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History of the Study of Archaeological Monuments in the Valley of the River Taldy (Shetsky district of Karaganda region)

The article highlights the history of studying monuments located in the Taldy River valley, which form the foundation of the proposed Taldy Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve. The historiographical analysis of the study of monuments in the Taldy archaeological microdistrict allowed the authors to analyze and systematize previous research, as well as to determine the role and significance of these monuments for Central Kazakhstan. By examining articles, monographs, and field research reports, the authors identified key stages of archaeological excavations and refined the methodologies applied in different periods. Two main phases of research have been distinguished. The first phase is associated with the activities of the Central Kazakhstan Archaeological Expedition under the general leadership of Academician A.Kh. Margulan and covers the years 1947–1964. From 1965 to 2010, research in the microdistrict was practically not conducted. Field archaeological work, including excavations, exploratory surveys, and stratigraphic analysis, played a key role in this study. During extensive expeditions (1947–1964 and from 2011 to the present), numerous archaeological sites from various historical periods, ranging from the Bronze Age to the Golden Horde era, were examined, including burial mounds, settlements, and ritual complexes. Special attention was paid to excavation methods, including the clearing of burial mounds, identifying structural features of burial sites, recording stratigraphic data, and analyzing cultural layers. Since 2011, the modern stage of research has been ongoing, characterized by a rapid accumulation of new material that is of fundamental importance in addressing questions of the genesis, periodization, and chronology of the archaeological cultures of Central Kazakhstan and neighboring regions.

Keywords: Central Kazakhstan, archaeology, history of study, monuments, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Middle Ages.

Introduction

The group of monuments considered in this article is located in the Shet district of the Karaganda region. It is located in the river valley of the Taldy (Taldynura) extending from west to east for several tens of kilometers. The need for coverage of the history of its study can be explained on the basis of two topical aspects. Firstly, the monuments investigated in this territory constitute the base for the projected Taldyna Historical and Archaeological Museum-Reserve. Secondly, the materials obtained during the excavations of recent years are of great importance in terms of refining the periodization and chronology of the Bronze Age cultures.

The study of monuments in Taldy (Taldynur) valley is inextricably linked with the first systematic research in Central Kazakhstan, which represented a kind of “white spot” until the mid-1940s. Situation began to change for the better after establishment of KazSSR Academy of Sciences in 1946 and organization of Central Kazakhstan archeological expedition (1947) under direction of A.Kh. Margulan. The tasks of the latter included both prospecting and exploratory work as well as excavation of archaeological sites in order to establish the chronology of antiquities of the region.

The archaeological study began in 1947 with the excavation of a dugout at the Baibala settlement [1; 196-197]. It had stone walls consisting of two rows of stone slabs. The space between slabs was filled with stone fragments. This architectural peculiarity is usually called armoured dwelling. The construction features of this dwelling allowed A.Kh. Margulan to draw parallels with other excavated structures dated to the Late Bronze Age. Unfortunately, the settlement was destroyed as of 1955.

During three field seasons of 1951, 1952 and 1955 the study of Bylkildak complex was conducted. The complex includes three extensive groups of monuments (I, II, III), occupying a high rooted coastal terrace and numbering about 200 structures. About 20 structures of the developed Bronze Age were excavated in the burial ground [2].

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The material found in them largely belongs to the Alakul cultural complex. However, the appearance of ceramic vessels of one fence indicates their Late Bronze Age (Begazy-Dandybayev) origin. The presence of different constructions on such a vast burial field is naturally associated with a long period of use of the burial ground. The presence of a mound with arch-shaped stone lining (“mustache”) allows to speak about the functioning of the monument until the end of the Early Iron Age.

In the picturesque valley of the Shortandy-Bulak river there is a rather large settlement of the Late Bronze Age, with 39 structures fixed by depressions. In 1955 the Central Kazakhstan archaeological expedition carried out excavations of two dwellings (No 14 and 21), which evidently belonged to the semi-dugout type, i.e. they had a sunken pit with the remains of frame and pillar constructions, observed as the remains of log walls and pits from support poles. The cultural layer contained fragments of roller-type pottery, metal and stone products, as well as carved bone decorated with filigree geometric motifs [1; 198–215].

In 1955, two rounded fences were excavated in the Baibala I burial ground. It contained burials in stone boxes, as well as fragments of Nuri-Fedorovo ceramic vessels and fragments of metal ornaments [3; 78–81].

