

INTERNATIONAL JOINT UZBEKISTAN - FRANCE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION AND ITS ACTIVITIES

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Annotation. This article contains information about the researches of the Uzbekistan-France international expedition on the historical monuments located in our country and their specific aspects. It is known that this international joint archaeological expedition is one of the first organized expeditions to study the history of our country, and as a result of their activities, the interest of not only local, but also European specialists in the history of Central Asia is increasing year by year

Key words: Uzbek-French international expedition, Afrasiab monument, Kuktepa ruins, Jarkutan-3 monument, Old Termiz ruins, Ayakogitma settlement, Paykend and Ramitan city ruins, M.Kh. Isamiddinov and M.A. Reutova, F . Grene and K. Rapen, P. Lerish, Kh. Bendezu, J. Mirzaakhmedov and R. Rante.

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the archeology of Uzbekistan operates in the interest of the nation, its cultural-spiritual life, the demands and wishes of independence ideas, and serves science.

From the early days of independence, the scientific study of the ancient past, glorious history of our people, the rare cultural heritage left by our ancestors, a new approach to its preservation, demands and tasks were put on the agenda at the state level. As a result, “Concept of Development of Archeology in Uzbekistan” consisting of 2 sections was developed.

In the years of independence, due to the scale of researches and their scientific results, the archeology of Uzbekistan rose to the level of world science. Such a result, in turn, created a basis for the establishment of scientific cooperation with the world's leading archeology centers for the archeology of Uzbekistan, and the conclusion of international agreements on an equal basis. At the moment, in the territory of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with archeological scientists of countries such as Australia, USA, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Russia, France, Japan, archaeological researches are being carried out on an international scale [T.Sh. Shirinov, A.E. Berdimuradov, M.Kh. Pardaev. 2010. p.13-14.].

There are currently 4,788 archaeological sites in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and more than 50 expeditions carrying out archaeological research operate every year. More than 15 of these expeditions are international archaeological expeditions. Among these expeditions, the French archaeological expedition was one of the first to be organized and is currently working

with Uzbek archaeologists on a large scale.

MAIN PART

The joint archaeological expedition of Uzbekistan and France is conducting its activities in various locations of our country in monuments rich in different eras and aspects. Here we will touch on each of them one by one.

On the basis of the theme project “Civilization of Central Asia in the Ancient and Middle Ages” in cooperation with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), research is being carried out in the early urban ruins of Central Sogd. Research began in 1989, and archaeological research is being carried out in the monuments of Afrasiab, the capital of Samarkand Sugd, and Kuktepa, one of the oldest urban centers, mentioned in the works of ancient authors as “Basileya” [M. Kh. Isamidinov, K. Rapen, M.Kh. Khasanov. 2012. p. 80-86.].

Project leaders are M.Kh. Isamidinov, M.A. Reutova from Uzbekistan, and F. Grene, K. Rapen from France. As a result of the joint research in Afrasiab, the perfect stratigraphy of the ancient city was determined and the layers belonging to the ancient Sugdian period were identified. The obtained information played a decisive role in determining the 2750 year age of the city of Samarkand [M. Khasanov, M.A. Reutova, S. Mustafakulov, B. Boliev. 2012. p. 275-288.].

Another important find obtained by the expedition is the mural paintings of the Karakhanid period discovered in the palace complex in Ark. After all, although wall paintings from the early Middle Ages are quite popular, examples of visual art from the Islamic era are the only ones in the Central Asian region.

The research conducted at the Kuktepa monument revealed that it consists of two parts: the ruler's palace and the town. The ancient foundations of the city, where the temple of fire worshipers is located in the north-west, are mil. husband avv. It has been proven that it belongs to the XIII-X centuries. In the following years, the main focus of the Uzbek-French expedition was on the analysis, publication and museumization of the findings obtained during long-term archaeological research.

The topic of the next project to be considered is “Ancient Bactrian Urbanization and Defense Systems”, and this research work was also carried out in cooperation with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). This expedition research has been conducted since 1991 in the territory of the monument of Old Termiz (Surkhondarya region). Project managers are Uzbek archaeologists T. Annayev and French researchers P. Lerish [T. Annaev, P. Leriche, S. De Pontbriand, J. Annaev, Z. Kholikov, Sh. Khudayberdiev. 2016. p. 63-66.].

According to the archaeological research conducted by the Uzbek-French expedition in the Old Termiz monument, the ancient core of the city dates back to 1000 BC. It appeared in the middle of the 1st millennium, and later a city appeared around it. By the Greco-Bactrian period, Termiz, together with Ark and the lands in its north-western regions, will become a large urban center, including the territories of Chingiztepa. By this time, Termiz had become the main stronghold on the northern borders of the Greco-Bactrian state [Z.E. Khalikov, S. de Pontbriand, P. Lerich. 2020. p. 307-321.].

In the following years, the main focus of this Uzbek-French expedition was also focused on the analysis of findings obtained during long-term archaeological research, studying its interesting aspects, publishing the obtained information and making it a museum.

