

Tedo Dundua

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Rulers on Money: Case of Georgia¹

Last time we wrote about deities and saints justifying a legitimacy of a coin http://geohistory.humanities.tsu.ge/images/SHROMEBI/SHROMEBI-16/ENG - XVI/016_Tedo_Dundua_International_Conferences.pdf; [http://geohistory.humanities.tsu.ge/images/SHROMEBI/SHROMEBI-16/ENG XVI/017_Tedo_Dundua International Conferences.pdf](http://geohistory.humanities.tsu.ge/images/SHROMEBI/SHROMEBI-16/ENG XVI/017_Tedo_Dundua_International_Conferences.pdf)

Effigies of the rulers did the same. Now they will be demonstrated, as seen in coinage of Georgia.

Coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat, duke of Klarjeti (Southwest Georgia). I type. Second half of the 3rd c. B.C.

Obverse: Head of Bagadat r., bearded, with moustache, and taenia on forehead; wears satrapal head-dress (kyrbasia) with double tie behind, and flaps fastened over top; earring in ear; border of dots.

Reverse: Bagadat seated l. on throne with back; wears kyrbasia; long overgarment with false sleeves and arm-guards; holds in r. a long sceptre, in l. a flower (?); planted before him, standard with decoration and hanging tassels – dirēš-i Kaviān; Aramaic inscr. on r. downwards and on l. upwards, border of dots.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=16>

¹ https://www.academia.edu/43868616/Rulers_on_Money_Case_of_Georgia

Coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat. II type.

Obverse: Head of Bagadat r., bearded, with moustache, and taenia on forehead; wears satrapal head-dress (kyrbasia) with double tie behind, and flaps fastened over top; earring in ear; border of dots.

Reverse: Fire-temple, with double panelled doors, podium, pilasters, and architrave; above, three battlements, each with two horns; on l., Bagadat, in satrapal head-dress and long garment, standing right, r. raised in adoration; on r., standard; Aramaic inscription, on r. downwards and in exergue, inscription on l., if any, off the flan; border of dots.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=17>

Aka (king of Colchis/Western Georgia in the beginning of the 2nd c. B.C.) stater.

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

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



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=6>

Georgian imitations to Lysimachus' type staters. 2nd-1st cc. B.C. Colchis.

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

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



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=7>

The so-called Saulaces' coins, I type. Colchis or Bosphorus. Late 2nd c. B.C.

Obverse: Male head to the right in the radiant crown.

Reverse: Bull's head to the right. Greek inscription above and below – ΒΑΣΙ... ΣΑΥΛΑ or ΣΑΥΜ... meaning “of king Saulaces”, or “Saumakos”. The king's name is only partially inscribed with the last letter read either “Λ”, or “Μ”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=19>

Drachm of Aristarchus the Colchian with the portray of Gnaeus Pompejus.

Obverse: Head of beardless man, diademed and crowned with the rays, right (Helios with Gnaeus Pompejus' features).

Reverse: Tyche seated on a throne, wearing a tall crown, right. Vessel in her left hand, right hand resting on a rudder. Greek inscription on both sides of depiction and below – ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΕΠΙ ΚΟΛΧΙΔΟΣ/ΒΙ (“of Aristarchus, the viceroy of Colchis, or of Aristarchus, who is ruling over Colchis”, and the date – 12, which corresponds to the 12th year of his rule, i.e. 52-51 B.C).



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=18>

Municipal copper coins of bilingual (Graeco-Colchian) Trapezus with the effigy of Mithras.

Obverse: Bust of Gordian III, right. Legend – ΑΥΚ ΑΝΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟCCEB.

Reverse: Mithras as equestrian. Tree of Life behind the equestrian. Column in front of him with crow sitting on it. A star above a bird. Horse has its right leg raised. Snake below the line. Legend – ΤΡΑΠΕΖΟΥΝΤΙΩΝ.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=26>

Georgian imitations to denarii of Augustus.

Obverse: Laureate head right/left, crude in style. Distorted Latin inscription around: prototype – CAESAR AVGVSTVS DIVI F. PATER PATRIAE. Circle of the dots.

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. Distorted Latin inscription around: prototype – C. L. CAESARES AVGVSTI F. COS. DESIG. PRINC. IVVENT. Linear circle or circle of the dots.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=27>

Georgian imitations to Roman aurei.

