ON THE DATING OF BURIAL NO. 13 IN THE BESHTASHENI BURIAL-GROUND*

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Burial No. 13 in the Beshtasheni Burial-Ground is of special interest and to this day it attracts the attention of scholars since this is one of the most ancient sites in Caucasus containing iron. In his day B.A. Kuftin determined the earliest date for the ancient burials in Beshtasheni as the 12\textsuperscript{th}-11\textsuperscript{th} century BC [18, p. 70].

On the basis of comparative dating of the sites in Eastern Georgia of the Late Bronze Age, R.M. Abramishvili dated the earliest burials at Beshtasheni containing iron to the 14\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th} centuries and Burial 13 to a time near the very end of the 14\textsuperscript{th} or the beginning of the 13\textsuperscript{th} century [1, p. 319].

The date of this burial was re-examined by A.I. Ivantchik in connection with his study of Caucasian and Near-Eastern bronze helmets. He dated this burial to the 13\textsuperscript{th}-12\textsuperscript{th} centuries BC [15, p. 208].

According to the archive materials in the State Historical Museum of Georgia, burial complex No. 13 contained the following objects\textsuperscript{1}: ceramic black-/bullet red vessels (Figure I, 19-26), an iron knife with two bronze small nails at the top (17) and several bronze articles: a dagger with a handle (11), the end of a spear with an open bush with two holes in its lower part (1), thinly plated arrow-heads with a shaft; a pin with five small knobs on it (18); a sickle (4); a belt (12); a helmet (6); a small pin with five knobs on a cone-shaped head (2); a temple pendant with a twist of one and a half turns (15); a smooth bracelet; pincers (16); a stone chisel (9), a bone object of unspecified function (8, 10) bone beads (13) and cornelian (14) beads.

Among the cornelian beads there is one oval in shape and with six facets (Figure I, 14): its crucial importance for absolute chronology has been demonstrated by R.M. Abramishvili\textsuperscript{2} [1, pp. 320-321]. Six-facetted cornelian beads are found

\textsuperscript{a} The Figures were compiled on the basis of unpublished drawings by R.M. Abramishvili, apart from Figure III, 1.

\textsuperscript{1} The bronze reel published by V.A. Kuftin [17, Plate XLVII] comes from Burial No. 35, not Burial No. 13.

\textsuperscript{2} The absolute date for six-facetted cornelian beads has been defined by R.M. Abramishvili as the 13\textsuperscript{th}-12\textsuperscript{th} centuries BC on the basis of the fact that the six-facetted cornelian bead in Burial No. 1 from the Lchashen Burial-ground was found with a bronze trident, for which an exact parallel was

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Fig. 1. Burial complex from the Beshtasheni Burial-ground.