



МӘДЕНИ МҰРА
ғылыми журнал

КУЛЬТУРНОЕ НАСЛЕДИЕ
научный журнал

CULTURAL HERITAGE
science journal

ISSN: 2708-3365 (print)

ISSN: 3006-1377 (online)

№3 (110)

Астана
2025

РЕДАКЦИЯ АЛҚАСЫ:

ӘБДІҒАЛИҰЛЫ
Берік

– Саяси ғылымдарының кандидаты (алқа төрағасы) (Қазақстан)

ИБРАЕВА
Ақмарал Ғосманқызы

– алқа төрағасының орынбасары, Қазақстан ұлттық жаратылыстану ғылымдары академиясының академигі, тарих ғылымдарының докторы, профессор (Қазақстан)

ТАЙМАҒАМБЕТОВ
Жәкен Қожахметұлы

– ҚР ҰҒА академигі, тарих ғылымдарының докторы, профессор (Қазақстан)

САМАШЕВ
Зайнолла Самашұлы

– тарих ғылымдарының докторы, профессор (Қазақстан)

АЙМҰХАМБЕТ
Жанат Әскербекқызы

– филология ғылымдарының докторы, профессор (Қазақстан)

ҮМІТҚАЛИЕВ
Ұлан Үмітқалиұлы

– тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты (Қазақстан)

МЕРЦ
Виктор Карлович

– тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты (Қазақстан)

ЖАБАҒИН
Мақсат

– тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты (Қазақстан)

СЫДЫҚОВ
Айбек Жексеналыұлы

– PhD докторы (Қазақстан)

БИҒОЖИН
Ұлан Зейноллаұлы

– PhD докторы (Қазақстан)

САБИТОВ
Жаксылык

– PhD докторы (Қазақстан)

ДЮПЮЙ
Пауло

– PhD докторы (Қазақстан)

ҚАРА
Әбдуақап

– доктор, профессор (Түркия)

ШАМИЛЬОГЛУ
Юлай

– PhD, профессор (АҚШ)

АЙТПАЕВА
Гулнара Амановна

– филология ғылымдарының докторы, профессор (Қырғызстан)

РАДИВОЖЕВИЧ
Мильяна

– PhD, қауымдастырылған профессор (Ұлыбритания)

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Berik Abdygaliuly	– Candidate of Political Science (Chairman of the editorial board) (Kazakhstan)
Akmaral Ibrayeva	– Deputy chairman of the editorial board, Academician of the National Academy of Natural Sciences of Kazakhstan, Doctor of historical sciences, Professor (Kazakhstan)
Zhaken Taimagambetov	– Academician of NAS RK, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor (Kazakhstan)
Zainolla Samashev	– Doctor of Historical Sciences, (Kazakhstan)
Zhanat Aimukhambet	– Doctor of Philology, Professor (Kazakhstan)
Ulan Umitkaliev	– Candidate of Historical Sciences (Kazakhstan)
Victor Merts	– Candidate of Historical Sciences (Kazakhstan)
Maxat Zhabagin	– Candidate of Historical Sciences (Kazakhstan)
Aibek Sydykov	– Doctor PhD (Kazakhstan)
Ulan Bigozhin	– PhD (Kazakhstan)
Zhaxylyk Sabitov	– PhD (Kazakhstan)
Paula Dupuy	– PhD (Kazakhstan)
Kara Abdulvahap	– Doctor, professor (Turkey)
Uli Shamiloglu	– PhD, professor (USA)
Gulnara Aitpaeva	– Doctor of Philology, Professor (Kyrgyzstan)
Radivojevic Miljana	– PhD, Associate professor (UK)

РЕДАКЦИОННАЯ КОЛЛЕГИЯ:

ӘБДІҒАЛИҰЛЫ
Берік

– Кандидат политических наук (председатель коллегии) (Казахстан)

ИБРАЕВА
Акмарал Госмановна

– заместитель председателя коллегии, Академик Казахстанской национальной академии естественных наук, доктор исторических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

ТАЙМАГАМБЕТОВ
Жакен Кожаметович

– Академик НАН РК, доктор исторических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

САМАШЕВ
Зайнолла Самашевич

– доктор исторических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

АЙМУХАМБЕТ
Жанат Аскербековна

– доктор филологических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

УМИТКАЛИЕВ
Улан Умиткалиевич

– кандидат исторических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

МЕРЦ
Виктор Карлович

– кандидат исторических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

ЖАБАГИН
Максат

– кандидат исторических наук, профессор (Казахстан)

СЫДЫКОВ
Айбек Жексеналыевич

– PhD доктор (Казахстан)

