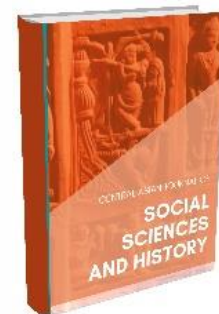




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## Archaeological Research Carried Out at the Dabusia Monument

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### Abstract:

The Dabusia monument, located in the western part of the Central Sughd, is distinguished by the fact that it has a lot of cultural layers within the Sughd monuments.

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The pakhtachi district is divided by the Zirabulak and Ziyovuddin mountains, which are a continuation of the Zarafshan range, dividing its territory into two parts - the vast non-irrigated Qarnab desert, and in the north-the irrigated Left-Bank plains of the Zarafshan Valley. The district was mainly irrigated by the Zarafshan river flowing from the northern part, the Narpay canal, which originates from the river, and more than 370 streams that draw water from this canal, as well as streams flowing from the hills of the basement<sup>1</sup>. Around these sources of water are archaeological monuments dating back to the ancient

<sup>1</sup> Ўзбекистон миллий энциклопедияси. 7 Том. Тошкент, 2004. Б. 25.

and Middle Ages, and the above-mentioned sources of water are significant in their formation and development.

Kohna Dabusia kenti, one of the major monuments of the Oasis, is also located on the left side of the Zarafshan river, consisting of parts of Ark, Shahristan and rabod, which became hosts to medieval cities.

Jacobius, a major 9th-century geographer and historian scholar, described Dabusia as "a fortified and famous city where the enemy would not pass"<sup>2</sup> Regarding the etymology of dabusia, according to Muhammad Ghiyosiddin bin Jaloliddin in his "Ghiyos ul-dictionary", Dabus is a Persian Tajik word meaning gurziyi ohani, i.e. iron gurzi<sup>3</sup>. Also, in the "Farhangi zaboni tojiki" ("Dictionary of the Tajik language"), however, Dabus is an Arabic word meaning hammer, gurzi in Persian Tajik<sup>4</sup>.

In Istakhri's work on the monument, "Kitab al maskal val-country", Dabusia and a small stage away from it, Arbinjan is located south of the Sughd River, on a large road to Khurosan. Dabusia does not have many rustaks and villages, but its population is more prosperous and richer than that of other cities<sup>5</sup>. Also, in the works of al Hamadani and Abulqosim Ubaydullah Hurdodbehs, he gave information about the distances between certain cities, stating that "from Bukhara to Shargh 4 farsah, to Tavovis 3 farsah, to Kukshibagh 6 farsah are roads. To the south of this place are the as-Sin mountains. 4 farsah from kukshibagha to Karminiya, then 5 farsah to Dabusiya, 5 farsah to Arbinjan, 5 farsah to Zarman, 5 farsah to qasr Alqam, 2 farsah to Samarkand. Total 39 farsahs from Bukhara to Samarkand. Samarkand has a Fort. The cities around it are: Dabusia, Arbinjan, Kushonia, Ishtikhan, kash, Nasaf and Khojand, he noted<sup>6</sup>. Ibn Hawqal, on the other hand, records the names of the city around Samarkand and the rustaks, mentioning that there were cities around Samarkand such as Rabinjan, Kushonia, Ishtikhan and Dabusia, and that the city of Dabusia was located south of the Sughd River (Zarafshan), on the highway from Bukhara to Samarkand<sup>7</sup>.

Muhammad ibn Ja'far an-Narshahi, in his (899-959) work on the history of Bukhara, wrote that "people were coming from Turkestan. This province welcomed people from the abundance of water and trees, animals and settled here. When the people increased, they elected one man and made an Emir: His name was Abruy. The city of Bukhara had not yet formed, but some of the villages had appeared. Nur, Harkonrud, Vardona, Tarovcha, Safna and Iswana are among the villages. A large village where the King stands. Was baikand (Poykand). The city was "Qal'ayi Dabusiy" - "Dabusiy's Castle", as the city was called"<sup>8</sup>, he claims.

The first archaeological research carried out on the territory of the city of Dabusia (now Pakhtachi district), located in the western part of Samarkand sughdi, is associated with the activities of

<sup>2</sup> Санаев И. Зиёвуддин тарихи .Тошкент, 1995. Б. 236.

<sup>3</sup> Муҳаммад Ғиёсиддин бин Жалолиддин. Ғиёс ул луғат. Душанбе, 1988. Б. 327.

