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# A PROMINENT SCIENTIST OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE FIELD OF PRIMITIVE ARCHEOLOGY - U.I. ISLAMOV IS 90 YEARS OLD

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## ABSTRACT

*The article is devoted to a brief summary of the scientific contribution of the largest scientist in the study of primitive archeology in Uzbekistan, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan U. I. Islamov. Scientists have discovered a number of completely new cultures of the Stone Age on the territory of Uzbekistan. These include: according to the Early Paleolithic - the Asian Acheulean culture (based on the materials of the Selungur cave), the Acheulean culture (based on the materials of the Dzharsai, Tashsai and Kyzylalma 2 sites); according to the Middle Paleolithic, the Levallois-Mousterian culture (based on materials from Dzharsai 2); the culture of transitional industries from the Middle to the Late Paleolithic - according to the materials of the sites Obirakhmat, Kulbulak, Kyzylalma 2; according to the Late Paleolithic - the Tashkent Late Paleolithic culture (based on the materials of the sites of Obirakhmat, Kulbulak, Kyzylalma 2, as well as Dodekatym 1 and 2); according to the Mesolithic - the Obishir culture (based on the materials of Obishir 1-5 and the Mesolithic monuments of Central Fergana); Surkhandarya Mesolithic culture (based on the materials of Machai, Airitam, Sherabad sites); according to the Neolithic - the Tuzkan version of the Kelteminar culture (based on the materials of the Tuzkan sites).*
*U.Islamov at the Darbazakyr site discovered and introduced into scientific circulation the remains of a completely new type of dwellings, unique for the Kelteminar culture.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Selungur, Obishir, Central Fergana, Islamov, Darbazakyr-2, Flint Industry.*

## INTRODUCTION

At the current level of development of the history of archaeological science, the desire for the reconstruction of "scientists" and the creation of a "history of science in personalities" on the basis of biographical materials of scientists of the past is of particular relevance. In particular, in the process of studying the archeology of Uzbekistan, the “personal aspect” is of great importance. But issues of personality and contribution to the archeology of Central Asia, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Prof., Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and laureate of the State Prize named after Abu Raykhan Beruni - U.I. Islamov remained out of sight of researchers.

The scientific interests of U.I. Islamov as a scientist are the issues of archeology of the primitive era, the problems of the development of the territories of Central Asia by the most ancient people, the migration of primitive populations, the cultural and chronological features of the Stone Age monuments and the evolution of cultures, the primitive economy and spiritual life, as well as the issues of paleoanthropology and paleoecology.

U.I. Islamov (1932-2013) is a major figure in the study of the archeology of the Stone Age of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the second half of the 20th and early 21st centuries. A number of archaeological discoveries in the period 1960-2013 associated with his name.

Works on the scientific activity of U.I. Islamov can be divided into two categories. The first are works with a positive assessment of the scientific activity of U.I. Islamov, written in honor of his anniversaries. In 1992, an international scientific conference dedicated to the 60th anniversary of U.I. Islamov was held, the materials of which were published in the same year, where topical issues of ancient ecology and material culture of Central Asia were considered (49, p. 106). In 2012, an international seminar was held in honor of the 80th anniversary of U.I. Islamov. The seminar summarized the results of the work of the Russian-Uzbek international joint expedition to the Obirakhmat grotto and identified the prospects for this cooperation. In addition, heated discussions of the cultural and chronological reference and stratigraphic position of the Kulbulak site took place at the seminar. In the same year, an article was published dedicated to the 80th anniversary of U.I. Islamov, with an assessment of the scientific activity of the hero of the day for more than 50 years (3. P. 7-17).