Another complex was investigated in the Baibala II burial ground. It was a mound with an earthen structure 28 m in diameter and up to 1.8 m high. Under the mound there were two inserted into each other. A burial in the form of a stone box was revealed in the central part of them. It contained human remains and accompanying equipment, typical for Nurin-Fedorovo cultural complex [3; 55–56].

In 1964 M.K. Kadyrbaev excavated another complex of Nurin-Fedorovo culture in the Taldy 1 burial ground. It was a mound with a diameter of 12 m and a height of 0.5 m. Two inserted rectangular fences were found under the mound. Cremated remains and fragments of ceramic vessel decorated with a carpet ornament were found in the burial chamber [4].

The materials received during the first works were of great importance for formation of the first idea about cultural variety and identity of antiquities of all region. They also promoted understanding of their chronology and genesis. For example, the first original periodization of the culture of the Bronze Age population, created by the outstanding archaeologist K.A. Akishev and successfully tested during his PhD thesis [5], was based in particular on the data from the excavations of the Taldy (Taldynur) valley monuments.

Materials and Methods

When writing a scientific article, an important research method is historiographical analysis, which allowed the authors to study and systematize previous studies on the archaeological sites of Central Kazakhstan. Having analyzed the research materials of the predecessors: published articles that provided factual material on the work carried out at the Taldy archaeological microdistrict; the collective monograph “Ancient Culture of Central Kazakhstan” [3], which summarized the research of the first half of the 20th century; and the monograph by A.Kh. Margulan “Begazy-Dandybay culture of Central Kazakhstan” [1], which summarized the results of archaeological work of the Late Bronze Age on the burial grounds and settlements of the Begazy-Dandybay culture, also publishes reports on field research at the monuments of Senkibay-2, Taldy, Kyzyltau, conducted by the authors of the article under the guidance of I.A. Kukushkin [6–8]. The authors identified the key stages of archaeological research, as well as clarified the specifics of the methodology used at different times. One of the main methods in this work is field archaeological research, including excavations, geological exploration and stratigraphic analysis. During long-term expeditions (1947–1964 and from 2011 to the present), many archaeological sites were explored, including mounds, settlements and ritual structures. Specific excavation methods were described, such as the clearing of mounds, the identification of structural features of burial structures, the fixation of stratigraphy and stratigraphic analysis of cultural layers.

Considerable attention is paid in the article about the artifacts discovered during the excavations. The typological method is used to classify ceramic products, metal objects (daggers, spearheads and arrows), jewelry and other finds. The comparative analysis allowed the authors to correlate the identified objects with similar finds in Central Asia and neighboring regions, which helps in clarifying the periodization of cultural strata.

Results

The study of these antiquities is important for solving both regional and global problems. Some of them can be identified separately.

Firstly, based on the results of primary processing of the obtained Alakul materials of Senkibai-2, Talda-1, Kyzyltau, Tabyldy burials, etc., we proposed a new periodization of Petrovsky and Alakul antiquities.

ties. Instead of two separate cultures, it is proposed to include both groups of monuments of the Alakul line of development into one culture of the same name, which went through two phases (early and “classical” ones). The early phase bears a resemblance to certain complexes. It is subdivided into two stages with their own specific features. The first stage is called the Petrovsky stage (XIX–XVIII centuries B.C.), as it bears a resemblance to similar antiquities of neighboring regions (large ground graves, characteristic forms of vessels, presence of specific ornamental elements) and is fundamentally synchronous with them, marking the rapid nature of settlement of Petrovsky tribes. The second one is the Nurtai stage (XVIII — first half of XVII centuries BC). It reflects specific regional features, illustrated by A.A. Tkachev [9].

Secondly, fragments of Yelunin ceramics were found in the embankment of structure No 178 of the Senkibay-2 burial ground. It remains poorly studied despite of long-term researches of Central Kazakhstan. The issue of its boundaries is still under the question. However, discovery of such ceramics in the valley of Taldy (Taldynura) substantially expands its areal to the Central Saryarka, and, apparently, it is not the final boundary. Such single finds indicate that practically all territory of Saryarka in pre-Andronov time seems to be occupied by population close to Yelunin population in cultural aspect [10].

