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Occupation, Falsification of History – Russians in Abkhazia (Georgia)

Expulsion and extermination of the Georgians in the Northwest part of Western Georgia (Abkhazia) since 1992 are now accompanied by looting the remnant population and also, by archaeological looting, i.e. illicit removal of the artefacts from the archaeological sites. Next step is their incorrect interpretation. Here is one case.

We are focused on the silver jug from Gagra district (Abkhazia, Georgia) with the Greek inscription, found in 2005 by the Russian archaeologists and published as А. Ю. Виноградов. Кувшин царя Бакура – новый источник по ранней истории Кавказа. Interdisciplinary Archaeology. II. Tbilisi. 2013, pp. 45-67.

Burial №5 of necropolis in Achmarda (Gagra district) shows rich inventory including the silver jug with the Greek inscription (1st -3rd cc. A.D.): I, Pacuros, the king, gave to (my) sheep.

Originally the Persian name, it had several Greek forms. Formula applied here is also very Oriental in essence: king is a shepherd, his subjects – the sheep. The name was popular among the Parthian, Armenian and Iberian (East Georgian) kings.

A. Vinogradov, Russian scholar, who read the inscription, excluding the possibilities, thought of Pacuros as Armenian king Pacorus (161-163) or the Iberian king Bacur (end of the 3rd c. A.D.). Still, he denies the possibility of vassal subordination of those living at Achmarda to either Armenian, or Iberian king because nobody narrates about this status of the Northwest part of Colchis (Western Georgia). He even admits that Pacuros could be Lazi (West Georgian) king, unknown from the records. Indeed, he states, Apsils and Abasks (supposed ancestors of the Abkhazians. They started their movement from the Caucasian mountains towards Colchis in the 1st c. A.D. and settled on the territory of modern Abkhazia) were sometimes subjugated to the Lazi kings.

For Pacuros being the Lazi king is not a possibility, but reality. He is mentioned in records in the times of Emperor Antoninus Pius (see below), while Apsils and Abasks were permanent subjects of the Lazi kings <https://www.eurasiareview.com/13042020-abkhazians-and-ossetians-in-georgia-a-short-history-analysis/>. And moreover, as we shall see further, there were no Apsils and Abasks at all living in Gagra district in the 2nd c. A.D. Also, Pacuros/Pacorus seems to pave the way for formation of Lazica, centralized Western Georgian kingdom comprising the whole Colchis, in the 3rd c. A.D. This is briefly, now, in details (see T. Dundua. History of Georgia. Tbilisi. 2017, pp. 113-120) https://www.academia.edu/35768659/History_of_Georgia.

Roman author Iulius Capitolinus narrates about Antoninus Pius: *“Pharasmanes rex ad eum Romam venit plusque illi quam Hadriano detulit. Pacorum regem Lazii dedit. Parthorum regem ab Armeniorum expugnatione solis litteris reppulit . . .”* (IX) (The *Scriptores Historiae Augustae*. With an English Translation by David Magie. vol. I. Harvard University Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts. London, England. First published 1921. Reprinted 1930, 1953, 1960, 1967, 1979, 1991, p. 122) (... He gave Pacorus to the Lazi as a king...). That simply means as follows: Pacuros/Pacorus, the Lazi king towards the midst of the 2nd c. A.D., sends silver jug to his “sheep”/subjects living westwards from the river Bzipi. Who are they?

Many mountaineer clans moved down to Colchis on the verge of the 1st c. B.C.-1st c. A.D. either from the South (from the neighbouring places of Trapezus), or – from the North. Actually, those from the South, the Lazi, spoke the same Mingrelian (West Georgian) language as the Colchians did. So, no cultural changes took place, and those too, who came from the North, soon

made their Abkhazian language a family language having Mingrelian as social one.

Beyond the Roman *limes* (frontier) <https://www.eurasiareview.com/22-042020-rome-byzantium-and-nato-grand-strategy-of-the-west-and-georgia-analysis/>, close to the sea, the following political units existed in Western Georgia towards 131: general direction is that to the North from mouth of the river Chorokhi, near modern Georgian-Turkish border; the list is headed by the Lazi with their king Malassas, next come the Aphsils and their king Iulianos, then – the Abasks and their king Resmagas, finally, the Sanigs (Mingrelian speaking unit) and their king Spadagas. The Sanigs lived around Sebastopolis (Arr. Periplus. 11; modern Sokhumi), and further, till modern Sochi (Arr. Periplus. 18), now in Russian Federation (Plate I).

And we have amazing picture already for the midst of the same century: now only Lazi happen to live beyond the Roman *limes* at the East Black Sea coast (Ptol. Geogr. V. IX. 5). It could mean only one thing – Lazi coastal kingdom is already present, with other political terms/names having been disappeared in favour of Lazi. The Manrals/Margals (Mingrelians) dwelt in deep hinterland eastward (Plate II).

So, Pacuros/Pacorus, the Lazi king, sends silver jug either to his vassal, the Sanig, or, simply, to his subject living in “dukedom of Sanigia”. It will take half century more and this kingdom will already include the whole Western Georgia.

Plate I

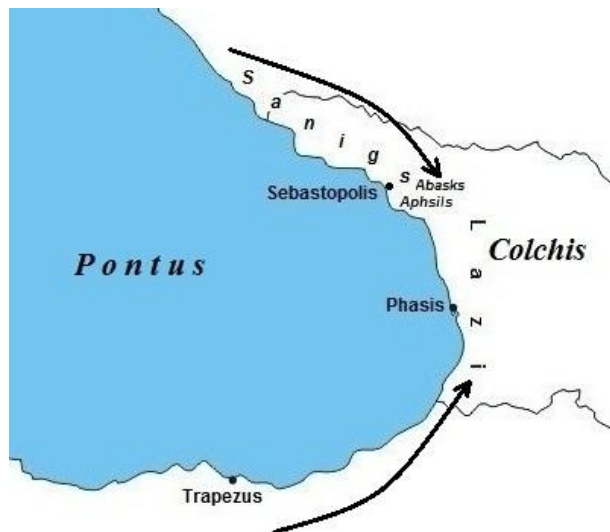


Plate II

