

Monuments of the Bronze Age

An important event happened at the turn of the second quarter of II thousand BC in the Eurasian steppes – bronze (an alloy of copper, tin, lead and zine) has been invented.

The tribes living on the territory of Kazakhstan during an epoch of bronze have left archaeological monuments (settlements, burial grounds, mines and rock paintings) which relate to Andronov archaeological culture.

Now the majority of researchers divide the time of existence of this culture into three periods: Early Bronze – XVIII-XVI centuries BC; Middle Bronze – XV-XII centuries BC; and late Bronze – XII – beginning of VIII century BC.

On the territory of Zhambyl area there was an original, named as “Semirechenskiy”, version of Andronov culture.

The majority of settlements were located on the coasts of the rivers or at springs and streams, high in the mountains, in the foothills and in a steppe zone. Fields and kitchen gardens where people grew up grain and vegetables located near to them, on the fertile and humidified soil.

During a Bronze epoch the great value was got by extraction fusion of ore.

The development of ore was conducted in the places with copper ores reserves, and close to it people did smelting of bronze which was used for making of various products: axes, sickles, ornaments and for tips of spears and arrows.

In pottery, the technique of vessels molding was improving and this caused the variety of pots shapes; technique of ornament making and the very character of ornament on vessels was changing.

During a long time, the monuments of a bronze epoch on the territory of Zhambyl area were not known, but during last years the burial grounds of an epoch of bronze have been found out in mountains Shu-Ili Mountains, in Hantau Mountains near to Chokpar, Kokbastau auls, Otar site and on the coasts of Akkol and Biylikol lakes.

Kozhabala burial ground near to Muhataj aul of Hantausky mountains totaled over 150 funeral constructions – separate stone boxes surrounded by

roundish and square fences put on edge and earthen barrows with stone designs. Y.Y.Kuzmina studying the monuments of the Bronze epoch has come to a conclusion that Andronov culture of Tien-Shan and Zhetysu possess especial features, inherent only to it, in ceramics manufacture, in funeral ceremony and she marks it out as a version of Andronov culture and names it as “Zhetysu version”.

The combination of dead body positioning and cremation is characteristic for a funeral ceremony of a burial ground and the burial of the burnt bones and a corpse of the bones of which have not been affected by fire has been made in one box.

Findings of treasures with products from the bronze relating to Andronov culture, its Xhetysu version are found in the area territory. Such treasure has been found in vicinities of Merke, in Shu valley, there was an axe-addice, lop-butted axe and a spear tip.

Zhambyl area has received a great fame thanks to numerous congestions of Petroglyphs including the ones relating to Bronze epoch.

Used materials:

1. *Treasure of ancient and medieval Taraz and Zhambyl region / K. M. Baipakov, G. A. Kapekova, D. A. Voyakin, A. N. Maryashev.*