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ON THE HISTORY OF THE ZHETYSU HUN-SARMATIAN ERA MONUMENTS STUDY (a brief overview)²

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the history of the study of archaeological monuments of Kazakhstan at the end of the I millennium BC – the first half of the I millennium AD., the so-called "Hun–Sarmatian era" in science, one of the brightest regions of the country - Zhetysu (Seven Rivers region). Along with scientific issues, some aspects of the definition of these historical-chronological and historical-geographical designations "Hun-Sarmatian epoch" and "Zhetysu" are also considered within the framework of the topic.

Keywords: history of study, Hun-Sarmatian period, archaeological sites, early medieval Zhetysu.

INTRODUCTION

Now, the toponym Zhetysu means most of the territory of southeastern Kazakhstan and a certain part of northern Kyrgyzstan and recognizes the identity of the Kazakh designation Zhetysu and the Russian Semirechye. However, some scientists quite reasonably speak about the different content of these geographical markers, also pointing to different times and circumstances of the appearance of both toponyms. Without going into all the details, we note that the main number of the arguments given by these scientists can be considered quite appropriate and, in this article, Zhetysu in relation to the territory of Kazakhstan refers to the territories of modern Almaty and Zhetysu regions and the eastern parts of Zhambyl region [1, 14-28].

Regarding the historical and chronological designation "Hun-Sarmatian epoch", we note that it appeared in the context of the problem of differentiation of the era of early nomads and has the character of a marker of the late stage of the early Nomadic period and the turn of BC and AD [2, 128, 129]. It should be noted that in science there was, is and is becoming more and more acute a question in general about the correctness of the designation "early nomads" [2, 127, 128], as well as about the adequacy of the marker "Hun-Sarmatian epoch" for a number of good reasons, including due to the presence of various kinds of ethno-cultural associations in the area applications of this marker [2, 129-131], which can only be indirectly related to the Huns and Sarmatians. It is worth agreeing with the opinion that this designation would be correct to use strictly

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chronologically [2, 132]. For the Zhetysu region, it seems more appropriate to use the local marker "Hun-Wusun epoch".

In general, the lower chronological framework of the Hun-Sarmatian period is determined by the II century BC, and the upper boundaries against the background of material culture characteristic of this period can be attributed to the V century AD, it is even possible that before the formation of the First Turkic Khaganate.

Thus, the article will consider the archaeological sites of Almaty, Zhetysu, part of Zhambyl regions and a certain part of northern Kyrgyzstan, in the chronological range of the II century BC – V-VI centuries AD.

Let us briefly dwell on the historiography of the topic of this article and note that one of the last brief reviews of the history of the study of the Hun-Sarmatian era was made by A. Ongar, including Zhetysu [3]. The most complete and analytical historiographical work, which fully covers the above chronological framework and the target region, can now be considered the publication of A.M. Dosymbaeva [4].

THE MAIN PART

The first scientific archaeological research within Zhetysu began in the XIX century and is associated with the activities of the Imperial Archaeological Commission and the Russian Archaeological Society, these works are widely covered in the scientific literature and are closely related to the names of Radlov, Pantusov, Bartold and many others [5], however, work on ethnocultural and chronological attribution is still to be done. many of the monuments studied by them, among them there is also a Hun-Sarmatian time. This is complicated by the fact that many of the materials of the first research have been lost or not properly introduced into scientific circulation. As already mentioned, a full scientific analysis of the works of scientists of this period in the context of determining specifically the monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian era is on the agenda.

The first academic surveys of monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian era of Zhetysu were carried out by M.P. Gryaznov and M.V. Voevodsky in northern Kyrgyzstan in 1929, the authors dated the studied monuments to the end of the I millennium BC, i.e. the early stage of the Hun-Sarmatian time, and although a certain part of the objects studied most likely has an earlier dating, the other, it is unconditional, correlated to the specified chronological horizon [6].

If we talk about scientific research of monuments of this era and the ethnocultural component of sufficient reliability, then this, of course, is the research of A.N. Bernshtam [7]. The scientist investigated several monuments of the Xiongnu and Wusuns, including the famous Kenkol burial ground, justified the affiliation of the monuments of the Xiongnu culture studied by them, wrote the first historical chronicle of the Xiongnu, in which Zhetysu occupies an important place [8].

The following important scientific research on the monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian Zhetysu are the works of one of the founders of Kazakh archeology – K.A. Akishev in the Ili River valley and on the monuments of Aktasty, Amirsai in the Kegen district of Almaty region [9-11].

Worthy of attention are the studies of monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian period Uzun Bulak, Karasha, Shoshkaly, Tuye Tobe by A.G. Maksimova, surveys at the Kyzyl-Kainar Tobe burial ground by the specified author and S.M. Mershchiev. The studied

monuments are dated by the authors to the first half of the I millennium AD and correlated to the cultures of the Huns and Wusun [12, 13].

Perhaps the only ones now are the studies of E.I. Ageeva in the south-east of the modern Zhetysu region – between the villages of Konyrolen and Koktal of the Panfilov district. Several burial grounds have been studied, widely correlated to nomads – Shormak I, II, III, of which the Shormak-III burial ground and individual objects of other groups, according to burial inventory and structures, fit into the chronological framework of the Hun-Sarmatian time – III-II centuries BC - I-V centuries AD. In addition, E.I. Ageeva conducted surveys on the nomadic monuments Kadyrbai I, II, III, located 26-27 km north-northeast of the station Sary Ozek, some objects of which also date from the Hun-Sarmatian period [14, 15].

