



The Role Of The Department Of Archeology Of The National University Of Uzbekistan In The Study Of The Ancient And Medieval History Of The Tashkent Oasis

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ABSTRACT

The Tashkent oasis is one of the most ancient historical regions of Central Asia and plays an important role in the socio-economic, cultural and ethnic history of Uzbekistan. Life in it is formed on the banks of the Syrdarya basin. The Tashkent oasis is surrounded on three sides by the Tien Shan, Chatkal and Qurama mountain ranges. The mountains surrounding the oasis were rich in minerals. They are precious and non-ferrous metals - gold and silver, copper and lead, tin, iron ore, flint and kaolin lumps, marble and silicon-enriched and slaked lime.

KEYWORDS

Archeology, Bronze and Early Iron Age, Tashkent

INTRODUCTION

From the Bronze and Early Iron Ages, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes conquered steppe and mountainous areas, where they established burial mounds, and used the lands of the river valley for farming.

The founder of the Department of Archeology M.E.Masson began collecting archeological and numismatic artifacts on the history of the Tashkent region in the 20s. In 1928, in collaboration with T. Mirgiyosov, he conducted archeological excavations in Toytepa by studying the ruins of the ancient cities of

Toytepa and Chordara in the system of the Central Museum of Central Asia. In 1929, he carried out historical and topographic photography at the Sarzayman monument, which is comparable to Tunket, the capital of Ilaq. In 1934, he led the Tajik-Pamir geological expedition and conducted historical and geographical research in the central valley of Ahangaron, a vast area of Tashkent region.

In the course of this work, ancient cities and large archeological sites such as Pskent and Boka, Toytepa, Sarsantlak and Qulota, Qanqa, Jumushkozitepa were studied.

Correction of topographies of written sources allowed to determine their medieval names such as Biskat, Samsirek, Nuket, Tunket, Tukket, Khorashket. At the same time, data were collected to study the history of Tashkent. As a result, new information was introduced into history, which allowed to determine the image of the ancient cultural oasis of Tashkent. That is why at the opening of the Department of Archeology at the university in 1940, M.E. Masson was appointed to lead the 1st course (course) "Historical topography of the cities of Uzbekistan." Along with Samarkand and Bukhara, the city of Tashkent and Tashkent district were included as objects.

In the 40s of the XX century, the department conducts archeological excavations in the ancient parts of Tashkent, in castles and steppes and similar sites in certain areas. In particular, on the mausoleum of Yunus Khan, built in the XV century, a number of other practical topics [2] were developed.

Students of the department were also involved in the study of the city's monuments and its surroundings. The study of historical monuments, started in 1943 by V.D. Zhukov [3] in Chirchik construction districts, was

continued in 1949 by V.M. Masson and Sh.G. Baishev in the eastern part of Tashkent and beyond, in the Chirchik hills. They studied in detail all the monuments along the Chirchik River, from the outskirts of Tashkent to the southern part of Khanabadtepa, which represents the ruins of a large medieval Nuket city (30 ha) and crosses Chirchik.

Later, Tugaytepa, which was under the rule of Jabuket in the Middle Ages, was also studied. Fortresses such as Bozgottepa near Nogaytepa, later Karaboshtepa and beyond Tashkent, such as Tuanattepa, Shortepa, Nameless Village, Kuloqchintepa and Kipchak were also studied. Research has shown that many small fortresses have sprung up around Tashkent as a means of protection against the flooding of the Chirchik River[4].

The author M.E. Masson published a special article on the city of Khanabad[5], as well as S.B. Lunina and Z.I. Usmanova conducted research on some of the existing monuments from the right bank of Chirchik to the south of Tashkent.

In the course of the research, the authors paid special attention to the second stage of the Melon culture, which developed in the Middle Ages⁶. At the same time, Yu.F. Buryakov began to study in detail the ancient city of Mingorik, which has a special place among other hills in the Tashkent region. They selected the plan of Shahristsans from the topographic map of Tashkent in different years of the 70-90s of the XX century, made a plan of modern finds of monuments, collected data on the initial periodicity of historical monuments of the city from antiquity to the beginning of the XII century BC. In 1957, Yu.F. Buryakov together with D.G. Zilper conducted excavations in the southern part of the city[7].

