

Ochilov A. T.
PhD, Bukhara State University
Galaktikos2191@mail.ru

IN SEARCH OF THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF BUKHARA OASIS ABSTRACT

The article provides a comparative analysis of archeological studies conducted in the Bukhara oasis based on written sources, research findings, and scientific evidence in the academic literature and periodicals. As a result of the study of the history of archeological research in the Bukhara oasis, it is proposed to divide their history into three major periods. The first covers the period from the end of the 19th century till 1920. Studies of this period were mainly conducted by the members of the Turkestan circle of amateur archeologists. The second period, from 1930s to 1990s, was a time of great discoveries in Bukhara archeology. The third period of archeological research in the Bukhara oasis covers the time from 1991 to the present day. During this period, along with local archeologists, foreign archaeologists also began to participate in the research work. The 2500th anniversary of the city of Bukhara was archaeologically based at that time and the fame of Bukhara was spread all over the world. The article analyzes archaeological research conducted during these three periods.

Key words: Bukhara oasis, archeological studies, Hermitage, Kampir wall, Varakhsha, ancient period.

Ochilov A. T.
t.f.f.d. PhD
Buxoro Davlat universiteti
Galaktikos2191@mail.ru

BUXORO VAHASI MODDIY MADANIYATI TADQIQOT ISHLARI ANNOTATSIYA

Maqolada Buxoro vohasida olib borilgan arxeologik tadqiqotlar yozma manbalar, tadqiqot natijalari, akademik adabiyotlar va davriy nashrlardagi ilmiy dalillar asosida qiyosiy tahlil qilingan. Buxoro vohasidagi arxeologik tadqiqotlar tarixini oʻrganish natijasida ularning tarixini uchta yirik davrga boʻlish taklif

etiladi. Birinchisi 19-asr oxiridan 1920-yilgacha bo'lgan davrni o'z ichiga oladi. Bu davrdagi tadqiqotlar asosan Turkiston havaskor arxeologlar to'garagi a'zolari tomonidan olib borilgan. Ikkinchi davr, ya'ni 1930-1990 yillar Buxoro arxeologiyasida ulkan kashfiyotlar davri bo'ldi. Buxoro vohasidagi arxeologik tadqiqotlarning uchinchi davri 1991 yildan to hozirgi kungacha bo'lgan davrni o'z ichiga oladi. Bu davrda tadqiqot ishlarida mahalliy arxeologlar bilan bir qatorda xorijiy arxeologlar ham ishtirok eta boshladilar. Buxoro shahrining 2500 yilligi o'sha davrda arxeologik asosda bo'lib, Buxoro dovru'gi butun dunyoga tarqaldi. Maqolada ushbu uch davrda olib borilgan arxeologik tadqiqotlar tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Buxoro vohasi, arxeologik tadqiqotlar, Ermitaj, Kampir devori, Varaxsha, antik davr.

Очилов А.Т.

д.ф.и.н. PhD.,

Бухарский Государственный университет

Galaktikos2191@mail.ru

В ПОИСКАХ МАТЕРИАЛЬНОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ БУХАРСКОГО ОАЗИСА АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье проводится сравнительный анализ археологических исследований, проведенных в Бухарском оазисе на основе письменных источников, результатов исследований и научных свидетельств в научной литературе и периодических изданиях. В результате изучения истории археологических исследований в Бухарском оазисе предлагается разделить их историю на три основных периода. Первая охватывает период с конца 19 века до 1920 года. Исследованиями этого периода в основном занимались члены Туркестанского кружка археологов-любителей. Второй период, с 1930-х по 1990-е годы, был временем великих открытий в бухарской археологии. Третий период археологических исследований в Бухарском оазисе охватывает время с 1991 года по настоящее время. В этот период наряду с местными археологами в исследовательской работе стали участвовать и иностранные археологи. В то время археологически обоснованным было 2500-летие города Бухары, и слава о Бухаре разнеслась

по всему миру. В статье анализируются археологические исследования, проводившиеся в эти три периода.

Ключевые слова: Бухарский оазис, археологические исследования, Эрмитаж, Кампирская стена, Варахша, античный период.

INTRODUCTION

Bukhara oasis is one of the largest agricultural centers in Central Asia, and has served as a trade, economic and cultural bridge connecting the cultures of the East and the West from ancient times. The Bukhara oasis on the one hand provided the world with many discoveries and innovations, and on the other hand, enjoyed the cultural and economic impact of the highly developed cultures of Ancient East. At the same time, through centuries of history, a highly developed agriculture, advanced crafts, and commerce have flourished, which have played a special role in the history of the oasis.

