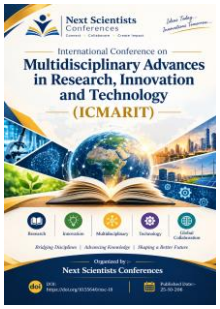
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The Main Stages And Features Of The Study Of The History Of The Jizzakh Oasis In The 14th–16th Centuries

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the main stages and characteristic features of the study of the history of the Jizzakh oasis — the north-western province of ancient and medieval Ustrushana — in the 14th–16th centuries. On the basis of published works and archaeological reports, the author traces the development of research from the first surveys of the 1950s–1970s associated with Ya. Gulomov and A. Muhammadjonov, through the systematic investigations of the Northern Ustrushana (Jizzakh) archaeological detachment of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in 1979–1991, to the studies of the period of independence, including the excavations at the O‘rda site (1997) and in the ark of Qaliyatepa (2013). It is shown that, while the ancient and early medieval history of the oasis has been studied comparatively well, the late medieval period — the era of Amir Temur and the Temurids and of the Central Asian khanates — has received little attention and is represented mainly by fragmentary data in general works and popular science publications. The article summarises the archaeological evidence of the 14th–16th centuries obtained at Qaliyatepa and O‘rda, including dwelling structures, ceramics and stratigraphic data, and outlines the prospects for further research into the late medieval history of the oasis.

KEYWORDS: Jizzakh oasis, Ustrushana, late Middle Ages, 14th–16th centuries, Temurids, Central Asian khanates, Qaliyatepa, O‘rda, historiography, archaeological research, stratigraphy, sardoba.

INTRODUCTION

The Jizzakh oasis, the north-western province of the country of Ustrushana, which existed in antiquity and the Middle Ages, is one of the major historical and cultural oases of Uzbekistan. Owing to the oasis’s favourable geographical location and natural and climatic conditions, the abundance of irrigated and rain-fed arable land in the valleys of the Sangzor and Zominsuv rivers and in the basins of dozens of streams, springs and wells rising in the Morguzar, Turkestan and Nurota ranges, and the vastness of its foothill and steppe pastures suitable for stock-breeding, a settled way of life based on irrigated agriculture began here in very ancient times. The study of the history of the Jizzakh oasis, in the full sense of the term, began in the 1950s. The first investigations of the oasis’s history carried out in this period are associated with the names of Academicians Ya. Gulomov and A. Muhammadjonov. In the 1950s–1960s the archaeological sites of Qulpisarota, Dunyotepa and Qaliyatepa, the Takatosh rock drawings and the “Kanpirak” wall of the Jizzakh oasis were discovered and investigated [Gulyamov, IMKU, Issue 2, Tashkent, 1961, pp. 92–96; Muhammadjonov, 1967].

In the 1960s–1970s, in connection with the compilation of the corpus of archaeological monuments on the territory of the Republic, a number of scientific survey expeditions and

exploratory excavations were also carried out in the Jizzakh oasis. According to the data provided by such specialists as M. Ishoqov and N.N. Nemtseva, who conducted research on compiling the corpus of archaeological monuments, the ruins of O'rda located in the Jizzakh oasis are a major medieval urban site. However, in the mid-1970s the "Khotira" (Memory) memorial complex dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War was built on O'rda, and as a result its former appearance was destroyed. Serious damage was done to the microrelief and topography of the site; the cultural layers were mixed, and data on the stratigraphy of the city were confused. Since these investigations were not carried out systematically, the results of the research undertaken in this period were not published in scientific editions [Pardaev, Tashkent, 2004, 126 pp.].

In the early 1980s, the Northern Ustrushana archaeological detachment was established under the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the aim of studying the archaeology and history of the Jizzakh oasis on a regular basis. Later, in the late 1980s and the 1990s, the members of this research group, which came to be called the Jizzakh detachment, carried out a number of scientific studies on the ancient history of the oasis. In particular, A.E. Berdimurodov studied the history of the material culture of the Jizzakh oasis in the 5th–10th centuries (1985); A.A. Gritsina studied the problems of the historical topography of Northern Ustrushana in antiquity and the Middle Ages (1990); A.M. Sverchkov studied the history of the mining and metallurgical industry and blacksmithing crafts of Ustrushana; M.H. Pardaev studied the early medieval history, material culture, way of life and religious beliefs of the population of the Sangzor oasis (1995); and S.S. Suyunov studied the history of irrigated agriculture in the Jizzakh oasis. The chronological scope of these studies covers a vast period from ancient times, that is, from the Neolithic, to the second quarter of the 13th century, the Mongol conquest under Chinggis Khan. It is evident that very little attention has been paid to the history of the late Middle Ages which is the subject of our study, namely the period of Sahibqiran Amir Temur and the Temurids and the Central Asian khanates. Academician Ya. Gulomov, who laid the foundations for the scientific study of the ancient history and archaeology of the peoples of the Jizzakh oasis, expressed his views, albeit partially, on the late medieval history of the oasis. In his popular science articles published in local and central periodicals, he described in detail the clashes between the Khanates of Bukhara and Kokand over the Jizzakh oasis and the city of Jizzakh in the late Middle Ages and in the era of the khanates, and the fact that the oasis was an important economic and military-strategic area for both states. Likewise, in the author's article "Tuyatortar and Jizzakh", the history of the construction of this canal (the Tuyatortar canal) in the second half of the 16th century and its significance for economic life are shown [Gulomov, 1962; Gulomov, 1963].