B.N. Nurmukhanbetov has been engaged in field research of monuments of the end of the I millennium BC – the first half of the I millennium AD Zhetysu for several years – he studied monuments of the "Wusun-Hun-Turkic" period in the Eastern Zhetysu [16], probably, within the framework of the above works, he also studied the Kuraily Hunnic monument of in the Kegen district, Almaty region (unfortunately, the materials have not been published).

The next significant studies of the Hunno-Sarmatian period of Zhetysu can be called the work of M.K. Khabdulina at the Beriktas burial ground, 120 km from Almaty, within the modern Zhambyl district. The monument is dated to the initial stage of the Hun-Sarmatian epoch – I century BC – II century AD and is related to the Huns [17].

For the first time in many years, full-fledged scientific research on the Hun-Sarmatian monuments of Zhetysu was carried out by a joint Kazakh-German international expedition in 2009 in the valley of the Kegen River. Scientists investigated several objects of the marked epoch – geophysical surveys on a large pyramidal structure and the excavation of two mounds in the Kegen-IV burial ground, in which a total of 4 burials were recorded. According to the results of archaeological research, interesting material was obtained, absolute dating by radiocarbon analysis according to C14 showed that the studied burials date back to the III-V centuries AD and the ethnocultural affiliation of the monument to the Huns is sufficiently justified [18].

In the field seasons of 2012-2015, the scientific group of A. Ongar, during the study of the buried space of the elite Saka mound in the Karkara area of the Kegen Valley, studied about 45 stone funerary and memorial objects that date from the time period up to the V-VI centuries AD [3, p. 311].

According to the available data, reconnaissance work on the identification and documentation of monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian period (mostly during general exploration and prospecting works or during the identification of objects of other chronological segments) was carried out at different times by Semirechenskaya and Almaty archaeological expeditions led by E.I. Ageeva and K.A. Akishev. In recent decades, exploration work, during which monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian time were recorded, was carried out by LLP "Archaeological Expertise" and "Kazarchaeology".

The latest and, definitely, comparatively the most extensive of the modern exploration and prospecting works were carried out in 2018 by a joint Kazakh-Korean expedition in the valley of the Kegen River. According to the results of the surveys, along with monuments of other periods, 10 burial grounds of the Hunno-Sarmatian time were

recorded (Sholak III, Tuzkol I, Komirshi II, III, V, Tuzu, Kisyk I, IV, Eltai I, II) [3, pp. 312-317].

The most recent discovery and scientific research on the monuments of the Hun-Sarmatian period can be considered the research of the scientific group of S.A. Yarygin at the Tausamaly archaeological complex in east Zhetysu, judging by the interpretations of the authors, this monument is correlated to the dawn of the Hun-Sarmatian era – III-II centuries BC [19].

CONCLUSION

The review clearly shows that the Hun-Sarmatian era of Zhetysu, however, as well as other geographical and administrative units of Kazakhstan, is relatively little explored. Most of the scientific research is episodic in nature, was carried out simultaneously during the study of other epochs or was started relatively recently. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that in recent years there has been a positive shift in this issue – specialized reconnaissance work is being carried out, systematic studies of monuments of the specified chronological period in certain subdistricts, projects aimed at studying this era have been approved and funded for program-targeted and grant funding.

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К ИСТОРИИ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ПАМЯТНИКОВ ГУННО-САРМАТСКОЙ ЭПОХИ ЖЕТЫСУ (краткий обзор)

Аннотация. Статья посвящена истории изучения археологических памятников Казахстана конца I тысячелетия до н.э. – первой половины I тысячелетия н.э., так называемой в науке «гунно-сарматской эпохи», одного из ярких регионов страны – Жетысу (Семиречье). Вместе с научными вопросами в рамках темы также рассмотрены некоторые аспекты дефиниции указанных историко-хронологических и историко-географических обозначений «гунно-сарматская эпоха» и «Жетысу».

Ключевые слова: история изучения, гунно-сарматское время, археологические памятники, раннесредневековый Жетысу.

ЖЕТИСУ ҒҰН-САРМАТ ДӘУІРІНІҢ ЗЕРТТЕЛУ ТАРИХЫ (қысқаша шолу)

Аңдатпа. Мақала еліміздің ең көркем өңірлерінің бірі Жетісудағы, ғылымда «ғұн-сармат дәуірі» атауымен танымал б.д.д. I мыңжылдықтың соңы – б.д. I мыңжылдықтың бірінші жартысындағы археологиялық ескерткіштердің зерттелу тарихына арналған.

Тақырып аясындағы ғылыми мәселелермен қатар көрсетілген «ғұн-сармат дәуірі», «Жетісу» сынды тарихи-мерзімдік және тарихи-географиялық атау-белгілемелер мән-жәйінің кейбір тұстары қарастырылуда.

Кілт сөздер: зерттелу тарихы, ғұн-сармат кезеңі, археологиялық ескерткіштер, ертеортағасырлық Жетісу.