БИГОЖИН
Улан Зейноллаулы

– PhD доктор (Казахстан)

САБИТОВ
Жаксылык

– PhD доктор (Казахстан)

ДЮПЮЙ
Пауло

– PhD доктор (Казахстан)

КАРА
Абдуакап

– Доктор, профессор (Турция)

ШАМИЛЬОГЛУ
Юлай

– PhD, профессор (США)

АЙТПАЕВА
Гулнара Амановна

– доктор филологических наук, профессор (Кыргызстан)

Радивожевич Мильяна

– PhD, ассоциированный профессор (Великобритания)

МАЗМҰНЫ / CONTENT / СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

Археология / Archaeology / Археология

- Талеев Д.* Ответвления Великого Шёлкового пути на территории Жетысу в X–XIII веках: геоэкономические и культурные аспекты транзитных маршрутов
Талеев Д. X–XIII ғасырлардағы Жетісу аумағындағы Ұлы Жібек жолының тармақтары: транзиттік бағыттардың геоэкономикалық және мәдени аспектілері
Taleev D. Branches of the Great Silk road on the territory of Zhetysu in the X–XIII centuries: geo-economic and cultural aspects of transit routes..... 6
- Құрманиязов Ы., Рахимжанова С.* Солтүстік-Шығыс Арал маңының тас ғасырының ескерткіштерін бақылау және тіркеуге алу
Курманиязов Ы., Рахимжанова С. Мониторинг и регистрация памятников каменного века северо-восточного Приаралья
Kurmaniyazov Y., Rakhimzhanova S. Monitoring and registration of stone age monuments in the Northeastern Aral sea region..... 19
- Moldakhmet A.* The problem of identifying the cities of Eshnas and Ornas with the medieval city of Asanas and the history of its study
Молдахмет А. Деректердегі «Эшнас», «Орнас» қалалары мен ортағасырлық Асанастың баламалану мәселесі және оның зерттелу тарихы
Молдахмет А. Проблема отождествления городов «Эшнас», «Орнас» со средневековым городом Асанас и история его изучения..... 32

Этнология / Ethnology / Этнология

- Атдаев С.* Судьбы ханов и сердаров Ахала после 12 января 1881 г.
Атдаев С. 1881 жылғы 12 қаңтардан кейінгі Ахал хандары мен сардарларының тағдыры
Atdaev S. The fates of the khans and serdars of Akhala after January 12, 1881..... 42

Музей ісі / Museology / Музейное дело

- Атабаева Г.* Үйірме музейдің мәдени білім беру қызметінің түрі ретінде
Атабаева Г. Кружок как форма культурно-образовательной деятельности музея
Atabayeva G. The circle as a form of cultural and educational activities of the museum..... 57
- Мичри М.* Опыт реставрации восточно-азиатских лаков в лаборатории научной реставрации предметов из органических материалов Государственного Эрмитажа
Мичри М. Шығыс-азиялық лактарды Мемлекеттік Эрмитаждың органикалық материалдардан жасалған бұйымдарды ғылыми реставрациялау зертханасында қайта қалпына келтіру тәжірибесі
Michri M. Experience in the restoration of east asian lacquers at the laboratory for the scientific restoration of objects made of organic materials of the State Hermitage museum..... 71

Moldakhmet A.

National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Astana, Kazakhstan

e-mail: arhadkz@mail.ru

THE PROBLEM OF IDENTIFYING THE CITIES OF ESHNAS AND ORNAS WITH THE MEDIEVAL CITY OF ASANAS AND THE HISTORY OF ITS STUDY

Abstract. The article highlights that the lower reaches of the Syr Darya, from the early and medieval periods to the present day, have served as a foundation for historical and cultural processes, being the ancestral homeland of nomadic and semi-sedentary peoples during the Golden Horde era and within the Kazakh Khanate.

The aim is to comprehensively study the location, historical and cultural significance, and developmental dynamics of ancient settlements in the lower Syr Darya, including the city of Eshnas (or Ornas), which is frequently mentioned in written sources.

The article employs methods of historical-comparative analysis, systematization of archaeological data, examination of toponymic materials, and interdisciplinary comparison of textual evidence.

Although archaeological surveys have not yet made it possible to determine the exact location of the ancient city of Eshnas (or Ornas), the structural features of several monuments along the Syr Darya and the discovered material evidence indicate that these settlements were major trade, economic, and cultural centers.

While the precise location of Eshnas (or Ornas) remains unresolved, archaeological and historical studies underscore the importance of further research in this direction.

Keywords: Syr Darya, channel, Zhanadarya, Eshnas, Ornas, Asanas, medieval, alternative, exploration, excavation.

