



SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF BACTRIA'S HELLENISM PERIOD.

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 6 th July 2023 Accepted: 8 th August 2023 Published: 10 th September 2023	<p>Bactria is an ancient center of civilization on the Great Silk Road was located and included the territories of presentday southern Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and northern Afghanistan.</p> <p>Settlement and development of Hellenistic culture in ancient Bactria it belongs to III-II centuries B. C. During this period, the ancient culture that historically developed in the land of Bactria showed new features. This is especially expressed in architecture, ceramics and fine arts. Many conducted studies provide information on how the revival of urban planning and the emergence of new era cities, as well as the adoption of new styles in urban planning and architecture, took place today in the land of Ancient Bactria¹.</p>

Keywords:

¹ Пугаченкова Г. А. К архитектурной типологии в зодчестве Бактрии и Восточной Парфии // ВДИ. 1973. № 1.; Кошеленко Г. А., Мунчаев Р. М. Раскопки на городище Ай-Ханум в 1965–1968 гг. // Бактрийские древности. Л., 1976. С. 118–124.; Пидаяев Ш. Р. Стратиграфия городища Старого Термеза в свете новых раскопок // Городская культура Бактрии-Тохаристана и Согда. Ташкент, 1987. С. 87–97.; Абдуллаев К. А. Раскопки на Паенкургане в Байсунском районе (Северная Бактрия) // Археологические исследования в Узбекистане в 2000 г. Самарканд, 2001. С. 25–30.; Мокробродов В. В. Раскопки крепости Курганзол в 2003 году. // Труды Байсунской научной экспедиции. Вып. 3. Ташкент, 2005. С. 52–55.; Ртвеладзе Э. В. Археологические исследования в Бандыхане в 1974–1975 гг. // Труды Байсунской научной экспедиции. Вып. 3. Ташкент, 2007. С. 67–95.



COLONIAL POLICY.

At the end of the 4th century B. C., Bactria, which was conquered by Alexander the Great, began to pursue a policy of colonization. In the implementation of this policy of colonization, the following three main tools were used: 1. Army. 2. Pre-existing military garrisons. 3. New cities settled by the Greek population². The policy of colonization was carried out primarily through the deployment of the Greek-Macedonian military in these areas. This was reflected in the construction of existing or newly built military fortresses. The main purpose of military fortresses was to keep the conquered territories under control³.

By establishing new cities, Alexander could solve several problems. Some experts see these cities only as a means of protecting the state from attacks by local tribes. However, such an approach cannot be considered correct. Alexander's policy of building cities had strategic and social goals⁴.

The establishment of the Seleucid state and the appointment of Antiochus as viceroy of the eastern provinces started a new wave of colonization in this area. In other words, it was manifested as a process of "mastering" the territory of Central Asia by the Greeks. Military fortresses played a key role in the colonial policy of the Seleucids. The cities founded by the Seleucids were much closer to Macedonian cities⁵. However, most such cities were originally built as military fortresses. The established military forts later became cities. According to their level, *katoikia* were considered between *koma* and *polis*, B. said. Bar-Kohva⁶.

The population brought from the West was mainly located in the following three types of settlements. 1. In garrisons in large cities that already existed; 2. Military colonies reorganized as special fortresses; 3. Cities⁷.

Geography of distribution of Bactrian cities and settlements during Hellenism G. A. Koshelenko, Z. V. Serditykh, E.V. Rtveladze, V. Ball, J. K. Covered in *Curtain Studies*.

² Курций Руф. X.2.8.

³ Фор П. Александр Македонский. М. 2001.

⁴ Кошеленко Г. А. Греческий полис на эллинистическом Востоке. М. 1979. С. 72.

⁵ Grainger J. D. *The Cities of Seleucid Syria*. Oxford. 1990. P. 65–66.

⁶ Bar-Kochva B. *The Seleucid Army. Organisation and tactics in the Great Campaigns*. Cambridge. 1976. P. 23.

⁷ Кошеленко Г. А., Гаибов В. А. Эллинистический Восток: колонизация верхний сатрапий (масштабы, динамика, характер). ПИФК. № 2. 2014. 169.

In Southern Bactria, there were 47 settlements during the Achaemenid period, but by the time of the Seleucids, their number decreased to 28⁸. The number of recorded monuments during the Greco-Bactrian kingdom reaches 76⁹. In Southern Bactria, the city-type monuments of the Hellenistic period can include Baktr, Aykhanim, Emshitepa and Dilbarjin. The city of Bactria served as the center of the eastern provinces during the Seleucid period and the capital during the Greco-Bactrian state. Aikhonim was considered to be a major cultural center on the far eastern edge of Bactria and a city of important military and strategic importance¹⁰.

