

## **For the Problem of Cultural Interconnections of the North-West Iran and Transcaucasia in the First Half of the II Millennium BC**

**Autor:** Marine Puturidze

The paper devoted to the special study of the certain type of pottery assemblage which appears a distinguishable, a line style production for the Transcaucasia. Those territory where widely was represented such non-traditional style ceramics includes the eastern and southern Georgia, Armenia, partially Azerbaijan and eastern Turkey. Intensive concentration of these items recorded at the southern part of Transcaucasia and north from the border of lower (Kvemo) and inner (Shida) Kartli they are practically disappearing. Exactly such specific radiation of the black-red so-called “water-scheme motif” painted ware and, on the other hand, foresee that such patterns was one of the characteristic features of the clay production of north-western Iran, gave a real cause to assume that they were distributed from the Urmia Basin region toward the northern direction.

Geo-cultural interaction Transcaucasia and north-west Iran counts, approximately, more than six millennium history and its roots goes back as early as to the developed stage of the Early Bronze Age Kura-Araxes culture. This culture of the mid IV<sup>th</sup> – mid III<sup>rd</sup> millenniums BC obviously covers the wider part of Caucasus and also more far distancing different areas of the Near East and among them north-west Iran. This cultural connections with ancient territory of Iran were prolonged until the 2400 BC, i.e., when the new, Bedeni culture was appeared in south Caucasus. No one artifact of the Bedeni culture’s archaeological context until now doesn’t record at the territory of Iran. Consequently, during around the 300 years of time-interval scholars can’t argue in favor of continuity of the interrelation between the above-mentioned regions.

An interesting for us period of the interconnection between the southern regions of Transcaucasia and north-west Iran again was renewed at the II, developed phase of the Middle Bronze Age which started from the 21<sup>st</sup> century BC and was lasted until the end of this period, i.e., Trialeti Culture of Brilliant Kurgans.

The Trialeti culture appears most famous with the specific painted pottery ware of so-called “water-scheme motif” which indicate in favor Transcaucasia – north-west Iran cultural relationship. These ceramic assemblage with the similar style shape and decoration are closely related with those known from the Vani-Urmia basin region.

In presented paper we give an attempt to clarify the origin of the mentioned style painted pottery in Transcaucasia and discuss about their roots.