<sup>4</sup> Под редакцией Шукурова М.Ш., Капранова В.А., Хашима Р., Масуми Н. А.. «Фарҳанги забони тоҷики» «Словарь Таджикского языка» (X-начало XX века) «совет энциклопедияси» М., 1969. С. 309.

<sup>5</sup> Истахрий. Китаб ал-масалик вал-мамалик (йуллар ва ўлкалар китоби) / Араб араб тилидан ўзбек тилига Худайберганов Р.Т. таржимаси. Тошкент, 2019. Б. 165.

<sup>6</sup> Ибн Хурдодбек. Китоб ал-масолик вал-ламолик / перевод с арабского, комментарии, исследование, указатели и карты Велихановой Н. Баку, 1986. С. 64; Санаев И. Зиёвуддин тарихи. Тошкент, 1995. Б. 234.

<sup>7</sup> Ибн Хавқал. Китоб сурат ал – ард / Араб тилидан ўзбек тилига Камолитдин Ш.С таржимаси. Тошкент, 2011. Б. 65.

<sup>8</sup> Ан-Наршахий Абу Бакр Муҳаммад ибн Жаъфар. Бухоро тарихи / Форс тилидан ўзбек тилига Расулов А. таржимаси. Тошкент, 1991. Б. 91.

archaeological research of the Joint International Expedition of Uzbekistan-Japan 2007-2012<sup>9</sup>. In these studies, planigraphic and stratigraphic excavation studies were carried out at more than 12 sites in the arc, Shahrستان and rabod parts of the monument, and important scientific data was obtained on the formation of the city and the stages of its development<sup>10</sup>.

During 2022-2023, the Samarkand Archaeological Institute named after Ya. Gulomov and the Faculty of history of Samarkand State University jointly conducted archaeological research at the Dabusia monument. During the study, planigraphic archaeological excavations were carried out on the south eastern side of the Shahrستان part of the Dabusia monument, 10 M east of 1 excavation, 10x10 m (Figure 1).



On the South Side of the excavation site, an external defensive wall was noted. 4 building periods were identified on the defensive wall (Figure 2).

<sup>9</sup> Бердимуратов А.Э., Уно Такао, Рахимов К.А., Грицина А.А. Работы Дабускалинского отряда в 2009 году Ўзбекистонда археологик тадқиқотлар 2008-2009 йиллар. Самарканд, 2012. Б. 49-63

<sup>10</sup> Қала-и Дабусия. // Ответственные редакторы Бердимуратов А.Э., Токао Уно. Киото. Япония, 2013. С. 23-25.



**The wall of the first construction period** is light yellow in color and is heavily eroded. The height varies from 35 cm to 63 cm. The fact that it has been repaired several times (from rubashka) is obvious. Ceramic, ripe brick, bone and pieces of mountain ash are found in this rubashka. Material objects from the first construction period are a large table tray, on which the image of the Six Corners is lowered. The base of the tray (Donsa) with the image of **birds and snakes** is preserved. It contains a roundel, painted in ink on the outside and blue on the inside. The outside of the circle is rendered in ink. On the outer part of the circle, only the semi-body of one bird, namely the two legs, abdomen and tail, are preserved. A bird is depicted inside the circle (quail or feather dish). A big pat rolled out of it. There are also 3 Snake figures around the bird. We can tell that 1 snake is netted by pressing it with a bird's foot (Figure 3).





Similar to these dishes are found in the layers of the XV-XVII centuries on the monuments of Sugd , Vardanze.

