



## Development Of The Methodology Of Archaeological Research And The Formation Of The School Of Archaeology In The Territory Of Samarkand Sogd In The First Half Of The Xx Century

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<i>Article History</i>	<i>Abstract</i>
<p>Received: 24 November 2023 Revised: 12 December 2023 Accepted: 27 December 2023</p>	<p><i>The author of the article claims that in the first half of the twentieth century, archaeological research and scientific research was carried out in Central Asia, including the archaeological study of Samarkand Sogd. The article presents material on the directions of development of archaeological science in Uzbekistan and Samarkand Sogd on the example of the work of prominent scientists and specialists who carried out archaeological excavations in the first half of the 20th century. The origins of the formation of the methodology of archaeological research at the stages of the formation and development of archaeology are also disclosed. The author notes the major archaeological expeditions and their achievements in the period under study. However, in addition to merits and achievements in scientific theoretical and practical research, errors, lack of personnel, experience and methodology for conducting archaeological excavations and research are shown.</i></p>
<p><b>CC License</b> CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0</p>	<p><b>Keywords:</b> <i>Uzbekistan, Samarkand Sogd, G.V. Grigoriev, A.I. Terenozhkin, archaeology, archaeologists, history, ancient, historical sources, archaeological excavations, archaeological finds, archaeological methods, archaeological research, archaeological expedition, stratigraphy, periodization.</i></p>

### 1. Introduction

Uzbekistan is a country of ancient civilization and rich culture, embodied in written sources and in monuments of material culture, testifying to an original and centuries-old history. On the territory of Uzbekistan, Sogd–Sogdiana is especially distinguished, mentioned in the most ancient parts of the Avesta as «Gava Suguda», and in written sources of Alexander the Great's campaigns in Sogdiana, with the capital center of Marakanda. On the territory of Samarkand Sogd, there are more than 3,000 monuments that were the ruins of cities, settlements, fortresses, castles of the agricultural population, and numerous mounds of nomadic pastoralists have been preserved in the foothill areas. All the above-mentioned archaeological sites, being cultural heritage, are included in the golden fund of the historical past of the peoples of Uzbekistan. The Republic of Uzbekistan pays great attention to the study of its historical heritage.

Sogd, located in the center of the Central Asian interfluvium and being an important historical and cultural region, played an important role in the formation and development of transcontinental trade routes. One of the early

agricultural cultures arose here, enriched thanks to close ties with the steppe tribes, located in vast expanses, from the Syrdarya and Aral steppes to the Urals in the north and Altai in the northeast.

## 2. Literature review

Considering the degree of study of the topic, it is necessary first to dwell on the works of such authors as Grigoriev G.V. [5]; [6]; [7], Masson M.E. [14]; [15], Askarov A.A. [4], Isamidinov M.Kh. [8]; [9]; [10], Kabanov S.K. [11]; [12], which provides data on the emergence of irrigated agriculture in the vicinity of Samarkand, presents materials on periodization and the origins of urban culture, considers the stratigraphy of Afrasiab, shows archaeological research and excavations of the monuments of Samarkand Sogd. In the works of Obelchenko O.V. [18]; [19]; [20]; [21]; [22], devoted to archaeological research and excavations of the monuments of Afrasiab, the issues of individual historical periods in the history of ancient Samarkand are considered, the interaction of cultural traditions is shown in the context of the direct influence of the geographical environment on the lifestyle of the population. In the works of Filanovich M.I. [29]; [30], Shishkina V.A. [32], Shishkina G.V. [33]; [34] and other authors show the most ancient settlements on Afrasiab, the climatic conditions of the region, reflecting the economic and cultural interaction of the peoples of Sogd with neighboring and distant regions. Also, separate works of Terenozhkin A.I. require special attention. [26]; [27], which reveal aspects of the archaeological study of the ancient Sogd, consider the issues of material culture, economic relations and settlements. The works used and a number of others make it possible to conduct a comparative analysis of sources and their data, and thereby provide information proving the history of the archaeological study of Samarkand and its environs in the first half of the 20th century.

