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ОЛИЙ ВА ЎРТА МАХСУС ТАЪЛИМ ВАЗИРЛИГИ  
МИРЗО УЛУГБЕК НОМИДАГИ  
ЎЗБЕКИСТОН МИЛЛИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТИ**

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ВЫСШЕГО И СРЕДНЕГО СПЕЦИАЛЬНОГО  
ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ УЗБЕКИСТАН  
НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ УЗБЕКИСТАНА  
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**THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY SPECIALIZED  
EDUCATION OF UZBEKISTAN  
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NAMED AFTER MIRZO ULUGHBEK**

**МАРКАЗИЙ ОСИЁДА ТАРИХИЙ-МАДАНИЙ  
ВИЛОЯТЛАРИНИНГ ШАКЛЛАНИШИ ВА  
ЭТНИК ГЕОГРАФИЯСИ МУАММОЛАРИ**  
*ХАЛҚАРО ИЛМИЙ АНЖУМАН*

*МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ НАУЧНАЯ КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ*  
**ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ ИСТОРИКО-КУЛЬТУРНЫХ  
ОБЛАСТЕЙ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ  
И ПРОБЛЕМЫ ЭТНИЧЕСКОЙ ГЕОГРАФИИ**

*INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE*  
**FORMATION OF HISTORICAL-CULTURAL  
AREAS IN CENTRAL ASIA AND PROBLEMS  
OF ETHNIC GEOGRAPHY**

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“МАРКАЗИЙ ОСИЁДА ТАРИХИЙ-МАДАНИЙ ВИЛОЯТЛАРНИНГ  
ШАКЛЛАНИШИ ВА ЭТНИК ГЕОГРАФИЯСИ МУАММОЛАРИ”  
ХАЛҚАРО ИЛМИЙ АНЖУМАН ТЕЗИСЛАРИ

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## **НЕКОТОРЫЕ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ В ПРЕДГОРЬЯХ КУГИТАНГА В 2016 И 2017 ГОДАХ**

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В этом докладе представлен предварительный обзор результатов и данных, полученных в ходе обширной археологической разведки, проведенной в восточных предгорьях Кугитанских гор, особенно в северной Пашхурдской котловине в конце лета 2016 и 2017 гг. Чешско-узбекская экспедиция возобновила здесь широкомасштабное обследование, начатое в сезоны 2014 и 2015 гг. В 2016 году окрестности Бургут-Кургана, а также селеный Кайрит и Зарабаг были подвергнуты нашим исследованиям. Основная цель состояла в том, чтобы охватить как можно больше ландшафта в районе Бургут-Кургана, ранее раскопанного памятника периода Яз-І. Мы сосредоточились на исследовании топографических особенностей памятников, включая каменные объекты, предварительно названные курганами. Они были обнаружены и систематизированы.

В августе 2017 года, завершив изучение окрестностей Бургут-Кургана, мы обратили внимание на другие части Пашхурдской долины, а также на территории к северу от нее, расположенные в предгорьях Кугитанга. В частности были обследованы зоны древнего орошения, поселения и дороги в предгорных оазисах Шерабадской равнины. Ш.Шайдуллаев отвечал за большую часть предварительного хронологического определения керамических комплексов.

В течение двух полевых сезонов 2016 и 2017 гг. были накоплены существенные археологические данные о динамике поселений в предгорьях Кугитанга. Среди археологических объектов можно выделить те, которые имеют наибольший потенциал для дальнейшего изучения. К ним относятся пещера Каптар-Камар с гончарными изделиями раннего железного века, поселения эпохи поздней бронзы Тулькитепе и Юлтепе, группы курганов и подобных объектов к западу от Зарабага, к северу от Карабага и Бургут-Кургана, между Гурджаком и Ходжаункан, а также группа поселений разных периодов, расположенных вдоль правого берега Дабилсая между селениями Пашхурд и Гоз.

Все они дают возможность для дальнейших исследований, археологических раскопок, поскольку они не перекрыты какими-либо структурами или растительностью, учитывая тот факт, что культурные слои указанных поселений относятся к одному периоду. То же самое можно сказать эллинистическом поселении Искандартепа около селения Лойлаган. Дальнейшие исследования в предгорьях Кугитанга и предварительные раскопки отдельных из упомянутых памятников, запланированы Чешско-узбекской экспедицией в сотрудничестве с археологами Франции.

