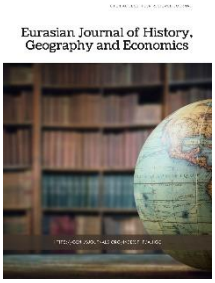

The Beginning of Research On The Early Paleolithic Period

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ABSTRACT

In the article, the study of the history of the Stone Age of Central Asia began in the years of the rule of the Russian Empire, the awakening of serious interest and attention to the remains of the Paleolithic culture, essentially, only coincided with the beginning of the 20th century. The history of the research of the lower layers of the Kolbuloq and Kyzylolma monuments in the Ohangaron river valley in the Tashkent region, the findings of Jarsoy, and the Bokantog monuments in the Kyzylkum region have been analyzed.

Keywords: Paleolithic, Neolithic, stone weapons, Selungur, Chashma, A.P. Okladnikov, P.T. Konoplya, M.R. Kasimov.

The territory of Uzbekistan is one of the regions where humanity was first formed on the globe and is considered one of the cultural centers. As in the Eurasian regions, the history of our country begins with the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age. A number of places of this period have been recorded and studied in our country. Among them, it is possible to include monuments such as Selungur, Chashma in the Fergana valley, Kolbuloq and Kyzylolma monuments in the Ohangaron river valley in the Tashkent region, Jarsoy finds, and Bokantog in the Kyzylkum region.

The study of the history of the Stone Age of Central Asia first began during the years of the Russian Empire. The awakening of serious interest and attention to the remains of Paleolithic culture, essentially, only dates back to the beginning of the 20th century [1].

Pre-revolutionary archeology collected important materials on Neolithic monuments, but the study of this period, generalized conclusions and combined works were not enough. The first published information about the discovery of stone weapons in Central Asia dates back to the 50s of the XIX century, and this and subsequent information is not based on the information obtained by archaeologists on the spot, because "Russian archaeologists never visited Central Asia in the early pre-revolutionary period" [2].

The question of the Neanderthal skull, which was washed during the river flood from the Ilets area near the Peschan River during the Russian Empire, remains open in science. It was discovered by the famous professor-paleontologist VVBogachev. This skull is lost and briefly described by VVBogachev as the "closest Neanderthal skull to La Shapell au San" [3].

The Selungur Cave is located in the valley of the Sokh River, on the outskirts of the village of Haydarkon, which borders Kyrgyzstan with Uzbekistan, at an altitude of 1890 m above sea level. The entrance to the cave 50 мis located above the bottom of the Sokh valley, from the lower part of the Qatrantov ridge. The width of the cave at the entrance 34 мreaches its height 25 мand depth . 120 мPreliminary excavations at the monument were carried out by A.P.

Okladnikov and P.T. Made in 1955 by Konoplyar. In 1964 M.R. As a result of cleaning the old excavation wall by Kasimov, 110 смstone objects made of brown silicified rock were found in the depth [4] . Between the works of A.P. Okladnikov and M.R. Kasimovs, the cave was explored by A.I. Poshka. As a result of his search, 1,5 ма bonfire, several quartzite objects, a bone awl and the remains of an ax were found in the pit. A.I. According to Poshka, "a large, dry and well-lit cave with a convenient entrance, and a comfortable temperature in both summer and winter, could not fail to attract the attention of the earliest people" [5] . This idea was confirmed as a result of stationary excavations that began in the 1980s.

Since then, interest in studying this monument has increased, and as a result, in the 1980s and 1990s, archaeologist scientist U.I. Under the leadership of Islamov, comprehensive (archaeological, geological, anthropological, paleontological, paleobotanical, etc.) researches were conducted at the monument [6] .

