

Household items in Berel mounds

Household items in the context of funeral rites have a dual nature, and therefore treated with different positions as things and as utilitarian purpose and as sacred for use in rites -of transition and accompanying the deceased in a different sphere of life.

The most presentable kinds of dishes are clay pitchers, which are diverse to form and ornamental system.

The big tall narrow-necked reddish clay pitcher from Site mound number 10, with an unusual decoration in the form of mastoid relief images, organized into four vertical rows stands out by originality. Particular interest is an ornamental system on two small jars of mound number 34. Individual elements of ornamentation resemble marks like the images of tamga known as «Sarmatian tamga» widespread among the nomadic peoples of the Steppe of Eurasia.

Among the items made of wood and placed in the burial chamber of the mound number 11 in an accompanying inventory we found fragments of several service dishes. They are occasionally found with the remains of the sacrificial stake in the form of the head, caudal vertebrae and other bones of sheep.

Particular interest is the ladder from the tree trunk with short branches, left in the harrow № 9 leaning against the north-eastern corner of the burial chamber position. Along with the obvious pragmatic function of household, the ladder has a high degree of semiotics in many religious and mythological systems it binds to vertically organized structure of space, and endowed with shamanic cult mediation and many «other properties. Significance of the ladder in this case relates to ritual and ceremonial context and the special sanctity of the location – the burial chamber – a model home (the microcosm), which greatly increases its semiotic status.

Complex of weapons were discovered in the burial mounds of the Berel clearly into the existing schemes of representation of the level of military and weapons from Pazyryk Altai.

In Berel burial mound there is a little armament: offensive weapon remote battlefield is preserved as a fragment of a complex detail of bow.

The remains of two iron daggers “Chekanov” the most popular in Pazyryk. It is noticeable that offensive weapons (and wooden bandages) are found in the Berel mounds. They are standard. About the remains of iron daggers from Berel burial mounds can say the same.

Protective arming the shield is represented by excellent specimens attached to the saddle of a horse in a burial mound number 10.

Military equipment represented the remains of a quiver with arrowheads shafts. Bronze clad foil ash quivers book found in the harrow № 72.

Analysis of frequency armaments which occurred in the monuments Pazyryk makes an impression of moderate or weak militarization this community, in any case, the 4th – 3rd centuries BC.

The potential of the society was directed, according to the patterns of culture and art, on the level of production technology and material processing, as well as other indicators - the development of intellectual capacities of the community, rather than on militarization and external aggression. That is why, it is possible that Pazyryk state (or confederation), at the end of 3rd century BC - beginning of the 2nd century BC quickly collapsed under the onslaught of highly organized, military array of ethnic and cultural Hun, created in this period, nomadic empire.

Zainolla Samashev, Berel, Almaty, “Taimas” publishing house, 2011.