

Some Comments on the History of the Study of Villages and Towns in the early middle Ages (IV-IX Centuries)

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Abstract: This article seeks to shed light on the study of the history and development of Khorezm villages and towns in the early Middle Ages from a historical point of view, based on sources.

Keywords: Urgench, village, city, Mizdakhon, Zamakhshar, Burgutqal'a Ketenqala (Ketenler), Qal'aliq, Tomarqala, V.Voyevodskiy.

From the early ages, the bulwarks of the Khorezm was in the spotlight of many scientists and explorers. But, researching it from the archaeological side was actualized only in the 30s of the 20th century. The researches on medieval castles and towns of Khorezm was done in 1928-1929 by A.Y.Yakubovskiy with the direction of V.V.Bartold around medieval capital city of Khorezmshahs-Urgench (On the present day Old Urgench, the city in Dashoguz region of Turkmenistan). About this matter A.Y.Yakubovsk published his work which was named "Развалины Ургенча" (Ruins of Urgench). In addition, he did opening archeological works in Mizdakhon city ruins which belonged to middle ages and situated around Xujayli, then he published his article named "Городище Миздакхан" (Mizdakhan settlement). In 1934, the next scientific expedition was held by M.V. Voyevodsk in Zamakhshar (on present day Zmukhshir), a medieval ruin of southern Khorezm in the Dashoguz region of Turkmenistan. Both expeditions provided with a lot of information on the history of medieval Khorezm. During the archaeological research, done by Y.Gulyamov in 1937, was studied medieval cities Guldursun and Norinjon situated in the Southern Karakalpakistan.[1]

In the result of researches conducted for a long period of time by Khorezm archaeological expedition, which was organized with the leadership of S.P.Tolstov in 1937, was studied a lot of castles and cities which belonged to middle ages. In particular, during the first phase of the researches, namely in 1937 it was studied medieval monuments Burgutkala(VI-IX), Kavatkala(X-XIII), Ayozkala(I-VII) led by A.I.Terenojkin, moreover it was continued the excavations in the castles of Guldursun and Norinjon. In 1938, there was an expedition under the direction of Terenojkin which carried out excavations inTeshikkala(VII-VIII) and Burgutkala and in the same year there was an exploration in Qarg'ateshgankala which belonged to VII-VIII ages. In exploration of 1940, there was studied Burankala (IX-X) and Janpiqkala(XII).[1,-28-34]

In years after the war, the expanse of the explorations enlarged. In those explorations took part in not only archaeologists and ethnographers, but also geographers, hemophologists, anthropologists, soil scientists, zoologists, biologists and linguists. That was allowed to research those monuments in all aspects. As a result of it, a lot of monuments determined by comparison with medieval commerce cities. During the 1945-1948 years archaeological researches, castle Shokhsanam, castle Shemakha (XIII-XIV) and other excavations, which was before, was continued and the results of expeditions were published. Particularly, being based on the archaeological materials found as a result of expedition, which were in the city of Shokhsanamkala led by N.N.Vakturskaya in 1948, it was confirmed that Shokhsanamkala was one of the major trade centers and developed city.

There was researches in the cities Kuhna-uaz, Shokhsanamkala, Kuhna Urgench, Toshkala and caravanserais Oq yoyli and Talaykhonota during the 1948-1952 years expedition. Being based on the archaeological materials found in Ko'hna-uaz, Y.Y.Nerazik studied it in periods such as kang, kushon, kushon-afriq period and IX century.[2] Being based on the glassware found in Shokhsanamkala, S.A.Trudnovskaya confirmed that until the invasion of Mongolians, glass production in Khorezm had been in high level. In 1952 expedition did researches in Urgench.[2,-431-466] It was

done researches in Toshkala, being based on archaeological materials found as a result of researches, it was confirmed that there was a crisis in Old Urgench in XV-XVII century.[3]

By the end of the 50s of the XX century, archaeology of Khorezm entered a new phase. It started to organize archaeological expeditions By the Department of Archeology of the Karakalpak branch of the AS of Uzbekistan which was settled in 1958. From 1958 to 1988 department of archaeology organized stationary archaeological works and routes. The first expedition was organized in the Amudarya delta I n 1958-1959 and several medieval castles were explored.[4] In the course of Khorezm archaeology-ethnography expedition in 1958-1961, it was studied medieval cities, monuments and castles such as Yorbekikala, Shaharlik, Zamakhshar, Munchoqli, Ketenkala (Ketenler), Kalaliq, Tuprokkala, Tomarkala, Bugrokhon, Puljoy, Urgakala. In particular, as a result of expedition held in Yorbekirkala in 1958, it was confirmed thoughts about availability of life since antic period. It was found that bottom layer belonged to Kang period.[5] 1961s expedition in Shaharlik helped to determine the topography of it. Furthermore, its specific construction style established that it is connected with urban planning policy of the Golden Horde khans in the XIII-XIV centuries.[6] In 1959-60, as a result of excavations in the Shahristan part of the Hazarasp fortress, located in the center of Khazarasp district, the walls of the fortress were rebuilt in BC. From the 4th century BC. It is known to have been rebuilt many times between the 19th and 20th centuries.[7] In the 60s expedition V.N.Yagodin, Y.P.Manilov, Y.Bijanov, G.Khujaniyozov took an active part. In 1962, 1964-1965, V.N.Yagodin and T.K.Khujayev did stationary excavations in Mizdakhqon. As a result of excavations, it was confirmed that Mizdakhqon had been a large city and its topography was marked. Moreover, in that expedition aerial photography was organized by V.N.Yagodin. At the first time , in the medieval part of the city was done excavations and photography.[8] In the 60-70s of the XX century, it was done archaeological explorations over right bank of the Amudaryo by Kalakalpak archaeologists led by Y.P.Manilov. during the 1963, 1968-1971s explorations , Kat, Janpikkala, Abu Muslimkala monuments was studied. 1968-1971, 1973s archaeological explorations showed that Janpikkala had been situated in major trade road and was economically developed.[6,-18-19.] Materials, which was found during the explorations, belonged to XIII-XVI century and it was confirmed the fact that thoughts about from the right bank of Khorezm to Bukhara, there was not any city despite Kiyot(Kat) emphasized by Ibn Battuta was not true. AS a result of archaeological research, material found on the right bank of Khorezm cities, especially, Golden Horde coins showed that even after invasion of Mongolians , right bank cities of Khorezm recovered, but none of them was able to be in the level of X-XIII century. During the third stage of the researches, medieval caravanserais, cities, castles was explored. There was excavation in Sadvar in 1972-1975 and in Jigarband in 1974-1976. As a result of excavation in Sadvar, it had been found potteries belonged to antic period from bottom layer.[9] Expedition of Khorezm did excavations in the caravanserais Qizilrabort and Eshakrabort in 1973-1974, V.N.Pilipko in Qizkala in 1974. In 1979, I.V.Savitskiy did excavations in Janpikkala. In 1980, the staffs of the archaeological department of Karakalpak branch of the AS UzSSR Y.P.Manilov, M.SH.Kdyrniyazov va B.Saypanov opened mausoleum dahma of Mazlumxon-sulu and from there was found three tombs buried in the form of a burial rite which belonged to Golden Horde period. As a result of exploration in 1987, it was defined that Janpikkala had been craft center. As a result of stationary archaeological excavations in 1987-1989, 1994-1997 and 2006-2007, it was found materials belonged to the culture of Timurid period in Mizdahqon.

In conclusion, it can be said that we need to study the history of Khorezm cities and villages in more depth by comparing them from the point of view of historiography in the future.

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