

Epigraphic Corpus of Georgia @EAGLE 2016, Rome



The Institute of Linguistic Research,
Iliia State University

Inscriptions found in Georgia are diverse in their typology, content and language. From among this range perhaps the most compelling examples are those inscriptions in Aramaic and Old Greek (numbering more than 1000), and dating from V AC to XIX (T. Kauhkhishvili 2009.) None of these have been published online according to the EpiDoc guidelines. Thanks to a year's funding from The Institute of Linguistic Research of the Iliia State University (ISU), the "Epigraphic Corpus of Georgia Project", led by Prof. Nino Doborjginidze, began on March 1st 2015. It aims to make the first, key 30 inscriptions available to both a scholarly audience and to the general public. It presents an opportunity to question the strict practice of the "print-only" publishing of epigraphic materials among Georgian epigraphists.

Objectives

A desired outcome of the digital publishing of the inscriptions of Georgia is, on the one hand, to preserve those inscriptions and likewise to preserve editions of these inscriptions that were made by Georgian experts from 1930s onwards, although only a few of these were published in international scientific journals because of the Soviet restrictions.

Thus the aims of the project can be summarized thus:

- to protect these inscriptions as an element of our cultural heritage
- to document the printed critical editions of the inscriptions, which likewise constitute a part of that cultural heritage
- to demonstrate and illustrate common, historical-cultural contexts(e.g. the Ancient world, the Byzantine culture...)

Choosing inscriptions

We decided to publish the oldest inscriptions in Greek, Aramaic and Armenian, and also those Georgian inscriptions which aptly demonstrate the development of the Georgian language and its scripts:

- Armazi Bilingual (Greek and Aramaic texts)
- The Inscription of Vespasian from Mtskheta
- The Bolnisi inscriptions (Six inscriptions on Bolnisi Sioni Cathedral facade are written in the Georgian Asomtavruli script and are dated 494 AD. They document a certain stage of the old Georgian language, the so called 'Khanmeti' period of Georgian (V-VII AD); Twelve inscriptions on stele and stone crosses)
- The Ateni inscriptions (eight inscriptions including verse forms and the first proven examples of two other Georgian scripts 'Nuskhuri' and 'Mkhedruli').
- The Ukangori inscriptions (three inscriptions)
- Tskise (the oldest inscription, with date 619 AD, documenting some grammatical peculiarities of old Georgian of the 'Haemeti' period (VII-VII AD))
- The Mtskheta Jvari inscriptions (six inscriptions, one of them 'Khanmeti')

Mark up of the texts and Linked data

All meta data and texts are marked up in XML according to the EpiDoc guidelines. HTTP URI-s are used in:

1. the description of object type and material:

```
<objectType ref="http://www.eagle-network.eu/voc/objtyp/lod/250">Stele</objectType><material ref="http://www.eagle-network.eu/voc/material/lod/16">Basalt</material>
```

