



GEORGIAN COINS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM-NÁPRSTEK MUSEUM IN PRAGUE

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ABSTRACT: Coins of Georgian origin in the collection of the National Museum-Náprstek Museum in Prague have been studied and catalogued. The coins have been classified in the following categories: 1) Georgian-Sasanian coins (6th c.). 2) Copper token coinage of the united Georgian Kingdom (12th–13th c.). 3) Coinage of the Georgian Maliks of Āhar (12th–13th c.). 4) Mongol coins minted in the Georgian Kingdom (13th–14th c.). 5) Georgian reduced coinage (15th–16th c.). 6) Coinage of Jānja/ Canca (16th–17th c.). 7) Safavid coins minted in Georgia (17th–18th c.). 8) Afshārid coins minted in Georgia (18th c.). 9) Tiflis copper coinage (17th–18th c.). 10) Sirma coinage (18th c.). 11) Russo-Georgian coinage (1804–1834).

KEY WORDS: Georgia – coins – numismatics – collection – catalogue – history

Introduction

The first scientific (though erroneous) publication of a Georgian coin seemingly dates back to 1782; that was the copper dirham of Giorgi IV Lasha (the first third of the 13th c.), featured in J. Adler's *Museum Cuficum Borgianum Velitris* (Пахомов 1970:99–100, примечание 1). However, the numismatic research of the Georgian history blossomed in the mid-19th century: *The Numismatic Facts of the Kingdom of Georgia*, Prince M. Barataev's (Baratashvili's) major treatise on the Georgian coinage appeared in 1844 in Russian, French and Georgian (Баратаев 1844); although being mostly outdated nowadays, it is indubitably one of the principal milestones in the study in the Georgian monetary past. The 19th c. researchers like M. Brosset and V. Langlois led the studies of the Georgian coins ever further (Brosset 1847; Langlois 1852, 1860, 1861). However, the major breakthrough was achieved in the beginning of the 20th c. with the publication of *The Coins of Georgia* – the Ye. Pakhomov's corpus of the Georgian coin types based on the specimens that were available for study then; only the first part of this major work appeared in 1910 (Пахомов 1910). The second (and final) one could not be printed due to the First World War. Both parts were published in

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This study has been produced with financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic (DKRVO 2012, National Museum, 00023272).

one volume only posthumously, in 1970 (Пахомов 1970), being supplied with the valuable, though sometimes contentious comments by D. Kapanadze (Капанაძე 1970). Along with T. Lomouri, I. Jalaghania and D. Lang, D. Kapanadze represented the prolific 'post-Pakhomov' generation,¹ which did a lot for the successive research in this field. Iv. Javakhishvili's *Science of Georgian Currency and Measures or Numismatics and Metrology* of 1925 (ჯავახიშვილი 1925) constituted a considerable attempt of putting the available numismatic data into the proper historical and economical context. The aforesaid scholars were followed in their turn by dozens of younger researchers who managed to expand our knowledge of the Georgian monetary (and economic) history significantly.

Owing to the efforts of many scholarly generations, the level of scientific knowledge in the field of the Georgian numismatics has reached a remarkably high level by now. The principal types of the Georgian coins as well as their sequence have already been established and systematized (Пахомов 1970; კაპანაძე 1969). It seems that the time is ripe for the *extensive* research, i.e. searching for the new types, to be augmented by an *intensive* research, in other words, a thorough study of the already available numismatic facts. However, this seems to be the very weak spot of the otherwise quite successful Georgian numismatic studies. The accumulated monetary material have hardly ever been published fully: Despite the publication of the multitude of the scrupulous monographs on various aspects of the Georgian numismatic history in the 2nd half of the 20th c., no modern sylloge type works were produced. Taking into account the very limited public access to the Georgian museum holdings both in the Soviet period² and since regaining the independence in 1991, this effectively left the riches of many Georgian museum storerooms unavailable for anyone except for the curators and occasionally also very limited number of scholars. It would suffice to say that out of more than 20,000 Georgian coins preserved in the Georgian State History Museum in 1955 (Капанაძე 1955:6), only single coins were published in the capacity of the illustration material for various monographs on Georgian numismatic history.³ The rich holdings of the provincial Georgian museums, for instance, about 1,600 Georgian coins in the Kutaisi museum by 1978 (წიტაიშვილი 1978), are equally intact; as to the Georgian coins preserved in the foreign collections – for instance, there were at least 1,775 Georgian coins in the State Hermitage (now Russian Federation) by 1971 (Быков 1971:167), to our knowledge only those in the collection of the ANS (Lang 1955; Lang 1966), as well as that of Ashmolean museum and Orientalisches Münzkabinett Jena were ever published completely: 49 specimens in the Ashmolean museum (Album 2001:plates 31–33, ##616–655; plate 39, #777) and 195 specimens in the Orientalisches Münzkabinett Jena (Mayer 2005:110–137, ##1001–1194, 146–147, ##1241–1242). However, the aforesaid publications are just a drop in the bucket – there is no doubt that still many more collections of the Georgian coins outside Georgia are awaiting the enthusiastic scholars.

All the above-stated arguments prompted the authors to devote a separate work to publishing and analyzing of the scanty but highly important Georgian coins preserved in the Czech collections, namely, in the holdings of the Náprstek Museum Prague, a branch of the National Museum.

¹ Ye. Pakhomov himself lived until 1965 and continued researching in various aspects of the Caucasian numismatics, continuously paying much attention to the Georgian coinage.

² Following the defeat in the Soviet-Turkish-Georgian war of 1921, the Republic of Georgia was parceled between the Russia-driven USSR and the Kemalist Turkey.

³ Possibly the only exception is T. Abramishvili's *The Catalogue of the Trebizond Aspers and the West-Georgian Money* (Kirmanaulis) of the Georgian State Museum (აბრამიშვილი 1984); but even in this 'catalogue' type publication, only some of the described specimens are presented *in toto*, i.e. including the image.

In addition to the history of the collection, all the Georgian coins are published fully, both the common and the rare ones. The specimens are grouped by historical and numismatic epochs, each group is preceded by the brief historical and numismatic introduction to the relevant period of the Georgian monetary history.

History of the Collection

Thesaurization of material especially of the archaeological or collecting origin represents one of the basic functions of the historical museums. The first group consists of objects with the clear provenance (if excavations were led properly with standard documentation) and they offer many opportunities for interpretation, classification and evaluating. Collectors represent another source of material, but because of the fact, that they only play their mediating role between the original locality and the final destination, information about the origin of the artifacts is often incomplete, erroneous or sometimes nil. Collecting is regarded as a very important social-cultural and economic phenomenon in every society. In this way, relations between collectors and museum curators create an important field for discussion about collecting strategy in museums and serve as milieu for cultivating qualitative and specialized character of the private collecting activities.

In 1963, Jarmila Štěpková (1926–1997) – the curator of the numismatic collection of the Náprstek Museum – succeeded in purchasing of the collection of Oriental coins of Bedřich Augst (1889–1969) sponsored by the state. The collection used to consist of almost five thousand coins (4,668 precisely), mostly of the Islamic provenance. B. Augst collected them during his field surveying business contract in the Soviet Central Asia (Turkestan) in 1915–1921. This purchase (accession no. Np 92/1963) became a base of the newly founded coin collection in the Náprstek Museum called ‘Coins of Orient, Colonies and Overseas’. The whole selection serves as a transparent and proportional example of the Middle Eastern and Asian coinage from the ancient times to the 20th century and as a collection of the rare and unique specimens.⁴ The collection of Mr. Augst is characterized with the following categories: 1) pre-Islamic Middle East and Near East (627 pieces), 2) the Caliphate, plus Islamic Spain (457 pieces), 3) Islamic Anatolia and the Ottoman Empire (704 pieces), 4) Islamic Transoxania and the Mongols (666 pieces), 5) dynasties of Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan (603 pieces), 6) India, Indonesia and Indochina (602 pieces), plus coins of the Far East (907 pieces).⁵ There are some 51 coins of the Georgian origin in the Augst’s collection (here cat. nos. 1–5, 9–12, 18, 24–27, 34, 37, 40, 42–64, 67, 71, 74, 78–81, 83–85, 87, 91–93, 95, 97, 100–102, 104, 106).

More than thirty years later, in 1996, another purchase came mediated by the recent head of the numismatic department of the Náprstek Museum – Vlastimil Novák (b. 1964). The state bought coins collected by Pavel Ševčík (1949–2001). The collection similarly as in the case of Augst resulted from his collecting activities during his business contract in the Soviet Union, and later on, in time of his long-term collecting in the Czech Republic (accession no. Np 16/1996). Ševčík studied at the Faculty of electrotechnic studies of the Purkyně University in Brno, and in the 1970s, he served as a businessman for the Kovo company in Moscow (working for this company, he traveled more than seventy countries). Because of his business contacts, he visited various places in the Soviet Union, and with help of his Moscow friends, he was in touch with many scholars and collectors specialized in the Oriental numismatics

⁴ Augst 1934; Augst 1935; Augst 1947; Augst 1962.

⁵ For more details see Štěpková 1989.

(Fedorov, Rtveladze, Kuznetsov, Ishankhanov, Khojaniazov, Koifman). Resulting from this cooperation, he frequently purchased material often covering complete regions or historical periods, as enabled by collecting and scholarly activities of several generations of collectors there. Right because of number and quality of his coins purchased by the museum (1,057 pieces), it is evident, that the Ševčík's collection represented, and still represents, the very important and unique numismatic entity in the Czech Republic. To one's great sorrow, it is necessary to note, that in the 1990s, in the new economic situation, Ševčík started his own business and needed some cash for his activities. That is why some rare parts of his collection were auctioned in the United Kingdom and in the U.S.A. (especially group of unique copper and silver coins struck under the Sāmānids or coins produced under the Qarakhānids).⁶

The collection is characterized with the following categories: 1) Kushāns, Sasanids, Hephtalites (7 pieces), 2) the Caliphate, plus Islamic Spain (12 pieces), 3) Sāmānids, Fātimids, Normans, Great Seljuqs, Urtuqids, Shaddādids, rulers of Āhar, Ghūrids (76 pieces), 4) Seljuqs of Rūm (4 pieces), 5) Qarakhānids (36 pieces), 6) Khwārizmshāhs (48 pieces), 7) Khazars and Volga Bulghārs (10 pieces), 8) Mongols (240 pieces), 9) Khanate of Crimea (251 pieces), 10) Kaffa colony (58 pieces), 11) post-Mongol Central Asia, 12) Bagratids in Georgia (11 pieces), 13) post-Mongol Caucasus (207 pieces). There are some 14 coins of the Georgian origin in the Ševčík's collection (here cat. nos. 13, 19, 31–33, 35–36, 38, 39, 41, 68–69, 76–77, 94).

