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Summary: *The article describes the archaeological research carried out in Karakalpakstan during the years of independence, the establishment of cooperation with the famous archeological scientists of the world countries, the conduct of archaeological excavations and the practical results of archaeological research.*

Резюме: *В статье описаны археологические исследования, проводимые в Каракалпакстане в годы независимости, установление сотрудничества с известными учеными-археологами стран мира, проведение археологических раскопок и практические результаты археологических исследований.*

Key words: *Karakalpakstan-Australia, Akchakhan-Kala, Guzeli and Kalaliqir, expedition, Kerder cities, Khorezm civilization.*

Ключевые слова: *Каракалпакстан-Австралия, Акчахан-Кала, Гюзели и Калаликир, экспедиция, города Кердер, Хорезмская цивилизация.*

Deep knowledge of real history helps each citizen of society, especially young generation, to choose their own path in their lives, to appreciate the value of today's independent life, and to understand the future. Due to the fact that quality education is the basis of the great future of our society, more attention is paid to education in our country at the level of state policy. In his address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan on December 20, 2022, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev noted that attention should be focused on supporting the largest investment for New Uzbekistan at first: "Power is in education, power is in upbringing, power is in knowledge." The reason is that the best goals are achieved thanks to knowledge and education"[1, 1-3].

The achievement of independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991 opened wider opportunities for development in the science of history, like all other spheres in society. The outlook for historical and cultural heritage has changed completely, and a great attention has been paid to researching the still undiscovered aspects of our history. All opportunities were created for our scientists to work effectively. Historical monuments were taken under state protection, and research as well as restoration of their history have been started.

In the years of independence, special attention was paid to the development of archeology, which is one of the main areas of history in our country. As a proof of this statement, we can cite the acceptance of the "Concept of Development of Archeology in Uzbekistan", which aims to bring archaeological research up to the level of modern requirements[2, 7-11]. Since 1993, Uzbekistan has been a member of the UN Convention on the Protection of the Common World Cultural and Natural Heritage. With the acceptance of special laws, including "On Protection and Use of Cultural Heritage Objects" on August 30, 2001, "On Protection and Usage of Archaeological Objects" on June 16, 2009, all types of cultural heritage objects in the territory of our country were re-entered into the state protection list by the special decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan on October 13, 2006.

It is known that archeological materials are more important than written sources in providing scientific clarifications to the still unknown periods of the history of Karakalpakstan. The reason is that there are very few written sources that provide information on the history of the country. Therefore, with the help of archeological materials, we can illuminate the pages of our history of thousands of years, the pictures of our ancestors in the time of their lives, on the shores of cultural finds. Among them, developments in the science of archeology in recent years, the emergency of new scientific research methods, the use of international experience in the study of archaeological objects, created a stimulation to wider application of modern technology[3, 35].

These developments in science are certainly causing new historical discoveries. Archeologists from Karakalpakstan were aware of the world news in

the field of archaeology. Using the wide opportunities given during independence, they had the opportunity to establish scientific cooperation with foreign colleagues. It created a wide possibility to work with scientists from other countries in search of rich archaeological memories of our country. The international archaeological expedition "Karakalpakstan-Australia" has been working in our country for nearly twenty years. Among Australian scientists, representatives of France and the University of California, USA are participating in the field research of this expedition, including laboratory works. As a result of these joint researches, the ancient Tashkhirman oasis was opened. Dozens of ancient and medieval cities-villages, known and unknown in ancient science, along with some unique houses, irrigation systems, and agricultural fields were localized on the archaeological map. That breaking news caused to the curiosity of the archaeological communities on earth, and by a special decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an international symposium was held in October 2007. Therefore, awarding the honorary title of Hero of Uzbekistan to the archaeologist-scientist Gayratdin Khojaniyazov is concerned to be the highest appreciation given to the rich history, unique culture, and knowledge of Karakalpak nation.

According to G.Khojaniyazov, an archaeologist for the research of Akchakhan fortress, research conducted in Akchakhan fortress showed that it is the third largest city on the South Aral coast after ancient Guzeliqir and Kalaliqir, and the largest city on the right bank of Amu Darya. The magnificent fortifications, public and religious buildings of the castle, its material wealth, especially the galleries with the portraits of the ancient rulers, which amazed the world archeology science, seem to be the source of its being the capital of the ancient state of Khorezm [4, 4-5].

Akchakhan fortress was the largest capital city in Khorezm. The fact that the capital Khorezm was moved to the right coast of the central Amu Darya is confirmed in written sources and in the archaeological excavations conducted in Akchakhan fortress. (According to Beruniy, the castle of Kat - Fil - Fir was built in 305). At that time, there was one social and cultural center – Tashkhirman oasis.

In the period after the Achaemenid Empire, the appearance of special centers related to the worship of the capital is of great interest from the views of the history of social life in Khorezm[5, 128].

