

**TO STUDY OF ZHETYASAR CULTURE AS A FACTOR OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SCIENCE ACHIEVMENT**
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**ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ДЖЕТЫАСАРСКОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ КАК ФАКТОР ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ
АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ НАУКИ**
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Abstract: *the article deals with the problems of the Khorezm archaeological-ethnographic expedition of the lower reaches of the Syr Darya, and also with the problems of the current condition of the Jetyasar monuments. This study is based on a comparison of the phase-exploring of the region. The results of the excavations were air exploration of Jetyasar monuments in the period from 1946 to 1991. In addition, the analysis of the study of foreign and local archaeologists who carried out exploration work in the framework of the program "Cultural heritage 2004-2007-2010" had been done. The current situation of Jetyasar monuments in the context as a comprehensive understanding of the problem has been disclosure.*

Аннотация: *статья посвящена проблемам Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции нижнего течения Сырдарьи, в основном, проблемам нынешнего состояния памятника Джетыясарского урочища. Исследование основано на сопоставлении поэтапного изучения региона. Результатами раскопок являются авиаразведочные работы Джетыясарских памятников в период с 1946 года по 1991 год. Кроме этого, проделан анализ результатов изучения зарубежных археологов и отечественных археологов, проводивших разведочные работы в рамках программы «Культурное наследие 2004-2007-2010». Раскрыты содержание и современное положение Джетыясарских памятников в контексте комплексного осмысления данной проблемы.*

Keywords: *Jetyasar, Altyn-Asar, Syr Darya, monuments.*

Ключевые слова: *Джетасар, Алтын асар, Сырдарья, памятники.*

Introduction

Jetyasar Culture is located in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya. Cultural monuments include Zhalagash, Syrdarya, Karmakshy regions of Kyzylorda territory. Extensive constant area with numerous ruins of large fortified settlements, which is known among the local population as Jety-asar, which means "seven settlements" or seven monuments. In the modern period, there are more than fifty "Asar" in the names of settlement. In the vast territory of the plains there are four systems of ancient Syr Darya ducts: Inkardarya, Zhanadarya, Kuvandarya and Pravakuvandarya or Eskidarya which is having a latitudinal direction [1, 202].

Archaeological findings in the region are moments of human development in the Neolithic period and the Bronze Age, particularly intensive development observed during the period from the I millennium BC - to the I millennium AD. Many scientists connect the Eastern Aral Sea region with the Saks, Alans, Kangyuy, Hephthalites, Oguz-Pecheneg and other tribes, who played a prominent role in the history of ethno-cultural variety of Eurasian peoples. In this region in the period IV-II centuries BC here was developed Chirik- Rabat culture, which left us with advanced irrigation facilities, almost two hundred open unfortified rural settlements and fortresses. At the end of III - beginning of II century BC residents Chirik-Rabat settlements under the pressure of the environmental situation were forced to leave this region.

The general historical and geographical study of the Jetyasar culture area began in the XIX century [2, 112]. References to the settlements of Jetyasar relating to this century, can be traced in the reports of members of the archeological section of Turkestan [3, 85].

Complex researches have been implemented in this region only in the 1946-1948 by S.P Tolstoy. Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition (KhAEE) systematically explored the land routes of the Aral Sea combined with air exploration activities, which teamed together archaeologists, geomorphologists, soil scientists, topographer, architects and others. A mention should be made that more than 668 archaeological monuments were discovered and studied not only Jetyasar, but also many other monuments of the earlier period of the landscape in this expedition. As the result there were found the Neolithic settlements like Kosmola, Talas, Zhalpak; Bronze Age monuments like Kosmola 7, Egizkok, Tas 1-3, the mausoleum of Northern Tagisken and Iron Age settlements like South Tagisken, Uigarak and monuments of Chirik-Rabat culture – Chirik-Rabat settlement and Babish-Mulla. Also much attention is given to the medieval towns which include: Zhankent, Zhent, and the towns from large and small Keski-kuyik settlements to Karakalpak and Kazakh settlements and burials of the XVII-XVIII centuries. (*Oralbai kala, Khatyn kala settlements, Shatpay burial place*).

