

THE HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF ANCIENT POYKENT**Akhmadov Akhmadjon Asror ugli**

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Abstract: This article presents a scientific analysis of the archaeological study of the ancient city of Poykent and the significance of the material culture samples found there in our modern history.

Keywords: Poykent, city, Bukhara, Zarafshon, V. Bartold, Turkestan, archeology, history, map, orientalist, defensive wall.

Since the end of the 19th century, great interest has been shown in archaeological research in Poykent. On the instructions of V. V. Bartold, since 1896, the Turkestan Circle of Archaeology Lovers began to collect information about this city.

The head of the military-topographic department, S. I. Zhilinsky, was informed about the ruins of Poykent, and he instructed a topographer working in the Bukhara region to map the remains of this fortress. In 1896, N. F. Sitnyakovsky presented information about the ruins of Poykent, noting that the fortress had a rectangular shape and that there were remains of residential buildings[2]. In 1903, the ruins of Poykent were studied by the R. Pampelli expedition[3]. However, the information given by R. Pampelli on the history of Poykent was criticized by V. V. Bartold[4]. The first detailed study of the ruins of Poykent was carried out by the secretary of the Turkestan Circle of Archeology Enthusiasts, orientalist L. A. Zimin.

In April 1913, he first visited Poykent, carried out observational measurements of the general plan of the city, and described the remains of the arch and the defensive walls of the city. During these studies, important photographs were also taken, reflecting the state of the city ruins at the beginning of the 20th century. L. A. Zimin also attached information about Poykent from medieval Arab geographers to the report prepared on the results of the trip.

He also submitted for examination the finds of coins collected in the ruins of Poykent for several years. In 1914, L. A. Zimin visited Poykent twice, in spring and autumn. He dug several pits in different parts of the city. The main excavations were carried out in the central part of the city, the excavation area was 22×20.5 meters. In this area, the remains of several structures were discovered, which were initially thought to be a single building, but were probably a prison. Later, L.A. Zimin abandoned this interpretation and determined that the excavations belonged to several buildings located close to each other, forming private houses of ordinary residents. On his third trip, L.A. Zimin noted the inner wall of the city, dividing it into inner and outer city walls. The published report was accompanied by a plan of the excavated areas, photographs of the excavation site and samples of material culture. In general, although L.A. Zimin's work is distinguished by its thoroughness and conscientiousness, the researcher's lack of experience in archaeological excavations and the state of the methodology for studying adobe architecture affected his work.

V.A. Shishkin assessed the work carried out in Poykent in 1914 as follows: "The field work carried out by Zimin and his reports have significant shortcomings. Upon closer examination, the researcher did not realize that he was working not with a single layer, but with several periods and different layers. The excavation plan attached to the report was also not drawn up with sufficient skill"[5]. Nevertheless, the information collected by L.A. Zimin remained the only source for the history of the city for a long time. A new stage in the history of

archaeological research of the city began in 1939, when the Zarafshan expedition organized by the Hermitage and the IIMK worked in Poykent, in which the representative of the Uzkomstaris V.A. Shishkin also participated. In the first season, the main attention was paid to the planning of the ruins of the city and its surroundings, which was carried out by V.A. Shishkin and M.M. Dyakonov.

The plan shows the city's components - the arch, the inner and outer shahristans, the rabotas, the supposed gate and the towers of the city wall. Based on this plan, A.Yu. Yakubovsky concluded that the three main parts of the city belong to different periods. Several excavations were carried out in different parts of the city: the first excavation was in Shahristan I, which revealed cultural layers 3.5 m thick; a small excavation near the southern wall of Shahristan I yielded a complex of green-glazed ceramic samples dating back to the 10th century, which were part of a khumdon located there. As a result of excavations of the upper layers of the arch, it was determined that its last occupation period dates back to the 15th century[6].

The work of the next season (1940) was carried out under the leadership of the Hermitage employee V. N. Kesaev (R. Kesati), with the participation of N. P. Kiparisova and S. K. Kabanov (representative of Bukhkomstaris). This season, excavations of a monumental building in the city center began, which V. N. Kesaev assumed to be the pre-Islamic Poykent temple. However, work on this structure was limited to cleaning only one wall, and later attention was paid to reconstructions and additional constructions of the 9th-11th centuries[7]. Great attention was paid to the classification of ceramic and numismatic materials. The outskirts of the city were also described in detail. In particular, the chain of nauses between Poykent and the Badiosiya fortress is described. Based on pre-war excavation materials, articles were written about Poykent green-glazed ceramics[8], water-pouring toys[9] and images on vessel lids[10].

In 1954, a detachment of the Institute of History and Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR (G. V. Shishkina and S. N. Yurenev) worked around Poykent. A necropolis with ossuaries located in the northeastern part of the city ruins was studied. In 1956, a team of D. G. Zilper, H. Duke, and G. V. Shishkina conducted excavations at the Badiosiya fortress, located northeast of the city ruins.[11] This is the general history of archaeological research at Poykent.

It is especially worth noting the studies on the city's water supply, which were covered in the works of Ya. G. Gulyomov and A. R. Muhammadjonov[12]. The Poykent studies in 1914 and 1939–1940 were mainly reconnaissance in nature. Small-scale excavations and cleaning work allowed us to uncover only the upper layer dating back to the Samanid and early Karakhanid periods. Nevertheless, the obtained materials were reflected in a number of generalizing works on the history of Central Asia[13]. The early periods of the city were covered only by numismatic materials found in the ruins of the city[14]. Nowadays, not only numismatic materials, but also the development of the field of archeology every year, the in-depth study of any objects found during archaeological excavations through the use of various modern methods, in addition to determining the period of the cultural layer, provides a lot of other valuable information.

The main results of the research in Poykent are: collection and translation of information based on written sources; identification of the main parts of the city structure (arc, inner and outer shahristans, rabots, necropolis, Badiosiya suburban fortress); collection of ceramics of the 9th–11th centuries and numismatic materials of the 3rd–11th centuries. These materials became the

basis for the systematic excavation of the city, and since 1981 a large-scale expedition was launched by the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR and the State Hermitage.

In 1983–1985, instrumental measurements of the city ruins were carried out with the participation of the State Hermitage Museum. As a result of five years of research, information was collected about the stratigraphy of the city, defensive structures, residential buildings inside and outside the city walls. In addition, a collection of ceramics, numismatic materials, glass and metal objects was created.

In conclusion, the results of archaeological and scientific research conducted in the ruins of ancient Poykent further increase the value of valuable information contained in medieval written sources, proving its authenticity. Also, since 1999, the materials of the Bukhara archaeological expedition have been published annually (“Excavations in Poykent”, 1999–2004). Today, consistent archaeological excavations continue in the city, and new finds are introduced into scientific circulation every year. This process arouses great interest not only among specialists, but also among the general public. This is, of course, the merit of scientists and specialists of the Samarkand Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and the State Hermitage.

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