## 3. Research Methodology

The methodology for writing this article is based on the principles of independence and the concept of a civilizational approach to the historical process. Also, speaking about the methodology of the article, I would like to emphasize that we used the methods of selection and classification of material, comparative analysis of the facts, opinions and conclusions, as well as the method of historicism and objectivity. The principle of historicism and objectivity made it possible to study the historiography of the issue in its specific diversity.

## 2. Analysis And Results of the Study

Since the 1950s and 1960s, large archaeological expeditions began to be created throughout Central Asia. A separate archaeological expedition was organized to study the settlement of Penjikent. Almost simultaneously, the Samarkand archaeological base is being created, headed by A.I. Terenozhkin. However, the extremely limited funds for conducting archaeological excavations made it impossible to carry out systematic excavations on a large scale. As a result, A.I. Terenozhkin, on his own, carried out sweeps of various cliffs and gullies in the settlement of Afrasiab, and having collected the necessary material, he was able to compile a periodization of the history and culture of Samarkand. The archaeological science of Central Asia as a whole and Samarkand Sogd in the 30–40s of the XX century was enriched thanks to the work of an outstanding scientist – a native of the Leningrad School of Orientalists G.V. Grigoriev. Prior to the archaeological work of G.V. Grigoriev, carried out in the Tashkent region, there were no other stratigraphic excavations in almost all of Central Asia. Such work was also absent in the territory of the city of Samarkand. During the excavations, no methodological techniques were followed, which is why after the «stratigraphic excavations» in Afrasiab, part of the monument fell into disrepair. As V.A. Shishkin writes, «... V.L. Vyatkin, working for many years at Afrasiab, only in the early thirties was able to distinguish the layers of the Kushan time, while at the same time, working in Termez, M.I. Vyazmitina, cannot recognize ceramics of the Kushan time» [32: p.110].

The study of ceramics in the history of archaeology has always been considered the most pressing issue. Any archaeologist, working in the field, tries to obtain archaeological material, observing all the rules of excavation work.

G.V. Grigoriev, who worked for several years in archaeological excavations in the Tashkent region, in the mid-30s of the twentieth century took part in exploration work in the vicinity of Samarkand and for several years carried out excavations of the Talli-Barzu settlement, located in the southern part of the city [5: p.87-104]; [6: p.24-34]; [7: p.94-103]; [7: p.150-153]. A.M. Belenitsky, V.A. Ilyinskaya and other researchers from St. Petersburg participated in the excavations of this settlement. As a result of the excavations, a rich and varied material was obtained. These materials made it possible to obtain stratigraphically consistent complexes covering a thousand-year period of history. Based on such material, G.V. Grigoriev for the first time in the

archaeology of the central regions of Central Asia created a stratigraphic column and developed a relative periodization of ceramic complexes found during excavations.

In fact, the monument as an archaeological object was very successful, in connection with this, the resulting complexes became the subject of discussion among archaeologists and historians for a long time [26: p.156-161].

G.V. Grigoriev identified six layers at this site. The layers and complexes identified at this site are correct and are not the subject of discussion. However, with regard to the dating of the selected complexes, they have become the main subject of controversy among the archaeologists of Central Asia. This circumstance is due to the fact that at the time when G.V. Grigoriev was periodizing the material culture of the Talli-Barzu settlement, there were no such stratigraphically distinguished archaeological complexes in the conditions of Central Asia. As a result, the oldest of them (TB-I) is attributed on the basis of far inaccurate analogies with objects from Anau, also incorrectly dated by him materials from Kaunchitep to the end of the first half of the first millennium BC. e. The TB-II complex is attributed to the «Achaemenid» time, i.e. to the 5th–4th centuries. BC e. The third (TB-III), called «Hellenistic», is attributed to the III–II centuries. BC e. – I century. n. e.