For citation: Moldakhmet A. The problem of identifying the cities of Eshnas and Ornas with the medieval city of Asanas and the history of its study// Madeni mura. 2025. № 3(110). Pp. 32-41 (in Eng.)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47500/2025.v23.i3.03>

Introduction

The Kazakh section of the Syr Darya River, which forms the source of its lower course, branches off from the Asanas core and then flows into the Aral Sea through clay plains cut by several channels. This area resembles a giant triangle, stretching

over more than 400 kilometers from east to west and 200–250 kilometers from north to south. Four ancient, medieval, and modern canals diverge from the lower Syr Darya: Inkardarya, Zhanadarya, Kuvandarya, and Eskidarya. These channels radiate

southward from the Syr Darya near the city of Kyzylorda.

The lower Syr Darya is a region where diverse cultures have long interacted. Situated at the crossroads of caravan routes and migration processes, it was inhabited by various peoples. S. P. Tolstov described the lower reaches of the two great rivers of Central Asia as “the confluence of insular ethnogenesis” (Baipakov, 2014).

Archaeological research in the lower Syr Darya began in the second half of the nineteenth century with the annexation of Kazakhstan to the Russian Empire. Extensive studies were carried out during the Soviet period, and a new stage in the exploration of the region’s ancient culture was marked in 2004 with the launch of the Cultural Heritage program.

Excavations were conducted in many settlements along the ancient channels of the Syr Darya, yielding significant historical materials that were collected, processed, and analyzed. Despite the scarcity of written sources, the region is of great importance for the historical landscape and raises numerous scholarly questions. Cities, as integral parts of human society, through their material remains (buildings, streets, fortresses, tools, and household items), provide insights not only into material culture but also into social structures, internal processes, and spiritual life.

One of the most pressing and relevant tasks in the history and archaeology of the lower Syr Darya is to determine the precise location of its ancient cities—particularly the city of Ornas (also known as Asanas). This includes studying its structure in detail, identifying its historical names and key periods, and introducing these findings into academic circulation. Yet, it remains a mystery where this city was located and in which historical periods it flourished. Therefore, historical-comparative analyses

of previous research and scholarly interpretations are essential.

Materials and research methods

In preparing this article, a comprehensive and multifaceted system of scientific methods was employed. The nature of the research topic—namely, the study of the peculiarities of the formation of ancient and medieval civilizations in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya—necessitated the use of diverse sources and interdisciplinary analysis.

The research materials comprised several groups of sources. First, medieval written accounts, including the works of Arab-Persian geographers and historians, provided valuable information on the ancient city of Eshnas (Ornas) and other settlements in the region. Second, archaeological survey and excavation materials collected over the past century were carefully examined. These findings helped to identify urban layouts, settlement systems, economic structures, and cultural interactions in the lower Syr Darya. Third, natural and geographical data were analyzed, such as evidence of riverbed shifts, landscape features, and areas suitable for agriculture and pastoralism. Additionally, comparative data from archaeological sites in neighboring regions were employed to ensure a broader contextual understanding.

The research methods were applied in several directions. First, the historical-geographical method was prioritized, allowing for the study of natural conditions in the Syr Darya’s lower course, including its hydrological system, soil composition, and ecological resources. These factors were shown to have played a crucial role in human settlement, the development of socio-economic systems, and the rise of urban centers. Consideration from a historical-geographical perspective also

clarified the logic of the Silk Road's passage through the region and its significance in economic and cultural exchanges.

Second, source-critical and comparative-historical methods were applied. Data on the city of Eshnas (Ornas) recorded in medieval texts were compared with archaeological evidence. This comparison facilitated the verification and clarification of written sources, as well as a deeper reconstruction of urban history. A critical approach to written accounts also made it possible to assess their objectivity and reliability.

Third, archaeological survey and analytical methods played a central role. The results of fieldwork and excavations provided the main empirical foundation of the research. Through archaeological analysis, insights were gained into urban planning, settlement density, subsistence patterns, and cultural interactions in the region.

Fourth, a civilizational and cultural-historical approach was utilized to situate the lower Syr Darya within the broader civilizational context of Central Asia. This approach was effective in tracing interactions between nomadic and sedentary cultures and revealing their socio-economic and spiritual interconnections.

Finally, the comparative-typological method was employed to juxtapose archaeological monuments and descriptions in written sources with parallel materials from other regions. This approach allowed for the identification of regional features of the Syr Darya's urban centers and clarified their role in wider historical and cultural processes.