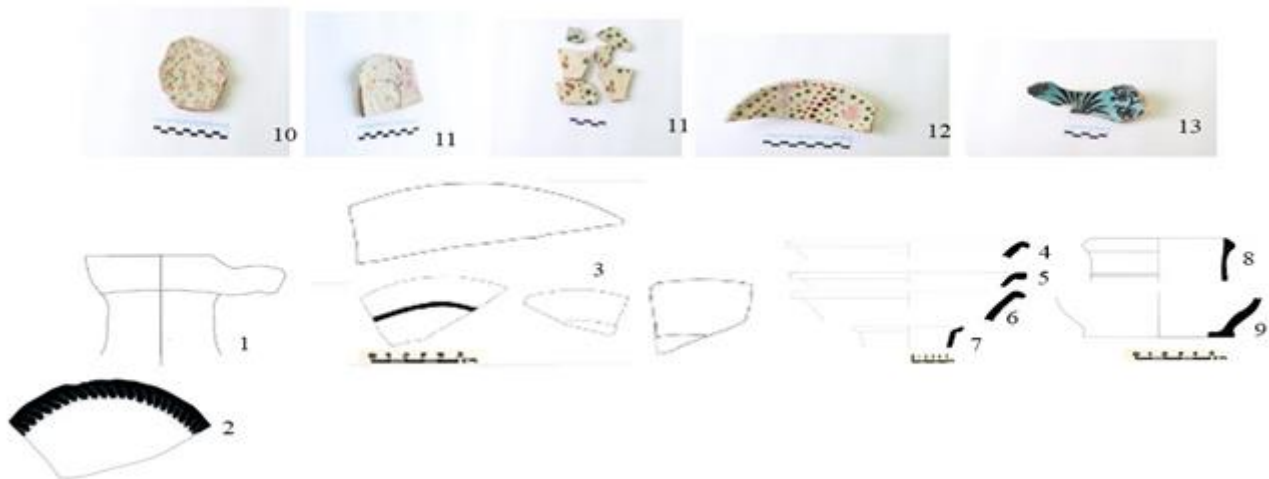
**The wall of the second construction period** is light gray, waxy in color. The wall is made up of 40 cm to 60 cm thick walls (Figure 4). Also recorded were trays from this period, sheep, butchers, and other pottery. Such items are found in cultural layers of the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries in Vardanze<sup>11</sup>, Tashkent (Choch)<sup>12</sup>, Afrasiyab<sup>13</sup> monuments (Figure 5).

<sup>11</sup> Мирзаахмедов Д. К., Поззи С., Адылов Ш.Т.,Султонова М., Мирзаахмедов С., Городище Варданзе-динамика обживания цитадели по материалом керамических комплексов средневековья. История и археология Турана. №3. Самарканд, 2017. Рис 6. С. 343.

<sup>12</sup>С.Р.Ильясова. Кашинная керамика Ташкета XV-XVI асрлар. История и археология Турана. №3. Самарканд, 2017. С. 372-383. рис 1.

<sup>13</sup> Соколовская Л.Ф. Неглазуванная керамика средневекового Самарканда как фактор экономики городского ремесла (по материалам городища Афрасиаб конца VII–начала XIII вв.) // Археология Центральной Азии: архивные материалы. Т. I. Самарканд, 2015. С. 274. Рис. 103.



