of the necorpoleis of various periods in the **Cemesskaja Valley** and surroundings of **Novorossijsk**, including the long-lived site and necropolis of **Myschako** (jointly with A.N. Gej and E.I. Savčenko, 1990–1991, 2000). Myschako is the largest of the Gr-period sites in the area between Anapa and Gelendžik. An expedition of the Novorossijsk Museum (A.V. Šišlov) has conducted rescue excavations of a Cl and Byz flat grave necropolis near the village of **Južnaja Ozerejka**. In 2008, surveys and small-scale rescue excavations were carried out by a team of the East Bosporos Expedition at a number of Gr-period sites in the region of **Gelendžik** (N.I. Sudarev and O.D. Čevelev).

GEORGIA (Fig. 28)

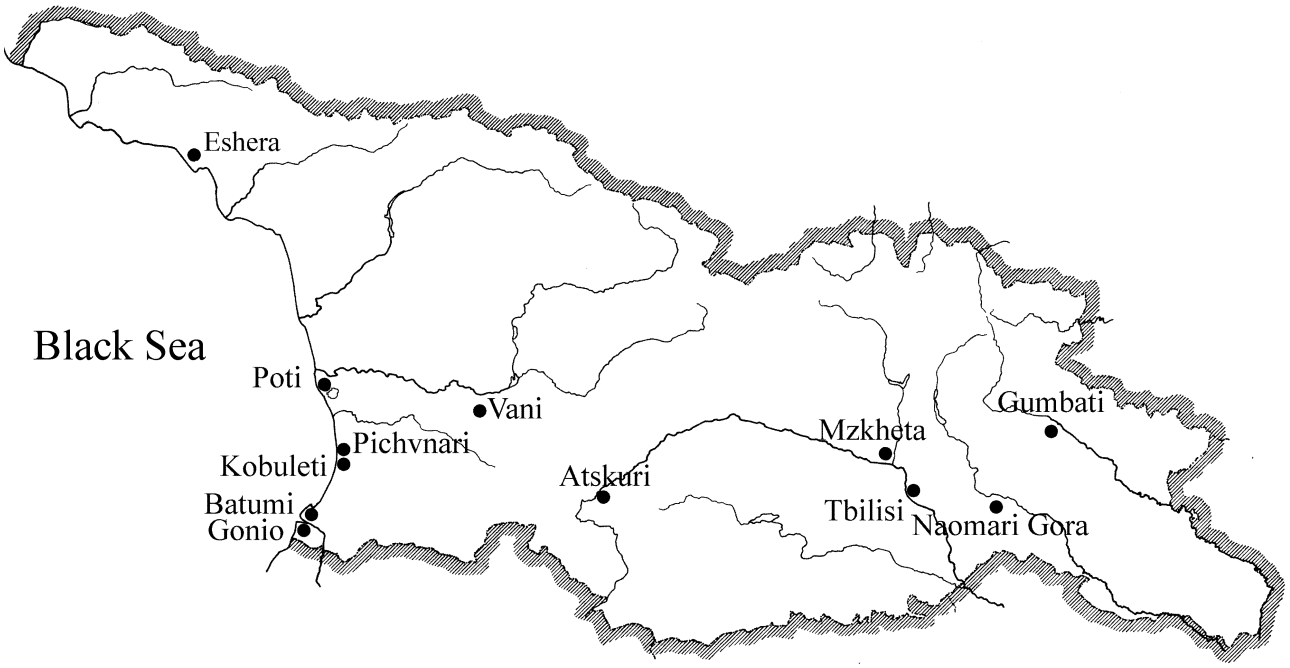
In the first years of the period under discussion, Georgia suffered from civil war and, consequently, shortage of fuel, food and other basic necessities. This affected the archaeological community, so that almost no major excavations or publications could be undertaken.

The main institution conducting archaeological fieldwork is the Otar Lordkipanidze Centre for Archaeological Research of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, which carries out work in several counties. The Georgian National Museum is the head of a network of museums, which take care of the cultural heritage of Georgia. The current director is D. Lordkipanidze, the former excavator at Dmanissi. Teaching of Cl subjects is the responsibility of Tbilisi State University's Department of Classical Studies, with Prof. R. Gordesiani as its Director. See the institute's homepage (www.greekstudies.caucasus.net) for further information.

