

1.6.1.2.6. The geopolitical context of the flax crop in the ancient Colchis. /D. Lomitashvili/. West Caucasus - Archaeological Context. – 2020. – #1. – pp. 13-26. – geo.; abs.: geo., eng., rus.

The finds of Nokalakevi expedition provided noteworthy material with regard to the development of flax production in Colchis. The central and eastern sections of the lower terrace of Nokalakevi city-site (where certain concentration of archaeological sites dated to the 8th -1st cc BC are observed) yielded a number of pyramidal clay weights of a vertical weaving loom alongside the spindle-whorls of many different shapes and material. Dated from the II millennium BC to the Hellenistic period including, the items obtained through archaeological excavations and listed in the present article support the opinion that the pyramidal ceramic loom weights discovered in Colchis at the sites of different period are actually the weights of vertical weaving looms. In terms of time, archaeological data give priority to the vertical looms. As far as the horizontal weaving looms are concerned, they, indeed, coexist alongside the vertical ones from a certain period. The finds revealed at Nokalakevi city-site can be considered to be another proof of the hypothesis that the Georgian weaving looms, which are characterized by originality, developed and improved over time. The process of their development did not take place separately. The looms with their original forms are among the cultural achievements of ancient peoples. Ref. 39.

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1.6.1.2.7. New Finds in Ortvala Klde; An Innovative Vision of the Paleolithic and New Objectives of Research. /N. Tushabramishvili/. West Caucasus - Archaeological Context. – 2020. – #1. – pp. 43-71. – geo.; abs.: geo., eng., rus.

The article discusses the outcomes of research which proves cohabitation of two populations – the Neanderthals and modern humans in Ortvala Klde. Yet as early as in 1994, I expressed the opinion that in Georgia there existed the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition period, and that it was possible that modern and Neanderthal humans lived simultaneously, or coexisted. The new laboratory analysis carried out abroad in the late 2018, in fact, confirmed the dates identified by me and the theoretical presumption of coexistence. In other words, as a result of substantial, multidisciplinary research it has been concluded that the Middle Paleolithic industry could belong to both the Neanderthals and the Homo sapiens. I am convinced the given definition will alter the attitude of the world prehistorians towards the industries of Middle Paleolithic. Recent research showed a necessary for conducting a repeated investigation of Georgia's paleoenvironment, conditioned by the most recent discovery of the fossil of a macaque of the Pleistocene era in the Ortvala Klde. Fig. 20, Tab. 11, Ref. 56.

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1.6.1.2.8. A review of M. Kazanski's article: the burial rites with a shield in the late antique period in the northern and eastern coast of the Black Sea. /I. Anchabadze/. West Caucasus - Archaeological Context. – 2020. – #1. – pp. 72-79. – geo.; abs.: geo., eng., rus.

In the work the author discusses several burials of the late antique period containing shield bosses (umbo) discovered on the Black Sea Coast (including the territory of Abkhazia) and several presumable provenances of so called Germanic, Thracian and Romanized Eastern traditions of placing items in burials. As a result of critical discussion of the article, based on a number of archaeological data, the given review points to the presence of strong local roots of the tradition in question. Ref. 21.

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1.6.1.2.9. Pitiakhshs in ancient Iberia. /Z. Bragvadze/. West Caucasus - Archaeological Context. – 2020. – #1. – pp. 80-93. – geo.; abs.: geo., eng., rus.

Archaeological artifacts found in Bori village in 1902 are preserved in the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. Among the material particularly interesting is a silver cup with an Aramaic inscription: 'Kind Pitiakhsh Buzmihri. The inscription revealed that the office of pitiakhsh existed in the kingdom of Iberia in Roman epoch. Indeed, it is interesting whether the burial in which the object in question was discovered was the ossuary of a pitiakhsh. The point is that generally sarcophagi or crypts are not found in Bori – there are only pit-burials there - which, in my opinion, excludes presence of the burial of a pitiakhsh here, and the rich

inventory discovered alongside the cup with the inscription does not belong to a pitiakhsh either. It is more believable that this cup is Pitiakhsh Buzmihr's gift. There are a few similar occasions known in the kingdom of Iberia in Roman period. Where exactly is the burial of Pitiakhsh Buzimih? This question has not been answered yet. Apart from other problems the article deals with the chronological order of the pitiakhshs of Armaziskhevi cemetery and leads one to an opinion that the pitiakhshs are buried only in burials 1, 2 and 3. In addition, the article looks at the problem of interrelation between the pitiakhshs' burials and the structures in Armaziskhevi and expresses an idea that the structures date to earlier period than the burials. In the 70s (no later than 75 AD) the residential area was destroyed as a result of an earthquake and since then the area was used as a cemetery of the Armaziskhevi pitiakhshs and their family members. Ref. 43.

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1.6.1.2.10. Origin and historical significance of artificial cranial deformations found in Samtavro cemetery in the Early Middle Ages. /N. Tavartkiladze/. West Caucasus - Archaeological Context. – 2020. – #1. – pp. 94-116. – geo.; abs.: geo., eng., rus.

The work is based on the research of normally and artificially deformed skulls of the Samtavro Cemetery, dating back to the period the Early Middle Ages. The skulls are now located in the anthropological research laboratory of the Ivane Javakhisvili Institute of History and Ethnology. Apart from the skulls themselves, the craniological catalogue, located in the same institute, as well as individual blank of each of the skulls was used for the research. Archaeological diary from the Georgian National Museum has also been used for the research, through which, information about the cemetery types, burial rites and artifacts was acquired. The work analyzes the types of cranial deformations, the sexual and age structures of the buried, markers of the physiological stress and anomaly frequencies in the population of this period. The inventory is also distributed between those with deformations and those without them, in order to analyze if the deformations implied being part of the elite parts of the society. There are tables distributing information about those with deformed and non-deformed skulls, based on their gender and age, which gives a clear picture of the lifespan of those with and without skull deformations. For the purpose of understanding underlying reasons for the skull deformation, historical sources have been analyzed and the reasons summarized in order to determine why the artificial deformation took place among those living in Mtskheta territory. Fig. 7, Tab. 7, Ref. 28.

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1.6.1.2.11. Human habitation in Caucasia in the Coldest and Driest Period of the Last Glaciation. /A. Gavashelishvili/. West Caucasus - Archaeological Context. – 2020. – #1. – pp. 117-132. – geo.; abs.: geo., Eng., Rus.

Since the period the modern human originated anatomically, genetic diversity was accumulated in the hereditarily transferred DNA (e.g. Y-chromosome and mitochondrial DNA), which makes it possible to estimate the ways of human origination and evolution. The research presented in the article uses the branches of Y-chromosome (or paternal branches) which originated in the period of the Last Glaciation. According to the hypothesis to be researched, the major phenomenon in the geological past which could have caused genetic differences by means of reproductive distancing of human populations (i.e. isolation) was the succession of minimal temperatures over the period of glaciation. The author's hypothesis was motivated by the fact that the dates of temperature minimums almost coincided with the times of origination of paternal branches presumed by other scholars. Consequently, it was the distribution of the biomes during these minimums that must have affected creation and dissemination of paternal branches. Fig. 1, Tab. 6, Ref. 1.

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