During the years of independence, ethno-archaeological research was started from the memories of our country. City-forts, places of worship and mosques-madrasas, mausoleums, sanctuaries belonging to the last Middle Ages were studied. In accordance with this, during the researches in the territories of certain graves (#1-2 Ketmonchi Baba, Qirantau, Porlitau, Azizler Baba), Zoroastrianism and Kerder sites, ancient fortresses and medieval informing towers were discovered. These researches clarified the informing towers located along the trade route that passed over our country, and their Ayazkala, Burlıkala, Sultanbaba, Kuyanshik, Khojakol, Nazarkhan, Kuskhana (Nukus), Azizlerbaba, Qirantau, Porlitau and the towers controlled the international water and land route along the coast of Amu Darya.

Byzantine materials from Kuyik Kala and two hundred Sasanian (Iranian) mints from Takhtakopir indicate the existence of an eastward trade route from the early Middle Ages.

During the years of independence, broad avenues were opened for the science of the republic and it was given a chance to approach the science of the world. Since the 1990s, our historians have been conducting research in a number of directions in international relations. It helps, firstly, to get acquainted with foreign scientific centers and through this to pass advanced training courses abroad, secondly, to go abroad to conduct specified research programs, thirdly, to develop joint scientific projects at the expense of foreign grants, fourthly, publication of collaborative scientific activities. As a result of conducting such works, our scientists managed to find their place in an international scientific community[6, 187].

In 2000, as a result of the scientific activities carried out, our scientists held an international symposium entitled "The place of the ancient Khorezm civilization in the history of world culture", and in October 2007, by a special decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the end of

archaeological research in the Tashkhirman oasis and an international symposium on the 100th anniversary of S. P. Tolstov's birth were held. At this international scientific conference called "The Aral Sea is a place where cultures collide", scientists, archaeologists, historians from Russia, Kazakhstan, Germany, France, America, England, Australia, together with famous scientists from Uzbekistan, spoke about ancient Khorezm statehood presented scientific statements about the great contribution of our nation's history and culture to the world civilization. On the third day of the conference, a mobile seminar on the topic "Archeology of the ancient Tashkhirman oasis" was held in Beruniy district. In general, during the archaeological research in Akchakhan fortress, many fragments of pottery vessels, statues, coins and other materials from the VI-V centuries BC to the IV century AD were found. Among the ceramic materials belonging to the V-IV BC, there are previously unknown pieces of gray pottery, including statues of the gods Anakhita, Siyawish, and animals such as horses and camels. In contrast to them, the material means the discovery of a statue belonging to Buddhism. This, in turn, indicates that a number of trade representatives, probably from India, who worshiped this religion lived in the Akchakhan fortress, located on the international trade route, even temporarily. Thus, it is known from legends, folk epics, and written sources that Akchakhan was the capital city of Farasman, and this city, built in the V-IV centuries BC, suffered a great disaster over time.

Archaeologists such as V. N. Yagodin, M. M. Mambetullaev, E. Bijanov contributed greatly to the formation of the Karakalpak archeology school during those periods.

In fact, the emergence of the Karakalpak archeology school, from which academician S. K. Kamalov, who was the head of the Karakalpak branch of the Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Uzbekistan during those times, played an important role. Later, representatives of the second group of archeologists, Dr. M-Sh. Kdirniyazov, candidate of historical sciences M. Turebekov, G. Khojaniyazov were attracted and contributed to the development of archeology. Today, our third group of archaeologists O. Dospanov, J. Hakimniyazov, A. Iskanderova are doing archaeological researches.

Since the independence of our country, the way has been opened for Karakalpak archaeologists to work together with foreigners. The results of the international archaeological expedition, which has been continuing since the middle of the 80s of the last century, gave the opportunity to reveal a number of news about our ancient history. In this way, international expeditions, international scientific conferences, symposia were organized, scientific articles and monographs of our archaeologists are being published abroad. Today, Karakalpak archeology has its own place in world archeology. We believe that all of them are an achievement of the fair policy conducted in our country [9, 6].

Karakalpak archaeologists managed to publish their work as a scientific monograph in cities other than Uzbekistan, such as Sydney, London, and Madrid[7, 43]. As a result of working together, we should highlight the case of Karakalpak scientist G. Khodzhaniazov's monograph "Military architecture of ancient Khorezm between VI-IV centuries BC" was translated into English and published in Paris in 2006[8, 264].

In 2000, for the first time in the history of Karakalpakstan, a Symposium and field seminar on archeology were held at the international level. Leading archaeologists of many countries participated in such events. At the symposium, the work of the international expedition and the scientific achievements of general Karakalpak archaeologists were assessed. Thus, from the lines quoted above, we can see that Karakalpak archeology has risen to the international level today thanks to independence. In 2008, S.P. Tolstov, one of the founders of the school of archeology in Karakalpakstan, a scientist who contributed to the Republic of Karakalpakstan, respected academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, professor, doctor of history, turned 100 years old. At the beginning of October dedicated to this jubilee, an international Symposium and a field seminar of the second Karakalpakstan-Australia international expedition were held in the capital of our country, Nukus, as well as Ellikkala and Beruniy districts. European, Asian and Australian scientists took part in this Symposium along with well-known archeological scientists of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This scientific forum was the recognition of the current results of the work of archaeologists in Karakalpakstan.

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