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МАЗМҰНЫ / CONTENT / СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

Археология / Archaeology / Археология

<i>Молдахмет А.А., Елеуов М., Талеев Д., Есен С.</i> Қазақ хандығы дәуіріндегі Созақ: археологиялық зерттеу тарихынан	
<i>Молдахмет А., Елеуов М., Талеев Д., Есен С.</i> Созақ в период Казахского ханства: из истории археологических исследований	
<i>Moldakhmet A., Eleuov M., Taleev D., Esen S.</i> Sozak in the Kazakh khanate period: from the history of archaeological research.....	8
<i>Аккошкарлова Ж.Т., Рахимжанова С.Ж., Тушева Е.К.</i> Орталық Қазақстандағы Қу 1-4, 6-7 тас дәуірі тұрақтарының материалдарын зерттеу	
<i>Аккошкарлова Ж.Т., Рахимжанова С.Ж., Тушева Е.К.</i> Изучение материалов стоянок каменного века Куу 1-4, 6-7 в Центральном Казахстане	
<i>Akkoshkarova Zh.T., Rakhimzhanova S.Zh., Tusheva E.K.</i> Study of materials from the stone age sites of Kuu 1-4, 6-7 in Central Kazakhstan.....	22
<i>Абильмаликов К.К., Байдалы Р.Ж., Шахшаков К.Г.</i> Археологические исследования на стоянке Талдысай-II в 2025 году	
<i>Әбілмәліков Қ.Қ., Байдалы Р.Ж., Шахшаков Қ.Г.</i> 2025 жылғы Талдысай-II тұрағындағы археологиялық зерттеулер	
<i>Abilmalikov K.K., Baidaly R.Zh., Shakshakov K.G.</i> Archaeological research at Taldysay-II site in 2025.....	34
<i>Қожа М.Б., Сиздинов Б.С., Әлімбекұлы Ә.</i> Особенности мечети Отрара конца XIV – начала XV в.	
<i>Қожа М.Б., Сиздинов Б.С., Әлімбекұлы Ә.</i> XIV ғасырдың аяғы – XV ғасырдың басындағы Отырар мешітінің ерекшеліктері	
<i>Khozha M.B., Sizdikov B.S., Alimbekuly A.</i> Features of the Otrar mosque of the late 14th – early 15th cc.....	45
<i>Усачук А.Н., Шишлина Н.И., Степанов И.А., Леонова Н.В.</i> Булавка из Краматорского могильника (Подонцовье). Результаты трасологического анализа	
<i>Усачук А.Н., Шишлина Н.И., Степанов И.А., Леонова Н.В.</i> Краматорск қорымынан табылған түйреуіш (Донец маңы). Трасологиялық талдау нәтижелері	
<i>Usachuk A.N., Shishlina N.I., Stepanov I. A., Leonova N.V.</i> A hammer-headed pin from the Kramatorsk burial ground (Podontsovye). The results of the trace-wear analysis.....	58
<i>Karazhigitova A.Ye., Janeyeva A.K.</i> History of studies and main results of research on medieval burial sites in Northeast Saryarka	
<i>Қаражігітова Ә.Е., Джанеева А.Қ.</i> Солтүстік-Шығыс Сарыарқадағы ортағасырлық жерлеу ескерткіштерін зерттеу тарихы мен негізгі нәтижелері	
<i>Қаражігітова А.Е., Джанеева А.Қ.</i> История изучения и основные результаты исследований погребальных памятников средневековья Северо-Восточной Сарыарки.....	69
<i>Sultanova A.K.</i> Stone sculptures in the Museum collection: issues of museification and exhibition	
<i>Сұлтанова А.К.</i> Музей коллекциясындағы тас мүсіндер: музейлендіру және экспозициялау мәселелері	
<i>Сұлтанова А.К.</i> Каменные изваяния в музейной коллекции: вопросы музеефикации и экспонирования.....	82
<i>Брынза Т.В.</i> В.Ф. Зайберт и его роль в изучении истории и археологии Северного Казахстана (по материалам газеты «Акмолинская правда»)	
<i>Брынза Т.В.</i> В. Ф. Зайберт және оның Солтүстік Қазақстан тарихы мен археологиясын зерттеудегі рөлі («Акмолинская правда» газеті материалдары бойынша)	
<i>Brynza T.V.</i> V.F. Zaibert and his role in the study of the history and archaeology of Northern Kazakhstan (based on materials from the newspaper “Akmolinskaya Pravda”).....	92

Этнология / Ethnology / Этнология

- Балтабай Д.Ө.** Әбілғазы Баһадүр хан шежіресінде кездесетін бірқатар этнонимдердің шығу тегі
Балтабай Д.А. Происхождение ряда этнонимов в шежере Абулгази Бахадур хана
Baltabay D.A. The origin of selected ethnonyms in the genealogy of Abulgazi Bahadur Khan..... 101
- Тастанбеков М.М., Байболов Б.Қ., Жүнісбаев Ұ.Д., Тұрсынов А.Х.** Қожа Ахмет Ясауи қабірінің жапқышы туралы зерттеулер
Тастанбеков М.М., Байболов Б.Қ., Жунисбаев Е.Д., Турсинов А.Х. Исследования покрывала гробницы Ходжи Ахмеда Ясави
Tastanbekov M.M., Baibolov B.K., Junisbaev E.D., Tursinov A.H. Research on the Pall of the Tomb of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi..... 113
- Байгаж А., Нурбаева А.М., Рустемова А. Е.** Традиционные игры с астрагалами тюрко-монгольского ареала: язык, норма и культурная память
Байгаж А., Нурбаева А.М., Рустемова А. Е. Түркі-моңғол ареалындағы асыққа байланысты дәстүрлі ойындар: тіл, норма және мәдени жады
Baigazh A., Nurbayeva A.M., Rustemova A. Ye. Traditional games with astragal in the turkic-mongolian region: language, norms and cultural memory..... 125

