On Salt, Copper, and Gold:
The Origins of Early Mining and Metallurgy in the Caucasus

International Conference, Tbilisi June 16th -19th 2016
Under the auspices of the Georgian National Museum

16th June: The 1st day of the conference is dedicated to the memory of Archaeologist Dr. Othar Gambashidze

10.00 – 10.45h Welcome ceremony
Prof. Dr. D. Lordkipanidze

Remembering Georgian Archaeologists Dr. Othar Gambashidze, Dr. Rostom Abramishvili and Dr. Elguja Gogadze

The Introductory part

10.45-11.15h C. Marro: Technological innovations: a key-concept for interpreting change during the 5th-4th millennia BCE in the Caucasus

11.15h-11.45h T. Stöllner: Peoples approach to raw material resources: the case of the prehistoric Caucasus in its wider context

11.45-12.15h A. Hauptmann: Caucasian Metallurgy in its Near Eastern Context

12.15-12.45h A. Harding: Prehistoric production of rock salt

12.45-13.45h Break

Part I: Early Mining in the Caucasus


14.45-15.15h C. Marro: *The function of ceramic containers in Caucasian early mines: the examples of Duzdağı (Azerbaijan) and Sakdrisi (Georgia)*

15.15-15.45h Break

15.45-16.15h N. Otkhvani: *The ceramic assemblages of Sakdrisi and Dzedzvebi*

16.00-16.30h C. Hamon: *Salt exploitation technics during the Early Bronze age in Caucasus: technology and use-wear of the macrolithic tools from Duzdağı and Kültepe 1 (Nakhchivan)*

16.45-17.15h K. Tamazashvili: Prehistoric *Mining Implements from Georgia*

**Opening of the Exhibition: New Discoveries – Georgian Archaeology**

* The Gold of Sakdrisi: *Man’s first gold mining enterprise. Presentation of a temporal exhibition about Sakdrisi*

* Ananauri Kurgan –Bronze age elite grave

Exhibition is dedicated to the 95th Anniversary of Academician Othar Japaridze

17th of June: **Conference 2nd day** is dedicated to the Archaeologist Dr. Rostom Ambramishvili

Part II: Early metallurgy in the Caucasus and beyond

9.00-9.30h S. Hansen: *The Rise of early metallurgy in the 5th and 4th millennium*

9.30-10.00h A. Hauptmann, S. Klein, M. Jansen, S. La Niece, R. Zettler: *Ur and its (precious) metals: evidence for intercultural connections in the later 3rd millennium BC*

10.00-10.30h B. Helwing: *Patterns of early metallurgy on the Iranian plateau*

10.30-11.00h Break

11.00-11.30h N. Nezafati: *Recent Developments in Ancient Mining and Archaeometallurgy in Central Iran*

11.30-12.00h N. Gailhard, A. Hauptmann: *The beginning of extractive metallurgy in Nakhchivan (Azerbaijan): the archaeometallurgical evidence from OvçularTepesi and Zirinçlik*

12:00-12.30h K. Meliksetian, E. Pernicka: *On the origins of Chalcolithic and Kura-Araxes metallurgy of Armenia.*
12.30-13.30h Break

13.30-14.00h D. Wolf, R. Kunze: *Archaeological and archaeogeological studies in Gegharkunik (Eastern Armenia)*

14.00-14.30h A. Courcier: *The metallurgical copper development of the ancient cultures in the Kura River basin (Georgia, Azerbaijan), from the 5th to the 3rd millennia BC*

14.30-15.00h M. Jansen, A. Hauptmann: *Geochemistry of Transcaucasian Gold Artifacts between the 4th and 2nd Millennia BC*

15.00-15.30h Break

15.30-16.00h B. Jalilov, M. Ragimova: *Metallurgy and metalwork of underground chamber culture ot the Kura-Araxes tribes*

16.00-16.30h Z. Makharadze, N. Kalandadze: *Ananauri Kurgan No.3. New Data*

16.30-17.00h R. Badalyan: *The exploitation of mineral resources in Armenia in the Early Bronze Age: obsidian, metal, salt*

Public lecture at the Georgian National Museum

19.30h M. Frangipane: *Arslantepe and the Kura-Araxes world: Pastoralism, Metallurgy and Resource Procurement in the Upper-Euphrates Region*

Reception in the Georgian National Museum

18th of June: Conference 3rd day is dedicated to Archaeologist Dr. Elguja Gogadze

Part III: Early mining and metallurgy in the Caucasus within their broader economic context

9.30-10.00h B. Lyonnet, FarhadGuliyev: *The use of natural resources at Menteş Tepeduring the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age*

10.00-10.30h G. Gogochuri: *The Kura-Araxes sites of the Eastern Georgian highlands and their research perspectives.*

10.30-11.00h Break
11.00-11.30h R. Berthon: The role of herding strategies in the exploitation of natural resources by early mining communities in the Caucasus

11.30-12.00h N. Boenke: First archaeobotanical results from early mining sites in the Caucasus region

12.00-12.30h G. Palumbi, P. Avetisyan, I. Kalantarian, C. Chataigner, A. Balasescu, O. Barge, J. Chahoud, R. Hovsepyan, K. Meliksetian: Early Pastoralism and Natural Resource Management: Recent Research at Godedzor

12.30-13.30h Break

13.30-14.00h C. Longford, A. Sagona: Agricultural resources in the highlands, perspectives from SosHöyük and Chobareti

14.00-14.30h J. Thomalsky: Obsidian tool production in the Southern Caucasus of the 5-4th millennium BCE: technology, typology and socio-cultural implications

14.30-15.00h E. Herrscher: Prehistoric dietary practices patterns in the Southern Caucasus: insights from stable isotopes studies

15.00-15.30h Break

15.30-16.00h S. Hansen: Final remarks

16.00-17.00h Final Discussion