

**NOMADI BARTAIA**  
**ON THE TERM (LARI)**  
**DENOTING A MONETARY UNIT**

Since the twelfth century the term **Lari** has been attested in the Georgian literary monuments mainly with two connotations: 1. treasure, 2. a cord made from the intestines of certain animals.

Lari as a currency of Georgia was proposed by Academician Vasil Chantladze on the first day of Georgia's declaration of independence in 1991, being further issued into circulation from 1995.

Apparently, the noun **salaro** (treasure) derived from **Lar-i** has acquired the meaning that it currently holds in the Georgian language, denoting the place (i.e. kacca, cash desk) for preserving money rather than valuables. That must have occurred after the nineteenth century since until that time **salaro** only referred to a place for storing treasure.

In Safavid Iran (16th – 18th cc.) **Lari** as the currency unit was in circulation in trade and was printed in the city of Lar in Iran, where the name of the currency originates. However, no connection has been identified between the Georgian and Iranian Lar. They seem to be a mere homonyms.