



The Great Silk Road Monuments Of Northwest Bactria Kushan Period

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the monuments of the Great Silk Road of the Kushan period in northwestern Bactria. The Rabatak inscription includes several important lists: the cities of northern India over which Kanishka claimed his rights; about the gods who were worshiped in the Kanishka dynastic temple in Rabatak; and the predecessors of Kanishka, his great-grandfather Kuyul Kadphizes, the founder of the Kushan dynasty, his grandfather Vima (I) Taktu and his father Vima (II) Kadphises. The name Vima Taktu is also attested, presumably as the name of the reigning monarch, in the Bactrian inscription at Dasht-e-Navur, where several inscriptions in Bactrian, Kharosthi and undeciphered script are inscribed on the same rock.

KEYWORDS

Rabatak, Dasht-E-Navur, Kuyul Kadphizes, Kushan Dynasty, Vima (I) Taktu, Monuments, Great Silk Road, Northwestern Bactria, Important Lists.

INTRODUCTION

During the Kushan Empire, the number of prisoners of war increased as a result of

frequent battles. The Kushan Empire, which was at war with China and Parthia, was an ally

of Rome, which was at war with Parthia for dominance in the Middle East. However, trade interests brought these countries closer together. Favorable conditions have been created for the development of international trade along the Great Silk Road. In the east - through the annexed cities-oases of East Turkestan - with China, in the south - under the Kushans Shim. It was traded with India, by sea in the west, by Egypt, or by land through Iran, with the cities of the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean, and in the north by Khorezm and the Urals to Eastern Europe.

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Archaeological finds and ancient written sources have revealed the following important scientific information about the Kushan culture: the construction of a city with a strong defensive wall was developed, several dozen such cities, and many large irrigation facilities were built. Inside the cities there are arches, surrounded by various buildings.

All of the Bactrian inscriptions of the Kushan period, the richest historical data are the inscriptions of Rabatak, describing the events of the first years of the reign of Kanishka I and the spread of his power to northern India up to the Bay of Bengal. The statement that Kanishka “discovered the first year” apparently refers to the beginning of the “Kanishka era” or “Kushan era”, which Falk convincingly placed in 127/8 AD. based on synchronicity with the era of Haka in the Sanskrit astronomical treatise. The inscription seems to mention the third and sixth years of Kanishka’s life, in which case it could not have been written before 132/3 AD, but most of the text is dedicated to the events of his first year. One phrase, the exact interpretation of which is somewhat elusive, can be understood as an allusion to Kanishka’s decision to use the “Aryan” language, ie. Bactrian, not Greek, a change attested in

Kushan coinage very soon after the start of Kanishka's reign, quite possibly during his first year.

The murals depict religious and ceremonial ceremonies, natural landscapes and horsemen. Pottery is well-developed, and the pottery found is distinguished by its variety and its delicate, resonant texture. Applied art is widely developed, and its best examples are housed in the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg. The development of jewelry, labor and weapons, and weaving was developed.

The fortress on the right bank of the Amu Darya river, 1.5 km. west of Shurab village, was identified and examined in 1972 by E. V. Rtveladze. It occupies a high loess terrace, cut by a network of ravines and hollows. It consists of a fortress and an unfortified part, located on the western and eastern sides of the fortress. The total length from west to east is 750 m, from north to south - 200-250 m. The fortress (area 4 ha) consists of a citadel and a residential part. It is surrounded by a strong wall (3 m thick) with an inner gallery flanked by rectangular towers.

An example of the Kharoshthi script based on the Indian alphabet was first found in Termez, and an example of a Khorezmian script inscribed on leather and wood was found in Tuproqkala. It was found that the Great Silk Road, which passed through the lands of the Kushan kingdom, had a positive effect on the development of foreign trade. Gold, silver, and copper coins minted by the Kushan kings were found in Ethiopia, Scandinavia, Italy, and many other countries.

In 1982-1988 the opening of the citadel along the upper building horizon, excavation of burial structures, a residential block in the north-eastern corner of the fortress, excavation of defensive walls and a ceramic

furnace were carried out. Archaeological excavations were concentrated on a planigraphic study of the fortress along the upper building horizon of the Kushan era, mainly the time of Kanishka.

The place where the largest number of Kushan Bactrian inscriptions have survived is Surkh Kotal, the site of another dynastic temple founded by Kanishka. One of them, the so-called “unfinished inscription”, dates back to 279, like the inscription Dasht-e Navur. It is not translated below, since apart from the date nothing can be clearly read. The fragmentary “Palamedes Inscription” is not dated, but the fact that it is “signed” in Greek suggests that it is probably no later than the earliest years of Kanishka. The most important inscription Surkh Kotal, which has survived in three versions with minor variations, testifies to the construction and restoration work begun in the 31st year of the Kanishka era (i.e. 158/9 AD, at the beginning of the reign of Guvishka) and was supposedly erected in the same year or shortly thereafter. Most of the other Bactrian inscriptions of the Kushan period, such as those of Ayrtaam (the only edition of which, Harmatta 1986, is based on overly speculative readings) and Dilberdzhin, are poorly preserved or incomprehensible and do not offer useful historical data. Building inscription on a stone board (copy M), found at the site of Surkh Kotal, Baghlan province, Afghanistan, and now in the National Museum in Kabul.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, not dated, but not earlier than 31 years of the Kanishka era, i.e. 158/9 AD. This citadel is the temple of Kanishka the Victorious, which was named, By the Lord King Kanishka. When the citadel was built for the first time, it did not require, (Internal) water (water supply), but the citadel was waterless, and when there was an attack, of the Enemies, the

gods were driven out of (their) place, then they were delivered to the citadel of Lrafa, and the citadel was abandoned.

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