

Results of the Archaeological Research Works Carried Out in Bactria

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ABSTRACT

The role and importance of ancient Bactria in the history of the statehood of our country. To study the rich cultural history of Bactria. To learn about the history of the study of the ancient cities of Bactria.

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These findings, which caused a great sensation in their time, became important in the study of the monuments of Northern Bactria of the Kushan period. As early as 1933, an archaeological expedition led by M.E. Masson began working at the place where the find was found. M.E. Masson excavated two search pits on Ayritom Hill. From the first shurf on the northern side of the hill, the thick lower part of the Vangan pillar and six oblong, oval stone covers were found next to it. room is identified. The walls of the room are plastered with white plaster. In the center of the room, there is a special right-angled pedestal (pedestal) on which the statue is placed. Apparently, a stone statue found in the North-Eastern corner of the room must have been placed on it. Stone foundations, stone cornices, fragments of ganch sculptures and several samples of architectural ganch work were found on the floor of the room. M.E. Masson interpreted the found structure as a ruler's palace containing a Buddhist temple or religious chamber and dates it to the 1st century AD. The researcher also notes that the findings here reflect the Eastern Hellenistic culture, reminiscent of the traditions of Gandhar art and the Indian school of sculpture. The 1933 excavations in Ayritom started the study of architectural monuments of the Greco-Buddhist culture in Central Asia, and became important in determining the period and date of similar monuments in the territories of the neighboring ancient city of Termiz. By 1936, the Termez archaeological complex expedition was organized. This expedition, led by M.E. Masson, set itself the goal of consistent research of the history and culture of the Kushan period. During 1936-1937, excavation works were carried out in Old Termiz and its surroundings. As a result of the studies of the Termiz expedition in the following years, the historical topography of the city of Termiz was determined. Based on the existence of two large Buddhist temples in the old city and its being surrounded by strong protective walls, it is proved that the

period of relative development of the city corresponds to the Kushan period. Excavation in Ayritom was included in the 1937 plan of TAKE, and a special group was formed under the leadership of M.I. Vyazmitini. Excavations in 1937 covered an area of 288 m² (3-4 m deep) adjoining the ravine in the northeast of the hill. Due to various reasons, the specified area was not fully opened. Only a part of the building, consisting of rooms that performed a number of religious and administrative functions, was opened. Raw bricks of different sizes in the building, their composition, used mixtures and other signs indicate that the building was renovated several times after its initial construction and additions were made to it. As a result of the research conducted under the leadership of M. Vyazmitina, the purpose of the excavated building was determined and the tasks it performed, the plan structure of the interior of the building, construction materials and dimensions, and various architectural findings were studied. Researchers consider the studied building to be a Buddhist temple with a religious character and various auxiliary rooms such as a dormitory, a kitchen, and a storehouse for priests. Remains of similar temples were found in India, Afghanistan and Eastern Turkestan. According to Chinese chroniclers, great attention was paid not only to religious ceremonies and customs, but also to economic life in Buddhist temples. According to the results of M. Vyazmitina's researches, the structure of the temple with a picture stone frame on the hilltop belongs to a relatively older period. The center of the temple, which includes all the temple structures around it, must have been built by members of some Buddhist community from India. The thing that draws attention to the images on the facade of the building is that the individual parts of the images have their own characteristics. There are also opinions that some parts of Peshtok were built in different periods or during the repair process. The musicians in Peshtok are relatively well-preserved and artistically strong. The rest are relatively coarser, and the images are not full of content. In general, according to their images and structure, the scenes of the facades are reminiscent of Hellenistic examples. The musicians on the stage are depicted with rich and expensive jewelry. The oud depicted on the Ayritom pediment resembles the musical instruments of Old Asia, Iran, India, and Eastern Turkestan, but has its own characteristics. The flute-like musical instrument is not unique to Central Asian musical instruments. They came in with the Greeks. Similar musical instruments are found in the Hellenistic monuments of Afghanistan, and dust is found in the sculptural monuments of India and Eastern Turkestan. To conclude, the research conducted in the Bactrian region shows that research in these settlements is of scientific importance in studying the rich culture of our country. During the research, it is evidence of the relations of our country with other regions.

Until the 60s of the last century, more than 50 monuments of antiquity were discovered in the territories of ancient Bactria, and now their number has exceeded 300. Especially in recent years, a lot of attention has been paid to the issues of ancient Bactrian town planning, defense structures, and architecture. The total area of Dalvarzintepa, a large old city in the Surkhan oasis, is 53 hectares. The old city consists of two parts: the royal palace surrounded by a thick defensive wall - kohandiz, and the city itself. L. I. Albaum began the study of this monument, which is a large old city of the Kushan period, in 1949 with an autumn inspection of the city. In 1960-1961, the researcher drew a topographic map and conducted preliminary excavations. In 1962-1963, the members of the art history expedition of Uzbekistan conducted search and inspection excavations in Dalvarzintepa. Excavations of Dalvarzintepa, which started again in 1967, continue to this day. Based on the results of long-term research in Dalvarzintepa, it can be concluded that BC. It was founded in the III century on a hill in the northeast of the old city. Somewhat later, more precisely, during the Greco-Bactrian period, this part of the old city was surrounded by a wall 2 m thick and turned into a fortress with an area of more than 3 ha. Not very strong settlements will appear around it. According to the researchers, in the second half of the 1st century BC or the beginning of the 1st century AD, a strong fortress with walls up to 7 m thick appeared in place of the original core of the old city. The surrounding settlements, which are not very strong, will turn into cities.

Later, the remains of another Buddhist temple were discovered at Dalvarzintepa. It is located inside the city wall and is slightly larger than the earlier temple outside the city. The sculptures found in this temple and made of clay and covered with thin ganch attract attention. According to the researchers, the sculpture of Dalvarzintepa is similar to the Gandhar-Bactrian traditions of the Kushon period, but it also reflects some aspects of the new local style that is just emerging. Findings found in the ancient city of Kholkhayon near the city of Denov were of great importance in the study of the history and culture of the Kushan period of the Surkhan oasis. This monument was studied by a scientific expedition led by G.A.

Pugachenkova during 1959-1963. According to the results of the researches carried out in Kholchayan, it was here in BC. As early as the middle of the 1st millennium, a settlement of the settled population appeared. According to G.A. Pugachenkova, the lowest stratigraphic layer of Kholchayan is BC. It belongs to IV-III centuries. In general, the first stage of development in Kholchayan dates back to the millennium BC. to the III century, and the second stage to the millennium BC. It belongs to II-I centuries. At the second stage of development, Kholchayan represents a large old city surrounded by strong defensive walls. In 1962-1964, 1979, the researchers of the expedition of the Institute of Art Studies of Uzbekistan continued excavation work at the Ayritom monument. A separate staircase was opened from the eastern part of the monument. As a result of cleaning its surroundings, the remains of the second staircase were also found, which is located in the southwestern part of the monument. As a result of excavations, the number of findings related to architectural works has increased. In particular, in addition to the previously known coverings, several columns, their bases, column brows with various original images were studied, and the results of the research were partially published.

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