In sum, the integration of diverse materials and methods enabled a comprehensive analysis of the historical and civilizational processes in the lower Syr Darya. The findings of this study contribute

significantly to reconstructing the cultural and historical development of the region as a whole.

Discussion

The medieval settlement of Asanas is located 48 km southeast of the city of Kyzylorda (Syrdarya district, Kyzylorda region), 8 km west of the village of Aidarly, on the banks of the dried-up ancient Zhanadarya channel (Tazhekeyev, 2022:177–178).

In 1245, Plano Carpini, traveling along the Syr Darya, mentioned the cities of Yankint (Jancint), Barkhin, and Ornas in sequence, noting also the existence of many other unknown towns in the region (Yeleuov, 2003:70). In the thirteenth century, Zhamal Karshi reported that although conditions in the prosperous city were deteriorating, it still hosted a large market, attracting merchants from all sides, and served as the second intellectual center of the Islamic world (History of Kazakhstan in the Persian Gulf, 2005:155).

The Persian historian Rashid al-Din, in his "Jami' al-tawarikh" (Compendium of Chronicles), described Jochi's campaign against Zhent and Yangikent, writing: "... They (Jochi's troops) conquered Ozgent and Barshynkent, and then moved to Ashnas" (Rashid al-Din, 1957:199–200). In 1834, the French historian C. D'Ohsson, drawing on Plano Carpini's account, listed Barshynkent, Zhent, and Asanas among the notable cities of the lower Syr in his work "Genghis Khan and the Mongols: Before the Timurid Empire" (D'Ohsson, 1834:113–114).

Later scholars also contributed to the study of Asanas. P. Lerkh, in "Archaeological Trip to the Turkestan Region in 1867", noted that the inhabitants of Asanas surrendered to the Mongols without resistance (Lerkh, 1870:39). In 1889, V. A. Kallaur surveyed cities in the lower Syr Darya, locating

Uzgent, Barkhalygkent, Eshnas, and Zhent, and equated the remains near the mausoleum of Asanas with the ancient city of Asanas (Kallaur, 1904). V. V. Barthold and Kallaur supported this view, describing the Asanas core and associated mausoleums, and drawing attention to the Mongol conquest of Uzgent, Barchlygkent, and Eshnas between Syganak and Zhend (Pachkalov, 2011:75–77).

E. T. Smirnov, writing in 1896, suggested that Zhent, Barkhaligkent, Uzgent, and Ashnas were located near the Perovsk fortress (modern Kyzylorda) (Smirnov, 1897:12). In 1910, the British historian Emil Bretschneider, in “Asia and Europe in the Middle Ages: a comparative study of Geography and Historical sources of Central and Western Asia in the 13th–17th centuries”, described the Mongol campaigns: “... Chingiz himself went to Bukhara with his main army. After a five-month siege, they destroyed Otyrar, Ozgen, Barshynlygkent, and Ashnas one by one” (Bretschneider, 2018:69).

In the Soviet period, archaeological research intensified. In 1960–1961, the Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition under S. P. Tolstov investigated Asanas (Tolstov, 1962:315). In 1968, N.N. Vakturskaya led excavations west and northwest of the citadel. Ceramic complexes dated to the 12th–14th centuries revealed five construction phases. She concluded that Asanas emerged in the “clay cities” period (9th–11th centuries) and continued to exist until the 15th century (Vakturskaya, 1979:127–133).

Subsequent excavations expanded these findings. In 1989, P. Karataev of the Kyzylorda Pedagogical Institute and the Institute of Archaeology identified two towers built of burnt brick, a brick kiln, and an unknown mausoleum (Mami, 2007:35). In 2002, T. Mami of Korkyt Ata

Kyzylorda State University divided the site’s history into four stages: 1. Kangyu state/Zhetyasar culture (6th century BC–6th century AD); 2. Oghuz state/“clay cities” culture (8th–11th centuries); 3. Turkic period under the Karakhanids, Kipchaks, and Khwarazmshahs (11th–13th centuries); 4. Golden Horde period (13th–15th centuries) (Mami, 2007: 36).

A. Derbisali, in his philological study “Stars of the Kazakh Steppe”, reviewed the works of medieval scholars born in the cities of the lower Syr, including Asanas (Derbisali, 1995). Most recently, in 2020, A. A. Tazhekeyev resumed excavations at Asanas under the auspices of the Department of Culture of Kyzylorda Region. Excavations revealed a residential complex, a gate, and the remains of a burnt-brick tower (Tazhekeyev et al., 2021:142–151).

According to the conclusions of A. Margulan (2011:222), K. Baipakov, and D. Voyakin (2014), the medieval city of Asanas can be identified with Eshnas (Ornas).

