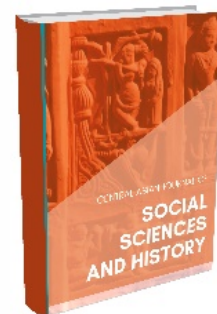




Available online at www.cajssh.centralasianstudies.org

CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

Journal homepage: www.http://cajssh.centralasianstudies.org/index.php/CAJSSH



Archaeological Research and Observations of Russian and European Scientists and Travelers on Afrasiyab and in the Samarkand Oasis in the Second Half of the XIX - Early XX Centuries

Farmanova Gulnara Komilevna

Senior Lecturer of the Department of World History of the Fergana State University, Republic of Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The author of the article claims that in the second half of the XIX - early XX century, historical and archaeological studies and scientific research were carried out in Afrasiyab and the Samarkand oasis, carried out by Russian and European orientalists, archaeologists, scientists, photographers, and travelers, in particular, the origins of the addition of the method of archaeological research on the example of the works of N.V. Khanykov. The material presented in the article indicates that M.E. Masson, I.V. Mushketov, A.P. Fedchenko, A.A. Borzenkov, E. Schuyler made a worthy contribution to the scientific study and description of Samarkand and its environs. Also, in addition to merits and achievements in scientific theoretical and practical research, errors, lack of experience, and methodology for conducting archaeological excavations and analysis are shown.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 29 May 2021

Received in revised form

30 May 2021

Accepted 18 Aug

Available online 28 Sep 2021

Keywords: N.V. Khanykov, M.E. Masson, I.V. Mushketov, A.P. Fedchenko, A.A. Borzenkov, E. Schuyler, Afrasiyab, Samarkand, archeology, history, ancient, historical geography, geographical sources, historical sources, archaeological excavations, archaeological finds, archaeological methods, archaeological research.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological research makes a significant contribution to the study of the ancient history of the peoples of Central Asia, especially its initial stages, since there are no written sources and material

E-mail address: editor@centralasianstudies.org

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archaeological materials, which are the primary source in the knowledge of ancient history, including the historical past of Samarkand and its environs, acquire exceptional value. Until the end of the 1920s, archaeological sites of the early periods of Samarkand and other regions of Central Asia remained poorly studied. Although the history of the study of archaeological sites, including the settlement of Afrasiyab, was begun at the end of the 19th century by naturalist scientists and was later continued by other researchers.

Literature review

Considering the degree of study of the topic among the published works, it is necessary first to dwell on the scientific article by V.A. [10], in which the author covers archaeological research and archaeological excavations of Samarkand and its environs. Yakubovskiy A.Yu. [13] describes the archaeological excavations of Samarkand, gives an interpretation of the archaeological sites and archaeological research of Samarkand and its environs. In the work of Masson V.E. [6], the pages of material culture from the history of Samarkand are described in detail, data on archaeological finds at the Afrasiyab settlement are contained. M. Rostislavov, in his report [7] on the archaeological study of the Zarafshan valley, outlines the main archaeological work carried out by researchers at the end of the 19th century in the study of material culture and the peculiarities of life of the sedentary population of Samarkand and its environs. Also, the work of Tashkenbaev N.Kh. [8] is devoted to aspects of the study of material culture in the history of Samarkand based on archaeological finds in Afrasiyab.

Research Methodology

The methodology for writing this article is based on the principles of independence and the concept of a civilizational approach to the historical process. Also, speaking about the methodology of the article, I would like to emphasize that we used the methods of selection and classification of material, comparative analysis of the facts, opinions, and conclusions, and the method of historicism and objectivity. The principle of historicism and objectivity made it possible to study the issue's historiography in its species diversity.

