

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS OF N.B.NEMTSEVA AT THE SETTLEMENT OF AFRASIAB

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DOI: 10.5958/2278-4853.2022.00192.6

ABSTRACT

The author of the article claims that archaeological and scientific research was carried out at the settlement of Afrasiab in the second half of the twentieth century. The article presents material on the archaeological work and research of N.B.Nemtseva, who investigated the stratigraphic basis of individual monuments at the settlement of Afrasiab and in the Shahi-Zinda area. Based on the data of the excavations of N.B.Nemtseva and A.I.Terenozhkin, archaeologists have information about the southern parts of the ancient city. N.B.Nemtseva conducted archaeological excavations and studies to identify the sequence of cultural layers in connection with the study of the historical and architectural complex of the mausoleum of Shahi-Zinda.

KEYWORDS: Afrasiab, Shahi-Zinda, Samarkand, N.B.,Nemtseva, Archaeological Excavations, Archaeological Finds, Archaeological Methods, Archaeological Research, Periodization.

INTRODUCTION

The beginning of the second stage in the development of archaeological science in Uzbekistan coincides with the establishment in 1970 in the city of Samarkand of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Until that time, there was no separate institute of archaeology in Uzbekistan, and at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan there was an archaeology department, where several researchers worked. In the first years of the Institute of Archaeology, there was an acute shortage of personnel, because the leading archaeologists were from the city of Tashkent, and for family or other reasons, they could not move to Samarkand. Thanks to such cardinal decisions, the directorate of the Institute of Archeology of Uzbekistan has solved a very thorny personnel issue in a few years.

In connection with the establishment of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, the number of expeditions to the regions of the republic increased. The Directorate has secured funding for each expedition and the provision of vehicles from the Academy of Sciences carpool. Each major expedition traveling through the regions of the republic concentrated its main force on stationary objects, i.e. metropolitan settlements. One of such objects was the ancient settlement of Afrasiab, which was not only the capital's settlement, but was also the ruins of ancient and medieval Samarkand, located at the crossroads of international trade routes. The historical materials of this settlement reflected the main events

and traditions of different peoples, the religions of Central Asia intersected.

- Literature Review

Considering the degree of study of the topic, it is necessary first of all to dwell on the works of such authors as Shishkin V.A. [6] and Shishkin G.V. [7], which provide data on the history of the archaeological study of Samarkand and its environs, show archaeological research and excavations of monuments of the Samarkand Sogd, consider the stratigraphy of Afrasiab, data on the emergence of irrigated agriculture in the vicinity of Samarkand, materials on periodization and the origins of urban culture are presented. In the works of Nemtseva N.B. [1]; [2]; [3]; [4] devoted to the archaeological research and excavation of Afrasiab monuments, the issues of individual historical periods in the history of ancient Samarkand are considered, the interaction of cultural traditions in the context of the direct influence of the geographical environment on the lifestyle of the population is shown. Also, the work of Filanovich M.I. [5] requires special attention, in which the oldest settlements on Afrasiab are shown, aspects of the archaeological study of the monument are revealed, and questions of material culture, economic relations and settlements are considered. The works used and a number of others allow to conduct a comparative analysis of sources and their data, and thereby provide information proving the history of the archaeological study of Samarkand and its environs in the second half of the twentieth century.

- Research Methodology

The methodology of writing this article is based on the principles of independence and the concept of a civilizational approach to the historical process. Also, speaking about the methodology of the article, I would like to emphasize that we used methods of selection and classification of material, comparative analysis of the facts, opinions and conclusions, as well as the method of historicism and objectivity. The principle of historicism and objectivity allowed us to study the historiography of the issue in its concrete diversity.

- Analysis And Results

After the establishment of the Institute of Archaeology in Samarkand, archaeological excavations began to be carried out on Afrasiab almost on a «permanent basis». In the period 1970-1990, G.V.Shishkina (expedition leader), N.B.Nemtseva, S.K.Kabanov, M.I.Filanovich, Sh.S.Tashkhodjaev (head of the Afrasiab expedition in the early 70s), I.D.Ivanitsky, Sh.Shorakhimov, O.N.Inevatkina, H.G.Akhunbabaev worked at the Afrasiab settlement, A.A.Anarbayev, O.N.Kirillova and other employees.

The chronology of the Samarkand Sogd, even in the 70s and 80s of the twentieth century, was based on periodization, developed in the 40s and published in 1950 by A.I.Terenozhkin. The relative date was determined by the Afrasiab stratigraphy, and the absolute dates were determined by comparison with other complexes, even geographically remote. The absolute date was clarified as new materials accumulated. Such works include the works of N.B.Nemtseva[1: *pp.153-205*], and after a while the same work was carried out by M.I.Filanovich[5: *pp.206-220*] and G.V.Shishkin[7: *pp.164-170*].

