

LIA AKHALADZE

FOR CLASSIFICATION OF SOME ISSUES OF ABKHAZIA'S EPIGRAPHIC MONUMENTS

Research process of epigraphic monuments is connected significantly with their scientific classification and systematization.

Epigraphic monuments of Abkhazia is classified according to two signs: according to exterior sign and content. According to exterior sign they can be divided into three groups: lapidary inscriptions, among them epitaphs on tombs – about 50 inscriptions; mural inscriptions – about 30 inscriptions, (among them some are survived fragmentally); embossed inscriptions - about 20 inscriptions.

Lapidary inscriptions may be divided into two groups: hard carved out inscriptions and scratched inscriptions. They belong to the first group. According to the content among the epigraphic monuments of Abkhazia we meet inscriptions with building, memorial and juridical character.

On the basis of classification of epigraphic monuments of Abkhazia it turned out that in this region we meet all kinds of inscriptions confirmed in Georgian epigraphy except mosaic inscriptions which are very rarity. Every type of inscriptions has its peculiarities that confirms their local origin and great traditions of Georgian writing culture in Abkhazia.