Original Article

RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN THE PALTOV VALLEY IN COOPERATION WITH THE JOINT UZBEK-RUSSIAN EXPEDITION

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DOI: 10.47750/pnr.2022.13.S09.624

Abstract

In this article, the results of Uzbek-Russian cooperated archeological expedition Obirakhmad cave in Paltov valley that remains of human bones which were found in 16 cultural layers, Qo'tirbuloq settlement, Kulos, Piskem, and Okhangaron Paleolithic artifacts and the results of expedition settlement of Todakhotin are explained.

Keywords: archeology, research, Paltov valley, cooperation, Uzbek-Russian expedition, cultural layers, ethnography.

INTRODUCTION

New research conducted in the Abirakhmat cave. In 1998, the "Cooperation Agreement" concluded between the Institute of Archeology of the FA of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the RFA SB named after Ya.G. Ghulomov was directed to the implementation of the scientific project "Paleoecology and Archeology of the Old Stone Age of the Republic of Uzbekistan". An international complex archaeological joint expedition was organized under the leadership of academicians O.I. Islamov and A.P. Derevyanko. Obirakhmat cave in Tashkent region was chosen as the main object of this expedition . This archaeological monument was studied by R. Kh. Sulaimanov during 1964-1965. While the total area of those excavations was 60 m2 , the thickness of cultural beds was up to 2 m thick. The Uzbek-Russian archaeological excavation expedition was started at the site of the monument in the 90s of the last century. As a result, the stone industry of Obirakhmat was found to belong to the period of the end of the Middle Paleolithic and the beginning of the Late Paleolithic, and for the first time in Central Asian paleolithic studies, the term "Early Late Paleolithic" was introduced into the science. It is known that the emergence of "homo sapiens", that is, the modern man, and the genesis of the Late Paleolithic period are still a big problem in science. Therefore, it is a natural and important issue for specialists to search for the roots of the appearance of the Late Paleolithic man and his period. The main goal of updating the scientific work in Obirahmat Cave is to determine the absolute chronology of the monument, to reconstruct the ancient environment and the variability of the lifestyle of ancient populations during the transition from the Middle to the Late Paleolithic in the area, as well as to create and correlate the results base of certain Paleolithic monuments using the most modern excavation and analytical methods. The archaeological collection of all cultural layers of the space was further replenished during the research conducted in the Obirakhmat cave, and the paleoecological conditions of the life of ancient people were reconstructed. The exact date of the Obirakhmat culture was determined based on the extensive program implemented with the financial support of the Leakey Foundation International Foundation (based on radiocarbon, EPR, OSL and thorium-uranium methods). As a result, the Obirakhmat culture dates back to the millennium BC. It was found that it ruled from 80-70 thousand years to 30 thousand years . At a new stage of research (although covering a large chronological period) it was established that the cultural sequence of the layers in the cave is homogeneous, and based on it lies the technology of obtaining plates of the Middle Paleolithic mixed with the modified Levallois concept. The main distinction of the Obirakhmat industry, observed in all layers, is the combination of elements characteristic of the Middle and Late Paleolithic, both technologically and typologically. Thanks to the research conducted in the monument, the idea of the migration of people of the Middle Paleolithic period was put forward, which explains the similarity and convergent development of transitional industries of the Middle East, Central Asia and Altai regions, which have a common basis in the region.

In the summer of 2003, in the Obirakhmat monument ancient human bone remains, which were considered to be dating back to 70-60 thousand years BC (according to EPR and OSL dates) , were found in the 16th cultural layer. In fact, for the first time, it was possible to connect the industries of the transitional period with a specific physical type of man, because until now there were only a few finds of ancient people in the world related to this important period. Obirakhmat Man gave characteristics of a Neanderthal-type man mixed with modern man, and some of his parameters are unmatched among the currently available paleoanthropological data. It is currently difficult to explain why such interference and specific signs have arisen. Evidence was found that either the modern type of man was an independent multiregional formation, or that Neanderthals and modern humans hybridized (so far it was considered less likely) .

In addition to conducting research in the Abirakhmat cave, the members of the expedition also conducted research in other monuments of the Paleolithic period of Uzbekistan. In particular, the stratigraphy and cultural sequence of the Kotyrbulok area (Samarkand region) were determined , search and stationary research was carried out in Boysuntog (Surkhandarya region), new monuments of the Paleolithic period were found and studied in Kulos, Pskom and Okhangaron.

