

## BICHIKO DIASAMIDZE

### LINGUO-CULTURAL SITUATION IN THE EARLY MEDIEVAL EGRISI

The recent years' discoveries of the Georgian archaeologists in the Aragvi Valley (Davati Stone Cross), in Kvareli region (Nekresi inscriptions), in Mtskheta, Dmanisi, Pichvnari, Tsebelda and elsewhere provides novel information about the development of the Georgian script, and about many important issues, among them the relationships of Georgia with her neighboring countries.

The discovery of the Georgian capital script (*mtavruli*) of Nekresi, the ancient town, in I century and on the bas-relief of Tsebelda in the IV century makes it an indisputable fact that in the initial centuries of the new era east and west Georgia was one wholesome space in terms of language, script and the way of life. Therefore I deem groundless the opinion dominated in the modern historiography about the Greek language functioning here in the early medieval centuries and about so-called late *Kartization* (Georgianization) of Egrisi. If we agree the Kartization theory, then we refute the existence of the unified Georgian ethnic and cultural space in the early medieval centuries that openly contradicts the historical reality. My argument is also confirmed by the fact that refereeing to Kolhketi or Iberia foreign authors also in most cases meant the entire Georgia.