As a result of the excavations carried out at the entrance of the cave, five cultural layers belonging to the Paleolithic period were identified, and then the third cultural layer was divided into three microlayers. Thickness of cultural layers 20 см. from 40 см_ between and they are 0,3 м. from 1 м_ It is characterized by pure layers up to The deposits of the cave consist of sandy soil containing tuffs, siltstones, and stone fragments 8,5 м. excavated at a depth of Paleolithic period materials 2,5 м. from 6,5 м_ located at depths up to They are most concentrated in the southern part of the excavation site, and the cultural layers are visible towards the north. However, the excavation plan has not yet been published [7] . It is reported that in 1981 64 кв. м. space is explored. M.Kh., who conducted a geological survey based on the sections of the cave. Godin divides it into two rhythmic layers: the lower one consists mainly of silty siltstone layers, including culture layers 5 and 4; and the upper one is composed of small layers of lime clay and shale among the gravelly boulder material that fell from the roof of the cave. The high thickness was washed 4 times, including culture layers 3, 2, and 1. All these layers are intact and they were formed during a geologically quite quiet period. The researchers who studied the monument conducted 9 small excavations in the cave. As a result of research, five cultural layers with a thickness of 20-40 cm, separated by clean layers without archaeological remains, were revealed in the 8th excavation, where the stratigraphy of the monument was fully revealed. The oldest working and hunting tools made of stone, ancient human bone remains (paleoanthropological finds), and animal and plant remains were found in the monument [8] . The complex of stone (industry) objects is typical of the lower stage of the Paleolithic: a slave ax (bifas), a blunt ax, a chopper large stone scraper and knives, many toothed and grooved stone tools, stone tools similar to a pone and a bird's beak. The stone tools found at the site were mainly made from raw materials such as flint, yellow-brown jasper, volcanic rocks and shale. Stone weapons are mainly made from fragments and fragments of natural rock.

In addition to paleoanthropological, paleofaunistic and paleofloristic remains, about 5,000 stone objects were recovered from the Selungur area [9] .

It is appropriate to divide these stone products (according to the stone processing technique) into 2 types:

1) cores (nucleus), fuel (plate) and stone chips (fireworks) were obtained as a result of primary processing, i.e., stone breaking (flashing). Therefore, in the stone industry of the monument, the large and rough, wide hammering sites characteristic of the early Paleolithic period constitute the majority. Plates are almost never found. Levallois (a kind of Paleolithic stone-working, lightning technique) type of uchirindi is very rare. Nuclei are not abundant in the set, they are mainly flange-shaped, spherical, unilobed, bilobed and small nuclei. A characteristic feature of Selungur cores is that they mostly have an overworked abandoned appearance [10] .

2) The percentage of secondary processed stone objects (it is understood that by processing and retouching the fuel and fragments obtained by lightning, turning it into a work or hunting tool) is one tenth of the total stones in the monument.

Stone tools include choppers, choppings, straight or convex edged scrapers, retouched, incised and composite tools, retouched stone fragments and spears. In addition, the collection includes stone axes (cleavers), two-sided handaxes (bifas), stone rasps, paykons and double-edged paykons (limas).

Yellow, brown jasper, gray-green clay shale and dark gray volcanic rocks were used in the monument. The raw materials were brought from the river bed below the monument in the form of sledgehammers, and this naturally influenced the overall appearance of Selungur industry.

These stone weapons are the oldest working and hunting tools made of stone. These stone tools, characteristic of a culture of the Early Paleolithic period (Achelian, Micok, Clectonian, etc.), performed a specific task in the economic lifestyle of our ancient ancestors. Among the stone weapons of the monument, one of the most striking is a spear-shaped hand axe, made of red jasper, found in the 5th cultural layer, and this stone weapon is the first and oldest hand axe, found in the region. The stone tools from the cultural layers of Selungur Cave are morphologically (in terms of shape) unique, and most of them have an ancient (archaic) appearance.

Selungur Cave materials are culturally included in the Asian Acheulean culture. It is known that the Acheulean is one of the African, European and Western Asian cultures of the Early Paleolithic, which are mainly characterized by the production of bifaces. Asian ashele is a little different from it, and it is distinguished by bifas, i.e. cleavers as well as cleavers [11].

According to French archaeologist F. Bord, a mature specialist in world paleolithic studies, the Selungur cave is characteristic of the southern Acheulean Paleolithic culture spread in the Indian subcontinent and the Middle East [12] . Until that time, only the northern species of Ashelian were found in the territory of Central Asia, and Selungur is the first monument belonging to the southern type of Ashelian. Therefore, this place is among the unique monuments. In general, academician U. I. As a result of the complex research carried out during the Islamic period, the stone weapons found in the monument were compared with the stone weapons found in the Ubaidiya (Palestine) and Olduvai (East Africa) monuments , and the age of the Selungur settlement was 1.5 million by the potassium argon method. It was determined that the year [13] .

