



THE GROTTO OF AMIR TEMUR AND ANGILLAK OBJECT OF JOINT INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

The article is dedicated to the analysis of research in the grottoes of Amir Temur and Angillac. Also, outlining new reflections on the stone industry of newly discovered parking areas Amir Temur-1, Angillac and the early explored Obi-Rahmat Cave, the author notes, however, that the Angillac industry was characterized by a preference for fine, retouched cleavages and fragments thereof, along with the use of plates and spikers having a longitudinal blade and proportions convenient to grip during operation or use as a tip during hunting. Also, the author presents new discussions on the emergence of a modern anatomical type of man in Central Asia, which raises many controversial questions in the world of archaeology and historical science.

KEYWORDS: *Amir Temur-1, Angillac, Mustye, Paleolithic, transitional industries, Paleoanthropology*

INTRODUCTION

This article contains information on scientific archaeological research in the caves of Amir Temur and Angillac and on the study of these caves. Systematic research on this Paleolithic monument began in 2002 by the International Uzbek-American Student Archaeological Expedition, conducting the study of selected monuments of the archaeology of Uzbekistan. In addition to students and teachers of the Faculty of History of the National University of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Department of Anthropology of the University of Colorado, employees of the Institutes of History and Archaeology of the Academy of State and Public Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the field works.

OBJECTIVES

The author presents new discussions on the emergence of a modern anatomical type of man in Central Asia, which raises many controversial questions in the world of archaeology and historical science. The study of Uzbekistan's oldest past (and Central Asia as a whole) has always attracted the close attention of archaeologists because the region has been a kind of "crossroads of civilizations" throughout the history of mankind.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the article, we also determined that important and interesting information on the history of the grotto of Amir Temur and Angillac, Also, outlining new reflections on the stone industry of newly discovered parking areas Amir Temur-1, Angillac and the early explored Obi-Rahmat Cave, the author notes, however, that the Angillac industry was characterized by a preference for fine, retouched cleavages and fragments thereof, along with the use of plates and spikers having a longitudinal blade and proportions convenient to grip during operation or use as a tip during hunting. In the article in the grottoes of Amir Temur and Angillac has been researched by a scientist by using a comprehensive approach.

Amir-Temir-1. The grotto is located 2.5 km west of the Yukori-Machai village ($A = 273^\circ$), in the bourn of the same name, absolute height 1740 m. The grotto is located 2.5 km west of Yukori-Machai village ($A=273^\circ$), with an absolute height of 1740 meters. The karst grotto, arched in a plan, total length more than 70 m, width up to 23 m, ceiling height at the drip line about 3.8 m.

The entrance is oriented to the north-east. There is an intense drop constant at the back wall of the cavity. The monument was opened by I. F. Lamayev. It was studied in 1938-1939 under the



direction of A.P.Okladnikov, as well as in 1939 G. V. Parfenov [15. p. 67-69; 17. p. 239]. The total area of the opened areas during the works of the 1930s is about 15 m². During the excavation, three Amir-Temir-1 were identified. The grotto is located 2.5 km west of the Yukori-Machai village (A=273°), with an absolute height of 1740 meters. The karst grotto, arched in a plan, total length more than 70 m, width up to 23 m, ceiling height at the drip line about 3.8 m. The entrance is oriented to the north-east. There is an intense constant droplet at the back wall of the cavity. The monument was opened by I. F. Lamayev. It was researched in 1938-1939. under the leadership of A.P.Okladnikov, and also in 1939 by G. V. Parfenov.[15. p. 67-69; 17. p. 239] The total area of the opened areas during the works of the 1930s is about 15 m². During excavations three cultural layers were isolated - two Holocene time and the lower (depth about 1 m from the day surface), presumably related to the moustache. The partially showered compartment of A.P. Okladnikov, oriented strictly north-south, is fixed in the middle part of the grotto, behind the drop line. At its east wall, a cut of 1x0.5 m was made closer to the south corner with a total depth of up to 1.9 m [1. p. 239]. In general, loose deposits of Teshik-Tash-2 grotto (7 stratigraphic horizons are isolated) are represented by light loess loam of different shades of brown. Down the section, the colour of the deposits becomes darker and the humidity increases. Throughout the power, there are red-brown lenses, similar in composition to the main layers, with fuzzy boundaries and different intensity of colour. In the base of the cut, there is a crushed horizon with sandstone and supersonic filler of grey-brown and brown colours. Crushed stone is small, weakly rolled. In layer 3 (depth about 1 m from the day surface) there is a spaced-apart bone in the form of a cluster of coals on an area of about 1 m². Several small fragments of bone and medium-sized splits of dark silica limestone have been found in the costria. The scalp has a smooth impact pad and orthogonal dorsal cut. In addition to the single find of 2003, the reserves of IAet CO RAS currently store part of the collection from the lower horizon of the grotto obtained during the excavations of A.P.Okladnikov. She counts 47ex. and represented by 25 pieces of rubble, 7 nucleoid forms, plate, 7 cleavages and 6 guns decorated on two ground pebbles and 4 debris. All articles are made of grey milled limestone. The large plate-like skunk is represented by a medial fragment, with a two-sided parallel cut of the dorsal and uneven weakly divergent subparallel edges. Large products (5 copies) predominate among the cleavages, the rest having average sizes. Impact areas of almost all products are smooth, one - covered with yellow crust. The dorsal cut is either parallel (3 exes.)