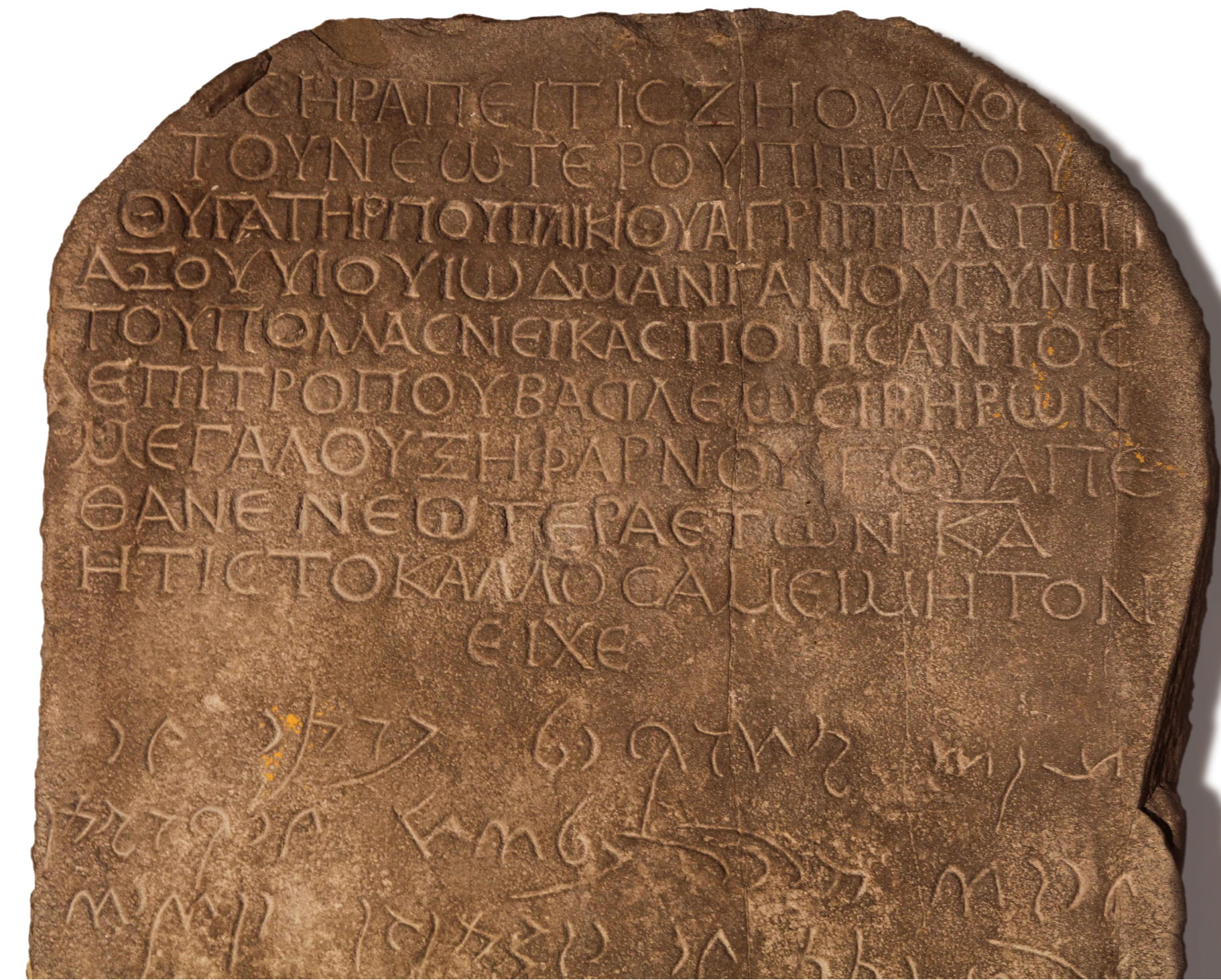
2. the description of placename:

```
<placeName type="ancientFindspot" ref="http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/863746">Armazi</placeName>
```

3. the description of photos:

```
<facsimile><graphic url="https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Armazi_Bilingual.jpg"><desc><ref type="licence" target="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en">Pictures are available </ref></desc></graphic></facsimile>
```