Compared to the Augst's collection, the one of Ševčík has been focused not on all Islamic coins typologically, but on the particular historical-dynastic periods and geographical regions according to the collector's localization and ability to travel (Central Asia, South Caucasus, Crimea, the Volga basin). Individual parts of his collection could be identified with the particular dynasties and regions. Augst used to collect selectively in the whole scope of the Islamic coinage surveying it (rulers, types, mints, years), but Ševčík, on the contrary, applied deep probes into the local regions and particular periods in a global way (typological series, varieties, sub-varieties). Comparing styles of collecting, both attitudes are different. In spite of showing their differences, they complete one another. Where Augst had types represented by individual specimens, there Ševčík had them represented by individual varieties of dies. Unique specimens in the Augst's collection are accompanied by other unique pieces from the Ševčík's collection. Difference in their individual collecting attitude definitely resulted from the period when both gentlemen were active – Augst got in touch with the material almost daily because of his outdoor practice and because of his personal contacts. In this way, he had access to individual pieces in the particular archaeological context and he was able to choose the right specimens having in mind typological system and proportions of his collection. Almost sixty years later, Ševčík had access to the finished collections and groupings, compared to Augst who put the material together at the spot or later on in his country. The Ševčík's filling gaps at home was practically random, and from the numismatic point of view, it was limited by the territories and periods related to the previously collected material.

Talking about unique specimens in the Ševčík's collection, there are not only rare individual pieces there, but also complete series can be found there documenting – in their phenomenal groupings – the coinage of the complete periods or local dynasties. This is the case of silver and copper coins struck under the Great Seljuqs or unique types of dirhams produced under the Shaddādids of Ganja. Also all coins in his collection belonging to the Volga Khazars and Bulghārs could be regarded as extraordinary. Besides these more or less complete series, there are some individual rarities like the figurative bronze with counter-

⁶ See Novák 2000.

marks minted under the Georgian Bagratid ruler Giorgi IV Lasha (AD 1207 or 1210–1223) or the unique large specimen of Shāhin Girei (AH 1191–1197) struck in Kaffa. Value of similar collections is not represented by the unique specimens only, but significant series facilitating scholarly research focused on historical context, typology and metrology.

There is no precedent for the Ševčík's collection – similarly as it was in case of that of Augst – because such parameters could be reached only by combination of direct outdoor collecting in the particular localities and long-term filling gaps of the collection via contacts with collectors. From the recent archaeological-historical point of view, we can only regret that neither Augst nor Ševčík documented the way of purchase and provenance of the material. Compared to the collection of Augst, the Ševčík's collection goes beyond the collecting scope of the Czech Republic and it is also comparable with other European collections or the coin cabinets in the world. Unfortunately, the Ševčík's collecting career ended too soon, and his scholarly qualities and world-wide contacts with collectors could not bring relevant results any more.

Between 1964 and 1993, some individual Georgian pieces have been purchased thank to the former head of the department, J. Štěpková, via Czech local antiquity shops, auctions of the regional branches of the Czech Numismatic Society and in form of transfer of silver bullion from the Czechoslovak National Bank (here cat. nos. 20–21, 29–30, 65–66, 70, 72, 75, 86, 89, 96, 98–99, 105). Two pieces found their way to the collection from the significant travelers and collectors – Joe Hloucha (1881–1957) and Antonín Endrych (1889?–1958) – here cat. nos. 28 and 103. Since the 1990s, there are some 13 coins of the Georgian provenance on loan from the collection of Josef Orišek in the National Museum-Náprstek Museum (here cat. nos. 3–8, 14–17, 22–23, 73, 82, 88, 90).

Catalogue

Georgian-Sasanian coins (6th c.)

In the last quarter of the 6th c., Georgian authorities of Kartli (east Georgia) took advantage of the Byzantine-Sasanian hostilities and the debilitation of Iran for overthrowing the Sasanian yoke; the Erismtavari Gurgen (also known in Georgian sources as Guaram) considered it the proper time to ascertain his authority by initiating the emission of the currency in his own name (დოუნდოუა 1976): Some of the coins feature the Georgian Asomtavruli letters Ⴆ (G) and Ⴈ (N), sometimes ligatured, on top of the monarch's bust, which are considered to be the acronym of Gurgen.⁷ According to G. Dundua, the coinage of Gurgen was probably issued in about 586–590; 589–590 being the most probable time. These coins are quite rare; only 8 specimens were brought into knowledge so far, preserved in Georgia, Germany and Russian Federation (დოუნდოუა 1976:106–107; ვახტანგძე 1969:53). Additionally, a unique coin of Gurgen with letters ႦႦ (GRE) or ႦႦႦ (GRG) in the right margin was published recently (Акопян 2011). By means of this work we publish yet another (the ninth one) specimen minted by Gurgen, of the ႦႨ (GN) type, preserved in the Czech Republic.

GURGEN (Guaram, 588–ca. 590):

ႦႨ type drachm:

Obv.: Crude bust of Hormizd IV, crowned, right. Distorted Pahlavi legends on left and right

⁷ We fully agree with G. Dundua (დოუნდოუა 1976:107) that the Asomtavruli monogram present on 2 coins out of 8 constitutes a ligature of G and N (GurgeN), and not a ligature of V and N and G (VakhtaNG), as was considered by Ye. Pakhomov (Пахомов 1970:23–24).

of bust. All within a single beaded circle [frequently open at 12 o'clock]. Star within a crescent open outwards at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock. Georgian Asomtavruli Ⴆ (G) and Ⴆ (N), for GurgeN, at 12 o'clock.

Rev.: The fire altar with two attendants. Distorted Pahlavi legends to left and right of altar. All within a single beaded circle.

11. N614, ex Augst coll. – 2.713 g, 27 × 27.1 mm, 9 h.

Both obverse and reverse die match with the coin in the Berlin Museum (Пахомов 1970:19, #3, Табл. I, #10).

Copper token coinage of the united Georgian Kingdom (12th–13th c.)

King Davit IV the Builder almost completed the unification of medieval Georgia in 1122, after seizing Tiflis, which had been under Muslim rule at least for about four centuries. The capital was moved to this city, which at least partially accounted for the relative orientalization of the court: The Arabic language gained much importance and appeared on the Georgian coins, which lost their association with the Byzantine currency and underwent visual dechristianization (Paghava forthcoming). The successors of Davit IV, his grandson Giorgi III, as well as the great granddaughter Tamari, her son and daughter – King Giorgi IV and Queen Rusudani issued abundant coins with both Georgian (Asomtavruli) legends on the obverse and the Arabic legends eulogizing the Georgian ruler on the reverse. Despite the political (and economic?) upheaval, all Georgian coins of the epoch were struck in copper, due to the befallen silver crisis, up to the reign of the Queen Rusudani, who resumed minting silver (not available in the Czech collections). The end of the so-called 'golden age' of the Georgian medieval statehood drew to a close with an advent of Jalāl al-Dīn, who also minted his own money while in Georgia (Пахомов 1970:74–117; Lang 1955:20–33). Both irregular and regular coinage were minted; the term 'irregular' implicates that the coins, which were irregular in terms of size, shape and weight, were valued in accordance with their weight; whereas the term 'regular' reflects not only the shape and the weight of the coins, i.e. regular-shaped and of the more or less uniform weight, but their value as well, each piece having a pre-defined constant purchasing power (AE dirhams) (Пахомов 1970:85; ჯანაძე 1969:71, 73–74.). The Georgian coinage of this period bore no mint indication, though according to the contemporary lapidary source, the mint was organized, naturally enough, in the capital city of Tiflis (ფაღვა 2011:311–315). As to the date, the coins were mostly (if not always) bearing the frozen date, if any (Пахомов 1970:76–77). W. H. Valentine also presents a representative selection of copper coins struck under the Georgian Kingdom (Valentine 1911:108–117).

The Czech collections comprise the coinage (albeit not all types and varieties) of all coin minting Georgian monarchs of the epoch except for Davit IV and Dimitri I, as well as the numismatic legacy of Jalāl al-Din's invasion. Big irregular copper of Giorgi IV with double imprints of the die is of particular interest.

GIORGI III (1156–1184):

AE dirham (regular copper):

Obv.: In centre, king seated cross-legged, facing. On his head, a crown surmounted by a cross. The king is bearded and attired in loose trousers and boots. His left hand rests on his thigh, a falcon sits on his right hand uplifted. Above the left hand in Georgian Mkhedruli characters გო (GI). with Georgian Asomtavruli characters ႦႦ (GI) beneath.

Below: ԿՂԿ (K'RK) and ԲՂԾ (TZhD) on the opposite site, for K'oRoniKonsa TZhD, i.e. 394 of Georgian K'oronikon (1174). Within a circular border.

Rev.: In centre, in Arabic, in three lines:

ملك الملوك	<i>King of Kings</i>
كيوركي بن ديمطري	<i>Kiürki [Giorgi] son of Dimitri</i>
حسام المسيح	<i>Sword of the Messiah</i>

Within a circular border.

12. N2498, ex Augst coll. – 4.798 g, 22.5 × 21.7 mm, 5 h.

Irregular copper:

Obv.: In the centre of the complex five-rosette net, Georgian Asomtavruli 𐌕 (G), for Giorgi.

Within the five pockets of the net: المسيح / حسام / الملك / ملك / كيوركي

Kiürki [Giorgi] / King of Kings / Sword / of the Messiah

Rev.: A complex net making pentagon in the centre.

Within the five pockets of the net the name and title of the caliph:

المقتفي / لامر / الله / امير / المومنين

Al-Muqtafi / li'amr / Allāh / Amir / of the Faithful

Within a circular border.