or unsorted (3 ex.). One of the medium cleavages is classified as primary. The nuptials are represented by nuptials (4 exes.) and typologically pronounced nuclei (3 exes.). All nuclei belong to the category of the longitudinal parallel principle of shearing. A single-site, medium-sized, sub-rectangular-shaped single-front nucleus flattened (7.2x5.5x2.8 cm) with a naturally convex counter front. The shearing front is almost completely occupied by the negative of a large weakly elongated withdrawal. Along the plane of the right lateral, the negatives of two small elongated shots of an amorphous outline are traced, closing with the main front. The impact platform is straight, angle 80°, decorated with a large rock. The second core, two-site single-front, large massive wide, rectangular in plan and sub-rectangular in transverse size (40.5x12x7.5). The impact platforms are straight, the angle to the front is about 80°, decorated with large single cheekbones. Removal of counter-directional blanks of different sizes and contours was carried out in the same plane. The fringing front of the straight line carries traces of the adjustment in the form of small wide shots produced by the left lateral. The convex counter front partially retained the pebble crust. Third nucleus single-plane double frontal. [1. p. 18-26; 2. p. 33-42.]

Medium-sized, massive cube-shaped (6x6.5x6.5 cm) with a smooth straight impact pad formed by a large rock. The angle to the front is close to straight. Wide rectangular blanks of different size were removed from impact platform along two conjugated slightly convex edges of shearing. Cleavage involves more than S of the nucleus perimeter. The products are close to protoprismatic nuclei. The narrow base partially retains the pebble crust. The gun kit (6 copies) is represented mainly by scraping articles. [1. p. 18-26] The double longitudinal straight dorsal edge is made on medium dimensions flattened square debris. Scraping blades are formed along two opposite edges of blank with series of small and medium-wide modifying chips, which are additionally worked with small and medium single-row weakly modifying fleshy vertical discontinuous dorsal retouch. One of the transverse edges, thinner, carries traces of the tweak with two-sided small broad cheekbones giving it a wavy contour. A large skylight tool is made on a large (12.5x12.5x6 cm) trapezoidal massive debris, having traces of attempts to organize systematic splitting. On one of the narrow straight bevelled edges of the workpiece, two wide bevelled edges of the workpiece align the strike pad, from which two large amorphous contours were removed along the main plane of the product. One of the edges of the workpiece, which looks like a narrow rib, at about S length was worked on by a series of small and medium-wide modifying



chips, which formed a slightly bent scraping blade. The working edge is additionally adjusted with a medium interrupted dorsal toothed vertical single row modifying retouch. Interesting are two large scraper-shaped pebble implements, for which trapezoidal flat pebbles were used [2. p. 33-42]. One of the short weak edges of the blank was worked out by a series of flattening different-dimensional wide chips forming an uneven, bevelled blade at an angle of 45 ° to the plane of the pebble. The blade-opposite edge is straight and wide. Slightly bevelled to the blade natural skin, without traces of deliberate adjustment. There is also an end scraper in the collection, made on medium dimensions of subrectangular massive debris. The straight working blade is arranged at one of shorter high edges of different-sized vertical modifying single-row retouch. The tool can be classified as macro scrapers. Also, the inventory in question comprises a single thorn gun. A large flat trapezoidal natural skew was used as a blank for it.

The most elongated naturally sharp angle of the chunk by a series of opposing small wide modifying shots, the negatives of which overlap each other, is transformed into a massive elongated rounded ledge, on which traces of clogging are read, in the form of randomly arranged traces of rock extraction.[27; 28]

GROTTO ANGILAK AND RESEARCHES OF THE UZBEK-AMERICAN EXPEDITION

The Angillak grotto was discovered by R. H. Suleymanov in 2001. Systematic research on this Paleolithic monument began in 2002 by the International Uzbek-American Student Archaeological Expedition, conducting the study of selected monuments of the archaeology of Uzbekistan. In addition to students and teachers of the Faculty of History of the National University of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Department of Anthropology of the University of Colorado, employees of the Institutes of History and Archaeology of the Academy of State and Public Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the field works. The results of the study are reflected in several scientific articles and annual reports of R. H. Suleimanov [19, p. 2-19].

The grotto is 700-800 m above the Erma cave, on the northern shore of Ayakchisai, in the Kitab district of Kashkadarya region. The absolute height of the grotto is about 250 m above the teal talveg. It has a proper shape in the form of a wide rounded niche, facing to the south-west.