Volume I, Book 1 of the "History of the Uzbek SSR", published in 1956 by the publishing house of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, also gives extremely brief information on Jizzakh and the Jizzakh oasis in the late Middle Ages. This book contains information, albeit very brief, on the administration and organisation of land and water management in the Jizzakh oasis in the 15th century. It is a scientific novelty that, according to the work "Manaqib-i Khoja Ahrar" translated into Russian by M.E. Salye, Khoja Ahrar was the largest landowner in Transoxiana (Mawarannahr) in the Temurid period, and that in this period a considerable part of the irrigated lands of the Jizzakh oasis also belonged to his estates [Pardaev, Tashkent, 2004, 126 pp.]. A number of scholarly works by Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan,

Prof. A. Mukhtarov, also contain valuable observations on the political and economic issues of the Jizzakh oasis in the late Middle Ages. In particular, the author's book devoted to the history of Ura-Tyube from the 15th–16th to the 19th century provides important information on the mutual relations of such cities, military fortresses and strongholds as Jizzakh, Sangzor, Zomin and Yom with Ura-Tyube and Khujand, and on their political and economic situation in the period of the independent begdom of Ura-Tyube. Although the work is devoted specifically to the history of Ura-Tyube, the author also touches directly upon the settlement of the Uzbek tribes of the Yuz and Qirq, led by Shaybani Khan, in the territories around Ura-Tyube and Jizzakh, the complex situation in the period of the Central Asian khanates, the struggle of the rulers of Bukhara and Kokand for Jizzakh, Ura-Tyube and Khujand, and the history of the subsequent conquest of these regions by Tsarist Russia [Mukhtarov, M.: 1998, 278 pp.].

In the 1930s, on the special instructions of Uzkomstaris, M.E. Masson, who studied the history of more than 40 sardobas (water storage structures) and architectural monuments of Central Asia dating to the 16th century, investigated the Og'ochti, Mirzarabot and Yakka sardobas built in the Mirzachul steppe. Sardobas, built mainly along caravan routes, were constructed in order to supply trade caravans, and soldiers and horses during military campaigns, with water. Along with the sardobas, the author also commented on the trade routes that branched off from Jizzakh in several directions [Masson, SNK Uz.SSR, T.: 1935, p. 43]. It should be emphasised that the Tashkent–Jizzakh section of the Great Uzbek Highway, which today embodies the economic links of Uzbekistan, runs precisely along the route of the three sardobas mentioned above. Undoubtedly, this road was laid out in ancient times. In 1997, the Jizzakh detachment of the Ya. Gulomov Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan carried out planned excavations at the O'rda site.

As a result of the excavations, part of the ruins of a dwelling dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries was uncovered and studied. The foundation of this building was laid of medium-sized stones. The height of the foundation is 0.60 m and its width is 0.50 m. The building was constructed of square fired bricks 6–7 cm thick, with sides measuring 30–32 cm. Samples of ceramic vessels dating to the 15th–17th centuries were also recorded and subjected to scientific analysis. Since a layer of groundwater and marsh began at a depth of approximately 3.5 m below the surface, it was not possible to study the still earlier periods of O'rda. As a result of stratigraphic investigations, a number of data were obtained on the periods of O'rda's existence in the 16th–19th centuries [Pardaev, Tashkent, 2004, 126 pp.].

