dirhems struck at Tbilisi and their imitations; Dundua and Dundua 2014, 259-299; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 186-226).

‘Georgian-Byzantine coins’ is the name of a coin group. It consists of the issues as follows: David III Kuropalates’ coins with the depiction of cross potent (Four specimens. Silver. The weight of half drama (?) – 2,1 gr. For miliaresion/drama the weights range from 3,05 to 3,5 gr. d=22,9 mm. for half drama (?), d≈23/24 mm. for miliaresion/drama. 979), St. Virgin Blachernitissa type coins – Bagrat IV’s first emission (Twelve specimens. Silver. The weights range from 1,47 to 2,2 gr. d=23/24-27/28 mm. 1055. Kutaisi in West Georgia), Bagrat IV’s second emission (Twenty-eight specimens. Silver. The weights range from 1,2 to 2,23 gr. d=24-27/28 mm. 1068/69. Kutaisi. Fig. 18), Giorgi II’s first emission (Silver. The weights range from 1,1 to 2,15 gr. d=21/26-27/29 mm. 1073. Kutaisi), Giorgi II’s second emission (Silver. The weights range approx. from 1,21 to 2,03 gr. d≈24/25 -27,2/27,8 mm. 1074. Kutaisi. Fig. 19), Giorgi II’s third emission (Silver. The weights range for half tetri, a nominal, approx. from 0,43 to 0,99 gr., the weights range for tetri approx. from 1,01 (?) to 1,94 gr. d≈20/22 -25/26 mm. for half tetri, d≈22/25-26/7 mm. for tetri. 1075-1089. Kutaisi. Fig. 20), Giorgi II’s extant coins number about hundred, David IV’s first emission (Silver. The weights range from 0,43 to 0,73 gr. d=22/23-25/26 mm. 1089-1099. Kutaisi), David IV’s second emission (Silver. The weights range from 0,56 to 0,87 gr. d=23/24-26/28 mm. 1089-1099. Kutaisi. Fig. 21), David IV’s copper coin, type – king in Imperial coat (Follis. Weight – sample of the British Museum – 10,73 gr. d=35 mm.), all three emissions of David IV present eight pieces. The dating of the group is based on the kings’ Byzantine titles and other political traits (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Georgian-Byzantine coins; Dundua and Dundua 2015a, 180-197; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 227-244). Below we present a description of one issue.

Giorgi II’s third emission.

Obverse: Facing bust of Virgin orans, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium. Distorted Greek abbreviation for – Η ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΣ – ‘the Holy Virgin’, to l. and r. from nimbus. Some specimens have different legend – ΜΡ ΘΥ Η ΒΛΑΧΕΡΝΙΤΙΚΑ – ‘St. Virgin Blachernitissa’.

Reverse: Marginal Georgian legend –
ⴁⴂⴃⴄⴅⴆⴇⴈⴉⴊⴋⴌⴍⴎⴏⴐⴑⴒⴓⴔⴕⴖⴗⴘⴙⴚⴛⴜⴝⴞⴟⴠⴡⴢⴣⴤⴥ⴦ⴧ⴨⴩⴪⴫⴬ⴭ⴮⴯ⴰⴱⴲⴳⴴⴵⴶⴷⴸⴹⴺⴻⴼⴽⴾⴿⵀⵁⵂⵃⵄⵅⵆⵇⵈⵉⵊⵋⵌⵍⵎⵏⵐⵑⵒⵓⵔⵕⵖⵗⵘⵙⵚⵛⵜⵝⵞⵟⵠⵡⵢⵣⵤⵥⵦⵧ⵨⵩⵪⵫⵬⵭⵮ⵯ⵰⵱⵲⵳⵴⵵⵶⵷⵸⵹⵺⵻⵼⵽⵾⵿ⶀⶁⶂⶃⶄⶅⶆⶇⶈⶉⶊⶋⶌⶍⶎⶏⶐⶑⶒⶓⶔⶕⶖ⶗⶘⶙⶚⶛⶜⶝⶞⶟ⶠⶡⶢⶣⶤⶥⶦ⶧ⶨⶩⶪⶫⶬⶭⶮ⶯ⶰⶱⶲⶳⶴⶵⶶ⶷ⶸⶹⶺⶻⶼⶽⶾ⶿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽⷾⷿ⸀⸁⸂⸃⸄⸅⸆⸇⸈⸉⸊⸋⸌⸍⸎⸏⸐⸑⸒⸓⸔⸕⸖⸗⸘⸙⸚⸛⸜⸝⸞⸟⸠⸡⸢⸣⸤⸥⸦⸧⸨⸩⸪⸫⸬⸭⸮ⸯ⸰⸱⸲⸳⸴⸵⸶⸷⸸⸹⸺⸻⸼⸽⸾⸿⹀⹁⹂⹃⹄⹅⹆⹇⹈⹉⹊⹋⹌⹍⹎⹏⹐⹑⹒⹓⹔⹕⹖⹗⹘⹙⹚⹛⹜⹝⹞⹟⹠⹡⹢⹣⹤⹥⹦⹧⹨⹩⹪⹫⹬⹭⹮⹯⹰⹱⹲⹳⹴⹵⹶⹷⹸⹹⹺⹻⹼⹽⹾⹿⺀⺁⺂⺃⺄⺅⺆⺇⺈⺉⺊⺋⺌⺍⺎⺏⺐⺑⺒⺓⺔⺕⺖⺗⺘⺙⺚⺛⺜⺝⺞⺟⺠⺡⺢⺣⺤⺥⺦⺧⺨⺩⺪⺫⺬⺭⺮⺱⺲⺳⺴⺵⺶⺷⺸⺹⺺⺻⺼⺽⺾⺿⻀⻁⻂⻃⻄⻅⻆⻇⻈⻉⻊⻋⻌⻍⻎⻏⻐⻑⻒⻓⻔⻕⻖⻗⻘⻙⻚⻛⻜⻝⻞⻟⻠⻡⻢⻣⻤⻥⻦⻧⻨⻩⻪⻫⻬⻭⻮⻰⻱⻲⻳⻴⻵⻶⻷⻸⻹⻺⻻⻼⻽⻾⻿ⷀⷁⷂⷃⷄⷅⷆ⷇ⷈⷉⷊⷋⷌⷍⷎ⷏ⷐⷑⷒⷓⷔⷕⷖ⷗ⷘⷙⷚⷛⷜⷝⷞ⷟ⷠⷡⷢⷣⷤⷥⷦⷧⷨⷩⷪⷫⷬⷭⷮⷯⷰⷱⷲⷳⷴⷵⷶⷷⷸⷹⷺⷻⷼⷽ