New photo documentation and web page - epigraphy.iliauni.edu.ge

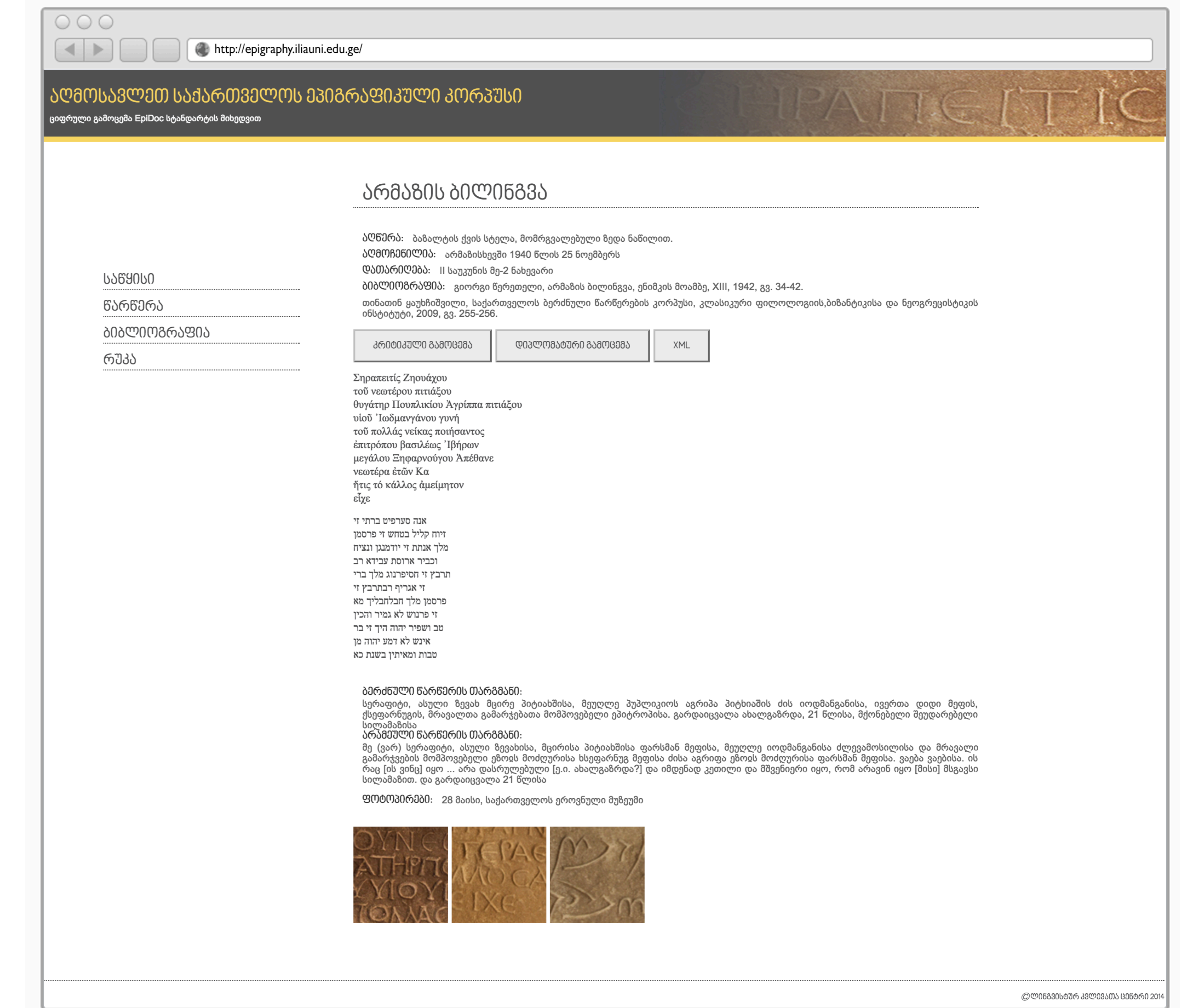


(1) Armazi bilingual, The National Museum of Georgia, May 2014.

The high-resolution photo documentation has been made for this edition and can be observed in the diplomatic and critical editions of the listed inscriptions. Photos were taken in the lapidary repository of The National Museum of Georgia (1) and on archeological sites (2).



(2) Bolnisi inscription, Bolnisi Sioni Cathedral, Georgia. October, 2015.



Web page is being built on Asp.Net MVC technology. Database is Sql, for UI we use Html5, css3 javascript technologies. The Georgian-English Web page will be available on epigraphy.iliauni.edu.ge in December 2015.

Making font for 'Armazuli' Aramaic

In our corpus, the Aramaic text of the Armazi Bilingual, which was presented in all previous printed and online publications with a Hebrew transcription, is documented with standard Unicode characters of Imperial Aramaic initiated by Everson in 2007 (Everson 2007). In the diplomatic edition, this text can be seen with the exact shapes of "Armazuli Aramaic" - as the inscription has all 33 letters of the alphabet, we were able to match them with the Imperial Aramaic Unicode characters).



“ I am Serapit, daughter of ”