Analysis and results

In the early stages of the development of Russian oriental studies, the primary role was played by the theme of “Muslim orientalism”, that is, the history and culture of Muslim countries. In the study of medieval history and historical geography and the study of Arabic and Persian epigraphy, along with other scientists, there is the name of N.V. Khanykov - an outstanding Russian orientalist of the 19th century, traveler and diplomat, leader of the Russian Geographical Society and a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences [1: p. 770]. N.V. Khanykov was educated at the Tsarskoye Selo Lyceum; for two years as a volunteer at St. Petersburg University, he studied oriental languages [4: p. 88], and at the age of 19, he took part in the mission to Bukhara under the leadership of K.F. Butenev in 1841-1842 years [5: p. 27-28].

Upon his return from the trip, in 1843, N.V. Khanykov published the book “Description of the Bukhara Khanate” [11], which in 1851 was translated into English and published in London [14]. This book contains a statement of a superficial impression of a traveler and a systematic description of the khanate, taking into account the available information and data from inquiries of the local population. This book already contains ethnographic observations by N.V. Khanykov. Three years after the “Description of the Bukhara Khanate”, his another valuable article, “Municipal Administration in

Central Asia” [12], appears. In this article, the author manifests his characteristic research style - a comprehensive examination of the topic in historical and geographical terms from the point of view of the current state. Describing the way of urban life, N.V. Khanykov notes the “stagnant nature of the civic consciousness of urban society” in Central Asia and, in the spirit of his time, tries to explain this exclusively by the influence of the geographical factor on the stability of the urban settlements themselves, “emerging in the same place after destruction” as result invasions or natural disasters [9: p.7]. Of course, this is a reasonably accurate definition of another 22-year-old N.V. Khanykov, the future ethnographer of Iran and Central Asia, who spoke out in the middle of the 19th century. With just one visit to Bukhara and Samarkand, he determined and gave an accurate description of the system of the sedentary lifestyle of the local population, i.e., the sustainability of the urban settlements themselves.

Why do we specifically cite the statement of the famous ethnographer and historian, who clearly understood the system of formation of settlements and fortified settlements in the conditions of adobe architecture? According to this system of settlement in the conditions of adobe architecture, multilayer urban and rural settlements arose.

Until now, scientists are surprised that this very young and beginning ethnographer gave a perfect description of the city. Making visual observation, Hanykov N.V. rather accurately describes the walls, gates, citadel, irrigation system and defines the areas mastered in antiquity and the era of Timur. He noticed that the city had a relatively large area even in antiquity, as evidenced by the developed areas located on the northern and western parts of the Timurid wall.

Together with the young 22-year-old N.V. Khanykov, mining engineers K.F. Butenev, G. Bogoslovsky, naturalist A. Leman and topographer I.A. Yakovlev arrived. Thanks to this topographer, a very detailed topographic plan of Samarkand and its environs is attached in the book of N.V. Khanykov, which indicates the territory of the city with the citadel, Registan, the Bibi-Khanum mosque, the Amir Timur mausoleum, the Kalai-Afrasiyab settlement, and monuments located in the south- the eastern part of Samarkand - Khoja-Abdi-Darun, Divanbegi madrasah, etc.

In 1868 Samarkand was conquered by Russian troops and included in the Turkestan General Government. This significantly accelerated the process of archaeological exploration of Samarkand. A characteristic feature of the first stage after the inclusion of Samarkand in the Turkestan General Government is the active process of collecting materials on the history and culture of the region in question. First of all, the military, officials, collectors of antiquities, and natural scientists took an active part in this matter. For example, V.A. Shishkin gives an example that the head-captain M.A. Terentyev found a stone with Sheibanihan’s epitaph and other items that entered state depositories, in particular, the Hermitage, others - in private collections, and still others as rarities and “souvenirs” were sold by officers and officials and disappeared without a trace for science [10: p.7].

M.E. Masson, citing an example widespread in the public environment, about too old residence in the territory of the old part of the city on the site of Afrasiyab, notes that “in the late 60s - early 70s of the nineteenth century it was believed that the caves in the thickness of the loess outlier served as dwellings for primitive troglodytes, and were studied in 1874 only along the Otchapar ravine”.