In the centre – $\overline{\text{DC}}/\text{C}\overline{\text{N}}\text{C}/\text{C}\overline{\text{Q}}\text{C}\overline{\text{N}}$ ‘and Caesaros’.

Next group is Georgian credit money. Review of the Georgian credit money (twelfth century-the twenties of thirteenth century) begins with the copper coins of Demetre I (1125-1156) and ends with the copper money of Rusudan (1222-1245). This period in the Georgian numismatics is strictly ‘copper period’. The so-called ‘silver famine’ in the Middle East was at its highest point at the time and left traces on Georgian numismatics. From the reign of Demetre I to that of Rusudan only copper coins were struck. This is one of the peculiarities of numismatic activity. Another peculiarity is that in twelfth century the face of the coin changed drastically. The coins lost their up-to-then standard feature, round shape. From then on, the large part of the coins was struck as copper plates which had accidental shapes. Often, because of small size of the plates, the die was not placed on the coins in its entirety. This method of coin issue first appeared in the Middle East and was then introduced into Georgia. It was suggested that in trading the so-called ‘irregularly’ struck coins were weighted rather than counted. Simultaneously with the ‘irregular’ coins, round coins were struck too. Below we present both examples. It might be a bit surprising that the mighty kings of the united Georgia placed Arabic legends on their coins. Some scholars think this should point to some sort of dependence on a part of Georgian king towards Muslim ruler. However, this argument is largely flawed. Such actions were dictated mainly by economic factors, since the Georgian money had to reach the Middle Eastern markets, and Arabic legends on them would undoubtedly help in it. Simultaneously the contents of the legends conveyed to the Muslim world that Georgian king was the ‘King of the Kings’ and the ‘sword of the Messiah’ (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Georgian credit money; Dundua and Dundua 2015a, 203-223; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 245-265).

Coins of Giorgi III – king with falcon on hand. Copper. Weight \approx 5,56 gr. d \approx 22/23 mm. (Fig. 22)

Obverse: Giorgi III in Asian-Byzantine dress. Seated cross-legged, facing. His left (sometimes right) hand rests on his thigh, on another hand up lifted sits a falcon. King wears stemma. Georgian Mkhedruli letters for the name of Giorgi (გო, sometimes monogram of $\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{N}}$ is added to it) and Asomtavruli legend $\overline{\text{K}}\overline{\text{O}}\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{I}}\overline{\text{K}}\overline{\text{O}}\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{I}}\overline{\text{K}}\overline{\text{O}}\overline{\text{N}}$, ‘in the K’ronikon 394 (=1174)’.

Reverse: Arabic legend in three lines:

دولة كوك

قال بنده

داود ملك

By the power of God, slave of Kuyuk (or Guyuk) Qā'ān's rule – king David.
At right:

ضرب تفليس

Struck at Tbilisi (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Silver coins of David Narin with the depiction of a horseman; Dundua and Dundua 2015a, 228-229, 242-243; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 268-269, 282-283).

Now we present example of the Georgian coins struck beyond the Mongol rule.

Coins with the effigy of two Davids. Silver. The weights range from 2,3 gr. to 2,9 gr. d=23/24 mm. 1261-1262. Kutaisi (Fig. 25).

