



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE OMANKOTON CAVE

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Received: 3 rd May 2022	The territory of the Samarkand region attracts the attention of ancient scientists with the fact that it is one of the first centers of civilization of mankind. Since ancient times, the middle part of the Zarafshan Oasis has become a good place for people for the convenience of its climate, geographical location and natural conditions. From the ancient stone age in this area, life has been boiling so far. This article describes in detail the archaeological study of the Omakothan cave space belonging to the Middle Paleolithic period, which is located in the Urgut District of Samarkand region.
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Although the archaeological findings, which provide information about the ancient history of Samarkand and its associated glaciers prior to the Urbanic period and bear witness to the traces of the culture of the primitive period, were considered preliminary data, it was necessary to establish a large-scale planned research work around it in the future. This kind of targeted research work began in 1944 year, scientists of Samarkand State University, in particular, archaeologist D.N.Lev had been an initiative for him. In years of difficulty it I.M.Mo ' minov, A.V.Shishkin, later Ya.G'.Gulomov, M.Thanks to the support of such leading scientists as Aminov, D.N.Lev started a large-scale archaeological field research work around Samarkand and achieved interesting results. D.N.Lev archaeological research work carried out in connection with the field practice of University historian students, this work has yielded good results. Gradually, new places of Samarkand's ancient history were discovered and explored. D.N.The Archaeological detachment of Samsu, led by Lev, initially began the work from the examination of the muzophots associated with the Samarkand atrophy.

As a result, in March 1947, the historian examined two caves located near the village of Amonkoton in Takhtaqoracha pass of Urgut mountain with the participation of students, and found out that groups of people lived in them during the Middle Paleolithic (100-40 thousand years ago). One of them went down in history with the names Amonkoton and the other Takalisoi. These findings were one of the most important discoveries after Teshiktash in the Surkhandarya oasis, and they received great excitement in science at the time. These discoveries testified to the fact that human communities have been living in the vast borders of our country since ancient times and created a unique and unique culture of their time. David Natanovich Lev (1905-1969) was a student of V. A. Gorodsov, one of the great exponents of the St. Petersburg school of archaeology. In 1944, he was invited to work at the university by rector Musa Mominov, while working as a museum researcher. He fully justified this trust with all his scientific, pedagogical and educational activities and made great scientific discoveries in the field of diligent study of the history of our primitive culture. He worked as a lover of science and education, which brought pride to our university. For this reason, he was always respected and supported by Ya.G. Gulomov, I.M. Mominov, and V.A. Shishkin. This year, on the initiative of the department of archeology, the university community prepared for the 100th anniversary of the birth of this wonderful person and celebrated it.

The opening of the Paleolithic cave of Amonkoton became important. The cave is a corridor with a length of 29.5 meters and a place where a person can easily walk. The monument was excavated for 10 years (1947-1957) by the archeological detachment of SamDU under the leadership of D.N. Lev.¹ During the excavation works, the participation of history faculty students was ensured every year. Approximately 120 artifacts were found during the survey, and the collection includes a variety of stone tools, including spearheads, scrapers, toothed blades, cores,

¹ Д.Н. Левь. Древний палеолит в Аман-Кутане. (Предварительное сообщение). Самарканд. 1949.

worked flails, and other work tools.² Also, the remains of a rich animal world contemporary with the people of that period were found, and these resources are important for clarifying not only the life of Neanderthal-type human communities, but also the nature, climate, flora, and ecology of the Quaternary period. is a source. The surviving tourist hunters made a living by hunting and gathering. A group of hunters, consisting of about 10-15 people, lived in the cave. These tourist hunters used the cave as their main camp. In fact, P.P. Yefimenko's conclusion that during the muster period, "in one way or another, it began to be felt that the tourist hunters will settle down in a certain way".³

Therefore, the remains of a bonfire, hearth, and rich fossil animal bones found in the area indicate that the communities of this group lived permanently in these lands to a certain extent. Amonkotans mainly hunted animals such as mountain sheep (muflon), bear, primitive bull, deer (deer)..⁴ Specialization of hunting occurs during the muster period. This phenomenon could also be observed in the life of the primitive people of Amonkoton. For example, the owners of this area mainly hunted mountain sheep (arhar).⁵ For example, it was observed that the manufacturing technology of the tools found in this area is more similar to the objects of the Kotyrbulok and Zirabulok areas of the Zarafshan oasis.⁶ In addition, D.N. Lev Teshiktash and Amir Temur recognize the proximity of the Amonkoton stone industry to cave spaces.⁷ It is recognized by scientists that the site belongs to the advanced stage of the muster period.⁸

In 1995, by the staff of the Uzbek-Polish expedition, D.N. Opened by Lev⁹ Amon-Ko'ton cave of the Middle Paleolithic period was researched. As a result, an undisturbed area with brown clay was found 7-8 m from the entrance of the cave and by its left wall. This area is located very close to the wall of the cave. Several remains of animal bones and fragments of stalactites were found in this place. A piece of clay and stalactites from this place was taken as a sample for analysis. The second sample was taken from under the right wall near the entrance of the cave, and the third sample was taken further inside the cave. Polish prof. According to T. Madeyskaya, generations of two different periods are observed in the cave.