Тарих / History / История

- Бисенова Г.А., Отепова Г.Е., Болдыков Ж.Б.** Гималай асқан көш тарихы: Үндістан ұлттық архив құжаттары негізінде
Бисенова Г.А., Отепова Г.Е., Болдыков Ж.Б. История миграции казахов через Гималаи: на основе документов Национального архива Индии
Bissenova G.A., Oteпова G.E., Boldykov Zh.B. Migration history of Kazakhs through the Himalayas: based on documents from the National Archives of India..... 140
- Мырзаханов Ә.Е., Мұсағалиева А.С.** Шәкәрім Құдайбердіұлының ақталуы: жаңа деректерді талдау
Мырзаханов А.Е., Мусағалиева А.С. Реабилитация Шакарима Құдайбердиева: анализ новых данных
Myrzakhanov A.E., Musagalieva A.S. Shakarim Kudaiberdiyev's rehabilitation: analysis of new data..... 155
- Атдаев С.Дж., Атдаева О.Г.** Стражи туркменского общества XIX в. (до 1881 г.): ясавулы, ферраджи и караульные дозорные
Атдаев С.Дж., Атдаева О.Г. XIX ғ. (1881 жылға дейін) түрікмен қоғамының сақшылары: жасауылдар, феррадждар және қарауыл күзетшілері
Atdaev S.J., Atdaeva O.G. Guards of the Turkmen society of the 19th century (before 1881): yasavuls, ferrajs, and sentry guards..... 168
- Абсаликов А.А.** Генеалогия казахских ханов в «Ахсан ат -Таварих» Хасанбека Румлу (сравнительный анализ пяти рукописных списков и одного печатного издания)
Абсаликов А.А. Хасанбек Румлудың «Ахсан ат-Тауарих» еңбегіндегі қазақ хандарының генеалогиясы (бес қолжазба көшірмесі мен бір баспа басылымының салыстырмалы талдауы)
Absalikov A.A. The genealogy of Kazakh khans in Hasanbeg Rumlu's "Ahsan at-Tawarikh" (a comparative analysis of five manuscript copies and one printed edition)..... 180
- Мамытова С.Н.** The historical evolution of philanthropy in Kazakh society in the 19th – early 20th centuries
Мамытова С.Н. XIX–XX ғасырдың басындағы қазақ қоғамындағы меценаттықтың тарихи эволюциясы
Мамытова С.Н. Историческая эволюция меценатства в казахском обществе XIX – начала XX вв..... 191

<i>Akshanova A.M., Oteпова G.E., Shabambayeva A.G.</i> Historiographical discourse on the study of the korenizatsiia (indigenization) policy	
<i>Ақшанова А.М., Өтепова Г.Е., Шабамбаева А.Г.</i> Қазақстандағы жергіліктендіру саясатының тарихнамалық дискурсы	
<i>Ақшанова А.М., Отепова Г.Е., Шабамбаева А.Г.</i> Историографический дискурс политики коренизации в Казахстане.....	199

Музей ісі / Museology / Музейное дело

<i>Ибраева А.Ф., Пазылова Г.А.</i> Ұлттық тарихи-мәдени мұраны жаһандық дискурста ұсыну: халықаралық және әлемдік көрмелер тәжірибесі	
<i>Ибраева А.Г., Пазылова Г.А.</i> Представление национального историко-культурного наследия в глобальном дискурсе: опыт международных и всемирных выставок	
<i>Ibraeva A.G., Pazylova G.A.</i> Presenting national historical and cultural heritage in global discourse: the experience of international and world expositions.....	212
<i>Orazkulova K., Karibayeva G.</i> Museums, painting, and ideology in Soviet Kazakhstan	
<i>Оразкулова К. С., Карибаева Г.А.</i> Кеңестік Қазақстандағы музейлер, кескіндеме және идеология	
<i>Оразкулова К.С., Карибаева Г.А.</i> Музеи, живопись и идеология в советском Казахстане.....	233

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HISTORY OF STUDIES AND MAIN RESULTS OF RESEARCH ON MEDIEVAL BURIAL SITES IN NORTHEAST SARYARKA

Abstract. The article presents a comprehensive overview of the results of studies of medieval burial sites in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region within North-Eastern Saryarka. The study relevance is determined by the absence of a comprehensive historiographical analysis despite numerous scattered publications and field materials, as well as the limited publication of modern archaeological data, which complicates their comparison and introduction into scientific circulation.

The work systematises materials from studies conducted at different times, comparing them according to key characteristics: types of burial structures, elements of burial rites, orientation of the buried, and the composition of accompanying inventory in ritual practice. On this basis, the main chronological groups of sites in the region are identified: complexes of the Kimak period (8th–10th cc.), sites of the 11th–13th cc., and Late Medieval sites of the 14th–15th cc. associated with the development of monumental architecture.

It was established that burial sites in the region are characterised by a combination of different ritual variants, the widespread use of wooden structures, and the stable presence of funeral feast elements and accompanying inventory. The generalisation of the data clarifies the development of burial traditions and identifies promising directions for further research in the region.

Keywords: North-Eastern Saryarka, Pavlodar Priirtyshye, Middle Ages, archaeology, burial sites.

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Introduction

North-Eastern Saryarka, within which this study examines the territory of the Middle Irtysh region of the modern Pavlodar region, is one of the most significant archaeological and historical-cultural regions of Kazakhstan. The steppe and forest-steppe landscapes of the Middle Irtysh region are characterised by a high concentration of medieval burial complexes, reflecting the social, ethnocultural, and worldview processes that occurred there during the medieval period.

Despite a significant number of publications devoted to individual sites and the results of archaeological excavations, there is still no comprehensive historiographical analysis that

would allow us to trace the main stages of the study of medieval burial sites in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region and identify the directions of development of archaeological research in the region. This circumstance determines the relevance of the present study.

The aim of this study is to review the history of research and summarise the main findings of studies on medieval burial sites in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region, and to identify trends in the development of archaeological work in the region.

