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**SECTION 12. Geology. Anthropology.
Archaeology.**

HISTORICAL-CULTURAL INVESTIGATION OF ANCIENT HERITAGE OF MODERN GANJA CITY (BASED ON MATERIALS OF ANCIENT LOCAL KURGANS AS ETHNOGRAPHIC-ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES)

Abstract: *On the basis of different scientific materials, local craftsmanship samples of modern international ethnographic and archeological excavations in the territory of Ganja city and around area, also various archive documents have been researched the basic features of historical-cultural heritage as an innovative academic approach. The main materials of international ethnographic and archeological excavations in the territory of ancient Ganja were also investigated based on the local different kurgans in the large territory of Guru Gobu area.*

Key words: *Azerbaijan, handicraft samples, Ganja, ethnographic research, archeological excavations, multidisciplinary study, innovative methods.*

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Introduction

Ganja, one of the oldest cities of the East with a centuries-old history, connecting the north-eastern slopes of the Lesser Caucasus mountains (ancient Ganja mountains) with the expanses of the Kura-Arak lowland, is located in a picturesque corner of Azerbaijan with a temperate climate, fertile lands rich in water resources.

Historically, Ganja has always had a favorable geopolitical location and played an important role in the cultural and economic life of Azerbaijan. This city was built on the Great Silk Road, which connects Asia with Europe. Thus, Ganja was the spiritual bridge between different civilizations.

Due to centuries-old national and moral values, this city has been considered as a kind of “indicator” of the socio-cultural and political-social system for many centuries.

Since it was Ganja that was the main center of the main historical reforms, important national uprisings against the enemy troops advancing on our

homeland.

As known, from the archaeological point of view, Ganja, being an ancient cultural center of the South Caucasus, at the same time is considered a stronghold of Ganja - the Karabakh archaeological culture. Therefore, relevant surveys were conducted here in different socio - historical periods. For example: Resler E. (1892-1903), Schulz B. (1898-1903), Rozendorf B. (1903-1914), Skinder V. (1905), Lass F. (1908). Archaeological excavations carried out in the territories of the city of Ganja and Ganjabasar, indicate the presence of people here since the Neolithic times [8, p. 2290].

At that time, on the territory of the copper mines, they were engaged in the production of copper, and a stone hoe was found on the territory of Goygol. Stone products found on the territory of Goygol and Mingachevir suggest that until the middle of the second millennium BC. in the area of Ganjabasar, agriculture was carried out in a hoe method.

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Many monuments of the bronze period are found in Ganja. This is confirmed both by the previous history of archaeological research and by joint field work with Italian specialists.

From this it follows that already, starting from the bronze period, the territory was densely populated; the culture of the city and urban-type settlements was formed. It is also impossible to exclude that in the Bronze Period, the Obsidian cleavers, made during the Neolithic period, were used that belonged to earlier cultures.

Materials and Methods

In recent years, departments of Ganja State University and Azerbaijan State Agrarian University have been functioning in the Ganja Branch of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

In order to conduct new research and training of young scientific personnel, important works are being carried out in the direction of the publication of scientific papers, articles and monographs, joint research projects, academic and information exchange. The department provides both individual and group practice for bachelor and master students specialized in chemistry, history, philology, and biology.

Scientific results obtained by undergraduates in laboratories, departments and made up in the form of articles and abstracts are published in various journals, including foreign journals with a high impact factor. departments of the institution.

Scientific cooperation is carried out not only with institutions of higher education, but also with secondary schools. Various activities are being taken to increase students' interest in science.

The Ganja Branch of ANAS, with the organizational support of the Department of Education of Ganja, and the Department of Education of the City of Ganja systematically conducts e-education trainings with teachers teaching computer science in secondary schools. The Ministry of Education recommended conducting similar training in other cities and regions of the republic.

Currently, scientific cooperation is continuing with the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, the Institute of Additives Chemistry, the Institute of Catalysis and Inorganic Chemistry, the Institute of Polymer Materials and the "Interdisciplinary Analytical Center" of ANAS.

In accordance with the decision of the Department of Earth Sciences of ANAS dated March 11, 2016 (Number 2/2), research work was carried out with the Institute of Geology and Geophysics to study the characteristics of the thermal waters of the Western zone and possible areas of their application.

