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HISTORY AND MAIN PROBLEMS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF NORTHERN BACTRIA OF THE KUSHAN PERIOD

Abstract: The article covers the first stages of archaeological study of the south of Central Asia of the Kushan era. The issues of adding up periodization systems are considered, the history of the discovery and study of monuments of Northern Bactria an example of the south of modern Uzbekistan is shown in detail, information is given about such works in neighboring territories. And also characterized by the study of archaeological sites of southern Uzbekistan in the post-Soviet period.

Key words: Uzbekistan, Central Asia, Northwestern Bactria, monument, expedition, Kushan culture, fortification, town, shahrستان, Surkhan oasis, Termez Archaeological Complex Expedition (TACE).

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Introduction

The culture of Northern Bactria occupies a place in world history and has had an impact the formation of world culture. Ancient Bactria was a large historical and geographical region located in the upper basin of the Amu Darya, in the south-east of Central Asia (now in the territories of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan). In ancient Greek sources, its northern boundary is the Amu Darya (Strabo, Ptolemy), later researchers, based on archeological data, define its northern boundary with the Gissar Mountains, and its southern boundary with the Hindu Kush ridges.

Ancient Bactria includes the southern regions of present-day Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the southeastern part of Turkmenistan, and the northern regions of Afghanistan; it is bounded on the north by ancient Sogdiana, on the south; and was bordered on the southeast by the provinces of Arachosia and Panhara, and on the west by the provinces of Margiana. In the scientific literature, the term "Northern Bactria" is used for the part of Bactria that enters the territory of the Central Asian republics, and "Southern Bactria" for the part that belongs to Afghanistan [6, B.3].

Archaeological excavations in ancient Bactria over the years have yielded a wealth of valuable information. The first archeological excavations in the territory of Bactria if conducted by Fushe, in later years M. E. Masson, G. A. Pugachenkova, L. I. Albaum, B. A. Litvinskiy, E. V. Rtveldze, A. A. Asqarov, A. S. Sagdullaev, Sh. Pidaev, B. Turgunov, B. Stavisskiy, I. T. Kruglikova, V. I. Sarianidi, T. Shirinov, U. Rahmonov, Sh. Shaydullaev and other archaeologists conducted research.

It is known that archeological excavations in the ruins of the ancient city play an important role in creating a material resource base for the study of ancient culture. For almost a century, significant progress has been made in the study of the ruins of the ancient city, which reflects the culture of the Kushan period of the Surkhandarya oasis, which was part of a large empire of antiquity. During their study, a large amount of material on the culture of the Kushan period was collected, and on the basis of their generalization and analysis, the creation of a history of Kushan culture in Northwest Bactria became one of the current issues of historiography.

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2. METHODS AND LEVEL OF STUDY

The scientific article was covered on the basis of general historical methods such as tradition, consistency, comparative analysis, objectivity. From the second half of the 1920s, the Kushan period of the Surkhandarya oasis, which formed northwestern Bactria, began to study the ruins of ancient cities stratigraphically and topographically. As a result of archeological excavations carried out in recent periods, the number of urban-type settlements belonging to the Kushan period of the oasis has increased. The excavations of the archeological expedition carried out by the Institute of Art Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in the Dalvarzintepa, Kholchayon and later Kampirtepa monuments in the 1960s play an important role in the study of Kushan culture. Also of special importance is the research work carried out in the 70-80s of the XX century by the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the former USSR, the Leningrad branch of this institute, the archeological expeditions of MSU at the Zartepa monument. In the late 80s of the last century, the interest of foreign countries in the study of monuments of Kushan culture also increased, as a result of which foreign expeditions were organized by the University of Soka in Japan. In the early twentieth century, the State Museum of Oriental Culture of the Russian Federation conducted a Central Asian archeological expedition. At present, the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation - an archeological expedition to study Central Asia, continues its archaeological research.

The results of the above-mentioned archeological excavations are reflected in the scientific articles of researchers published in local and periodical publications, as well as in monographs published individually and collectively.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS

Archaeological excavations of the city-type monuments of the Surkhandarya oasis, which formed the territory of northwestern Bactria, began in the 1920s. In the autumn of 1926, for the first time in an expedition organized by the Museum of Oriental Culture in Moscow, prof. Under the leadership of B. P. Denike, research work was carried out in the Old Termez region. During the research, the Buddhist stupa in Zurmala was examined and the period was incorrectly counted as IV-VII centuries [16, p.45].

