

Monuments of Karakalpakstan in the Field of View of Archaeologists

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ABSTRACT

Karakalpakstan - a truly unexplored krayb occupies 37% of the territory of Uzbekistan and most of ancient Khorezm, called by Herodotus the country of 1100 cities. There are over 1,000 archaeological sites here, many of which are unique historical and cultural monuments of world significance, which is a unique phenomenon in itself. Here, the Devkesken rampart crossing the mouth of the Ustyurt is a prototype of the Great Wall of China. The cult center of Zoroastrianism Koi-Krylgan-Kala. Outstanding architectural monuments of the late antique period, for example, the Toprak-Kala Palace, through which, according to the ancient builders, the Axis of the World passed, and many dozens of ancient settlements, among which the recently excavated ancient capital of Khorezm - the birthplace of the great scientist Beruni, and Muslim shrines, and Mizdahkam - "Gaur-Kala" - the city of Zoroastrian fire-worshippers.

KEYWORDS: *View, unexplored, Archaeologists*

In ancient times, this territory was called Khorezm - a state that existed in antiquity and the middle Ages in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya River on the territory of the modern Republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

A great contribution to the study of the history of this region was made by the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition led by S.P. Tolstov. Started work in 1937. In the lower reaches of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and the adjacent areas of the Kara-Kum and Kyzylkum deserts, the expedition discovered and explored a large number of archaeological sites of various eras - from the Stone Age to the late Middle Ages, which made it possible to restore in general the history and culture of the population of Khorezm and the entire southeastern Aral Sea.

The oldest sites of primitive people, discovered in the Khorem oasis and adjacent desert areas, date back to the Neolithic era (YI-III millennium BC). At that time, tribes of hunters and fishermen lived here, living in large ground dwellings of a frame structure, covered with tree bark and reeds.

The emergence of the Khorezm ethnic community was preceded by complex processes that took place in the Bronze Age, due to the interaction of the local population with the newcomer cattle-breeding and agricultural tribes of the steppe zone of Eurasia with the constant infiltration of certain population groups from the southern regions of Central Asia. Under the influence of southern contacts in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, by the middle of the 2nd millennium BC. Irrigated agriculture is developing. This is the time of the formation of the Tazabagyab culture, in which the features characteristic of the circle of steppe bronze cultures predominates, but unlike the latter; agriculture based on artificial irrigation acquires a greater share here.

The Late Bronze Age, represented by the monuments of the Amirabad culture (X-YIII centuries BC), is characterized by the further development of irrigated agriculture. Dwellings-semi-dugouts are now grouped into settlements of 15-20 houses. The first signs of the emergence of specialist craftsmen appear. The process of decomposition of primitive communal relations is deepening, accompanied by an increase in property and social differentiation in society.

The formation of the Khorezm civilization itself was associated with the so-called archaic culture (VII-Y BC. BC), represented by such monuments of the oasis as the settlement of Kuzeli-Gyr and the Dingildzhe estate. The further development of irrigation agriculture, associated with the construction of large main canals during this period, was one of the most important factors that contributed to the formation of Khorezm statehood. Fortified urban-type settlements and numerous rural estates arose. In the middle of the YI century. BC. Khorezm was conquered by the Achaemenids. The country is drawn into a circle of intensive and broad cultural exchanges. At the turn of the Y-IY centuries. before. AD Khorezm gained independence, which it retained during the eastern campaign of Alexander the Great and the reign of the Greek-Macedonian kings in Central Asia. In the IY-III centuries. Before. AD Khorezmians create their own special artistic culture, synthesizing and developing local and borrowed (mainly Western Asian) elements.

The burial mounds of the Sarykamysh delta testify to the connections of the population of the western periphery of Khorezm with the circle of cultures of the Sarmatian appearance. The early medieval - Afrigid - culture of Khorezm (Y-III), formed on a local basis under the influence of the tribes of the semi-nomadic periphery, differs sharply from the ancient one.

At the end of the Afrigid period, and especially after the Arab conquest in the 13th century, Khorezmian art and culture, while retaining some traditional features, increasingly acquires an appearance common to all countries that were part of the Caliphate.

In the era of the Great Khorezmshahs, who created at the turn of the XII-XIII centuries. a huge state, stretching from the borders of India to the Caucasus, there is a high rise in culture and ceremonial and art. The power and brilliance of this were reflected in the construction of ceremonial secular and religious buildings, magnificently decorated with carved ganch, painting and glazed tiles, in the further development of crafts. Progress in ceramic craft was expressed in the improvement of colored glazes, the use of potash glaze, the manufacture of dishes from kashin - semi-faience.

After the Mongol conquest in the 13th century, Khorezm became part of the Golden Horde, and it had a significant impact on culture. The capital of Khorazm - Urgench, lying at the intersection of caravan routes connecting it with the cities of the Lower Volga region and Central Asia, was one of the largest craft centers in Central Asia. Pottery of this time shows a variety of artistic techniques; underglaze and overglaze and painting, relief, engraving, stamping. Among the ornamental motifs, plant images predominate, but sometimes zoomorphic ones also occur. Richly ornamented multi-colored glass decorations are still diverse.