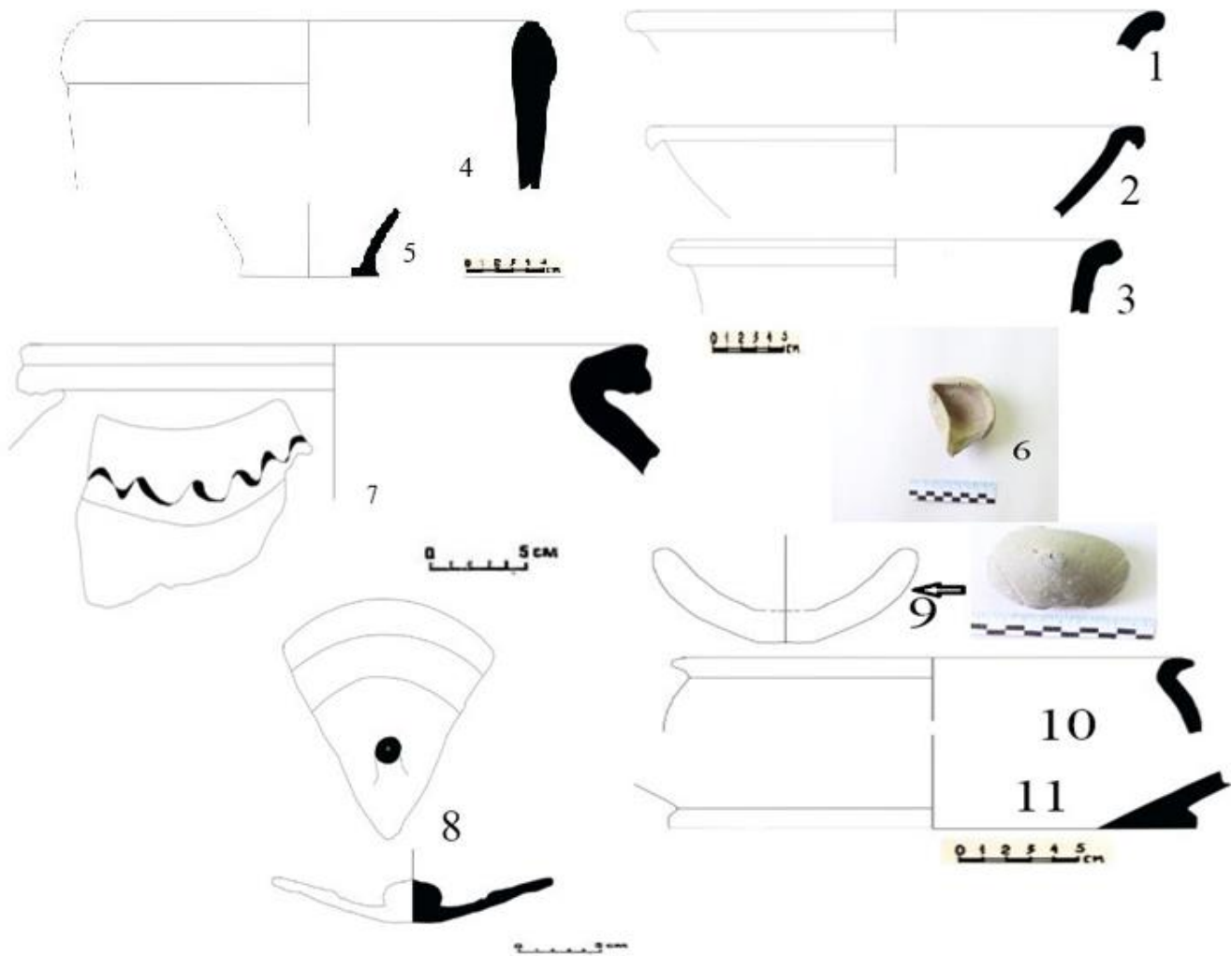


**The height of the wall of the third construction period** of the defensive wall is also not the same. The eastern part of the wall is 65 cm, the wall thickness in the range is 63 – 68 cm, and the height of the western part is 60 cm. The wall is constructed of clay, with a yellow finish. During the study, the remains of the furnace were recorded 2.3 m from the Western Wall of the excavation, and the remains of the furnace to the south, that is, 50 cm from the defensive wall. The diameter of the oven is 35-40 CM, the preserved depth is 40 cm, the wall thickness is 2.5-3 cm. Inside the oven there is a square-shaped sign-patterns with sharp corners. The dimensions are 11x17 CM. Inside the oven, a layer of 6-8 CM of ash is preserved. In the eastern part of the oven, a soufa was recorded, built of ripe bricks 25, 5x25, 5x4 CM. It is 60 cm wide (Figure 4). Caps, lamp, tuber, Mercury lambs from this construction period have been recorded, and such vessels were used in the 10th-11th centuries as Afrasiyob<sup>14</sup>, Akhsiket<sup>15</sup> (Figure 6).

<sup>14</sup> Соколовская Л.Ф. Неглазуванная керамика средневекового Самарканда как фактор экономики городского ремесла (по материалам городища Афрасиаб конца VII – начала XIII вв.) // Археология Центральной Азии: архивные материалы. Т. I. Самарканд, 2015. С. 254, 267. Рис. 96.83.