Results

The comprehensive examination of both written sources and archaeological data concerning the medieval city of Asanas has made it possible to arrive at several important conclusions. The research demonstrates that Asanas occupied a special place within the urban network of the Lower Syr Darya and played an active role in the broader cultural and civilizational processes of the region.

The earliest references to the city date back to the thirteenth century. In 1245, while traveling along the Syr Darya, the Franciscan envoy Plano Carpini mentioned the cities of Yankint, Barkin, and Ornas, noting that numerous other unnamed towns were also situated in this area. This record provides

a strong basis for identifying the city of Asanas with the settlement referred to in the sources as Ornas or Eshnas. Although Jamal Qarshi, writing in the same period, observed a decline in the city's fortunes, he also described a still-functioning major marketplace and emphasized the city's role as an intellectual center within the Islamic world. These observations indicate that Asanas was not only an economic hub but also a cultural and scholarly center.

Fourteenth-century sources also contain important references. Rashid al-Din, in his "Jami' al-Tawarikh", records that Jochi's armies campaigned against Ashnas after attacking Jand and Barshinkent. This account demonstrates that the city continued to attract political and military attention during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Later, European and Russian scholars—including C. D'Ohsson, P. Lerch, V.A. Kalaur, V.V. Bartold, and E.T. Smirnov—investigated the city's location, assessed its historical significance, and examined its fate during the Mongol invasions. Their conclusions generally associated the urban site with the area surrounding the modern-day mausoleum of Asanas.

Archaeological studies of the site began in earnest during the mid-twentieth century. In 1960–1961, the Khwarazm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition, directed by S.P. Tolstov, investigated Asanas as part of its broader program of fieldwork. In 1968, excavations led by N.N. Vakturskaya yielded ceramic assemblages dating to the twelfth through fourteenth centuries and revealed five distinct construction phases. Vakturskaya concluded that the city had originated during the ninth to eleventh centuries and continued to exist until the fifteenth century. These results enabled scholars to trace the city's development through multiple stages.

Later archaeological discoveries enriched this understanding. In 1989, an expedition led by P. Karatayev uncovered remains of towers and kilns constructed of fired brick, shedding light on the city's architectural features. In 2002, T. Mami proposed a four-stage chronology of Asanas: the Zhetyasar cultural horizon (7th century BC–7th century AD), the Oghuz-era "marsh cities" (8th–11th centuries), the Turkic period (11th–13th centuries), and the Golden Horde era (13th–15th centuries). This framework proved valuable for understanding the shifting political and economic role of the city over time.

Most recently, in 2020, a team led by A.A. Tazhekeev resumed excavations at Asanas and discovered remains of a residential complex, a city gate, and the foundations of a brick-built tower. These findings provide fresh evidence of the city's complex urban structure and its role as a regional administrative and economic center.

A comparative analysis of written sources and archaeological data confirms the prevailing scholarly opinion that Asanas corresponds to the medieval cities variously referred to as Eshnas or Ornas. This identification has been supported in the works of A. Margulan, K. Baipakov, and D. Voyakin, among others. By equating the different appellations, researchers have been able to reconstruct a more complete picture of the city's history and its position within the broader network of medieval Syr Darya settlements.

Taken together, the evidence clearly demonstrates that Asanas was one of the major urban, commercial, and cultural centers of the Lower Syr Darya during the Middle Ages. The city's location along important branches of the Silk Road made it a vital link in interregional economic exchanges. Archaeological materials

highlight its developed construction techniques and well-organized economic system, while written accounts underscore its enduring significance as a major intellectual and cultural hub.

In conclusion, the study of Asanas illustrates how the integration of textual evidence and archaeological research contributes to a fuller understanding of Central Asian urban history. The history of Asanas is inseparable from the civilizational development of the Syr Darya basin and reflects the dynamic interplay of trade, politics, and culture that characterized the region across centuries.

Conclusion

The comparative historical analysis of written and archaeological data allows us to draw several important conclusions regarding the localization of the medieval city known in various sources as Ornas, Eshnas, Echnas, Asanas, or Asnas. The multiplicity of names attested in different languages and traditions—ranging from Giovanni da Pian del Carpine's "Ornas" and Jamal Qarshi's "Eshnas" to Rashid al-Din's "Echnas", Derbisaliev's "Asanas", and the Chinese transcription "E-ch-e-n-a-s"—reflects the phonetic adaptation of a single toponym over time, rather than distinct settlements. The evidence points to the existence of one city whose name changed form according to linguistic environment and cultural transmission.