The areal of Jetyasar monuments are extremely wide and the area occupied by Jetyasar mounds stretches far to the north, east and south-east, called Jetyasar natural boundary. As was noted above, this research set a goal of phased opening of archaeological excavations of Jetyasar culture. Also this is the relevance of this research.

Archaeological excavations and exploration of Jetyasar monuments in the 1946-1991 years.

The Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition in the Soviet period was one of the large, complex expeditions. They had begun to work in 1937. And since 1937 on behalf of the government of the USSR The Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition (KhAEE) started their expeditions in Central Asia. But during World War II expeditions have been temporarily suspended. In 1946 Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition under the control of S. P Tolstov were headed to the ancient northern flows of Syr Darya, Kuandarya and Eskidarya and had discovered the settlements of Jetyasar complex. It is reported that S.P Tolstov conducted the excavation work in the cities Jetyasar № 3 (Altyn-asar), Jetyasar № 9 and several individual mounds in 1948-1951. S.P Tolstov for the first time divided on the specifics of constructions of Jetyasar cities into three groups: the first - the estate without fortresses; the second - well-protected fortress without estates; the third - well-protected fortress, in addition there are the estate and accommodations. The people of these cities were part of the state Kangyuy as Otyrar-Karatau culture, which spread in areas from middle reaches of the Syr Darya to the Tashkent region and also were part of kauynshy culture [4, 10]. According to the researchers that the symbiosis these cultures implies that they had existed in one data period. And the each group had its own irrigation system in their territory. Designated cities had value as the center, in the form of a round or oblong two-storey building with an area of 0.5-10 m and a height of 8-20 m and were located trilateral (in some cases four-sided) surrounded houses on the ground floor. There were well-protected fortresses in all cities. These cities were excavated in 1948 -1949, 1951 years under the direction of Sergei Tolstov, then Yuri Rapoport, and Tatyana Zhdanko (the settlements Jetyasar №3,12), and in 1973, 1976, 1978-1981, 1983-1984, 1986-1991 years under the direction of Larisa Levin. As a result of these works were produced the unique composition and number of anthropological and archaeological collections, especially in the period of 1986-1987 years when they were investigated along with residential complexes of more than 1,000 burials. Also the work of Soviet ethnographers and archaeologists on the neighboring areas had a big contribution.

Larisa Levin divides the duration of the culture into three periods:

Jetyasar I (the I millennium century BC- end of the III-IV centuries AD), the first period of the culture when had been built cities, developed the trade and established a connection with a neighboring culture Otrar-Karatau and Kauynshy.

Jetyasar II (IV-VI, perhaps the VII century AD.), The local tribes affected Hun tribes and contributed to the creation of the State "Hephtalites" which in history were the White Huns.

Jetyasar III (VII-IX centuries. BC). At this time, the culture has come to decline. The mass migration of Jetyasar people at the end of the third period Jetyasar trace become desert, people moved to the lower reaches of the Amu Darya and created a culture named "Kerder" [5].