In general, archaeological fieldwork has followed the lines given in the previous report (Kacharava 1990–1991). Most of the local archaeologists have continued their projects until now. The later 1990s saw several collaborations between Western and Georgian researchers. A notable example is the Pichvnari Project, led by A. Kakhidze (Batumi) in collaboration with M. Vickers (Oxford). The German universities of Halle and Tübingen have conducted excavations at EIA sites in E Georgia (Furtwängler and Knauß 1997; Furtwängler, Knauß and Motzenbäcker 1998 for Ciskaraant Gora and others; Korfmann *et al*. 1999; 2004 for Naomari Gora). From 1998 onwards, new local publications have appeared, mostly written in Georgian, but regularly furnished with short summaries in Western languages. The construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline in 2002–2005 made a series of rescue excavations necessary along its route. The pipeline project offered a substantial amount of money to Georgian archaeology. This and the improved economic situation led to a much needed reconstruction of archaeological museums and sites. An important attempt to write a general survey of the Gr and Rom history of Georgia was made by D. Braund in 1994 (Braund 1994).

New periodicals

Since 1999, *Dziebani – Journal of the Centre for Archaeological Studies* has been issued roughly twice a year. This journal, with supplementary volumes, provides the quickest and most complete insight into Georgian archaeological projects and fieldwork. Thus, it has replaced the series *PAI* (*Polevye Archaeologičeskie Issledovanija*) from the 1970s and 1980s, covering all PH, antique and Med periods. The articles are written in Georgian, but due to figures and summaries in international languages, *Dziebani* is a most important working tool. Since 2004, and published completely in English, the *Journal of Georgian Archaeology* is a supplement to *Dziebani*. Since 1999, the Department of Classical Studies of the Tbilisi State University has published the international journal *PHASIS*, accompanied by the journal *LOGOS* since 2003. In 2000, the Batumi Museum, Batumi being Georgia's most important Black Sea port, released its own series of reports, *Batumi Archaeological Museum. The Works.* The articles are written in Georgian, with English or Russian summaries.



28. Georgia

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Eshera
From 2003–2006, excavations at the settlement of Eshera N of Suchumi were carried out by the expeditions of the Abkhazian Institute for Humanities Research (Suchumi) and the State Museum of Oriental Art (Moscow) (Erlich *et al*. in print). A layer of construction debris dating to the 1st quarter of the 6th Ct BC was found. The pottery contained a number of E Gr vessels including some in Wild Goat Style. Nearby, a L Kolchian necropolis dating from the end of the 5th–1st half of the 4th Ct BC was investigated. Constructions from the Hel period in the E part of the fortified site have been examined. An indigenous settlement on the nearby Vereščagin hill was also investigated. Both sites were destroyed by fire in the 1st Ct BC and ceased to exist.

Remains of a rich warrior burial dated to the Ar period were discovered SE of Eshera by Kutyščha in 2005. The assemblage contained a very interesting cuirass consisting of a breast-piece made from a hammered bronze sheet and 3,000 oval bronze scales, each with 2 holes. This is the first find of its kind in the region. Together with the cuirass, an iron axe, an *akinaks* dagger and arrowheads of iron were found. Fragments of 2 E Gr rosette bowls were found in the tomb, suggesting a date in the 1st half of the 6th Ct BC (V.R. Erlich *et al*. http://www.arcaucasica.ru/index.php3?path=_english/publication_report&source=erlikh_elite_assemblages).

Phasis
The Gr colony of Phasis was founded probably towards the end of the 7th Ct BC by Milesian colonists. Several missions have tried to find remains of the city, but have failed due to the very complicated maritime and alluvial conditions in the coastal wetland of mod. Poti and the mouth of the River Rioni. The best suggestion for the city's location is still the bank of Lake Paliastomi or somewhere underneath its waters, where ruins of the L antique period have been found, as already reported by D. Kacharava (1990–1991, 79).

Pichvnari
Excavation in the necropolis of Pichvnari, foremost dated to the 5th–4th Ct BC, has been continued as a joint venture between the Batumi Archaeological Museum and the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. A bilingual publication was issued in 2004 (Vickers and Kakhidze 2004). Following the traditional interpretation, 2 geographically separated parts of the necropolis have been identified as different burial areas for a Kolchian and a Gr community at the site. As the differences between the grave goods are not very strict and the internal structure of the large settlement itself remains practically unknown, this interpretation has met with some criticism. Nevertheless, the documentation of 300 burials from the Cl, Hel and LRom periods offers the best material for social studies so far available in the region. The most recent additional volume to the one cited above refers to the results of 20 years of excavation prior to 1987 (Kakhidze 2007). Unfortunately the text is mostly written in Georgian.

