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**GRAVESTONES MARKED ACCORDING  
TO SOCIAL/OCCUPATIONAL MARKERS  
IN WESTERN GEORGIA  
(ACCORDING TO EXPEDITION MATERIALS)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Gravestones are the most widespread monuments of memorial culture that have been used since ancient times, existing in various forms, ranging from untreated stone to those reflecting complex scenes and remarkable ornaments.

According to our materials, a large part of stone ornaments represents economic as well as craftsman tools, weapons, heavenly bodies, floral and geometric ornaments, and Christian symbols. Different occupational metaphors are used in different historical and ethnographic regions of Georgia, which, once again, verifies the development of particular fields of the economy in the given territory. For instance, gravestones display the reflection of a sheep shearing tool, a weaving loom, work equipment, etc.

As provided by the materials obtained in Western Georgia, the gravestones demonstrate occupations marked in the following three ways: 1. as statues, 2. graphically; as a drawing, 3. verbally (grave inscriptions).

All three types of gravestones occur both in the past and in the present. The extant culture of grave arrangement in Georgia reflects the sphere of public life, occupation, social institution, and so on. The tradition is more or less maintained, however, it can fade away as today epitaphs are rare, as headstone inscriptions mention only names and surnames.

**Keywords:** Georgian Ethnography, Tombstone, Epitaph, Statue.