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## **Imitations of the Roman Coins in “Transcaucasian” States**

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. Provincial silver of Caesareian issue, denarii struck in greater quantity by Eastern, e.g. Syrian mints, municipal copper of Trapezus and Imperial copper money, struck predominantly at the mints of Antioch and Asia Minor, circulated in Lazica. In its Eastern provinces Caesareian issues were mixed with denarii of Augustus and late Roman gold imported from Iberia <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=26>. Aurei and Augustan denarii formed a bulk of the money in circulation in Iberia. Then they were imitated <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>. Now in details, first, the empiric level.

1) Imitation of Philip I's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9156. Weight – 4 gr. From Armazi necropolis (East Georgia).

Obverse: Bust of Philip I, laureate, cuirassed, r. Legend IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG distorted.

Reverse: Mars standing l., holds spear in r. hand, l. hand rests on a round shield.

Distorted legend. If this is ANNOI (ANNONA), yet another prototype was used.<sup>1</sup>

2) Imitation of Philip I's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9155. Weight – 3,45 gr. From Armazi necropolis (East Georgia). (1) and (2) are struck by the same dies.<sup>2</sup>

3) Imitation of Philip I's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №12181. Weight – 3,87 gr. From Maghraneti necropolis (East Georgia). The same dies were used (Pl. I №1).<sup>3</sup>

4) Imitation of Trajan Decius' aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9158. Weight – 3,73 gr. From Armazi necropolis (East Georgia) (Pl. I №2).

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

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<sup>1</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Аууреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957. №3, p. 165; Л. Н. Казамадова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва. 1971. №4 (118), for the imitations v. pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>2</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Аууреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957. №3, p. 165; Л. Н. Казамадова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва. 1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; also v. Д. Г. Капанадзе. Монетные находки мцхетской экспедиции (1937-1948 и 1951 гг.). Вестник древней истории. Москва. 1955. №1 (51), pp. 170-171; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>3</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Новые находки подражаний римским аууреусам в Грузии. Вестник древней истории. 1970. №4 (114). Москва, p. 84, for all the types v. pp. 81-92; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

holding cornucopiae in l. hand. CONCORDIAE EXERCITI slightly distorted.<sup>4</sup>

5) Imitation of Hostilian’s aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9157. Weight – 4,8 gr. From Armazi necropolis (East Georgia) (Pl. I №3).

Obverse: Bust of Hostilian, laureate, r. Distorted legend. Scholars mostly see the name of Hostilian.

Reverse: Annona standing l., holds corn-ears and cornucopiae. Distorted legend.<sup>5</sup>

6) Imitation of Valerian I’s aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9735. Weight – 3,51 gr. Vashlovani (East Georgia) (Pl. I №4).

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

Reverse: Victoria driving biga l. Illegible legend.<sup>6</sup>

7) Imitation of Valerian I’s aureus. Azerbaijan State Museum of History. Weight – 3,64 gr. Place of finding is unknown.

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<sup>4</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Ауреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957. №3, р. 166; Л. Н. Казаманова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>5</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Ауреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957. №3, р. 166; Л. Н. Казаманова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>6</sup> Л. Н. Казаманова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), р. 143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

Obverse: Bust of Emperor, laureate, cuirassed, r. Distorted legend.

Reverse: Victoria driving biga r. Distorted legend.<sup>7</sup>

8) Imitation of Valerian I's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №14595. Weight – 3,63 gr. From Jinvali (East Georgia) burial (together with original coin) (Pl. II №5).

Obverse: Bust of Emperor, laureate, r. Mirror image of inscription IMP C P LIC VALERIANVS AVG.

Reverse: Victoria driving biga l. Mirror image of VICTORI AVCC.<sup>8</sup>

9) Imitation of Valerian I's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9151. Weight – 3,44 gr. From Armaziskhevi tomb (East Georgia).

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

Reverse: Victoria driving biga l. Almost illegible legend, still VI is well traced.<sup>9</sup>

10) Imitation of Numerian's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9340. Weight – 3,52 gr. From Aghaiani burial (East Georgia) (Pl. II №6).