Discussion

The first excavations were conducted in the Nurataldy-1 burial ground in 2011. Militaristic bronze findings (knives, spear and dart tips) were found in the course of the study of Alakul fences No 1-2. They are considered to be very unique for the region.

In the same year, a complex of the Golden Horde period was studied in the Nurataldy-2 burial ground. It consisted of adobe fence covered by an earthen embankment, containing a paired burial. It is noteworthy that in terms of rituals, one of the dead was buried in accordance with Muslim canons. The other one was buried in accordance with pagan rites, and was accompanied by a variety of equipment, which has analogues in the antiquities of the XIII–XIV centuries [11].

Considering the importance of the results obtained during the study of the Nurataldy-1 burial ground, it was decided to continue the excavations of the monument in 2012. They covered enclosures No 3, 4 as well as a separate box, located at some distance, indicating the former vastness of the burial field. Quite interesting is the intact burial of a woman decorated with gilded 1.5 turn pendants, bronze bracelets on each arm and bronze beads on her feet.

Excavations of Senkibay-2 began in 2014. It is one of the largest necropolises in Central Kazakhstan. It comprises 197 structures. Most of them appear to belong to the developed Bronze Age period. However, an early Iron Age burial ground and a ritual ancient Turkic fence are also present at the site. Structure No 26 was excavated in 2014. It contained Alakul type [12].

During two field seasons 2014 and 2021 excavations were carried out at the Tankara burial ground. They covered the complexes of Begazy-Dandybayev culture, namely quadrangular-shaped fences with ground stone boxes in their inner space [13].

Not far from the Tankara burial ground there is a large necropolis of Bada, where structures No 2 and 3 were excavated in 2015. These were earth mounds with stone fences. They contained burial chambers in the form of cysts (like a box, the walls were lined with masonry of tiles and stone), characteristic of the Nurinsko-Fedorovka culture [14].

In 2015, it was decided to continue the research of the burial grounds of Nurataldy-1 and Nurataldy-2, where significant results and unique for Central Kazakhstan materials were obtained. Thus, in the building No 5 of the Nurataldy-1 necropolis, a burial was found containing a metal vessel, which at that time became one of the oldest in Kazakhstan, along with the one found earlier in the Ashchisu burial ground [15]. It was made by Alakul metallurgists using a complex technology using a wax model [16].

Of no less importance were the works at the Nurataldy-2 burial ground, where an earthen mound was excavated, containing a mud-brick enclosure with a peshtak, which generally copied the idea of the portal-dome construction of the mausoleums. The discovered burial was made in accordance with pagan canons, accompanied by a set of items of horse harness and weapons [11]. Its significance is explained by the extremely small number of previously studied complexes of the Golden Horde time. In this connection, each new object significantly expands our understanding of this era.

In 2016, excavations of the grandiose mausoleum (No 1) and peripheral structures (No 2–13) of the Karazhartas burial ground began. These were left by the bearers of the Begazy-Dandybayev culture. The main complex (No 1) had a pyramidal-stepped shape after clearing the surface soil and consisted of 5-6 rows of walls. At the moment, it is considered the largest and most complexly constructed structure among the

known burial complexes of this culture. Its wall dimensions (excluding the outer fence) were $14 \times 14.5 \times 14.3 \times 13.5$ m. with rounded through holes, as well as a large collection of ceramics [16]. The metal inventory discovered during the study of the site is represented by bronze needles, a bullet-shaped arrowhead, daggers, a pendant in the form of an “anchor” and a gold ring with rounded through holes, as well as a numerous collection of ceramics [17].

In the same year, the excavations of the Bada burial ground were continued. It involved the study of structure No 1. The excavations were completed in 2017. The burial ground consisted of two fences inserted into each other (quadrangular and rounded, respectively) and contained several burials with fragments of pottery of the Nurinsky-Fedorov type found inside them [18].

Excavations at the Karazhartas burial ground were continued in 2017. These covered structures No 14–15, 17–18, 23–25, 26, 28–30. Further investigation of the blockages of the walls of structure No 1 was carried out. The obtained materials expanded the data on the funeral rite and the objective world of the Late Bronze Age population of the region [17]. At the end of the field work, the expedition led by A.Z. Beisenov carried out restoration work on the monument.

Two looted Bronze Age structures No 16 and 24 at the Senkibai-2 burial ground were investigated in 2017. In this respect, of some interest is an additional burial (structure No 24) of the Early Iron Age, where the skeleton of a woman lying flat on the back was excavated. The skeleton was accompanied by beads, a metal mirror and a stone altar [19].

