

Coin finds from the ancient settlement Otrar-tobe

496 coins were found on four excavations from the settlement Otrar-tobe in 1974 during the field season.

Two copper hoards discovered in excavations I and II present a great interest, they allow to speak about some aspects of monetary circulation in late medieval Otrar-tobe, Tashkent and Turkestan, as a significant part of the treasures of coins was struck in these cities. In 1973, the first large hoard of copper coins was found in Otrar.

The total number of single coins from the excavations is 112 from Otrar. 34 of them are completely erased or eaten by oxides, 10 coins have a square or square-oblong shape. The inscriptions were erased or remained so fragmentary that coins are not appropriate for specific definition. The copper dates back to the late XVI-XVIII centuries by manufacturing technique and such technique is very characteristic for the late middle age (XVI-XIX centuries), according to archaeological data, the city fell into disarray as an economic center and existed as a small village. In the last quarter of XVIII century, there were copper coins of Yunus-Khodja released in Tashkent in money management of Otrar.

Copper production in Otrar gives evidence on increase of money trade in the service sector of small everyday retail that is connected with the development of various crafts in the second half of XVIII century.

Coins belonging to XVI mint were released mainly in Turkestan, Otrar and Tashkent. This is not accidental, if we take the following factors into account.

Firstly, since the middle of XVI century, Russia had played a big role in the economic life of Central Asian and Kazakh khanate. Cities of northern and southern slopes of Karatau and Syrdarya served as a transit point in the trade for goods exporting from Russia to Central Asia and back. There is no doubt that the transit trade through these areas was an important incentive that contributed to preservation of urban life in those areas until XVII-XVIII centuries.

Secondly, written sources monuments of material culture relating to XVI-XVII centuries show the development and prosperity of carpentry, blacksmithing, jewelry, lathe, saddlery, leather, tailoring, shoe-making and other arts and crafts in the towns and settled villages of Kazakhstan.

Thirdly, another important reason for the growth of trade and monetary relations in the late XVI-XVIII centuries in the area of near Syrdarya settlements was the transition of a significant part of the Kazakhs to the settled and semi-settled lifestyle. That process especially intensively took part in the area of Turkestan. Direct communication of the Kazakh nomads with local agricultural population contributed to it, they had a high culture of developed agriculture and handicraft production. Settled Kazakh nomads were involved wider in the field of trade relations, handicraft production and irrigated agriculture.