

# History of Paleolithic research in the south-eastern massifs of Samarkand region.

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**Annotation.** This article examines the history of studying ancient Stone Age monuments in the southeastern part of Samarkand, as well as the results of research and the significance of the conducted analyses. The main focus is on the history of investigating Stone Age monuments discovered in the Bulungur district.

**Keywords.** Stone Age monuments

Naib archaeological monuments have been studied by scientists from the Ancient Samarkand Era to the Iron Age.

Today we consider the history of the study of Stone Age monuments of mankind studied in the territory of present-day Bulungur district, located on the western slopes of the Turkestan mountain range. Monuments of the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods have been identified and studied by scientists in these areas. Research of the Stone Age in these areas began in the 60-70s of the XX century and has continued until now, albeit intermittently.

The southwestern borders of Bulungur district are bounded by the Turkestan mountain range. This disambiguation page lists articles associated with the title Turbine. Jump to search The climate is continental, with different characteristics in different parts. The climate in the foothills and in the foothills is hot and dry. Disambiguation pages with short descriptions The average January temperature is 0.2°, and July 25°, 26°, °. The maximum temperature is 45°. [7] The climate is cooler in the higher parts, with an average annual temperature close to -G, and 11.4°C in January. The lowest temperature is -34°. Categories: Part of the precipitation falls in the form of snow. Snow thickness is 15–30 cm, in some places up to 1 m, and does not melt until March, and in higher places until May. Disambiguation[edit]<sup>1</sup>.

There are many glaciers in the eastern part of the Turkestan Ridge. Their total area reaches about 150 km<sup>2</sup>. In its southern part there is a large Zarafshan glacier, which is a tributary of the Zarafshan River, which flows into the Bulungur district of Urgut district. The Philadelphia Philadelphia Philharmonic Encyclopedia (1966–1995), the Philadelphia Philharmonic Encyclopedia (1916–1995), the Philadelphia Philharmonic Encyclopedia From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia The city of Tashkent and the city of Tashkent

The first Stone Age monument discovered in Bulungur district is the Khojamadgil monument. This monument was discovered in 1969 by a group of paleolithic scientists led by N. Tashkenboev in the village of Khodjamazgil, which is located 70 km south-east of Samarkand, near a large spring. The Khojamzgil Paleolithic monument is an open-type monument located 35 km east of the village of Kildon<sup>2</sup>.

The Khojamazgil monument was identified around a large spring, and the main monument part was located at the bottom of a large artificial reservoir later built by residents in the spring itself. In 1969 alone, a field survey was carried out and more than 200 stone products made of silicon raw materials were collected on an area of 3 hectares. 70-75 m south-east of the spring (2x2 m in size) and 75-80 m north-west of the

<sup>1</sup> [https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkiston\\_tizmasi/utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkiston_tizmasi/utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>2</sup> Askarov A., Tashkenbaev N. Ancient Past of Samarkand.-OHY, 1970, No 9, pp.79-84; Tashkenbaev N. Kh., Suleymanov R. Kh. Kul'tura drevnekamennogo veka doliny Zarafshana [Culture of the ancient stone age of the Zarafshan valley]. Tashkent. 1980. pp. 76—79.

pool (2.5x1.5 m in size) 2 observation shafts were also discarded. The first shurf was recorded to have been extended to 3.40 m, although a small number of stone objects were recorded at 3.15–3.3 m, where it was recorded that they were found among the sedimentary rocks. In the second layer of the observation shaft 2, a dark brown clay layer 20-25 cm thick was found, on which traces of ochre and charcoal layers are found, along with stone objects. The shurf will not be completed due to the interference of pool water<sup>3</sup>. Thus concluded the 1969 initial part of the study.

The conclusion of the preliminary research from the Khojamazgil monument is that the main large amount of washed, cultural layer of the monument has been destroyed. A technical and typological analysis of the obtained stone products gives the conclusion that these excavation materials are similar to the Late Paleolithic stage of Samarkand. However, many questions about the monument still remain open. These goals were left for further research.

A group of paleolithic scientists of the Samarkand Archaeological Institute led by N. Tashkenboev, after 10 years, after experiments in research in a number of monuments of the Zarafshan oasis, in 1981-1982 again began research work at the Khojamazgil monument<sup>4</sup>.

