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OTTOMAN COINS OF 18TH –19TH CC IN THE KUTAISI N. BERDZENISHVILI HISTORICAL ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM (THE SOURCE STUDY VIEWPOINTS)

Ottoman coins of the Kutaisi museum possession embrace chronologically the late half of the 17th and 18th –19th cc. These coins are made in the following mints of the Ottoman Empire: Konstantinia, Islambul, Misri and Edirne. Coins are of silver, copper and *bilon* (= a low quality silver). Occasionally we find gold, nickel and brass. Nominals are the following: Akhcha, Para, Qurushi, Half-Qurushi, Mangiri and others. Legends on the coins are of Arabic sulsi calligraphy.

2. The spread and circulation of Ottoman coins was the direct consequence of the political situation between Georgian and the Ottoman Empire of the period. The strengthening of the Ottoman political might in the Trans-Caucasia resulted the amassing of Ottoman money in the western and southern (Samtskhe-Saatabago) provinces of Georgia in the 18th 19th cc. It was very important event for Georgia as the Ottoman coins, along with the other money, played considerable role in the country's trade and economic interactions.

Kutaisi museum numismatic funds presents interesting historical source for the study of currency systems and their flow. Classification of Ottoman coins their typological study and compilation of catalogues and defining the geographical boundaries of their circulation in Georgian will assist the further study of Georgian-Turkish relations with due consideration of political, cultural and economic aspects.