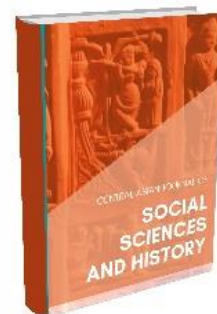




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A New Archeological Site of the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Ages of Fergana

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Abstract:

Archaeological site of the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age not only in the Fergana Valley, but throughout Uzbekistan are considered to be few. This article reports data on the first archaeological site found in the northeastern part of the valley.

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Not only in the Fergana Valley, but also across Uzbekistan, archeological monuments from the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Ages are considered to be nearly non-existent. This should not lead to the conclusion that "people in Uzbekistan at the time did not exist at all, or that there was no living". The fact is that 6,000 or 5,000 years ago, people were still trying to build their homes as high as possible. However, in the past, all the structures built on the higher parts of the Earth's surface - dwellings, domiciles, are now at least 2-3 meters above the ground, and on some slopes and slopes - at a depth of 4-5 meters, even 10 meters.

We are talking about a period of 6-5 thousand years ago, which was a very long time, and over time, the mudslides and all the structures of this period were covered by rain, snow, mudflows, mudslides and sediments during various floods. Therefore, due to the absence of "hills" in the upper part of the monuments of this period, archaeologists come across difficult to find monuments not only in the Fergana Valley, but also in the whole territory of Uzbekistan.

In fact, peasant communities in the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Ages farmed in the fertile steppe lands. For them, the most essential thing was to cultivate the land in the area of the plain formed by the end of the river flowing down from the mountain, where it might spread and seep into the earth. Their primary purpose was to make efficient use of spring rain and melt water flowing from the mountains. They could barely be used for irrigation, despite their location on the banks of big rivers. This is because it was not possible for the Eneolithic or Early Bronze Age peasant communities, armed with stone, bone and wood tools, to build dams on such large rivers and divert this water to the steppe. In particular, the Sarazm culture in the Zarafshan valley itself was occupied by the first peasant communities in the foothills of Otchoparsoy, where such mountain streams could be flooded only during the spring rains, as a result, we know that the Sarazm culture has reached the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Ages (Isakov A. 1991, p. 156, ill.). In place of the Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements, in the 18th and 19th centuries AD, the present-day village of Sarazm was replaced by a group of cattle-breeders from the steppes. In other words, the monument lies on a terrace on the left bank of the Zarafshan River, but it only receives water from Otchoparsoy, which flows from the mountain, for farming purposes.

The natural geographical environment in the north-eastern part of the Fergana Valley was very favorable for the formation of the Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age cultures. Here, mountain streams such as Sharkiratma, Nichkesoy, Shaidonsay, Uchbulak, Govasay join a smaller river called Karaungir. In turn The Karaungir River joins the right tributary of the Kara-Darya.

The existence of excessive rainfall in the northeastern part of the valley, the large number of streams flowing down from the small mountains, led to the thickening of the sediments in the foothills. It is in such lands that the most favorable conditions for the emergence of the first agricultural cultures were formed. Thus, these regions the northern, north-eastern highland and mountainous parts of the Fergana Valley, are distinguished by their freshness and fertility. Furthermore, the slopes of the hills in the northern and northeastern parts of the valley allow the sun to be steeper than the ground, increase the productivity of agriculture, and make the harvest faster than in other areas.

There is a huge difference between the archeological monuments found in the north-eastern part of the Fergana Valley due to the good natural geographical conditions. In particular, the archeological monuments of the Bronze Age are almost non-existent. The main reason for this is the fact that our archaeologists do not understand the laws of the dissolution of the peasant communities that played a significant role in the emergence of this first agricultural culture.

The majority of the early Bronze Age finds in the Fergana Valley are mountainous, and it is typical that they were discovered in mountainous areas. In particular, nobody doubts that the Sokh find, that is, the stone necklace was found in the mountains (Voronets M.E. 1961, pp. 48-55). It's worth noting that the find is more than 2 meters deep and weighs 4,806 kilograms (Bogomolov G. 2004, p. 9-13). Bogomolov, who studied ancient East findings similar to the Sokh stone necklace, believes that these are just "scales". (Bogomolov G. 2020, No. 1-2). In 1894 finds by teenagers from the northern part of

northern Fergana Muhammadali Bekov and Kurbonali Tuev were also found in the foothills, including a bronze jug, several pins dating back to the Early Bronze Age, and these items are now preserved in the Hermitage (Zadneprovsky Yu.A. 1962, p.55).

The following discovery, called Kalun Chat or Plato's Treasure, was found near the Itokarsay or Plato River in the Kalun-Chat geographical area of North Fergana. There is information that M.E.Masson saw this monument in 1927 (Zadneprovsky Y.A. 1962, p. 55).

One of the oldest finds in the Fergana Valley is the "scales" kept in the middle school museum in the village of Karasuv, and all archaeologists know that such artifacts can be found only in the monuments of the Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze Ages (Matbabaev B.H., Mashrabov Z.Z. 2011, number 4). The Kampirravot Reservoir basin, created near Karasuv and supplying water to several regions of the Fergana Valley, appears to have been left with many archeological monuments. One of them must be one of the hundreds and thousands of finds that have come to the surface as a result of the washing of the reservoir, the Karasuv "scales" or "stones necklace". This "stone" dates back to the III-II millennia BC and is no less important than the Sukh stone.

The stone necklace, found in a reservoir near Karasuv, came to the surface as a result of flooding of a nearby residential area. Of course, the image of snakes is not depicted on the Karasuv Stone, and the color of the stone is not black, but whiter, gray. However, in terms of shape, it is reminiscent of the 32 or 16 kg stones that modern athletes lift during exercise. This stone is round in shape, and its handle is also made of the same stone, placed in a semicircular shape on top of the piece.

