

CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF KHOREZM DWELLINGS AND DEFENSIVE FORTRESSES IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL TIMES AND THEIR REFLECTION IN SOURCES

Allanazarov Sirojbek Bekchan ugli

*Student, Department of history, History faculty,
Urgench state university*

E-mail: sirojbek.allanazarov@bk.ru

ABSTRACT: This article discusses the architecture of the construction of ancient and medieval Khorezm fortresses and their reflection in the sources.

KEYWORDS: fortress, architecture, defense of construction, wall, burj, archaeological researches.

Introduction

There is almost no information about the fortresses of ancient Khorezm and their construction and architecture in the works of ancient authors. The term but Khorezm was used in sometimes Persian inscription in Avesto and Pahlaviy religious book, Greek-latin, China and Armenian sources.[1]

In the scientific literature written since the 80 th of the XIX century, in the works and memoirs of Russian researchers the later came to study the Khiva, information about Khorezm fortresses and structures is given. It is enough to give information about walls, fortresses size, burjs, towers.

In various sources, Khorezmian monuments are called castles, settlements and defensive structures. The historical monuments of ancient Khorezm differ mainly in their size, the presence or absence of fortifications. Comprehensive information on the cities and villages of ancient Khorezm, defensive structures and its construction technology is presented in monographs written on the basis of the results of archaeological excavations carried out in the oasis in the post-30s of the XX century.

Literature review

In 1928 the first archeological excavations began in the Khorezm oasis under the leadership of A.Y.Yakubovskiy. The western part is circular and the eastern part is triangular.[2] In the early Middle Ages, the total area of the city was 50 hectares. A.Y.Yakubovskiy was found rich items belonging to first Middle Ages during the memory of mineral works.

In general, archaeological and written sources record 64 urban-type historical monuments in the Khorezm region. They date from the 4 th BC to the 14 th century AD. However, only 32 of them have been studied in detail and only 20 of them are stationary works have been done.[3]

The material obtained in the work of archeological working in the cities of the ancient period in Khorezm from Janbasqala to Tuproqqala, gave an opportunity to study the slavery system of that time, the life of the city.[4]

The Khorezm archeological and ethnographic expedition, formed in 1937 under the leadership of S.P.Tolstov, carried out a systematic study of the ancient and medieval monuments of Khorezm. A wide range of issues covering all important aspects was raised. The well-preserved remains of the archeological monuments of Khorezm played an important role in the formation of ideas about the ancient cities of Central Asia.

After the opening of the first season of the expedition, I-III Ayozqala, Dumanqala, Jildiqqala were inspected in a cognitive continued.

In 1938, S.P.Tolstov expedition carried out excavations for 3 month in Teshikqala, which dates back to the VIII century. Tuproqqala, large and small Qirqqiz, Anqaqala, Quziqirgilganqala and other monuments were studied archeological.

In 1939, during an archeological excavation led by S.P.Tolstov, on the right bank of the Amu-Darya, in the eastern foothills of the Sultan Uvays Mountains, they unearthed a Neolithic monument Jonbosqala. It is marked by 3 thousand years. The Kelteminars lived a sedentary life. During this period, people lived in hunts. The Jonbosqala monument is 24 meters long and 17 meters wide, and the central pillars of the monument are 8-10 meters.[5] This monument is mainly 100-125 people. The entire area of the monument has round and shallow pits with a diameter of 50-70 cm, located at equal distances from each other. There were so many of them that a fire was lit in the pit and some families lived and ate around it.[6]

The findings of many years and large-scale archeological axvations in ancient Khorezm testify to the ligh level of urban development in the lower reaches of the Amu-Darya in the 6 th century B.C. Researcher M.G.Vorobeva writes that there are 250 ancient village and towns on the right bank of the Amu-Darya and more than 60 on the left bank.[7] However, it should be noted that these monuments have not been fully studied archeologically. Only some of the monuments on the right bank have been partially studied.

One of them is the fortress of Kat, located in the southwestern part of the city of Beruniy. The city is built in a rectangular-shape and occupies a total 44 hectares.

The is an arch in the southwest corner of the fortress. The city has 4 gates. The city is surrounded by a defensive wall, the remains of which are preserved on the west and south sides. The length of the western wall is 71 meters. The width of the city is 50-60 meters near the defensive wall. In 1937, A.I.Terenojkin carried out archeological excavations at the monument.[8]

According to Ab Rayhan Biruni, Afrig Alexander built his palace on Al-Fir in 616 A.D. Al-Fir was visible from a distance of ten miles or moer. Jayhun demolished it every years and would be torn to pieces and finally in the thousand tree hundred and fifth year of Alexander's history a work of his remains.[9]

Another monument on the right bank on the Amu-Darya is Meshikli Shakhristan. It is located 25 km norwest of Tuyamoyin. It is a rectangular square with an area of 60x65 meters. It is surrounded by a 6-7 meter high cotton wall. The south-western wall has a circular tower and the north and east walls have a square tower. The monument served as a caravanserai in the early Middle Ages.

Conclusion

Speaking of the ancient Khorezm urban culture, it should be noted that during the pre-independence period, no special research was conducted on the construction of villages and cities, defense facilities. Later published separate scientific literature covering this topic several scientific studies conducted during the years of independence.[10]

Taking everything into account, the urbanization processes in Khorezm in the ancient and medieval times, the construction and technology of cities and defense structures are similar to other regions of Central Asia, the main task of which is due to the need to protect against external enemies. Local products were widely used in the construction of houses in the Middle Ages. This can be found in the settlements of the Kelteminar culture.

The expedition led by S.P.Tolstov played an essential role in the study of the ancient cities and defense systems of Khorezm. However, later monographs written by Uzbek historians highlighted the development and construction architecture of villages and towns.

It is need to carry out research work on the monuments of antiquity and Middle Ages and beyond. This can serve to reveal new and unique aspects of urban culture in Khorezm.

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