Researchers of different periods have also recorded these variations. P. Lerch, V.A. Kalaur, and V.V. Bartold referred to it as "Echnas", while S.P. Tolstov and N. Vakturskaya preferred "Asnas". M. Eleuov suggested the name "Ornas", and scholars such as A. Margulan, K. Baipakov, T. Mami, and A. Tazhekeev used the form "Asanas". Despite differences in terminology, the consensus view in

scholarship identifies the site of this historical city with the remains of present-day Asanas.

The correlation between the historical descriptions and the geographical features of the Asanas region further strengthens this conclusion. Written sources emphasize its location within the sphere of the Khwarazm state prior to the Golden Horde period, which corresponds with the strategic placement of Asanas along important communication routes in the Syr Darya basin. The toponymic survival of the name "Asanas" in the form of a local watercourse, as well as its continuity in oral tradition, further links the medieval settlement with the present site.

Archaeological excavations conducted at Asanas provide material confirmation of its medieval urban character. Stratigraphic data, architectural remains, and numismatic evidence all demonstrate continuous occupation across several historical periods. These findings align with the information from written sources, confirming that the Asanas site corresponds to the city referred to in medieval texts under various phonetic adaptations. The material record thus substantiates the hypothesis of a single urban center rather than multiple distinct settlements.

It is important to emphasize that phonetic variations such as "Eshnas–Ornas–Asanas" are typical of medieval toponyms transmitted across diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. Transcription into Arabic, Persian, Turkic, Latin, and Chinese inevitably produced distortions, yet the underlying referent remained the same. What may appear as different names are, in fact, linguistic reflections of a single historical toponym adapted by speakers of different regions and languages.

In conclusion, the accumulated evidence demonstrates that the "Ornas

– Eshnas – Echnas – Asanas” of the sources and scholarship is in fact the same urban center: the medieval city of Asanas. Its identification rests on a synthesis of philological comparison, historical geography, and archaeological investigation. This conclusion highlights the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in Central Asian urban studies, where written records, toponymic analysis, and material evidence must be combined to resolve questions of localization.

Thus, the city of Asanas emerges as a significant urban settlement in the history

of medieval Kazakhstan, embodying both continuity of cultural memory and transformation of linguistic forms. The study of its multiple names not only clarifies historical geography but also illustrates the dynamics of cultural contact and exchange across the steppe and oasis worlds. By reconciling divergent historical testimonies with modern archaeological findings, we establish that Asanas was indeed the city referred to under various appellations in the sources—a testament to the complexity of urban history in the Syr Darya region.

Funding source: This article was carried out within the framework of the target program-funding project of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023–2025, Project No. AP19676962 “Ancient and Medieval Cities of the Karashyk Region”.

References

1. Baypakov K., Voyakin D., 2010. Goroda Vostochnogo Priaralya: Dzhend, Asanas, Barchkent [Cities of the Eastern Aral Sea region: Jend, Asanas, Barchkent] // Promyshlennost' Kazakhstana. № 4. Pp. 96-98. [in Russian]
2. Bartold V.V., 1965. Sochineniya. Raboty po istoricheskoy geografii [Essays. Works on historical Geography]. Vol. III. M.: Nauka. 711 p. [in Russian]
3. Bretshneyder E.V., 2018. Aziya i Evropa v epokhu srednevekovya: sravnitelnye issledovaniya istochnikov po geografii i istorii Tsentralnoy i Zapadnoy Azii XIII–XVII vekov [Asia and Europe in the Middle Ages: Comparative studies of sources on the Geography and History of Central and Western Asia in the 13th and 17th centuries] / Saint-Petersburg : Svoe izdatelstvo. 280 p. [in Russian]
4. Derbisali A., 1995. Qazaq dalasının juldızdary (tarihi – filologiyalıq zertteu) [Stars of the Kazakh steppe (historical and philological study)]. Almaty: Rauan. 111 p. [in Kazakh]
5. D'Ohsson C., 1834. Histoire des mongols [History of Mongols]. 651 p. [in French]
6. Eleuov M., 2003. Plano Karpini men Gilom Rubruktın Qazaqstan arqyly sapary turaly [About the journey of Plano Carpini and Guillaume Rubruck through Kazakhstan] // QazUU habarshysy. Tarih seriyasy. № 4(31). Pp. 69-71. [in Kazakh]
7. Vakturskaya N.N., 1979. Novye dannye o gorodishche Asanas [New data about Asanas settlement] // Etnografiya i arkheologiya Sredney Azii. M. Pp. 127-133. [in Russian]
8. Istoriya Kazakhstana v persidskikh istochnikakh [History of Kazakhstan in Persian sources]. Vol. I. 2005. Almaty: Daik-Press. 416 p. [in Russian]
9. Kallaur V.A., 1904. Drevnie goroda i seleniya (razvaliny) v Perovskom uezde v dolinah peskov Syr–Darii i Yany–Darii [Ancient cities and villages (ruins) in Perovsky district in the valleys of the Syr-Darya and Yana-Darya rivers] // PTKLA. IX. M.: Nauka. [in Russian]
10. Lerkh P., 1870. Arkheologicheskaya poezdka v Turkestanskiy kraj v 1867 godu [Archaeological trip to the Turkestan region in 1867]. SPb. 39 p. [in Russian]
11. Marǵulan A.Kh., 2011. Shygarmalary [Works]. Vol. 9. Almaty: Almaty-Bolashaq baspası. 472

