



CLASSIFICATION OF SOME ARCHEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS ALONG THE ARAL SEA IN THE 14TH-15TH CENTURIES

Yusupov Shakir Khaitbaevich

Researcher at department of the “History”, Urgench State University, Urgench, Uzbekistan

ANNOTATION

This article deals with the names of some cities in the northern part of Khorezm in the last quarter of the 14th century and the history of culture of the 15th century, their location, written sources about this city and settlements, the results of archeological research in 30-60s of the 20th century.

KEY WORDS: *Aral Sea, Devkesgan-Vazir, Mizdahkon (Khojayli), Shemakha qala, Shehrluk, Adoq (Oqqal'a), Puljoy-Git, Kat, pieces of pottery, coins, “Temurid pottery”.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the least studied but noteworthy pages in the history of the Temurids is the Aral Sea regions, the northern part of Khorezm, the history of culture of the last quarter of the 14th and 15th century until the years of independence. The main reason for this was the sharp negative assessment of Amir Temur's forced marches to Khorezm (1372-1388) during the totalitarian regime of the past, and the literature explained that his marches along the South Aral Sea were military expeditions of aggression for no reason. Based on this, many researchers believe that the monuments of the oasis suffered great losses during the reign of Amir Temur, and since then have entered a crisis process and never developed. However, recent archeological research proves that the peoples of the Aral Sea region have undergone some changes due to ecological and other historical conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The scientific study of the archeological monuments of Khorezm oasis began in the 30s and 40s of the 20th century. In studying the history of Khorezm in the time of Amir Temur and Temurids, we must pay special attention to the scientific literature of archeological and historical significance. In this point, we focus on the scientific work of scientists aimed at studying the social and political situation in Khorezm in the 14th-15th centuries on the basis of archeological and numismatic research such

as V.V. Bartold, A.Y. Yakubovskiy, S.P. Tolstov, N.N. Vakturskaya, G.A. Pugachenkova, G.A. Fedorov-Davidov, A.A. Askarov and many others. Archeological research shows that on the shores of the South Aral Sea, in many parts of the oasis, there are monuments, toponymic names of the period of Amir Temur and Temurids, samples of folklore related to the works of Sahibkiran (Amir Temur)¹.

DEVKESGAN-VAZIR

It is located 60 km west of Gurganj on the Ustyurt coast. The monument consists of an arc, a shahristan (cities' complex), a rabot (little city) and a garden complex. The main part of the city, known as the “Yuqori qala (Upper Fortress)”, is naturally located at the foot of the Ustyurt and is surrounded on the steppe by rectangular, semicircular towers and a ditch that crosses the cliff. On the east wall of the city gate are the remains of a tower and recent dwellings. Below the Ustyurt ridge there is a rabot

¹ Yusupov Sh., Eshchanova M. Темурийлар даврида Жанубий Хоразм худуди шаҳарлар таснифи (Classification of cities of South Khorezm region during the Temurids) // Антик давр цивилизацияси тараққиётида Хоразмнинг ўрни мавзусидаги Республика илмий анжумани материаллари (Materials of the Republican scientific conference on the theme “The role of Khorezm in the development of ancient civilization”). – Khiva, 2011.



and recreation park complex, surrounded by a rabot wall.

Sources say that the city was founded by Mustafa Khan in the 15th century. In particular, Khandamir in his book “Khulasat ul-akhbar, fi ahvol ul-akhir” (“Summary of histories”) refers to the political events in Khorezm in 1460-1506, and in 1464 the capital of Mustafa Khan, a descendant of the Jojies, was captured by Sultan Hussein Boyqaro.

The first buildings of the city, including monuments of the id period, were left under the buildings built in later periods. However, in most cases, there are fragments of pottery and coins of the 15th-16th centuries, which protruded from the surface of the hills (location) in the urban area (100 ha). Among them are unglazed – shelf-flanged, light-colored ceramic jugs, tubs, candlesticks, items embroidered with cobalt paints under the mysterious white color. These findings were found in the cultural strata of the 15th-16th centuries in Old Urgench.

