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THE MOST ANCIENT CHESS IN THE WORLD DETECTED IN UZBEKISTAN

Abstract: The article examines the most ancient chess in the world that were found in Uzbekistan. It also covers the popularity of chess in different periods, the attention and interest of statesmen in it.

Key words: Bactria, chaturanga, elephant, bull-zebu, Dalverzintepa, Kushan kingdom, Ahura Mazda, Shiva, Vima Kadfiza, Afrasiab.

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Introduction

India has always been considered the birthplace of chess, where it is believed that their more ancient predecessor Chaturanga appeared. Her playing field also consisted of dark and light squares.

But, despite this, the oldest in the world, dating back to the 2nd century AD, "chess" figures have been

discovered so far only in the south of Uzbekistan - on the territory of ancient northern Bactria.

These are miniature sculptures of an elephant (2.4 x 2.9 x 1.8 cm) and a bull - zebu (1.8 x 2.2 x 1.9 cm), carved from ivory. They belong to the oldest of the varieties of chess - "Chaturanga", where four people took part in the game.



Picture 1.

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Their location is the house of a rich city dweller in the ancient settlement of Dalverzintepa. It was the first - early - the capital of the Kushan kingdom, which by that time had become an empire that included the territories of modern states - Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

The world famous monument of archeology - Dalverzintepa is located on the road between the cities of Shurchi and Denau in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan. These artifacts can be considered not only as evidence of such an early penetration of chess into the territory of Central Asia, but also that the southern regions of Uzbekistan could be the second homeland of this game.

Moreover, the purpose and relationship with the traditional for Chaturanga or chess images of the bull figure remain to a certain extent a mystery ?! Although everyone knows that this animal was considered sacred in Hinduism, since it accompanied one of the main and most warlike gods - the creator and destroyer of Shiva. At the same time, bulls were often used as draft animals when transporting ritual and other carts ... perhaps also war chariots (ratha).

It is no coincidence that the image of the Indian zebu bull - a friend and comrade-in-arms of the warlike god Shiva - is always found standing together on the coins of the Kushan king Vima Kadfiz (2nd half of the 1st century AD), found in large quantities on archaeological monuments in the south of Uzbekistan.

Along with this, everyone also knows that from time immemorial this fascinating activity is considered a game of sages, magicians, wizards, rulers ... Although originally Chaturanga was considered a war game [1].

Analysis of Subject Matters

Therefore, based on all of the above facts, as if by itself the conclusion suggests itself that the supreme head of the Zoroastrian pantheon Ahura Mazda (translated as "Lord Wisdom") could create all the conditions for creating just such an intellectual game on this fertile land due to the coincidence of numerous circumstances ... Is it an accident in this regard that all roads, including trade, migration and transit, which conveyed ideas and religions, the spiritual and the Great Silk Road, crossed exactly here - on the territory of Uzbekistan ?!

These lands have become a kind of energetically saturated crossroads and a mystical meeting place between man and the God of Wisdom, a very possible place for the birth of this God-given intellectual game! This crossroads in the heart of Central Asia was a link and a bridge connecting the civilizations of the East and West.

So, dear readers, thanks to such reasoning and inferences based on the analysis of various historical facts, new interesting, including scientific, hypotheses about the place of birth or rebirth of certain ideas and teachings, sometimes even of a religious and philosophical nature, may appear. , for example, Buddhism was recognized for a long time, and games like chess!

By the way, the territory of Uzbekistan, apparently, also not by chance, was the main relay of the ideas of Buddhism and Zoroastrianism - these world scholars in the East - through Kyrgyzstan and East Turkestan (modern XUAR in China), China, Korea and Japan.



Picture 2. The chess set consists of 7 pieces, dates back to the VII century ad and was discovered at the Afrasiab settlement, located on the outskirts of the city of Samarkand.

It is noteworthy that such ancient chess pieces have been found for the first time in Central Asia. And they are many centuries older than the chess stored in India, like the other oldest set of 7 chess pieces dating back to the 7th century AD, also found in Uzbekistan.