Materials now stored in the funds of the departments of archeology of the State Museum of Arts named after I.V. Savitsky and the Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography at the Karakalpak branch of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan are of great interest, allowing us to trace the history of the culture of the Khorezm oasis and adjacent regions over many millennia.

During this time, the content and style of the art of this region of the region have undergone a number of changes due to socio-economic, ethnogenetic and ideological factors. Khorezmian art developed in close connection with the culture of neighboring countries, its ups and downs were often due to turbulent political events. At the same time, many features of the local culture turned out to be surprisingly stable and have survived to this day in the applied art and folk architecture of the modern peoples living in this territory - the Karakalpaks, Uzbeks and Turkmens.

Toprak-Kala settlement was discovered in 1938 by S.P. Tolstov. In 1940, the first exploration work was carried out on the settlement. The work was carried out until 1992. The settlement covers an area of 500x350 meters. Rectangular in plan, it is surrounded by preserved fortification walls, reaching a height of 8-9 m in places. It has been established that one of the quarters was occupied by temple

buildings that were traditionally built here throughout the history of the city. In another building, argali horns, decorated with bronze gilded bracelets-clips, were found, around which numerous offerings, glass vessels, jewelry, fragments of alabaster sculptures and numerous wall paintings in the form of dancing fantastic masks were found on the floor, figures of warriors and the hall of kings in the hall of warriors - sculptural image of unbaked clay figures of kings.

Kyzyl-Kala, (1-2 centuries, 12 - early 13 centuries) was first discovered in 1938 by the employees of the KhAEEE. The fortress stands on a plain and has a shape almost close to a square with dimensions of 65x63 m. It is oriented by its corners to the cardinal points. The outer wall was cut through by two tiers of arrow-shaped loopholes.

It was probably erected as a defensive fortress and was part of the value of the Khorezmian fortifications created to protect the northeastern border of ancient Khorezm. At the same time, the fortress was the center of an agricultural district and a junction of caravan roads through the Sultanuizdal mountain range.

Janbas-Kala, fortress of the 4th century BC 1st century AD, in 1946-48, the fortress was photographed from the air for the first time. Rectangular in plan, 200x170 m in size. Collected materials, mainly ceramics, which are characteristic of the early antique (Kangyuy) culture of Khorezm.

Big Guldursun - a fortress of the 3rd-4th centuries. before. AD, 12th-13th centuries AD surveyed in 1937 by archaeologists Ya.G. Gulyamov, in 1940 continued by S.P. Tolstov and in 1987-1994 O.T. Dospanov. Big Guldursun is one of the largest border fortresses of Khorezm, built on the basis of a deserted ancient fortress. In plan, it is an irregular rectangle measuring 350x230 m, oriented by the corners to the cardinal points. Inside, during archaeological excavations, a large amount of ancient and medieval ceramics, bronze handicrafts and decorations, antique and medieval coins were found. Judging by the finds of coins, it can be determined that the last period of settlement of the monument dates back to 1220, at the time of the reign of Muhammad Khorezmshah, i.e. by the time of the invasion of the Mongol troops in Khorezm.

The archaeological complex of Ancient Mizdakan is located on three hills, including the Gyaur-Kala fortress, the mausoleums of Shamun Nabi, Mazlumkhan Sulu, Khalifa Yerekhap, Caravanserai. During the excavations, unique assuary burials, coins, various household utensils, glass, and highly artistic gold items were found. The mausoleum of Mazlumkhan Sulu is located in the western part of the northern half of the hill. The monument is half in the ground. Only the domes and the entrance portal rose above the ground. Down through the vaulted corridor leads a staircase from the portal to a small intermediate room. According to monetary data, the construction of the mausoleum dates from the first half of the 14th century. It is associated with the flourishing of the trading cities of the Golden Horde Khorezm, one of which was Mizdakhkan, which found itself on the busy routes of international trade.

Chilpyk is a religious building of the 2nd-4th centuries, 9th-11th centuries. AD has the shape of an open, slightly flattened circle with a diameter of about 65-79 m. The walls reach a height of 15 m. In the 2-4 centuries it was erected as a Zoroastrian dakhma. In the 9th-11th centuries, it was used by the locals of the area as a signal tower.

Dzhanpyk-Kala (9th-11th centuries, 13th-14th centuries AD) is one of the most picturesque monuments on the right bank of the Amu Darya. The hill fort has a complex configuration in plan. In the eastern part, the citadel has been preserved in the form of a rectangle of pakhs walls. The walls are decorated with closed semi-columns and the tops end in pairs of stepped arches. Archaeological excavations made it possible to clarify the chronology of the settlement. The oldest ceramics to the 4th century. BC. - 1 in. AD The date of the last habitation is determined by the coins of 1319-1320,

and 1345-1346. During the excavations, numerous finds were found previously brought from various countries of the East and West (China, Egypt, Russia, Europe, and India). The settlement served as a port city in the middle Ages.

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