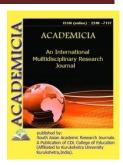




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# THE FIRST MEDIEVAL URBAN CULTURE OF SAMARKAND SOGD (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE MONUMENT TO QULDORTEPA)

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## **ABSTRACT**

The fact that the territory of Uzbekistan has ancient roots of urban culture in this article. We can see this situation in the presence of the ruins of Goktepa, Afrasiab, Yerkurgan, Podayotoktepa, Poykent and dozens of other major and ancient cities in the territory of our homeland.

**KEYWORDS:** Sogd, Monkey, Quldortepa, G.V.Grigoryev, I.A.Sukharev, V. I. Sarianidi, "Tan Shu", Basista, Baside, B.Eat it.Stavisky, M.K.Urmanova, Talibarzu, Panjikent, Kafirkal'a, Afrosiab, Choch, Jizzakh, Nakhshab, urban culture.

#### INTRODUCTION

The territory of Uzbekistan has ancient roots of urban culture. We can see this situation in the presence of the ruins of Goktepa, Afrasiab, Yerkurgan, Podayotoktepa, Poykent and dozens of other major and ancient cities in the territory of our homeland. Along with these large cities there are more than a hundred small towns and large villages in the territory of Uzbekistan, many of which have reached to our days in the territory of the Samarkand oasis in the form of large archaeological monuments such as Kafirkal, Dobuscal, Ofarinkent, Robinjan, Ishtikhan, Mingtepa, Kushaniya. There is general information in science about the ruins of these cities<sup>1</sup>. In the sentence of such cities of sogd, it is possible to include a large archaeological Quldortepe, which is located around the village of Bahrin, Urgut District of Samarkand region. Interest in the study of this monument began in the late 30-ies of the XX century.



Archaeological and written sources confirm that Quldortepa Sogd served as the central city of the monkey, that is, its capital, which at that time was among the great possessions. Total area 17 g.ga equal. We can also find out that this city, in turn, consists of three parts, namely ark, Shahristan and Rabot, through the following studies.

The archaeological study and research of goldortepe has been carried out in four stages to date.

First stage: on the eve of the Second World War, the first marotaba archaeologists G. In the town of Quldortepa.V.Grigoryev and I.A.Sukharevites conducted archaeological research. The main purpose of this study was to find out the answer to the question of whether the city of Boside, which was considered the capital of the monkey, Quldortepe was the region of the first medieval Sogdian, was exactly itself, or another city. But the researchers did not achieve the expected result, but finished the research work.

The second stage: after that there were V. in 1953-1954 years. I. Sarianidi is engaged in partial excavation work. It was also assumed that the purpose of this excavation was the destruction of the city of Boside, which was considered the capital of the monkey, the region of the first medieval Sogdian here<sup>2</sup>.

In the second phase of the study, the following data were collected. The city of Boside is the residence of the governor of the monkey, an important source covering the history of the Tan dynasty (618-907), one of the ruling dynasties of China, was mentioned in Tan shu. Also there are opinions about this city that the city of Basista is the same as the city of Boside, which was recorded in the works of some scientists of the muarriks of antiquity and was mentioned in connection with the Alexander Makedonsky walks. It is not surprising if the subsequent period when historians did not pay attention to the information about the city of Boside, which was recorded in Chinese sources, caused a different interpretation of the place of this toponym<sup>3</sup>. This monument is located in the eastern part of the village of Bahrain, 35 km to the east-south from the city of Samarkand. It is preserved in the form of a hill with a length of 6 meters, which is now 1700 meters in height. The total area of the monument is about 17 hectares, and there are also Hills slightly elevated in the north-east, south-east and South-West corners, that is, the place of the zodiac. In addition, in the north western corner are located several large hills, which are clearly distinguished. The center of the city is occupied by an elevated Massif, which is equal to its high places. In the western corner of the monument there is an arch with a height of 15 meters, next to it is a small water basin, which at that time provided the city with drinking water. As a result of excavations, a variety of ceramics found here belong to different periods. The most ancient of them dates back to the beginning of our era, and the earthenware from the upper layers dates back to the XI-XII centuries<sup>4</sup>.

The third stage: in 1955-1956, in cooperation with the Museum of history of Culture and art of Uzbekistan in Samarkand and the State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad began digging. Archaeologists B. for these excavations. Eat it. Stavisky, M.K. Those who were led byovovas<sup>5</sup>. This excavation work was carried out on an area of 100 m<sup>2</sup> in the north-eastern part of the Ark. From the top layer of the excavation area, it was studied by finding fragments of ceramic and glass dating back to the IX-XII centuries. In the Ark, a building with four periods of construction from top to bottom has been opened and studied.