Selungur monument is the only paleoanthropological settlement among the monuments of the early Paleolithic period found in the Central Asian region [14] .

From the third cultural layer of the cave, 10 human teeth and a piece of shoulder bone were found. These bones are believed to belong to two or four people. The analysis of the teeth is as follows: if one tooth belongs to a woman, the rest are considered to belong to another person. Analysis of the teeth showed that none of the teeth had caries. This condition is considered as an emergency event of the disease. According to the American researchers involved in this field, this situation occurs in all representatives of upright walkers with material culture. The analysis of the structure of the teeth presents a clear and reliable picture of the relationship of the Selungur finds with ancient people from other regions. As a result of comparing these findings with representatives of the ancient human species, it became clear that he occupied an intermediate position between paleoanthropes and archanthropes and deviated far from the general direction of historical development.

Foreign scientists have different opinions about these findings. For example, in the opinion of anthropologist A. Zubov, the unique state of the Selungur man is explained as follows: "he is an intermediate state, that is, the Selungur man does not stand on the path of historical development from the archanthropus to the present man, but is apparently a specialized local type of the archanthropus (the oldest man). Selungur's find once again demonstrates how wide the range of distribution of archanthropes is and how many local species there are" [15] .

The remains of the shoulder bone found in the Selungur cave were found to belong to a 10-year-old boy. After comparing this find with the remains of human bones found in Teshiktash

Cave, it was known that the bones of Selungur Man are much older. The above-mentioned opinions of the researchers about the Selungur man are necessarily based on the research analysis carried out on the findings. However , in our opinion, this find may be one of our first ancestors who lived in the region. Because we can come to this conclusion based on the analysis of archaeological finds (stone objects) found in the area. People who know how to make work tools from stone and use them in economic activities (lifestyle) are people who develop their minds and think.

B.Q.Sayfullaev, a paleolithic scientist and mature researcher in our country. Commenting on the paleoanthropological findings found in the Selungur cave, noted the following sentences in his article - "Comparison of the bones of the Neanderthal child found in the Teshiktash monument with the remains of the Selungur man is not very appropriate, because the Selungur man, dated several hundred thousand years ago, is not more than 60,000 years old. comparison with the cave finds does not give the expected results. It is appropriate to make such analogies by comparing materials of the same age as Sinanthropus in China and Selungur in Europe." According to the researcher's opinion, a colloquium dedicated to the bones of Selungur man should be organized and prominent specialists of the world should be invited to it, or else these findings should be approved in major science centers.

The discovery of fauna and flora remains along with archeological and paleoanthropological sources provides a basis for more accurate and reliable scientific conclusions regarding the archeological period of certain studied areas. More than five thousand remains of bones of 32 species of mammals were identified and studied from the monument. Among the remains of Havonot, the bones of carnivores, ungulates and rodents are the majority, mainly cave bear, wolf, cave lion, hyena, deer, rhinoceros, Pleistocene donkey, pig and various rodent bone remains. [16] .

According to the morphological characteristics and antiquity of the faunal remains, it has been determined that they belong to the early Pleistocene period. As a result of the research of animal bones found at the site, 31 types of Aloy threocomplexes were identified. These animal species turned out to be animal species from the transition period from the Pliocene (geological period) to the Pleistocene.

The results obtained on the basis of the research of organic and plant remains are also considered important in the issue of periodization of places and destinations of different eras (Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, copper-stone bronze, etc.). Selungur Cave cultural layers were also sampled and studied at the time [17] .

The employees of the Institute of Soil Science, Agrochemistry and Botany of the Uzb AS managed to determine that the age of the lowest layer, the 5th cultural layer, is more than one million years old, based on the research of organic substances and plant remains from the cultural layers of the monument. As a result of comprehensive research at the site, it was determined that the plants taken from the layers belong to the Tertiary flora of the Torgay type. As a result of the conducted research, the period of formation of cultural layers of the monument is 1 mln. Period of 200 thousand years.

Therefore, the study of fauna and flora remains, the research results testify that life appeared in Selungur cave one million years ago. In general, it has been scientifically proven that this settlement was occupied by the first people a million years ago.

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