

New data on the ancient settlement of Ak-Beshim (Chu River Valley, Northern Kyrgyzstan)

Bakyt Amanbaeva

Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences of

Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic KG

Abstract

According to the archaeological data, a series of ancient settlement appeared on the territory of the Chu River Valley (Dzhety-Suu, Semirechie) in VI-VIII centuries. Some of them were composed of the citadel and shakhristan and transformed later (IX-XI centuries) into the territories surrounded with one-two rings of so-called “long walls” with considerable size in the perimeter. Of these cities was Suyab, which ruins correspond to the ancient settlement of Ak-Bashim known as a capital of three Turkic Khaganates in VI-X centuries: Western Turkic, Türgesh and Karluk.

Scientific studies were implemented by Kyrgyz (National Academy of Sciences) and Japanese (National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo and Teikyo University since 2016) archaeologists.

Excavation site No 15 put in place on the territory of shakhristan No 2 revealed the concentration of grey-clay tile, which corresponds to the remains of the collapsed wall of the building. Probably, the revealed construction may be the component of the garden-park ensemble of the Tang Dynasty Period. Analysis of the aerial photo of 1967 and further geophysical studies of the territory of the “second” Buddhist temple have shown that it was a part of the larger complex with the walls of 140-150 m in length. As the result of the excavation site No 18 the revealed temple was occupying only its south-western corner, while another construction the role of which has to be identified during the further archaeological studies, was situated nearby. Studies of the fortifications of both shakhristan were made in parallel.