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GEORGIAN TERMS DESIGNATING WINE VESSELS TO BE BURIED IN THE GROUND

The Georgian terms denoting wine vessels to be buried in the ground include: *curi kvevri*, *qvibari*. Actually, these terms denote egg-shaped clay vessels of various capacity.

The Nekresi inscriptions confirm that of these terms *curi* is the most ancient (2nd-3rd cc.). In old Georgian it was a polysemantic word ('wine jar', 'vessel', 'equipment', 'decoration'). In modern Georgian *curi* is regarded as the west Georgian dialectal synonym of the literary form *kvevri*. The latter occurs from the 15th c. *Koco* and *qvibari* denote 'a small *kvevri*' in literary Georgian and the dialects.

Qvibari and *curi* are common Georgian stems. The original semantics of the root *curi*-is 'hollowness', 'container', which is represented differently in Georgian subsystems (Megr. *ckuji* - "vessel, ship"; in old Georgian *curi* was multifunctional. The latter is the basis for the modern Georgian substantive *curi* and derivatives *at urva*, *saurveli*, *ureli*). The common Georgian *qvibari**<*qubar*; 'unripe, small, immature' was of general semantics, which was realized in Kartvelian subsystems with different nuances.

Kvevri and *koco* are formed on the Georgian basis (*kvev-re*>*kveri*>*kvevri*: semantic motivation: small *curi* buried in the ground; *kve-ca*>*koca*>*koco*, by semantic transformation: earth>ground>object buried in the ground).