Todakhotin 1 and 2 Kingdoms. In August 2005, the Uzbekistan-Russia international expedition carried out search operations in the middle of the Paltov river (the right tributary of the Chotkol river, Tashkent region) in the vicinity of Obirakhmat . As a result, from the right bank of the river, from the sub-horizontal area of the second terrace, at a height of 30 m above the river level, two sites with aggregated archaeological materials were identified, separated from both sides by the river and its left tributary. The points are located at a distance of 140 m from each other and named after the rock in this place - Todakhotin 1 and 2. Control-excavation works were carried out in places where aggregate materials were concentrated. In both cases, the excavations were carried out on terraces on the left tributary of the river in the mountains. The excavation area of the Todakhotin 1 monument was 9 m 2 , and at Todakhotin 2 this area occupied 6 m 2 .

The collection of stone objects of the Todakhotin 1 site consisted of 43 artefacts. Among them are stone weapons (3) , nuclei (3) , plate fragments (2) and spears (35) . From the cores of the set , a strike was launched in parallel from the field, and small-sized plates were struck by lightning. Nuclei are formed from siliceous rocks (2 pieces) and silicified limestone tiles. The stone tools consisted of a thick-type scraper made from a piece of plate and retouched two chalcedony spears.

The collection of artifacts of the Todakhotin Kingdom 2 was 146. Among them are found stone weapons (7), nuclei (7), pottery and production waste. Artifacts are made from silicified limestone, siliceous and chalcedony rocks. During the excavations, 8 cultural horizons were identified from the monument, and more than 3,000 stone objects were excavated from them. All separated cultural horizons lie in a subhorizontal position and conform to the sloping topography of the site. The horizons richest in artifacts are layers 1 and 5. In addition to stone artifacts, a large number of animal bones and teeth (sometimes charred) and small bundles of charcoal were also found here. These layers were sampled for radiocarbon dating using exact sciences . Based on the technical-typological study of the stone objects of Todakhotin 1 and 2 Kingdoms, these complexes can be considered to belong to the final stages of the Late Paleolithic period. This period is poorly studied in the region, and this is due to the small number of monuments and the lack of careful classification and publications. According to the results of the preliminary analysis of the monuments of Todakhotin 1 and 2, it can be said to be typical of the cultural traditions of the Samarkand area. Certain analogies (according to the types of beaked thick-type scrapers) can be found in the upper layers of Kolbulok. Nevertheless, the absolute chronology of such well-studied monuments as Kolbulok, the time of formation and dominance of techno-complexes, their genesis and further development remain unclear . In this regard, the absolute dating of two newly discovered, well-stratigraphed, multi-layered objects with abundant stoneware is of great importance in understanding the formation and development of Late Paleolithic industries in the study area. All layers contain triangular microliths, but their number increases from bottom to top according to the sections. The principles of processing microplates will also change, that is, the number of microplates with non-passing edges will increase. In the primary lightning technique, two opposite strike-field directions - in the prismatic system and in the refraction system along the surface - are also reduced.

Thus, the development of the stone inventory of the Todakhotin 2 site complex took place within a single tradition. Regarding the cultural-periodic nature of the monument, 5 samples were taken and assigned to AMS- dating . The 2 dates obtained indicated a much younger period (431±33). Three bone and charcoal samples from Layer 4 yielded dates ranging from 23800±190 to 21850±180. Undoubtedly, in order to determine the exact sequence of activities of the people who lived in the space, it is necessary to date the upper and lower layers of the monument. As we mentioned above, analogies should be sought from the Samarkand area, because there are stone objects similar to those in the Todakhotin 2 complex. This is primarily reflected in the nucleus-cartilaginous cells. However, for a more accurate comparison, an important aspect - microinventories - is not found in the structure of the techno-complex of the Samarkand area. However, their absence can be explained by different methodological approaches in the excavation of Late Paleolithic monuments. Also, as a result of the new excavations of Kolbulok, it will be possible to compare its materials with the artifacts of the Todaxotin area.

Mesolith of the area is raised through the study of the area. After all, direct dating of the monuments was not carried out, and monuments of this nature were automatically included in the Mesolithic period (Obishir culture sites). Continuing the study of the site of Todakhotin 2 will allow to raise the issue of antiquing the monuments of the Mesolithic period of the area. In any case, the site suggests that the microlithic tradition in the area is much older. It seems that this may be the hearth where the traditions of the Mesolithic period appeared in the territory of Uzbekistan .

Thus, O.I.Islamov's research of ancient Stone Age monuments of Uzbekistan began in the 80s of the 20th century and continued until the end of his life. Thanks to the efforts of O'.I.Islamov, the Selungur Cave, Obirakhmat Cave, Kulos, Pskom located in the Sokh Valley are the oldest monuments of Central Asia, the oldest paleoanthropological finds, the study of paleoecological conditions of millions of years ago, and in the area "the world's few rare ones that gave the oldest working tools the name "monument" was obtained.

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