The monuments of the Hellenistic period of Northern Bactria are divided into the following three groups: 1. Cities 2. Military fortresses 3. Villages.

Monuments of the first group: Old Termiz, Jondavlattepa, Haitobodtepa, Saksonokhur, Yalangtushtepa can be included. Military fortresses include Uzundara, Kurganzol, Kapchigaitepa, Poyonkurgan, and Kampirtepa.

ARCHITECTURE.

In the field of architecture, the influence of the Greeks is primarily visible in public and religious buildings. Speaking about the impact of the Hellenic culture on local architecture, it is worth noting the use of stone in construction. In architecture, complex stone constructions were mainly created by Greek masters¹¹. Construction of buildings from stone is not a characteristic feature of Central Asian architecture. During the Hellenistic period, a new way of decorating buildings was introduced in the field of construction - mosaic. This type of craftsmanship clearly shows the influence of Greek culture on the local culture. The reason is that the mosaic technique used to decorate the buildings was completely new to Bactrian architecture. Here, Greek masters used the mosaic style typical of archaic and classical architecture in Greece. We can see this in the example of the Moon Lady monument.

⁸ Ball W. avec la collaboration de Gardin J. C. *Archaeological Gazetteer of Afganistan// Catalogue des sites archiologiques d'Afganistan*. Vol. I-II. Paris. 1982. maps. 60-61.

⁹ Ibid. map 62.

¹⁰ Бернар П. Проблемы греческой колониальной истории и урбанизм эллинистического города Центральной Азии // Проблемы античной культуры. М. 1986. С. 249-250.

¹¹ Bernard P. *Materiaux et techniques de construction // Fouilles d'Ai Khanoum I: (Campagnes 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968)*. P., 1973. P. 11.



Architectural styles, typology of structures are formed in the course of centuries-old architectural experience of peoples. Climate and natural environment are the main factors in the formation of architectural typology. Building materials and construction-engineering methods are closely related to this process. Raw brick, straw, plaster and sometimes aerated brick are the main building materials in architecture. In the Bactrian-Parthian architecture, the technical methods of building vaults and domes were developed¹², in turn, seismic processes were taken into account and elastic beam systems were used. Due to seismic conditions, stone structures are rare in Bactria.

The continental climate of Central Asia (hot summers and cold winters) forces people to reckon with this law of nature and encourages them to build buildings in accordance with the climate. This is reflected in the construction of the walls of the buildings from thick straw. The reason is that such straw walls provided warmth in winter and coolness in summer. It should be noted that special attention is paid to the construction of verandas as a component of the structure in architecture.

During the Hellenistic period, a new style of building with a central element, i.e., a courtyard or a hall, emerged in the architecture of Central Asia, including Bactria. Now a new type of construction - the construction of buildings in the form of a "hall surrounded by corridors" with a columned gable at the front of the building - began to take shape as a tradition¹³.

Monumental buildings: porches in palaces and temples gave them a special look. Bactrian architecture used columns with a stone base. Although Greek-Bactrian architecture also has stone columns under the influence of Greek architecture (in monuments such as Oy-Khonim, Saxonokhur, Termiz, Ayritom, Takht-Sangin¹⁴, however, it was not widespread due to the frequent occurrence of earthquakes in this area. Columns found in Bactrian cities and large monuments dating back to the Hellenistic period are set on two or more often three-tiered bases.

¹² Пугаченкова Г. А. К архитектурной типологии в зодчестве Бактрии и Восточной Парфии // ВДИ. № 1. С. 121.

¹³ Пугаченкова Г. А., Ртвеладзе Э. В. Северная Бактрия-Тохаристан. Т. 1990. С. 85-88.

¹⁴ Дьяконов М. М. Археологические работы в нижнем течении реки Кафирнигана (Кобадиян) (1950-1951 гг.). МИА, 37. 1953. С. 265.

POTTERY

During the Hellenistic period, the field of pottery in Bactria rose to a new stage of its development. As a result of archeological research carried out in the following years, specialists have expressed the opinion that there is a unique "moon-lady type pottery complex" and "termiz type pottery complex" in pottery during this period¹⁵. From these points, it can be concluded that although the pottery found in the monuments located along the two banks of Amudarya are very close to each other, there are certain differences. Greek pottery traditions—new types of pottery vessels, stamped images, and pillared pottery kilns appear in the hearth. By the Hellenistic period in Bactria, a new type of pottery kiln, the pottery kiln, was still two-tiered, but its hearth was traditionally built with a pillar, a feature of Greek pottery kilns¹⁶.