M.E.Masson, who has published a number of scientific articles on Tashkent since 1939, also published his first work on the history of the city in 1954. [8]. The Department of Archeology and its students in the 60s and 70s of the twentieth century repeatedly focused on the material culture of the city[9]. S.B.Lunina and Z.I.Usmanova of the city “Kogaittepa sopol” [10], Sh.S. Tashkhodjaev publishes "Ceramic complex of Kokaldosh madrasah", and N.I. Krashennikova publishes "Construction of a complex of mausoleums in the city".

From 1967, the Tashkent archeological team of the Institute of History and Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan under the leadership of V.A. Levina-Bulatova and later M.I. Filanovich[11] conducted fundamental research on the reconstruction of Tashkent after the earthquake. This research has been particularly active since 1978, with graduates of the Department of Archeology playing a leading role in the executive. During this period, regular archeological research was conducted on the urban culture of Tashkent region in the Ilaq[12] counties. At the same time, archeological excavations are being carried out in Qanqa [13], the first capital of Chach.

In addition to archaeologists who graduated from the department, students of the department, led by the head of the department S.B .Lunina and Z.I Usmanova, also take an active part in the research. The historical topography of the region was also studied during this period. In recent years, Binket, the medieval capital of Tashkent, has been studied in depth, as well as a complex of mausoleums on the outskirts of Tashkent and its outlying fortresses, as well as excavations and monuments in Qanqa, the first capital.

In the oasis, economic contracts for the protection of excavations and monuments are also being implemented in Shohruhiya, the ancient medieval capital of Binket. Materials on this topic were published in the journal "Information of Tashkent State University", and information on the history of leading city centers was combined as a special collective monograph and published in 1990[17].

The second important direction in which the Department of Archeology played a major role was the creation of the history of mining and metallurgy of the ancient and medieval Tashkent state.

Metal plays a revolutionary role in the civilized development of society. From the earliest mythological periods to recent times, various documents and sources confirm that the country was rich in metallurgical raw materials.

Among them is the Ihan, a small region of the Tashkent statehood known to the population as Karamazor, which extends west from the Chatkal and Qurama mountain ranges in the Ahangaron Valley in the western part of the Tien Shan.

The tenth-century Arab geographer Istahri reported that Mount Ilaq was rich in gold and silver [18]. Geologists were the first to pay attention to the mining of ore at the Qurama peak in Ilaq. They began to search for Karamazor ore resources in the mid-20s of the last century. At the same time, the founder of the Department of Archeology M.E. Masson also began to study the processing of natural resources in the mountains of the Tashkent oasis.

In 1929, he conducted research on the system of the Central Asian branch of the Geological Committee in Ahangaron and Karamazor

districts and summarized written sources with data on archaeological research[19]. Then, with the organization of the Tajik-Pamir geological expedition, he led a special detachment. This detachment's expedition covered the central part of Ahangaron in 1934 and explored not only the cities on the plains, but also metallurgical points and iron ore deposits [20].

In the late 1930s, the study of ancient ore deposits declined somewhat, but by the 1970s, M.E. Masson was revisiting the subject. He publishes a number of scientific articles mainly on the Tashkent region, which is an archeological base [21]. His work is devoted first to the extraction and smelting of certain metals, and then to the processing of ore and metallurgy [22]. In the late 50s, under the active guidance and support of M.E. Masson, the graduates of the department also began to work on this problem.

Since 1958, Yu.F. Buryakov has been conducting the latest research on ore mining and smelting in the Chatkal-Kurama region, and has been able to find and study important centers for ore mining and smelting[23].

On the basis of systematic research in all archeological networks of the ore processing system, it was possible to determine the stages of the history of mining in Iloq and the volume of production of various ores [24]. Employees of the department S.B. Lunina, Z.I. Usmanova, students A.G. Brusenko, G. Dadaboev, V.A. Belousov and others made a great contribution to the study of individual centers of ancient metallurgy. In the late 60's, at the initiative of the Ministry of Geology of Uzbekistan, a special research unit "Ancient Finds" was created, which included a graduate of the department E.B. Pruger. The branch plans to work in all

historical and cultural regions of Uzbekistan, and the plan also includes an in-depth study of the Chatkal-Kurama region of the Tashkent oasis.

In addition to the recognized problematic areas, the staff of the department was involved in solving many other issues, such as the study of the historical problem of the role of Chach in the system of interaction of nomadic and peasant peoples along the Syrdarya.

The active transition to the use of historical sources and archeological materials on the history of the Tashkent oasis was achieved only in the 90s, when the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence. Along with the continuation of archeological excavations, special attention is paid to the repair of archeological sources, the study of economics, culture and the systematic study of archeological complexes.

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