In 1932, border guards found a stone slab depicting Kushan musicians at the bottom of the Amudarya near the Ayritom monument. Interpreted as the palace of the ruler [10]. Shortly afterwards, in 1936, a special Termez Archaeological Complex Expedition (TACE) was organized under the leadership of M. E. Masson to study the archeological monuments of the Surkhandarya oasis, which lasted until 1938. The purpose of the TACE was to identify

the stages of development of the ancient city, in particular, to study the cultural strata of the Kushan period, which left a deep mark on the history of Central Asia. Archaeological excavations carried out by the Termez expedition studied the historical topography of the ancient city and concluded that the development of the city reached its peak at the heyday of the Kushan Empire. During this period, two large Buddhist temples were built around the city, surrounded by a strong defensive period [11, p.113; 17, p.126-158; 7, p.82-97].

Archaeological excavations, which had stalled during World War II, began to revive in 1946. New monuments of antiquity are being discovered and studied in both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in northern Bactria. Initially, archeological research consisted of reconnaissance and, in part, small-scale excavations. In 1949, a group of Surkhandarya archaeologists led by L. I. Albaum of the Uzbek Archaeological Expedition spent twelve days conducting archeological excavations in the area from Termez to Sariosiya. As a result, monuments of Zartepa, Hayrabodtepa, Dalvarzintepa, Kholchayon and other urban types, reflecting the Kushan period or the cultural layer of this period, were identified and scientific conclusions were made on the basis of their plans and materials collected from the surface [1, p.11-12]. In 1952-1953, under the leadership of L. I. Albaum of the Institute of History and Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an inspection was carried out at the Zartepa monument in the Angor district. As a result, an approximate sketch of the monument was obtained and general conclusions about the monument were given [1, p.14-41]. In May 1953, archeological excavations began in the arc and shahrstan sections of the Hayrabodtepa monument. Preserved traces of a trench around the settlement, which has a straight rectangular shape (150x100 m.) And a well-protected arch in the south-eastern part of the ancient city. The city was formed during the Achaemenid period and was one of the major economic and cultural centers of the oasis during the Kushan period. In the autumn of 1959, an archeological expedition led by G. A. Pugachenkova of the Institute of Art Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan began to study the monuments located in the upper reaches of the Surkhandarya. Dalvarzintepa, Halchayon, Budrach and other monuments belonging to the Kushan period or having a cultural stratum located in this area have been studied. This expedition carried out large-scale archeological excavations at the Dalvarzintepa monument, with certain stops, until the early 1960s and 1970s. G. A. Pugachenkova, B. A. Turgunov, E. V. Rtveladze, T. Belyaeva carried out archeological excavations in different parts of the Dalvarzintepa settlement [4, p.3-232].

In the ancient city of Dalvarzintepa in 1989-1994, the staff of Soka University in Tokyo, Japan in

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collaboration with the Research Institute of Art History of the Academy of Arts of the Republic of Uzbekistan (B. A. Turgunov, J. Ilyasov, K. Tanabe, A. Khori, K. Kato). Japanese experts have focused on the study of Buddhist religious structures [5, pp. 3-224].

The Dalvarzintepa arch was replaced by the first site protected by a defensive wall dating back to the Greco-Bactrian period. The rulers of the Kushan state in the I-III centuries paid more attention to the defense of the city arch and ensured its strength, surrounded by two rows of walls. During the reign of the Kushans, when all the lands of the Shahristan part were conquered, a separate defensive wall was built and turned into one of the major centers of the oasis [2, p.36].

Old city. Probably, it was the center of the Dayuezhi (large Yuechchi) tribe, consisting of five houses that entered the oasis in the second half of the 2nd century BC. Experts in the field compare the location of Dalvarzintepa with the city of Hozzo, which is mentioned in the Chinese (Tsyaxanshu) source as the first capital of the Kushan state [3, p.184; 2, p.36].

As a result of extensive archeological research in Dalvarzintepa, the historical topography, stages of formation and development of the ancient city, defense system, housing, religious and industrial facilities were studied, and very unique and valuable information about the culture and art of the Kushan period was obtained. In particular, 115 gold treasures weighing 36 kilograms, consisting of earrings, bracelets, belts, rings, gold rings and gold ingots of the II-III centuries, found in excavations in 1972, are considered to be the masterpieces of Kushan culture [4, p.41].