Together with the Geothermal Department of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics in the exploration wells of the Western region of Azerbaijan, modern geometric studies were

conducted and, determining temperature and geothermal gradients at various depths, a new database was created and a prospective geothermal energy plan was prepared.

The Ganja Branch expanded scientific ties with various institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and signed cooperation agreements with the Institute of Microbiology and the Institute of Manuscripts. Mohammed Fizuli for cooperation in the field of personnel exchange and research [24, p. 10-11].

Together with the scientific staff of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of ANAS, as a result of archaeological research, a map of ancient burial mounds was prepared in the southern zone of the city, in the Yeni Ganja residential area.

On the basis of a map prepared in 2017, excavations were carried out on five-ancient barrows, where material and cultural remains, samples of local craft, anthropological findings, paleozoological and paleobotanical samples were found, which proves their relationship to the early Bronze Age.

Theoretical basis of investigation

The obsidian and flint tools found in the Gillikdag camp found by I. Jafarzade in the village of Bakhchukurd stone scoop suggest that they lived in this territory in the VII-VI millennium BC. e., people were among the founders of the Neolithic culture. The way of life of the Neolithic period (V millennium BC) in the Ganja region continued and created the prerequisites for a new economic development in the Eneolithic.

1. Archaeological research shows that during this period, the local population, having moved to a sedentary lifestyle, began to engage in farming and animal husbandry. This is confirmed by osteological remains found in archaeological excavations, which are bones cultivated in the Ganja region in the V millennium BC. e. animals known to us. It is in the IV-III millennium BC. e. Based on the Eneolithic culture, Ganja has become one of the centers of the Early Bronze Age of the Kur - Araz culture.

2. Excavations in burial mounds near Ganja showed the presence of rounded pits for ordinary burials and cremation rituals. This is characteristic of Ganja and Karabakh, as well as other ancient tribes in the country.

The similarity of the funeral rituals proves the ethnic affinity of the tribes inhabiting the territory. In the village of Yeni Ganja in the ancient territory of Guru Gobu in 2018, during a joint excavation with Italian archaeologists, a barrow made of volcanic glass was found in a mound.

3. It can be concluded that burial refers to the early Bronze period. On the basis of the bones discovered during the Ganja excavations in the mound, a religious rite was established: alongside the

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deceased there was poultry meat for his food, according to ancient signs, deer bones were buried.

4. The location of the city in the foothills contributed to the wide spread of livestock, it pushes to the idea of the formation of semi-nomadic cattle breeding in a part of the population. In this regard, the mounds discovered on the territory of Khoshbulag can be attributed to the tribes that left these places. The buildings of the extended houses, found during research near Ganja, had a number of additional extensions, and the people living here did housekeeping.

The ruins of these buildings have survived to our days. They supposedly lived in families. The presence of the spears and tips existing here, pottery, a wooden hammer head, the remnants of ornaments suggest that the deceased was a warrior. The bones of the deer indicate the connection of these tribes with the culture of Northern Eurasia.

Applied significance of research

Including pottery found on the territory of Ganjabasar with a picture of a camel, camel bones talk about trade, covering large areas. Much evidence on flint stone mining in the territory of Ganjabasar in Chilikdag indicates the development in addition to agriculture and other types of production.

It is possible to assume that weapons samples [5, p. 372] were made from the merchandising alloy of copper and other metals imported from the nearest commercial areas. The main caravan routes connecting the Middle East and Western Asia also ran through Ganja.

In the middle of the century it became more pronounced. This gives grounds to assert that thanks to this trade route, Ganja developed and became one of the important cultural centers of the South Caucasus. Unfortunately, during the last archaeological excavations, the looting of the territory of the mound was discovered. In the I millennium BC. e. The nomadic tribes of the Saxons and Scythians who settled here settled near Ganja [4, p. 61]. In the writings of medieval historians, the name Ganja is given as Gandzak. It is probably a modified form of the word Kandsak.

So, the original name of Ganja acquired the form of Kandsak: “Kand” is a city, “Sak” is a tribe, that is, in ancient Turkic it means “Sak city” When the nomads depleted their weapons, they had to make new ones, mining metal from mines. The easiest way was to open the burials that remained from the bronze period and to remelt the excavated weapons for metal. Presumably, it was the nomads and plundered these mounds.