The scientific novelty of the work lies in a comprehensive historiographical overview of materials on medieval burial sites in the Pavlodar

Priirtyshye region and in substantiating the region's role as one of the stable local centres for the formation and development of burial traditions in the steppe zone of the country.

The solution of the set tasks involves a consistent analysis of the stages of studying the sites, the introduction of data from individual excavations into the scientific context, and the generalisation of information about the burial rites and chronology of the complexes, which makes it possible to identify the main directions and prospects for further research.

Materials and methods

In physical and geographical terms, most of the Pavlodar region is flat land, crossed by the wide valley of the Irtysh River in its middle reaches, with a well-defined floodplain and terraces above the floodplain. The features of the region's relief and hydrography largely determined the location of archaeological sites, many of which are associated with river terraces, lake basins, and steppe areas.

The study source base consisted of published scientific works, materials from archaeological excavations, expedition reports, and collections of sites dedicated to the study of medieval burial complexes in the region.

The work employs methods of historiographical analysis, comparative-historical and problem-chronological approaches, which enable it to trace the main stages of the study of sites, determine the contributions of individual researchers, and identify trends in the development of archaeological research in the region.

Analysis

The study of archaeological sites in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region began in the 18th c. and was associated with the activities of participants in academic expeditions of the Russian Academy of Sciences, during which the first data about ancient burial structures in the region were obtained. Research became more systematic in the second half of the 19th and early 20th cc., when the first excavations of burial mounds and descriptions of archaeological sites were carried out (Archaeology of North-Eastern Kazakhstan, 2023: 7).

The systematic study of archaeological sites in the region began in the late 1940s and early 1950s and was linked to the development of archaeological science in Kazakhstan and the need to record and protect sites. A significant contribution was made

by the Pavlodar archaeological expedition led by E.I. Ageeva and A.G. Maksimova, during which a large area of the region was surveyed, a large number of burial grounds and settlements were identified, and the results of the research were reflected in the Archaeological Map of Kazakhstan (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959: 32–58).

In the 1950s and 1960s, the research received a boost from large economic projects, such as the construction of the Irtysh–Karaganda Canal. During this period, the teams from the Central Kazakhstan Expedition, led by F.Kh. Arslanova, studied the burial mounds of the Pavlodar region, thereby significantly expanding the source base and attempting to systematise the sites and analyse the burial rites. During the same years, the Bobrovsky, Leontievsky, Zhdanovsky, and other burial mounds were studied, which enabled clarification of the rites features and dating of the complexes (Arslanova, 2013: 405).

The individual sites of the medieval period were also studied by M.K. Kadyrbayev, including the Tasmola 4 burial mound in the Ekibastuz district, as well as a series of medieval burials in the Akmola burial ground near the city of Aksu, dating back to the Golden Horde period (Kadyrbayev, Burnasheva, 1970: 42–53).

In the following decades, the research studies were mainly sporadic and protective in nature. In 1994, V.K. Merz studied a destroyed medieval burial site in Pavlodar, dating to the Kimak period (Mertz, 1995: 24–26).

In 2001–2002, the Pavlodar archaeological expedition studied the burial mounds of the Shiderty archaeological complex, as well as a burial site of the Kimak period near the village of Kyzylenbek (Bermagambetov, Amirgalina, 2004: 60–64). In 2005, emergency rescue work was carried out at the Mayskoye site, which enabled the study of a military burial site of the 11th–13th cc. (Karazhigitova et al., 2025: 29–41).

In 2003–2005, T.N. Smagulov conducted research on the Kalbasun Tower and Kyzylenbek sites, which enabled the identification of two sites of monumental architecture of the 14th–15th cc. in this area.

Since 2006, research has continued at the Auliekol archaeological complex, interpreted as a medieval camp, including a settlement, irrigation system and necropolis of the 14th–15th cc., which has significantly expanded our understanding of the economy, architecture and social structure of the



region's population (Smagulov, 2012: 160).

In addition, the Pokrovsky burial ground and the destroyed burials near the villages of Podstepnoye and Peschanoye are among the sites of the Kimak period excavated in the Pavlodar region (Code of Monuments of the Pavlodar Region, 2010: 22).

Currently, annual archaeological research of sites of the Kimak period is being conducted in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region. However, fieldwork results are rarely published, and a significant portion of the materials remains accessible only in reports. One example is the research on the Baydala burial ground located near the village of Kenzhekol (Archaeological Research in Kazakhstan, 2022: 11). This circumstance makes it difficult to summarise the accumulated material and, to a certain extent, hinders the development of issues related to the chronology and typology of burial sites in the region.

An analysis of the history of research into burial sites in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region shows that archaeological research in the region has developed steadily, accompanied by changes in both research objectives and methodological approaches.

In the early stages (18th – early 20th cc.), the main focus was on identifying and describing sites. The information obtained was mainly of a reference nature and reflected a general interest in the region's antiquities, but there were virtually no systematic excavations or interpretation of the materials.

In the mid-20th c., with the development of archaeological science in the country and the need to record sites, a phase of systematic archaeological research began. The work of the 1950s was characterised by large-scale surveys of the territory and the identification and mapping of sites, which made it possible to build a primary source base for subsequent research.

In the 1960s, research became more systematic. The volume of excavations increased significantly, the range of sites studied expanded, and the first attempts were made to typologise burial complexes and analyse burial rites. During this period, the main ideas about the chronology and cultural affiliations of a significant portion of the region's burial mounds were formulated.

Since the 1990s, archaeological research has largely taken on a protective character due to the destruction of sites caused by economic activity and natural processes. Despite the local scale of many works, the materials obtained have significantly supplemented our knowledge of the burial rites and

material culture of the medieval population of the region.

The current stage of research, beginning in the 2000s, is characterised by a transition to a comprehensive study of archaeological sites. Such work examines not only necropolises but also architectural structures, economic infrastructure, and industrial complexes. This allows sites to be considered not in isolation, but in a broader cultural and historical context.

