

TO THE GENESIS OF THE CITIES OF CHUI VALLEY (according to data from the site Novopokrovskoe-2)

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Abstract

The Chuy valley in the early Middle Ages was a place of intensive cultural exchange between different ethnic groups and civilizations. It is at this time that it acquires the image of a region with urban culture as the dominant one.

In 1940, A.N. Bernshtam clearly formulated the hypothesis of “Sogdian colonization” of the region.

Our excavations 2004-2019 the hillfort Novopokrovskoye-2 allow to reasonably correct this hypothesis:

1. The lower layers of the settlement contain a ceramic complex, which finds the closest analogies in the ceramics of the Jety-Asar culture of the middle Syr Darya;
2. In the middle layer, dating from the 8th-9th centuries, there are many “hearth stand”, which, together with hand-made conical lids, A.N.Bernshtam considered Sogdian and attributed to the 5th-8th centuries. A small number of such finds were in the upper layer of 10-12 centuries, but they are not in the bottom. A.N.Bernshtam was wrong with their dating;
3. In Sogd's materials there is no such type of “hearth stand” and hand-made conical lids - A.N.Bernshtam was mistaken with their ethno-cultural attribution. According to the style and decoration motifs, their genesis should be sought in the monuments of the Lower Syr-Darya, such as Zharkent;

It means that the appearance of the ancient settlement Novopokrovskoye-2 and other medieval cities of the Chui Valley cannot be associated only with Sogdians. This process is more complex and was attended by carriers of cultures of middle and lower Syr-Darya.