Four barrows with stone enclosures and two enclosures without embankments were investigated in the Kyzyltau burial ground in 2017. These contained 21 Bronze Age burials and one unmarked burial of later date (No 6, 10–14). Of the greatest interest are the ritual objects with horse bones, symbolizing a chariot complex. Such a ritual, as a rule, marks highly status funerary constructions, expressively emphasizing their belonging to the tribal aristocracy. The orientation of the majority of the dead and sacrificial horses in the eastern direction, as well as some, rather blurred features in the ornamentation are considered the result of the Srubnaya culture (“timber framework”) influence [20].

Investigations at the early Alakul burial ground of Tabyldy (constructions 1–4, 10G) were carried out in 2018. These comprised 19 constructions. Structures 3 and 4 are of the greatest interest. Paired horse burial was found in the first one. Together with the burial chamber, it graphically imitates a team of chariots. Several undisturbed burials were found in the structure 4. They allowed to reconstruct some aspects of funeral rites and principles of wearing jewellery (jaw-face pendant, 1.5-turn pendants) [21–22].

Excavations of the Kotyrtas burial mound were carried out in the same year. Here, complexes of early Alakul and Golden Horde times were investigated. The latter period is of considerable interest as it is poorly studied. The structure excavated had a quadrangular enclosure under the mound with two peshtaks and an entrance between them. A burial was found in the inner space of the fence. It had the form of an earth pit. Apparently, it was a cenotaph, containing only scattered chopped horse bones in the backfill. In terms of construction, the structure investigated is almost identical to the structure No 2 of the burial ground Nurataldy-2, copying the structure of the portal-dome mausoleum [23].

The works of V.V. Varfolomeyev in Akkezen are of particular importance in the study of pro-town centers of the Late Bronze Age. Akkezen is one of the largest settlements in Central Kazakhstan, with at least 71 structures. In 2018–2020 several sites were excavated on the territory of the monument, as well as an elongated residential structure measuring 32×7 m. It had stacked masonry walls and was framed by an external fence. The material obtained belongs to the Begazy-Dandybayev culture [13].

Moreover, V.V. Varfolomeyev undertook reconnaissance work in the form of pitting and limited excavation at the settlements of Azhar, Azhar-2, Baibala-2, Saurambai and Shokpartas, where materials of Eneolithic, Middle and Late Bronze Age, as well as Early Iron Age were found [24].

The excavations of the Taldinsky-1 burial ground began in 2018. They have been carried out without interruptions to the present time. The complexes of two cultural traditions were excavated during the first field season. These are Alakulskaya culture (constructions No 6–8) and Begazy-Dandybayevskaya culture (construction No 5). Of certain interest is the ceramic complex of structure No 7. It has some archaic features dating back to the time of the Alakul culture in Central Kazakhstan [25].

Three high status complexes (No 1–3) of Nurin-Fedorovo culture were studied in the Taldinsky-1 burial ground in 2019. They were rather large earth mounds with double stone fences and contained burials with cremation and burial rites accompanied by characteristic tableware. Indicative is the discovery of an earring with a flared section, which is a kind of “visiting card” of this cultural tradition [26].

In 2019, the Turkic memorial-ritual complex Akbauyr was also excavated, which was a chain of 6 fences of Kudyrghinsky and Yakanursky types. The anthropomorphic half-length sculpture discovered at the site is noted for its rather well-preserved and detailed elements (an image of a face, an ear, a breastplate and a cup, a pose is indicated). Its iconographic likeness undoubtedly correlates with the ancient Turkic tradition. This is evidenced by the canonical pose with a cup in one hand, as well as a number of other features [27].

In the same year, quite large-scale works were carried out in the Senkibay-2 burial ground, where the constructions No 1–4 were excavated. Judging by the characteristics of the ceramic complex, some of the materials obtained refer to the early phase of Alakul culture. The other ones seem to correspond to its “classical” stage [6-7].