Every inch of Bukhara, every historic and cultural monument, symbolizes the great power and creative potential of the local population, the way of progress, science, enlightenment, spirituality, culture, philosophy and religion.

For centuries, Bukhara's reputation has spread throughout the East, not only in the fields of science, education, culture and commerce, but also as a major administrative center of Central Asia as the city was the center (capital) of the ancient rulers of the Eastern Zarafshan region.

Although Bukhara's past is rich and interesting in historical events, many of its pages are not fully preserved till our day.

Specifically, the information on the long history of the oasis, the history of the ancient times, and the emergence of the city may not be found in the written sources, and the available data does not correspond to historical facts. Therefore, archaeological research is very important in the accurate and clear coverage of Bukhara's history.

MAIN RESEARCH RESULTS

The first archeological researches in the Bukhara oasis were led by members of Turkestan circle of amateur archeologists, who operated in the late 19th and early

20th centuries (1895-1917). The first archeological excavations in the Bukhara oasis began in the late nineteenth century, or more precisely, in 1896 when the military topographer N.F. Sitnyakovsky came to Bukhara to perform a series of topographic surveys of archeological sites in the area. The study was mainly conducted in the western and eastern parts of the region. Sitnyakovsky's research made him the first archaeological researcher in the Bukhara oasis [1, C.89-94].

N.F. Sitnyakovsky managed to collect the information on the location and general state of preservation on the the ruins of Kampir, Shahri Vayron, Abu Muslim, Ganchkhana, Hazora, two settlements near Jumabazar, ruins of Ziyovuddin fortress and Paikent, Uzulishkent, Kumushkent, Zandana, Romitan that were located on the left and right banks of the Zarafshan River.

Among these contributions the works on the archeological site of Paikent are of the most importance. During the works at Paikent N.F. Sitnyakovsky initially found 6 silver coins. He reported on his research to members of the Turkestan circle of amateur archeologists on December 11, 1896, and published his report the same year [2, C.130].

Archeological excavations in the Bukhara oasis continued in the early 20th century. In particular, the American expedition led by geologist Raphael Pumpelly of the Carnegie Institute in 1903 explored the ruins of Paikent [3, C.4]. Based on his initial research at Paikent he stated his hypotheses about the remains of the city walls and the original function of ceramic pipes that were found during the works [4, P.8-10.].

Almost at the same time L.A. Zimin also conducted research on archeological monuments of the Bukhara oasis [5, C.15]. He began his research from the works at Paikent. L.A. Zimin initially analyzed the information on Paikent in the Chinese sources, works by Arab travelers, as well as local written sources along with 19th century publications by N. Khanikov, V.V. Barthold. After thoroughly familiarizing himself with the available written sources, Zimin concluded that the first archaeological excavations should be undertaken. He noted that the area was well preserved when he first arrived at Paikent, and he began his initial research by

conducting topographic measurements and eye sketching. L. Zimin first studied the ruins of the wall in the southern and south-eastern parts of the city, and found a number ceramics, glass and iron items along with silver coins [6, C.87]. Based on the analysis of coins, L.A. Zimin suggested that the ruins of Paikent existed before the Arab invasion, developed during rule of the Samanids (9th-10th centuries) and abandoned during the Karakhanids (12th century) [7, Б.129-134]. Further archeological research at the site of Paikent proved this theory right. L.A. Zimin's research in Paikent was continued in 1914, and twice (in spring and summer), archeological research was conducted [3, C.4].

Critical movements in the Russian empire in 1917, the February bourgeois democratic revolution, and then the October Revolution and other political processes required the archeological research in the region to stop until the 1930.

The first serious archaeological excavations in the Bukhara oasis after the establishment of the Soviet rule were carried out by the Uzkomstaris and the Hermitage Museum in 1934 lead by A.Yu.Yakubovskiy. Yakubovskiy organized a special archaeological expedition in the region and studied the remains of the defensive constructions in the north-eastern part of the oasis. He published the report on these works in 1940. The expedition was planning to study a caravan route from Bukhara to Samarkand. During the activity the edges of the north-eastern part of the Bukhara oasis were archaeologically examined. The monuments along the oasis defensive wall system known Kampirdevol, such as Kyzyltepa, Shahshahidon, Abumuslim, Burikhona, Ganchkhana, Hazora and Dengak were studied. Their plan and layout of the buildings were identified and put on paper.

