



## ISSUES OF ANCIENT SOGD URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN P.H SULAYMONOV`S STUDIES

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### ABSTRACT

*This article contains important and interesting information on the history of Soghd urban planning, as well as archaeological research on the history of the Karshi.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Nautaka, Toponymy, Soghd, Typological Classification, Hierarchical System.*

### INTRODUCTION

In Central Asian civilization, Karshi was a region with significant political, economic, social, ethnic and cultural significance. In the history of the ancient period, the history of the Karshi has appeared in the ancient capital of the Erkurgon. The studies of the results of archaeological research conducted by Suleymanov are one of the urgent tasks. In the article Sogd, and its Urban Planning has been researched by a scientist by using a comprehensive approach.

### OBJECTIVES

Sulaymonov has been conducting large-scale scientific research on the history of ancient Soghd planning and material culture. As a result of archaeological researches conducted by the scientist, interesting facts about the ancient city of Soghd were obtained. It is known that the Karshi has been studied by archaeologists as an important component of the ancient Soghd state. Scientists who have studied the Karshi have conducted scientific discussions on the toponymy of the ancient capital of Soghd. In particular, S K Kabanov, in his research on the discovery and study of ancient monuments in the lower Kashkadarya region, suggests that two provinces, Nautaka and Xennippa, are two ancient farming valleys in the upper and lower parts of the region - Shakhrisabz and Karshi. [1; 37p]

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the article, we also determined that important and interesting information on the history of Soghd urban planning, as well as archaeological research on the history of the Karshi. In the article

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M.E. Masson makes the assumption that the upper part of the oasis is the lower part of Nautaka and the lower part of Nautaka on contrast to Kabanov's view that Nautaka is the upper part of the oasis, and that Ksenippa is the lower part of it, Ksenippa [2; 5p].

S.B. Lunina who made significant research on the topic, states that in the Kashkadarya through the middle of the first millennium BC there were several settlement areas, the largest of which was Erkurgan, because of its preservation of the ancient layers of Sogdian culture. [3; 9 p,].

According to Archeological excavations which were carried out by R.H. Suleymanov and M.Kh. Isomiddinov, for the first time in the 7th century BC, Erkurgan was surrounded by walls, and in the sixth century BC, the city was surrounded by a wall that surrounded it about 35 hectares. In the III-II centuries, BC the area was 150 square meters. [4; 24 p]

According to the book "Erkurgan" published by M.Isomiddinov and R.H.Sulaymanov, the city's dwellings, public and defensive structures, potters' quarters were discovered as a result of long excavations in the ruins of this city. it has been explained that it dates from the IX-VIII centuries until the VIII-IX centuries AD. [5; 5p]

Another researcher, VI Pysin who conducted research under the ruins of the city, dates the city's origin to the ninth and 8th centuries BC by relying on ceramic products. [6; 121-126 p]

Excavations by archaeologists have yielded valuable information on the history, material culture,



and traditions of ancient city architecture. According to these data, two-storey houses of ancient Sughd architecture, domed buildings, urban defence systems, and building art have been published by scientists. The scientist R.H. Suleymanov's research is of particular importance. The scientist will study and analyze the history of the city, its evolution, its material culture.

During the study of the Nakhshab fortress, the scholar points out that the last period of its construction dates back to the fourth and sixth centuries by a comparative analysis of the artefacts found here. [7; 12 p]

S K Kabanov, who studied on the Erkurgon monument, based his findings on excavations and concludes that the lower cultural layer of the city dates back to the second and second centuries BC, and the upper cultural layer to the 3rd and 4th centuries. [8; 82 p]. M.X.Isomiddinov, 30 years after the scientific researches of K.Kabanov, researches in Erkurgan, "The stratigraphy of the ancient layers of Erkurgan" research on the hill in the eastern part of the city. Based on the horse results, at some points, the natural surface of the earth is 8.5 m. depth of the mantle. In the excavations marked "Erkurgan II and III", the cultural layer indicates that the second half of the 8th century BC and the VII century were covered with ceramic items and fragments of high-quality ceramic vessels. According to M.Isomiddinov, the Erkurgon Karshi oasis reflects the culture of ancient cattle breeders. [9;60-61p]

The recent excavations at Erkurgan have provided further enrichment of scholars' conclusions. R. Suleymanov studies the remains of the temple. In the centre of the town - the eastern and western parts of the temple - were cleared, the remains of two earlier buildings were discovered below. The history of the temple's construction is determined by the scholar through the remains of the building and ceramics found there. According to the scientist, this refers to the V - III centuries BC.

The large number of excavations in the territory of Erkurgan indicates to the rapid development of the ancient city territory in the 7th and 6th centuries BC. In the VI-V centuries, BC the formation of an old city ends when surrounded by thick walls of defence with towers. It should be noted that the discovery of ceramics in some of the hills around Erkurgan by the middle of the first millennium BC indicates that rural settlements were formed around this ancient city. One of such addresses is Korovultepa, which has a small specialized farm. According to the findings, this monument can be called a seasonal farming location. [10; 121-122 p]

According to the researchers, the development of the Ergurgan social settlement system was inextricably linked to irrigation systems. R.H. According to the Suleymanov 's typological classification and statistical analysis, habitat is distributed in a hierarchical system by its size and there are also small localities in the ancient Sogdiana community, at the top of the ancient Sogdiana community. [11; 26 p]

Erkurgon peaks its development in the VI-IV centuries BC and it is surrounded by a thick five-sided wall covering an area of 40 hectares at that time. [12; 11p]

Archaeologists have determined the age of the city of Nakhshab based on the analysis of earthenware vessels. Continuous excavations at the site of the city have revealed the dates of Erkurgan's formation and recession. In the 1976 excavation site, a cultural layer with round-shaped earthenware was opened. Round-shaped containers (jars-shaped) are generally considered to be of VI-IV centuries BC. There were also dishes, cups, trays and trays, bowls, dates, pots and pans, pots and decals. [13; 45p]

Archaeologists R.Kh., Suleymanov and MHI samiddinov, who carry out continuous scientific research on the site of the ancient Nakhshab monument, analyze material objects of the culture known in their 1984 book "Erkurgan". The study of ceramic bottles gives the following conclusions:

"The set of ceramic items from the bottom of the Erkurgon complex is considered by many researchers to be similar to the ceramics of the last copper period, which dates to the late second millennium BC and the first quarter of the first millennium. However, the extended date of the last copper period cannot be applied to the lower cultural strata of the town of Erkurgan because it is directly covered by a strong layer of ceramic ceramics dating from the second half of the 8th century BC and the VII or VIII centuries BC." [14; 60-61p]

Extensive excavations at Erkurgan have also revealed the peculiarities of the cultural stratum here. According to Suleymanov, the complex of items of worship is unique, except in Kashkadarya, with its originality, design and patterns. In this respect, animal-shaped lights, whistles, cufflinks with animal heads on the edges and their ornamental patterns are all distinguished. [15; 140]

## CONCLUSION

In summary, Sughd town-planning has been researched by a scientist Sulaymonov through a comprehensive approach. As a result of the archaeological research conducted by Sulaymanov, the main objects of this city, which occupy a special place in the history of the Karshi, were studied.



Extensive research has been conducted in the city of Erkurgan since the 1940s. Interesting facts covering the social, economic and cultural life of the urban population are included in the scientific circulation. In particular, the history of craftsmanship and ancient beliefs of the Karshi was explained by archaeological excavations in the ruins of the ancient temple discovered by the scientist. The archaeological study of this ancient city is still underway, and the collected data serves to cover the pages of the ancient history of Uzbekistan.

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