In 2019 the following works were carried out: the excavations of two Tasmolin complexes of elite plan at Karazhartas and Karazhartas-2 burial mounds, as well as the research of Alakul structures No 3, 5, 7, 9 and 15 of Kyzyltau burial mound. Of the greatest interest is the discovery of horse bones in barrow No 7 and an intact burial in barrow No 9. The latter contained a paired mixed sex burial accompanied by pottery vessels, remains of a jaw-face pendant in the form of “solar” plaques and beads, gold temple rings and characteristic bracelets with twisted ends. In general, the materials of the monument correspond to the early phase of Alakul culture [8].

In 2020, works at the Taldinsky-1 burial ground were continued. Seven complexes of the Alakul and Begazy-Dandybayev cultures, as well as a Kipchak Khanate period lining were excavated. As a result of the 2018–2020 investigations, it was established that the western edge of the monument was apparently occupied by burial structures of the Nurin-Fedorovo culture, the central part contained the burial structures of the Begazy-Dandybayev culture, and the Alakul burial structures were found in the eastern part.

Two complexes of the Alakul culture in the form of earthen mounds with stone fences (No 5, 178) were excavated in 2020 in the Senkibai-2 burial ground. The fragments of ceramics of Yelunin culture (Southern Siberia and the Altai zone) found in embankment of one of constructions are of special interest. They, probably, got there accidentally. However, these indicate their penetration in the southerly direction [10].

In the same year, the excavations of the Kokterek complex were carried out. The complex was a barrow with stone ridges (“whiskers”). It consisted of a central structure and a satellite barrow with two arc-shaped stone mounds departing in an easterly direction. The pottery fragments found during the excavations allow to conclude that the mound is of Hun culture.

The excavations of the Baibala III burial ground in 2020 have a certain significance. Here, a grave was found under the embankment of one of the stone barrows. It contained fragmentary remains of a buried person: a lower jaw fragment, fragments of tibia and pelvic bones. However, the cultural affiliation of the monument was determined by the iconographic appearance of a statue located in the mound’s floors, which corresponds to the Kipchak tradition.

In the same year, new excavations were carried out at the Nurataldy-1 burial mound, covering a large necropolis-forming barrow and a nearby row fence. It is noteworthy that the mound has been reused more than once. For example, a raw mausoleum of the Golden Horde period was cleared out on the very top of the mound. It was a family vault. A burial of the early Iron Age was found below, in the embankment. However, the bulk of the material was provided by Alakul-type complexes. They were represented by the following burials: those of children, as well as a mound-forming one. It is noteworthy that peculiar “rays” of slabs in the interior space were found for the first time. They radially departed from the main burial. A pair of horses imitating a chariot team was unearthed next to the burial site.

The excavations of Saka elite complex at the Kyzylzhartas burial ground were carried out in 2020-2021. The materials obtained have been partially published. One of the objects investigated was 37 m in diameter and 1.75 m high. It was encircled by a fence 56 m in diameter. It is quite noteworthy that the complex included several statues [28].

Conclusions

Summing up the archaeological study of monuments in the Taldy River valley, it is possible to highlight some milestones (stages) of its study. The first stage, covering 1947–1964, associated with the activities of the Central Kazakhstan Archaeological Expedition under the leadership of a prominent scientist — Academician A.Kh. Margulan, was of great importance in forming an idea of the number and diversity of historical and cultural monuments. The monuments identified and studied with his participation formed the basis of the Taldy archaeological microdistrict. It is also indicative that perhaps the first large-scale excavations on the territory of Central Kazakhstan are also associated with the study of antiquities of this microdistrict

(Baybala, Bylkyldak, Aksu-Ayuly II and many others). The materials obtained during these works were of great importance for forming the first idea of the cultural diversity and originality of antiquities of the entire region, and also contributed to the understanding of their chronology and genesis. For example, the first original periodization of the culture of the Bronze Age population, created by the outstanding archaeologist K.A. Akishev and successfully tested during the defense of the thesis of the candidate of historical sciences, was based mainly on excavation data from the Taldy archaeological microdistrict.

The second stage, from 2011 to the present, is associated with the implementation of various state programs. To date, through the efforts of a team of Karaganda archaeologists, more than 100 objects of historical and cultural heritage have been identified on the territory of the Taldy historical and archaeological park, excavation and restoration work of which has been carried out on more than 30 monuments. There is a significant accumulation of new material related to the study of problems in the field of genesis, periodization and chronology of the mixture of cultures inhabiting the territories of the Taldy historical and archaeological park throughout all historical stages.