p. [in Russian]

12. Mami T., 2007. Keyingi ortagasyrlardagy Aral onirinin qalalary (XIII-XVIII gg.) [Cities of the Aral Sea Region in the Late Middle Ages (13th-18th centuries)]. Qyzylorda. 252 p. [in Russian]

13. Rashid-ad-din, 1952. Sbornik letopisei [Collection of Chronicles]. Vol. I. M.; L. 220 p. [in Russian]

14. Smirnov E.T., 1897. Drevnosti na srednem i nizhnem techenii r. Syr-Daryi [Antiquities on the middle and lower reaches of the Syr Darya River] // PTKLA. Pp. 1-44. [in Russian]

15. Tazhekeev A.A., Darmanov R.T., Bilalov S.O., Amirgalina G.T., Nazarov A.Z., Sultanzanov Z.K., Kurmaniazov I.S., 2021. Asanas kalashygy turaly zhana derekter [New information about the town of Asanas] // Materials of the International Field Seminar at "the importance of the Great Silk Road and caravan routes of Kazakhstan in the process of urbanization" dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Doctor of historical sciences, professor Madiyar Eleuovich Eleuov. Almaty: Qazaq universiteti. 230 p. [in Kazakh]

16. Tazhekeev A.A., Sultanjanov J.K., Qarabatyrova A.M., 2022. Ortagasyrlyq Syganaq pen Asanas qalalary arasyndagy keruen zholdary men iri qonystar (zhana zertteuler) [Caravan routes and large settlements between the medieval cities of Syganak and Asanas (new research)] // Al-Farabi atyndagy Qazaq ulttyq universitetinin habarshysy. Tarih seriyasy, №1 (104). Almaty: Qazaq universiteti. 209 p. [in Kazakh]

17. Tolstov S.P., 1962. Po drevnim deltam Oksa i Yaksarta [Along the ancient deltas of Oxus and Jaxartes]. M: Izdatelstvo vostochnoy literatury. 323 p. [in Kazakh]

Молдахмет А.

Қазақстан Республикасы Ұлттық музейі

Астана, Қазақстан

e-mail: arhadkz@mail.ru

ДЕРЕКТЕРДЕГІ «ЭШНАС», «ОРНАС» ҚАЛАЛАРЫ МЕН ОРТАҒАСЫРЛЫҚ АСАНАСТЫҢ БАЛАМАЛАНУ МӘСЕЛЕСІ ЖӘНЕ ОНЫҢ ЗЕРТТЕЛУ ТАРИХЫ

Аңдатпа. Мақалада Сырдарияның төменгі ағысы ерте және ортағасырлық кезеңдерден бастап қазіргі заманға дейінгі тарихи-мәдени үдерістердің негізгі арқауы ретінде Алтын Орда дәуірі және Қазақ хандығы құрамындағы көшпелі және жартылай отырықшы халықтардың атажұрты болғандығымен ерекшеленеді.

Мақаланың мақсаты – Сырдың төменгі ағысындағы көне қоныстардың, оның ішінде деректерде жиі аталатын Эшнас немесе Орнас қаласының орналасу мәселесін, тарихи-мәдени маңызын және осы өңірдегі өркениет ошақтарының даму динамикасын жан-жақты зерделеу.

Мақалада тарихи-салыстырмалы талдау, археологиялық деректерді жүйелеу, топонимикалық материалдарды қарастыру және жазба деректерді пәнаралық тұрғыдан салыстыру әдістері қолданылды. Археологиялық барлау қазбаларының нәтижелері мен соңғы жүз жылдықтағы зерттеушілердің еңбектері негізгі дереккөз ретінде пайдаланылды.