Obverse: Draped bust of Valerian, laureted, right, a bit crude in style. Distorted Latin inscription: prototype – IMP. C. P. LIC. VALERIANVS AVG. Circle of the dots.

Reverse: Schematic effigy of Victoria in biga, left. Distorted Latin inscription: VICTORIA AVGG.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=28>

Coins with the depiction of fire on altar. Gurgen's (prince of Iberia/Eastern Georgia) drachms (588-589).

Obverse: Ohrmazd IV to the right. Legend in Pehlevi – "Ohrmazd Augustus". This is placed within onefold circle of the dots. Above two Georgian Asomtavruli letters or ligature for the name Gurgen.

Reverse: Fire on altar protected by two guardians. Pehlevi inscription of date and name of the mint are unreadable. Date 7 (i.e. 7th year of Ohrmazd IV's reign) on one of the coins.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=29>

Coins with the depiction of fire on altar. Jonber//Juansher's drachms (590-591).

Obverse: Ohrmazd IV to the right. Legend in Pehlevi – "Ohrmazd Augustus". This is placed within onefold circle of the dots. Above two Asomtavruli letters for the name Jonber//Juansher.

Reverse: Fire on altar protected by two guardians. Pehlevi inscription of date and name of the mint are unreadable.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=30>

Anonymous coins with the depiction of cross on the obverse. 586-587.

Obverse: Ohrmazd IV to the right. Legend in Pehlevi – “Ohrmazd Augustus”, in front of the figure. Cross behind the figure. This is placed within onefold circle of the dots.

Reverse: Fire on altar protected by two guardians. Pehlevi inscription of date and name of the mint are unreadable.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=31>

Anonymous coins with the depiction of cross on altar (586-587).

Obverse: Ohrmazd IV to the right. Legend in Pehlevi – “Ohrmazd Augustus”. This is placed within onefold circle of the dots.

Reverse: Cross on altar protected by two guardians. Pehlevi inscription of date and name of the mint are unreadable.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=32>

Coins with the depiction of cross on altar. Stephanos I – first emission. 591.

Obverse: Ohrmazd IV to the right. Legend in Pehlevi – “Ohrmazd Augustus”. This is placed within onefold circle of the dots. Four Georgian letters (Asomtavruli) on the edge of the coin for the name Stephanos, with four crescents on the sides.

Reverse: Cross on altar protected by two guardians. Date and name of the mint are unreadable, all placed within twofold circle of the dots.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=33>

Coins with the depiction of cross on altar. Stephanos I – second emission. 592.

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

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



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=34>

David IV's (1089-1125) copper coin, type – king in Imperial coat. 1118-1125.

Obverse: Bust of a king in Imperial coat – wearing stemma (Imperial crown), divitision and chlamys; holds in right hand scepter cruciger, and in left, globus cruciger. And Georgian legend – “king David”.

Reverse: Cross in a center and marginal Georgian legend –“Christ, David the king of the Abkhasians, Kartvelians, Ranians, Kakhetians, Armenians.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=48>

Coins of Giorgi III (1156-1184) – king with falcon on hand.

Obverse: Giorgi III in Asian-Byzantine dress. Seated cross-legged, facing. His left (sometimes right) hand rests on his thigh, on another hand up lifted sits a falcon. King wears stemma. Georgian Mkhedruli letters for the name of Giorgi (sometimes Asomtavruli monogram is added to it) and Asomtavruli legend – “in the K’oronikon 394 (=1174)”.

Reverse: Arabic legend in three lines – “King of the Kings Giorgi, son of Demetre, sword of the Messiah”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=66>

Coins of Giorgi IV (1210-1223) – king in Imperial dress.

Obverse: King standing, facing, wearing stemma, with labarum in his right hand and anexikakia, a roll of parchment, wrapped in cloth and filled with dust, a symbol of mortality, in left. Fragments of Asomtavruli legend to both sides of the depiction – “Giorgi, son of Tamar ... 30, i.e. in the K’oronikon 430 (=1210)”.

Reverse: Arabic legend in rosette made up of four leaves – “in the year 606 (=1209/1210)”. Second Arabic legend in segments between the leaves – “King of the Kings Giorgi, son of Tamar, sword of the Messiah”. Circle around.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=73>

Silver coins of David Narin (1245-1293) with the depiction of a horseman.