Regarding the fifth layer (TB-V), G.V. Grigoriev noted that the upper part of this layer did not contain remnants of material culture, i.e... in his opinion, this sign indicated a break in the life of the settlement, which lasted for two three centuries, in connection with which it was dated V–VII centuries. n. e.

The last sixth layer on the basis of Sogdian coins (coins of Tarkhun and «Bukhar-Khudats») is dated by G.V. Grigoriev to the beginning of the 8th century. n. e.

Of course, such a periodization of material culture, carried out for the first time, should have had a wide response among scientists. Such an «approximate» date of material culture could have been given to any other scientist who first attempted to make a chronological periodization of material culture. It was G.V. Grigoriev, thanks to his diligence and observation, who was able to obtain pure, stratigraphically consistent ceramic complexes, which, as an archaeological material, are the most successful and have not lost their significance to this day.

In the very first years after the publication of data on the material culture of the Talli-Barzu settlement, a number of scientific responses appeared [35]; [15]; [31: p.135-136]; [13]; [28: p.86, approx. 3]. Among the articles and monographs, the point of view of S.P. Tolstov and A.I. Terenozhkin stands out. S.P. Tolstov was one of the first to respond to the works of G. Grigoriev. He did not agree with the dating of the Talli-Barzu settlement complexes [28: p.85-86]. In particular, according to S.P. Tolstov, materials TB-I – TB-IV are close to the Kushan layer of Termez and to the complexes of the Kangyui and Kushan periods from Khorezm [28: p.86]. Sufficiently detailed and fractional dating was proposed by A.I. BC e. The next two layers are dated by him to the Kushan time, i.e. 1st–4th centuries n. e. TB-IV is attributed to the Ephtalite, or even to the time of the domination of the Turkic Khaganate, i.e. to the 5th-6th centuries. n. e. TB-V is dated on the basis of known complexes from Afrasiab and Penjikent to the 7th – early 8th centuries. n. e. [26: p.156-161]. Both the dating of G.V. Grigoriev and the dating of A.I. Terenozhkin were far from perfect, but his relative dates were very close to the real dates. However, he resolutely rejected the too deep dates of the TB-I complex, attributing it to the Hellenistic period. During the work of G.V. Grigoriev, many new materials mined in Tajikistan, Khorezm, Bactria, southern Turkmenistan, as well as A.I. Terenozhkin's research on Afrasiab were not known. But, despite this, only A.I. Terenozhkin was able to see the shortcomings of his colleague G.V. Grigoriev. Only A.I. Terenozhkin was familiar with the ceramic complexes of Afrasiab and its environs. Only he was able to synchronize them with the material culture of the settlement of Penjikent. The main merit of G.V. Grigoriev was to establish the main features of the stratigraphy of the Talli-Barzu settlement, as well as their relative chronology. Central Asian archeology at that time needed precisely such, more accurate chronologically consistent complexes. The work of G.V. Grigoriev was one of the first steps in obtaining chronologically consistent ceramic complexes, compiling a periodization of the history of the material culture of Central Asia. The chronology proposed in the 30s at the site of Tali-Barzu became possible to correct only after the results of major expeditions conducted in Khorezm, Turkmenistan, Surkhandarya and Afrasiab [36: p.86-91]. G.V. Grigoriev's exceptional observation ability made it possible to prove that the mountain river Ilansay, descending from the mountains, cuts through the bed of the Dargom canal. For this reason, he notes for the first time that the Dargom canal is an artificial canal, but the channels of mountain sairs (rivers) were used to build the canal [8: p.10].

A prominent researcher of the history and culture of Sogd A.I. Terenozhkin is an expert on the archaeological cultures of multi-layered settlements and settlements in Central Asia. He is the first archaeologist who carried out archaeological excavations in Afrasiab in the post-war years. Since 1945, the Samarkand archaeological base was organized in Samarkand, the management of which was entrusted to A.I. Terenozhkin.

