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GOLDEN FLEECE IS BACK – RUSSIAN FICTION

After adoption of Christianity, Eastern Slavonia, with Kiev as the capital, joined the Byzantine Commonwealth. That clearly meant enlargement of the Eastern European unity towards Eastern section of Humid Continental Europe, into the direction of the river Volga. Russians were the loyal subjects of the Commonwealth, looking calmly at the decline of Constantinople's hegemony, and the Bulgar and Georgian kings seizing the titles of "Tsar" and "Autocrat".

Becoming stronger, Russia vividly protested Ottoman reintegration of what was formerly labelled Byzantium, and Muslim overlordship over the Orthodox World by taking the title of "Tsar" for Grand Prince Ivan in 1547. New centre of East Europe has been shaped, and then long-term war started for hegemony, Russia being victorious.

The 18th c. was marked by revolutionary improvement of the Russian technologies due to strengthening of state industrial segment. Still with its serfdom, Russia became a full-scale European partner.

Basic changes took place also in historiography. Thorough study of Graeco-Roman and Byzantine literature had yet another reason – political one. Seeing itself as the East European super-power, thus Russia claimed Byzantine political heritage. For Russians Georgia had to be within the East European Union, and also this country has been acknowledged as a successor state of Colchis and Iberia. If this country back to Orthodox alliance, that could only be compared to the symbolic return of the Golden Fleece – honour, glory and rich is coming back.

One must bear on mind this narrative while observing the numismatic piece below.

At the beginning of the 19th c. Kartalino-Kakhetian Kingdom (Eastern Georgia) became a part of the Russian Empire. Administration and courts

