

New Interpretations on Some Inscriptions from Mtskheta, Eastern Georgia

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Greek and Latin inscriptions in Georgia are valuable sources to study Georgian history as well as to study classical antiquity in general. Since Greek alongside with Aramaic was used as major official language in Ancient Iberia Antique Age Greek and Latin inscription give us precise information about classical antiquity in Eastern Georgia. Actually, they serve as a fact checker for the account given by "Kartlis Tskhovreba" ("Life of Kartli"). As for classical antiquity in general, they shed light on some interesting aspects, for example, they show that Romans gave roman citizenship to the members of the royal family in such distant territories like Iberia. Iberia was faithful ally of Rome, and the inscriptions also make its "roman visage" vivid.

Greek inscriptions were mostly published by T. Kaukhchishvili in her summative work "Corpus of Greek Inscriptions in Georgia" in 1999 (In Georgian). The corpus was republished in 2009 adding some new information. Despite her ample comments, it still need some reinterpretations.

The main focus of our report will be these new interpretations based on the recent studies. The new research which is an ongoing project was funded by Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia. The group of the researchers included historians and a philologist: Natia Phiphia, Tedo Dundua and Ekaterine Kobakhidze, respectively. The initial results of the project will be presented on the conference by a philologist Ekaterine Kobakhidze and a historian, Natia Phiphia who also serves as a principal investigator for the project.