At the same time, analysis of historiography shows that the study of sites in the region remains uneven. The most thoroughly researched complexes are those located in areas of major construction work or completed archaeological projects, while a significant number of sites are known only from exploratory data or brief reports. In addition, a significant part of the materials from modern excavations is published with a delay or remains in the form of reports, making it difficult to include them in scientific circulation and to summarise the accumulated material.

Thus, the development of archaeological research in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region reflects the general trends in domestic archaeology: a transition from the recording of sites to their systematic study and further comprehensive analysis, accompanied by an expansion of the range of sources studied and a complication of interpretative models.

Results

In 1955, E.I. Ageeva and A.G. Maksimova conducted archaeological research on the burial grounds of medieval nomads located in the areas of Kenzhekol, Trofimovka, Yamyshev and Kachir in the Pavlodar region. The materials obtained significantly supplemented the understanding of the burial rites and chronology of the region's sites (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959: 32–58).

The analysis of published materials and reports from archaeological expeditions has established that a significant number of medieval burial sites have been identified in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region, varying in type, date, and degree of study. The locations of the main sites studied are shown in Fig. 1. Summary information on the most studied objects, including their locations, chronologies, and research histories, is given in Table 1.

As shown in the data presented, most of the sites studied date back to the Early and developed Middle Ages and are concentrated in the Irtysh Valley and adjacent steppe areas. The most intensive

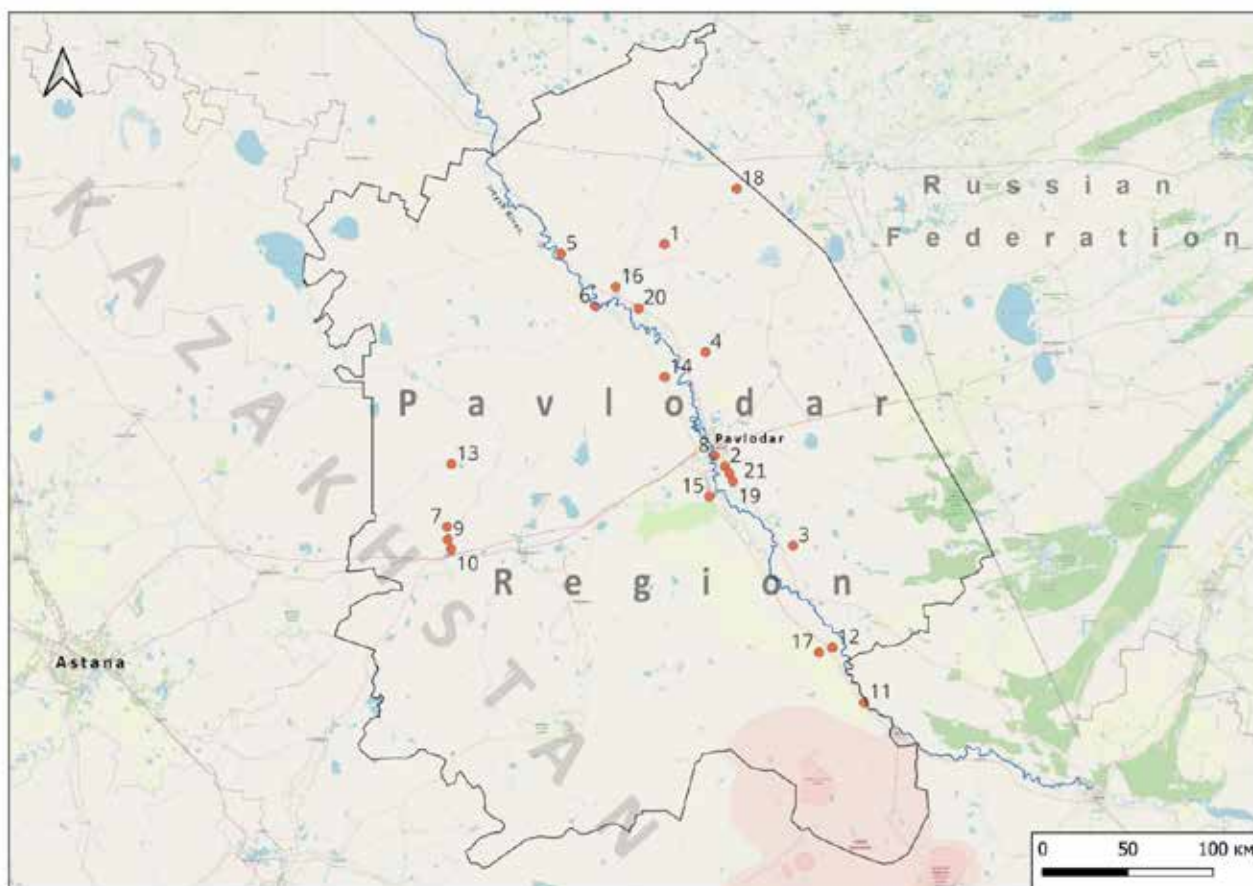


Fig. 1. Location of the medieval burial sites studied in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region. The numbering of the sites corresponds to Table 1

№	Name of the site	Location	Type of site	Dating	Researcher	Year of research
1	Trofimovsky burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Terenkol District, 4.5 km west of the village of Korzhynkol	burial mound	6 th –8 th cc.	Ageeva E.I., Maksimova A.G.	1955
2	Kenzhekol burial mound (No. 499)	Pavlodar Region, Kenzhekol District, Kenzhekolske Village	burial mound	8 th –12 th cc.	Ageeva E.I., Maksimova A.G.	1955
3	Yamashevsky burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Akkulinsky District, Yamyshevo Village	burial mound	14 th –15 th cc.	Ageeva E.I., Maksimova A.G.	1955
4	Leontievsky burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Pavlodar District, 4 km north-east of Leontievka village	burial mound	11 th –12 th cc.	Arslanova F.Kh.	1961