13. N2499, ex Augst coll. – 1.706 g, 15.2 × 14.7 mm, 6 h.

14. N2500, ex Augst coll. – 3.074 g, 18.8 × 18.8 mm, 11 h.

TAMARI (1184–1207 or 1210) (and her 2nd husband Davit on AE dirhams):

AE dirham (regular copper):

Obv.: In centre, a symbol of unknown meaning. To left and right, correspondingly ԹՂ (T'R) and ԾԹ (DT'), for T'amaRi and DaviT'i. Կ (K') in the upper left corner, Կ (K) in the upper right, Վ (U) in the bottom left, Կ (K) in the bottom right, for K'oroniKonsa UK, i.e. 420 of Georgian K'oronikon (1200). Within a circular border.

Rev.: In centre, in Arabic, in five lines:

ملكة الملكات	<i>Queen of Queens</i>
جلال الدنيا و الدين	<i>Glory of the World and Faith</i>
تامار ابنة كيوركي	<i>Tāmār daughter of Kiürki [Giorgi]</i>
ظهير المسيح	<i>Champion of the Messiah</i>

Within a circular border.

15. N2505, ex Augst coll. – 6.209 g, 28 × 26.6 mm, 1 h.

Two countermarks: combination of an Arabic grapheme instead of ɖ and Arabic ٤ applied to obverse and combination of Asomtavruli D (Ծ) and Arabic ٤ or ٣ (?) applied to reverse.

Irregular copper:

Obv.: In centre, a facsimile of Tamar's signature in Mkhedruli. Surrounded by a wreath of rosettes and a border of dots and a marginal abbreviated legend in Georgian (Asomtavruli script): †⁸ ԽԿԿԵԴԵՆՈՒԴԵՆԻԿԻՆԵՏԾԵՆԻԿԵԿԿԵՆԻՆԵԶԵԿԵԿԵԿԵՆԵՆ / ՎԵ abbreviated from

⁸ Possibly enough, the first symbol does not constitute the cross (†), but the initial of Christ, represented by the cross-like grapheme K' (Կ).

†საჰეზიძინ ივთისათჳნ იჴინჳ ნჳჳჳნი ჴეგჴოსისი ჳშის ჴოთონიჳონსა
ჴნ/ჴნ

†სახელითა ჳვთისათა იჳნა ჴედაი ვეცხლისი ამის ქორონიკონსა უზ [407,
=1187] / ულ [430, =1210]

Standing for *In the name of God, was made the striking of this silver piece in the Koronikon*
407 (i.e. 1187) (in another variety there is Asomtavruli **ჴნ** / UL, meaning 430, i.e. 1210).⁹

Surrounded by a border of dots.

Rev.: In centre, in Arabic, in five lines:

الملكة المعظمة	<i>The great Queen</i>
جلال الدنيا و الدين	<i>Glory of the Worlds and Faith</i>
تامار بنت كيوركى	<i>Tamar daughter of Kīūrki [Giorgi]</i>
ظهير المسيح	<i>Champion of the Messiah</i>
اعز الله انصاره	<i>May God increase [his] victories.</i>

Marginal legend in Arabic: ضاعف الله جلالها و مد ظلالها و ايد اقبالها
God increase her glory and lengthen her shadow and strengthen her beneficence!

Surrounded by a border of dots.

- 16. OR01, on loan from *Orišek coll.* – 7.798 g, 18.7 × 19.3 mm, 2 h.
Two countermarks, both applied to obverse: Asomtavruli letter *D* (ⴒ) and small monogram of Rusudani.
- 17. OR02, on loan from *Orišek coll.* – 5.931 g, 18.5 × 17.8 mm, 11 h.
One countermark applied to obverse: Asomtavruli letter *D* (ⴒ).
- 18. OR03, on loan from *Orišek coll.* – 11.808 g, 22.2 × 19.5 mm, 1 h.
One countermark applied to reverse: Small monogram of Rusudan; reverse center partially crushed by it.
- 19. N2501, ex *Augst coll.* – 6.936 g, 20 × 16.2 mm, 1 h.
- 10. N2502, ex *Augst coll.* – 5.245 g, 17.5 × 16.1 mm, 4 h.
One countermark applied to obverse: Asomtavruli letter *D* (ⴒ).
- 11. N2503, ex *Augst coll.* – 1.899 g, 12.1 × 13 mm, 5 h.
One countermark applied to obverse: Asomtavruli letter *D* (ⴒ).
- 12. N2504, ex *Augst coll.* – 2.044 g, 13.6 × 12.5 mm, 5 h.
One countermark applied to obverse: Asomtavruli letter *D* (ⴒ).

GIORGI IV LASHA (1207 or 1210–1223):

Irregular copper:

Obv.: In center, in two lines, an abbreviated legend in Asomtavruli:

ⴒⴒⴒⴒ (ⴒⴒ mostly ligatured)

ⴒⴒⴒⴒ

i.e. GIDZE T'MRSI, for *Giorgi, Dze T'aMaRiSI* – *Giorgi son [of] Tamari.*

Surrounded by a wreath of rosettes and a border of dots and a marginal abbreviated legend in Georgian (Asomtavruli script):

†საჰეზიძინ ივთისათჳნ იჴინჳ ნჳჳჳნი ჴეგჴოსისი ჳშის ჴოთონიჳონსა ᴈ

†საჰეზიძინ ივთისათჳნ იჴინჳ ნჳჳჳნი ჴეგჴოსისი ჳშის ჴოთონიჳონსა ᴈ

⁹ ჴ and ᴈ are very similar to each other graphically, so it is possible that the date 1210 is a mere mistake on part of the celator.

Standing for *In the name of God, was made the striking of this silver piece in the Koronikon 430* (i.e. 1210).

Surrounded by a border of dots.

Rev.: In center, in Arabic, in four lines:

الملك الملوك	<i>The King of Kings</i>
جلال الدنيا و الدين	<i>Glory of the Worlds and Faith</i>
كيوركي بن تمار	<i>Kiürki [Giorgi] son of Tamar</i>
حسام المسيح	<i>Sword of the Messiah</i>

Marginal legend in Persian: بنام خدای پاگ این سیم را زده اند بتاریخ چهار صد و سی سال

*In the name of God the pure, this silver piece was struck in the year of 430*¹⁰

Surrounded by a border of dots.

13. N14001, ex Ševčík coll. – 25.259 g, 49.2 mm (maximum size), 4h + 3h.

Double struck; the so called ‘double’ piece, struck twice with obverse and twice with reverse dies. The flan shape is remarkably irregular.

Two countermarks applied to the side with the reverse die imprints: Both constituting the small monogram of Rusudani.

14. OR04, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 7.302 g, 18.3 × 18.1 mm, 2 h.

15. OR05, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 7.042 g, 16.6 × 17.2 mm, 5 h.

16. OR06, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 3.856 g, 14.1 × 14.8 mm, 2 h.

17. OR08, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 6.971 g, 22.5 × 15.6 mm, 11 h.

One countermark applied to obverse: Small monogram of Rusudani; obverse center completely crushed by it; reverse center obliterated.

18. N2506, ex Augst coll. – 6.994 g, 20 × 16.4 mm, 6 h.

One countermark applied to obverse: Small monogram of Rusudani.

RUSUDANI (1223–1245):

AE dirham (regular copper):

Obv.: In center: Asomtavruli ႱႱႳႱ (RSN), standing for RuSudaNi, surmounted by the queen’s monogram being a part of the ornamental device. Surrounded by a linear border. Asomtavruli characters ႱႱႳႱႱႱႱႱ (K’KNUMZ, standing for the date formula K’roniKoN UMZ, i.e. 447, which corresponds to 1227, the frozen date) are placed into the right, bottom and left compartments between the ornamental device and the linear border.

Rev.: In Arabic, in four lines:

الملكة الملوك و الملكات	<i>Queen of Kings and Queens</i>
جلال الدنيا و الدولة و الدين	<i>Glory of the World, Kingdom and Faith</i>
روسدان بنت تمار ظهير المسيح	<i>Rusudan, daughter of Tamar, Champion of the Messiah</i>
اعز الله انصاره	<i>May God increase [her] victories</i>

Surrounded by a beaded or a linear border.

19. 14002, ex Ševčík coll. – 4.845 g, 22.4 × 22.7 mm, 10 h.

20. 15023, purchased in 1979 – 7.272 g, 26.7 × 26.6 mm, 4 h.

21. 15024, purchased in 1972 – 4.541 g, 23.2 × 23.6 mm, 1 h.

22. OR07, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 5.823 g, 15.4 × 25.1 mm, 1.30 h.

23. OR09, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 3.438 g, 25.1 × 25.7 mm, 2 h.

One countermark applied to obverse: Small ‘F’ in rectangular frame (cf. Gogava 2011).

¹⁰ It is quite noteworthy that in the Persian legend the Georgian Koronikon calendar is employed instead of the Hijri date.

24. N2507, ex Augst coll. – 4.423 g, 22.2×25.1 mm, 11 h.

25. N2508, ex Augst coll. – 7.959 g, 25×25.7 mm, 2 h.

JALĀL AL-DĪN MANGUBARNI, KHWĀRIZMŠĀH (AH 617–628/ AD 1220–1231):

Irregular copper (Пахомов 1970:103; Album 2011: 190, # 1751).

Obv.: In Arabic, in two lines: جلال الدنيا *Glory of the World*
و الدين *and Faith*

Between two linear borders the marginal legend:

ضرب هذا الدرهم بتاريخ ثلث و عشرين و ستمائة

This dirham was struck in the time [year] of 623

Rev.: In Arabic, in two lines: السلطان *The Sultan*
المعظم *Supreme*

Between two linear borders the marginal legend: ضاعف الله جلاله و مد ظلاله و ايد اقباله

May God increase his glory and lengthen his shadow and strengthen his beneficence!

26. N2509, ex Augst coll. – 7.745 g, 22.2×22 mm, 9 h.

The date: [AH 623].

27. N2510, ex Augst coll. – 3.584 g, 20.5×13.7 mm, 4 h.

Marginal legends off.

Coinage of the Georgian Maliks of Āhar (12th–13th c.)