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Талды өзені бойындағы археологиялық ескерткіштерді зерттеу тарихы (Шет ауданы, Қарағанды облысы)

Мақалада Талды тарихи-археологиялық саябағының негізін құрайтын, Талды өзенінің бойында орналасқан ескерткіштерді зерттеу тарихы зерделенген. Оларды зерттеудің екі негізгі кезеңі бөлініп, қарастырылған. Талды археологиялық микроауданының ескерткіштерін зерделеудің тарихнамалық талдауы авторларға алдыңғы жұмыстарды талдауға және жүйелеуге, Орталық Қазақстан үшін ескерткіштердің рөлі мен орнын белгілеуге мүмкіндік берді. Мақалаларды, монографияларды және далалық зерттеулер туралы есептерді зерттей отырып, авторлар археологиялық қазбалардың негізгі кезеңдерін атап өтті, сонымен қатар әртүрлі кезеңдерде қолданылатын әдістердің ерекшеліктерін нақтылады. Бірінші кезеңі Ә.Х. Марғұланның жалпы жетекшілігіндегі Орталық Қазақстан археологиялық экспедициясының қызметімен байланысты және 1947–1964 жылдарды қамтиды. 1965–2010 жылдар аралығында шағын аудан территориясында жұмыстар айғақты жүргізілген жоқ. Бұл зерттеуде қазба, барлау және стратиграфиялық талдауды қамтитын далалық археологиялық жұмыстар басты рөл атқарды. Көпжылдық экспедициялар (1947–1964 және 2011 жылдан қазіргі уақытқа дейін) қола дәуірінен Алтын Орда дәуіріне дейінгі әртүрлі тарихи кезеңдердегі қорғандар, елді мекендер және салттық кешендер сияқты көптеген археологиялық нысандарды зерттеді. Обаларды тазартуды, жерлеу құрылыстарының құрылымдық ерекшеліктерін анықтауды, стратиграфиялық деректерді тіркеуді және мәдени топтарды талдауды қоса алғанда, қазба әдістемесіне ерекше назар аударылған. 2011 жылдан бастап қазіргі уақытқа дейін Орталық Қазақстан және шекаралас өңірлердің археологиялық мәдениеттерінің генезисі, кезеңделуі мен хронологиясы мәселелерін шешу саласында

түбегейлі маңызы бар жана материалдардың көшкін тәрізді жинақталуымен сипатталатын заманауи кезең жалғасуда.

Кілт сөздер: Орталық Қазақстан, археология, зерттеу тарихы, ескерткіштер, қола дәуірі, ерте темір дәуірі, ортағасыр.

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История изучения археологических памятников в долине реки Талды (Шетский район, Карагандинская область)

В статье освещается история изучения памятников, находящихся в долине р. Талды, которые составляют основу проектируемого Талдинского историко-археологического музея-заповедника. Историко-графический анализ изучения памятников Талдинского археологического микрорайона, позволил авторам проанализировать и систематизировать предшествующие работы, и обозначить роль и место памятников для Центрального Казахстана. Изучая статьи, монографии и отчеты о полевых исследованиях, авторы выделили основные этапы археологических раскопок, а также уточнили особенности применяемых методик в разные периоды. Выделены две основные вехи их изучения. Первый этап связан с деятельностью Центрально-Казахстанской археологической экспедицией под общим руководством академика А.Х. Маргулана и охватывает 1947–1964 гг. В течение 1965–2010 гг. работы на территории микрорайона фактически не проводились. Главную роль в данном исследовании сыграли полевые археологические работы, включающие раскопки, разведочные исследования и стратиграфический анализ. В ходе многолетних экспедиций (1947–1964 и с 2011 года по настоящее время) были изучены многочисленные археологические объекты, такие как курганы, поселения и ритуальные комплексы, разных исторических периодов от бронзового века до золотоордынской эпохи. Особое внимание уделено методике раскопок, включая расчистку курганов, выявление конструктивных особенностей погребальных сооружений, фиксацию стратиграфических данных и анализ культурных слоев. С 2011 года и по настоящее время продолжается современный этап, характеризующийся лавинообразным накоплением нового материала, имеющего принципиальное значение в области решения вопросов генезиса, периодизации и хронологии археологических культур Центрального Казахстана и сопредельных регионов.

Ключевые слова: Центральный Казахстан, археология, история изучения, памятники, бронзовый век, ранний железный век, средневековье.

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