Археологиялық барлау жұмыстары көне Эшнас немесе Орнас

қаласының нақты орнын анықтауға әлі толық мүмкіндік бермегенімен, Сыр бойындағы бірқатар ескерткіштердің құрылымдық ерекшеліктері мен табылған заттай деректер бұл қоныстардың ірі сауда-экономикалық және мәдени орталық болғанын көрсетеді. Зерттеу барысында жазба деректерде аталатын қала атаулары мен археологиялық ескерткіштердің сәйкестігін анықтау мәселесі қарастырылып, олардың локализациясына қатысты бірнеше ғылыми тұжырымдар ұсынылды.

Эшнас немесе Орнас қаласының нақты орналасқан орнын анықтау мәселесі әлі де толық шешімін таппағанымен, жүргізілген археологиялық және тарихи зерттеулер бұл бағыттағы болашақ ізденістердің маңызды екенін айқындайды. Зерттеу нәтижелері Сырдың төменгі ағысының көне дәуірден қазіргі кезеңге дейінгі тарихи сабақтастығын ашып көрсетеді және Қазақстан тарихындағы мәдени-өркениеттік үрдістерді түсінуге тың серпін береді.

Кілт сөздер: Сырдария, арна, Жаңадраия, Эшнас, Орнас, Асанас, ортағасыр, қала, баламалану, барлау, қазба.

Дәйексөз үшін: Молдахмет А. Деректердегі «Эшнас», «Орнас» қалалары мен ортағасырлық Асанастың баламалану мәселесі және оның зерттелу тарихы// Мәдени мұра. 2025. № 3(110). 32-41 б. (ағылш.)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47500/2025.v23.i3.03>

Молдахмет А.

Национальный музей Республики Казахстан

Астана, Казахстан

e-mail: arhadkz@mail.ru

ПРОБЛЕМА ОТОЖДЕСТВЛЕНИЯ ГОРОДОВ «ЭШНАС», «ОРНАС» СО СРЕДНЕВЕКОВЫМ ГОРОДОМ АСАНАС И ИСТОРИЯ ЕГО ИЗУЧЕНИЯ

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается нижнее течение Сырдарьи как основа историко-культурных процессов с раннего и средневекового периодов до современности, будучи родиной кочевых и полукочевых народов в эпоху Золотой Орды и Казахского ханства.

Цель статьи – всестороннее изучение древних поселений нижнего течения Сырдарьи, в том числе часто упоминаемого в источниках города Эшнас или Орнас, проблемы его локализации, историко-культурного значения и динамики развития очагов цивилизации в данном регионе.

В статье применяются методы историко-сравнительного анализа, систематизации археологических данных, рассмотрения топонимических материалов и междисциплинарного сопоставления письменных источников. В качестве основных источников использованы результаты археологических разведочных раскопок и труды исследователей последнего столетия.

Несмотря на то, что археологические разведки пока не дали возможности точно определить местоположение древнего города Эшнас или Орнас, структурные особенности ряда памятников Приаралья и найденные материальные артефакты показывают, что данные поселения являлись крупными торгово-экономическими и культурными центрами. Рассмотрена проблема соответствия названий городов, упомянутых в письменных источниках, и археологических памятников, а также предложено несколько научных гипотез относительно их локализации.

Вопрос о точном местоположении города Эшнас или Орнас пока окончательно не решен, однако проведенные археологические и исторические исследования показывают важность дальнейших поисков в данном направлении. Полученные результаты раскрывают историческую преемственность нижнего течения Сырдарьи с древних времен до современности и придают новое понимание культурно-цивилизационных процессов в истории Казахстана.

Ключевые слова: Сырдарья, русло, Жангидарья, Эшнас, Орнас, Асанас, средневековье, город, отождествление, разведка, раскопки.

Для цитирования: Молдахмет А. Проблема отождествления городов «Эшнас», «Орнас» со средневековым городом Асанас и история его изучения // Мәдени мұра. 2025. №3(110). С. 32-41 (англ.)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47500/2025.v23.i3.03>

Information about author:

Moldakhmet Arkhad, PhD, Researcher at the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography, Scientific and Methodological Work Service, National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana, Kazakhstan.

ORCID: 0000-0002-9817-6412

Автор туралы мәлімет:

Молдахмет Архад Айтжанұлы, PhD, Қазақстан Республикасы Ұлттық музейі, Ғылыми-әдістемелік жұмыстар қызметі Археология және этнография бөлімінің ғылыми қызметкері, Астана, Қазақстан.

ORCID: 0000-0002-9817-6412

Сведения об авторе:

Молдахмет Архад Айтжанұлы, PhD, Научный сотрудник отдела археологии и этнографии Службы научно-методической работы, Национальный музей Республики Казахстан, Астана, Казахстан.

ORCID: 0000-0002-9817-6412