

ABSTRACT

to the dissertation work of Moldakhmet Arkhad Aitzhanuly on the topic “The cities of the Golden Horde period in the lower flows of the Syrdariya River: on the materials of Kyshkala” prepared for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty “6D020800-Archaeology and Ethnology”

Description of the dissertation work. The historical and geographical landscape of the lower flows of the Syrdariya River (XIII-XV centuries), neglected monuments along the caravan routes, folklore data, memoirs of travelers and local historians, the results of professional archeological scientific research carried out in the region and comprehensive research conducted in the medieval Kyshkala and the rich physical facts and scientific data on pottery products obtained from it were collected, grouped, classified, categorized and explored by analyzing the problems of the relationship between the city and the field culture in the interaction of civilization and culture during the Golden Horde era were considered historically in the dissertation work.

Relevance of the topic. The history of the region is described in medieval sources as the land of Oguz-Kipchak. Under the influence of the ethnic processes that took place at this time, the association of tribes under the Turkish ethnonym as Turgesh, Karluk, Oguz, Kipchak and others became the founding people of the state called the Golden Horde by the impact of political and administrative changes after the Mongol invasion led by Genghis Khan.

The Golden Horde era is the most significant historical period in the history of the formation of the Kazakh country. During this period, intense historical and cultural changes occurred. Because it is a natural phenomenon that with the change of any political structure, the spiritual and material values of the state also change, and it goes through a stage of development or decline. Among such monuments there are cities, towns, camps, settlements and memorial complexes, the names of which are forgotten today and are preserved in the memory of the people as legends. However, one of the unresolved issues is where most of the monuments with a deep history are now located and in what condition. Many historical sites appeared only thanks to the memories of travelers and local historians who visited this region. That is why it is important to collect information about the name and location of the cities of the Golden Horde period in the lower flows of the Syrdariya and create a scientific basis by collecting various historiographical data.

As **the object of the research**, the main attention was drawn to various cultural and memorial objects, residential complexes, as well as artifacts found in the monument, discovered in the cities of the Golden Horde era and the medieval city Kyshkala in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river.

The subject of the research – is the cities of the Golden Horde era in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river and the diverse cultural layers formed in it.

Purpose and objectives of the research. To investigate the cities of the Golden Horde era in the lower flows of the Syrdariya River (XIII – XV centuries.) on the basis of archaeological materials and interdisciplinary connections made in the direction of Natural Science. As well as, to analyze the equivalence, history of

research, formation, development, architectural and construction features of the cities of the Golden Horde.

The following objectives were set for the purposes of the research work:

- to assume the historical proximity of the names of persons, cities and localities in folklore data with the monuments of the Great Ulys era in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river, based on archaeological research;
- to differentiate written data from the memory of travelers and local historians;
- to analyze the study of the Golden Horde cities located in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river and assuming problem of Kyshkala;
- to conduct archaeological exploration work to the cities of Zhoshi tribe era located near Kyshkala (Barshinkent);
- to carry out anthropological research of the age, irrigation and protection system, pottery production, location of public facilities, human bones taken from cult-memorial and simple burials through comprehensive research work in medieval Kyshkala;
- agricultural production of Kyshkala: publication of the results of the analysis of animal bones;
- determining the activities of the lower flows of the Syrdariya river and Kyshkala (Barshynkent) in international trade and assessing the impact on the economic development of the region according to numismatic data;
- assumption of the social and public life and economic situation of the Golden Horde cities in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river on the basis of household items found in Barshynkent (Kyshkala).

The territorial scope of the dissertation work. Geographically, the boundary of the study is the southwestern region of Kazakhstan, which is the lower flows of the Syrdariya, starting from Asanas-Ozek in the east, Betpakdala in the north, the Kyzylkum desert in the south, and the dry bottom of the Aral Sea in the west. According to the administrative-territorial political division, it covers the entire territory of the modern Kyzylorda region (between the Syrdariya and Aral regions).

Chronological framework of the dissertation. The chronological framework of the work is fully covers the first quarter of the XIII and the XIV centuries. This is taken in accordance with the historical time from the official formation of the Golden Horde state to the period of its further disintegration and on the basis of data revealed from the cultural layers discovered during archaeological research.

Methods and methodology of research. Considering the regional and thematic coverage when studying a separate medieval city, along with traditional methods such as ethnoarchaeological (observation, interview), oral methods of data collection were taken into account. In the process of finding answers to the problematic questions of the dissertation work, the principles of historical and comparative analysis approved by the majority in archaeological science and its compilation in sequence were guided by the presentation of proven scientific facts.

Scientific novelty of the work.

- XIII-XIV centuries. A fund of about 10 legends and stories was collected about

monuments in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river, the justification of folklore research work related to 1 historical figure was made, a historical and comparative analysis was carried out based on the memoirs written by travelers and researchers who arrived for local history purposes.