The contribution of Uzbek researchers in clarifying the history of chess has been effective. In

late 1972, Uzbek archaeologists discovered a number of rare artifacts and two chess pieces from the Dalverzintepa on the banks of the Surkhandarya River in the I-II centuries BC, ie the period of the Kushan Empire.

Five years later, the grains found in Afrasiab confirmed the initial hypotheses and conclusions.

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While the “elephant” and “zebu” (bull) pieces found in Dalvarzintepa belong to a game between Indian chaturang and chess, the seven ivory chess pieces found in Afrosiab - the king, farzin, horse, ivory and infantry - are depicted in similar shapes. There can be no doubt that these now belong to the improved Central Asian chess [6].

Research Methodology

The tags have become slippery due to the fact that these grains have been passed from hand to hand many times.

The height of the infantry is 2 centimeters, that of the horse and elephant is 3 centimeters, and that of the king and farzin is 4.5 centimeters. According to archaeologists, these grains date back to the VI-VIII centuries.

Interestingly, Rukh, which is part of the chess pieces, was found in the Fergana region at the beginning of this century, not in the stratum of the same period, Afrosiyab. It is currently housed in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

The discovery of chess pieces on our soil testifies to the fact that chess in the Surkhandarya region developed much earlier than in other parts of Asia.

Although Chaturanga was very similar to modern chess, but the number of pieces in it and the appearance of the game board were different. The biggest difference is that in Indian chess there is a special jackpot, and winning the game would depend on the position in which this jackpot falls. Based on some form of Indian chaturang in the IV-V centuries, it is concluded that an improved form of this game - shatrang appeared.

As the shatrang develops, it becomes a modern chess player, both in terms of the number of pieces and the number of pieces on the board. In the game of chess, gravel gradually became obsolete, in which the struggle continued not until all the pieces of the opponent were destroyed, but until the king was mated or pot.

The fact that the first information about shatrang was mentioned in the Central Asian literature in the 600s and the first information about Indian chaturang in the VII century and the fact that shatrang was common in the Central Asian literature in the VIII-IX centuries indicate that the game became more popular in Central Asia. Later, manuscripts began to appear, including the beginning of the game, which was entirely devoted to chess, and "mansuba" (issues).

The Russian chess historian and theorist I. Maiselis was the first to put forward the idea that "Chaturanga and shatrang are completely different games" [1]. Shatrang soon began to spread to countries bordering Central Asia. The Arab invaders, who conquered the kingdom of Iran and parts of Central Asia, became acquainted with chess in the 7th century and pronounced the word "chess" as "chess".

The peoples of Central Asia made a great contribution to the development of this ancient game. During this period, chess rose to great heights. His theory and compositions were prepared.

Abu Hafiz, Jabir Kufi, Abu Ja'far, Ansari, Naim Khadim, who lived in the VIII-IX centuries, became masters of chess during the caliphate of Harun al-Rashid. Rabrob, who lived in Khorasan and was originally from Khorezm, was also skilled. In 819, a match was played in Khorasan between Jabir, Rabrab and Abu Ja'far. It was one of 3 popular matches held under the auspices of the caliphs. Observing this, Caliph Ma'mun said, "It is astonishing that I cannot better manage the 32 pieces on a small chessboard, ruling from India in the East to Andalusia in the West."

The caliph added, "It is not appropriate to blame even the greatest in the game of chess." Medieval historians mention in their works that the above three chess players and Naim were given the title of "oliya" (grandmaster). It is also known that these chess scholars created special chess pamphlets at that time.

In the IX-X centuries, chess was played in Italy, Spain and a number of other European countries. Some chess terms have survived in these countries. For example, the Spaniards call the elephant "alfil". Thus, the game of chess began to be introduced to the Spaniards, Portuguese, Italians, French, English, and later the Germans and Scandinavians. In the XV-XVI centuries, the game of chess in Western Europe took its classic form. The rules of chess are gradually disappearing. In the 16th century, when Cervantes, one of the great figures of world literature, lived in Spain, the Spaniards were also considered one of the most powerful chess players in the world. Among them was the famous chess player Lopez, who founded the "Spanish party", which is widely used in modern competitions.

