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From the History of Studying the Archeological Ruins of the City of Kuva (Qubo)

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Abstract:

This article depicts an archaeological survey of the Kuva city which has been one of the main economic and cultural centers with an important role in Central Asia.

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Fergana Valley is one of the historical and cultural regions with a special place in the chain of world civilization. Several world-class discoveries, considered the most important in our history, were made in the valley area. In particular, our archaeologists found and studied the oldest human settlements in Asia in the Selungur cave near the city of Haydarkon. The age of these findings is estimated to be 750 thousand to 1 million years [1]. At the same time, the valley is one of the oldest centers in Central Asia, where the first farming culture was born and formed. The last quarter of the 2nd millennium BC and at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC, more than 80 places of ancient farming culture were found and studied by archaeologists in this area [2].

It should be said that for the emergence and development of urbanization processes, certain external

and internal factors, or in other words, urban signs, must be manifested. These signs for the ancient cities of Central Asia were perfectly developed by archaeologists in Uzbekistan such as A.A.Askarov, T.Sh.Shirinov, E.V.Rtveladze, M.H.Isomiddinov, B.Matboboev, A.Anarboev, B.Abdullaev [3]. Recently, B. Kh. Matboboev summarized the archaeological monuments corresponding to the status of the "oldest and oldest city" in the territory of Uzbekistan into two large groups[4]. According to him, Dalvarzin is among the oldest cities in the valley, and the ruins of Eilaton, Mingtepa and Kuva are among the oldest. However, during the period of the former Soviet regime, among a group of "centered scientists", there were controversial opinions that the culture of urban development in the Fergana Valley appeared late compared to other lands, that the archaeological monuments of Dalvarzin and Chust did not have the status of a city[5], and as a result, the history of urban culture here was marked by a time of two thousand years. But another "central scientist" U.A. Zadneprovsky put forth the idea that there was an ancient culture of urban planning in the Fergana Valley and that this process has ancient roots, and he defended it until the end of his life. This scientist developed five archaeological signs for the first cities of Fergana[6]. These signs have not lost their importance to this day. According to him, to be a city, there must be a large area, a perfect defense system, a separate arch, farming, crafts and trade center. It took more than a quarter of a century to identify these archeological signs and substantiate them. The most gratifying thing is that in recent times, the fact that the culture of urban planning in the valley has ancient roots has been recognized by such well-known scientists as A. Askarov, V. Masson, A. Sagdullaev. That is, previous ideas[7] that Dalvarzin was formed as a city in the IX(?)-VIII-VII centuries BC are being supported[8].

One of the economic and cultural centers that played an important role not only in the valley, but also in the history of Central Asia, is the ruins of the old city, which is closely connected with the current city of Kuva. Local residents call the monument, which has survived to this day, "shahristan".

The study of the history of Kuva (Qubo in written sources) has always been in the attention of archaeologists, because archaeological excavations and finds serve as the main source for uncovering its secrets. True, in some written sources, Qubo is mentioned for the first time as the residence of the heir to the throne in the historical events of the 8th century [9]. But since the 10th century, Kuva is often mentioned in written sources. The study of the history of Kuva has covered nearly 100 years and can be divided into three stages.

Phase I lasts from the last century to the beginning of its 60s. For the first time, the study of urban ruins by researchers was carried out by representatives of exact sciences. That is, the city of Kuva was mentioned for the first time by V. N. Weber in connection with the saltpeter reserves of the Fergana Valley. In 1916, another geologist, A. Voznesensky, visited Kuva and discovered cultural layers (bricks, dishes, ash, etc.) for the first time[10]. In 1939, during the construction of the Great Fergana Canal, V. D. Zhukov inspected Kuva, demolished some materials and determined its location[11]. M.E. Masson, another participant of the observation work during the construction of this canal, researches the constellations on the south side of the city of Kuva, ceramics of the XI-XVII centuries[12]. V. D. Zhukov now visits Kuva again during the construction of the Southern Fergana Canal, but does not carry out inspections [13]. So, at this stage, archaeological explorations were not conducted in Kuva, but were limited only to the collection of materials.