During the study of the mound, pieces of planks were found, which makes it possible to think about the use of this material in its construction, and later it was replaced by masonry stone in the form of elevation. Despite the fact that the mound studied in

2018 did not provide much material for archeological science, it created the conditions for analyzing what happened in this area in the 3rd – beginning of the 1st millennium BC. [32, p. 58-59].

So, in the Zanabad part of the ancient territory of Ganja, during excavations, colored utensils were found. Painted monochrome paint ceramics from the mounds near Ganja (Zurnabad) indicates the association in the III-II millennium BC. e. in single centers of large tribal unions. The presence in Ganja of the production of colored ceramic tableware is one of the hallmarks of urban handicraft in the III-II millennium BC., and at least, proves the emergence of early urban centers in the middle of the III millennium BC.

The tribes of this period were settled in a number of settlements abandoned during the Eneolithic period. As an example, in Nakhichevan - Kultepe, Ovchular tepesi; Kazakh - Babadervish; Southern Azerbaijan - Geytepe and Yanygtepe.

All of them belong to the settlements of this type. The remaining settlements of the early bronze period in Azerbaijan were built in new territories. You can show Gobustan and Mingechevir; in the city of Fizuli - Garakepektepe and Guneshtepe; in Beylagan - Chardakhlytepe; in Jalilabad - Misharchay; in Khachmaz - Gäflya Tepleri; in Barda - Shortepe; in Shabran - Sarkartep; in Agjabadi district - Chuttepe; in Agdam - Garahaji and others.

In Azerbaijan, a number of bronze period tombstones have been investigated near Khankendi and Geygel, Mingechevir and the Mil valley; the cities of Dashkesen and Shamkir in Osmanobuz, Terter in Borsunlakh, Astara district in Telmankend [2, p. 19]. The study of monuments creates prerequisites for the coverage of life and culture, ideological views, as well as methods of economic management of the tribes who settled in Azerbaijan in the early Bronze period.

In the period of the early bronze period in the territory of Azerbaijan, settlements were mostly located closer to the mountains, on the banks of small rivers. Settlements of this period are also found in the central lowland areas on the coasts of the Araz and Kura.

In the high-mountainous regions, small number of burials (Dashkesan) and the ruins of settlements (Kelbajar) were found [2, p. 69-71].

Conclusion

As noted, the Kura - Araz culture prevailed in Azerbaijan in the early bronze period. It has spread to many places in South Ossetia and the North Caucasus in eastern Georgia and Anatolia; in southern Azerbaijan, Syria and Iraq. It is interesting that the cultures in the Caucasus are similar to the cultures formed in Iran and Turkmenistan, which is explained by the similarity of the tribes and the presence of trade relations between them [1, p. 41].

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The settlements of Kura-Araz culture occupy an average of 1-2 hectares of land (Babadervish, Garakepektepe, Misharchay, Chyutte, etc.). This ensured the continuation of life in the following centuries. The formation of a thick cultural stratum is associated with the duration of the lifestyle.

In the places of settlements of the middle bronze period a lot of diverse material was found. Discovered stone clubs were used in different areas. Perhaps their more refined designs were used as weapons.

In the graves excavated the remains of domestic animals, figures of birds and animals, metal objects, made by hand and on the potter's wheel, ordinary and colored dishes.

In Kura - Araz district, monuments of the middle bronze period are identified in the Barda region - Shortepe, Agdam - Rasultepe, Geytepe, Chinartape; Agdzhebedinsky - Chaggaltepe and others [2, p. 19]. On tombstones of the middle bronze

period, some features of early bronze time are preserved.

The deceased were buried on their sides in a wrapped state, along with various objects, and sometimes with their concubines. Marked and the ritual of kindling in the grave campfire, cremation was carried out. The ritual of kindling a fire and cremation spread from the early Bronze period in Azerbaijan continued until the end of the Bronze period.

In a word, in our article, having shown the main milestones of the archaeological excavations in Ganja itself and Ganjabasar, we tried to create an integral, generalized picture of the antiquity of this region of Azerbaijan. Including to demonstrate the new research of the latest archaeological expeditions, which was also the author of the article [6, p. 27-32].

Naturally, this is not the limit, because the archaeological work on our territory and around Ganja, which is the center of antiquity, has great prospects in establishing many historical facts.

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