It is known that there are about 5 similar tombstones in the finds of the Sulaymontog Museum-Reserve in Osh (Picture 1-1.2). Almost all of these stone necklaces are identical to the findings of the Sarazm culture formed in the upper reaches of the Zarafshan river basin (Isakov A.I. 1991, fig.31, 1-7).

In recent years, the fund of the Namangan Museum of Local Lore is also very close to the above type of "stones" from the Chust oasis. However, its length is similar to the beating part of "Keli" (Picture 3).

Recently, during excavation work in the yard of one of the houses in Bek mahalla, Ozod village, Pakhtaabad district, Andijan region, 4.5 m above the ground another "stone necklace" was found in the depths (Picture 2). When we found the place where the find was found, we were convinced that the area drank water from the Karaungirsay, which was saturated with the waters of the rivers flowing from the foothills on the northern side of the valley. About 10 small rivers, including the Arslonbob River, east of the city of Kochkarata in Kyrgyzstan, flowed to the Karaungursay.

As a result of such a natural-geographical environment in the north-eastern parts of the valley and the influence of the Sarazm culture in the Zarafshan valley, the local population could be mainly engaged in agriculture and livestock (Alohunov A. 2020. pp. 16-18).

Nearly 20 years ago, we studied the processing technologies of ceramics of the Sarazm and Chust cultures and hypothesized that the Sarazm culture could be the basis of the Chust farming culture of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages (Isamiddinov M.X. 2002. pp. 223-224). . At the moment, this assumption seems to be coming true. The main source of this is the abundance of boulders ("scales") found in the northern, northeastern parts of the valley, and another important fact is that the Eneolithic and Bronze Ages were the main areas where the Early Iron Age cultures spread between the Karadarya and Naryn rivers. It corresponds to the Fergana region. It should also be noted that the early Iron Age cultures, which spread not only in the Fergana Valley, but in all river oases of Central Asia, are based

on many early Bronze Age cultures found in Sarazm, the Fergana Valley and the Tashkent oasis.

One of the archaeologists, B. Lione, hypothesized that Sarazm culture played a role in the origin of the first Iron Age cultures in Central Asia (Lyonnet B., Isakov A., Avanesova N.A. 1996. R. 117-131).

One of the French scholars who studied the culture of Sarazm R. Bezenval and A. Isakov from Tajikistan note that the culture of Sarazm was closely connected with the cultures of the Ancient East, including the Harappa culture spread in India. They obtained this information from a nearby 100-square-meter apartment in one of the courtyards in the village of Avazali in Sarazm by conducting excavations in the field (Besenval R., Isakov A. 1989).

Bertil Lione, a French scholar who researched pottery, wrote that the Sarazm civilization was greatly impacted by the Harappa culture, and that pottery created on a pottery wheel entered the Sarazm culture as a result of this influence (Lionet B., Isakov A., Avanesova N.A. 1996).

Thus, although the origin of the Sarazm culture is typical of the regions of the Ancient East, it can be seen that its material culture was greatly influenced not only by peasant communities in the south, but also by herdsmen from the northeast. For example, by studying a stone statue found in Sarazm, V.G Shkoda notes that it is exactly the same statue found on the banks of the Ishim River in the Akmola region of Kazakhstan (Shkoda V.G. 1997, pp. 48-51). This proximity suggests that since ancient Paleolithic times, ancient pastoral tribes have traveled thousands of miles who crossed the distance and were in contact with the first peasant communities.

Prior to the research of N.A. Avanesova, an expert on this period, the contacts of scientists with steppe cultures were limited only to the tribes of Kaltaminor culture. However, it was N.A. Avanesova who, after finding the location of Tukayli on the banks of the Zarafshan River, managed to connect the Sarazm peasant communities with the cattle-breeding tribes of the entire northeastern region in chronological order (Avanesova N.A. 1991; same author. 1995, p.82). -86).

However, most scholars who lived in the 80s and 90s of the last century did not noticed that the first agricultural cultures of the Ancient East were not only the basin of the Zarafshan River, but also the whole of the first agricultural culture from ancient Elam to the Fergana Valley and the Adiroldi areas were buried under natural sediments such as flood waters, landslides, snow, and rain gutters in later periods.

№	Location where the find was found	Where the find is stored	Dimensions of the find	General feature
Figure 1-1	The Osh find	Osh Museum registered serial number: OOIM3 FA 180	The handle is 12 cm long and 4.6 cm in diameter The abdomen is 24 cm in diameter, 21 cm high and 17 cm wide.	One side is broken and damaged, oblong shape, no corners.







Figure 1-2	Find 1				
		Front side		The Back side	
Figure 2	Find 2				
		Front side		The back side.	
Figure 2	The Osh find	Osh Museum registered serial number: OOIM3 FA 179		Handle length 11.5 cm, diameter 4 cm, The abdomen is 25 cm in diameter, 19 cm high and 14 cm wide.	In the whole case, the shape is close to a rectangular shape.
	The Andijan find, Pakhtaobod district	The owner of the apartment found		Weight 9 kg, Length 29.5 cm, width 15 cm, height 15 cm. The handle is 9 cm long and 2-2.5 cm in diameter	On either side of the stake is a shoulder length equal to the length of the stake, with both shoulders bent downwards in a bow and attached to the second shoulder. The abdomen is oval in shape. There are places that have damaged as a result of natural influences.
					
		Front side		Back side	

Figure 3	Namangan findings, Chust	Namangan Museum of Local Lore, registration number: KP-3450	Height 30 cm, circumference of the abdomen 71 cm, diameter of the handle 1.5-2 cm	In round shape, there are bumps that have been hit around and damaged in the stored position.
				

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