Researching in the numismatic legacy of the past epochs provides valuable data for analysis of various contemporary political, social and economic structures. However, the monetary artifacts, naturally enough, have a human focus too. Employing the human-oriented approach in numismatics is capable of yielding notable results clarifying diverse aspects of the physical and social complexity of human being properly, notwithstanding the established environment. Applying the principles of the *historical anthropology* to the coinage of the *Bishkinid* dynasty (Maliks of Āhar) (თოფურთა 1963; Kouymjian 1969:369–410), founded by certain *Beshken*, the Georgian¹¹ nobleman imprisoned by Alp-Arslan campaigning in Georgia in 1065 or 1067–1068, provides a rare insight into the potential career available for the 11th c. Georgian renegade (and his posterity), turning a Muslim and getting incorporated into the alien cultural system. The coins were minted by the late descendants of the progenitor, substantially far from Georgia, in Āhar (on the territory located between Tabrīz and Ardabil), but for the reasons set forth above, they are still suitable for the study of the medieval Georgian history and may be considered the so-called *numismatic* ‘Georgica’, and hence relevant to the subject of this article.

¹¹ D. Kouymjian disregarded the unequivocal testimony of Qazwīnī and Nasawī and attempted to prove that the progenitor of the dynasty was “of mixed Armeno-Georgian origin”, rather than Georgian (Kouymjian 1969:373–376): The only arguments of this Armenian scholar for claiming Beshken’s Armeno-Georgian origin (not even Georgian-Armenian) were the relatively frequent appearances of this name in the more or less contemporary Armenian sources. Certainly, the name Beshken was quite frequently featured in the contemporary Georgian sources as well (თოფურთა 1963:117–121), so, in view of the evidence provided by Qazwīnī and Nasawī, D. Kouymjian’s insinuations become quite unsubstantiated. The argumentation style of D. Kouymjian is curious enough (Kouymjian 1969:373, 376): He first characterized the dynasty as follows: “its origin is the Georgian or perhaps Armeno-Georgian (to be discussed below) Beshken”, to proceed below with “... would lead one to conclude that the original Georgian princes captured by Alp Arslān were probably of mixed Armeno-Georgian origin ...”; however, already in the following sentence the probable Armeno-Georgian origin of the dynasty seems to be already established: “What is more interesting than the Islamization of these Armeno-Georgian princes is their pseudo-Turkification.”

The Czech collections comprise five Bishkīnid coins, the AE dirhams, including one of Bishkīn b. Muḥammad and four of Nuṣrat al-Dīn Maḥmūd b. Bishkīn b. Muḥammad.

BĪSHKĪN B. MUḤAMMAD (with Caliph al-Nāṣir and atābeg Abū Bakr) (ca. AH 591–608/AD 1194–1212):

(Kouymjian 1969:378–381; Hennequin 1985:659–662)

AE dirham:

Obv.: In Arabic, in five lines: لا اله الا الله *There is no god but God*
محمد رسول الله *Muḥammad is the Prophet of God*
صلى الله عليه *God bless Him*
الناصر لدين الله *Nāṣir al Dīn Allāh*
امير المومنين *Amir of the Faithful*

In the margin, above and left: The name of 'Izz al-Dīn [Abū Naṣr...] ? (legend on right indistinct)

Surrounded by a circular border.

Rev.: In Arabic, in five lines: اتابك الاعظم *Atābeg the Great*
ابو بكر بن محمد *Abū Bakr Son of Muḥammad*
ملك الامرا *King of Amirs*
بيشكين بن محمد *Bīshkīn Son of Muḥammad*
نصير امير المومنين *Defender of the Amir of the Faithful*

In the margin, starting above:

ضرب بأهر سنة / احد تسعين / ... *Struck in Āhar in [5]91*

Right: Tamgha (?)

Surrounded by a circular border.

28. N15489, ex Endrych coll. – 16.232 g, 29.6 × 29.4 mm, 9 h.

The mint: Āhar. The date: AH [5]91.

NUṢRAT AL-DĪN MAḤMŪD B. BĪSHKĪN B. MUḤAMMAD (with Caliph al-Nāṣir and atābeg Uzbek) (ca. AH 608–623/AD 1212–1226):

(Kouymjian 1969:389–401; Hennequin 1985:663–671)

AE dirham

Obv.: In Arabic in five lines: لا اله الا الله *There is no god but God*
محمد رسول الله *Muḥammad is the Prophet of God*
صلى الله عليه *God bless Him*
الناصر لدين الله *Nāṣir al Dīn Allāh*
امير المومنين *Amir of the Faithful*

In the margin: Mint-date formula (indistinct).

Surrounded by a circular border.

Rev.: In Arabic, in five lines: اتابك الاعظم *Atābeg the Great*
ازبك بن محمد *Uzbek Son of Muḥammad*
ملك الامرا *King of Amirs*
نصرة الدين محمود *Nuṣrat al-Dīn Maḥmūd*
بن بيشكين بن محمد *Son of Bīshkīn Son of Muḥammad*

In the margin, above:

(?) نصير امير المومنين *Defender of the Amir of the Faithful*

29. N8796, purchased in 1972 – 17.641 g, 27.7 × 26 mm, 7 h.
The marginal legends effaced on both sides.
30. N8797, purchased in 1979 – 15.592 g, 29.8 × 29.7 mm, 5 h.
In the right margin of the obverse: ضرب بآهر
In the right margin of the reverse: Tamgha (?).
31. N11397, ex Ševčík coll. – 16.933 g, 29.8 × 29 mm, 4 h.
In the right margin of the obverse: ... ضرب بآهر
In the top margin of the reverse: نصير امير المومنين
In the right margin of the reverse: Tamgha (?).
32. N11398, ex Ševčík coll. – 16.842 g, 27.2 × 29.8 mm, 2 h.
The date: AH 6XX.
In the left margin of the obverse: و ستمایة
In the left and top margins of the reverse: Traces of legend.

Mongol coins minted in the Georgian Kingdom (13th–14th c.)

By 1236, the Georgian Kingdom had scarcely recovered from Jalāl al-Dīn's occupation, but had already to face yet another formidable enemy – the Mongols. The authorities did not manage to resist the invaders and had to offer their submission. Local numismatic legacy of the period reflects the historical events very well, sometimes even adding the otherwise unavailable details (Пахомов 1970:117–193; Джалагания 1958; ღვაჭერობე 1986). The coinage minted in the Georgian mints, including those located in the ethnically non-Georgian territories, like north Caucasus (?) and north Armenia (e.g. Ani), but still remaining within the boundaries of the Georgian Kingdom, constitutes perhaps the most diverse Georgian numismatic series, over the range of the purely national to the general Ilkhānid types.

The Czech collections offer a nice selection of the so-called Georgian-Mongol coins, including the rare silver dirham of Davit Narini.

DAVIT VI, NARINI (1245–1259):

AR dirham (Пахомов 1970:128–130)

Obv.: The King on horseback, right (or left). Beneath, various marks. Above right (or left) a ligature in Georgian Asomtavruli characters ოტ (DT', for DaviT'i). Above left (or right) Georgian Asomtavruli ღჳჳჳ (K'KUYZ), for K'roniKon 467, i.e. 1247.
Within circular border.

Rev.: In Arabic, in four lines:

بقوة خدا	<i>By the power of God</i>
دولة كوك	<i>Of the authority of Küyük</i>
قان بنده	<i>Qā'ān – slave</i>
داود ملك	<i>Dawūd King</i>

Vertically upwards, at right: ضرب تفلس *Struck in Tiflis*

Within circular border.

33. N14003, ex Ševčík coll. – 2.573 g, 22.3 × 21.8 mm, 2 h.

The king on horseback right. Vertically oriented vignette on the right. Traces of overstrike on reverse (silver dirhams of Davit Narini were commonly restruck from the Seljuq of Rūm dirhams, Пахомов 1970:130–131).

DAVIT VI, NARINI (1245–1259):

AE fals, Tiflis variety (Пахомов 1970:127; Джалагания 1958:31)

Obv.: In centre Georgian Asomtavruli character ო (D) with ტ (T') inside (DT', for DaviT').

Above:	قان	Qā'an's		
On left and right:	شاة داود	بنده خهان	slave,[slave of] World,	Shah of the Dawūd
Below:	ملك	King		

Rev.: Within square: In Arabic, in four lines:

شهر	City
تفليس عمر	Tiflīs, May
ها لله خمس	Allah make it prosper – five
اربعين ستمائة	six hundred forty

34. N2511, ex Augst coll. – 4.299 g, 22 × 22.1 mm, 6 h.

The date: AH 645.

Georgian-Hulaguid Christian Dirhams (Пахомов 1970:160–168; Джалагания 1958:53–65; Diler 2006:278)

ĀBĀQĀ (AH 663–680/ AD 1265–1282) (temp. Davit Ulu or Dimitri II):

Obv.: Within square: In Arabic, in four lines:

بسم الاب	In the name of the Father
و الابن و روح	and the Son and the Spirit
القدس اله	Holy – God
واحد †	One †

Surrounded by a circle. In segments between the square and outer circle, date formula.

Rev.: In Mongol – Mongol-Uighur characters, in five lines:

Qaghanu
nereber
Abagha-yin
deletkegülik-
sen

Within a circular border.

35. N14004, ex Ševčík coll. – 2.367 g, 22.2 × 22.6 mm, 9 h.

The date: AH 6XX, Muḥarram (?).

In the bottom obverse segment: ستمائة

In the right obverse segment: محرم (?)

36. N14005, ex Ševčík coll. – 2.381 g, 22 × 22.4 mm, 5 h.

The date: AH 68X.

In the right obverse segment: ستمائة

In the bottom obverse segment: ثمنين

37. N2512, ex Augst coll. – 2.285 g, 22.5 × 21.8 mm, 8 h.

The date: AH 68X, Muḥarram.

In the left obverse segment: ثمنين

In the bottom obverse segment: ستمائة

In the right obverse segment: محرم

ARGHŪN (AH 683–690/ AD 1284–1291) (temp. Dimitri II):
(Diler 2006:320)

Obv.: Within square: In Arabic, in four lines:

بسم الاب	<i>In the name of the Father</i>
و الابن و روح	<i>and the Son and the Spirit</i>
القدس اله	<i>Holy – God</i>
واحد †	<i>One †</i>

Surrounded by a circle. In segments between the square and outer circle, date formula.