The report of the Yakubovsky's expedition also highlighted the important historical problems associated with Kampirdevol. In particular, it touched upon the relationship between the settled population of the oasis and the nomadic peoples of the desert and steppe regions. These archaeological sites, studied by Yakubovsky, were examined superficially without conducting archeological excavations. One of the successes of the expedition was the identification of the Deggaron Mosque near

the archaeological site of Hazora that was concluded to be not younger than the famous Samanid mausoleum in Bukhara [8, C.61].

V.A. Shishkin also conducted research in the region at the same time as A.Yakubovsky. V.A. Shishkin began his first research in Bukhara in 1934 with the archaeological study of the Kampirdevol. To do that he tried to travel around and survey the whole Bukhara oasis. He also studied the remains of the defensive wall in the southern and eastern parts of the oasis. Along the way, monuments such as Aksoch, Khoja Ajuvandi and Kuyitepa were also examined. In the course of the research, archaeological sites that were located close to the remains of the wall, such as Kuyimozor cemetery, Vardonze, Zandana, Varakhsha were identified [10, - 50 c]. These studies provided a great deal of information about the history of the Bukhara oasis. However, all of them were conducted outside of Bukhara city, which awaited to be archaeologically examined [5, C.16].

The first archaeological survey in the city of Bukhara was conducted in 1934 by V.A. Shishkin in the area of the Maghoki Attori mosque and provided some information about the history of the city [11, C.29-60].

V.A. Shishkin began to study the Varakhsha archeological site in the western part of Bukhara oasis starting from 1937. Initially, he paid attention to the shape of excavated structures and their elevation. Shishkin understood that these excavations were promising, and considered the area to be part of the complex. During excavations of one of the rooms in Varakhsha it was discovered that the walls of the room were covered with decorative pieces and decorations of various shapes. It was acknowledged as belonging to the style of the Sasanian era [10, C.9-27].

During that period, in 1939-1940 archeological researches were carried out in the city of Paikent as well. Archaeological study of Paikent was conducted by A.Yu. Yakubovsky [9, C.113-164], V.N. Kesaev and V.A. Shishkin [5, C.16-17] and the topographic map of the site was created a topographic map of the city of Poykent. This map shows that the city consists of three parts: Ark fortress - 1 ha, Shahrستان (inner city) section - 13 ha, Shahrستان II - 7 ha [12, B.8].

However, by the 1940's due to the Second World War, the archaeological research in the oasis was temporarily suspended. In the postwar period, archaeological investigations in the Bukhara oasis moved to the Varakhsha massif. Archaeological researches of V.A. Shishkin started in 1947 in Varakhsha [13, C.62-70] and lasted for 6 years [14, C.10]. Research in Varakhsha was different from other monuments of its time in Central Asia. Because this monument was considered to be a magnificent building in history.

Other famous scholars, such as archaeologist Lazar Albaum, Natalia Diakonova, architect V. A. Nilson and art historian Meshkeris also participated in the archaeological works by V. A. Shishkin at Varakhsha [5, C.17].

Since all of the above studies were concerned with medieval sites, it was widely believed that Bukhara is a medieval city. However, archaeological research by Ya.G.Gulomov, starting from 1950, proved this point to be wrong [15, Б.33-34].

While surveying the shorelines of the ancient water arteries he found a number of stone tools scattered around. Ya.G. Gulomov discovered the ancestors' huts, built on lakeside and river banks during the field search, collected fragments of Neolithic ceramics and stone tools, scattered in the sands around the huts. From this the scientist concludes: "The north-western areas of the Bukhara oasis are the most promising archeological reserves, with monuments of the period of archeological primitive community" [16, C.149-161]. The expedition team, led by Yahya Gulyamov, is investigating more than 60 Neolithic and Bronze Age locations in the lower reaches of Zarafshan. Among them are the opening of monuments of Mohankul, Zamonbobo, Kichik Tuzkon, Big Tuzkon, Deep Lake, Parsang Lake and Luklikul, as well as archeological finds from monuments.

After Yahya Gulyamov, the studies of the ancient history of the oasis were continued by U.Islamov and A.Askarov [17, Стр.266].

In 1950s many areas of Bukhara oasis were archaeologically studied by the expedition lead by S.N. Yurenev. They provided some accurate information on the history of the city [18, Стр.30].