In Bactria, earthenware and the pottery wheel were made by hand. Ceramic molds were also used in the preparation of pottery vessels. One such mold was identified in the Greco-Bactrian layers of Campirtepa fortress¹⁷. In pottery, new types of vessels appeared - amphora, krater, fiala (bowl), "megara bowls", "fish plate", assk, ariballa and alabaster pottery vessels. If vessels such as fiala (bowl) and "fish plate" were found by researchers in almost all Hellenistic structures of Bactria, vessels such as ask and aryball are not found in all Hellenistic monuments. However, it should be noted that the appearance of some Greek vessels changes due to the influence of the local environment. In particular, the bottom part of the amphorae was made flat by the masters. This item was considered convenient for transporting containers on land trade routes.

In pottery, the interaction of Greek and local traditions is particularly evident in the appearance of cylindrical goblets with disc or circular bases. The structure of the vessel is local and the base reflects the influence of the Greek pottery tradition. The distribution of such vessels in Central Asia corresponds

¹⁵ Седов А. В. Керамические комплексы ай-ханумского типа на правом берегу Амударьи // СА. 3, 1984. С. 171–180.; Пидаев Ш. Р. Керамика греко-бактрийского времени с городища Старого Термеза // СА. 1, 1991. С. 210–224.

¹⁶ Тихонов Р.В. Местные традиции и греческие новации в керамическом ремесле Бактрии эпохи эллинизма // Проблемы истории, филологии, культуры. 2012. №1. С. 130.

¹⁷ Сверчков Л. М., Восковский А. А. Стратиграфия, периодизация и хронология нижних слоёв Кампыртепа // МТЭ. Вып. 5 / Э. В. Ртвеладзе (ред.). Ташкент, 2006. С. 25.



to the period of the Greek occupation¹⁸. It can also be seen in the depiction of graffiti on vessels as an influence of the Greek ceramic tradition.

SCULPTURE.

By the time of Hellenism in Bactria, the art of sculpture also developed. The plastic art of the Greco-Bactrian period further enriched Greek plastic art during this period¹⁹. Sculpture became an integral part of the architecture of this period. It shows the magnificence of oriental art. It is intended to show the ruler's power²⁰. During this period, clay and stone sculptures were in the leading position in Bactria. Bactrian sculptors created their works of art from clay and alabaster. First, a clay statue is made in a frame, and then it is covered with white ganch. After painting, the sculptures are gilded. The use of such materials by masters in creating sculptures was related to the process of processing them.

Several types of sculpture are observed in Bactria during the Hellenistic period. In particular, the statues found in Takhti-Sangin were divided into such groups as majestic statues, wheel-made statues and small sculptures. Analyzing the results of the research, we believe that the above-mentioned types of Bactrian sculptural art during the Hellenistic period depended on the type of population settlements. In big cities, all three types of sculpture (such as Takti-Sangin) are developed, but in other residential areas (castle, rural residential areas) monumental sculptures are not observed.

As a result of the influence of Hellenic culture, the art of coroplasty also entered Bactria²¹. Representation of Greek deities in sculptural art is clearly visible. As a result of archaeological research, ceramic figurines were found among the many finds in the monuments of the Hellenistic period of Bactria. The ceramic figurines found in the Bactrian monuments do not have the appearance of a purely Greek tradition, but more local traditions are observed. Examples of this are warrior and female figurines²²

found in Poyonkurgan, and the head of a ceramic figurine²³ found in Kampirtepa.

CONCLUSION.

During the Hellenistic period, Bactria became the main stronghold of Greek-Macedonians in Central Asia. During this period, the migration of the Greek population was an event that gained great importance in the control of this area and the spread of its culture. They consisted mainly of military personnel and various strata of the population.

In the III-II centuries B. C., Greek architectural traditions entered Bactrian architecture and created a new school of architecture with local architectural traditions. These architectural traditions were later preserved during the Kushan period.

The same situation can be observed in pottery. This is because, with the spread of new pottery with the Greeks, local pottery continued to be made and used.

The art of sculpture and coroplasty entered and flourished. They are mainly used in the decoration of magnificent and religious buildings. This type of art also survived for several centuries after the end of Greek rule.

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¹⁹ Пичикян И. Р. Культура Бактрии ахеменидский и эллинистический периоды. М. Наука 1991. С. 180.

²⁰ Абдуллаев К. Эллинистическая традиция в искусстве Согда и Бактрии//ИМКУ. Вып. 27. 1996. С. 55.

²¹ Пугаченкова Г. А., Ртвеладзе Э. В. Северная Бактрия-Тохаристан. Издат. “Фан”. Т. 1990. С. 105.

²² Абдуллаев К. Эллинистические мотивы в терракотовой пластике Паёнкургона (северная Бактрия)// ИМКУ. № 30.

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