Since 2008, the French archaeological expedition has a great place and importance in the expedition conducted in the Ayokogitma settlement located in the north-eastern part of Kyzylkum. M. Khojanazarov and F. Brunet are the leaders of this project known as “Stone Age Archeology

of the North-Western, Southern and Central Regions of Uzbekistan”[M.M. Khojanazarov, F. Brunet, B.K. Sayfullaev, Kh.B. Khashimov, K.A. Rakhimov. New data on the Paleolithic of the Ayakagitma depression 2012. p.199-205].

As a result of the research, BC. Based on the geomorphological layers of the VII-V millennia, it was found that domestication of oxen, camels and goats began in Kyzylkum region for the first time. At the same time, some types of flora of the ancient Neolithic period were clarified. For the first time, the trassology of Neolithic stone tools was studied. An ancient topographical map of the monument was created. The main stages of the economic and cultural development of the tribes of the Neolithic period in the Akchadarya delta were determined, and the ecological conditions of the tribes of the Neolithic period were studied [F. Brunet, M. Khojanazarov, Kh. Khashimov. New data on the chronology of the Kaltaminar culture in Uzbekistan (VII-IV thousand years BC). 2012. p. 118-124.]. The main focus of this Uzbek-French expedition is on the analysis of material and cultural samples obtained during archaeological research, publication of the obtained results, and thus museumization.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The next project, which reflects the interesting aspects of archeology, is an expedition conducted in cooperation with the National Center for Scientific Research of France called “The Development of Ancient Burial Rituals and Urbanism”. The leaders of this project are S. Mustafakulov, H. Bendezu, and archaeological research began in 2008, and it is located in Jarkutan, a large monument of the Bronze and Early Iron Age of Southern Uzbekistan.

The main purpose of research is stratigraphic research of cultural layers in Jarkutan-3 cemetery and in Jarkutan, thereby obtaining new anthropological materials and studying them using new anthropological methods.

The main achievements of archaeological research are:

for the first time, semi-basement dwellings with hearth frame construction were discovered at the Jarkutan monument;

for the first time, ceramic cooking furnaces from the Bronze Age were found in the entire territory of Bactria;

for the first time, several types of burial rites of the early Iron Age of ancient Bactria were recorded in the Jarkutan-3 monument;

for the first time in Bactria, a circular object made of iron, a ceramic seal with an anthropomorphic image, and a bronze antidote with the image of a sheep were found [S.Mustafakulov, H.Bendezu-Sarmiento, U. Rakhmanov, J. Lhuillier, K.Rakhimov, A.Dupont. Archaeological research in Jarkutan in 2013. 2016. p. 267-274.].

The main focus of this Uzbek-French expedition is to systematically analyze the findings obtained during many years of archaeological research and prepare a monograph.

The project entitled “Assimilation, material culture and urbanization processes of Bukhara vox in ancient and medieval times” (France) is being carried out in cooperation with the Louvre Museum. Archaeological research began in 2010, and the attention of the international expedition was focused on the large urban centers of the Bukhara region - Paykend and Ramitan. Project leaders are J. Mirzaakhmedov and Rocco Rante [J.K. Mirzaakhmedov, R. Rante, Sh.T. Adilov, S.J. Mirzaakhmedov. Archaeological research of the Uzbek-French archaeological expedition in the Bukhara oasis in 2014-2017. 2018. p. 113-136.].

As a result of archeological excavations, interesting information about the past way of life, material culture and architecture of the city of Paykend, part of Shakhristan was obtained. The earliest examples of monumental brick architecture are the caravansary, unique to Central Asia,

which reflect the prosperity of the Great Silk Road and the location of Paykend, a “merchant city” along the route shows [J.K. Mirzaakhmedov, S. Stark, F. Kidd, S. Pozzi, S. Mirzaakhmedov, Z. Silvia, Kh. Rakhmonov, M. Sligar. Archaeological research at the Bashtepa group of monuments of the Bukhara oasis in 2018. 2020. p. 217-230.].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that after the independence of our Republic, extensive international relations and expeditions and projects carried out on their basis took an important place in the field of archeology. Today, local archeological scientists are conducting archaeological research with experts from France, Italy, Russia (Novosibirsk, St. Petersburg), Japan, USA, China and other foreign countries. Among them, the place and importance of the joint Uzbek-French expedition is significant.

The results of research carried out by the members of the Uzbekistan-France international expedition are being promoted on a global scale, especially in European countries. In particular, the popular magazine “Archaeology News” published in collaboration with the scientists of the two countries is devoted to the history and culture of the Stone Age, Bronze and Early Iron Age, Ancient and Middle Ages of Central Asia. In the future activities of this joint expedition, we are looking forward to fruitful activities, such as studying the rich and still undiscovered antiquity of our Motherland and conveying it to the young generation of our country, who are proud of their history and thirst for knowledge.

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