



WEAPON



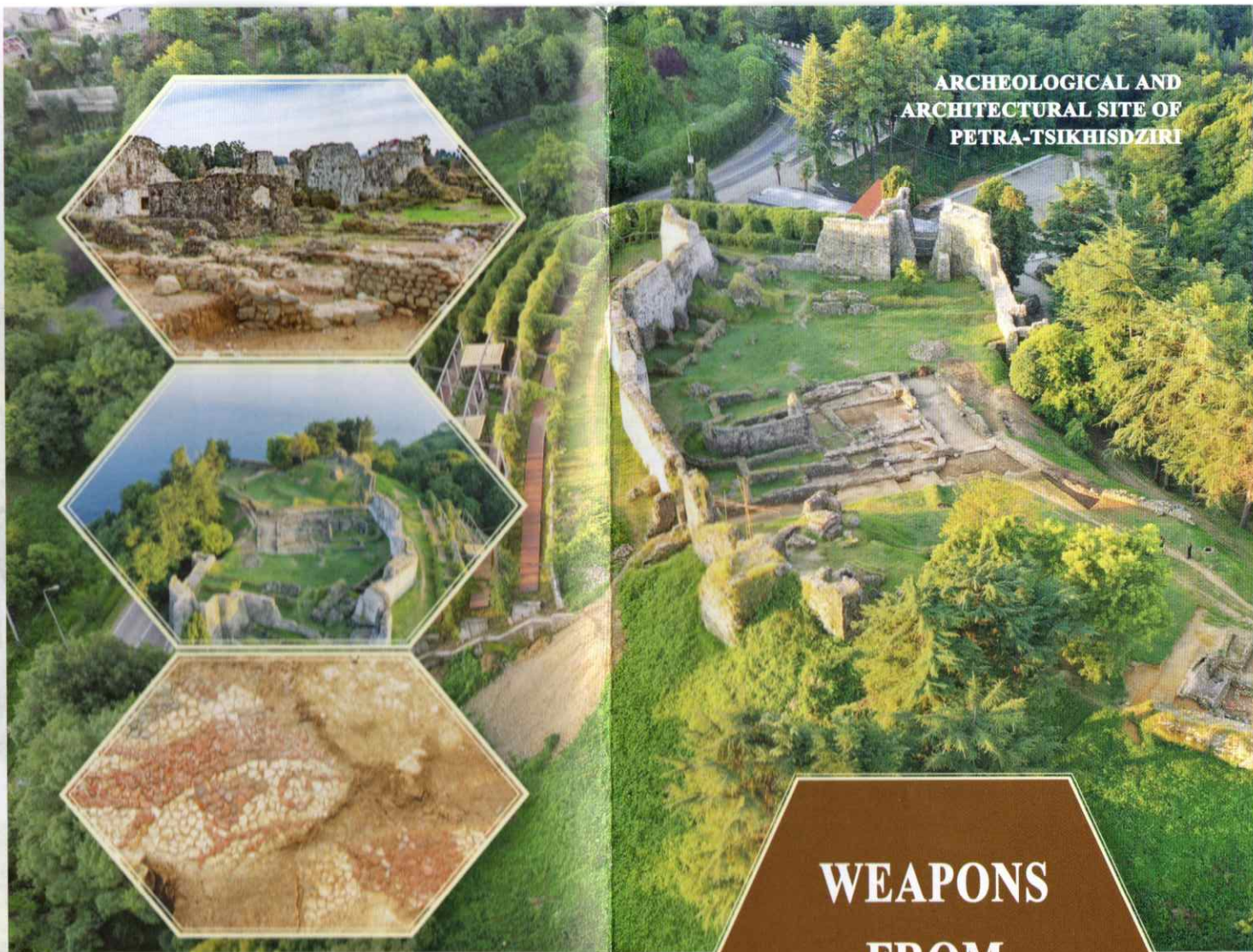
BATTLE AXES



ARROWHEADS

winged stemmed arrowheads of different size and shape. Three-winged arrowheads are common throughout the Caucasus during the early Middle Ages.

The discovered weapons belong to the mid-sixth century CE. The precise date of their burial must be the year of 551.



ARCHEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SITE OF PETRA-TSIKHISDZIRI

WEAPONS FROM PETRA-TSIKHISDZIRI
PRESERVED AT LEPL AJARA MUSEUMS -BATUMI
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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 პეტრას ციხე-სიმაგრე/Petra Fortress

WEAPONS FROM PETRA-TSIKHISDZIRI

აქარის კულტურული
მემკვიდრეობის
დაცვის სააგენტო



CULTURAL HERITAGE
PRESERVATION AGENCY
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Among the materials discovered as a result of archaeological excavations at Petra-Tsikhisdziri there are numerous iron artifacts that arouse particular interest. Weapons make up their majority.

Iron helmet – damaged; its upper part is missing and it is open in one place. A bronze band with bulges and rings preserved on it runs along its edge. Only one ring is complete, others are crushed against the edge of the helmet. The rings must have served as pieces for attaching the chainmail to protect the neck. Diameter of the helmet is 25 cm, the extant height – 12cm (pl. XXIV1). Despite its being incomplete, it can be stated that the helmet is forged in a single piece and does not have eye or nose slots.

Chain armor - almost turned into slag as a result of strong fire and discovered in the form of rather big-size lumps. It is made up of small iron rings which was rather difficult to produce.

Iron plates of an armor were discovered in the form of a large burnt mass at the bottom of the eastern wall of the tower. The well-preserved plates have round and oblong holes. They must have been connected with leather laces but no trace of the latter has survived.

The weapons include an iron dagger and three iron swords. The dagger is short (extant length – 13.5cm), the handle which must have been wooden is missing. One of the swords is single-edged (length – 80.5 cm), two are double-edged (length of the first one is 90.5cm, the extant length of the other is 77 cm). Similar double-edged swords are



DAGGER, SWORD



SPEARHEADS



CHAIN ARMOR

IRON PLATES OF AN ARMOR

IRON HELMET



known all over the East. They are particularly typical of the early medieval material culture of Iran. Analogous double-edged swords are encountered in both north-west and central regions of historical Lazika. Single-edged swords that have evolved from the double-edged ones gradually become predominant in armament. The materials revealed



SHIELD BOSSES

at Tsikhisdziri suggest that by the mid-sixth century both types of swords do co-exist.

Spearheads – are of different kinds. The discovered spearheads (7 items) find numerous parallels from the sites excavated in western Georgia. Given the number of the spearheads, there were seven warriors guarding the tower.

Battle axes – four types can be distinguished among six items that have been discovered. In the sixth century axes become very common in military forces of various countries. Axes are intensively used by Iranian warriors. It can be evidenced by an account of Agathias the Scholastic, according to which in 555 Iranians attacked the Byzantines that had stood Phasis. The Iranians “attacked the wall with axes – it was a wooden wall so it could be chopped down with an axe” [Georgica 1936:114]. Thus, at the time battle axes were widely spread in the civilized countries of both west and east.

Arrowheads – thirteen arrowheads were revealed in different parts of the tower. One of them is square in section and has a considerably elongated stem. The rest are three-