In the 18th century, France became one of the most civilized countries. The French were world leaders in chess. François Filidor, who lived at that time, was known as the strongest chess player in the world. The debut in chess theory, called the "French defense", is still frequently used in the practice of modern chess masters.

In the first half of the 19th century, England became one of the most advanced countries. It is no coincidence that Staunton, a powerful chess player of the time, was a contemporary of Byron and Faraday. The English party, the so-called English beginnings, have been in practice since Staunton's time.

By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the names and movements of some chess pieces in Western Europe had changed. The first printed books on chess, which appeared in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, suggested increasing the pace of the game and enriching its internal content.

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After that, Farzin and the elephant could walk as long as they do now. Rakirovka was accepted. Thus. In Europe, chess has been replaced by chess.

Archaeological excavations in Kiev, Chernigov, and Novgorod, Russia, have uncovered 11th-century chess pieces. From the 15th century onwards, aristocrats in Europe had to learn archery, fencing, hunting, poetry, and chess.

Abu Bakr al-Suli, a famous Central Asian scholar and chess player of thousands of years ago, wrote: "There is nothing better than chess in games and among the kings' favorite pastimes. Ajam (non-Arab) kings have always taught their children chess more than any other science. According to the novices, a child who does not play chess will be left out of his father's view [6].

Chess was not invented by one person, as in legends, but it is the fruit of a folk art passed down from generation to generation. Rare pamphlets written in Central Asia and archeological finds from here show that our country - the land of ancient Turkestan - the predecessor of modern chess - was one of the first homelands of chess. Of course, we are justifiably proud of that.

It is known that the grains lined up on the board of the ancient East reflect the army. They were infantry and cavalry, elephants, chariots, and commanders. Chess is truly a game reminiscent of the battle process, both in terms of the wrestling process and in terms of the terms used to describe the battle between the two sides. Consequently, Amir Temur, who had been preparing for military service from a young age, could not help but play chess.

In Timur's Statutes, he admits that he often conquered cities and countries not by force of arms, but with the help of intelligence and deep thinking, like a bloodless struggle on a chessboard. To do this, he would move the pieces on the chessboards at night and make some preparations, and during the day he would carry out his plans.

Sahibkiran used to hold chess games in his palace. Amir Temur paid special attention to the people of science, culture and profession to increase their potential.

Alisher Navoi says that in the part of his work "Majlis un nafois" dedicated to kings and princes, he began with Amir Temur, and although he did not recite a masterful poem, sometimes he simply quoted a line that surprised poets. He emphasizes that Timur had a delicate poetic taste and was an artist in every way. It is known from historical sources that Timur surprised his interlocutors in knowledge.

During the Timurid dynasty, there were two types of chess: chess chess and chess chess.

In the chess tomb (big chess) there were duboba (bear), giraffe (giraffe), kunofa (camel) among the soldiers. Amir Temur preferred to play in such a 100-room chess. Chess deer (small chess) is a board game played on a board of 64 rooms.

According to historian Ibn Arabshah, one day Amir Temur was playing chess with one of his close people. It was reported that he had seen a boy the moment he was dulling his opponent with his spirit. Timur was so happy that he named his son Shahrukh.

Similarly, one of the symbolic members belonged to K. Yanish, a professor at the University of St. Petersburg, a well-known Russian chess master, in which the Turkish sultan Boyazid was defeated by Amir Temur in the war of 1402. Yanish called this composition "Iron Cage of Timur" [1].

Because chess, which has become a unique art, is a complex game of honest wrestling, it has attracted the attention of major figures of world literature, and even some statesmen.

It is known that one of the most famous representatives of Eastern culture, Abulqasim Firdavsi, in his famous work "Shohnoma" (X-XI centuries) gave a great place to chess. During the reign of the Timurids, culture in Central Asia began to develop again. In a short time great poets, scientists, architects emerged. Among them were famous masters of chess.

The traditions of our ancestor Amir Temur on the development of science and culture continued after him and in the time of Alisher Navoi. His children and grandchildren have remained faithful to this tradition.