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## **THE WORK AT BURGUT KURGAN AND OTHER IRON AGE SITES IN KAYRIT OASIS**

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The joint Uzbek-French archaeological mission in Protohistoric Bactria aims at studying the settlement dynamics in a unique area, the Kayrit Oasis in the Pashkurt Valley (Sherabad district, Surkhan-Darya Province), during the Early Iron Age (second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> mill. BC). Kayrit Oasis is located in the Maydan Say basin, in a triangle formed by the modern villages of Maydan, Karabag and Zarabag in the Kugitang Tau foothills.

This area was chosen after the discovery in 2014 by the Uzbek-Czech archaeological mission (dir. Ladislav Stančo and Sh. Shaydullaev) of the first site of this period, Burgut Kurgan (Stančo et al. 2016). Since 2015, researches led by a joint Uzbek-Czech-French team has led promising results, shedding a new light on an original occupation of Kayrit Oasis. For the first time, Early Iron Age sites are attested in a mountainous area, while other sites known up to date are located in the lower valley and plains (Lhuillier 2013). These sites are occupied only during the Early Iron Age, allowing a precise characterization of the Handmade painted ware Cultures, also known as Yaz I or Kuchuk I cultures, without fear of chronological disturbances, which constitutes another exceptional configuration in Central Asia. Up to now, several contemporaneous sites have been identified during the surveys led by the Uzbek-Czech mission (mainly by the team of A. Augustinová and L. Stančo, see Stančo 2016; Augustinová et al. 2017), on which

we favour a multiple approach, combining excavations, geophysical survey, and material culture studies.

The best-known site for now is Burgut Kurgan, a site the Academician A. A. Askarov described as a “national treasury of Uzbekistan” when he visited it in June 2018. Since 2015, the outlines of the general planning of the site, which is surrounded by a stone wall, have been defined (Stančo et al. 2016; Kysela et al. 2017). Inside the settlement, structures concentrate against the stone wall; they include rooms with mud bricks walls, smaller benches-like stone structures, fireplaces of various kinds, and associated occupation layers. Grinding tools are numerous. Pottery constitutes the bulk of the archaeological material. All kinds of ceramics known among the Handmade painted ware Cultures of the Early Iron Age are represented here, including of course a majority of handmade pottery, some of which with painted ornaments, but also with a large proportion of incised ornaments. Wheel-fashioned pottery (first coil-made, then shaped on a potter’s wheel), wheel-made pottery, and moulded pottery with textile imprints is also represented (Lhuillier 2016).

In 2018, the Uzbek-French team opened two new trenches, allowing to identify at least three successive occupation of the site during the Iron Age, interrupted by short abandonment levels, evidencing a long occupation of the settlement. In the south-western part of the site, we identified the gate to the site, which includes an interruption of the surrounding stone wall – about 2.20 m large – and some internal installations abutting the stone wall. In the northern part of the site, we excavated a group of several rooms, one of which stands out by its typical features. This room is limited by the stone wall on the northern side, and by mud brick walls on the eastern and southern sides; its western limit is probably out of the trench. The floor of this room and part of the walls are completely covered by potsherds, of Yaz I type, purposely lying flat. A similar room has already been discovered at Burgut Kurgan in 2016 (Шайдуллаев/Хамидов 2017). No entrance has been found to these rooms. Their function remains intriguing, although we can maintain that this unusual layout was made in order to isolate the rooms, where it was most probably not possible to walk. A storage function seems very likely, presumably for dry products, as a cistern would be recognizable by water traces. Another hypothesis favours a ritual function, for the keeping of the corpses in a *kata*.

In parallel to the excavations, in 2017-2018 we led a geophysical survey, using the magnetic method, which measures the local variations of the magnetic field of the earth due to the presence of iron oxide in the soils and in the archaeological structures. At Burgut Kurgan, the magnetic survey confirmed the presence of the stone wall on the entire periphery of the site. It also revealed that

the occupation is not limited *intra muros*, but extends outside the surrounding wall. South of the site, an anomaly extends in line on about 15m, which might have been linked to the entrance to the settlement. North-Northeast of the site, we have obtained the complete outline of a large set of magnetic anomalies that extends on approximately 12 x 10m but which is not visible in the surface topography. Considering its location overhanging the small valley where other sites are located, from which it is possible to see the larger site of Gaza Kutan, it might be some kind of watch structure.

Similar magnetic survey has been led at other identified Early Iron Age sites. In Kayrit Tepa, where the team directed by Shaydullaev and Khamidov has already excavated almost half of the site, it has been limited to the non-excavated, northern half of the site. It delivered some information on the layout of the area still to be excavated, suggesting the architectural remains are located on both sides of two main streets, about 2m large, one oriented roughly East/West, the other North/South.

