



## History of Khorezm Jewelry Art from the Point of View of Researchers

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**Abstract:** In the article, jewelry of ancient cultures was analyzed based on the opinions of the employees of the archaeological-ethnographic expedition led by Tolstov about the ancient history of Khorezm jewelry art.

**Keywords:** S.P. Tolstov, S.A. Teploukhov, I.V. Ptashnikova, Eucratides, Graeco-Bactria, Archipelago cultures, Kaltaminor culture, Afanasev culture, Minusinsky region, Indian Ocean basin, Red Sea, Persian and Arabian Gulf, North Black Sea, Olvia, Kerch, Kuvandarya, Korbicula fliminalis, Dentalium, pyrite, gachat, cerdolik, "Scythian-Siberian" style.

**Enter.** Archaeological objects were analyzed as a result of the archaeological-ethnographic expedition conducted in the territory of our country in the beginning and second half of the 20th century under the leadership of S.P. Tolstov. Jewelry has a special place among them. In her articles, I.V. Ptashnikova also tries to analyze the similarities and peculiarities of the beads found in Khorezm fortresses. Researchers have interpreted the objects found in our country in different ways and further strengthened the existing theories. In the opinion of archaeologist S.A. Teploukhov, the objects of Siberian culture are compared with those of Aralboi culture, and it is noted that there is a connection between them and that the cultures interacted.

**The main part.** Tolstov in his work "In Search of Khorezm Culture" notes that the ornaments of the inhabitants of the Kaltaminor culture were mainly made of imported shells and stones. According to the researcher, the Kaltaminorians used shell as a raw material for making small cylindrical necklaces, and the one end hole was made of shell or polished stone plate in egg-shaped zirks. Such jewelry was highly valued by the people of that time [1.2014.B-83].

Archaeologist S.A. Teploukhov discovered the influence of Aralboi cultures on the culture of Afanasev when he found ornaments made from the shell "Korbicula fliminalis" in the graves of the Minusinsky region. Among the regions where such decorations were found, the closest to Siberia was found at the confluence of the Amudarya. Based on these data, S.A. Teploukhov estimated that the Aral center had a cultural impact on the life of the people of South Siberia as early as 1927. Ornaments found in tombs of the III-II millennium BC in the Minusinsk region were made of Lower Amudarya shells, while the majority of Kaltaminor necklaces were also made of shells imported from far southern regions. The fact that the shell belonging to the type of Dentalium found in Jonbos-4 was found in two types of waters of the Indian Ocean basin - in the Red Sea and in the Persian and Arabian gulfs [1.2014.B-87-88] proves that it was made.

Researchers note that despite the fact that decorative goods are extremely diverse, throughout the entire history of ancient Khorezm, necklaces made of colored glass brought from neighboring countries were preferred. Except for small prism-shaped local corals prepared by drilling crystals of pyrite mineral, corals made of stone were very few, and it can be observed that they were widespread in the Ntic period [1.2014.B-114].

From Jonboskala, there are many and various necklaces from the period from the IV century BC to the II century AD (compared to the settlements found on the Northern Black Sea coast, especially in Olvia and Kerch, to which period they belong) found. Most of the corals are small



and dark blue glass, cylindrical, spherical and egg-shaped with transverse lines. Also, curved cylindrical and flanged beads of non-glare light blue glass, and pear-shaped (or "jug") beads of blue flowing glass; double pyramid-shaped necklaces made of white glass, similar to a linear coil, with golden water running on the surface, and dark blue and golden-brown glass, were also identified. Button-shaped necklaces made of blue-gray Egyptian paste, ellipsoidal necklaces made of layers of gold and blue glass, and white paste were numerous. Stone necklaces are rare, mostly gachate (a type of charcoal that gives a shiny color when polished) and chert (a red or reddish gemstone), perforated between pyrite (a mineral composed of sulfur oxides) small trapezoidal necklaces made of crystals and large amphora necklaces made of brown ironstone pieces were found [1.2014.B-144].

In the works of the expedition staff, it is noted that most of the corals were brought from foreign cities - Syria, Egypt, the cities along the Northern Black Sea. I.V. Ptashnikova, the expedition employee, identified the necklaces and determined their period. Ptashnikova drew attention to the selection of unique types of necklaces, noted that the people of Khorezm have a special taste, and the places where these items are made have extremely extensive trade relations with foreign countries [1.2014.145].

Historians are also very interested in the issue of the emergence of the "Scythian-Siberian animal style". Magnificent gold ornaments depicting warring animals were widespread in Siberia and Mongolia in the early centuries BC, influencing Chinese art during the Han period. Taking into account the fact that there is already a connection between the Scythian culture of Siberia and the monuments of the Amudarya treasure, it is noteworthy that two gold bracelets were found 40 years ago in Kuvandarya, in the very heart of the land of the Massaget-Tokhars. One of the bracelets has a horse depicted in the same "Siberian" style, and the other has an image of a "multi-headed wolf" [1.2014.B-172].

In his work, Tolstov mentioned about the ancient Khorezm jewelry art through his thoughts about the presence of rhombus-shaped beads on the coins bearing the inscriptions of the Greco-Bactrian king Eucratides [1.2014.B-181].

**Summary.** Based on the above information, the following conclusion can be made:

- The archeological-ethnographic expedition conducted across our country under the leadership of Tolstov serves as an important source for studying the history of our jewelry art.
- In the works of the researchers, information about Khorezm jewelry, in particular, rings, bracelets, and beads, plays a key role.
- Among the jewelry of Khorezm, in the period before Christ, there were more items made of gachat, cerdolic, and pyrite than stone ornaments.
- The originality of the jewelry found in the castles indicates that the ancient inhabitants of our country also had a high taste.
- In the first centuries AD, jewelry made of stone was widespread throughout our country.
- The unique types of shells found in the territory of our country indicate that relations with neighboring countries are well established.
- The wide spread of the Scythian-Siberian style in our country shows the harmony of cultures.

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