A total area of 70 sq m is explored during these years. Initially, a large-scale excavation area (8x6 m) and 3 small shards of different sizes were excavated. These excavations were recorded in different parts of the spring and its pond. During the excavation, a very large number of stone objects are recorded. Fauna material is also found, but they are mostly broken, crushed, it is noted that it is impossible to determine which animal belongs, scientists assess this by the high humidity level of the state of conservation. It is noted that the finds are more common in the central and western parts of the excavated area (8x6 m), while in the southern part they are almost non-existent. At 2.85 –3.35 meters of excavation, a cultural layer of light yellow and marl was revealed, 0.35-0.45 cm thick, thickening to the west, in which a large number of stone objects are recorded.<sup>5</sup>

It is noted that the excavated stone products make up a large amount of green flint raw materials, in addition to brown, gray, white flints also play a significant share. According to the processing, plates and tips, and nuclei are said to make up a large share. It was noted that of the 15 nuclei obtained as a result of the study, 10 were nuclei designed to obtain a prismatic plate with one or two shock areas, 3 were disks, and 2 were nuclei with a multi-die area. It is noted that such a characteristic processing is typical of the places of Samarkand and Siyab<sup>6</sup>.

Further research at the Khojamazgil monument was carried out in 1983-1984. Excavations in 1983 were carried out by a group of paleolithicists of the Samarkand archaeological institute headed by N. Tashkenboev. This year's artificial pond will be carried out on an area of 48 m sq (8x6 m) on the north-west bank of the basin. At 1-1.20 meters of L-52 sq m of excavation, an ash layer 10-15 cm thick is revealed. Through this shurf, it is believed that the cultural layer of the Monument has been preserved in a different state. Because, in the center of the area where the study was carried out, the cultural layer has not been completely disturbed, and in some parts there is a partial violation of the upper layers of the cultural layer. Cultural remains are collected in one geological layer, where stoneware, bones and ash remains have been recorded. The inhabitants of ancient Khojamazgil used mostly dark green flint to make their weapons of labor. The source of this flint was found in the village of Gishali 8 km southeast of the Khojamazgil settlement<sup>7</sup>.

In general, a group of paleolithic scientists led by N. Tashkenboev noted a new monument of the late Paleolithic outside the city of Samarkand. This study was very significant. For more than 10 years of research with discontinuities, conclusions were given about the statistics of the Khojamazgil monument and the technique and typology of processing of stone products.

<sup>3</sup> Tashkenbaev N. Kh., Suleymanov R. Kh. Kul'tura drevnekamennogo veka doliny Zarafshana [Culture of the ancient stone age of the Zarafshan valley]. Tashkent. 1980. pp. 76—79.

<sup>4</sup> Tashkenbaev N.Kh., 1983. Upper Paleolithic site of Khojamazgil (Samarkand region) // "Archaeological Discoveries of 1981". Science, Moscow.

<sup>5</sup> Tashkenbaev N.Kh. On the results of the study of the Khojamazgil Upper Paleolithic site. - 1986. - № 20. - P. 3-9.

<sup>6</sup> Shu peanut butter. ИМКУ. - 1986. — No. 20. - C. 3-9.

<sup>7</sup> Tashkenbaev N.Kh. Some Data on the Paleolithic of the Zarafshan Valley. - 1987. - № 21. - P. 3-11.

A group of paleolithicists led by N. Tashkenbaev explored 8 large streams in the vicinity during field searches for the distribution of the monument of Khojamadgil and its surrounding areas, the identification of raw material sources. During the search, the researchers note 2 more finds dating back to the ancient Stone Age of mankind.

Two new places in the vicinity of Khujmazgil where objects of the Late Paleolithic period were found: Kattahovuz and Gizhali are discovered. The first is located 5 km northeast of Khojamazgil and 8 km southeast<sup>8</sup>.

A small number of stone objects were found during the initial study of the Big Village Find. The total number of finds is 8 units and it is noted that they were collected near the ruins of the old village. The collection of finds includes 2 pieces of weapon made of green flint, 4 flint plates, 2 of which were deliberately shattered, and 2 sharp-pointed combined weapons made of 2 large flint plates.

