



"KHOREZM EXPEDITION" - A UNIQUE PHENOMENON IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE

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Abstract

This article presents the organizational and scientific aspects of one of the largest, not only on the scale of the former Soviet Union, but throughout the world, archaeological expeditions - the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition led by S.P. Tolstov. The history of the Khorezm oasis has always been in the focus of attention of archaeologists, historians, orientalists, art critics and other specialists, since the history of the evolution of Khorezm was based on complex irrigation systems, geographical location on trade caravan routes and localization on the border zone of mutual influence of the settled and nomadic population of the region. As a result, the paper lists and characterizes aspects of the uniqueness of this expedition in archaeological science.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Central Asia, Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Amu Darya, S.P. Tolstov, Ya.G. Gulyamov, A.I. Terenozhkin, Toprak-kala, Koi-Krylgan-kala, Aral Sea region, Ancient Khorezm, IIMK

Archaeological research in the Central Asian region has played and is playing an important role in the study of its history, especially the ancient and early medieval periods. Large archaeological expeditions organized in the second half of the 1930s in this territory under the leadership of M.E. Masson (TAKE), S.P. Tolstova (KhAEE), A.N. Bernshtam (Semirechye), A.I. Terenozhkin (Samarkand) made it possible to take a fresh look at the ancient and early medieval history of Central Asia. In these expeditions, the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic complex expedition, which lasted several decades, occupies a special place.

Khorezm is one of the ancient centers of civilization in Central Asia. The region is located in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya (Oksa), on the territory of Uzbekistan (including Karakalpakstan) and Turkmenistan. The history of this region, as an object of all kinds of research, has always been the focus of attention of specialists - archaeologists, historians, orientalists, art critics, writers, architects, etc., since the history of the evolution of Khorezm was based on complex irrigation systems, geographical location on the trade caravan routes and localization on the border zone of contacts between nomadic and settled population.

From the 30s of the XX century. The Khorezm oasis became the object of many years of archaeological research, which subsequently had world significance. In 1937, the Institute of Ethnography of the USSR Academy of Sciences under the leadership of S.P. Tolstov, the Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition (KHAE), unique in the archaeological science of the Soviet period, was organized. The activity of the expedition was divided into three stages: 1) 1937 - 1940; 2) 1945 - 1970s; 3) 1970 - 1990s.



The uniqueness of the expedition lies in a number of aspects:

First of all, the longest in time not only on the scale of the former Soviet Union, but also in world archaeological practice - 1937 to 1997 - 60 years. However, the preparatory work on the part of S.P. Tolstov began several years before. In particular, the researcher in 1931 - 1937, working on the issues of the ancient history of Central Asia and the countries of the Near and Middle East, studying scientific works and written sources, was convinced that "only a campaign for new historical facts hidden in the earth, only widely set and purposeful archaeological work can put the development of debatable problems of the ancient history of Central Asia on a solid base that does not allow misunderstandings" [1]. This period, the first half of the 1930s, was a kind of theoretical preparation for large-scale research [2]. In particular, it should be said that S.P. Tolstov had been preparing for these studies for a long time. Namely, one of the main aspects of the preparation was the study of Arabic and Persian languages in order to personally study the written sources about Central Asia. M.M. writes about this in his memoirs. Rozhanskaya is a friend of the daughter of S.P. Tolstova, later an employee of the KhAEE: "In the 60s, in conversations with me, a well-known Arabist, professor of Moscow State University and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Ode-Vasilyeva, told me that Sergei Pavlovich was the best of all her students for many years of teaching, but he did not last long had the opportunity to work with her" [3].

Regarding the deep interest of S.P. Tolstova, his student and colleague Ya.G. Gulyamov wrote: "When it comes to studying the ancient past of Central Asia, one cannot help but talk about the historian, archaeologist and ethnographer, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Sergei Pavlovich. As a matter of fact, thanks to tireless activity and diligence in discovering the ancient secrets of the distant past, a huge contribution to the study of the history of Central Asia, he became famous not only in the Union, but also as a remarkable scientist received worldwide recognition. Sergey Pavlovich, who devoted his conscious life to science, can truly be a worthy standard of youth in serving the noble cause of the nation ... Among the expeditions that I have seen, there was no such disciplined, energetic and mobile expedition as the Khorezm expedition. It looked like a research institute. In this mighty expedition, the most difficult works of S.P. Tolstov himself was the first to start" [4].

Secondly, it was the largest expedition in terms of territorial coverage, which included Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The studies of the KhAEEE covered an area of several hundred thousand square kilometers, and taking into account the aerial photography, the area of the studied territories reaches up to 5 million hectares [5]. Geographically, these are the Southern Kyzyl Kum and Northern Kara Kum, the Caspian region, the Eastern Prearalie, the lower reaches of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya. But the initial and main interest, the so-called "center of gravity" and the place of the most extensive research of the entire work of the expedition was Khorezm.

Thirdly, KhAEEE is unique in terms of the number of studied monuments. For 60 years of functioning of KhAEE, more than 2,000 archaeological sites have been identified, mapped, described and examined[6]. Of these, stationary excavations were carried out at 107 sites; etc.).

