



AKSHAKHAN-KALA

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Abstract

Amudarya, Ancient Khorezm, Aqshakhan Castle, Upper and Lower City, Portraits of Khorezm Kings, Holy City, Kazakliyatkan (Akshakhan), Sultan Vais, Southern Island, Farasman, Qiyot, Afrig', Elephant Castle.

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Aqshakhan Castle (3rd century BC - 4th century AD) located on the banks of the ancient streams of Amudarya is one of the largest and most complex attractions of Ancient Khorezm. Most of it is covered by dunes. This monument is named after the legendary local ruler Aksha Khan. The structure of the town is close to a square shape, its corners are directed to the main sides, it is surrounded by several strong, two-story defensive walls with towers on each side. The town was surrounded by a large fortified village several times larger than its area. It was fortified with two-story walls and minarets with carved holes.

The structure of the castle consisted of an almost square structure, a strongly defended tower and a moat (Ukori Shahar). Later it was surrounded by another defensive wall (Lower City). Both these cities were protected by walls with holes and towers at equal distances from each other. Traces of luxurious buildings: a square temple building or a 60x60 meter palace with 100 decorated pillars can be seen in the Upper City. The interior of the building was decorated with examples of khankhkor, and the walls of the corridors were decorated with wonderful murals in the form of portraits of the unknown kings of Ancient Khorezm from the 2nd century BC and depictions of various processes. The characters of the kings wearing a crown in the form of a bird on their heads still remain a mystery to science. In the heart of the castle, there is a mausoleum consisting of two square towers with a cylinder dome on the side. A part of the city was built in a fortress surrounded by strong walls. This structure was a part of the ancient city, this place was previously recognized as a mausoleum, and there are speculations that the first kings of independent Khorezm were buried there. The north-south part of the "Holy City" was busy with construction works, and the results of the excavation work indicate that this place was a temple-





palace. The temple building of the complex is rectangular in shape, with semi-circular minarets at the corners, minarets are standing on both sides of the building. The walls of the temple were built in two layers, and the inner porch was also built.

The synagogue of the town of Akshakhan-kala belongs to the III-II centuries BC. According to scientists, some of the found portraits depict images of Khorezm kings belonging to early unknown dynasties. Also, according to experts, the town was one of the first capitals of the ancient Khorezm state, and the temple was the temple of the kings of the ancient Khorezm dynasty. Maqset Qarlibaev, director of the Institute of Humanities of the Karakalpakstan Department of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, candidate of historical sciences, said: - There is a high probability that the first capital of ancient Khorezm was Kazakliyatkan (Aqshakhan-kala). This place was found during the expedition conducted by Karakalpak-Austrian archaeologists in the area of ancient earth.

The main object of investigation of the expedition was a town discovered in 1956, and science entered the research under the name of Kazakliyatkan. The more ancient name of the monument - Akshakhan-Qala - has been preserved among local residents. Its excavations began in 1995 and continue to this day. From the excavation work, there is a conclusion that this area is the largest of the cities that existed in ancient Khorezm, and it was here that the capital city of Khorezm was built after leaving the Achaemenid Empire. Since 2005, the main focus of the expedition has been on the temple-palace complex of Kazakliyatkan, the "holy city". This structure, surrounded by strong walls, was a part of the ancient city, this place was previously considered a mausoleum, and there are speculations that the first kings of independent Khorezm were buried there. Signs of ancient pictorial art were found in the temple in 2004-2005. Later, when the specialists of monument restoration left the expedition, the way was opened for extensive cleaning, cleaning and scientific study of ancient art monuments.

Gallery of paintings of ancient Khorezm kings (III-II centuries BC). The time of the autumn expedition is the ancient city of Kazakliyatkan (Akshakhan-castle). After the Khorezm region left the Achaemenid Empire, the capital was built approximately here. In the inner part of the city is the "holy city" surrounded by strong walls, in the center of which there is an ancient building that was found to be a mausoleum, and there are assumptions that the bodies of Khorezm kings were buried here. The north-south part of the "Holy City" is occupied by the temple-palace complex, where wall paintings were found. It is a gallery of pictures of the royal dynasty, and it is believed that there are portraits of the king and his family members. Capital. Stone. Belongs to the 4th century AD in Sultan Weiss. The drawings were found on the walls of the





palace part of the complex, as well as on the interior of the temple. In the interior of the temple, a clay statue and a sumptuous memorial decoration made of a mixture of clay and alabaster were also found. All the findings prove that the ancient underground ruins of Kazakli'-yatkana housed unique artistic valuables. Their investigation has just begun. It does not require much effort to find, study and preserve such treasures under the ground, and these works are not limited to the efforts of one generation of archaeologists, scholars, art historians, and historians. A highly qualified art restorer is also required to preserve the finds. Until now, a 60-meter-long porch in the southern part of the temple has been identified. The total length of the porch is about 250 meters, and this is an indication of how many finds are hidden in it. In the southern part of the porch, the drawings have been preserved on the walls, with pictures of the pilgrims. There are speculations that these riders are riders on wot.