According to Larisa Levin special resistance was characteristic for the appearance of the settlements themselves. At least on the first two stages of the development of Jetyasar culture absolute majority of settlements were oval or rounded in terms of a two-tier (sometimes - three-tier) roof in height from 8 to 25 meters above the level of the preserved surface area of from 0.5 to 18 hectares. The individual settlements has a square with rounded corners shape of the upper central site (in one case - the fortress Jetyasar № 7- at two sites), also surrounded by a round or oval bottom of the second, and sometimes third sites - tiers (e.g, the settlements Tas-asar, Jetyasar № 27 and others). Also the excavation work was carried out in 80-90s of the last century under the direction of Larisa Levin in the traces like Altyn asar, Tompak asar, Bidaik asar and Kos asar. These studies were funded mainly due to the construction work carried out in the region under the command of the object of special purpose - cosmodrome Baikonur. It was noted that the politics of Soviet Union in the Central Asia was the scope of "socialist construction" (industrialization and collectivization of national suburbs), were expressed in the largest development projects in deserts and fallow lands, the construction of canals, the major irrigation systems and the hydroelectric power stations, roads, also one of the most ambitious projects of the XX century which includes the transferring the Siberian rivers to Central Asia. The Khorezm expedition was invited to participate in this project. This made it possible to carry out a large expedition contractual works, which greatly increased the estimate of the expedition. The task which had been given to archaeologists was to make a historical map of the channel of the future route and put on its archaeological sites, which subsequently could be affected by excavation and waterlogging. The several historical maps have been drawn up on the basis of extensive research on the economic agreement money [6, 86]. Much of the work carried out in complex, involving geographers, soil scientist, geomorphology, landscape scientists, biologists, anthropologists, paleodemography. These exploration and excavation could not be conducted without the full moral and material support of Baikonur Cosmodrome management and above all, without the military engineers [7].

The excavation of Jetyasar settlement and burial grounds

Altyn-Asar (Jetyasar №3) is the central settlement with the area of 17.4 hectares, is a complex of four forts which had been built at different times and at some stage a joint fortification system.

Two settlement so-called the "Small House" and the "Big House", which is characteristic for the majority of two-tier plan in the rounded form in terms of Tobe. The earliest is the "Small House" with its second site in the north-east corner of the fort. The diameter of the circular central site is 48 m, preserved to a height of 12 m. A number of facts give reason to believe that in the middle of I millennium BC this castle had already existed. A few centuries later (but not later than the last centuries BC) there were built the "Big House", and also probably from the beginning of its existence, there were at least two floors. The area of the site was 165x165 m, height was 15 m. In

1948, 1949, 1951 years Khorezm expedition conducted archaeological work in the Altyn-Asar and its results were explained in the writings by Sergei Tolstov [8]. Probably in the middle of I millennium AD there were built a fortress wall with loopholes (that preserved to a height of 5 m) which were planned to form a perfect circle with a diameter of 50 m in the northwest corner of the complex. The most recent of the Altyn-Asar fortresses were irregularly shaped pentagonal fortress with 800 square meters which erected on the cultural layers of the second settlement area of "Big House." The fortified walls of the castle were built up in the square shapes from the adobe bricks (standard 37-40x37 - 40x7-9 cm), with corner entrance and flanking towers, preserved to a height of 7 m.

The Kosasar 2 burial ground is located at a distance of about four kilometers from the south-west of the settlement Tompac-asar on stretched in the latitudinal direction of the small swampy peninsula. The research of the Kosasar 2 burial ground under the direction of Larisa Levin showed that the swamped area of a small peninsula began to be used for a necropolis in the V-II centuries BC, when there were started up the individual burials, presumably representatives of the non-indigenous population. The most recent mounds dated in III-IV centuries. Larisa Levin noted that necropolis of Kosasar 2 differs from other mounds of Jetyasar: the first difference is the presence of a number of parts in the construction of underground structures and ground; the second is the burial inventory - the presence of the vessels which is uncharacteristic for the Jetyasar complex.

Altynasar 4 is a necropolis, which is located on 1,5 km to the south-east of the Altyn-Asar which had the numerous channel system. There were excavated about 79 barrows in 1987-1989 years. The chronological period of the Altynasar 4 burial mounds were the period from IV-III centuries BC till the III-IV centuries BC. According to Larisa Levin in the funeral inventories of ten mounds there were materials, which are not typical for the Jetyasar complex.