The second category of publications includes articles that have critical views on the scientific conclusions of U.I. Islamov. The scientific conclusions of the giant scientific open naturally evoke resonances. For example, the cultural and chronological interpretation of Selungur raised doubts among some experts: “Is it possible to talk about ashel when there are no real hand axes in the industry of Selungur? The nature of the raw materials used, the presence of choppers, the absence of pronounced cores, a large number of shortened and massive chips, and the absence of plates indicate the proximity of Selungur with the Karatau and Lakhuti materials. Compared with the materials of Southern Tajikistan, some forms of products typical of the Mousterian are presented in Selungur, and even Selungur looks somewhat archaic. Apparently, it would be correct to consider Selungur early Paleolithic, but not Acheulean, and to attribute it to the circle of pebble cultures” (55. R. 6).

In addition, V.A. Ranov put forward the opinion that “on the territory of Central Asia, in the period of 40-25 thousand years, harsh climatic conditions incompatible with human life dominated, due to which the region depopulated” (52. C .73). But the results of the study of the Russian-Uzbek expedition in the Tashkent oasis proved the fallacy of this hypothesis (11. p. 66).

About the Machai Cave, in the volume Mesolithic of the USSR, dedicated to Central Asia, points of view are given that “... the date of the Machai Cave should be considered as a Neolithic, and not a Mesolithic and not a separate culture, but one of the variants of the Gissar culture” (2. C .160).

The territory of Uzbekistan is one of the few cultural centers of the Earth, where monuments of all stages of development of primitive history are presented. It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of numerous monuments of the primitive era were discovered and studied by U.I. Islamov (3. P. 7-15).

**MAIN PART**

The Early Paleolithic Selungur Cave gained world fame thanks to the scrupulous research of U.I.Islamov. The height above sea level of this cave, located in the valley of the Sokh River, is 2000 m and was discovered by A.P. Okladnikov in 1955. In 1964, short-term studies were carried out at the monument by M.R. Kasymov (38. P. 7-13). In the interval of the above studies, the cave was studied by A. Poshka (50, p. 38). But systematic studies of Selungur began in 1980 by U.I. Islamov. As a result, 5 cultural layers were revealed in the cave, the third of which was divided into three more microlayers. The depth of the excavations reached 8.5 m, and the thickness of the layers reached from 20-40 cm to 0.3-1 m (32. P. 49-52). From the cultural layers of the site, in addition to the remains of 30 species of wild animals, about 5000 specimens were found. stone

products (34. p. 7).

Culturally, the materials of the cave are attributed to the Asian Acheulean. The obtained analyzes of samples from the layers of Selungur by the uranium ion method gave a date of 1 million-750 thousand years ago and the monument was interpreted as the oldest in the entire territory of Central Asia (35. P. 50-51).

From the 3rd cultural layer of Selungur, 6 isolated human teeth were found, belonging to four individuals of different sexes. In addition, a fragment of a child's collarbone was found here.

Early Paleolithic materials were discovered and studied by U.I. Islamov on the terraces of the Sokh River and in the territory of the village of Chashma (33. p. 6).

In 1994-1995 at the Kulbulak site and its environs The Russian-Uzbek expedition headed by N.K. Anisyutkin and U.I. Islamova proved that it was not entirely justified to single out the "Kulbulak culture" (1. p. 12-27).

An Early Paleolithic cultural layer was discovered at the Kyzylalma-2 flint workshop located 1 km east of Kulbulak (1. p. 24; 36. 24).

A series of hand axes and atypical stone axes were collected from the Early Paleolithic locality of Dzharsai-1. Most of the artefacts collected here are made in the Levallois technique and this industry has no analogues on the territory of Uzbekistan (53. P. 11-47).

Then, the location of Dzharsai-2 was found and the stone products collected here are distinguished by their archaism. Among the materials are hand axes and stone axes. Therefore, this complex was dated to the Early Paleolithic.

On the middle terrace of the right bank of Tashsay in the valleys of Akhangaran, Tashsay 1 and 2 sites were found, the first of which is attributed to the Early Paleolithic, and the second is dated to the Middle Paleolithic era.

In 2007, the third stage of the study of Kulbulak and its environs began, headed by academicians A.P. Derevyanko and U.I. Islamov (12. P. 83-89). The purpose of the resumption of research was to clarify the stratigraphy of the monument and study it with the help of natural sciences.