Archaeological finds from quldortepe are very similar to those found in Talibarzu, Panjikent and Kafirkal. The remains of an artifact and a wall found in separate layers of the monument made it possible to determine its age. Here such findings prove that the age of the Kuldortepe is not less than the I century of our era.

Archaeological materials indicate that the Kuldortepa was formed on the banks of a small lake formed from groundwater (Springs) and was quickly surrounded by a defensive wall. In the III-IV centuries on the banks of this lake, a 10-meter-high urban raft was restored. When it comes to the VIII century BC, life around the ark ceases, as a result of which quickly the city wall of mudafa also becomes a ruin.

Although life in qoldortepe continued even in the IX-XII centuries, but during this period the population was significantly reduced and the prestige of the city was significantly reduced<sup>6</sup>.

During this excavation work, the central part of the Ark and the north-west sides of the city were explored. In addition, as a result of archaeological research conducted in 1956 year, the study of the defensive walls of the north-eastern part of the ancient city was completed. According to the technique of making found ceramics, it became known that the Tali-Barzu monument was characteristic of the third layer.

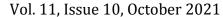
The study of the Quldortepa archaeological monument provides information about the features inherent in the culture of the first medieval Sogd urban settlement. In the IV-V centuries-old strata of the city, part of the sewerage networks of the city were opened<sup>7</sup>.

During the study of the remains of buildings adjacent to the outer walls of the Ark dating back to the VIII-IX centuries, a bronze coin was minted in Sogd belonging to an unknown ruler who ruled in the VIII century. On the first side of the coin is the face of the ruler, and on the second side is the Sogdian stamp. It is worth noting that out of such coins, four were found in the form of fluff, and another one was also found in Afrasiab.

It provides information on various household items made of ceramic, glass, copper, bronze and silver, as well as the stages of the discovery of suvd deposits and coins of cuneiform Origin, the emergence, development and destruction of the Ark, the period.

At the same time with the excavations on the central hill of the Ark, new excavations were carried out in another part of the city territory. This excavation was carried out in the place where it was assumed that the monumental architectural monument remains. It was here that the ceramics of the Middle Ages did not exist, it became clear that this architectural complex dates back to the early stages of city life. As a result of Archaeological Research in 1956-1957 years, the energetic walls of four rooms of this architectural complex were identified, which were built from pakhsa. The walls of the room are built of a large block and rectangular baked brick<sup>8</sup>.

The excavations carried out in quldortepe in 1956-1957 years revealed our impressions about the life of this ancient city. As a result of these studies, the monumental building on the central hill of the Ark of the materials obtained from the I excavation point is demolished in the VIII century, but in the IX century new buildings on the slopes of this hill were erected. Among the findings found from excavation I, the absence of ceramic objects dating back to the beginning of the X-XI century, suggests that during this period there was no life in the Ark, at least in part of it. In qoldortepe, in the XI-XII century, temporary life is restored. As a result of the excavations



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carried out at the III excavation point of the monument, it became known that during the period of the arab occupation, life in the north-western part of Quldortepe was stopped. The research of the years 1956-1957 gave valuable archaeological data that nominate the features inherent in the urban culture of sogd<sup>9</sup>. But after this study, it remains only to stop carrying out inspection work for a long time at the monument.

The fourth stage: in July 2018 and in 2019, the scientific staff of the National Center of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the professors of the Faculty of history of Samarkand State University will start scientific research at the monument again. In particular, as a result of excavations in the Memorial Arch, it became known that it was built in antiquity and was rebuilt in the IV – V centuries. Two periods of construction have been identified as a result of a stratigraphic excavation on the defensive wall in the south of the city. The first period of construction of the defense wall was reverted to the outer, southern side of the forty, and the bunda was excavated from the pakhsa platform and over it from the raw brick, while the outer side was built in antiquity in the form of a semi-circular (corrugated) high wall. The second construction period was recorded on the inner side of the defensive wall, with a new wall in the form of an additional "rubashka" with raw material over the platform. As a result, he received 11 m.ga reached. 10 As a result of the archaeological excavations carried out in the fourth stage, it was determined that the arch and the walls of Shahristan were formed in the I century BC.

In conclusion, Quldortepa is a city located in an important network of Samarkand Sogdians. In the monument we can see that in the first Middle Ages there were cultural ties with Afrasiab, Choch, Panjikent, Jizzakh, Nakhshab, there were mutual similarities of ceramic objects, with architectural styles of that period, with building styles, too. In addition, the material and material evidence found from the monument shows that Quldortepa was one of the important political and cultural centers of Sogd in his time.

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