Obverse: The king on horseback, right. Above, right, royal monogram meaning David, and, left, Georgian Asomtavruli letters for “the K’oronikon 467 (=1247)”. Above six-pointed star.

Reverse: Persian legend in four lines – “By the power of God, slave of Kuyuk (or Guyuk) Qā’ān’s rule, king David”. At right “Struck at Tbilisi”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=51>

Copper coins of David Ulugh (1247-1270) with the depiction of a horseman.

Obverse: Crowned figure of a horseman to the right. To both sides of the effigy – Asomtavruli letters for the name of David.

Reverse: Arabic legend in three lines – “King of the Kings David, son of Giorgi, sword of the Messiah”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=53>

Coins with the effigy of two Davids. Issue of 1261/1262.

Obverse: Labarum in the center and the kings' effigy in Imperial coat on the both sides. On the left and right, Georgian Asomtavruli legends placed vertically – “King David” and “King of the Kings David”.

Reverse: St. Virgin seated upon a throne like on the Imperial issue of Michael VIII Palaeologus, and corresponding Georgian legend on the left and right.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=98>

Kirmaneuli tetri (Georgian imitations to the aspens of Trebizond; they are patterned mostly on the coins of the two Emperors: Manuel I (1238-1263)

and John II (1280-1297)), issues with the name of Manuel (second half of the 13th c.).

Obverse: St. Eugenius standing, facing, holding long cross in his right hand. On the left and right, Greek legend placed vertically – O-A-ΠI/EY-ΓE-NI-O.

Reverse: Emperor in loros and stemma (Imperial crown), standing, facing, holding labarum in his right hand and akakia – in his left hand. On the right and above – Manus Dei. On the left and right, Greek legend placed vertically – M-N-Α/O-K-MN.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=99>

Kirmaneuli tetri, issues with the name of John (13th-15th cc.).

Obverse: St. Eugenius standing, facing, holding long cross in his right hand. On the left and right, Greek legend placed vertically – Α-E-Y/ΓE-NI.

Reverse: Emperor in loros and stemma, standing, facing, holding labarum in his right hand and akakia or globus cruciger – in his left hand. On the right and above – Manus Dei. Below – six-pointed star. On the left and right, Greek legend placed vertically – Ω-O K/N-O.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=100>

Kirmaneuli tetri, issues with “Emperor in three-arched stemma” (13th - 14th cc.).

Obverse: St. Eugenius standing, facing, holding long cross in his right hand. On the left and right, Greek legend placed vertically – O-Y/Γ-E-N-O.

Reverse: Emperor in loros and three-arched stemma, standing, facing, holding labarum in his right hand and globus cruciger – in his left hand. On the right and above – Manus Dei. Below – six-pointed star. On the left and right, Greek legend placed vertically – ΙΘ-O-KO/H-O.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=101>

Kirmaneuli tetri, issues with Emperor’s bust (13th -14th cc.).

Obverse: Bust of St. Eugenius facing, holding labarum in his right hand and long cross – in his left hand. Greek legend is traced.

Reverse: Bust of Emperor in loros and stemma facing, holding labarum in his right hand and long cross – in his left hand. On the left, globus cruciger, it looks like a flower. Shield on the right. No sign of the Greek legend.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=102>

Kirmaneuli tetri, issue with Georgian Asomtavruli letters (1389-1392).

Obverse: St. Eugenius standing, facing, holding long cross in his right hand. On the left – some uncertain signs. On the right, above, Asomtavruli letters for the name of Giorgi, below, Greek letters in two lines – ΓΕ-O.

Reverse: Emperor (king) in loros and three-arched stemma, standing, facing, holding labarum in his left hand. On the left Asomtavruli letters placed vertically – “king”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=103>

Coins of Bagrat, king of Imereti (1510-1565).

Obverse: Schematic depiction of king in three arched-crown, facing.

Reverse: Georgian Asomtavruli legend divided by horizontal line. The legend should be read as follows: “King Bagrat”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=83>

Coins of Giorgi, king of Imereti (1565-1585). I type.

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

Reverse: Georgian Asomtavruli legend in abbreviation – “King Giorgi”, to the right – plant ornament.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=84>