

## NATIA DARSALIA

### CENSOR FROM THE VILLAGE OF SULORI

In the artifacts found at the ancient Church of Sulori in 2001 there is a remarkable specimen of the medieval art. The vessel has reached damaged to these days. The rim is surrounded with the ornamental line. The body has three circular carved frames; within each circle there is a decorative leaves and the areas between the circles are filled with interwoven surface motifs.

The decoration found on Sulori censor has been regarded as the ornament with special symbolic meaning since the ancient times and it also presents one of the most widespread motifs in the different forms of the medieval art. Namely it is found on the façades of stone carvings of architectural monuments of the manuscripts decorations on the mural paintings, on wood carvings, on the pottery etc. I think that the ornamental images on the censor cross inserted into the circle and three leaf flowers are related to the Trinity.

The stylized floral ornaments on the censor originate from the early medieval centuries and continue to appear almost through all the period of the medieval centuries. The analogues of the ornament can be found on the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century monuments. Hence, the Sulori censor can be dated as belonging to this period.