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ON *PESHKHUMI*, A RELIGIOUS TERM

A small-legged dish made of a noble metal used during the divine service is called 'discos' ('roundness') in Greek.

In the Georgian translated liturgical literature we find the term denoting a sacred vessel from 9th century. Old Georgian written records have the word *peshkhumi* with the meaning of vessel in general use.

In Greek household and sacral vessels differ from each other.

The lexical unit *peshkhumi* and verb forms derived from this word were widely spread in Georgian. Both in the old religious texts and later in the fiction and dialects the word can be found with variety of forms, as /*pesho*//*peshkho*//*peshkhvi*, with the meaning of cut up meat.

In Georgian the verbs: *peshkhva*//*daeshkhoeba*// (*peshkhavs*// *akhpeshkhavs*// *gakhpeshkhavs*) mean to cut up in small pieces, i.e. preparing meat for the dish to serve to the table. And the term *peshkhumi* // *peshkhueni*, means flat round wooden piece, or low round table or basket (A.Glonti, 1974, K.Dzotsenidze, 1974).

M.Andronikashvili relates *peshkhumi* to '*partskhali*' from Ossetian *persk* meaning 'rib', Georgian *pertskh*.

I think that the given term *peshkhumi*//*peshkhvani* //*peshkhueni* should be originated from the middle Persian "*pishkhan*", a composed word of two elements: *pish* (*adv*)- 'in front of' and *khan*(*noun*) meaning 1. 'table with food,' 2. 'big wooden tray', 3. a stand for fixing Koran to read.