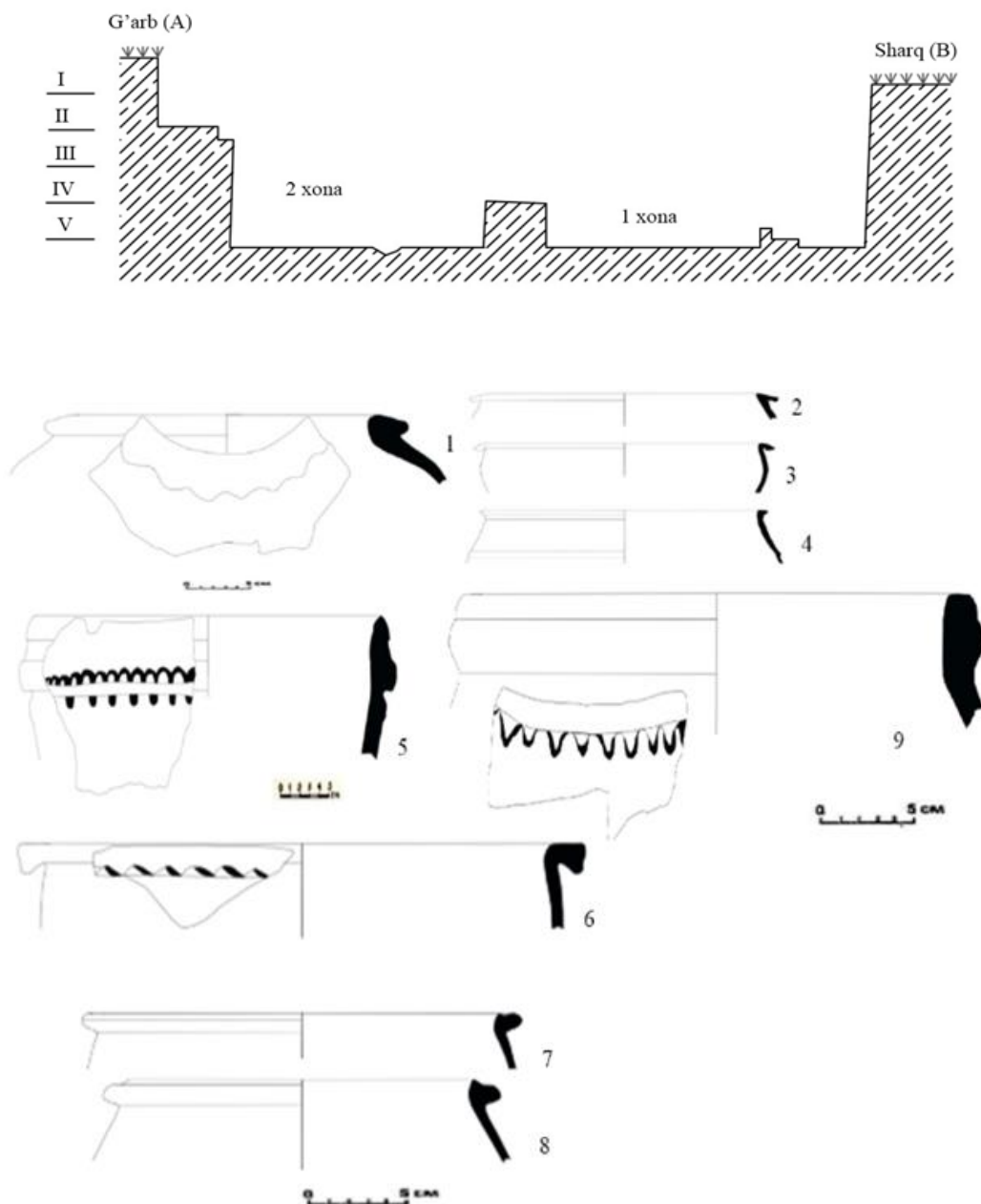
<sup>15</sup> Анарбаев А. Ахсикет - Столица древней Ферганы. Ташкент, 2013. С. 50. Рис. 20:6





**The fourth construction period** begins at a depth of 2 m above ground level. 3 rows along the wall ?X23-24x6-8 cm raw bricks were plucked. By the 4th construction period of the excavation, 2 chambers were recorded (Figure 7). The southern wall part of the rooms is shared with the defensive wall of Shahrستان. Room 1 is located at the eastern end of the excavation. Remains of the southern wall of the room 37-38x19-20x8 CM, 40x20x? a section of raw bricks measuring CM, 38,39x18,19x6 CM 35x19-20x7-8 cm was preserved, built in two rows. The length of the preserved part of the wall is 2.6 m, the thickness is 75 cm. On the south wall of the room, 4 layers of plaster are preserved, which are light gray, light yellow, yellow and gray. In the floor of the room, too, exactly the same repair is repeated. Useful in algae from small salmon. The total width of the room is 3.2 m. In the part of the room near the center, the remains of a furnace with a diameter of 30 cm were recorded. The first and second rooms are separated by a total of 1 wall. The wall thickness is 70-72 CM, the preserved height is 50 cm, the length is 37 cm. In the southern part of the room, sofa was recorded. The soufa stretched from East to West. It is located at a depth of 1.72 cm from the highest point of the excavation. Width 1.05 x178 CM. Soufa is built of mountain stone, baked and raw bricks. The dimensions of the raw bricks are the same as the above raw bricks. A pole was recorded 30 cm below the Supa. The surface

of the sofa is watered. This type of raw brick is found in the cultural layers of the X-XI centuries on the monuments of Afrasiyab , Varakhsha (Figure 7).