Dimensions: width 10 m, depth 7 m, height 6-7 m; A small platform is marked at the entrance.

The grotto is very convenient for shelter and habitat. In 2002-2004, separate debris of chips was found on the floor of the cave, so several shurfs with a total depth of up to 1.5 m were laid in its depth. In all excavated squares there was a continuation of disassembly of cultural deposits to the mainland, and in places and below. In all squares of the underlying clay sterile deposits are cut by another 20-30 cm, as the findings of the lowest level of the layer were pushed into the sterile layer of clay accumulated before the arrival of the person. By cleaning the western wall of the cross trench, the character and colour of the selected three Paleolithic cultural layers change somewhat. The upper-level middle grey layer has a reddish calcined surface. At the base, it moves into dark brown and dark grey. Contact with the lower sterile layer on the western and eastern walls of the transverse trench is uneven - with pits, in the base of pits there is ash and fine gravel. Apparently, before the arrival of man, the surface of the sterile layer was eroded with drops and jets of water from the ceiling of the grotto. A lot of croto vines have been identified in the west wall. [25]

The upper cultural layer (II) has a yellowish tint due to the litter of the upper late layer I livestock. The water and urine of livestock annually for centuries, seeping down, painted the upper level of Paleolithic deposits into a light brown, yellowish colour. The upper yellowish layer closer to the cave entrance clings up and disappears. The upper golden-humus I layer is also absent here. The upper horizon of the medieval and new time is also thickened near the walls of the grotto to the centre of the platform, and at the entrance, it is thinned and clipped.

At the level of the grey middle layer III in the centre of the grotto site and the entrance, there are many clumps and pieces of rock that collapsed from the grotto ceiling. During excavation, many small fragments of wild animal bones were obtained from both shurfs. Among the determinable are the bones of small hooves and turtles. Together with them were found about five hundred products made of stone and waste production, including small fragments and flakes (20. Page 2-19; 21. Page 177-179).

Raw materials for the manufacture of stone tools were pebbles from different rocks of stone, which ancient man could collect in the channel Ayakchisai, flowing at the bottom of the mountain in which there is a grotto. All rocks with a more or less isotropic structure and capable of giving a cancerous fracture during cleavage were used. It was flint, siliceous limestone, fine quartzite, some intrusive rocks, common quartz was often used.

In the collection of artefacts of Angillak grotto, several hundred small scales, fragments and fragments account for about a dozen cleavages and



plates, two dozen retouched guns and their fragments. More than half of them are made of plates or especially dissected fragments of chips.

Apparently, the Angillac industry was characterized by a preference for fine, retouched cleavages and fragments thereof, along with the use of plates and spikes having a longitudinal blade and proportions convenient to grip when working or use as a tip when hunting. The nuclei in the Angillac collection are few, small, dominated by atypical forms. According to R. H. Suleimanov, tools are typical of the Mustyera. These are a variety of retouched splits, some of them can be classified as side scrapers, retouched plates and spikes [20. p. 2-19].

Thus, the typology of Angillac guns is represented by retouched plates, spikes, retouched cleavages, some of which can be qualified as scraps. And as noted many fragments of cleavages and plates with retouch. A series (12 ex.) of retouched plates are highlighted. Despite the very poor quality of the raw stone, the inhabitants of Angillac persistently pursued the goal of producing elongated slabs. [22. p. 29-32; 23. p. 115; 24. p. 223-237]. In the case of Angillac, it was noted, there appeared to be two factors contributing to the small size of the tools, namely the shortage of quality raw materials and the widespread consumption of steppe turtles, the contents of which had to be scraped with small tools and fragments. From the layers of Angillac grotto the radiocarbon date 42000-27000 thousand years BC [26. p. 32-35].

The immediate parking researcher R. H. Suleymanov accepts the lower date of the C14 results. But on this issue, another alternative view has emerged in recent years [18. p. 12-19]. Researchers of the Paleolithic Sayfullayev B. K., Khushvakov N. O. and Kurbonbayev I. accept the upper dating (27,000 years BC). At the same time, they provide quite convincing arguments.

For example, curves truncated plates represented by two instances in the layers of Angillac appear everywhere no earlier than 28,000 years old and are characteristic of the gravetti era.

Moreover, the series of pointers available in the Angillac industry set are presented more elongated and sufficiently flattened, respectively are not related to the mustye period [18. Page 12-19].

CONCLUSION

The study of Uzbekistan 's oldest past (and Central Asia as a whole) has always attracted the close attention of archaeologists because the region has been a kind of "crossroads of civilizations" throughout the history of mankind. Most, of course, the role of Central Asia during the antiquity and Middle Ages, when the Great Silk Road, which took

place here, connected the Eastern and Western worlds of human okumena, is known. However, at a much earlier time, during the Stone Age, the territory of Central Asia, due to its geographical location, was located at the intersection of different-directional migration routes of ancient human populations settled in huge expanses of Eurasia.

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