

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH CARRIED OUT IN THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF THE ADOPTED LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON MATERIAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

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Abstract

This article describes the research work and results of archaeological expeditions conducted in accordance with the laws, resolutions, and regulatory documents adopted by the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the development of archaeological science. It presents the scientific research and conclusions of prominent archaeologists in Karakalpak archaeology, as well as highlighting the attention given to archaeological science during the years of independence and the achievements in this field.

Keywords: Concept, Kuyuk Castle, G'. Khojaniyazov, expedition, Mizdakhkan monument.

Introduction

The acquisition of state independence by the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991 opened up wide opportunities for the development of historical science, as well as all spheres of public life. In our country, the attitude to historical and cultural monuments has radically changed, great attention has been paid to the study of the pages of our history that have not yet been revealed. All conditions were created for the effective work of our scientists. Historical monuments were taken under state care, work began on the study and restoration of their history. In the years of independence in our country, special attention was paid to the development of archaeology, which is one of the main directions of historical science. As a confirmation of this, we can cite the adoption of the "Concept for the Development of Archaeological Science in Uzbekistan," aimed at bringing archaeological research to the level of modern requirements [2, 7-11].

After the meeting of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov with a group of leading historians and archaeologists of the Republic in 1998, on the basis of the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic "On improving the activities of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan", archaeological excavations at the sites studied by historians-archaeologists expanded significantly. On the basis of this resolution, a new concept for the development of archaeological science was developed. The "Concept" describes the place of Uzbekistan in the list of world civilizations, its contribution



to world culture based on the results of archaeological excavations; It also defines the main tasks of archaeology.

Since quality education is the basis of the bright future of our society, in our country attention is paid to education and upbringing at the level of state policy. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev In his regular Address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan on December 20, 2022, Mirziyoyev stressed that first of all, attention should be focused on supporting education, which is the largest investment for the New Uzbekistan: "Assistance is in education, support is in upbringing, support is in knowledge. Because all good goals are achieved through knowledge and education" [1, 1-3].

Starting from the moment of the development of the "Concept", the main goal of Uzbek and Karakalpak archaeology at present is to write the true history of our people in the past, to study its rich history from ancient times to the era of the Timurids, separating it from world history, without contradicting it, to show the contribution of the Uzbek people, who served as cultural ties between the East and the West, to the treasury of world culture, to determine and evaluate the contribution of our ancestors to the formation of the culture and statehood of the peoples of Central Asia.

Since 2012, special attention has been paid to the work on the re-registration of all archaeological monuments located on the territory of our republic, the search for new monuments, their mapping, the preparation of cadastral documentation, the compilation and publication in the form of a book of a catalog of archaeological monuments in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions and districts. The Forum Foundation of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, and local khokimiyats have been appointed responsible for this work.

Scientific works of Uzbek archaeologists are published in scientific journals and publications of foreign countries. In the years of independence, by the decrees of the President of our country, famous archaeologists were awarded the highest state awards. In particular, archaeologist G. Khojaniyazov was awarded the title of Hero of Uzbekistan, V. N. Yagodin - the Order of Friendship, and M. Mambetullaev, E. Bizhanov and M.-Sh. Kdymniyazov were awarded the title of "Honored Scientist of Karakalpakstan" [7, 11-14].

In the years of independence, the monuments of the archaeological complex of Mizdahkan have been systematically studied by professors and teachers of the Karakalpak State University named after M.-Sh. Kdymniyazov and M.T. Torebekov since 1985. As a result, M.T. Torebekov studied the internal structures (citadel), the outer walls of the Gyaar-Kala fortress, dating back to the early Middle Ages, and discovered the remains of the palace and buildings. In addition, the early medieval cultural layers of Mizdahkan are studied by Professor M.-Sh. Kdymniyazov and researcher, senior researcher S.T. Saipov and others in the south-eastern part of the city of Gyaar. Materials of the ancient, Afrigid, Khorezmshah and Golden Horde periods were obtained here [3, 8-10]

The city of Khiva is a medieval settlement of the ancient Aral Sea region. Like Bukhara, it has a twenty-five-century history. This is one of the early medieval cities of Khorezm on the Great Silk Road. The city was formed in the VI-V centuries BC, was a large settlement in antiquity and the Middle Ages, the center of the Khiva Khanate. If in the 30s of the X century Khiva was



one of the 30 cities of Khorezm, then later in written sources it is mentioned as a large settlement and a city on the Silk Road.