Nina Borisovna Nemtseva (1926-2021) is a well-known Medieval scholar, archaeologist and architect-restorer, a student of M.E.Masson and G.P.Pugachenkova. After graduating in 1950

from the Central Asian State University of the Faculty of History, Department of Archeology, she was engaged in the study of architectural and archaeological monuments of Central Asian architecture. N.B.Nemtseva for many years led the excavations of the Karakhanid-era palace complex Rabat-i Malik, conducted archaeological work in the Shahi-Zinda ensemble and at the Afrasiab settlement (Samarkand), in the mausoleums of Sayf ad-Din Boharzi (Bukhara) and Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Turkestan) and other sites of the Central Asian region. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she conducted route reconnaissance surveys in the Syrdarya and Jizzakh regions, necessary for compiling a Set of archaeological monuments of Uzbekistan. N.B.Nemtseva is the author of five books, several pamphlets and about one hundred and fifty scientific articles.

N.B.Nemtseva carried out archaeological work mainly in the area of Shakh-Zinda in the southern part of the settlement. Archaeological work has been carried out on Afrasiab since the end of the XIX century, but none of the archaeologists, except A.I.Terenozhkin, who was engaged in the general periodization of the history and culture of Samarkand and made stratigraphic observations on the outskirts of the ensemble, worked in the area of Shakh-Zinda [6: pp.3-120]. A.I.Terenozhkin in 1947 laid the 30 m pit to the East of the Tughlu-tekina mausoleum, and based on the materials of the lower layers, determined the habitation of this part of the city by the time of the V–IV centuries BC [1: p.154]. Based on the data of the excavations of N.B.Nemtseva and A.I.Terenozhkin, archaeologists have information about the southern parts of the ancient city [8: pp.39-47]. Both researchers studied the settlement of Afrasiab mainly in stratigraphic terms. In particular, N.B.Nemtseva, working at Afrasiab from 1959 to 1965, investigated the stratigraphic basis of individual monuments, always tying them to some mausoleum [9: pp.269-275]. In 1959, work to identify the sequence of cultural layers was carried out in connection with a comprehensive study of the historical and architectural complex of the mausoleum of Shahi-Zinda.

In 1953-1965, 15 (out of a total of 34) stratigraphic pits were laid in different points of the ensemble and in the territory adjacent to it, as well as 7 small excavations [10: pp.1-5]. As a result, it was possible to fix cultural layers and compile a relatively complete stratigraphic column covering the period from the V–IV centuries BC and before the Mongol invasion (the 20s of the XIII century) [1: p.155].

In general, N.B.Nemtseva studied the multi-meter (up to 7 m thick) cultural layers of the southern part of Afrasiab and identified almost all the mausoleums built at different levels of the multi-meter cultural layers of Afrasiab. N.B.Nemtseva is one of those archaeologists who played an important role in determining the stratigraphic situation on this unique monument [2: pp.92-104]; [3: pp.109]; [4: pp.5-160].

- CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Thus, the archaeological work on Afrasiab (primarily in the Shahi–Zinda ensemble) and the excavations of the Rabat-i Malik palace complex became special successes in the scientific activity of Nina Borisovna Nemtseva. During the archaeological research of N.B.Nemtseva, many outstanding discoveries were made:

1. As a result of the work carried out, the remains of previously unknown structures were discovered, including the legendary Tamgach-Boghrakhan madrasah – the first Karakhanid ruler

of Transoxiana.

2. Also, on the basis of archaeological research, N.B.Nemtseva managed to date the beginning of the formation of the Qusam ibn Abbas complex (the beginning of the XI century), which is the core of Shahi-Zinda.

3. The oldest cultural layers discovered in the south of Afrasiab allowed us to establish the time of the emergence of Samarkand itself (the middle of the first millennium BC). It has been proven that the city has existed for more than 2500 years.

4. N.B.Nemtseva devoted about 10 years to the study of the Shahi-Zinda memorial complex. Based on the results of her work at Shakh-Zinda, Nina Borisovna Nemtseva has written three books and a series of scientific articles. They also formed the basis of her PhD thesis «Shahi-Zinda: towards the History of the ensemble and the Historical Topography of the South of Samarkand: archaeological research 1959-1969».

Thus, the methodology of archaeological research of the Samarkand Sogd was enriched thanks to the archaeological excavations of N.B.Nemtseva, who made a huge contribution to the development of archaeological science not only in Uzbekistan, but throughout Central Asia. Stratigraphic observations by N.B.Nemtseva significantly refined the periodization compiled by A.I.Terenozhkin and G.V.Grigoriev.

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