MIZDAHKON (Khojayli).

The layers of this monument of Amir Temur and the id period were not well studied and the materials of this monument were not taken into account in the study of the history of Khorezm culture. In this regard, the identification of new archaeological and cultural sites in Mizdahkon is one of the main tasks of our research. Archaeological excavations were carried out at the Mizdahkon historical and cultural monument in 1985-2017. The historical and cultural monument Mizdahkon is a complex of several monuments, most of which consist of medieval buildings and archeological sites. During this time, the monuments of Khorezmshahs, the Golden Horde and the ids were studied in Mizdahkon. In the upper layers of the monument, in most cases, there are fragments of pottery of the id period, which protrude from the hills formed by old buildings. Copies of colored pottery peculiar to the 14th-16th centuries are sometimes found in the cultural strata during excavations. Therefore, during the decades of research, the task of finding and studying sites related to the id period in the excavations at Mizdahkon was set².

Archaeological excavations were carried out mainly on a large hill in the south-western part of the monument, close to the Govur qala fortress.

This hill is composed of several cultural layers, and large settlements have been built since the

² Kdyrniyazov M.Sh. Темуридская керамика Хорезма (Temurid ceramics of Khorezm) // Вестник ККО АН Руз. № 1-2. – P. 119-120; Kdyrniyazov M.Sh. Миздахкан в эпоху Темуридов (Mizdahkan in the era of the Temurids) // Қарақалпақстан тарийхының заманағой машқалалары. – Nukus, 2007. – P. 8-10.

early Middle Ages (Afrigh period). Later, during the reign of Khorezmshahs (early 11th-13th centuries), Mizdahkon became one of the largest cities of Khorezm. During the Mongol and Amir Temur invasions, the city suffered heavy losses. However, in the 14th-15th centuries, it again became one of the largest cities of Khorezm.

SHEMAKHAQALA

The Shemakha fortress, located on the edge of Ustyurt, played an important role in the study of the cultural state of the oasis during the ids. This monument is located on the side of the hill, 50 km northwest of Old Urgench. The city, which has a historically incorrect polygonal shape, covers an area of more than 30 hectares. In the center of the monument is a right-angled fortress wall, fortified with towers. Outside this central part, the chains of shahristan and rabot, mahallas, not surrounded by walls, were built. In the southern part of the monument, which is free of dense structures, there is a pottery neighborhood, in the north-western part there are blacksmiths and glassmaking workshops. There are public buildings in the city, a Juma mosque and mausoleums. There were rural settlements on a low plain to the east of Shemakhaqala.

Numerous finds made during archeological research are important in comprehensively covering the history of urban culture. Among the finds are the items of the Khorezmshahs, the Golden Horde and the ids. The level of trade and cultural ties of the city is clearly shown by the tiles, chandeliers, “Temurid pottery” and other items found there. S.P. Tolstov, the organizer of the Khorezm expedition, who first studied the Shemakha fortress monument, made a comparative analysis of this monument with other ancient cities of Khorezm, noting that this city corresponds to the city of Tirsak in written sources³.

However, the material collected by archaeologists proves that Shemakha fortress served as a link in cultural and trade relations between the settled, agricultural population of Khorezm and nomadic steppe tribes in the north-western part of the country during the period under consideration.

SHEHRLIK

The monument Shehrlik is located 90 km southwest of Old Urgench in the Dovdon river network. Data relating to this city were obtained in 1961, 1963, and 1965 by N.N. Vakturskaya and it was researched and referred to the scientific community⁴. The city Shehrlik is compared to the

³ Tolstov S.P. По следам древне хорезмийской цивилизации (In the footsteps of the ancient Khorezm civilization). – P. 312.

⁴ Vakturskaya N.N. О средневековых городах Хорезма (About the medieval cities of Khorezm) //



urbotoponymy New Shehr found in recent period sources.