5	Bobrovsky burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Terenkol District, Bobrovo Village	burial mound	8 th –10 th cc.	Arslanova F.Kh.	1961
6	Zhdanovsky burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Aktogai District, Pryrechenskoe Village	burial mound	10 th –12 th cc.	Arslanova F.Kh.	1961
7	Tasmola 4 burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Ekibastuz District, Tasmola tract, 50 km from Ekibastuz	mound group	14 th c.	Kadyrbayev M.K.	1961
8	Lesozavod burial	Pavlodar, on the banks of the Irtysh River	burial	8 th –9 th cc.	Mertz V.K.	1994
9	Shiderty 18 burial mound group	Pavlodar Region, Ekibastuz District, 7.5 km south of Shiderta Station	mound group	10 th –14 th cc.	Mertz V.K.	2002
10	Mound near the Shiderty 3 site	Pavlodar Region, Ekibastuz District, left bank of the Shiderty River, northwest of the Shiderty 3 site	burial ground	13 th –14 th cc.	Mertz V.K.	2001
11	Mayskoye burial	Pavlodar Region, Maisky District, village of Mayskoye	burial	11 th –13 th cc.	Mertz V.K.	2005
12	Kalbasun Tower Archaeological Complex	Pavlodar Region, Maisky District, Kyzylentek Village	archaeological complex	14 th –15 th cc.	Smagulov T.N.	2003–2005
13	Auliekol archaeological Complex	Pavlodar Region, Ekibastuz District, near the village of Karazhar	archaeological complex	14 th –15 th cc.	Smagulov T.N.	Since 2006
14	“25 let octyabrya” burial	Pavlodar Region, Aktogay District, Auelbek Village	burial	13 th –14 th cc.	Lagutin I.V.	1959
15	Akmola burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Aksu	mound	13 th –14 th cc.	Kadyrbayev M.K.	1960
16	Kachirsky burial ground	Pavlodar Region, Terenkol District, Terenkol Village	mound	8 th –12 th cc.	Ageeva E.I., Maksimova A.G.	1955
17	Kyzylentek mound	Pavlodar Region, Maisky District, Kyzylentek Village	mound	8 th –11 th cc.	Smailov Zh.E.	2001
18	Pokrovsky mound	Pavlodar Region, Terenkol District, Pokrovka Village	mound	6 th –9 th cc.	Data on the collection of sites	not established

19	Podstepnoye burial	Pavlodar Region, Pavlodar District, Podstepnoye Village	burial	8 th –9 th cc.	Data on the code of monuments	not established
20	Peschanoye burial	Pavlodar Region, Terenkol District, Peschanoye Village	burial	8 th –11 th cc.	Data on the code of monuments	not established
21	Baydala mound	Pavlodar Region, near the village of Kenzheköl	mound	8 th –11 th cc.	Data on the collection “Archaeological Research in Kazakhstan – 2021”	not established

Table 1. Burial sites of the medieval period in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region

research was conducted in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as in the late 20th and early 21st cc., when protective and comprehensive archaeological work was carried out. The most representative complexes and their research results are presented below.

On the territory of the Berezovsky state farm, 4.5 km west of the village of Trofimovka (now Korzhynkol), a burial ground consisting of 18 earthen mounds grouped into three irregular chains was investigated. The mounds varied in size: diameter, from 6 to 12 m, height – from 0.17 to 0.48 m. During the work, eight mounds were studied (Nos. 3, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17). In most burial mounds, a single burial structure was identified. The exception is burial mound No. 3, where two burial structures in the form of wooden boxes were recorded. A double burial was found in burial mound No. 6. The grave pits are mainly oriented from northeast to southwest. In some cases, the orientation was from north-west to south-east and from north to north-east. One burial was performed according to the cremation rite. In other cases, the buried were usually laid out on their backs. In burial mounds Nos. 12, 17, and 8, it was not possible to determine the skeletons' positions due to anthropogenic interference. The orientation of the buried was predominantly north-eastern; only in two cases was a south-easterly and westerly orientation noted. The household items, weapons, jewellery and horse equipment were found in the burials (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959: 45–49).

Near state farm No. 499 (now the village of Kenzhekol, near the city of Pavlodar), two groups of burial mounds have been identified, one of which is located on the eastern outskirts of the village. The eastern group includes 15 earthen mounds forming

irregular chains oriented from north to south. The mounds average 11–12 m in diameter and 0.3–0.6 m in height. Within this group, mounds No. 9 and No. 4 (diameters of 8–20 m, heights of 0.21–0.59 m) have been studied. Mound No. 9 had a complex structure made of adobe bricks and multi-layered clay filling. Three grave pits were found within its boundaries, all of which had been disturbed by looters. The main grave pit, almost circular in shape and oriented from east to west, contained the burial of a man with a horse, accompanied by horse harness and weapons. The second grave pit, oval in shape and also oriented from east to west, contained the scattered bones of a child. The third grave pit, dating from a later period, was covered by a sagan-type structure made of adobe bricks. Mound No. 4 contained a plundered earth burial, probably of a person buried with a horse. Weapons and horse equipment were found near the skeleton of the buried person. The preserved materials as a whole allow both burial mounds to be attributed to the early Middle Ages (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959: 52–54).

In addition, two burial grounds located 2.4 km north of the village of Kachiry (now Terenkol in the Pavlodar region) were studied. One of them was located on the eastern shore of the lake, the second on its south-western shore. The first burial ground included 13 earthen mounds, most of which had looting craters (mounds with diameters of 12–20 m and heights of 0.15–0.5 m). The mounds examined, Nos. 4, 3 and 12, were found to have been plundered. Mound No. 4 contained an oval grave pit with the remains of a wooden burial structure. The filling contained scattered human and horse bones, as well as fragments of iron objects related to weaponry.



Burial mound No. 3 included an earth burial in an oval grave oriented from southwest to northeast; scattered bones of a human skeleton and fragments of an iron object were recorded. Mound No. 12 is characterised by the presence of cremation remains, accompanied by ceramic vessels and horse bones. The second burial ground consisted of four burial mounds located in a chain from north to south. In this group, burial mound No. 3 was investigated, which contained three grave pits, oriented mainly from southwest to northeast. All burials were disturbed. The filling contained scattered human bones, remains of wooden structures, remains of sacrificial feasts, and a limited inventory of household items, weapons, and jewellery (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959: 54–56).