Fourthly, KhAEE is unique in terms of the publication of the results of the research: these are 16 volumes of the "Proceedings of the Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition" from 1952



to 1991 [7] , 9 issues of the “Materials of the Khorezm Expedition” [8] from 1959 to 1973. In addition, separate scientific monographs by S.P. Tolstova [9], Ya.G. Gulyamova[10] , A.V. Vinogradov [11], popular science works by R. Bershadsky [12], V.D. Berestov[13], dozens of scientific articles in journals[14], etc. The last result of the research, which lasted six decades, was the book by Yu.A. Rapoport, E.E. Nerazik and L.M. Levina [15].

It is also noteworthy that until now, interest in the activities of this expedition has not faded. This is expressed through the study of the life and scientific activities of the expedition leader S.P. Tolstov[16], memoirs of the "Khorezmians" themselves - participants of the KhAEEE[17]. The latest work, to date, is the publication of the book by I.A. Arzhantseva "Khorezm. History of discoveries and research"[18], prepared on the basis of unique materials from the archives of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology named after N.N. Miklukho-Maclay of the Russian Academy of Sciences, collected by scientists during the work of the Khorezm expedition, which worked from 1937 to 1997. The book includes research materials from 1937-1959: information on the history of the discovery and research of archaeological sites of Ancient Khorezm, photographs, drawings, drawings, excerpts from field diaries and reports of the expedition members and their memoirs. The initial stage of the expedition is covered in detail - the discovery of the Khorezm oasis, archaeological research at the main sites: Toprak-kala, Koi-Krylgan-kala, Dzhanbas-kala.

Fifthly, KhAEE is unique in terms of the complexity of organizing the expedition itself and the scientific results obtained. In 1937, the expedition was organized by the Moscow branch of the Institute of the History of Material Culture of the Academy of Sciences (IIMK AN) of the USSR, headed by S.P. Tolstov, who worked from August to September. The group consisted of 2-3 people. During the two months of the first season, monuments were explored and discovered: in the vicinity of the city of Turtkul - the fortress of Kunya-Shurakhan (Shurakhan village), the fortress of the old Shabbaz, the fortress of Pila-kala (a schematic plan was taken, two pits were laid), the ruins of a building of the XIV century. near Shabbaz; on the right bank of the Amu Darya - Guldursun Big fortress, Guldursun Small fortress, Duman-kala fortress, Dzhydlyk-kala fortress, Kavak-kala fortress, castles and estates in the Kavak-kala region, Kosh-Parsan castles, Ane-kala complex, Ui-Kala castle, Berkut-kala fortress (plan removed); castles of the dead oasis Berkut-kala, Teshik-kala castle, Kumbaskan-kala castle, ruins of Narijan-baba, buildings south of Narinjan.

As a result of the first season of archaeological work, a significant part of the monuments of material culture in the Shabbaz and Turtkul regions was recorded, places were identified for further archaeological work, which made it possible to draw the following conclusions: 1) ancient irrigation; 2) the archaeological material, including numismatic, and the architecture of the surveyed monuments outline three stages in the development of material culture: the antique (the first centuries AD), the period from the 5th to the 8th centuries and the period from the 10th to the 13th centuries; 3) for the last two stages, a separate estate was a characteristic type of rural settlement [19], 4) intelligence materials made it possible to advance the development of the issue of "dihkans" - farmers who constituted "the dominant class of pre-Muslim Central Asia" [20]. In 1938, the Institute for the Protection and Study of Monuments of Antiquity, Art and Nature (Uzkomstaris), the State Hermitage



Museum (Leningrad) and the Central Museum of Local Lore of Karakalpakstan, i.e., participated in the organization of the Khorezm expedition. four government agencies. The second season ran from July 11 to November 17. Work was carried out at 20 archaeological sites. As a result, Bronze Age sites and several ancient and early medieval monuments were discovered on the lands of ancient irrigation of the Khorezm oasis, which contributed to the definition of a continuous line of development of the material culture of Khorezm from the Bronze Age (II millennium BC) to the 13th century. AD In addition, it was found that the monuments of different eras were located zonally, and the ancient settlements turned out to be the most remote from the Amu Darya deep into the desert, occupying the entire vast territory of ancient irrigation lands, which was reduced in subsequent eras. At the same time, further directions of research were outlined to resolve the issues of the social history of Khorezm and the history of its cultural ties with neighboring countries: Eastern Europe, Bactria, India and eastern Turkestan [21]. In 1939, six institutions already participated in the Khorezm expedition: IIMK of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Moscow branch), the State Historical Museum (Moscow), Uzkomstaris, the Turkmen Institute of History (Ashgabat), the Central Museum of Local Lore of Karakalpakstan (Turtkul), the Faculty of History of Moscow State University. The third season lasted from June 11 to November 6 - i.e. five months. The work was already carried out by two groups along three routes - on the right and left banks of the Amu Darya, as a result of which archaeological surveys, excavations and stationary work were carried out at more than 60 archaeological sites. The main results of the third season boiled down to: 1) the discovery of the site of the Neolithic (Keltiminar) culture of Khorezm (Dzhanbas-kala No. 4), new sites of the bronze (Tazabagyab) culture, the Amirabad culture, and the establishment of stratigraphic differences in the occurrence of all three cultures; 2) the study of ancient and medieval monuments, which made it possible to establish the time of their existence and determine the main characteristic features of material culture, social organization and political history for each era; 3) the study of the ancient irrigation system, which made it possible to localize the canals of the Amu Darya right bank historically recorded in medieval sources [22]. We have cited, as an example, only the first stage of the expedition's activity - the first pre-war three-year organizational and archaeological work and their results. After the Second World War, in 1945, the second stage of the expedition began, as a result of which new discoveries were made that contributed to the disclosure of the most complete picture of the history of Central Asia in general, and Khorezm in particular. Isn't this grandiosity, efficiency and uniqueness?