Rev.: In Mongol – Mongol-Uighur characters, in four lines:

*Qaghanu
nereber
Arghunu (or Arghunun)
deletkegülk*

Bottom line in Arabic:

ارغون

Within a circular border.

38. N14006, ex Ševčík coll. – 2.287 g, 21.1 × 21 mm, 5 h.

The date: AH 68X (?).

The bottom, left and top obverse segments are not effaced, but contain some fragments of the date, degraded and illegible.

39. N14007, ex Ševčík coll. – 2.366 g, 21.4 × 21.4 mm, 5 h.

The date: AH 6[8]X, Rabi' al- ...

In the bottom obverse segment: ستمائة

In the top obverse segment: ... ربيع الا

GHĀZĀN MAĤMŪD and VAKHTANG III (AH 694–703/ AD 1295–1304):

(Пахомов 1970:172–173; Lang 1955:51; Джалагания 1958:73–75; Diler 2006:374)

Obv.: Area, within linear square: In centre, a Cross within linear circle (on specimens dated AH 698; there are stars between the arms on the specimens dated AH 699). Legend running around the cross: [واحد] بسم الاب و الابن و روح القدس اله

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Spirit, Holy – God One

Top right: Two ligatures in Georgian Asomtavruli characters: ႠႠ (VNG, for VakhtaNG) and ႠႡ (MP', for MeP'e, i.e. king).

In segments between square and outer circle, date formula (degraded):

In the right obverse segment: ربيع الآخر

In the bottom obverse segment: ستمائة

Surrounded by a circle.

Rev.: In Mongol – Mongol-Uighur characters, in five lines:

*Qaghanu
nereber
Ghazanu
deletkegüük-
sen*

Within a circular border.

40. N2513, ex Augst coll. – 1.987 g, 22 × 20.4 mm, 0 h.

The date: AH 6[98], Rabi' al-ākhir.

The left, top and right segments are on flan and contain some fragments of the date, but degraded; fortunately, the absence of the stars in the quadrants made by the cross arms points to AH 698 (Джалагания 1958:75).

ŪLJĀITŪ (AH 703–716/ AD 1304–1316):

Type C (Album 2011:235, #2189, Type C; Пахомов 1970:178–179; ღვაბერძე 1986:26; Diler 2006:397–400)

Obv.: Within double hexafoil: In Arabic, in five lines (Shia pious formula):

الله
لا اله الا
محمد
رسول الله
علي ولي الله

Marginal legend (benediction on the Twelve Imams):

اللهم صل على محمد و علي و الحسن و علي و محمد و جعفر و موسى و علي و الحسين و الحسن و محمد

Within circular border.

Rev.: Within double heptafoil: In Arabic, in six lines:

ضرب في	<i>Struck in</i>
دولة المولى السلطان	<i>The prosperity of our Lord the Sultan</i>
الاعظم مالك رقاب	<i>Supreme, King of the necks</i>
الامم غياث و الدنيا و الدين	<i>Of the peoples, Defender of the World and the Faith</i>
اولجايتو سلطان محمد	<i>Ūljāitū Sultan Muḥammad</i>
خلد الله ملكه	<i>May God perpetuate his Sovereignty</i>

The ringlets divide the space between the heptafoil and the outer circular border into

segments, containing date and mint formula: ضرب / تفلس / سنة / اربع / عشر / سبع / مائة

Within circular border.

41. N13991, ex Ševčík coll. – 1.973 g, 20 × 19.7 mm, 9 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 714.

ABŪ SA'ĪD (AH 716–736/ AD 1316–1335):

AE Fals, Tiflis AH 724 type (ღვაბერძე 1986:63; Diler 2006: –)

Obv.: Within octagonal cartouche (Sunni pious formula):

لا اله الا
محمد
رسول الله

Within circular border, the segments between the outer circular border and the cartouche filled with ornaments (?).

Rev.: Within a circle: In Arabic, in four lines:

ضرب	<i>Struck</i>
السلطان ابو سعيد	<i>Sultan Abū Sa'īd</i>
بهادر خان خلد ملكه	<i>Bahādur Khān May God perpetuate his Sovereignty</i>
تفلس	<i>Tiflis</i>

Marginal legend (date formula): في سنة اربع و عشرين و سبعمائة

All within complex circular border.

42. N2423, ex Augst coll. – 3.021 g, 21 × 22.3 mm, 5 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: Only في سنة اربع و عشرين و سبعمائة (AH 72...) is legible, but it should be 724 according to the type.

ANŪSHĪRWĀN (AH 745–757/ AD 1344–1356):

Triangular reverse legends type (Пахомов 1970:188–189)

Obv.: Sunni pious formula arranged in a triangle: In Arabic, in three lines:

لا اله الا
الله محمد
رسول الله

Names of the four righteous caliphs in the central area: ابو بكر عمر عثمان علي

With marginal legend: بسم الله الكريم *In the name of God the Eminent*

All within complex circular border.

Rev.: السلطان *Sultan*

In Mongol (with Mongol-Uighur characters): *Anūshīrwān Khān*

خلد الله ملكه *May God perpetuate his Sovereignty*

Marginal legend (mint and date formula), starting from 4–5 o'clock:

ضرب اني في سنة ... اربعين و سبعمائة

Within complex circular border.

43. N2450, ex *Augst coll.* – 1.444 g, 17.6 × 17.3 mm, 1 h.

The mint: اني (Anī). The date partially effaced – AH 74(6)(?).

Georgian Reduced Coinage (15th–16th c.)

Eight invasions of Tamerlance devastated the re-united Georgian Kingdom and brought it on the verge of collapse. The relative stabilization was achieved in the 1st half of the 15th c.; nevertheless, it proved impossible to prevent or remedy the ultimate disintegration of the Georgian state during the reign of Giorgi VIII (1446–1466), the last King of the united Georgia, who was ousted by Bagrat VI (1466–1478); Giorgi VIII retained only the easternmost province of Kakheti, becoming the first ruler of the new Kingdom of Kakheti. In 1478, the Kingdom of Kartli, still considered to constitute the core of the country, was captured by Giorgi VIII's nephew, Konstantine II (1478–1505), but the political unity could not be restored.

It was considered that the dire situation precluded minting the national currency in this period, but hoards from Gori (კავანაძე 1940) and Mna,¹² comprising hundreds of tiny billon coins with names of the 15th c.-early 16th c. Georgian monarchs, showed that the Georgian national coinage, albeit depreciated, was still issued despite the political, cultural and economic decline (დუნიძე 1964).

The coins preserved in the Czech collections comprise a very interesting selection of the Georgian coins of the period, including the previously unpublished varieties and even types.

GIORGI VIII (1446–1466, 1466–1476):

ჰ•Φ•Υ Ⴆ•Ⴆ•Ⴆ – *animal variety, Bi*

Obv.: Georgian Asomtavruli characters ჰ•Φ•Υ (MP'E), for MeP'E, i.e. the king.

Divider made by two horizontally oriented lines with central junction.

Georgian Asomtavruli characters Ⴆ•Ⴆ•Ⴆ (GIGI), for GIORGI

All within a linear border.

¹² The Hoard of Mna was studied by T. Lomouri; unfortunately, the scholar destroyed her own work. Currently, M. Pataridze is studying this material for publication. I. Paghava is currently also examining another major hoard of the 15th c. Georgian coins.

Rev.: Winged and long-tailed four-legged animal to left. Within a linear border.

It was not ascertained before, that the animal on the reverse had wings (დუნდუა 1964:58, #13).

44. N2514, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.573 g, 13.1 × 12.8 mm, 10 h.

45. N2515, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.632 g, 13 × 13 mm, 4 h.

46. N2516, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.682 g, 12.5 × 12.8 mm, 8 h.

BAGRAT VI (1466–1478):

Two-line divider – winged animal variety, Bi

Obv.: Georgian Asomtavruli characters **მეპე** (MP'E), for MeP'E, i.e. the king.

Divider made by two horizontally oriented lines with central junction.

Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ბგრტ** (BGT), for BaGraT.

All within a linear border.

Rev.: Winged and long-tailed four-legged animal to left. Within a linear border.

47. N2520, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.602 g, 14.2 × 12.2 mm, 1 h.

48. N2521, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.740 g, 12 × 12.6 mm, 8 h.

Chain of dots divider – animal with cross surmounted variety, Bi (unpublished)

Obv.: Georgian Asomtavruli characters **მეპე** (MP'E), for MeP'E, i.e. the king.

Divider made by a chain of dots.

Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ბგრტ** (BGT), for BaGraT.

All within a linear border.

Rev.: Long-tailed four-legged animal with cross surmounted to left. Within a linear border.

49. N2517, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.621 g, 14 × 12.4 mm, 1 h.

50. N2518, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.607 g, 12.7 × 12 mm, 10 h.

51. N2519, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.656 g, 12.4 × 12.2 mm, 10 h.

Variety with shuffled legends, Bi (unpublished)

Obv.: Only two Georgian Asomtavruli characters are legible **ბგ** (GB), for inverted BaGra[T?].

Divider made by one horizontal line.

Georgian Asomtavruli characters **მეპე** (MP'E), for MeP'E, i.e. the king.

All within a linear border (?).

Rev.: Winged long-tailed four-legged tall animal (horse?) to left, some symbol on top of animal's head (?).

52. N2522, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.653 g, 12.6 × 14.8 mm, 5 h.

KONSTANTINE II (1478–1505):

მეპე ხსე – winged animal variety, Bi (unpublished with winged animal)

Obv.: Georgian Asomtavruli characters **მეპე** (MP'E), for MeP'E, i.e. the king.

Divider made by two horizontally oriented lines with central junction.

Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ხსე** (KSE), for KonStantinE.

All within a linear border.

Rev.: Winged long-tailed four-legged animal to left. Within a linear border.

53. N2523, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.528 g, 13.7 × 14 mm, 10 h.

54. N2524, *ex Augst coll.* – 0.562 g, 14.1 × 12.6 mm, 3 h.

ჭიქი ხატი – winged animal variety (unpublished with winged animal)

Obv.: Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ჭიქი** (MP’), for MeP’e, i.e. the king.