Obverse: Bust of Emperor, laureate, l. Mirror image of inscription, of which first letters IMP C are quite clear.

Reverse: Victoria advancing l., holding wreath. Mirror image of inscription VICTORII V AVGG.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва. 1971. №4 (118), p. 72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>8</sup> M. Sherozia. New Samples of Local (Iberian) Imitations of Roman Aurei (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Bulletin of the Georgian National Museum. Series of Social Sciences. II (47-B). Tbilisi. 2011, p. 250; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>9</sup> M. Sherozia. New Samples of Local (Iberian) Imitations of Roman Aurei (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Bulletin of the Georgian National Museum. Series of Social Sciences. II (47-B). Tbilisi. 2011, p. 251; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>10</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Ауреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957. №3, pp. 167, 174; Л. Н. Казаманова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым

11) Imitation of Numinian's aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9336. Weight – 2,68 gr. From Tskhinvali burial (East Georgia). (10) and (11) are struck by the same dies (Pl. II №7).<sup>11</sup>

The midst of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D. was a final stage of issue of Georgian imitations of Alexander and Lysimachus' type staters. After a gap of two centuries, Iberia renewed emission of imitations. The same dies for imitations above (№№1-3, 10-11), imitation (№8) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> c. This statement can be argued because of data below.

12) Imitation of Augustus' aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №12215. Weight – 3,52 gr. From Simoniant-khevi burial (East Georgia) (Pl. II №8).

Obverse: Head of Emperor, laureate, crude in style, r. 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. Incuse instead of simpulum and lituus above. Latin legend C. L. CAESARES AVGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT – mirror image and distorted.<sup>12</sup>

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монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>11</sup> Д. Г. Капаназде. Ауреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957. №3, pp. 167, 174; Л. Н. Казаманова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>12</sup> Д. Г. Капаназде. Новые находки подражаний римским ауреусам в Грузии. Вестник древней истории. 1970. №4 (114). Москва, р. 85; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi.

13) Imitation of Augustus' aureus. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №14596. Weight – 2,87 gr. From Jinvali burial (East Georgia). (12) and (13) are struck by the same dies (Pl. III №9).<sup>13</sup>

14) Imitation of Commodus' aureus (hybrid). GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №12179. Weight – 3,10 gr. From Maghraneti burial (East Georgia) (Pl. III №10).

Obverse: Bust of Commodus, laureate, draped, r. Name of Emperor is clearly seen.

Reverse: Head of Emperor, laureate, crude in style, r. Latin inscription CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F. PATER PATRIAE distorted.<sup>14</sup>

Obverse die of above Augustan imitations served as a reverse die for this hybrid, found in Maghraneti burial together with the coins of Severus Alexander and Carus. So, one can suggest again 3<sup>rd</sup> c. as a date of all these imitations.

15) Imitation of aureus (hybrid/Lucilla, Severus Alexander, Gordian III). GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №9333. Weight – 6,43 gr. From Ureki burial (West Georgia) (Pl. III №11).

Obverse: Female bust r. Distorted legend still contains LUCILLAE.

Reverse: Mars with spear advancing l. Legend IOVI CONSERVATORI (!) distorted. Other prototypes were also used.<sup>15</sup>

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2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>13</sup> M. Sherozia. New Samples of Local (Iberian) Imitations of Roman Aurei (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Bulletin of the Georgian National Museum. Series of Social Sciences. II (47-B). Tbilisi. 2011, p. 250; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>14</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Новые находки подражаний римским ауреусам в Грузии. Вестник древней истории. 1970. №4 (114). Москва, р. 84; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва. 1971. №4 (118), pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>15</sup> Д. Г. Капанадзе. Ауреусы армазского некрополя. Советская археология. Москва. 1957.

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16) One identical piece comes from the site of Photi (West Georgia).<sup>16</sup>

17) Imitations of Augustus’ denarius. GF. (Fund of Treasury, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №№2544, 5103, 9446; QF. (Main Fund of the Georgian Coins, Numismatic Collection, Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia) №№54, 1704, 1705, 3372, 3425, 4049, 4050, 4051, 4052, 4053, 4054; Numismatic Fund, History Museum of Armenia, Yerevan – №14362; Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow – 1 sample. The weights range from 1,28 to 3,55 gr. Places of finding are mostly unknown (Pl. IV-V).

