



CULTURAL LAYERS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OF AHSIKENT AS A SOURCE FOR STUDYING THE URBAN CULTURE OF MEDIEVAL FERGANA

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Abstract. This article examines the cultural layers and archaeological finds of the ancient settlement of Ahsikent as important sources for studying the urban culture of the medieval Fergana Valley. Based on the results of archaeological research, the study analyzes the features of urban planning, craft production, architectural structures, and the economic activities of the population. Special attention is paid to the significance of archaeological materials for reconstructing the processes of urbanization in Central Asia.

Keywords: Ahsikent, archaeology, cultural layer, ancient settlement, urban planning, urbanization, archaeological finds, Fergana Valley.

For many centuries, the Fergana Valley was one of the major centers of economic and cultural development in Central Asia. A special place in the history of the region belongs to Ahsikent, an ancient city that served as an important political, commercial, and craft center during the Early and High Middle Ages.

Modern archaeological research provides a new perspective on the city's history. The cultural layers preserved within the territory of the settlement contain valuable information about the economic activities of the population, the development of urban infrastructure, and the characteristics of city planning. Therefore, the study of



archaeological materials from Ahsikent is of great importance for reconstructing the historical processes that took place in the Fergana region.

Systematic studies of Ahsikent began in the second half of the twentieth century. As a result of many years of excavations, the remains of residential quarters, craft workshops, defensive structures, and public buildings were discovered.

Research has shown that the settlement consists of several functional zones: the citadel, the shahristan (inner city), and the rabad (suburb). Such a structure is characteristic of large medieval cities of the East and indicates a high level of urban development.

Materials obtained through stratigraphic studies are of particular value, as they make it possible to trace the main stages of the city's development over several centuries. A cultural layer is a collection of material remains of human activity accumulated during the long-term existence of a settlement. In Ahsikent, some cultural deposits reach several meters in thickness, indicating the city's long and continuous history.

Stratigraphic analysis demonstrates that the most intensive period of urban development occurred between the 9th and 12th centuries. Most of the discovered architectural structures and archaeological finds belong to this period.

Cultural layers make it possible to establish the sequence of construction phases, identify changes in the city layout, and trace transformations in the economic activities of the population.

The most numerous group of finds consists of ceramic products. These include kitchenware, tableware, storage vessels, and decorative ceramics. Their diversity indicates a highly developed pottery industry.

Metal artifacts also provide important information. Excavations have uncovered agricultural tools, weapons, household items, and jewelry. These materials confirm the existence of advanced metallurgical production.

Numismatic finds are of particular interest. Coins from different periods make it possible to trace Ahsikent's trade relations with other regions of Central Asia and



countries of the East. Their presence indicates the city's significant role in international trade.

Among the archaeological materials, objects made of glass, bone, and stone also stand out, reflecting the high level of material culture among the urban population.

Archaeological research shows that Ahsikent possessed a developed urban infrastructure. The citadel occupied a central position and performed administrative and defensive functions. Residential quarters of the shahristan surrounded it, while craft and trade districts of the rabad were located outside the city walls.

Excavations have revealed the remains of streets, utility buildings, and public structures. The city layout indicates the existence of a well-organized urban planning system.

Particular attention should be given to the defensive structures. Massive walls and towers ensured the security of the population and emphasized the city's strategic importance.

Archaeological evidence indicates a high level of craft production. The settlement contains the remains of pottery kilns, metallurgical workshops, and industrial complexes.

The development of crafts contributed to the growth of trade and the economic prosperity of the city. Due to its advantageous geographical location, Ahsikent became part of the Great Silk Road network and maintained active trade relations with various regions.

The concentration of production facilities in specific areas of the city indicates the existence of craft specialization and a developed urban economy.

Conclusion. The cultural layers and archaeological finds of Ahsikent are among the most important sources for studying the history of medieval Fergana. They make it possible to reconstruct the processes of urbanization, the features of urban planning, and the level of development of craft production.



The results of archaeological research confirm that Ahsikent was one of the largest urban centers of Central Asia, playing a significant role in the economic and cultural life of the region. Further study of this monument will significantly expand our understanding of the history of the cities of the Great Silk Road and the development of civilization in Central Asia.

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