In the 1960s archaeologist A.Mukhammedjonov began to study the irrigation system of the Bukhara oasis. He tried to draw conclusions by studying hundreds of written sources, archeological and ethnographic materials for the study of irrigation of the Bukhara oasis. A.Muhammedjonov demonstrated the development of irrigation systems in the period from the appearance of irrigation systems of the Bukhara oasis to the beginning of the 20th century [19].

The expeditions of A. Mukhamedjanov, J.K. Mirzaakhmedov and Sh.T.Adilov began in Bukhara, and as a result studied the ancient and medieval culture of the Bukhara oasis. J.K. Mirzaakhmedov wrote a complete and comprehensive PhD thesis on the late medieval ceramics of Bukhara [20]. In his later work he was able to distinguish very specific ceramic items from this oasis. As a result, the typology of the ceramics of the Bukhara oasis and its timeline now serve as a reference point for medieval ceramics of other parts of Central Asia.

In the 1980s archaeologist Sh.T. Adilov conducted a thorough archeological study of ancient and early medieval urban culture of the Bukhara oasis [21, C.65-75].

G.L. Semenov played a great role in the archeological study of the Bukhara oasis [22]. In 1981, the Russian State Hermitage museum, the Institute of Archaeology of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, and the Institute of Oriental Art in Moscow began excavations at Paikent and other various archeological sites of the Bukhara oasis. Furthermore, annual reports on archaeological research conducted in Paikent were published in the form of a separate book.

During the years of Independence, the directions of the archaeology of the Bukhara Oasis was updated and improved in terms of topics and scientific problems. A review and evaluation of some of the scientific views and approaches previously held in scientific communication was also initiated. In the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, it was important to reveal such issues as the reasons for the development of different territories, the influence of natural geographical conditions on human activity and lifestyle, the socio-economic level of clan communities.

These issues were interpreted in separate monographs, articles and dissertations. In this regard, it is necessary to mention the researches of N.O. Kholmatov, M.M. Khojanazarov, B.K. Sayfullaev, D.M. Jo'rakulova, M.I.Niyazova and Kh.B.Khoshimov[23].

As a result of the attention paid to archaeological research during the period of Independence, foreign archaeologists also showed interest in the primitive period of the region and started their research. In particular, the representatives of the Uzbek-Polish joint archaeological expedition conducted comprehensive research on the archaeological monuments related to the Kaltaminor culture [24, P.118-125], and the researches on the ancientization of the periodical date of the Kaltaminor culture, the research conducted by the representatives of the joint Uzbek-French archaeological expeditions on the Neolithic settlements of the Bukhara oasis, and the archaeological monuments of Ayokogitma can be emphasized [25, - 252 p] .

It should be noted that at the beginning of the XXI century, as a result of the "Archaeological Topography of the Bukhara Oasis" project and extensive research carried out in other areas by the Italian-Uzbekistan expedition staff (B. Djenito, K.S. Antonini, O. Kerasuolo, D.K. Mirzaahmedov), the first no settlements of the Iron Age were found, and on the contrary, many ancient and early medieval monuments were identified[26]. These data indicate that the Lower Zarafshan pond was less exploited than the oases of the middle course of this river in the early Iron Age. This situation is reflected in the published maps of the geography and development dynamics of the monuments of the Bukhara oasis, taking into account the new researches of the French-Uzbekistan expedition and the information obtained in previous years [27, – C. 384-402.].

During the years of independence, the archeology of Uzbekistan and the archaeological study of Bukhara as it's integral part has grown significantly. Archaeologists have scientifically justified the 2500th anniversary of the city of Bukhara. In addition to local archaeologists, archaeological expeditions are being carried out in collaboration with archeologists from other developed countries.

Under the framework of such cooperation, archaeologists from Italy, France, USA and Russia conduct joint excavations in various archeological monuments of the Bukhara oasis.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, despite the fact that the archaeological survey of Bukhara oasis has started only 120 years ago, it has been providing us with a great deal of information about the history of the region. Research has shown the continuity in the historical and cultural developments in the region from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages. The progress in Bukhara suggests that they had high cultural backgrounds that had arisen as a result of their interactions with neighboring populations. As a result of the research, some aspects of the history of the Bukhara oasis were described in more detail. However, we can't say that all the problems and issues in the archeology of the oasis are resolved.

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