In 1959-1963, this scientific expedition carried out archeological excavations at the Kholchion monument in the Denau district. The Kholchayon monument consists of two parts, the first part is 350x260 m., The second one is 300x300 m. In the reception hall of the palace, murals depicting the reception ceremony of the Kushan period play an important role. Archaeologists Sh. Tashkhodjaev, D. N. Sidorova, B. Turgunov, D. G. Zilper and others conducted excavations at the monument together with G. A. Pugachenkova in different seasons [12, P.5].

In the middle reaches of the Surkhandarya River, 6 km from the city of Denau. Archeological excavations were carried out by E. V. Rtveladze at the Budrach (Dunoyotepa-ark and Akmozortepa shahristan) monument in the south-east. The defensive wall of the city arch, which formed the center of Chaghaniyon in the early Middle Ages, is it was built in the st century BC.

During the Kushan period, a part of Shahristan was formed and became one of the urban centers of the country [13, p.173-187]. In 1972, the Bactrian Archaeological Expedition of the Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) branch of the Institute of Archeology of

the former Soviet Union AS began excavations at the Zartepa monument, one of the largest urban centers of the Kushan state, located in another area of the Surkhandarya oasis, Angor district. Later, the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the former USSR and the Archaeological Expedition of Moscow State University (1976-1978) and the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1981-1982) organized archeological research at the Zartepa monument. In addition to V. A. Zavyalov, A. Ya. Shchetenko, T. Sabirov, V. N. Pilipko, Sh. R. Pidaev, T. J. Annaev, K. Abdullaev also excavated at Zartepa in different years [8, p .17-21].

Zartepa consists of arches and parts of shahristan, 16.9 ha. occupied the area. As a result of archeological excavations along the central street, a residential building, a building and a Buddhist temple, which were built according to a well-thoughtout project, differed from others in terms of area and size [15, p.49-52].

In 1972, under the leadership of E.V. Rtveladze, Art Research Institute, 30 km from Termez. to the west, at the Kampirtepa (Kofirqala) monument on the right bank of the Amudarya, he conducted a survey and formed a visual plan [14, p.86-93]. In 1977 The archeological expedition of the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan under the leadership of Sh. R. Pidaev dug a cultural layer 10 m thick on the arch of the monument to the mainland and identified the stages of development. Archeological research, which began in 1982-1991 under the leadership of E. V. Rtveladze of the Art Research Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, is now being continued by young specialists. Also, in 2001-2011, the State Museum of Oriental Culture collaborated with the Central Asian Archaeological Expedition (T.K. Mkrtychev) and since 2006 the Central Asian Archaeological Expedition of the Institute of Archeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (N.D. Dvurechenskaya) [9, p.3]. The total area of Kampirtepa is 20 ha. Consists of three parts. Life at: began in the 4th century BC. and lasted until the middle of the 3rd century.

Its location at the crossroads of the river is a strategically important trade, economic and military base of the state border. During the study of the monument, information on the fortifications, architecture, material culture and fine arts of the Kushan period was collected.

Archeological excavations were reorganized in Old Termez in the 1990s, and excavations revealed valuable information from the cultural strata of the Kushan period. In particular, excavations at the Qoratepa and Fayoztepa temples have yielded unique data on Kushan culture, particularly fine arts [12, p.3-12].

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4. CONCLUSIONS

The study of monuments in the Surkhandarya oasis began in the 1920s, and archeological excavations over a period of less than a century have uncovered about three hundred ancient monuments in the country. Among them, the ruins of the ancient city, which is the site of the ancient city center, occupy a special place. Cities form the core of ancient society and reflect the processes of socioeconomic and cultural development. Expeditions organized by local and foreign scientific research institutions, the results of archeological research, the culture of urban planning and their stages of development were summarized in the city-type monuments of the Kushan period in the Surkhandarya oasis. On the basis of accurate archeological data collected as a result of

excavations in the ruins of major city centers such as Old Termez, Dalvarzintepa, Zartepa, Hayrabodtepa, Budrach, the issues of their structure, fortification, construction and architecture were studied. On the basis of material sources collected during the excavations, sculpture, painting, jewelry, music and applied arts, which formed the spheres of culture of the Kushan period of the country, were also partially studied. In the study of Kushan culture, which has left a deep mark on the development of world civilization in general, the importance of archeological monuments in Southern Uzbekistan, in particular, archeological excavations in urban areas and the material resources collected as a result is very important for the younger generation.

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