The difficulties of living conditions in the post-war years and meager funding for the maintenance of the archaeological base and the expedition forced A.I. Terenozhkin to carry out archaeological excavations in Afrasiab on his own, by clearing old excavations, ravines and especially cuts. For several years, this tireless archaeologist was able to trace the stages of the formation and development of urban life in Afrasiab, as well as the development of material culture in general.

A.I. Terenozhkin, by cleaning the walls of ravines, gullies, etc., collected a large and diverse archaeological material, managed to systematize it and build a periodization of ancient and medieval Samarkand on its basis, and also identified a number of stratigraphic complexes [27]; [26]. According to experts, it is believed that A.I. Terenozhkin was wrong in his conclusions. However, these shortcomings are in many cases due to the lack of specific materials and the limited archaeological excavations. In particular, his conclusion about the decline of urban life in the first centuries of our era was not confirmed, since the prosperity of urban life in the first centuries of our era in the Kashkadarya valley was traced [9]; [10]; [25].

Of course, not all major and global problems are solved instantly or in one go. Most importantly, A.I. Terenozhkin was the first to raise the problem of periodization of the history and culture of the Samarkand Sogd. However, such a big work, which is the periodization of the history and culture of a separate historical and cultural region, in particular, Samarkand Sogd or the entire Sogdiana, in the first attempt was not completed the first time. As a result, there were small gaps in the periodization of the history and culture of Afrasiab, errors in establishing certain dates. Numerous articles have appeared pointing to the shortcomings of the periodization of the history and culture of Samarkand. In particular, in 1950, M.E. Masson, in an article devoted to the periodization of the history and culture of Samarkand, presents the territory of ancient Samarkand within the limits of Devori Kundalyan. In his opinion, «ancient authors considered the outer wall of Marakanda to be 70 stades long» [14].

In addition, in 1946, A.I. Terenozhkin, together with L.I. Albaum, carried out reconnaissance work in the vicinity of Samarkand, although both of them were part of the Amu Darya expedition. In addition, starting from the 50s of the twentieth century, separate excavation work began on the territory of the Samarkand region. In particular, B.Ya. Stavitsky is excavating the settlement of Kuldor-tepa, located 35 km southeast of the city of Samarkand. On this monument, he discovered layers of the II–I centuries. BC e. – I century. n. e. [24].

Since 1958, the Afrasiab archaeological expedition has been created under the leadership of V.A. Shishkin. This was a new stage in the study of Afrasiab, which in turn is divided into two small periods. The first of them coincides with the release of the government decision «On the announcement of Afrasiab State Reserve and the creation of an archaeological expedition». The study of the ancient settlement of Afrasiab has always been a very complex archaeological process, since here the life of the population always continued intensively, which led to a significant destruction of cultural layers (sometimes to the point of complete foundation). This circumstance has led to many opinions about the starting dates of city life and about the area of the original city. There were cases of erroneous interpretation of the fortifications of Afrasiab [23].

Over the years, such well-known archaeologists as T.R. Agzamkhodzhaev, D.I. Varkhotova, V.D. Zhukov, S.K. Kabanov, O.V. Obelchenko, G.V. Shishkina worked as part of the expedition, L.G. Brusenko, Ya.K. Kriks, Yu.F. Buryakov, M.Kh. Urmanova, Sh. Tashkhodzhaev, N.B. [37: p.1-5].

The main attention of the expedition members was paid to the stratigraphy and topography of Afrasiab. In particular, N.B. Nemtseva focused her main work on the southern part of the settlement. Having laid pits in several places of Afrasiab, she revealed the lower layers, dating them to the 6th-5th centuries. BC e. [17: p.153-205]. In the same years, M.I. Filanovich laid a stratigraphic pit in a reservoir to the west of the Afrasiab cathedral mosque and was able to prove that in the lower layers of a large reservoir – hauz there are traces of an ancient settlement of the 7th centuries. BC e. [29: p.206-220]. Subsequently, this conclusion was clarified and a small pit was laid at this object [30: p.85-95].