The largest identified site for now is Gaza Kutan, where a surrounding stone wall is visible in the topography. The information acquired through the magnetic survey confirms the existence of this wall all around the site and allows identifying what appears to be its entrance on the southern side, formed by a chicane opening of 20m in length. Inside the site, the observation of numerous anomalies, some of which seem to be aligned and other extend to 6 to 18 sqm, seems to confirm the traces of an occupation.

Beside these large sites with stone walls, the pedestrian survey had allowed inventory other small sites without any architectural remains at the surface, identified by scattered potsherds only. Two of these sites have been chosen to led magnetic survey because of their location down below Burgut Kurgan, Kayrit VIII and Kayrit IX, including the area between them. Only weak anomalies are identified in the southern part of Kayrit VIII, on a small area of 0.2 ha, suggesting that if archaeological remains are preserved, they are of minor importance, what we intend to test during the following seasons of work.

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## **NEWLY EXCAVATED EARLY IRON AGE KURGANS IN THE EASTERN KUGITANG PIEDMONTS**

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Since 2014 Czech-Uzbekistani Archaeological mission has focused on research on the cultural landscape in the northern part of Paskhurt valley (Surkhandarya province, Sherobod district). Besides a considerable number of settlement sites dated predominantly to Yaz I period (ca. 1500–1000 B.C.), in the vicinity of nowadays villages of Kayrit, Zarabag and Karabag, there were detected 122 simple stone structures in total, occurring isolated or in clusters of five to fifteen features. These cairns were tentatively interpreted as kurgans, burial mounds commonly associated with nomadic peoples inhabiting Eurasian steppe zone. For their examination, there were employed predominantly non-destructive methods, however eight of them were excavated in the seasons 2014–2017. Three of them were dated to Yaz I period.

Kurgans in question – diverse in their size and distribution – are situated at three principal locations: 1. to the north-west of the Kayrit village; 2. in the plain

between the villages of Kampyrtepa and Zarabag; 3. To the north of the Karabag village (Karabag – North area). According to the features clustering, it is possible to divide these three areas into four to ten clusters and sub clusters. Features of larger dimensions (d. up to 6 m) and regularly circular shape were detected only to the north-west of Kayrit, approximately between Yaz I sites Burgut Kurgan and Kayrit Tepa, in visual contact with these settlements, and to the north of Karabag.

Two almost identical larger (d. 8–9 m, h. 0,5–1,4 m) circular-shaped kurgans (Kayrit 01\_001; 01\_007) gave us no evidence for their dating, however, medieval pottery in the pits suggests that they were robbed in this period. Neither any traces of burial nor other structures within the mounds were detected. Pottery assemblages discovered beneath three less regular-shaped features not far from site of Burgut Kurgan allow us to date them to the Yaz I period, nevertheless their purpose was not identified with a sepulchral use, but rather with a ritual one. In case of kurgan Kayrit 01\_008 (6,8×6,9 m, h. 1,4 m), were under the mound discovered a stone ring (d. 3,5 m) around the miniature mound, beneath of which was found a circular pit filled with stones and Yaz I pottery. Near the stone circle, beneath the edge of the upper mound, there were under simple stone paving detected six shallow tiny pits filled with ashy soil and pottery of Yaz I period. Similar pit was discovered also beneath the edge of small oval-shaped mound (3×2 m h. 0,5 m) of kurgan Kayrit 01\_016. Within the construction of kurgan Kayrit 01\_014 (6, 10×4,50 m, h. 0,45 m) was recognised an innerring made of larger stones, which probably delimited a small earthen mound situated under the stone construction. Yaz I pottery was found within this mound. Beneath its central part, there was a small shallow pit detected filled with stones. In case of three other smaller (d. 2–3 m) structures which were excavated in vicinity of Burgut Kurgan (site Kayrit 3), no archaeological material was found.

In the northern part of Pashhurt valley has been proved certain relation between at least three excavated stone mounds and Yaz I culture. Differences from the other kurgans in the area can be observed not only in presence (initial deposition?) of Yaz I period pottery, but also in shape of this features, which is more irregular (oval or oblong), and in the inner constructions shaped as lesser mounds and stone rings. The purpose of all these objects remains, however, still unclear. The absence of bones or another human skeletal remains indicates that the purpose is not (at least primarily) connected with sepulchral use. The collected evidence may, however, suggest rather a ritual (purification? sacrifice? veneration?) than a utilitarian function of these features, apparently tied with the surrounding settlement of Yaz I culture. In the future, it is necessary for additional excavations to acquire more comparable data.



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