Researchers recorded two burial grounds near Lake Yamyshevskoye: one on the eastern shore and the other on the northern shore. The northern burial ground consisted of five mounds forming two small chains oriented from southwest to northeast. The mounds were earthen, heavily eroded, with a diameter of 12–22 m and a height of 0.3–0.6 m, with looting craters. Within the burial ground, mounds No. 5 and No. 4 (diameter – about 20 m, height – 0.49–0.53 m) were studied. Both burial mounds had been plundered. The grave pits were oval in shape and oriented from southwest to northeast. Burial mound No. 5 contained an earthen grave pit, while traces of a wooden platform were found in burial mound No. 4. The filling of burial mound No. 5 contained scattered human and horse bones. There were no accompanying grave goods. Based on the shape of the pit, the orientation of the buried person can be reconstructed as facing north-east. The filling of mound No. 4 contained scattered human and horse bones, fragments of a ceramic vessel, and an iron three-pronged arrowhead, allowing the complex to be dated to the 14th–15th cc. AD (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959: 56–58).

Research by E.I. Ageeva and A.G. Maksimova has revealed a significant variety of structures and ritual elements (corpse placement and cremation, the presence of wooden structures, burials with horses and traces of funeral feasts). Based on the combination of features and accompanying inventory, the studied sites date back to the 6th–14th cc. AD. Thus, the materials from the excavations of the 1950s made it possible for the first time to record the diversity of grave structures and ritual variants, which became the basis for subsequent studies of burial sites in the region (Ageeva, Maksimova, 1959:

32–58).

The next stage is associated with research in the late 1950s and early 1960s, which expanded the source base on medieval burial mounds in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region.

In 1959, local historian I.V. Lagutin conducted research to collect material and excavate a destroyed burial site near the “25 let oktyabrya” state farm (now the village of Auelbek). The burial mound contained the skeleton of a person buried in a stretched position on their back, with their head facing north. The accompanying inventory consisted of fragments of stirrups and bits, silver plaques, parts of a headdress, and a silver-plated bronze mirror (Arslanova, 1970: 54–59).

In 1961, F.Kh. Arslanova investigated a burial mound near the village of Leontiyevka. The burial ground consisted of 12 earthen mounds. Of the 9 mounds excavated, 4 were attributed to the medieval period. The diameter of the medieval burial mounds varied from 9 to 15 m; in mounds No. 1, 2 and 4, one grave pit was recorded in each. Burial mound No. 11 contained two burial structures. In most cases, the grave pits were oval, whereas in burial mound No. 11, both pits were subquadratic. The orientation of the grave pits varied between northeast-southeast and west-east. In three cases, the burials were made in simple earth pits. In one burial mound, a grave pit with a ledge along the north-eastern wall and a sloping wooden ceiling was noted. In one of the burial mounds, a grave structure in the form of a mud brick layout was discovered. The burials orientation is consistent: the east prevails, with deviations to the southeast. Animal bones (horse, cow, ram) were found in a number of burials. Based on the available data, the burial mounds of the Leontiyevka burial ground date back to the 11th–12th cc. (Arslanova, 2013: 130–132).

In 1961, one of the teams of the Central Kazakhstan expedition led by F.Kh. Arslanova excavated a burial ground near the village of Bobrovo. The objects are represented by burial mounds and funnel-shaped depressions. Dimensions: diameter of soil pits – 7–12 m, diameter of burial mounds – from 7 to 15 m. Twelve burial mounds and two depressions were excavated during the expedition. Based on the analysis of the materials, F.Kh. Arslanova distinguished two burial rites: cremation without a grave pit and burial in a grave pit, with or without it. Differences in the composition of the inventory and the nature of the funeral feast are also noted. In burial mounds with cremation, it is typical

to find the remains of a lavish funeral feast. In the inhumation ritual, the person is typically placed in an extended position on their back, head facing west (with deviations). Fragments of decayed wood, interpreted as the remains of ceilings or wooden structures, were found on almost all skeletons. Two burial mounds contain grave pits with a base. The complex dates back to the 8th–10th cc. (Arslanova, 1980: 79–104).

During the 1960–1961 field seasons, F.Kh. Arslanova studied 28 earthen mounds of the Zhdanovo burial ground. The burial rites were relatively uniform: most burial mounds contained the remains of fire pits (charred logs, charcoal), burials were arranged in rectangular pits, and the deceased were laid on their backs in an extended position. The western orientation prevails with isolated deviations; in some cases, the orientation has not been established. Various forms of wooden structures above and inside the graves have been recorded (fences made of charred logs, row of logs, cross beams, wooden boxes without bottoms, logs). Based on the totality of characteristics, the burial ground dates back to the 10th–12th cc. (Arslanova, 1963: 278–302).

A separate layer of sources is represented by the study of burial mound No. 2 of the Tasmola 4 burial ground, conducted by a team from the Central Kazakhstan expedition led by M.K. Kadyrbayev. The burial mound had a diameter of 14 m and a height of 1.2 m. The grave pit was rectangular. Inside, a wooden box without a bottom was found, in which the skeleton of the buried person was laid in an extended position on his back, with his head to the north. A ritual feast (ram bones) was also found. Weapons and horse harness were found, along with two coins, which date the burial to the first half of the 14th c. (Kadyrbayev, Burnashev, 1970: 42–53).

Based on materials from the late 1950s and 1960s, research by F.Kh. Arslanova and M.K. Kadyrbayev clarified the chronological scale (8th–10th cc.; 11th–12th cc.; first half of the 14th c.) and identified the stable elements of the ritual (wooden structures, funeral feast, orientation, combination of cremation and inhumation), which significantly expanded the possibilities for cultural and chronological interpretation of the region's monuments.