Divider made by two horizontally oriented lines with central junction.

Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ხატი** (KE), for KonstantinE.

All within a linear border.

Rev.: Winged long-tailed four-legged animal to left. Within a linear border.

55. N2525, ex Augst coll. – 0.525 g, 13 × 14.3 mm, 4 h.

56. N2526, ex Augst coll. – 0.520 g, 13.2 × 14.2 mm, 4 h.

57. N2527, ex Augst coll. – 0.553 g, 13.3 × 14 mm, 11 h.

58. N2528, ex Augst coll. – 0.533 g, 14.4 × 12.7 mm, 5 h.

Coinage of Jānja/ Canca (16th–17th c.)¹³

The Ottoman menace at the south-western borders of Georgia emerged by the mid-15th c. Moreover, the capture of Constantinople in 1453 effectively sealed off Georgia’s communications with Christian Europe.¹⁴ Gradually, the south-western and western Georgian principalities were subjugated or even directly incorporated into the Ottoman Empire. The Sublime Porte made continuous attempts to conquer east Georgia and the lands beyond as well. The numismatic evidence provides some substantial extra material for the history of the Ottoman-Georgian relations (ფაღვაძე 2012; Пахомов 1970:228–230): Ottoman coins were minted at Ardanuç (Georgian არტანუჯი – Artanuji) in south-western Georgia and Tiflis (modern Tbilisi, in east-Georgian province of Kartli); moreover, according to the literary evidence, the Ottoman coins could be issued in the Kingdom of Kakheti as well.

However, one more Ottoman mint may be rated among those pertaining to the Georgian numismatic history. Jānja/ Canca (the Ottoman spelling for Tzanicha, i.e. Georgian ჭანჭახი – Ch’anikha), later to be designated Argyropolis – Gümüşhane, was located on the territory populated by Lazs, the Kartvelian people, and at times, was even possibly politically controlled by Georgian authorities, albeit far from the formation and evolution nuclei of the Georgian statehood (ბატიაშვილი 2012:108–109). The Ottoman coinage of Canca can hardly be considered ‘Georgian’ *per se*, but researching it would certainly contribute it’s mite to better understanding of the historical peripeteias and economic history of the Georgian ethnoses.

The gold and silver coins of this mint are preserved in the Czech collections.

MURĀD III (AH 982–1003/ AD 1574–1595):

AV sultani (Pere 1968:126, #263; Album 2011:143, #1332.1)

Obv.: Shuffled in five lines (in Arabic): ضارب النصر صاحب العز و النصر في البر و البحر

The Striker of precious metal, the Master of Glory and the Victorious on land and sea

All within a complex border.

Rev.: In Arabic, in seven lines:	سلطان مراد	<i>Sultan Murād</i>
	بن سليم خان	<i>Son of Salīm Khān</i>
	عز نصره ضرب	<i>(God) glorify his Victory struck</i>
	في	<i>In</i>
	جانجه	<i>Jānja/Canca</i>
	سنة	<i>In the year of</i>
	٩٨٢	<i>982</i>

¹³ Diler 2009:425–426.

¹⁴ The relations with the Rzeczpospolita across the Black Sea were limited due to the Ottoman maritime supremacy and the piracy on the part of cossacks.

Safavid coins minted in Georgia (17th – 18th c.)

The united Georgian Kingdom was partitioned in the 15th c.; the tiny Georgian principalities, which came into existence, fell an easy victim to the foreign conquerors. Specifically, the entire east Georgia, the provinces of Kartli and Kakheti became subject to Safavid Iran already by the mid-16th c. However, Tiflis in Kartli, the major urban center in the eastern part of the country, started issuing silver coins in the name of the contemporary Safavid shah only by the beginning of the 17th c. (AH 1013 / 1604/5) (Кутелия 1979:27). The silver coins minted at the Tiflis mint did not differ (in terms of legends and weight standard) from those issued elsewhere within the Safavid realm; the essence of the legends as well as the weight remedium were identical (Кутелия 1979:25–27). However, one has to note that in contrast to many other territories, conquered and subdued by the Safavid Iran, Kartli retained a certain national autonomy, still ruled by a Georgian, who was considered the shah's *vali* (viceroy) by the Persians, but the king of Kartli by his Georgian subjects (Lang 1957:21). Correspondingly, in contrast to other mints also issuing silver coins bearing the names of the Safavid shahs and the Shia creed, the Tiflis mint was not controlled by the shah's officials, but by the Georgian king (Кутелия 1979:25–32): This is illustrated by the contemporary Georgian legislation and the reports of both foreign travelers and local merchants – the king of Kartli was levying all the taxes on mint operations and was distributing the income from minting coins himself, not transferring it to the state budget of Safavid Iran; moreover, the mint itself was located in the part of Tiflis controlled by the Georgian king, and not by the Iranian garrison occupying the citadel.

The Tiflis mint proceeded with minting the coinage in the name of the Safavid shahs through the reign of 'Abbās III, but the Czech collections contain only the coins minted in the name of 'Abbās II, Sulaymān and Sultan Ḥusayn I.

'ABBĀS II (AH 1052–1077/ AD 1642–1666):

AR abbasi, Type B (Album 2011:280, #2646, Type B)

Obv.: In Persian, in three lines (Shia pious legend):

لا اله الا الله
محمد (serves as the horizontal divider)
رسول الله علي و (ي of علي serves as the horizontal divider)
لي الله

All within a complex circular border.

Rev.: In Persian, in three lines (Naskhī calligraphic style with some elements of Nasta'liq):

بگیتی سکه صاحبقرنی (ي of صاحبقرنی serves as the horizontal divider)
زد از توفیق عباس ثانی (ي of ثانی serves as the horizontal divider)
ضر تفلیس ب

Date in field: ۱۰۶۰

All within a complex circular border.

64. N2575, ex Augst coll. – 7.334 g, 21.6 × 22 mm, 10 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1060.

SULAYMĀN I (AH 1079–1105/ AD 1668–1694):

AR abbasi, Type B (Album 2011:280, #2660, Type B)

Obv.: In Persian, in three lines (Shia pious legend):

لا اله الا الله
محمد (serves as the horizontal divider)
رسول الله علي و (علي of serves as the horizontal divider)
لي الله

All within a complex circular border, surrounded by the names of 12 imams:

علي حسن حسين علي محمد جعفر موسى علي محمد علي حسن محمد

Rev.: In Persian, in five lines (Naskhī calligraphic style with some elements of Nasta’liq):

شاه ولا
يت (serves as the horizontal divider)
سليمان بنده
ب (serves as the horizontal divider)
ضر تفليس

Date in field: ١٠٨٧

Flower (?) in field. All within a complex circular border.

65. N9005, purchased in 1965 – 7.234 g, 22 × 21.2 mm, 11 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1087.

66. N9172, purchased in 1972 – 7.273 g, 20.8 × 21.7 mm, 5 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1087.

AR shahi: As abbasi, *vide supra*.

67. N2581, ex *Augst coll.* – 1.332 g, 16.1 × 16.3 mm, 6 h.

The date is off-flan.

Both sides are struck with dies bigger than the flan, produced for minting heavier (bigger) denomination, probably abbasis.

ḤUSAYN I (AH 1105–1135/ AD 1694–1722):

AR 5 shahi, 2nd weight standard, Type C, non-AH 1128 variety (Album 2011:281, #2677.1, Type C)

Obv.: In Persian, in two lines (Shia pious legend):

لا اله الا الله محمد
علي (علي of serves as the horizontal divider)
رسول الله ولي الله

Rev.: Within a complex horizontally elongated border in Persian (Nasta’liq calligraphic style):

شاه ولايت بنده حسين
ضر ب تفليس ١١٢٦

68. N14179, ex *Ševčík coll.* – 8.610 g, 20 × 27.7 mm, 0 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1126.

AR shahi, 2nd weight standard, AH 1128 variety (Кутелия 1979:44–45)

Obv.: In Persian, in three lines (Shia pious legend):

لا اله الا الله
محمد (serves as the horizontal divider)
رسول الله علي و (علي of serves as the horizontal divider)
لي الله

All within a complex circular border, surrounded by the names of 12 imams:

علي حسن حسين علي محمد جعفر موسى علي محمد علي حسن محمد

Rev.: Within two horizontally oriented quadrangles in Persian (Naskhī calligraphic style):

شاه ولایت بنده حسين
ضرب تفليس ۱۱۲۸

(The mintname and date are within the central smaller quadrangular)

Marginal legend: سلطان بن سلطان خاقان بن خاقان خلد الله ملكه و سلطانه

69. N14008, ex Ševčík coll. – 1.649 g, 16.4 × 16.6 mm, 6 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1128.

Ex-jewelry, traces of a mount.

The coin has round and not rectangular flan, which is seemingly a rarity (Кутелия 1979:44), but the obverse is struck with a quadrangular die produced for minting the muhammadis, whereas reverse is struck with specially produced small round die.

AR abbasi, 3rd weight standard, Type D, AH 1130–1132 variety (Album 2011:282, #2683.2, Type C; Paghava-Turkia-Bennett 2007)

Obv.: In Persian, in three lines (Shia pious legend):

لا اله الا الله
محمد (serves as the horizontal divider)
رسول الله علي و (ي of علي serves as the horizontal divider)
لي الله

All within a complex circular border.

Rev.: In Persian, in five lines (Nasta'liq calligraphic style):

شاه ولا
يت (serves as the horizontal divider)
بنده حسين تفليس
ب (serves as the horizontal divider)
ضرب ۱۱۳۰

All within a complex circular border.

70. N9173, purchased in 1972 – 5.385 g, 22.4 × 23 mm, 9 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1130.

71. N2586, ex Augst coll. – 5.312 g, 25 × 24.6 mm, 7 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1131.

72. N9008, purchased in 1968 – 4.812 g, 23.4 × 23.3 mm, 10 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: AH 1130.

Ex-jewelry, traces of a mount.

Afshārid coins minted in Georgia (18th c.)