Phase II covers the period from 1951-1952 to 1980-1990. Kuva is the focus of large and regular archaeological excavation expeditions. In particular, in 1951 U.A. Zadneprovsky, a participant of the complex archaeological expedition of Pamir-Fergana, conducted archaeological work in Kuva. For the first time, Kuva materials are divided into three historical periods. It was U.A. Zadneprovsky's work

that inspired the next big work in Kuva. Finally, since 1956, the employees of the Institute of History and Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted large-scale and regular archeological excavations under the leadership of Ya. Gulomov. Scientific research was extensive and was carried out in different parts of the monument. Each excavation was focused on a specific goal and covered different areas related to the history of the city. For example, defensive walls should be studied by Kh.Muhammedov, cultural layers and their periodization by I.Akhrorov, arch by V.A.Bulatova and others [14]. Unfortunately, the work started was not completed and many data were not saved, many of them were lost for various reasons. Some were published later[15]. Only the results of V.A. Bulatova's excavation of the Buddhist temple in the second city and the settlement nearby are excluded from this. This structure in Kuva is the only Buddhist temple in the area between China and Sogd. Many opinions have been expressed about its origin and characteristics in our country and abroad[16]. So, until 1970, archaeological excavations continued in Kuva. But its results did not satisfy the experts.

After that, Phase III began in the 1990s and continues to this day. It is from this period that the attention to Kuva increased. The reason for this was, first of all, that this city was a major archaeological monument in the valley. Secondly, the materials of Kuva of the previous period were not published, and many aspects of its history were dark for historians. At this stage, the staff of the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and the Museum of Local History of the Fergana region conducted extensive excavations. G. P. Ivanov, head of the department of the Museum of Local History, conducted scientific research in Kuva in 1994-1997 with the help of the local authority and his own initiative. Mainly, attention was paid to the date of construction of the defense walls of Kuva city, the construction features of the arch, and the history of craftsmanship. The team of the Institute of Archeology also took part in these works. In December 1997, in preparation for the anniversary of Ahmed al-Farghani, the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan decided to conduct a large archaeological excavation in Kuva. The team of the Institute of Archeology organized a large archaeological complex expedition under the leadership of T.Sh.Shirinov with the Museum of Local History of Fergana.

Excavations were conducted in January-October 1998. Archaeological excavations were conducted in 10 points of the city of Kuva. Complexes belonging to three periods of the city's history were found in them:

1. The oldest period of the city;
2. Antiquity and the early Middle Ages;
3. The Middle Ages [17].

Based on the collected materials, a museum was established here. The results of the excavation are reflected in the book published in English and Uzbek languages and in the reports of archaeologists published in various magazines[18].

After the jubilee celebrations, G. P. Ivanov continued archaeological excavations in Kuva [19]. Foreign scientific organizations also helped him in this work. New information was collected about the historical structure and development features of the city.

In May-June 2022, according to the order of the Fergana regional government, professors and teachers, graduate students and students of Fergana State University in cooperation with the Fergana regional

branch of the Cultural Heritage Agency carried out the next excavation and research work. The main goal of the archaeological research was to restore the traces of life and socio-economic relations in the upper layer of the monument by identifying the architectural and other material and cultural finds in the part of the city of Kuva designated as the ruler's residence. Archaeological excavations were carried out in three excavation areas of the monument measuring 10x10 meters.

Thus, Kuva has passed through three major stages in the history of archaeological research and is now one of the best-studied cities in the valley. In our opinion, the historiography of archaeological study has led to the following results:

- Kuva has long been a major commercial, economic, religious and cultural center in the Fergana Valley. The fact that a mint operated here indicates that it also played an important role politically.
- The time has already come to summarize the collected archaeological materials. It is necessary to publish a separate monographic study.
- Large-scale archaeological excavations should be carried out in the city of Kuva, it should be covered with a glass device and turned into a museum under the "Blue Sky" within the "Kuva Archaeological Complex", and taking into account the role and importance of the city of Kuva in history, the issue of its anniversary should be put on the agenda.

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