According to the data of the archaeological scientific reports, the microrelief of O'rda before its destruction was also characteristic of an urban site, in which the locations of the ark (ruler's palace), the shahristan, defensive fortifications, residential quarters (mahallas), squares, irrigation ditches and pools were clearly distinguishable. A medieval sardoba built of fired bricks and the sites of several mosques were also identified. The artefacts and samples of pottery found at O'rda are dated to the 9th–12th, 14th–16th and 17th–19th centuries [Pardaev, Pardaev, Samarkand, 1999, 73 pp.]. Several samples of ceramic vessels found at O'rda and kept in the collection of the Jizzakh Regional Museum of Local Lore have been dated by the archaeologist M. Pardaev to the 6th–8th centuries. Until recently, determining the ancient location of the city of Jizzakh and its chronology was regarded as the main issue, because such archaeologists as Ya. Gulomov, N. Nemtseva and M. Isoqov believed that the ancient site of the city of Jizzakh was at O'rda, located in the "Eski Shahar" (Old City) district of the city, whereas

specialists who had conducted archaeological excavations directly in Jizzakh, such as T. Shirinov, E. Qodirov and M. Pardaev, believed that the original site of the city was at Qaliyatepa, located on the eastern outskirts of the city of Jizzakh. The history of archaeological excavations at the ruins of the city of Qaliyatepa is short and lacks continuity.

In the late 1950s and the 1960s, the Mohandaryo expedition under the leadership of Ya. Gulomov; in the second half of the 1960s and the early 1970s, the detachments headed by S. Rahimov and Sh. Toshkhojaev, which carried out survey work in this area in connection with the construction of the Jizzakh reservoir; in 1979–80, E. Qodirov; and in the early 1980s, a group of archaeologists headed by T. Shirinov carried out mainly small-scale stratigraphic excavations in the shahristan, the ark and the northern rabads of Qaliyatepa. Among these detachments, only the Jizzakh detachment under the leadership of T. Shirinov conducted planigraphic excavations in the northern part of the shahristan of Qaliyatepa in 1981 and uncovered and studied the remains of buildings belonging to the latest construction period of the site. This building complex was dated to the 15th–16th centuries [Pardaev, O‘MMT, Issue 31, Samarkand, 2000, 121 pp.].

As a result of the Arab conquest, Qaliyatepa was destroyed in the second half of the 8th century; life ceased in all its parts — the ark, the shahristan and the rabads — and the next stage of urban life continued at O‘rda, located 6 km north-west of Qaliyatepa, in the north-western part of the present-day city of Jizzakh.

The first excavations in the ark of Qaliyatepa were begun by the Jizzakh detachment of the Ya. Gulomov Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan in the second half of June 2013. The excavations were carried out under the leadership of M.H. Pardaev in the ark area located on the eastern side of the southern gate of the Qaliyatepa shahristan. Starting from a depth of 40–45 cm in the soil layer of the excavation area, samples of pottery vessels were found, as well as peculiar structures of round and elongated pebbles laid on a flat surface resembling some kind of floor level. These structures, that is, the laid stones, were set on a layer of clay. Most of the ceramic vessels date to the 15th–16th centuries, and the structures of laid stones may have been the level of the front porch (peshayvon) of the courtyard of a building whose premises have hardly survived.

In the course of further excavations, a square room measuring 4.20 × 4.20 m was uncovered here. The total height of the four walls is 55 cm. Thus, as a result of the excavations, a dwelling room dating to the 15th–16th centuries was uncovered in the ark area for the first time. The surfaces of the walls of the room were plastered with straw-tempered clay of average quality. A small number of fragments of glazed and unglazed ceramic vessels were found on the floor level of the room. All of these vessels are dated to the 16th–17th centuries [Pardaev, G‘ofurov, Kholboev, Pardaev, Rahmonov, Hasanboev, Samarkand, 2015, 61 pp.].

Thus, as the currently available archaeological sources on the late Middle Ages testify, no large monumental buildings were constructed in the ark area of Qaliyatepa in the 14th–16th centuries, because in winter this place was continuously exposed to icy winds, which made living conditions harsh. For this reason, ordinary dwelling rooms (a central room) were built here together with structures connected with the household economy (grain storage pits). If the excavations are continued, there is no doubt that further clarification will be brought to the late medieval period.

It may be concluded that the study of the archaeological monuments of the Jizzakh oasis and of the samples of material culture relating to its antiquity took the form of itinerant surveys in the archaeological investigations carried out in the 1950s–1970s. Owing to the establishment of the "Northern Ustrushana" detachment within the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, from 1979 to 1991 the work of compiling the corpus of the oasis's archaeological monuments and of studying the stratigraphy of rural and urban sites and the planigraphy of dwellings began to be carried out on a planned and regular basis. In this period, for the first time, the cultural layers of Qaliyatepa, the most ancient and largest urban site of the Jizzakh oasis, were studied on the basis of stratigraphic investigations. In the period of independence, the groundwork was laid for the study of the archaeology of Jizzakh on a large scale, in various subjects and scientific directions. In this period the foundations were laid for research into the urban culture of the oasis, the architecture of rural construction, questions of spiritual life in antiquity and the Middle Ages, and the history of the late Middle Ages, and these studies are being continued.

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