Reconnaissance detachments also worked on the territory of Samarkand Sogd to identify settlements. However, judging by the identified monuments, most of the medieval monuments were found. Of course, there were also monuments dating back to the II–I centuries. BC e. – I century. n. e., but they were in isolated cases.

The Zeravshan River was the main water artery of Samarkand and Bukhara Sogd. In the same years, A.R. Mukhamedzhanov conducted research on the irrigation system of the entire Zeravshan valley of Sogd [16]. But at the same time, he paid the main attention to the Bukhara oasis.

Continuing the work of G.V. Grigoriev and A.I. Terenozhkin, S.K. Kabanov achieved great success in studying the stratigraphy of the ancient period of Afrasiab [11: p.183-198]; [12: p.16-84] and G.V. Shishkin [33: p.6-20]; [34: p.221-246]. It was these two experienced archaeologists who achieved the greatest success in dating ceramic complexes.

On the territory of the Samarkand region, archaeologist O.V. Obelchenko carried out archaeological work to study the barrows of the pastoral population [18: p.4-20]; [19: p.97-176]; [20: p.57-70]; [21: p.66-81]; [22:

**p.69**]. However, analyzing the works of O.V. Obelchenko, it becomes clear that he does not comply with the main criteria of an archaeologist – to always be as accurate as possible and not miss any finds that can provide historical information. In the publications of O.V. Obelchenko there are no photographs, maps and diagrams, and no interpretation of the materials is given. Currently, many of these mounds are missing, and it is no longer possible to restore the excavated mounds.

While conducting exploration work on the territory of the Urgut region, A.A. Askarov discovered the Muminabad barrow, dating back to the Bronze Age. This gave a great impetus to understanding the later stages of the Bronze Age [**4: p.56-62**].

N.A. Avanesova can be attributed to the major archaeologists in the study of the pastoral population of the Bronze Age. She lectured for many years at the Department of Archeology of Samarkand State University, and carried out all practical work with future archaeologists along the steep banks of the Dargom and Zeravshan canals, thanks to which she achieved great success in this area. N.A. Avanesova discovered many burial mounds or the location of the tribes of the Bronze Age precisely during practical exercises with future archaeologists. In particular, the burial ground «Siobcha», located directly on Afrasiab, «Chakka», located on the left bank of the Zeravshan River, a metallurgical workshop – the Tugaynoye settlement, located on the left bank of the Zeravshan River and a cult center [**1: p.16-19**]; [**2: p.27-28**]; [**3: p.77-198**].

#### **4. Conclusion and recommendations**

When analyzing the archaeological research of Samarkand Sogd in the first half of the 20th century, it is striking that at the stage of formation and development of archaeological science, the work of individual archaeologists was carried out. Archaeologists mainly paid attention to identifying, recording and systematizing monuments and compiling primary maps. Particular attention was paid to the exploratory study of the largest sites of individual oases. In general, the first half of the 20th century was the era of education and development of archaeological science in Uzbekistan. With the creation of large expeditions in the early 1930s, there was an acute shortage of archaeologists, and this issue was raised before the government. In this regard, on April 1, 1940, the Department of Archeology was established under the leadership of M.E. Masson at the Faculty of History of the Central Asian University.

The works of G.V. Grigoriev, A.I. Terenozhkin and a number of major archaeologists in the first half of the 20th century are one of the main achievements in the field of historical and archaeological study of the Samarkand Sogd. These archaeological works and studies have introduced new interesting data on the history of the material culture of Samarkand and Samarkand Sogd and showed the prospects of studying this region to recreate the history and culture of Central Asia as a whole.

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