In the course of archeological excavations at the city monument, the history, plan, craft neighborhoods, market square⁵ and numerous artefacts of the city were found and studied. Among them are pottery of the id period (fragments of blue dishes in the style of “Samarkand Temurid pottery”), numismatic sources, Temur coins (Temur and Suyurgatmish – 785 BC / 1383-84; 791 BC / 1388-89 BC) was detected⁶. Research in this city will complement the data obtained from the monuments of the 14th-16th centuries of northwestern Khorezm.

ADOQ (Oqqala)

Adoq is one of the cities of the id period in the north-western Khorezm oasis. Written information about the monument is scarce. In particular, the khan of Khiva Abulghazi Bahodirkhan in his famous work “Shajarayi turk” shows the names of the cities of Adoq, Yangi Shehr. Samples of material culture (pottery, coins, pottery fragments, etc.) found in this place date back to the 12th-13th, 14th-15th centuries⁷. The famous archaeologist S.P. Tolstov attributed Oqqala to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and compared it to Adoq in written sources⁸. Elsewhere, the author also refers to Adoq as the New City. There is also a Kazakh town of Auli and aul settlements of the 15th-17th centuries around Adoq. In particular, Kamoliddin Binoi in his poetic works such as “Shaibaniynoma”, “Fathnoma” mentions the cities of Vazir, Boldumsoz⁹.

Adoq was mentioned in the 15th century by the Persian historian Mirkhand Vazir (Devkesgan) on the way to Astrabad and Khorasan. id Hussein Boyqaro

visited this area several times in 1460-1469 and from there prepared to march to Khorasan.

Thus, we see that Oqqala-Adoq is an important monument in the 14th-15th centuries in illuminating the history of the id period, the culture of urban planning on the north-western borders of the oasis.

PULJOY-GIT

The monument is located 12 km east of Elobod district of Kungrad region, on the natural terrace of the ridge in the Ustyurt ridge, the first medieval fortress (74x74 m) surrounded by a defensive wall, and below the hill, in the plain without defensive walls (60 ha) and cemetery (30 ha). That is, the city is topographically divided into two parts: the “upper city” and the “lower city”. Archaeologists from Karakalpak State University have been conducting research there since 2004. During the research, along with the findings of the Khorezmshahs, the Golden Horde, a number of material cultural artifacts (pottery) belonging to the id period were identified¹⁰. In particular, in the caravanserai complex of the city there are pottery samples of the late 14th-early 15th centuries.

Excavations were carried out by M.T. Turebekov in Bugrakhan, the first medieval political capital of Khorezm, as a result of which materials on the topographic structure of the city, the defense system were obtained¹¹. According to the researcher, the city Bugrakhan was the center of the Kungrad region until the 16th century¹².

Archaeologists have discovered numerous historical monuments dating back to the late Middle Ages in the Ustyurt hills and adjacent areas. Many of them are fortress-towns (Big and Small Oybugir, Devkesgan-Vazir, Shemakha fortress, Puljoy, etc.)¹³, caravanserais (Qaligumbaz, Small Oybugir), guard hills (Oybugir, Qaligumbaz, Taili, Urga, etc.) and religious structures. Butentov fortress I-II,

МХЭ., 7th edition. – Moscow, 1963; Vakturskaya N.N. 1966. – P. 8.

⁵ Archive ХАЭЭ. Shehrlilik, 1965. Dairy №28: Kdurniyazov M.Sh. Города Хорезма золотоорынского времени (The cities of Khorezm of the Golden Ryn period) / Dissertation for the degree of candidate of historical sciences. - Moscow: MSU, 1980. – P. 51-53.

⁶ Vakturskaya N.N. О средневековых городах Хорезма. – P. 47,53; Ferdorov-Davidov G.A. Из истории денежного обращения средневекового Хорезма (From the history of monetary circulation in medieval Khorezm) / Aral Sea regions in the antiquity and Middle Ages. – Moscow, 1998. – P. 223.