Apsaros (Gonio)
In a joint Georgian and German project (University of Jena) the Rom fortress of Gonio near Batumi, Apsaros in Cl and Byz times, has been explored and excavated (Plontke-Lüning 2005, 133). The most important outcome of the project is the accurate mapping of the fortress and its surroundings. The site was settled from the 8th–7th Ct BC until Ot times, but certainly had its heyday from the Neronian period onwards, when the castrum was built as part of the E Rom defence system. To date, the main publications of the recent fieldwork are those by A. Geyer and S. Mamuladze (2002); and A. Plontke-Lüning (2005).

Vani
During the period under report, excavation was carried on at the major Kolchian site of Vani. Several exceptional richly furnished burials excavated earlier witness the administrational and probably religious importance of the site from the 5th Ct BC onwards. In 2004, another spectacular burial, grave 24, was discovered in the settlement of Vani (Kacharava and Kvirkvelia 2008, 175) (**Fig. 29**). It can be dated to the later 4th Ct BC by a Pantikapaian coin providing a *tpq* after 330. According to the position of the grave goods and skeletal remains, 5 individuals and a horse can be distinguished. An enormously richly equipped 'lord' was followed by 4 'servants' into the grave. He was clad in a garment adorned with gold appliqués and innumerable glass beads. Additionally, he wore a large collection of granulated golden jewellery and bracelets in the Persian style. A silver belt decorated with a symposium scene and an iron spearhead lay near the corpse, as well as a collection of silver, bronze and Gr clay vessels designed for aristocratic banqueting. A Neo-Babylonian seal is a particularly remarkable object that witnesses the connection of the deceased to the Achaemenid imperial administration. Governmental practices of the Persian Empire were certainly imitated in Kolchis. The precious new finds underline the position of Vani as an independent indigenous centre with strong contacts to the Greeks and even more so with the Persian world. It is important to note that Vani was neither a Gr colony nor part of the Persian Empire. The prosperous period of the 4th Ct BC just predates the transformation of the, until then, wooden settlement into a sanctuary site with impressive stone architecture.



29. Vani: the rich grave 24 dated to the later 4th Ct BC discovered in the settlement in 2004

Atskuri
Under the direction of V. Licheli, excavations have continued in the complicated site of Atskuri in S Georgia (Licheli 2007, 55). Only graves dating to the 7th–E6th Ct BC and the 4th and 3th Cts have been observed so far. Architectural remains are restricted to the period of the 6th–4th Ct, which corresponds roughly to the Achaemenid period, and occur again in later Hel and Rom times. Most remarkable are a number of grave goods that copy prestigious Persian items in cheaper materials, such as clay copies of an Achaemenid phiale and an ovoid flask originally designed in precious metal, as well as several locally made seal stones with indigenous motives. Obviously, the inhabitants of the upper Kura Valley, which sits at a major connection route between the Black Sea and the Persian province in E Transcaucasia, attempted to use Persian symbols and customs

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at the lowest imaginable level. Nevertheless, they had access to a little Gr bf and bg pottery as well, brought in from the Kolchian coast.

Mzkheta

In 2001, the remarkable grave of an elderly woman in her 50s was discovered under the foundations of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral in Mzkheta, the anc. capital of E Georgia. By her signet ring bearing a portrait, title and name she has been identified as a queen. Bestowed in the grave with her were golden jewellery, cosmetic vessels made of jade and a unique, large silver-gilt pencil case. On its front it shows the 9 Muses in high relief and on its back Homer, Menander and Demosthenes decorate a balcony-like pocket in which the golden ink pot was inserted. The flat body of the case, with silver quill pens inside, can be closed by a golden lid with an inscription worked *à jour*. The inscription informs us that the object belonged to the kings Ustamos and Eugenios who are otherwise unattested. The burial can be dated roughly to the 3rd–4th Ct AD, even if some objects are certainly older. Unfortunately the grave has not entered international publication yet. Preliminary information is available at www.magticom.ge/magazine/2002-4/2002-4-7.html.

Gumbati

In 1996, a team from the University of Halle excavated a unique 40m x 40m mud-brick building at Gumbati near Gurjaani in E Georgia. Its characteristic plan and fragments of at least 5 bell-shaped column bases suggest a genuine Achaemenid residence probably built for a minor local governor (**Fig. 30**). According to the architectural style and the dating of the pottery finds, the small palace was probably constructed at the end of the 5th or the beginning of the 4th Ct BC. Similar and even much larger structures have been discovered at Sari Tepe and Qaradjamirli in Azerbaijan, as well as at Benjamin in Armenia (Knauss 2006, 104). Together with the Achaemenid palaces at Eribouni (Erevan) and Argishtichinili (Artvin), they form the administrative network of the 13th Persian district mentioned by Herodotos (3.93).