S.P. Tolstov, summing up the results of the first stage (1937 - 1939) of the Khorezm expedition, stated: "Although we have essentially begun our work, we can now sum up some of the results of our expedition, which makes it possible to shed light on an ancient culture that was completely unknown 3 years ago Khorezm, from the ancient sites of hunters and fishermen with Neolithic equipment to the era of the great Khorezmshahs. ... The history of settlement types sheds light on a number of dark and controversial issues in the history of the social system of ancient Central Asia in general and Khorezm in particular.

The architecture and fine arts of ancient Khorezm are presented with great completeness, allowing us to talk about the high level and great originality of the artistic culture of the Khorezmians.



The discovery of Khorezmian coins gave us the first monuments of Khorezmian epigraphy, the number and types of which are steadily growing.

Thus, step by step, this powerful, unique civilization, hidden under the dead sands of the Karakum and Kyzyl Kum, is revealed to us from new and new sides” [23]. Sixthly, Since 1945, the Khorezm expedition became known as the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition, i.e. began to bear the character of complexity, which included: archaeologists, ethnographers, historians, architects, art critics, etc. In addition, the leader of the expedition S.P. Tolstov was an ethnographer, he was probably guided by the arguments of V.V. Bartold, who rightly noted as early as 1927: “In ethnographic terms, the study of Khorezm, where some household features have survived to this day, such as a farmstead and the original type of cart. ... Khorezm by no means lived an isolated life and had close trade relations with other countries; but surrounded by the deserts of Khorezm, as in England surrounded by the seas, all life had a peculiar way of life, and even features borrowed from outside showed a special vitality”[24]. Seventh, for the first time in the history of archaeological research in the Soviet Union, in the work of the Khorezm expedition since 1946, they began to use aerial methods[25]. This was due to the fact that the time has come to move from the study of individual monuments of material culture to the solution of broad historical and geographical problems, a complete archaeological survey of large areas, as well as the need for mapping and systematization of archaeological sites, compiling archaeological maps and topographic plans.

It should be noted that the use of aviation contributed to the gradual expansion of the coverage of the study area; reduction of examination time; to quickly get to such objects, to which the HAEE detachments had long traveled before; great savings in time and money.

Expedition leader S.P. Tolstov stated that “in just two months of field work in 1946, about 9,000 km were covered by air routes, about 5,000 aerial photographs were taken, up to 60 off-aerodrome landings were made for ground surveys, more than 250 new monuments were registered and examined” [26]. It is known that one of the main scientific problems of the Khorezm expedition was the study of ancient irrigation systems. It was noteworthy that the use of aerial photography contributed to a more detailed study of the ancient irrigation of the Khorezm oasis. When applying this method, it was possible to see what could not be found during ground studies, to restore the plan of the links of irrigation canals that disappeared under the sands, to reconstruct the ancient hydrography.

Eighthly, there are still no analogues of such an expedition as the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic complex expedition led by Professor Sergei Pavlovich Tolstov! In 2017, the KhAEEE turned 80, and its leader S.P. Tolstov is 110 years old.

One of the main theoretical conclusions of S.P. Tolstov, after two seasons of archaeological research, concluded that “Ancient Khorezm in its material culture differs sharply from the culture of Sasanian Iran, and the line of its more ancient historical ties goes northwest to Eastern Europe, and later to East Turkestan and other areas. Central Asia. This refutes the theory of a unified (our italics - F.Sh.) "Iranian" culture of the peoples of Central Asia, the Iranian Highlands and Eastern Europe in the era of antiquity. Central and Central Asia are not appendages of the all-influencing Iran, but an independent cultural and historical region that has gone through a difficult historical path of



development” [27]. This conclusion of S.P. Tolstov is very important because before that the thesis that the ancient history of the material culture of Uzbekistan was part of Iranian culture prevailed in foreign historiography. The head of the Khorezm expedition repeatedly refuted this thesis and other incorrect arguments in his works[28]. Thus, it can be argued that the largest in the Soviet Union and one of the largest in the world, the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic complex expedition led by Professor S.P. Tolstov is a unique phenomenon in archaeological science in general, and in Uzbekistan in particular, which had a great influence on the development of historical science.

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