- The cities of the Golden Horde, located in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river, were equated with ancient cities found in historical data, and their described territories in written sources were equalized with each other.
- As a result of the exploration around the city of Kyshkala (Barshynkent), 20 archaeological sites that were previously unknown to science were discovered and introduced into scientific circulation;
- In the course of archaeological research in Barshynkent (Kyshkala) in 2018-2023, the site of 11 architectural objects (octagonal complex, mausoleums, residential buildings) were discovered in different parts of it and their functional activities were determined;
- In the course of archeozoological analysis of osteological data collected during the archaeological excavations in Kyshkala, bone remains of domestic and wild animals, birds, fish were distinguished, and the approximate life age of horse cubs was identified;
- During the research work in Kyshkala (Barshynkent), a total of 100 coins were found, introduced into scientific circulation, and conclusions were made about the economic situation of the city;
- According to the archaeological studies conducted in Kyshkala, morphological analyses were carried out to fragments of vessels found in residential areas.

Conclusions recommended for defense:

1. On the basis of folklore research, a number of opinions were presented about the common features of the city built for Gulbarshyn Begim and Barshynkent in historical data in the song of hero Alpamys, equating the places of the city “Syrly, Kyrly” in the song of Kobylandy hero with the monuments of Syrlytam and Zangarkala today.

2. The works of travelers and researchers of local lore were discussed, for the first time the history of the study of Golden Horde monuments in the lower flows of the Syrdariya river (Asanas, Kyshkala, Zhanakala, Zhankent Myntobe, Kerderi, Aral-asar, etc.) was recorded, and their functions in the times of the Great Ulus (caravan palace, fortress, settlement, wintering) were determined.

3. The Golden Horde monuments which found in historical sources of the lower flows of the Syrdariya river were made equivalent to the cities of Eshnas – Asanas, Barchinkent – Kyshkala (Kyshtobe), Zhent – Zhankala, Huvara – Kuiyk city, Khairabat – Kesken-kuiyk.

4. During the exploration work in the vicinity of the city of Kyshkala, 20 archaeological sites were discovered and introduced into scientific circulation, including four monuments: Mynshoky 1,2, Zhanabai, Ushtobe, there were found ceramic vessels dating back to the Golden Horde era. The architectural structure of the city of Kyshkala (Barshynkent) was classified, the location area and the functions of the found objects were determined.

5. In the context of osteological data, new information was obtained on the

economy of Kyshkala, which showed a high level of development of fishing and hunting jobs among the population of the city.

6. Due to the scale of the Numismatic database, it was suggested that there may be a mint in Kyshkala, and it was shown that 80% of the found coins were minted in Barshyn. Therefore, it was concluded that Kyshkala may be the ancient city of Barshynkent, and it turned out that the name of the Golden Horde Khan Tokhtamysh was engraved on a number of minted coins.

7. The complex of ceramic products found in Kyshkala was classified according to its appearance into two types: painted and non-painted. General morphological and morphimetric studies were carried out to vessel fragments. In the course of historical and comparative analysis, it was identified that the pottery samples of Kyshkala belonged to the Golden Horde era.

The data base of the study consists of written and archaeological excavations. Written sources include scientific reports, drawings, cartographic materials and others covering various fields of science related to the topic, archaeological excavations include exhibits from monuments of the Golden Horde era, museum collections, various items.

The level of study of the topic from the second half of the XIX century to the XX century (in different years), regular research in the lower flows of the Syr was carried out by some specialists. In this regard, each specialist made his own contribution to the formation of domestic archeology through his research.

It is known that archaeological searches are the core of geoarchaeological works. A significant period in this field began after the Second World War. This can be attributed to the extensive research of the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which began in 1946. For several years in a row, the expedition squad conducted field research on the territory of a number of southern regions of Kazakhstan, except for the lower flows of the Syrdariya river. These studies were conducted in different years by S.P. Tolstov A.V. Vinogradov, B.V. Andrianov, B.I. Weinberg, M.A. Itina and many other scientists were in the lead. In addition, the contribution of individual specialists is also significant.

Over the years of independence, several joint archaeological expeditions were created with foreign colleagues. These kind of joint archaeological expeditions were distinguished by their complexity, that is, conducting field research at the junction of several scientific fields. Among dozens of joint archaeological expeditions of these years, it is worth noting the joint Russian-Kazakh archaeological expedition of 1992-2003 under the leadership of the academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.P. Derevyanko.

In 2004-2009, within the framework of the state program "Cultural Heritage", research work on the ancient channels of the Syrdariya was revived by the Shirik-Rabat archaeological expedition (SRAE). The route squad of the expedition traveled thousands of kilometers with the aim of large-scale research and mapping of known and rediscovered monuments.

The result of the study was published as a book "Collection of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Kyzylorda Region". This

collection includes a number of ancient monuments of the region under consideration. Some monuments were already known, others were discovered recently. All of them are included in the database on the topic under consideration.

Scientific and practice of study. In order to reveal the practical significance of the research work, the historical and topographic structure, architectural and memorial features of the cities of the Golden Horde were described. Among them, comparative analysis and conclusions were made regarding the construction of an octagonal tower object in the form of a hotel with ceramic walls, public spaces, residential premises, mausoleums.

Approbation of work results. Based on the main results and basic conclusions of the study, 10 scientific articles were published, including 6 articles in publications recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 10 articles in the collection of domestic and foreign scientific conferences, 1 article in journals included in the Scopus and Web of Science Information base.

The structure of the dissertation work. The dissertation work consists of introduction, three chapters, conclusion and 6 illustrative appendices.