

## MZIAKHAKHUTAISHVILI

### AMULET IN "DEDABRULI HANDWRITING"

The necessity of writing in "Dedabruli kheli" (old womanly hand) was stipulated by historical reality caused by Ottoman domination. This type of script was mostly used by women in Muslim population. "Dedabruli kheli" is unique due to its graphical features and the principles of secrecy.

The latest researches on this type of manuscripts allowed us to make many interesting conclusions. It is interesting both from paleographical and linguistic point of view. A manuscript by "Dedabruli kheli" was recently discovered in the village of Kobuleti. It once again reaffirmed the tradition of this type of writing in Adjara and Kobuleti. It is the largest size handwriting in "dedabruli kheli".

The text is written on paper; it is folded in a square proving its purpose once more. Some parts of the paper are damaged while other parts are sewed with the thread. From the text we understand that the handwriting is an amulet. Graphic specificities of the text are created by modified graphics and the style of writing – without intervals and punctuation.

There are different types of curing charms in the "amulets" kept in Kobuleti museum. One of the agricultural charms is also found. The entire text of the manuscript is full of Christian elements. There are passages from the Gospels. Various prophets are cited in the amulets.

Amulets show boundless worship of St. George. The list of chapels of St. George situated in Imereti, Guria and Kobuleti are mentioned in the amulets. Most of these chapels no longer exist, thus the information mentioned in handwritings is very important and valuable for historians, in general, and church historians, in particular.

Graphical features found in the manuscript are similar to those in other manuscripts written in "dedabruli kheli". The research on this type of manuscript has clearly shown that the graphical symbols of "dedabruli" writing are based on "Mkhedruli" script. Its original alphabet is obtained through modification of "Mkhedruli" script.

The ancient Georgian lexical items, grammatical forms and dialectal vocabulary are attested in the manuscript.