

History of the Study of Cultural, Economic and Political Centers of the SOGD Oasis

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Abstract

This article discusses the analysis of the processes of studying the rich cultural and economic heritage of the ancient Sogdian oasis. In addition, the results of observations of national and Central Asian scientists in the oasis were studied and the levels of development by regions were compared. In the end, conclusions were developed based on all the analysis and research.

Keywords: Sogdian oasis, antiquity, fortification system, economic development, social development.

Introduction:

At a time when the opportunities for development in our country are growing, it is important to preserve and study our rich cultural heritage. Spiritual culture played an important role in the formation and development of civilization in the Sogd Oasis.

Knowing its historical roots and identifying aspects of the cross itself allows us to understand the meaning and essence of the development of the spiritual culture of our ancestors. Today, the need to ensure the development of science and education in our country, the further development of scientific research is reflected in the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 (O'zbekiston, 2017). There is a lot of research on the cultural, socio-economic history of Sughd, but the ancient and early medieval religious beliefs of the oasis, the information on the defense system is not systematized and generalized. A strong fortification system was an important tool in ensuring the security and well-being of the city, as well as reflecting the city's strength and military potential. We can see this only in the example of the ancient cities of Afrosiyob and Yerkurgan.

History of the Study of SOGD Oasis:

The ruins of ancient cities are common in our country. The ruins of cities such as Jarqo'ton, Qiziltepa, Eski Termez, Dalvarzintepa in Surkhandarya, Erkurgan, Sangirtepa, Uzunqir, Shulluktepa, Daratepa in Kashkadarya, Afrosiyob, Koktepa in Samarkand, Poykent in Bukhara are the centers of culture and trade that flourished in their time. The natural and geographical location of the Sogd Oasis has led to the good development of trade and cultural ties. This can only be seen in the art of architecture. Monuments of the Early Iron Age of the Kashkadarya oasis are less studied than in the Murgab, Zarafshan, Surkhan oases, the lower reaches of the Amudarya. By the time of the Early Iron Age, we can observe the continuous formation of urban planning culture in the oasis. The monuments of the Kashkadarya oasis of the VI-IV centuries BC are better studied than in other regions of Sogdiana. Archaeological excavations in recent years have shed light on the study of the ancient cities of the oasis. Many

archeological researches have been carried out in Erkurgan, one of the largest economic and political centers of the region.

The first observations in the old city were carried out in 1946 by the Amudarya expedition led by A. I. Terenojkin. The first large-scale archaeological research work was carried out by S.K. Conducted by Kabanov in 1948 (Suleymanov, 2000a). The researcher was digging around the inner wall of the city. The first layer of the city dates back to the II-II centuries BC and existed until the III-IV centuries, it is concluded that the ancient city was completely abandoned in the middle of the IV century. The researcher's work also contains some information on urban fortification. He noted that the outer fortress wall was left under the ground as a result of the sinking. However, this idea has not been approved by most scholars. During this period, the characteristics of the fortification itself were not studied due to the lack of deliberate monitoring of the defensive structures of the ancient city of Yerkurgan (Turabekov, 1990).

In 1965-1966, KATE conducted surveillance in the ancient city of Yerkurgan. As a result, it was discovered that the first wall of the ancient city was built of cotton in the II-I centuries BC in the I century AD. According to M.E. Masson, there were towers on the castle wall. Later, cotton blocks and raw bricks (40-44x40-44x10-12 cm) were used in the repair work of the wall. Inside the wall was also a domed covered inner corridor, the width of which was 2 m.

In recent years, R. Suleymanov conducted extensive research in Yerkurgan, summarizing the construction plan and order of the ancient city, its material culture and the similarities of this culture, and obtained a lot of information about the urban culture of South SOGD (Suleymanov, 2000b). In 1946-1948, Under the leadership of S.K. Kabanov, members of the Institute of Archeology and History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State University KATE circle led by M. E. Masson in 1965-1966 conducted archaeological research in Kalai Zakhoki-Maron. Research has shown that the castle, first built by the people in the ancient city, dates back to the I century BC and existed until the X-XI centuries AD. The height of the castle-city ruin was 15 meters. It is said that the total area of the castle is more than 16 hectares. However, the researchers did not conduct extensive observations in the area. In the V-VI centuries AD, the city was the second largest in the Karshi oasis after Yerkurgan.

In the study of the history of the Karshi oasis, many studies were conducted by members of the KATE of Tashkent State University, led by M.E. Masson. Under Masson's leadership from 1963 to 1964, KATE's research on the defense system of ancient Kesh (in the centers of the ancient agricultural oasis of Shakhrisabz) played an important role in illuminating the history of SOGD fortifications.

As a result of research conducted by A. S. Sagdullaev at the Department of Central Asian Archeology of Tashkent State University in 1976-1979, a number of monuments of the Early Iron Age were discovered in the eastern part of the Kashkadarya oasis.

In the 1970s, SK Kabanov conducted archeological research in the lower reaches of the Tankhozdarya and Yakkabogdarya rivers. During this period, Z.I.Usmanova and H.Dukelar conducted observational research in the Chimkurgan reservoir (Sagdullaev, 1998).

In 1977, excavations were carried out in the Kesh (Kalandartepa) fortress by the TATE team. It has a 7 m high wall made of mud, the cultural layer of which dates back to the III century BC. In the western part of the fortress in the II-I centuries BC the foundation of the wall was repaired 5 times. By antiquity, a 5 m high platform was built in the northern part of the fortress. In the early Middle Ages, a platform was found to have risen from the mud at a height of 3m from the south.

In 1981-1984, an expedition led by N. I. Krasheninnikova discovered the Podayotoktepa, Sangirtepa and Uzunqir monuments of the first half of the first millennium BC in the middle reaches of the Shurab River. Excavations were carried out at these monuments and research was carried out on the study of their defensive walls. Archaeological finds prove that the settlements belong to the Early Iron Age. According to Krasheninnikova, at the beginning of the first millennium BC, a small agricultural oasis 5 km long was formed on the banks of the small Shorabsay River (Krasheninnikova, 1968). This oasis combines several monuments located on both banks of the river.

Settlements dating to the middle of the first millennium BC have also been found and explored in what is now Makrid and along the Ayakchi River.

Uzunqir ruins are located 650 meters north of Sangirtepa, on the shores of Shurobsoy. In 1983, in the surviving part of the Long Wall of Defense, N. I. Research was conducted by Krasheninnikova. In addition, the researcher obtained a lot of information about the city's defense system (Mason, 1964).

In 1986, the expedition of the Department of Archeology of Tashkent State University, led by A. Sagdullaev, continued research in the settlements of Sangirtepa and Uzunqir of the Early Iron Age. Remains of a large structure were unearthed during excavations at Sangirtepa.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, it should be noted that many of our scholars have contributed to the study of the history of Sogdiana in the VII-IV centuries BC. In particular, V. A. Shishkin, S. K. Kabanov, G. V. Shishkina, M. I. Filanovich, A. Muhammadjanov, R. Sulaymonov, P. Valiev, H. Duke, M. Isomiddinov, Z. I. Usmonova, A. S. Sagdullaev, N. I. Krasheninnikova, Sh. T. Odilov, O. N. Lushpenko and other scientists are among them. Archaeological monuments and material sources found and examined by them play an important role in solving and studying problems related to the fortification system. New data on the fortification system have emerged in the course of work on the socio-economic and political issues of SOGD.

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