I.V. Mushketov proved the trim solidity of such conjectures” [6: p.3]. Indeed, the famous geologist I.V. Mushketov is one of the first explorers of Samarkand. In his major work on geology “Turkestan”, he pays much attention to the ancient period of Samarkand. He, being a geologist, was well versed in

archaeological sections. In particular, I.V. Mushketov mentions a “cut” across Tashkent street, laid when digging a road. In addition, he describes the ruins of Afrasiyab, including an artificially dug cave that exists on the western side of the Otchopar ravine, which has numerous labyrinths.

Another talented researcher of the nature of Central Asia is A.P. Fedchenko. Even though he was a scientist in the study of nature and geography, his “Report” on the expedition and “Topographic sketch of the Zarafshan Valley” describe the historical monuments of Samarkand. He was able to identify ancient Samarkand with the ruins of the settlement of Afrasiyab, the ruins of which were more significant than the city of his time.

While exploring the Zarafshan valley, he saw “kurgans” similar to those of the Afrasiyab and, on this occasion, noted that “some of them are surrounded by a rampart, traces of gates are visible”. I.V. Mushketov makes a correct conclusion that “there were fortresses like “arches” or citadels, still preserved in Bukhara cities” [10: p.8]. Further, he describes several historical places and interesting structures in the Samarkand region.

At that time, throughout Europe and in Russia, there was already a “hunt” for antiques and things. Such a general trend has spread to Central Asia, in particular Afrasiyab. As V.A. Shishkin writes: “The treasure hunt took on such proportions that the Turkestan administration was forced to issue in 1871 a special order to stop unauthorized excavations. However, this prohibition hardly played a huge role since no protection of monuments was organized [10: p.9]. Everyone could have started to find treasure. This was especially the case for high-ranking officials, military officers, and other persons. Afrasiyab became the main point where “excavations” were actively revealing “ancient objects”. In this regard, V.A. Shishkin quotes Colonel Prince S.P. Trubetskoy, published in “Son of the Fatherland”: “While examining Afrasiyab, the colonel met mardikors (day laborers) who were returning from work in the evening. For one ruble, they agreed to “dig for good luck” somewhere in ruins. Half an hour later, a statuette was found, depicting a reclining man, embracing a lion with his right hand” [10: p.9].

The absence of any law on the protection of monuments was reflected in the laying of the Tashkent road through Afrasiyab, which led to the destruction of archaeological data for science almost along the entire route. Later, in the 60s of the XX century, a road was laid towards the airport, which caused enormous damage to the monument’s preservation. At the same time, some scientists carried out excavation work in Afrasiyab and observations of a historical and cultural nature and discovered valuable items.

For example, while laying the Tashkent road through Afrasiyab, one flint core was discovered in the eastern part, which is the first unique find indicating that there were Paleolithic sites near Afrasiyab [2: p. 177]. Later, during excavation work, archaeologists discovered the same cores in different parts of Afrasiyab, which confirmed the correctness of the point of view about the presence (apparently in the vicinity of Chupanata) of Stone Age sites [8: p.44].

Numerous finds discovered at the Afrasiyab settlement during the construction of the Tashkent road, which is of significant historical value, interested the higher administration in St. Petersburg. Apparently, in this regard, the head of the Zarafshan district, Major General A.K. Abramov, instructed the head of the Samarkand department, Major A.A. Borzenkov, to carry out archaeological excavations at the Afrasiyab settlement.