Obverse: Labarum in the centre and the kings' effigy in Imperial coat on the both sides. On the left and right, Georgian Asomtavruli legends placed vertically $\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{L}}\overline{\text{S}}$ – 'King David' and 'King of the Kings David'.

Reverse: St. Virgin seated upon a throne like on the Imperial issue of Michael VIII Palaeologus, and corresponding Georgian legend on the left and right: $\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{L}}\overline{\text{S}}$ (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Coins with the effigy of two Davids; Dundua and Dundua 2015a, 277, 286-287; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 312, 321-322).

Disintegration and bad economy are well reflected on the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries Georgian money. e.g. Coins of Giorgi, king of Imereti (West Georgia). I type. Silver. Weight – 0,62 gr., 1,44 gr. d=11 mm. 1565-1585 (Fig. 26).

Obverse: Schematic depiction of bearded man, facing, in jewelled crown. To the left – plant ornament, around – linear circle and circle of the dots.

Reverse: Georgian Asomtavruli legend in abbreviation: $\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{N}}\overline{\text{D}}\overline{\text{L}}\overline{\text{S}}$ – 'King Giorgi', to the right – plant ornament (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Coins of Giorgi, king of Imereti. I type; Dundua and Dundua 2015a, 301, 311-312; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 335-336, 345).

Coins of the Georgian kings in the eighteenth century (Fig. 27) and Russo-Georgian coins struck at Tbilisi in 1804-1834 (Fig. 28) are the last coin groups (Dundua et al. [2013]-2015, Coins of the Georgian kings in the eighteenth century, Russo-Georgian coins struck at Tbilisi in 1804-1834;

Dundua and Dundua 2015b, 91-118, 132-137; Dundua and Dundua 2021, 364-391, 392-397).

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Illustrations:

Fig. 1. Second type hemidrachm. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4022

Fig. 2. The so-called tetradrachm. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №3

Fig. 3. First type didrachm. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №3824

Fig. 4. First type hemidrachm. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4810

Fig. 5. Second type didrachm. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №1

Fig. 6. The so-called hemitetartemorion. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia.) №18798

Fig. 7. Aka stater. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4872

Fig. 8. Georgian imitation of Lysimachus' type staters. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №5253

Fig. 9. Georgia imitation of Alexander's type staters. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №48

Fig. 10. Municipal copper coin of Dioscurias. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4033

Fig. 11. Imitation of Trajan Decius' aureus. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9158

Fig. 12. Imitation of Valerian I's aureus. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9735

Fig. 13. Imitation of Augustus' denarius. Simon Janashia Museum of

Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №1704

Fig. 14. Gurgen's drachm. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4058

Fig. 15. Anonymous coin with the depiction of cross on the obverse. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4056

Fig. 16. Anonymous coin with the depiction of cross on altar. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №1571

Fig. 17. Stephanos I – second emission. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №5870

Fig. 18. Bagrat IV's second emission. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №1713

Fig. 19. Giorgi II's second emission. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №12382

Fig. 20. Giorgi II's third emission. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №12101

Fig. 21. David IV's second emission. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №22443

Fig. 22. Coin of Giorgi III – king with falcon on hand. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №111

Fig. 23. Coin of queen Tamar with her signature. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №1884

Fig. 24. Silver coin of David Narin with the depiction of a horseman. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №4254

Fig. 25. Coin with the effigy of two Davids. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection,

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Fig. 26. Coin of Giorgi, king of Imereti. I type. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №5288

Fig. 27. Copper coin of Erekle II. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №5308

Fig. 28. Russo-Georgian coin. Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia – QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №5856

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Illustrations:



Fig. 1. Second type hemidrachm



Fig. 2. The so-called tetradrachm



Fig. 3. First type didrachm



Fig. 4. First type hemidrachm



Fig. 5. Second type didrachm. Obverse



Fig. 6. The so-called hemitetartemorion



Fig. 7. Aka stater



Fig. 8. Georgian imitation of Lysimachus' type staters



Fig. 9. Georgian imitation of Alexander's type staters



Fig. 10. Municipal copper coin of Dioscurias



Fig. 11. Imitation of Trajan Decius' aureus



Fig. 12. Imitation of Valerian I's aureus



Fig. 13. Imitation of Augustus' denarius



Fig. 14. . Gurgun's drachm



Fig. 15. Anonymous coin with the depiction of cross on the obverse



Fig. 16. Anonymous coin with the depiction of cross on altar



Fig. 17. Stephanos I - second emission



Fig. 18. Bagrat IV's second emission



Fig. 19. Giorgi II's second emission



Fig. 20. Giorgi II's third emission. Obverse



Fig. 21. David IV's second emission



Fig. 22. Coin of Giorgi III – king with falcon on hand



Fig. 23. Coin of queen Tamar with her signature



Fig. 24. Silver coin of David Narin with the depiction of a horseman



Fig. 25. Coin with the effigy of two Davids. Reverse



Fig. 26. Coin of Giorgi, king of Imereti. I type



Fig. 27. Copper coin of Erekle II



Fig. 28. Russo-Georgian coin