The researchers have come to the conclusion that there were formed the sustainable implementation throughout the centuries with the representatives of different ethnic groups that led to the specificity and consistency of ethnogenetic active processes which had occurred in the Aral Sea region (Sergei Tolstov - in the 40s, Larisa Levin - in the 80s). In the laboratory of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences carried out a series of sculptural and graphic portraits from the Tompac-asar burial, in particular, described the anthropological reconstruction of the young adult male. The headgear and clothes are made from the materials presented by Larisa Levin. Elizabeth Veselovskaya described in detail the methodology of the forensic facial reconstruction from their skeletal remains which was developed by Michael Gerasimov, and comes to the conclusion that his technique considerably enriched by new research. In general, Elizabeth Veselovskaya described the person by the sculptural portraits, and came to the conclusion that this individual had the anthropological features characteristic of the great Mongoloid race: "He had a large latitudinal size of the head and face, flatness, cheekbones, the Mongoloid structure of the eye area, small protrusion of the nose and the strongly marked prognathism. This burial preserved remnants of hair. His hair was straight and black, which is also characteristic for the representatives of the Mongoloid race. The researchers Maria Mednikova and Alexandra Buzhilova presented the anthropological remains of 59 individuals from the burial Kosasar-2. As it was reported in the group recorded the predominance of the male over the female population about 1.3 times. There were virtually no individuals aged 20-29. Also there were not any male samples recorded by the age group older than 50 years, while in the women noted almost 8%. The number of deaths basically occurs between the ages of 30-39 years old, but for the men, this limit is expanded by the interval 40-44 years [9]. It was published the researches of chronology and classification of Jetyasar ceramics, and also the many monuments [10, 147], which have stood the "test of time". Then under the Jetyasar researches had been published the book "Ethno-cultural history of the Eastern Aral Sea region of I millennium BC - I millennium AD" and the articles by Larisa Levin.

After the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan to study the monuments in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya began in 2004, 2007, 2009 years under the program "The Cultural Heritage". The Jetyasar tract were carried out only Chirik-Rabat archaeological exploration expedition led by J. Kurmankulov. The new monuments of this culture had been discovered, for example Shirkeyli Kos Asar, Kulke Asar, Kurayli Asar, Zhetim Asar, etc. Also the materials were collected, geographic coordinates were calculated, topographical plans were plotted, photos of monuments were taken [11]. There was published the book "Set of historical and cultural monuments of Kyzylorda region" under the program "The Cultural Heritage" in 2009. There was created the expedition, and the agreement was signed up with the Kyzylorda State University named after Korkyt ata, Institute of Archaeology named after A.H Margulan and with the foreign institutions of Ethnology and Anthropology named after N.N Mikulho-Maklayam in 2005.

The purpose of the expedition was to study the cities which had been located lower Syrdarya, which KhAEE had discovered. The object of study were mainly the cities of Jetyasar and Oguz period. A lot of work had been done in this expedition under the contract which gave an opportunity to return some archival materials. The copies of the findings were made up, and the photos were taken, which are now stored in the local lore of Kyzylorda region. There were written many articles about The Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition (KhAEE), about their work and role in the expedition. For example: "Imperial archeology and archaeological Empire: Khorezm Soviet archaeological expedition" by I. A. Arzhantseva which assessed the expedition and collected memoirs of contemporaries.

Conclusion.

In the process of the researching of Jetyasar tracts were discovered more than forty cities in 1946-1991 years. As a result of the study:

- There were conducted the excavations in the south of Kyzylkum and north of Karakum ,in the Caspian region, Eastern Aral Sea region, lower reaches of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya;
- The materials were gathered from the different descriptions and surveys of about a thousand archaeological monuments belonging to different eras;
- There was created a database of aerial photography throughout the territory (about three thousand pictures). In addition, there were published a book which consist of twenty-five volumes about the works of the expedition, which were explained in detail the geographical features and the process of archaeological excavations. And also there were described the structure of settlements and burials.
- There are ten thousands of the items which stored in the Central Museum in the Almaty of the Republic of Kazakhstan and in Nukus of the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. The brief reports and findings have been handed by Kyzylorda local lore museum.
- The archives of the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition (KhAEE) were supplemented with several thousand items.

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