The Ottoman yoke had been imposed upon east Georgia in 1723, but was shattered only 12 years later by Ṭāhmāsp Qulī Khān's (Nādir Shāh) ongoing successes in liberating the Safavid heritage. The Georgian provinces of Kartli and Kakheti were restored to Iranian rule by 1735. The Afshārid warlord first ordered to issue the coins in Tiflis in the name of the puppet Safavid shah – 'Abbās III, in AH 1148 (1735/6) (Кутелия 1979:46–47). In the following year, the Tiflis mint started to issue the standard Afshārid coinage (ფაღავაძე 2010): The Afshārid coinage was minted in Georgia in the name of Nādir, Ibrāhīm and Shākh Rukh, through AH 1170 (1756/7).

Only the coins in the name of the first two above-mentioned rulers are available in the Czech collections.

NĀDIR SHĀH (AH 1148–1160/ AD 1735–1747):

AR 6 shahi, Type C (Album 2011:286, #2747, Type C)

Obv.: Within a circle:

نادر
السلطان
ن

Outer circle.

Rev.: Within a circle:

الله
خلد
ملکه تفلیس

Date:

ب
ضر

73. OR17, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 6.925 g, 17.8 × 19 mm, 2.30 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ۱۱۵[۰] (AH 115[0]).

74. N2607, ex Augst coll. – 6.863 g, 18.8 × 18.6 mm, 9 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ۱۱۵۱ (AH 1151).

75. N9016, purchased in 1975 – 6.541 g, 17.7 × 19.4 mm, 3 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ۱۱۵۲ (AH 1152).

The calligraphy of the legends is unparalleled in terms of crudity. The margin on the reverse is quite distorted as well. The weight is also diminished. The specimen is a contemporary (?) imitation, the provenance could be Kubachi in Daghestan – cf. Turkia-Paghava-Kesmedzhi 2008. We have encountered no specimen like this before, neither in literature nor in various collections available for study.

IBRĀHĪM (AH 1161–1162/ AD 1748–1749):

AR abbasi, Type A (Album 2011:287, #2766, Type A)

Obv.: In centre:

سکه صاحبقرنی زد بتوفیق الله
همچو خورشید جهان افروز ابرهیم شاه

Rev.:

۱۱۶۲
تفلس
ضرب

All within two circles, linear and complex.

76. N14010, ex Ševčík coll. – 4.513 g, 21 × 21.3 mm, 8 h.

The mint: Tiflis (sic). The date: ۱۱۶۲ (AH 1162).

AR abbasi, Type B (Album 2011:287, #2767, Type B)

Obv.: In center:

بنشست چو آفتاب نقش زر و سیم
تا یافت شرف از سکه ابرهیم

Rev.: Surrounded by circles:

۱۱۶۲
تفلس
ضرب

77. N14009, ex Ševčík coll. – 4.580 g, 20.2 × 20.4 mm, 12 h.

The mint: Tiflis (sic). The date: ١١٦٢ (AH 1162).

Tiflis copper coinage (17th–18th c.)

The eastern Georgian kingdoms of Kartli and Kakheti were subdued by the Safavids in the early 16th c. Although a certain degree of national autonomy was retained (including the local royal dynasties on the throne), the Safavid suzerain appropriated the right of *sikka*. However, the latter extended to the silver coinage only (no gold coinage was minted in Tiflis); the copper coins of the epoch constituted the so-called *civic coinage* – the term implies that the coins bore no name of the shah, but just some effigy on one side and *minted at X* on another, and their issue was at the discretion of the local governor (Кутелия 1979:47–48). In case of Tiflis, the major urban center in the eastern part of Georgia, and the capital of Kartli (modern Tbilisi, capital of Georgia), the supreme local governor was naturally the king of Kartli, controlling the mint (Кутелия 1979:25–32). Nevertheless, in the 17th c., the Tiflis coppers were anonymous; only in the early 18th c., the rising national aspirations of the local Georgian rulers in concord with the military and political decline of the Safavids led to indicating their (shortened) names on the Tiflis coppers (but cautiously enough, not on the silver coinage!), as well as the *Christian (AD)* date along with the traditional Hijri one (on coins of Vakhtang VI) (Кутелия 1979:51–65). Following the turmoil of the Ottoman invasion and occupation as well as subsequent rise and death of Nādir Shāh Afshār, the representatives of the Kakheti branch of the Bagrationi royal dynasty managed to unify Kartli and Kakheti, holding the capital in Tiflis, and took the liberty to transform (gradually) the local civic coppers into a more or less national copper coinage, by indicating the monarch's name in full in a more perceivable place, or displaying the state coat of arms. The range of denominations increased from two in the 17th c. (puli, half-bisti) up to five by the end of the 18th c. (half-puli, puli, half-bisti, bisti, shauri) (Пахомов 1979:251, 256–269).

Therefore, the Tiflis copper coins of the period may be classified in three groups:

- ♦ anonymous issues (17th c., beginning of the 18th c.);
- ♦ early and mid-18th c. issues with the names of the Georgian monarchs;
- ♦ late 18th c. issues of Erekle II and Giorgi XII, the Kings of Kartli-Kakheti.

The coins in the Czech collections cover all three periods.

Anonymous AH 1112 (1700/1), rhinoceros type

Half-bisti denomination.

Obv.: Rhinoceros to right, floral decorations (?).

Rev.: فلوس ضرب تفليس

Date: ١١١٢

(Кутелия 1979:59)

78. N2529, ex Augst coll. – 8.600 g, 25.1 × 24.6 mm, 6 h.

Svimon AH 1124 (1712/3), dragon type

Half-bisti denomination.

Obv.: Dragon flying left, surrounded by Georgian Mkhedruli characters ლႭႭ (SMN), for SviMoN.

Rev.: فلوس ضرب تفليس

Date: ١١٢٤

(Кутелия 1979:61)

79. N2530, ex Augst coll. – 8.430 g, 23.8×25.3 mm, 10 h.
Georgian characters effaced.

Bak'ar AH 1131 (1718/9), peacock type

Half-bisti denomination.

Obv.: Peacock to right (or left), surrounded by Georgian Mkhedruli characters ბქრ (BK'R), for BaK'aR.

Rev.: فلوس ضرب تفليس

Date: ۱۱۳۱

(Кутелия 1979:61–62)

80. N2531, ex Augst coll. – 8.438 g, 24.3×23.6 mm, 6 h.

Only յ and ր are legible.

Erekle (Irakli) II AH 1179 (1765/6), coat of arms type

Half-bisti denomination.

Obv.: Ligatured Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ირაკლი** – IRAKLI (Gabashvili forthcoming). All within figured oval with a star on each side with a horizontal line beneath.

Below: ۹ تفليس ۱۱۷

ضرب

Rev.: Bagrationi coat of arms: Above – royal crown; beneath – scales, between scales – globus cruciger. Two swords to left and right of crown.

(Пахомов 1979:261–262)

81. N2536, ex Augst coll. – 7.795 g, 23.1×24.6 mm, 8 h.

One countermark applied on reverse: Small monogram of Erekle II (Пахомов 1979:270; cf. Gogava 2011).

82. OR13, on loan from Oríšek coll. – 8.650 g, 22.5×22.2 mm, 12 h.

One countermark applied on reverse: Small monogram of Erekle II (as above).

Erekle (Irakli) II, two-headed eagle type

Half-bisti denomination.

Obv.: Ligatured Georgian Asomtavruli characters **ირაკლი** – IRAKLI (Gabashvili forthcoming).

Below:

ب
تفليس
ضرب

The AH date in Arabic, numerals in field (۱۲۰۱, ۱۲۰۲, ۱۲۰۳, ۱۲۰۶).

All within a complex circular border.

Rev.: Two-headed eagle holding scepter on left, globus cruciger on right.

Two European numerals of the Christian date to left and two to right of the tail (17–81, 17–87, 17–89, 17–91), in some cases, no Christian date at all.

All within a complex circular border.

The following combinations of the dates were published:

۱۲۰۱ (1786/7) – no Christian date

۱۲۰۱ (1786/7) – 1781 (sic)

۱۲۰۱ (1786/7) – 1787

۱۲۰۲ (1787/8) – 1781 (sic)

۱۲۰۳ (1788/9) – 1789

١٢٠٦ (1791/2) – 1791

(Пахомов 1979:263–266)

83. N2537, *ex Augst coll.* – 8.362 g, 22.2 × 23 mm, 6 h.

The date combination: ١٢٠١ (1786/7) – 1781 (sic).

84. N2538, *ex Augst coll.* – 9.225 g, 24.1 × 22.2 mm, 3 h.

The date combination: ١٢٠١ (1786/7) – 1787.

Sirma Coinage (late 18th c.)

Following the unification of at least the eastern Georgian provinces of Kartli and Kakheti into a single state, the major monetary reform has been undertaken. *Inter alia*, new type of the silver coinage – the so-called *sirma* coins – was introduced by AH 1179 (1765/6) (Turkia-Paghava 2008). Simultaneously a new weight standard (1 abazi/abbasi = 4 dāngs = 3.072 g of high standard silver) was established (Пахомов 1970:236–250; Paghava-Bebia 2008:6–7): Four denominations in silver were minted – 1½ abazi (½ marchili), abazi, ½ abazi and ¼ abazi. These coins were issued through at least AH 1213 (1798/9). They bore no name of the contemporary Georgian king (Erekle II or Giorgi XII), but the invocation “*Yā, Karīm* or *Oh, [God the] All-bountiful*”, which constituted a complimentary play on the name of Karīm Khān Zand, regent of Persia, on whose coins it commonly appears; we consider this side of the coin to be the obverse.

Ten coins of this group, including the rare 1½ abazi, 7 abazis (incl. 1 light-weight specimen) and 2 half-abazis (lacking the ¼ abazi denomination coin) are preserved in the Czech collections.

AR 1½ abazi (½ marchili):

Obv.:

ب
تفليس
ضر

and date (location variable) in field. All within a complex circular border. A small cartouche with

ياكريم

intercalated into the border at 12 o'clock.

Rev.:

الحمد لله *Praise to God*
رب *Lord*
العالمين *Of all created beings*

Surrounded by a complex border.

