

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT OF AJARA

BATUMI ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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NUMISMATIC TREASURY OF  
BATUMI ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MUSEUM

CATALOGUE

Georgia is an oldest cradle of monetary civilization. Coinage began in our country in the 6 th. B.C. Monetary circulation in south-western Georgia began from the mentioned period. It was induced by the favourable geographic condition. From the early antiquity, the coastal line of Adjara was involved in the trade-economic and political relations with the leading centres of the Antique world. By the 6 th. B.C. Greek settlements were located here (Pichvnari). It was the relationship with the Greek world in the Classical and Hellenistic periods that determined the inflow of foreign coins and emergence of the local monetary circulation (Colchian tetri). Since the Roman Era, the certain centres (Gonio, Tsikhisdziri) were important strategic points, initially for the Romans and later- Byzantines and Iranians. Stationing of foreign garrisons at the places, as well as military expeditions determined the inflow of foreign coins in our country.

Coins also entered our territory via naval – caravan ways. Coins discovered on Adjarian territory offer us clear picture of its political and economic life at the certain periods of history.

A very rich and interesting coin collection has been assembled at Batumi Archaeological Museum, which consists of the coins discovered both accidentally and as a result of hard work of the archaeological expeditions throughout the years. Archaeological study of half a century in Pichvnari provided us with the earliest and most unique samples: Cyzicenes, Sinopean drachms, Panticapaeum, Nymphaeum and Theodosi coins, as well as unique or common types of Colchian tetri. Syracusan coin was also discovered accidentally in Pichvnari. We also possess coins of the Classical period of unknown origin. Among the collection coins should be mentioned a tetradrachm minted on Aegina island in the name of Alexander the Great.

Archaeological study of Gonio-Apsaros and Makho enriched the museum with the coins minted in the name of Roman and Byzantine Emperors (Nero, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Diocletianus, Probus, Severina, Justinian I etc.).

Four accidentally discovered hoards of coins are kept at the museum. Tsikhisdziri hoard consists of over 100 Seljuk coins dated to the XIII century and Trebizond aspers. We have catalogued only the main types of them. Ozurgeti hoard consists of 10 Netherlands and 1 Polish thalers. Eastern coins are represented by two hoards of Arabian coins. Zoti hoard includes 12 and Khelvachauri one- 150 Dirhams. We have catalogued only some of them.

It should be noted, that the given catalogue covers the collection of the coins displayed in the exposition hall of the museum. The rest Antique, Roman, Byzantine, European and Ottoman coins, which are kept in various funds, are to be published hereafter.