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DOI: 10.56812/2953-7851-2022.1-24

The Georgian numismatics of the long 12th century and reasons of its complexity

In the report a reconstruction of the numismatic history of the Georgian kingdom during the long twelfth century (the end of the 11th - the first third of the 13th century) is proposed. Combining the typogenetic analysis of contemporary coins, the study of the topography of their finds, as well as research of the synchronous epigraphics and narrations, a complex picture of the divergence of the coinage of Western and Eastern Georgia after the cessation of the influx of Arab silver from the Caliphate in the 10th century was revealed for the first time. A strict zonality of the coinage and monetary circulation in the Georgian kingdom was discovered, clearly associated with the features of the previous monetary systems - in Western Georgia (former zone of silver coins with purely Georgian inscriptions, later zone of copper coins with the same features), Eastern Georgia (former *Dar al-Islām*, later zone of irregular coins) and Northern Armenia (former Byzantine lands, later zone of regular coins).

For the first time is revealed the development of the typology of Georgian coins, which followed the inclusion of new territories where the local numismatic traditions were preserved. The territory of regular coins' circulation, *Didi Somxet'i* or Northern Armenia during the long 12th century formed a separate monetary zone in the Georgian kingdom, characterized by the circulation of coins specifically issued in it and for it. Coinage of the regular copper coins by Giorgi III in 1174 and by Tamar in 1200 occurred synchronously with the acquisition of Ani (in 1174

and 1199, *resp.*), and was most likely the same was case of Davit IV (in 1124). Such a chronological connection makes to assume that the regular coins were produced in Ani, the political and economic center of North Armenian lands. The coinage for Northern Armenia was characterised not only by the special legends, but also based on other technological tradition, which refers them to a different technological province and testifies against their production in Tiflis.

The parallel mintage of different type of coins for each region, as well as the practically strict existence of coins within their regions, testify the separate economic life in the two taxation zones - in Tiflis and Eastern Georgia and in Northern Armenia. But the border between them did not break the mobility of the population within Georgia. It necessitated to determine the mutual exchange rates of the regular and irregular coins, information about which survived thanks to the Epiphanius' inscription of 1218 in Ani.

A special attention is paid for countermarks used at that time by the Georgian kings on regular and irregular coins, as well as on foreign copper coins. Meaning of all of them is proposed based on narrative, epigraphic and numismatic data.

Describing in general the numismatic history of Georgia in the 12th century, it must be noted that the reason for its complexity was the refusal of the Georgian kings to unify the monetary policy in favor of conservation of local monetary norms in the incorporated territories and for their step-by-step evolution until the Rusudan's reform of 1230. The existence of several monetary zones points to the complex structure of the Kingdom of Georgia, of which its structure cannot simply be reduced to a number of regions – *saeristavi*, but within which a separate large area of special monetary and fiscal practice must be singled out.