There is a short report about the excavations carried out in 1874, which was reported in his article by M. Rostislavov because A.A. Borzenkov himself had died. However, according to M. Rostislavov, it was impossible even to determine on which bank of the Siyab the excavations were carried out [7: p.144-149]. Of course, Major A.A. Borzenkov did not possess elementary information in the field of technology and methods of excavation work, not to mention the fact that he did not even have a general idea of how to approach material monuments as one of the types of historical sources [13: p.285-287]. About the unpreparedness of Major A.A. Borzenkov, M. Rostislavov writes in *Turkestan Vedomosti* in 1875 that "... these excavations, although they were not carried out very carefully and without any premeditated plan, by two criss-cross corridors dug in two criss-cross paths, found traces, undoubtedly, the buildings that once existed on this site ..." [13: p.287].

Indeed, judging by the excavations of A.A. Borzenkov (the report after the death of Borzenkov was compiled by M. Rostislavov), he carried out work on the right bank of the Siyab; however, on the right bank, there are no "high hills overlooking the Siyab". He confused the left bank of the Siyab with the right bank. Still, this does not affect the methodology of the already carried out excavation of Major A.A. Borzenkov.

Even if it will be possible to find out where A.A. Borzenkov could have excavated, the essence of the question does not change, because the excavations at this monument were carried out at the lowest methodological level, without any premeditated plan, by two criss-cross corridors [10: p.11].

However, glazed bricks were found, as well as "the remains of a staircase made of large pieces of wild stone" ("Wild stones" are Chupanatinsky slate; such stones on Afrasiyab are mainly found as flooring on medieval roads). Further, it is noted that small objects were found inside some rooms: coins, fragments of earrings, rings, etc.

According to the above report, it is only now possible to understand that we are talking about medieval streets with flooring from the Chupanata slate. Such streets are often found in the area of the medieval arch, located in the southern part of the "Bukhara Gate", also in the eastern part of the citadel, i.e., in the palace part of the rulers of Samarkand, opened in the early 90s of the XX century by the Uzbek-French expedition [3: 25].

As noted above, the excavations of Major A.A. Borzenkov were carried out without elementary knowledge and methodological requirements when carrying out excavation work. The report, written by M. Rostislavov, also does not stand up to criticism. For example, he believed that the city did not reach the excavation site. In his opinion, the high hills above Siyab were only an "Observation Point" on the whole.

Among the European scientists who visited Samarkand in 1873 and wrote travel notes, E. Schuyler can be mentioned. In his book, he provides brief and fragmentary data on the history of Central Asia since the time of Alexander the Great [10: p.14]; [15: p.233-257].

Conclusion/Recommendations

Thus, the primary purpose of the excavations was to discover valuable and exciting items for replenishing various collections.

Thus, one of the first ethnographers who visited Samarkand and its environs was N.V. Khanykov, who realized that due to the sedentary lifestyle of the urban population and where adobe architecture is

widely developed, multilayer settlements are formed. Together with a special topographer, he drew up a detailed topographic plan of Samarkand of the Timurid era and published these data in his monograph.

Even until the end of the 19th century, historians, orientalists, and even archaeologist V.V. Radlov, who visited Samarkand, did not understand the archaeological hill (tepa) since they considered large settlements "mounds reused as a guard post."

The first explorer of Afrasiyab was Major A.A. Borzenkov, who did not understand anything about adobe architecture, who carried out archaeological excavations on behalf of Major General A.K. Abramov. He cut through the ruins of Afrasiyab in several places, looked for valuable items that satisfy the demands of the museums of St. Petersburg.

All the shortcomings mentioned above rested on the lack of archaeologists who knew the methods of conducting archaeological work. According to written sources, archaeological research of Samarkand Sogd lagged significantly behind the development of Samarkand and Samarkand Sogd's history, an example of which was shown by V.V. Barthold and V.L. Vyatkin.

At the beginning of the 20th century, local enthusiasts, Russian scientists, and engineers carried out significant work on protecting and restoring monuments. Some of these works were carried out at the minaret of the Ulugbek madrasah, which leaned significantly by this time.

The works of European and Russian photographers of the second half of the 19th - early 20th centuries, who shot unique architectural objects, bridges, irrigation facilities, transport, ethnographic objects, and the historic environment in general, are also of great practical importance.

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