⁷ Vijanov E., Khojaniyazov G. Археологический комплекс Бутентау (Archaeological complex Butentau) // АП. 6th edition. – P. 55.

⁸ Tolstov S.P. По следам древнехорезмийской цивилизации. – P. 314.

⁹ Akhmedov V.A. Тарихдан сабоқлар (Lessons from History). – Tashkent, O'qituvchi, 1994. – P. 168-169.

¹⁰ Kdurniyazov M.Sh. Городище Пульжай (город и степь Арало-Каспия) (Settlement Puljoy (city and steppe of the Aral and Caspian)) // Kazakh Khanate in the stream of history / Collection of materials of the international scientific conference dedicated to the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate. – Almaty, 2015. – P. 124-136.

¹¹ Turebekov M. Раскопки Буграхане (Excavations of Bugrakhane) // АИУ. – Samarkand, 2005.

¹² The above shown point.

¹³ Tolstov S.P. По следам древнехорезмийской цивилизации (In the footsteps of the ancient Khorezm civilization). – Moscow, 1948; Vakturskaya N.N. Раскопки 1948 г. На средневековом городище Шемаха кала (Excavations in 1948 at the medieval town of Shemakhaqala) // Труды ХАЭЭ. Vol. 1. – Moscow, – P. 952.



Devkesgan, Shemakha fortress, Oyota fortress – in the upper cultural layers of the city, there are finds of the id period.

According to written sources and archeological research, water use in the north-western regions of Gurganj, mainly in the Sariqamish, Uzboy and Oybugir basins, developed significantly in the 14th and 15th centuries. Because the Daryoliq (the Amu Darya), Uzboy flowed a lot in the distance to Sariqamish during this period, there is even an opinion that the water reservoir that was once accumulated in Sariqamish went to the Caspian Sea through Uzboy.

In addition to these monuments, the findings in the caravanserais on the caravan routes of Khorezm, along with written sources, complement the topographic points of the monuments of our id period and the system of finds of material culture. Authors of historical sources covering the military campaigns of Amir Temur and the Temurids in Khorezm provide information about the settlements of this period on the trade route.

KAT

According to written sources, one of the cities of the id period is Kat. This city, along with Khiva, was among the provinces that were part of the Chigatay nation. In 768 A.D. / 1367 A.D., the local ruler of Khorezm, Hussein Sufi, a representative of the Kungrad Sufis, attempted to unite the province by conquering Kat and Khiva, which had been forcibly separated from western Khorezm by the Mongols. In response, Amir Temur began his first march to Khorezm in 1372. From this time until the 17th century, the city Kat was a city of strategic importance in the historical literature of the feudal period in southern Khorezm.

Archaeological research is poorly organized in the Kat city areas. For the first time in 1937, A.I. Terenojkin conducted scientific research here¹⁴. In 1963, A.V. Gudkova and Y.P. Manilov organized excavations and identified archeological finds from the cultural strata of the city belonging to the 9th-12th centuries (Khorezmshahs), 13th-14th centuries (Golden Horde) and 15th-17th centuries (Temurids)¹⁵. Among the finds, the pottery of the Temurid period testifies to the fact that Kat was one of the monuments of the 14th-15th centuries. According to written sources, during the reign of Amir Temur in the oasis, Kat was one of the well-fortified cities. One of the main tasks of the recent research work is

to start the search for the cultural layer of the Temurid period in Kat city.

CONCLUSIONS

These cities, which we have classified, did not face a cultural crisis in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, but are also cultural centers, as well as major trade centers. Archeological finds in the cities as a result of archaeological research provide clear evidence of this.

¹⁴ Terenojkin A.I. Археологические разведки в Хорезме (Archaeological exploration in Khorezm) // Soviet Archeology (SA). 1940. – P. 165-216.

¹⁵ Manylov Y.P. К изучению городище Кят (To the study of the ancient settlement Kat) // Bulletin of KKFAN of USSR. 1966. -№2. – P. 52-56.