

attract great interest. The coins in question had a wide circulation in Georgia in the 13th -14th centuries. However, in our region they are found only in Tsikhisdziri.

In chronological terms, the latest is a Turkish piastre minted in 1293 Hijri calendar (1883). Discovery of Turkish coins in south-west Georgia does not require a special comment, because at the time the region was a constituent part of Ottoman Turkey. Given the political situation, it was Ottoman coins that dominated in the monetary circulation.



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1. Coin of Tamar and David, with the 'Bagrationi family badge' on the obverse; struck in 1200; copper
2. Byzantine copper coin, with the Savior depicted on the obverse, tenth century
3. Amisos, fourth century BC; silver drachm with Hera on the obverse and an eagle with spread wings on the reverse
4. Trabzon aspr, silver, with St. Eugenius on the obverse and Caesar Manuel I (1239-1253) on the reverse; 13th century
5. Seljuk drachm, silver, Keikhosru II (1237-1246), Konya, with the sun and the lion on the reverse.
6. Gold coin of Justinian. Av: Caesar; Rev: whole figure of Victoria. 6th century AD
7. Sassanians silver coins– the 6th Century A.D.




ARCHEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SITE OF PETRA-TSIKHISDZIRI

COINS DISCOVERED AT PETRA-TSIKHISDZIRI  
PRESERVED AT LEPLAJARA MUSEUMS -BATUMI  
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[www.ajaraheritage.ge](http://www.ajaraheritage.ge)

[info@ajaraheritage.ge](mailto:info@ajaraheritage.ge)

 პეტრას ციხე-სიმაგრე/Petra Fortress

## COINS DISCOVERED AT PETRA- TSIKHISDZIRI

აქარის კულტურული მემკვიდრეობის დაცვის სააგენტო



CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AGENCY OF AJARA



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Tsikhisdziri is a very remarkable monument in terms of its numismatic finds. Being a material historical source, the coins revealed here proved one more time that Tsikhisdziri is an extremely significant strategic location on the eastern Black Sea coast. The local population is advanced, with thriving animal farming and commerce. Monetary system seems to have developed from the fifth century BC. It is one of the points where monetary circulation originated and developed. There seem to be economic relations with the Classical world. It is evidenced by the coins of the city of Amisos, the Kingdom of Pontus (fourth-first centuries BC), discovered here. The coins of Amisos dating to the first century BC are widely spread on the coastal line of western Georgia, which is related to the political activities of Mithridates Eupator. It is the place where a military garrison was camped in Roman epoch which caused accumulation of Roman silver and copper coins (Adrian [117-138], Antoninus Pius [138-161], Caracalla [211-217], Septimius Severus [193-211], Gordian III [238-244], Diocletian [284-305], etc.). The numismatic material evidenced here covers the whole period between Roman epoch and the high medieval times including. Investigation of the coins showed that Sassanian coins (Bahram V [406-439], Khosrow I Anushirvan [531-573], Khosrow II [590-628]) were in circulation on this territory in the early medieval epoch. They are found in large numbers in western Georgia and it is quite predictable to reveal them at Tsikhisdziri, because at the time it was the



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midpoint of the confrontation between the Byzantines and the Iranians. Notably, during the campaign in 2017 (leader of the expedition David Mindorashvili) a hoard of coins of the fourth-sixth centuries was revealed here together with the equipment of an Iranian warrior.

Byzantine money was in circulation from the fourth century (Emperor Arcadius [395-408], Basil I and Constantine VII [867-879], Romanos I Lekapenos [919-021], Constantine VII(?) [945], Michael IV the Paphlagonian [1034-1041], Isaac I Komnenos [1057-1059], or Constantine X Doukas [976-1025], etc.).

Two copper coins struck in the name of Queen Tamar are among the accidental finds of Tsikhisdziri. They bear names of Tamar and David. Analogous material has been discovered in Georgia in large numbers, but these are particularly important because this is the first case of recovering Tamar's and, generally, medieval Georgian coins in south-west Georgia.

A hoard of coins (150 items) struck in the Sultanate of Rum under Kaiqubad I (1219-1236), Kaikhusru II (1237-1246) and other rulers was also discovered in Tsikhisdziri. Silver coins minted in the Sultanate of Rum (Asia Minor) in the 12th -13th centuries were widespread in Georgia, but in south-west Georgia they are only encountered at Tsikhisdziri.

Among the numismatic finds of Tsikhisdziri aspers of Trebizond and their imitations – kirmaneulis (13th -15th cc)



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