Hodja Ali Tabrizi, who lived in Tabriz in the second half of the 14th century, and later in Iran and Azerbaijan, is described as a chess player who became famous at that time. He rose to the rank of master in the science of chess. He even showed great play in the game of chess in absentia. He was a regular participant in chess sessions organized by Amir Temur. Hoja Ali Tabrizi was able to play in absentia on four boards with four people at the same time.

However, in Europe at that time it was played on two boards in this way. When Khoja Ali Tabrizi was brought to Samarkand as a master chess player by the decree of Amir Temur, Ali Shatranji became known as Samarkand. Ali Shatranji, who lived in the palace of Timur in the XV-XVI centuries, was not only a skilled practical player, but also a skilled chess theorist. The Central Asian and Arabic manuscripts of the period were devoted to debut and game analysis, and consisted mainly of a set of issues, or more precisely, "affiliations." The parties played (a unique chess notation - written in alphabetical order) and a few of the wonderful members created have come down to us. This is confirmed by the manuscript of Abul-Ab in the IX century [5].

The great Russian writer Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy once said: "I love chess to give a person a rest, chess requires deep thinking and action. The smarter a person is, the more character he can see. It's like chess, when a good chess player discovers all the secrets on the board, everything seems the same to a bad player.

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Just as there are random similarities and unexpected combinations in chess, there are even more interesting events in life.

You know - the essence of the game of chess is not to launch a sharp attack, to make unexpected and dangerous moves, but to remember that the complex combination of pieces is a slow and unjustified movement.

Every chessboard is an art. It needs to be enriched. Those who can't do this think they've created something new when they drag something from another art into their cage.

Analysis and results

The wide spread of modern chess rules in Uzbekistan since the 20s of the last century gave impetus to the development of this sport. Chess clubs have been opened in Tashkent, Samarkand, Kokand and other cities. Azmiddin Khodjaev, Sergey Freiman, Pulat Saidkhonov, Zokir Khodjaev and others were enthusiastic about the popularization of chess. In 1930, the men's championships of Uzbekistan were held, and in 1935 the women's championships of Uzbekistan (Alexander Grushevsky and Larisa Pinchuk became champions - 8 times). Well-known grandmasters such as Fedor Duz-Khotimirsky, Salo Flor, Tigran Petrosyan, Paul Keres, Alexander Kotov, Mark Taimanov, Viktor Korchnoi, Anatoly Karpov, came to Uzbekistan at different times to give lectures, conduct games (sessions) and participate in competitions. ... effective. A new generation of chess lovers has grown since the 1950s: Mamadzhon Mukhitdinov, Ulugbek

Elbekov, Sergei Pinchuk, Roman Kim, Alla Mkrtychan. The Republican Chess Club has been commissioned, various competitions are held, chess columns are published in newspapers and magazines, a chess show is being opened on Uzbek television, and books on chess are being published. Chess composers such as Isaac Birbrager and Efim Ruxlis have won various competitions. Georgy Borisenko was awarded the title of International Grandmaster in Distance Chess. Georgiy Agzamov became the first international grandmaster from Uzbekistan (1984).

Community Since the 90s of the twentieth century, chess began to develop in Uzbekistan. The men's team took 2nd place at the World Chess Olympiad (1992) and won the Asian Championship (1999). Ibragim Khamrokulov won the World Junior Championship (1998). Rustam Kasimdzhanov became the first in Asia (1998), 17th world champion (2004) [8].

FIDE World Champions V. Steinitz, E. Lasker, X.R. Capablanca, A. Alyoksin, M. Euwe, M. Botvinnik, V. Smyslov, M. Tal, T. Petrosyan, B. Spassky, R. Fischer, A. Karpov, G. Kasparov, A. Khalifman, V. Anand, R. Ponomarev, R. For high results in prestigious competitions, FIDE awarded the title of international grandmaster to the following chess players: Valery Loginov, Alexander Nenashev, Grigory Serper, Sergey Zagrebely, Saidali Yuldashev, Alexey Barsov, Mikhail Saltaev, Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Kumaev Safardjanov, Rena Mamedova Rena Mamedova, Timur Gareev. Several chess players and trainers were awarded honorary titles and medals of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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