AH 1184 (*Temp. Erekle II*)

85. N2532, *ex Augst coll.* – 4.423 g, 23.1 × 22.8 mm, 2 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١١٨٤ – date variety 6a, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

AR abazi:

Obv.:

ب
تفليس
ضر

and date (location variable) in field. All within a big cartouche. A small cartouche with

ياكريم

intercalated into the outer border at 12 o'clock. Surrounded by a border made of two linear circles with dots in-between.

Rev.: الحمد لله
رب
العالمين

Surrounded by a border made of two linear circles with dots in-between.

AH 1190 (Temp. Erekle II)

86. N13829, purchased in 1993 – 3.052 g, 18.9 × 18.7 mm, 1 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١١٩٠ – date variety 14d, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

87. N2535, ex Augst coll. – 2.200 g, 16.3 × 16.5 mm, 5 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١١٠٩ – AH 1190 with shuffled numerals – date variety 14e, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

The coin is extremely lightweight for *abazi*, but the overall design corresponds to this denomination.

AH 1205 (Temp. Erekle II)

88. OR11, on loan from *Oríšek coll* – 2.948 g, 19.1 × 19 mm, 9 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١٢٠٥ – date variety 35a, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

AH 1207 (Temp. Erekle II)

89. N9020, purchased in 1974 – 2.980 g, 20 × 18.6 mm, 3 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١٢٠٧ – date variety 39b, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

AH 1211 (Temp. Erekle II)

90. OR12, on loan from *Oríšek coll*. – 3.015 g, 18.7 × 19 mm, 9 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١٢١١ – date variety 43e, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

91. N2533, ex Augst coll. – 3.010 g, 19.6 × 19.9 mm, 8 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١٢١١ – date variety 43e, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

AH 1213 (Temp. Giorgi XII)

92. N2539, ex Augst coll. – 2.481 g, 19.4 × 18.6 mm, 1 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: ١٢١٣ – date variety 46a, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

AR ½ *abazi*:

Obv.: ياكريم

within an ornamental cartouche surrounded by a plain circle.

Rev.: تفليس
ضر
ب

The date (location variable) in field. Surrounded by a border made of two linear circles with dots in-between.

AH 1211 (*Temp. Erekle II*)

93. N2534, *ex Augst coll.* – 1.472 g, 16.2 × 16.3 mm, 5 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: 1211 – date variety 44b, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

AH 1213 (*Temp. Giorgi XII*)

94. N14011, *ex Ševčík coll.* – 1.431 g, 15.5 × 15.5 mm, 11 h.

The mint: Tiflis. The date: 1213 – date variety 47a, cf. (Пахомов 1970:Табл. XIX).

Traces of a mount, plugged hole.

Russo-Georgian coinage (1804–1834)

The eastern Georgian kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti was annexed by the Russian Empire in 1801. For various reasons, the new administration intended to strike coins locally already by 1802 (Lang 1955:117). The mint was inaugurated in 1804 and proceeded with minting activities through 1834 (Lang 1955:117; Капанадзе 1970: 347–350). Machinery was employed at the mint for the first time in the Georgian numismatic history. Six different denominations were minted, three in copper (grosh/bisti, kopeyka/half-bisti and denga/puli) and three in silver (2 abazi, abazi and ½ abazi). The intrinsic value of the silver coins was adjusted to that of the silver currency of the Kartli-Kakheti kingdom by increasing of the weight standard, but diminishing the silver standard, the basic unit being *abazi* of 3.155 g of 88/96 silver standard (Пахомов 1970:271–272). It was decided not to mint the coins of the all-Imperial design, but rather to issue them as a pseudo-civic coinage, also making these coins look ‘Georgian’. Hence the absence of the Russian Emperor’s name but civic crown with the name of the city on the side which we consider to be an obverse; the Georgian legends are in the secular Georgian Mkhedruli script, except for the mintmaster’s initials in the Cyrillic script (on silver coins): П.З. (Петр Зайцев [Petr Zaytsev]), А.К. (Алексей Карпинский – [Aleksey Karpinskiy]), А.Т. (Александр Трифонов [Alexandr Trifonov]), В.К. (Василий Клейменов [Vasilij Kleymenov]). Even the dates were indicated in form of the Georgian alphabet letters, in the following additive manner, as follows: ზ (Ch) [1000] + ყ (Q) [800] + the letter indicating the tens + the letter indicating the units. Similarly, the denominations were presented in dinars (1 abazi = 200 dinars) but by the Georgian Mkhedruli characters უ (U) [400], ს (S) [200], რ (R) [100], კ (K) [20], ი (I) [10], ე (E) [5].

The specimens of four denominations out of six (all three silver ones and *bisti*, the highest copper denomination) are preserved in the Czech collections.

AR 2 *abazi*:

Obv.: ტფილისი [in Georgian *Mkhedruli* script: Tpilisi]. Above, civic crown. Below, crossed palm and olive branches.

Rev.: Top-down უ [400] / ქართული თეთრი [Georgian silver money] / The date with Georgian *Mkhedruli* characters. Below, a short divider line with the mintmaster’s initials in Cyrillic beneath.

1809 (*Temp. Alexander I*)

95. N2540, *ex Augst coll.* – 5.812 g, 23.6 × 24.1 mm, 0 h.

The date: 1809. Mintmaster: A.K.

1813 (Temp. Alexander I)

96. *N15025, ex State Czechoslovak Bank 1966* – 5.946 g, 23.2×23.3 mm, 11.30 h (slight deviation from the standard 0 h).

The date: ზყოზ. Mintmaster: A.T.

1816 (Temp. Alexander I)

97. *N2541, ex Augst coll.* – 6.059 g, 23.3×23.6 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყოვ (the last numeral reengraved, probably from ლ – 4, the previous date ზყოდ – 1814). Mintmaster: A.T.

1818 (Temp. Alexander I)

98. *N15026, purchased in 1963* – 6.123 g, 23.3×24 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყოზ. Mintmaster: A.T.

1826 (Temp. Nicholas I)

99. *N8354, purchased in 1984* – 6.291 g, 23.3×23.3 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყვვ. Mintmaster: A.T.

1830 (Temp. Nicholas I)

100. *N2544, ex Augst coll.* – 6.011 g, 23.2×23.2 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყლ. Mintmaster: A.T.

1832 (Temp. Nicholas I)

101. *N2545, ex Augst coll.* – 6.216 g, 23×23.7 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყლზ. Mintmaster: B.K.

AR abazi:

Obv.: ტფილისი (in Georgian *Mkhedruli* script: Tpilisi). Above, civic crown. Below, crossed palm and olive branches.

Rev.: Top-down ს [200] / ქართული თეთრი [Georgian silver money] / The date in Georgian *Mkhedruli* characters. Below, a short divider line with the mintmaster's initials in Cyrillic beneath.

1821 (Temp. Alexander I)

102. *N2542, ex Augst coll.* – 2.992 g, 19.6×20 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყკა (the initial letter of the date is slanted rightwards, which is typical for the coins of this year). Mintmaster: A.T.

1822 (Temp. Alexander I)

103. *N15027, ex Hloucha coll. 1957* – 3.082 g, 20×20.2 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყკზ. Mintmaster: A.K.

AR ½ abazi:

Obv.: ტფილისი (in Georgian *Mkhedruli* script: Tpilisi). Above, civic crown. Below, crossed palm and olive branches.

Rev.: Top-down რ [100] / ქართული თეთრი [Georgian silver money] / The date in

Georgian *Mkhedruli* characters. Below, a short divider line with the mintmaster's initials in Cyrillic beneath.

1827 (Temp. Nicholas I)

104. N2546, ex *Augst coll.* – 1.472 g, 15.7 × 15.9 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყზ (the latter ზ is slanted rightwards). Mintmaster: A.T.

1831 (Temp. Nicholas I)

105. N15028, ex *Kutná Hora Museum 1981* – 1.435 g, 15.7 × 16.1 mm, 11.30 h (slight deviation from the standard 0 h).

The date: ზყლ. Mintmaster: A.T.

AE *bisti*:

Obv.: ტვილისი [in Georgian *Mkhedruli* script: Tpilisi]. Civic crown above. Below, crossed palm and olive branches.

Rev.: Top-down კ [20] / ქართული ფული [Georgian copper money] / The date with Georgian *Mkhedruli* characters. Below, a short horizontal line (no mintmaster's initials in Cyrillic beneath).

1810 (Temp. Alexander I)

106. N2543, ex *Augst coll.* – 15.937 g, 30.7 × 30.8 mm, 0 h.

The date: ზყო.

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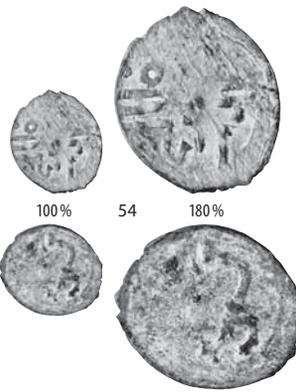
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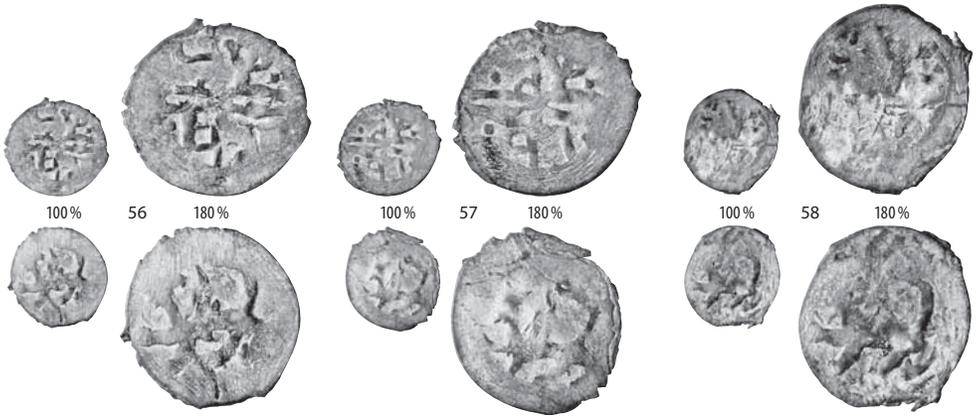
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