According to the topographic feature, Khiva is divided into Ichan-kala (inner city) and Dishan-kala (outer city). In antiquity and the Middle Ages, urban life took place in Ichan-Kala, with an area of 26 hectares. Archaeological excavations have revealed the cultural layers of the city of the ancient, Khorezmshah, Mongolian, Timurid and late periods. In the XI-XII centuries, the cultural and economic life of Khiva developed in the places that are now called Pakhlavon Darvoza, Akmachit and Uch avliyo.

Excavations carried out by Doctor of Historical Sciences M.M. Mambetullaev in 1984-1990 provided new information for determining the topographic structure of the history of Khiva. Ten archaeological building layers were identified, of which layers III-VIII belong to the Middle Ages: layer III (Kokhna Ark-Akshikhbobo) - early Middle Ages, IV - Afrigid period, V - Khorezmshah, VI - XIII century (Chagatai period), layer VII - XIII-XIX centuries, layer VIII contains other materials [8, 12-13].

In the years of independence in the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention was paid to historical science. As a result, archaeologists were able to freely study the monuments of the new culture. Since 1997, teachers and students of the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute named after Ajiniyaz have been conducting archaeological excavations at the Kuyuk-Kala monument. These studies are led by Professor M.M. Mambetullaev, teachers J. Turmanov and O. Yusupov. As a result of the research, many structures were studied, including the remains of dwellings and cemeteries [5, 3-4].

Since the end of the twentieth century, archaeologist M.M. Mambetullaev has been excavating at the Haihuan Kala-Kerder monument. This monument developed from the early Middle Ages to the middle of the 11th century and was one of the largest cities in the north. In 1996-1997, M.M. Mambetullaev seriously began to study the Kerder monument. As a result, excavations have been carried out in several places to date. They are residential areas of the city and places called dungeons. In the course of research, a large number of Kerder and early samples were discovered, as well as the monetary unit of the Kerder people - coins, glassware and iron tools. The discovery among the finds of a special statuette depicting the image of Humay-an, one of the ancient Turkic cult symbols, indicates that this monument was one of the important holy places of the Kerder people.

Recently, at the foot of the Kuyuk-Kala fortress, major archaeological discoveries have been made related to the Kerder people. An expedition led by M.M. Mambetullaev is studying a cemetery here with burials characteristic of the ancient medieval Turks or close to them. In addition, in the southwestern part of the city, the remains of residential buildings were found along the long streets. Among the numerous ceramic vessels found in the city, there are items with the names of the ruler Kerder Kanik, Khisrav, Khorezmian rulers - Shah Chegan Azkasvar, Savashfan and others.

The results of the study of the Kuyuk-Kala monument revealed that this monument was the habitat of ancient Turkic tribes. Subsequently, the city was captured by the Arabs. In the province of Kerder, popular uprisings against the Arabs broke out twice [6, 8-9].

Art (fine arts, sculpture, architectural décor) in the ancient medieval cities of the Aral Sea region and the Khorezm oasis testifies to the links between India (Ajanta) and Khorezm. Toprak-Kala documents indicate that the era of "Shaka" ("Scythian"), which began in India in 78, was officially used in Khorezm. Numismatic materials found in the ancient city of Toprak-Kala in Khorezm provide new information that supplements the information about the ancient Khorezm rulers. For example, among the finds of Toprak-Kala, the coins of the ruler who ruled in the 1st century BC and bore the title of the "unknown king" of Khorezm are of great importance for the restoration of cultural ties. This is the tetradrachm of the Greco-Bactrian king Eucratides (185-155 BC), on the reverse side of which the tamga of Siyavusha is depicted. New samples of tetradrachms were discovered in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg and the Samarkand Museum. On them, the Greek Dioscuri, the legendary sons of Zeus, are replaced by the "Khwarezmian horseman" - a symbol of the Siyavushid dynasty, created by God. Tetradrachms were used in the late II - early I centuries BC. Later, in the Kushan period, coins of Kadpiz II (238-278), Kanishki (278-301), Khuvishki (306-338), Vasudeva I (342-376) were used in Khorezm. However, if the ancient urban culture of Turkmenistan is close to the culture of Iran and Iraq, then the finds of the ancient urban culture of Khorezm, despite the ties with India, Persia and the Greco-Bactrian kingdom, have a peculiar culture. This uniqueness is clearly manifested in architectural décor and art [4, 15-18]. Coins of Vasudeva I (342-376) were used. However, while the ancient urban culture of Turkmenistan is close to the culture of Iran and Iraq, the Khorezmian ancient urban culture has its own unique specificity, despite the fact that its finds are associated with India, Persia and the Greco-Bactrian kingdom.