The next stage involved protective and emergency rescue work in the late 20th and early 21st cc., necessitated by the destruction of sites by natural and anthropogenic factors.

In 1994, V.K. Mertz investigated a destroyed

burial site on the banks of the Irtysh River in the city of Pavlodar (Lesozavod district). The remains of two grave pits were recorded: in one, a partially preserved skeleton was found, oriented with its head to the northeast (without inventory), and in the second, scattered human and horse bones. A paired burial with a stuffed horse was established. The buried were oriented with their heads to the east. The grave goods included weapons, jewellery and elements of horse equipment (an almost complete bridle set). Traces of fire in the filling and on the objects indicate that a funeral pyre was held. In addition, the remains of wooden structures were recorded. The complex dates back to the 8th–9th cc. and is attributed to the Kimak period (Mertz, 1995: 25–27).

In 2001, a team led by V.K. Mertz investigated burial mound No. 1 of the Shiderty archaeological complex, dating back to the Mongol period. A burial with a probable wooden ceiling was recorded. The finds included a mirror, elements of a case with cosmetics, a bead, a paste pendant and copper items (Mertz, 2002: 5).

In 2002, he also investigated burial mound No. 2 of the Shiderty 18 group: stone masonry of the mound, a burial in a wooden box (oriented with the head to the north-west) and individual items of weaponry were discovered. Judging by the burial rites, the site was dated to the 10th–14th cc. (Mertz, 2003: 23–25).

In 2001, a team led by Zh.E. Smailov investigated an inhumation burial from the Kimak period on the outskirts of the village of Kyzylenbek. The burial was sunk into a homogeneous silty-clayey mass of the mound, which made it impossible to establish the outlines of the grave pit. Household items, weapons and horse equipment were found next to the calcined bones. In 2003, the main burial of the Early Iron Age was discovered on the same mound (Bermagambetov, Amirgalina, 2004: 60–64; Code of Monuments of the Pavlodar Region, 2010: 22).

In 2005, emergency research was conducted on the Maiskoye site: a single burial of a man with a horse was recorded; based on the preserved bone remains, the position of the buried person was reconstructed with his head to the west; the inventory included horse equipment, weapons and elements of armour; the complex was preliminarily attributed to pre-Islamic burials of the 11th–13th cc. (Karazhigitova et al., 2025: 29–42).

A significant amount of data was collected during the study of the Kalbasun Tower and



Auliekol archaeological complexes, enabling burial sites to be considered in the context of monumental architecture and accompanying infrastructure.

In 2003–2005, T.N. Smagulov conducted work on the localisation and study of the Kalbasun Tower, during which two sites (No. 1 and No. 2) were surveyed and excavated. At site No. 1, sections of a cemetery with numerous, mainly uninvestigated burials were studied. At site No. 2, the remains of a ruined brick structure, burials and a sacrificial structure were identified. In some cases, vaulted structures and accompanying finds were noted. It was established that two sites of monumental architecture of the 14th–15th cc. were located in this area. The above-ground part of the earlier structure (site No. 2) was lost by the 17th c., and site No. 1 was destroyed in the second half of the 18th c., after which a Kazakh cemetery formed around the ruins (Smagulov, 2012: 6–133).

Since 2006, research has continued at the Auliekol site, which is interpreted as a medieval camp with a settlement, an irrigation system, and a necropolis from the 14th–15th cc. The excavations yielded a significant collection of artefacts (several thousand). Osteological materials and accompanying finds testify to a complex livestock and agricultural economy, supplemented by hunting and fishing. In addition, production facilities such as a workshop for the manufacture of architectural decorations and glazes, and kilns for firing bricks were recorded. Early Muslim burial mounds and burials in adobe fences were studied in the necropolis, and mausoleums-kumbez of the elite part of the necropolis were identified. In 2009, excavations of a two-chamber mausoleum (ziaratkhana and gurkhana) with several burials were completed, and altars made of horse skulls were noted. The architectural decor consisted of tiles and carved bricks with Arabic script and ornamentation (Smagulov, 2012: 113–114).

Materials from the late 20th and early 21st cc. have significantly expanded the source base, adding new data on Kimak burials from the 8th–9th cc., military complexes from the 11th–13th cc., and burial, memorial, and architectural sites from the 14th–15th cc. The inclusion of the Auliekol and Kalbasun archaeological complexes in scientific discourse enabled consideration of the burial sites of the Middle Irtysh region as elements of broader socio-economic and architectural complexes.

Taken together, the studies reviewed show that the burial sites of the medieval Pavlodar Priirtyshye region are characterised by a combination of ritual

variants: in addition to corpse burial, cremation complexes are also recorded. An important element of burial practice is organic structures (floors, row of logs, wooden boxes, logs), traces of which can be found in both early medieval and later complexes. Other components also play a significant role in the rites – animal bones, burials with horses, and elements of funeral feasts, which are consistently noted in materials from various sites. The orientation of burials and grave structures varies, but in a number of complexes, consistent directions can be traced, which probably reflects local traditions and their chronological dynamics. The presence of late medieval objects (in particular, complexes from the 14th–15th cc. associated with monumental architecture and necropolises) broadens the context for interpreting burial sites, allowing them to be considered not in isolation, but in connection with settlements, economic infrastructure, and religious and memorial structures. Overall, the data set documents the long, heterogeneous development of burial practices in the region, spanning a wide range of dates in the complexes studied (6th–15th cc.).

Analysis of the burial site dates shows that most of the complexes in the Pavlodar Priirtyshye region date back to the early and developed Middle Ages. The earliest sites date back to the 8th–10th cc. and are associated with the Kimak period (Bobrovsky burial ground, Lesozavod burial site, and individual mound complexes). Sites of the 11th–13th cc. are represented by burial mounds, reflecting the stability of corpse burial traditions and the use of horse equipment elements in funeral rites (Leontievsky and Zhdanovsky burial grounds, Mayskoye burial). The complexes of the 14th–15th cc. are characterised by the appearance of monumental architecture, mausoleums, and developed necropolises, as seen most clearly in the materials from the Auliekol and Kalbasun sites.

