

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT OF AJARA

BATUMI ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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AJARA IN CHALCOLITHIC,
BRONZE AND EARLY
IRON AGES

CATALOGUE

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PREFACE

Batumi Archaeological Museum is one of the young cultural educational institutions of the Black Sea Coast. It was founded in 1994. Nevertheless, it had turned into an important phenomenon, which along with its immediate profile, cultural educational activities, conducts quite large scale expedition and publishing works. Greater part of exhibits is a result of the field studies organized by the Museum itself. It is augmented by the fact that the majority of them supplement not only the treasury of our country but the treasury of the humankind as well. The results of the joint Georgian – British expedition of 1998-2010 have been of major importance. In this brief period the Museum has published six volumes of the works, seven volumes of the “Pichvnari” series. In recent years compilation of the catalogues for separate departments of the exposition has begun. The first volume – “Treasure of Batumi Archaeological Museum” was published in 2015. The second volume is dedicated to the cataloging of the main findings of Chalcolithic, Bronze and Early Iron ages, both in Georgian and English. We believe that the new publication will promote the popularization of the history and culture of our country.

It would be sufficient to point out that the territory of our research is an oldest hearth of Colchian Culture.

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Chalcolithic-early Bronze Age (5th -3rd millenniums BC) is one of the most important stages in the history of the mankind. Contacts between the peoples grew from this period. Agriculture has become the major trend. In Early Bronze Age metallurgy is an integral part of managed economy. It is accepted that the Transcaucasia is one of the oldest hearths of the humankind. Main ethnic groups, languages and cultures of the Caucasian population are formed. Contacts with Anatolian and Western Asia cultures become obvious. Main trends of the local inhabitants are symbiotic farming and cattle breeding. Fishing and weaving become widespread.

In this respect the importance of the research territory increases even further by the periods of Middle Bronze and Late Bronze-Early Metal Ages (2nd -1st cc BC). The population which created the Tribal Colchian Culture becomes immediate participant of the World's historical processes. Material cultural monuments, discovered on Ajarian territory, part of which is kept in Batumi Archaeological Museum is a vivid example of the above said. We shall consider some of these items and begin from the monuments of the early epoch.