The study of the Kerder culture and its cities is closely associated with the names of famous archaeologists and historians: S.P. Tolstov, T.A. Zhdanko, A.V. Gudkova, V.N. Yagodin, M.M. Mambetullaev, E.B. Bizhanov, T.K. Khodjaev, B.I. Weinberg (who studied Kerder coins). For several years, these researchers, along with the foothills of Tokkala, Kurgancha, Kerder, Kuyikkala, identified and studied the areas of the Kerderians, called Akyurma 1-11. Iron, glass and stone products made and used by the people of Kerder testify to the high level of development of the above-mentioned handicraft industries. Iron knives, hooks, nails, hooks, weapons, glass ornaments, stone beads complement the ideas about the material culture of the Kerder people. Along with material culture, the Kerderians also developed spiritual concepts. They had Zoroastrian ideas, as well as concepts characteristic of the steppe Turkic tribes, such as Umai-mother-goddess and Tengri. Numerous settlements with the ossuary burial method have been found at the sites of Kuyikkala, Tokkala and Mizdahkan. Their presence on the territory of the Kerders indicates that the main population of the Kerder region had connections with the Turkic steppe [3, 89-92].

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To date, four scientists in our country have defended their doctoral dissertations in archaeology (V.N. Yagodin "Cattle breeders-hunters of the Aral-Caspian intermarium in the Middle Ages" (Moscow-1992); M.M. Mambetullaev "Ancient history and culture of Southern Khorezm (cities and settlements of the IV century BC - IV century AD)" (Tashkent-1994); E.B. Bizhanov "The Stone Age of Ustyurt" (Tashkent-1996); M.Sh. Kdurniyazov "Culture of Khorezm of the XIII-XIV centuries" (Samarkand-2005)). Archaeologists V.N. Yagodin, E.B. Bizhanov, M.M. Mambetullaev were awarded the honorary title "Honored Scientist of the Republic of Karakalpakstan," V.N. Yagodin and G. Khojaniyazov were awarded the Order of "Mehnat Shukhrati," and in 2008 G. Khojaniyazov was awarded the highest title of our state - "Hero of Uzbekistan." Archaeologists V.N. Yagodin, E.B. Bizhanov, M.M. Mambetullaev were awarded the honorary title of Honored Scientist of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, V.N. Yagodin and G. Khojaniyazov were awarded the order "Mehnat Shukhrati", in 2008 G. Khojaniyazov was awarded the highest title of our state - the title "Hero of Uzbekistan."

In the years of independence in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, mainly three large organizations conducted archaeological research. Archaeologists of the archaeological department of the Scientific Research Institute of Humanities of the Karakalpak Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted excavations on the Ustyurt plateau, the monuments of Toshkirmon and Akshakhan Kala, and Mount Kiron. Within the framework of a cooperation agreement with the University of Sydney in Australia, the Karakalpakstan-Australia expedition carried out archaeological work in 1995-2020. The expedition was led by A. Betts from the University of Sydney and V.N. Yagodin from Karakalpakstan until 2015. The expedition was attended by Professor of the University of Sydney S. Helms with his graduate students, as well as archaeologists from Karakalpakstan N. Yusupov, G. Khojaniyazov, Sh. Amirov, A. Iskenderova and others. At present, the University of Sydney in Australia continues archaeological excavations on a contractual basis, the expedition involves an archaeologist from Karakalpakstan G. Khojaniyazov and his students [10].

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