The importance of obtaining absolute dates from the cave and the existence of all possibilities were evident. After all, the date of most of the Paleolithic monuments of the Zarafshan oasis remained relative¹⁰.

In 2001, the joint Uzbek-American international student scientific-archaeological expedition to study the ancient stone age in Uzbekistan conducted scientific research in the caves on the northern slopes of the Zarafshan mountain range.

The results of the research were reflected in a number of scientific reports¹¹. In accordance with the program, it was aimed not only to search for caves where ancient people lived in these areas, but also to study the paleoecology of the environment. For this, it was envisaged to analyze the composition of the layers in the caves, to study the ancient fauna and flora and the paleoclimate.

The Uzbek-American expedition conducted stationary research in the Amon-Ko'ton cave. D.N. The Pleistocene layers of the cave were fully excavated by Lev, and now the cave is filled again with soil layers. These fillings consist of red porous soil, in which the remains of animal bones are also found. However, it was found that the layers of the Pleistocene period remained untouched in some places along the cave wall. As a result of the cleaning of such areas,

² Лев Д.Н. 1949. Новые пещерные стоянки эпохи палеолита в Узбекистане // СЭ. N.1.

³ Ефименко П. П. К вопросу о возрасте позднепалеолитической стоянки в Самарканде // Труды самаркандского государственного университета им. А. Навои. Новая серия. - Самарканд: Изд-во СамГУ, 1964. - Вып. 136.

For example, it was observed that the manufacturing technology of the tools found in this area is more similar to the objects of the Kotyrbulok and Zirabulok areas of the Zarafshan oasis. Советская археология. - М.:Наука, 1958. - №3.

⁵ Лев Д.Н. 1953. Пещеры эпохи палеолита близ г. Самарканда // Природа. N.6.

⁶ Ташкенбаев Н.Х., Сулейманов Р.Х. 1980. Культура древнекаменного века долины Зарафшана. Ташкент.

⁷ Лев Д.Н. 1965. Самаркандская палеолитическая стоянка // ИМКУ. Вып.6.

⁸ Ранов В.А., Несмеянов С.А. Палеолит и стратиграфия антропогена Средней Азии. – Душанбе, 1973.

⁹ Лев Д.Н. Древний палеолит в Аман-Кутане. (Исследования 1953-1954 гг.) \\ Труды Узбекского гос. Ун-та. Нов. Серия. Вып. 61. 1956;

¹⁰ Гречкина Т.Ю., Хужаназаров М., Худайбердиев Р., Мадейская Т., Шимчак К., Миловский М., Кауван Г., Давандовский М., Багинская С. Научный отчет об археологических работах Зарафшанского палеолитического отряда в 1995 году. – Самарканд, 1996. – С. 8-9;

¹¹ Сулейманов Р.Х., Тойчиев Х.А., Ташкенбаев Н.Х., Джуракулов М.Дж., Холматов Н.У., Крахмаль К.А., Ибрагимов Р.З., Гланц М., Шпраубер А.Х., Бургер О.Ф., Циммерман Х.П. Отчет по результатам полевых исследований совместной эколого-археологической экспедиции по изучению памятников каменного века. – Ташкент, (май-июнь, 2001 г). Научный архив ИА АН РУз. Фонд 07. 01. №160. – С. 2-13; Сулейманов Р.Х., Гланц М., Шпраубер А.Д., Бургер О.Ф., Циммерман Х.П. Исследования пещер северных склонов Зарафшанского хребта в 2001 г. ИМКУ №34. – Самарканд, 2004. – С. 6-10; Сулейманов Р.Х., Хасанов М., Аминов Б., Шоназаров Ш., Ибрагимов Р.З., Крахмаль К.А. Отчет по результатам полевых исследований совместной эколого-археологической экспедиции по изучению памятников долины Кашкадарья. Ташкент, (сентябрь-октябрь, 2001г). Научный архив ИА АН РУз. Фонд 03. 01. №124. С. 15 – 17;

the remains of bones of several wild animals, which were once considered the object of hunting of the survivalists, were found.

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