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Archaeological Research Of The Uzbek-Italian Archaeological Expedition During The Years Of Independence

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ABSTRACT

The author of the article argues that after the declaration of independence of Uzbekistan, the opportunity for scientific research, including archaeological research, was opened in our country for scientists from different countries who perceive the history of our Motherland as an integral part of the history of all mankind. As a result of joint archaeological expeditions and research at the present stage, certain factual material has been accumulated in Samarkand Sogd. This largely indicates the importance of the history and culture of Samarkand and its environs in the study of the historical and cultural heritage of the entire Central Asian region. Important achievements in the field of historical and archaeological study of Samarkand Sogd during the period under review are also the works of Uzbek and Italian archaeologists, who made a huge contribution to the development of the Uzbek school of archeology, applied new methods of archaeological research using the latest technologies and technical means, which made it possible to make new discoveries on the region being studied.

Keywords:

Uzbek-Italian archaeological expedition, Samarkand Sogd, Maurisio Tosi, archaeologists, history, ancient, historical sources, archaeological excavations, archaeological finds, archaeological methods, archaeological research, archaeological expedition, stratigraphy, periodization.

Introduction. In the conditions of modern processes of globalization in the world, the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, the study of the traditions of creation manifested in history and their continuation on a new basis are of urgent importance. History and cultural heritage serve as the spiritual foundation of all civilizations, so much attention is paid to the scientific study, preservation and reconstruction of historical and cultural heritage objects created by mankind. The study of the monuments of material culture of the ancient period, in which regional and global processes took place, in particular, the development of archaeological science, is becoming increasingly important.

Therefore, much attention is paid to the scientific study, preservation and reconstruction of historical and cultural heritage objects created by mankind. The study of the monuments of material culture of the ancient period, in which regional and global processes took place, in particular, the development of archaeological science, is becoming increasingly important.

All over the world, special attention is paid to the study of methods of archaeological research, since the scientific conclusions of a historian largely depend on the methods of studying artifacts. The world's leading scientific institutions conduct a number of studies of material culture and social development of such historical and cultural regions of Central Asia as

Khorezm, Margiana, Bactria, Sogd, Chach and Fergana. Also of great importance is the formation and development of archaeological schools in the study of the oldest periods of human history, the preservation of material heritage, their demonstration, popularization and communication to the next generation. In this regard, conducting research based on new approaches, studying the experience of developed countries and putting it into practice is an urgent task [7: c.269-275].

Uzbekistan – is a country of the richest history and culture, which is confirmed by numerous written sources and archaeological monuments. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan attaches great importance to the study of the formation of methods of archaeological research and the development of archaeological science, since the history of mankind cannot be recreated without the reconstruction of material culture [8: c.1-5].

Literature review on the topic (Literature review)

Considering the degree of study of the topic among the published works, it is necessary first to dwell on the scientific work of M.H. Isamiddinov [5], which highlights the archaeological research of Samarkand and its surroundings, where the author describes in detail the archaeological excavations and archaeological material, gives a number of conclusions regarding the chronology and characteristics of the monument and objects. The Italian archaeologist Maurisio Tosi, in his works [6], highlights the immediate tasks facing the archaeology of Central Asia, and also understands perfectly well what exceptional prospects a serious archaeological study promises. Archaeologists Berdimuradov A.E., Matbabaev B.H. in their works [2; 3] describe the material culture of the Kafyr-kala settlement, as well as the archaeological monument of Boisaritepe on archaeological work in this region. Gubaev A., Koshelenko A., Tozi M. in the compiled collection of the archaeological map of the Murghab oasis [4] they reveal wide opportunities and prospects for further archaeological research.

Research Methodology (Research Methodology)

Speaking about the methodology of this article, I would like to emphasize that we have used methods of selection and classification of material, comparative analysis of the facts, opinions and conclusions, as well as the method of immutability of causality and historicism. The article also uses such methods as historical and cultural continuity.

Analysis and results of the study (Analysis and results)

In the first years after independence, archaeologists of our republic concluded a cooperation agreement between the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the University of Bologna (Italy) «On compiling a data bank, i.e. all archaeological data, including archaeological sites of the Samarkand Sogd».

Continuous fixation of archaeological materials of any large or small region is the most necessary document showing the ancient anthropogenic landscape in order to restore historical and cultural processes and anthropogenic impact [6: c.9-11].

Restoration of the ancient anthropogenic landscape is necessary at this stage of historical development, when global processes are taking place all over the world, and, first of all, archaeological sites suffer from this [5: c.397-441]. Many archaeologists have written about the state of archaeological sites, especially about the destruction of these monuments, however, this process continues at the present time.