However, the greatest attention is drawn to the images in the northern part of the southern porch. A total of 45 image samples were identified in bwlib, which depicted one or more characters. The 36 surviving examples are portraits of individuals. All the given information is current, because the collection of findings is in the laboratory of restoration of the Institute of History, Archeology and Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan Karakalpakstan. From the analysis of all the data, it was known that the entire level of the northern part of the southern porch of the inner wall was built in the form of two-story single-row rectangular rooms. Individual portraits were found in each room. Each of them is painted in the same style: the figures are frontal, head to side, mostly to the left. However, pictures with the head facing the wrong direction are also very common. This style can also be seen on the image of the Persian king on the coin of the 1st century BC, on the coins of the Indo-Parthian rulers of the 1st century AD, as well as on the Kushan, Sasanian and Eftani coins.

All of the characters in the gallery are beardless and unshaven, with thick black hair slicked back to cover their brows, but with their ears open and painted red—a very unconventional, yet unmistakable piece. In Khorezm art, beardless rulers are no exception. Portraits of such beardless rulers can also be found on some Khorezm coins, in particular, one of the earliest of them is the "nameless ruler in the ear" coin. In 1995, the Karakalpakstan - Australian international archaeological expedition began its work in Akshakhan Castle. Nine years of archaeological work on the monument revealed that it consists of an upper and a lower fortress, with administrative and religious buildings inside. The opinions expressed about the time of the construction of the castle and its being the central castle of the state have been confirmed to a certain extent. According to its plan, Akshakhan Castle consists of a





right rectangle, and as mentioned above, it consists of two castles, upper and lower. Each of them was surrounded by separate walls and connected through gates.

The total area is about fifty hectares in kolam, the lower fort is protected by two thick walls, between which there are long shooting corridors. During the archaeological research in Akshakhan Castle, many pieces of pottery, statues, coins and similar materials were found from VI-V centuries BC to IV century AD. Among the ceramic materials belonging to the 5th-4th centuries BC, there are previously unknown gray pottery pieces, even statues of the gods Anakhita, Siyauish, and animals such as horses and camels. Among them, the discovery of Buddhist statues is considered to be a separate material. This, in turn, shows that a number of trade representatives from India who worshiped this religion lived in the Aqshakhan fort, located along the international trade route, at least temporarily. According to the size of the fortress, Akshakhan Castle is the third largest among the fortresses of the ancient Khoram state, after the monuments of Kuzaliqir and Kalaliqir, and one of the largest forts on the right side of the Amudarya. According to its construction, it corresponds to the records of the Arab-Persian authors of the Middle Ages about the capital of the state, and at present, it is a monument consisting of three castles, located one inside the other, with only one sign on the South Island. Togri Arab-Persian authors wrote mainly about castles belonging to the Middle Ages. But the plan that we have brought to your attention shows that it has been marked in our country since ancient times and that it is characteristic of capital castles.

Aqshazan-Farasman, known from legends, folk tales, and written records, is considered to be the capital fortress. This castle, built in the 5th-4th centuries BC, suffered a great disaster over time. The red marks of the burning of the wood in the castle's constructions have been preserved to this day. This disaster that happened in the castle is likely to be a process related to the migration of nomadic peoples to the shores of the South Island in the 2nd-1st centuries BC. At the beginning of our era, major restoration works were carried out in the castle. Between the walls of the fortress, the first floors of the dungeons with the firing corridor were completely closed, and its second and third floors were used. During the period of research, the monument shows that the livelihood of the fortress began to decline in the 4th century, compared to the lack of archaeological data from the 5th-6th centuries. This. In our opinion, it probably depends on the information about the arrival of king Afrig to the government of the state at the beginning of the 4th century, in the year 305. More precisely, Aqshakhan Castle was an old branch of the capital Qiyot Castle. The elephant is moved to the castle. Livelihood stops in Akshakhan Castle.





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