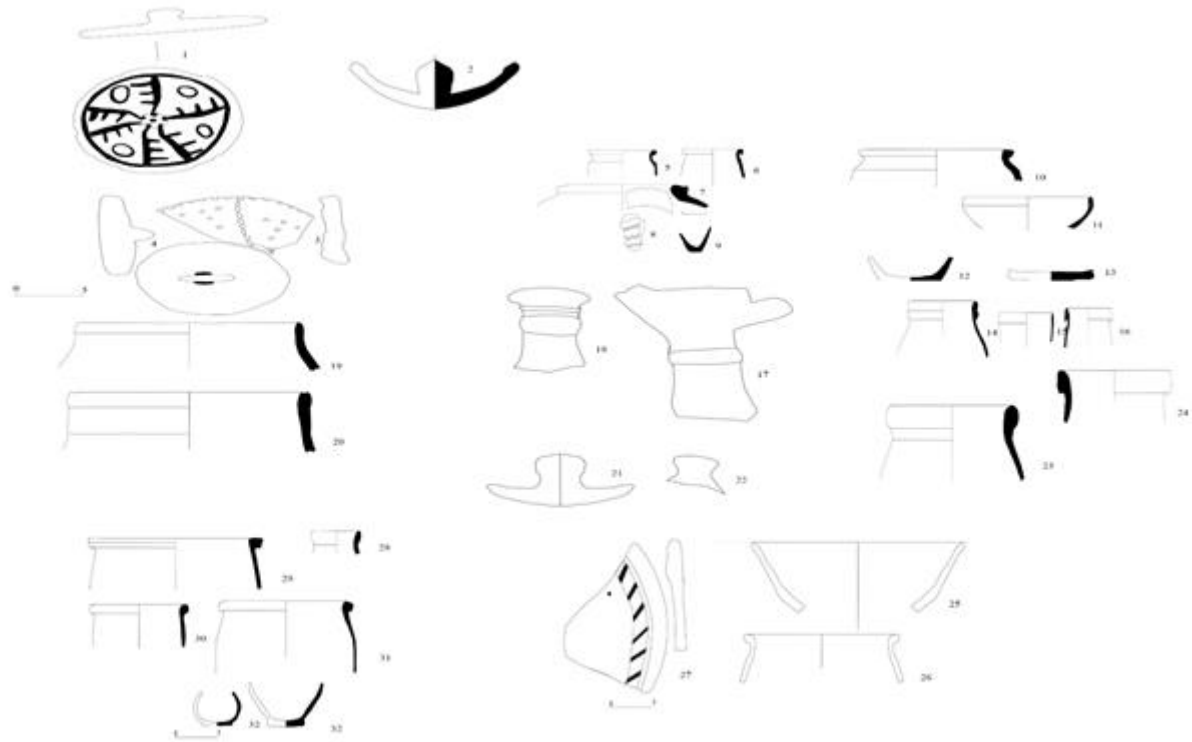


Also identified are hums (jar), humcha, toads, togora from this period (Figure 8).

**Room 2** has a total length of 3.6 m. The preserved length of the Western Wall is 2 m, the height is 27-30 CM, the thickness is 80 cm. The walls of the room repeat their plastering like the walls of the first room. In the Western Wall part of the room, a ditch with a diameter of 1.2 m was opened. From the south-eastern part of the room, an oven with a diameter of 32 cm and a thickness of 3.5 cm was



determined. Murals also survive in the first plaster section of the East and west wall sections of the room. At the time of the repair of the wall in the registry, the murals were badly damaged by getting stuck among the plasters (fig.7). Hummingbirds, hummingbirds, toads, lambs were also recorded from this period. Pottery products identified from both chambers are Afrasiyob , Chimqurgan (Kashkadarya region) are found in the 8th-10th century strata in monuments (Figure 9)<sup>16</sup>.



**Rear of the defensive wall.** On the Southern (rear) side of the defensive wall, excavations were carried out at a width of 3,75x5.9 m (Figure 10). The first period of construction of the wall was a yellow-toned clay, which was well preserved. Also 25x25x4, 5 cm and 28x? Ripe bricks measuring X5 CM were recorded. Archaeological finds do not occur. Ripe bricks of this size are found in the Sherozqal'a, Afrasiyab<sup>17</sup> monument in the layers of the XIV-XV centuries<sup>18</sup>.