TURKEY

N Turkey still remains one of the least explored parts of the Black Sea area. However, while very few investigations were carried out throughout much of the 20th Ct, things have begun to change over the past 15 years when a number of excavation and survey projects have been initiated. In addition to the coastal cities, a number of inland sites have been included in this report since the area in the Hel and Rom periods clearly formed part of the same political entity.

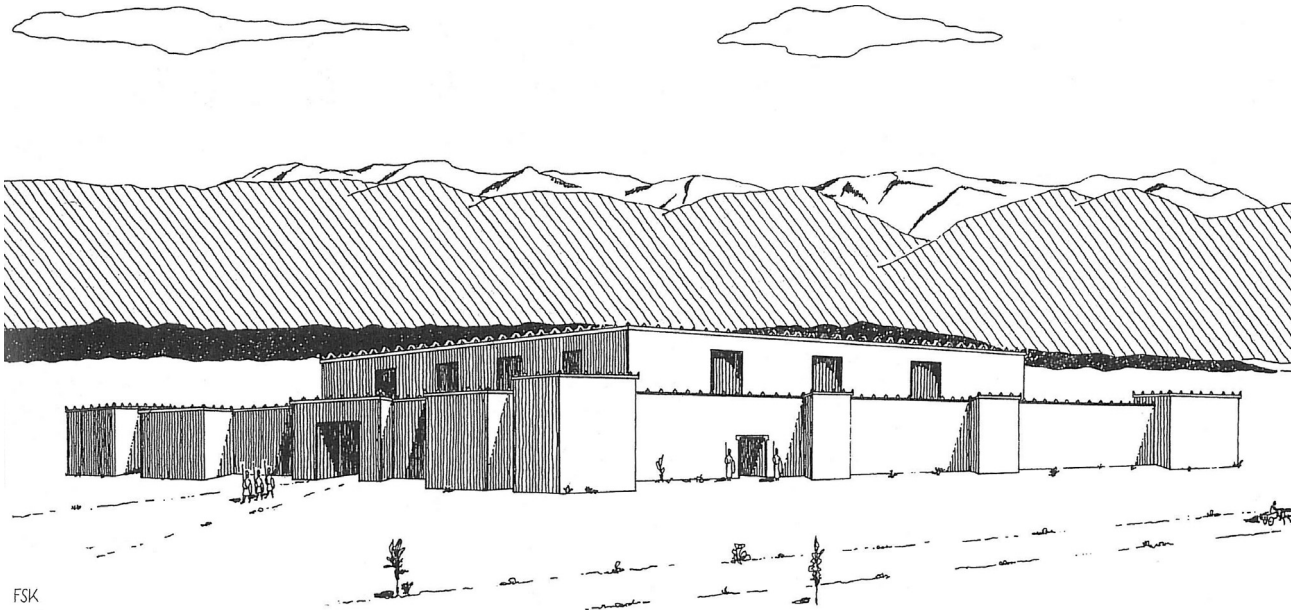
Three important monographs on the Pontic Kingdom and Mithridates VI in particular have appeared (Ballesteros-Pastor 1996; Saprykin 1996d; Erciyas 2006). The first 2 mainly treat the literary sources, while the latter incorporates archaeological material and recent survey results.

The bibliography by O. Tekin (1993) includes previous numismatic studies in N Turkey. F. de Callataÿ's (1997) study of the coinage of Mithridates VI has revealed a clear correlation between the frequency of issues and military activities during the Mithridatic Wars. Callataÿ (2005) has also made important contributions to the study of the bronze municipal coins of the Pontic cities, adding new types to Imhoof-Blumer's classification and proposing a new dating scheme. Coins of the Gr cities are included in the publications of the British Museum (Price 1993) and the Stancomb Collection (Stancomb 2000), while the Rom coin types appear in the ongoing *Roman Provincial Coinage* project (online database: http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/).

A fine, well-illustrated introduction to Rom rule in the provinces of Pontus and Bithynia is offered by C. Marek (2003), who has also made an in-depth study of the cities and their territories (1993). The Bithynian Kingdom is treated by Gabelko (2005).

Trapezous (Trabzon)

Salvage excavation in the city has revealed architectural elements dated to the 2nd–4th Ct AD: bases, architraves, friezes and a Corinthian capital (Kaya 1999). The most interesting find is an over life-size Hel bronze statue of a young male, identified by the excavator as Hermes.



30. Gumbati: reconstruction of the Persian palace

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