In addition to compiling a set of archaeological monuments of the middle Zeravshan valley, the Uzbek-Italian archaeological expedition also conducted excavations at the Kafir-kala settlement, and a small group of this expedition explored the fortified fortress of the Early Hellenistic period of Boisaritepe, located within the village of Sazagan of Nurabad district. Boisaritepe, being a natural hill, is part of the northern spurs of the Zeravshan ridge. The hill is elongated in the North–South direction, about 130 m, about 110 m wide [2: c.65-73]. This object turned out to be a fortress of the III – II centuries BC, raised from stones in clay mortar.

The opening of a monumental structure dating back to the early Middle Ages was continued at the Kafir-kala monument. Currently, on the citadel of the settlement and on the inner side of the south-eastern wall, the south-western wall and the gate with the love gate structures are almost completely opened. The total area of this settlement is about 16 hectares. According to archaeologists, this tepe (hill) is the ruins of the summer residence of the Samarkand rulers. This is evidenced by the presence of numerous bulls.

Since 2000, about 500 bulls have been found on Kafir-kala, indicating the special place of early medieval Samarkand in the political, economic and cultural life of the region [3: c.73-79]. These bulls were copies of the seals printed in the letters of the rulers of Tokharistan, Bukhara, Tashkent, Penjikent, Khorasan and others. In the early Middle Ages, the above-mentioned cities competed with each other for supremacy, sending their ambassadors with gifts and letters to other countries. One of these episodes is preserved on the murals of the palace of the Samarkand ruler Varkhuman, who accepts a letter sent by the ruler of Tokharistan.

Computer technologies have been actively used in Western archaeology since the early 90s of the twentieth century. In archaeology, as in all historical sciences, before the advent of computer technology, scientists compiled card files in order to use data to summarize certain historical stages or events. With the advent of computer technology, card files have been replaced by electronic databases. Now computer technologies make it possible to search and sort a large amount of historical material. For example, in archaeology, you can create a database of clothing materials – ceramics, coins, terracotta figurines, analysis results, bibliographic and library catalogs, etc.

An Italian archaeological expedition led by Professor Maurizio Tozi, before the excavations in Samarkand, worked in Turkmenistan to systematize ancient agricultural settlements of the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age of southern Turkmenistan, and a collection was published based on the results of the work done on the Murghab oasis [4].

The binding of archaeological materials to a certain territory and locality stimulated the emergence of geoinformation systems (GIS). GIS is an automated system for processing spatiotemporal data, the basis of integration, which is geographical information.

Sebastian Stride is a student of Maurizio Tozi, worked on the GIS system in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan and recorded all archaeological sites without exception, linking the program to GIS. Maurusio Tozi and his students worked until recently on compiling a set of archaeological monuments of the Samarkand region, and after the death of M.Tosi expedition is led by his student Simone Mantelini.

Conclusion and recommendations (Conclusion/Recommendations)

Thus, after the declaration of independence of Uzbekistan, an opportunity for scientific research, including archaeological, has been opened in our country for scientists from different countries who perceive the history of our Motherland as an integral part of the history of all mankind. The history of a country is never studied in isolation from neighboring countries or peoples. Ancient tribes or ethnic groups have been communicating with each other throughout their historical development. They enriched each other with their knowledge and culture, exchanged goods and products. An archaeologist, when studying history and culture, must restore all these connections, answering many questions about the historical past of peoples.

Foreign archaeologists, when studying the history and culture of a certain region of Uzbekistan, draw conclusions on the general historical development, linking events and facts with the history of other countries and peoples, which is correct. As a result, foreign archaeologists invest funds to study the history and culture of individual oases or regions of Uzbekistan. Western archaeologists have been studying the Ancient East, Egypt and India since the XIX century, which suggests that they have been excavating all over the world for a long time and especially in the neighboring regions, where adobe architecture has been developed

since ancient times. That is why they were more prepared for the production of archaeological excavations in our country, having discovered a lot of previously incomprehensible and unknown things both for themselves and for the archaeologists of our country.

After the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a special place in the scientific study of the historical past of our country is occupied by extensive international contacts and joint international archaeological expeditions and projects based on them. As noted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev: «A new era has begun in the history of our Motherland, dating back thousands of years – the era of freedom and independence, national revival and development. In a historically short period, we have achieved tremendous success in gaining a worthy place in the world community» [1: c.1-2].

Scientists of the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan conduct archaeological excavations and scientific research with specialists from France, Italy, Russia, Japan, USA, China.

Since 2000, the study of the monuments of the Zeravshan Valley has been started jointly with the University of Bologna (Italy), (project managers – A.E.Berdimuradov, M.Tozi), and the main direction of archaeological research is aimed at studying agro-irrigation zones, historical topography and urbanization processes in the Samarkand Sogd.

In total, the results of various expeditions in the Zeravshan Valley are the discovery of about 1,000 archaeological sites, of which 540 have been studied.

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