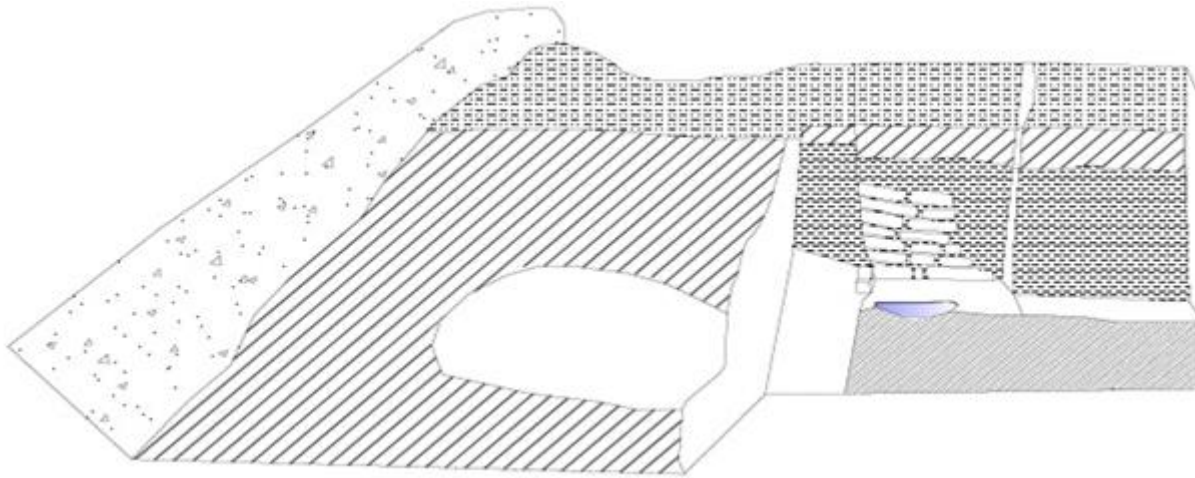
The fluff from **the second construction period** has a gray tint. The wall thickness varies from 60 cm to 68 cm. Archaeological finds do not occur.

<sup>16</sup>Усманова З.И., Кабанов С.К. К стратиграфии верхних (VIII-XIII вв.) наслоений памятников зоны чимкурганского водохранилища. История материальной культуры Узбекистана. выпуск 12. Тошкент, 1975. С. 103-120.

<sup>17</sup> Ш.Шарахимов. Кирпичеобжигательная печь средневекового Самарканда. Афрасиаб Вып 3. Ташкент, 1974. С. 84-88 .

<sup>18</sup> Бердимуратов А.Э., Суюнов С.С., Рахмонов Х.Ў. Шероз калъа ёдгорлигида 2019 йилда олиб борилган археологик тадқиқотлари. Ўзбекистонда археологик тадқиқотлар 2018-2019 йиллар. 12–син. Самарканд, 2020. Б. 45-49.

The thickness of the fluff from **the third construction period** is 70 cm. During the cleaning of the wall, a 195x76 CM (where the guard would stand) barracks was identified. On the wall of the barracks ?x19x4.5cm of fired bricks and 31-32x20-21x7. 5-8cm of raw bricks were identified. Also, the floor part of the barracks is flat, and a mountaintop measuring 57x37cm is laid on the floor surface (figure 10).



the surface of the floor, the mouthpiece of the copper jewelry was identified. The diameter is 4.5 cm ovoid. The height of the jewelry is 0.5 cm, on the surface of which there are 2 circles with a diameter of 3 cm. Inside the circles there is an image of a flower. Around the circle there are circles with a

diameter of 3 pieces 0.3 cm. And 160 cm below the surface of the Earth, a tablecloth and a glass were recorded (figure 11).



Such items are found in the layers of the 11th – 12th centuries on the monuments of Karabakh<sup>19</sup>, Munchoktepa<sup>20</sup>.

The monument consists of parts of Ark, Shahrستان and rabod, typical of medieval cities. Management, living and farm rooms were opened in the Ark, Shahrستان parts of the monument. It was also found that the discovery of farm-related labor weapons, the opening of humdons in Shahrستان and rabod, as well as the widespread distribution of material objects recorded from the monument to neighboring areas (pottery vessels, Ironworks). Farmers, priests, artisans and merchants operated in the Oasis, indicating that their prestige increased during this period.

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