Thus, archaeological materials testify to the continuity of burial traditions in the Pavlodar region during the 8th–15th cc., with a gradual transformation of ritual practices and architectural forms.

Conclusion

The analysis of the history of the study of medieval burial sites in the region under consideration shows that archaeological research in the Pavlodar region has gone through several stages, reflecting the general trends in the development of domestic archaeology: from exploratory work and

the recording of site to systematic excavations and comprehensive study of archaeological complexes.

The accumulated archaeological material has made it possible to identify the main features of the burial rites of the medieval population of the region, including the diversity of grave structures, the combination of different burial practices, the stability of individual ritual elements, and the widespread use of accompanying inventory related to weapons and horse equipment.

Research in recent decades has shown that the burial sites of North-Eastern Saryarka should be considered in the context of broader archaeological complexes, including settlements, production facilities and architectural monuments, which allows for a more complete reconstruction of the economic activities, social structure and cultural traditions of the medieval population of the region.

At the same time, the degree of study of the sites

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remains uneven. A significant part of the objects are known only from exploratory data, and the results of many modern excavations are published with a delay or remain in the form of reports, which makes it difficult to introduce them into scientific circulation and summarise the accumulated material.

Thus, the accumulated archaeological material and the results of its generalisation allow us to consider the Pavlodar Priirtyshye as one of the stable regional centres for the formation and development of burial traditions in the steppe zone of Kazakhstan in the medieval period.

In this regard, one of the urgent tasks for further research is the systematisation and publication of fieldwork materials, as well as comprehensive studies aimed at clarifying the chronology, typology, and cultural affiliation of medieval burial sites in the Pavlodar region.

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СОЛТҮСТІК-ШЫҒЫС САРЫАРҚАДАҒЫ ОРТАҒАСЫРЛЫҚ ЖЕРЛЕУ ЕСКЕРТКІШТЕРІН ЗЕРТТЕУ ТАРИХЫ МЕН НЕГІЗГІ НӘТИЖЕЛЕРІ

Аңдатпа. Мақалада Солтүстік-Шығыс Сарыарқа аумағындағы Павлодар Ертіс өңірінің ортағасырлық жерлеу ескерткіштерін зерттеу нәтижелеріне жалпылама шолу жасалған. Зерттеудің өзектілігі көптеген әртүрлі жарияланымдар мен далалық материалдардың болуына қарамастан, өңір бойынша кешенді тарихнамалық талдаудың жүргізілмеуімен, сондай-ақ заманауи археологиялық деректердің жеткіліксіз деңгейде ғылыми айналымға енгізілуімен түсіндіріледі. Бұл жағдай жинақталған материалдарды салыстырмалы тұрғыда қарастыруға және олардың мәдени-тарихи мазмұнын толық ашуға кедергі келтіреді.

Жұмыс барысында әр кезеңде жүргізілген зерттеулер нәтижелері негізгі белгілер бойынша жүйеленді: қабір құрылыстарының типологиясы, жерлеу ғұрпының құрылымы, жерленгендердің бағдарлану ерекшеліктері, салттық тәжірибедегі ілеспе заттардың құрамы мен қызметі. Осы негізде аймақ ескерткіштерінің басты хронологиялық топтары айқындалды: қимақ дәуірінің кешендері (VIII–X ғғ.), XI–XIII ғғ. ескерткіштері және монументалды сәулет өнерінің дамуымен байланысты XIV–XV ғғ. кейінгі ортағасырлық нысандар.

Сонымен қатар, аймақтың жерлеу ескерткіштеріне жерлеу ғұрпының әртүрлі нұсқаларының ұштасуы, ағаш конструкциялардың кеңінен қолданылуы, сондай-ақ тризна элементтері мен ілеспе заттардың тұрақты түрде кездесуі тән екендігі анықталды. Алынған деректерді жалпылау жерлеу дәстүрлерінің эволюциясын нақтылап, аймақтың этномәдени дамуын түсіндіруге және болашақ археологиялық зерттеулердің бағыттарын айқындауға мүмкіндік береді.

Кілт сөздер: Солтүстік-Шығыс Сарыарқа, Павлодар Ертіс өңірі, орта ғасырлар, археология, жерлеу ескерткіштері.

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ИСТОРИЯ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ И ОСНОВНЫЕ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ ПОГРЕБАЛЬНЫХ ПАМЯТНИКОВ СРЕДНЕВЕКОВЬЯ СЕВЕРО-ВОСТОЧНОЙ САРЫАРКИ

Аннотация. В статье представлен обобщающий обзор результатов изучения средневековых погребальных памятников Павлодарского Прииртышья, рассматриваемого в пределах Северо-Восточной Сарыарки. Актуальность исследования обусловлена отсутствием целостного историографического анализа по данному региону при наличии значительного массива разрозненных публикаций и полевых отчётов, а также ограниченной публикацией материалов современных археологических работ, что затрудняет их сопоставление и введение в научный оборот.

В работе систематизированы материалы разновременных исследований, сопоставленные по основным признакам: типы могильных сооружений, элементы погребального обряда, ориентировка погребённых, состав сопроводительного инвентаря в ритуальной практике и др. На этой основе выделены основные хронологические группы памятников региона: комплексы кимакского времени (VIII–X вв.), памятники XI–XIII вв., а также позднесредневековые объекты XIV–XV вв., связанные с развитием монументальной архитектуры.

Кроме того, было выявлено то, что для погребальных памятников региона характерно сочетание различных вариантов обряда, широкое использование деревянных конструкций и устойчивое присутствие элементов тризны и сопроводительного инвентаря. Обобщение полученных данных позволило уточнить представления о развитии погребальных традиций и определить перспективные направления дальнейших исследований региона.

Ключевые слова: Северо-Восточная Сарыарка, Павлодарское Прииртышье, средневековье, археология, погребальные памятники.

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