A 1×1 m excavation shaft is determined in order to study the stratigraphy of the location of the large basin. At a depth of 1.50 m above ground level, a plate carved of light brown flint is found in a layer of sandstone with a brown tinge. On the surface of the plate there are traces of parallel directions, the dimensions of which are 5.0×1.5×0.3 cm. A fragment of flint of a similar color (1.4×0.7×0.3 cm) was found near it. During the continuation of the shurf, a rare faceted shearer dating back to the Late Paleolithic period was found at a depth of 1.65 m. It was made of dark brown flint. The working edge of the scraper is concave and the angle is set to be 50°. It is determined that the side edges of the clipper allow for a comfortable grip of the tool using the thumb and index fingers.

Disambiguation pages with short descriptions Among the six stone items found, there were three fragments of lightning. Two of them are dark brown flint and have dimensions: 2.5×2.2×0.8 and 3.0×3.5×1.1 cm. The third has small retinal marks on its back surface and is thought to have been used as a shearer. Dimensions: 5.0×1.5×0.4 cm. In the collection, both plates are identified and various processing marks are noted<sup>9</sup>.

The researchers conclude that the stone tools of the new Paleolithic sites in the Bulungur region have similarities with the finds at the Khojamazgil, Samarkand and Siyab settlements. Technological styles in the area confirm that the Late Paleolithic period is characteristic of the cultures of the Valley of the Zarafshan.

These findings strengthen the conclusion that the traces of the Stone Age culture of the Zarafshan oasis extended to distant regions and lasted for a long time.

In conclusion, in the south-eastern part of Samarkand, the research of the Samarkand group of paleolithic people, which began in the late 60s of the last century under the leadership of N. Tashkenboev, achieves great results.

First of all; On the western foothills of the Turkestan mountain range, the tamaddun of mankind has been mastered since the Late Paleolithic period and has spread to adjacent areas, forming a cultural area.

Second; Paleolithic monuments in the area have been strongly anthropogenic influences, so cultural strata have been recorded as intact or in very small quantities, sometimes in overlapping appearances.

Thirdly; The materials of the monuments found in this area are also characteristic of the Zarafshan oasis cultures, which we can say continued the technological traditions of stone carving and ensured their longevity.

We can say that the re-study of the area's Stone Age monuments has long since stalled, as we will not find any re-scientific research on the subject.

In 2023, a team of Stone Age scholars of the Samarkand Institute of Archaeology and the Department of Archaeology of Samarkand State University reorganized new exploration research in the region based on new theories and technologies.

Field exploration and partial excavations will be carried out in the region throughout June 2023. Researchers of the Department of Stone Age of Samarkand Archaeological Institute H. Hoshimov, researchers A. Rajabov, basic doctoral student A. Imomov, junior researchers F. Tursunkulov, I. Kandaharov, head of the Department of archeology of Samarkand State University O. Ergashev, Ph.D.

<sup>8</sup> Tashkenbaev N.Kh., 1983. Upper Paleolithic site of Khojamazgil (Samarkand region) // "Archaeological Discoveries of 1981". Science, Moscow.

<sup>9</sup> N. Kh. Tashkenbaev., On New Paleolithic Localities in the Samarkand Region// OHY, 1985, No 1, pp.51-52

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Berdikulov, independent researcher A. Bakhronov, basic doctoral student L. Ungalov participated in the research work. The expedition was responsible for conducting excavations at the Khojamamazgil 2 site on the western slopes of the Turkestan mountain range, identifying and partially excavating Stone Age monuments. From the surface of the monument were recovered a flint slab from the Late Paleolithic period<sup>10</sup>.

In subsequent seasons, excavations are continued in the area, revealing rich materials. We will dwell on this in more detail in our next work.

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<sup>10</sup> O.Ergashev, H.Hoshimov, A.Rajabov, M.Berdikulov, A.Imomov, L.Ungalov, I.Kandaharov.A.Bakhronov, F.Tursunkulov., Results of preliminary research of the monument of the Khojamazgil 2 Stone Age., At the crossroads of cultures of the Stone Age of Central Asia // Conference materials. Samarkand-2023., pp. 77-80.