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.

Hybrid.

Obverse: Head of Emperor, laureate, r. Distorted Latin legend suggests Marcus Aurelius’ issue as a prototype.

Reverse: Gaius and Lucius Caesars, standing front, each with a hand resting on a round shield. Spears behind the shields. Latin legend distorted.<sup>17</sup>

Even 3<sup>rd</sup> c. burials from East Georgia show Augustan denarii, while

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№3, pp. 166, 173; Л. Н. Казаменова, В. В. Кропоткин. Подражания римским золотым монетам II-III вв. н.э. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1964. №1 (87), pp. 142-143; К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), for the imitations v. pp. 68-72; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>16</sup> M. Sherozia. New Samples of Local (Iberian) Imitations of Roman Aurei (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Bulletin of the Georgian National Museum. Series of Social Sciences. II (47-B). Tbilisi. 2011, p. 249; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 128-130; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 190-193; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 123-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

<sup>17</sup> К. В. Голенко. Заметки об обращении римской монеты в Закавказье. Вестник древней истории. Москва.1971. №4 (118), p. 66-68; G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Georgian Numismatics. Part One (in Georg. with Engl. summary). Tbilisi. 2006, pp. 125-126; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Part Two. Tbilisi. 2014, pp. 186-189; T. Dundua, G. Dundua. Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 119-122; T. Dundua, G. Dundua and Others. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=27>

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 (2 samples in West Georgia, 4 – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> c.

Aurei and Augustan denarii formed a bulk of the money in circulation in Iberia, other debased denarii were, in fact, ignored – a situation quite similar to that in the Roman Orient for some time. If we confront this data with Syrian imports discovered in Georgia, one can suggest that the Syrian provincial treasury was the source of supply for Iberia. A severe Imperial crisis of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. limited this supply. Even if it did not, Iberia would have bartered the Roman money no more. Transformation of the country towards Feudalism needed a supply different than money. The country's stocks of precious metal could be exhausted to support the general reform – the strengthening in number of the upper classes meant a gradual conversion of some yeomanry from farmers to high-level administrators. Food-shortages could happen, and large-scale food supply was necessary. Industry suffered also as some of the artisans had to earn living doing agricultural jobs. The amount of industrial goods *per capita* was quickly diminishing, thus creating a demand for small-scale local debased issues with the king as the only potential power to strike these coins.<sup>18</sup>

As mentioned before, there is one sample of Augustan imitation kept at Numismatic Fund, History Museum of Armenia, Yerevan, and imitation of Valerian I's aureus is kept at Azerbaijan State Museum of History. In both cases, place of finding is unknown. So, nothing can be said. Still, it seems that there were no local imitations of the Roman coins circulating in Armenia and Albania (modern Azerbaijan).<sup>19</sup>

Not surprisingly, the most faithful Roman ally in the region, Iberia, had the most Roman “numismatic visage”.

<sup>18</sup> T. Dundua. Influx of Roman Coins in Georgia. Roman Coins Outside the Empire. Ways and Phases, Contexts and Functions. Proceedings of the ESF/SCH Exploratory Workshop. Radziwill Palace, Nieborow (Poland). 3-6. 09. 2005. Moneta 82. Wetteren, 2008, pp. 309-319.

<sup>19</sup> G. Dundua, T. Dundua. Numismatics of Caucasus. Caucasus Antiquus. Encyclios Disciplina. Volumen III. Tbilisi. 2018, pp. 208-224.



Tedo Dundua, Natia Phiphia.  
Imitations of the Roman Coins in "Transcaucasian" States

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Plate I



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Plate II



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Tedo Dundua, Natia Phiphia.  
Imitations of the Roman Coins in “Transcaucasian” States

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Plate III



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Plate IV



Tedo Dundua, Natia Phiphia.  
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Plate V