At the new stage of research (2007-2010), 12 stratigraphic layers were identified at Kulbulak. An undisturbed 2-layer and a mixed 3-layer rich in stone artifacts were found in a 5 m2 excavation.

The samples obtained from 2-10 layers of Kulbulak for dating by the OSL method gave dates related to the second half of the Late Paleolithic (21-23 thousand years ago).

The results of the research showed the incorrect identification of the Mousterian dentate facies on Kulbulak (40. P. 2-26). Based on the stone products of the supporting monuments (Obirakhmat, Kulbulak) of the region, a mechanism was proposed for the formation of the industries of the transitional period from the Middle to the Late Paleolithic: the Teshiktash version, based on the production of flakes, and the Obirakhmat version, where blades were mainly produced (43. P. 35; 44. S. 40).

In 2007-2008, the Paleolithic detachment of the international Russian-Uzbek expedition continued its research in the Kyzylalma-2 workshop. In 2008, an excavation was made, 8 m2 in size, and up to 4 m deep from the ground level. The excavation revealed three lithological layers rich in archaeological materials. Taking into account the fact that the monument is located directly at the outcrops of raw materials and according to the composition of stone artifacts, the location is functionally classified as a workshop in the proper sense. The age of the Kyzylalma-2 workshop was revealed and attributed to the first half of the Late Paleolithic (39. p. 42).

In 1998, on the basis of a scientific project between the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography

of the SB RAS and the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan named after. Ya. Gulyamova on the topic: “Paleoecology and archeology of the ancient stone age of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, headed by academicians A.P. Derevyanko and U.I. Islamov, an international complex archaeological expedition was organized. The Obirakhmat grotto in the Tashkent oasis was chosen as the main object of this expedition (13. P. 37-45). On the basis of a large-scale program with the financial support of the international fund "Leakey Foundation", the exact date of the Obirakhmat grotto was determined in the range from 80-70 thousand years ago. up to 30 thousand l. BC. (Based on methods: radiocarbon, EPR, OSL and thorium-uranium).

The main peculiarity of the Obirakhmat industry, observed in all its layers, is the combined representation of technological and typological elements characteristic of the Middle and Late Paleolithic. In connection with the studies carried out at the site, a hypothesis was put forward about the migration of people of the Middle Paleolithic, explaining the similarity and convergence of the industries of the transition period, which have a common basis in the Middle East, Central Asia and Altai (11. P. 37-45; 14. P. 42 -63);

In the summer of 2003, in the 16-layer Obirakhmat, dated 70-60 thousand years ago, ancient remains of a human bone were found and for the first time it became possible to connect the industries of the transition period with a specific physical type of a person. Obirakhmatsky man gave a mixed characteristic of a Neanderthal type man with modern man, and some of its parameters have no analogues among the currently available paleoanthropological data (9. P. 75-97).

In August 2005, the forces of the Russian-Uzbek international expedition discovered two sites located on the second terrace in the middle reaches of the right bank of the Paltau River, at an altitude of 30 m above the water level. The points are located at a distance of 140 m from each other and are named after the name of the local rock - Dodekatym 1 and 2. The area of the excavations carried out in Dodekatym 1 was 9 square meters, and in Dodekatym 2 this area was 6 square meters.

Stone tools, cores, fragments of blades, and flakes are among the stone artifacts from Dodekatym 1 (43 specimens) and 2 (146 specimens).

In Dodekatym 2, 8 cultural horizons have been identified. Numerous remains of bones and teeth of animals, as well as small pieces of coal were found here (37, pp. 74-87). Triangular microliths are present in all layers, and their number increases along the section from bottom to top.

Thus, the stone inventory of the Dodekatym 2 complex developed within the framework of one single tradition. Samples obtained on the basis of three bones and coal from the 4th layer of the monument gave dates in the time interval from 23800±190 to 21850±180 years.

In 2002-2003 The Russian-Uzbek international expedition to study the Stone Age of Uzbekistan explored the grottoes Amir Temur and Teshiktash 2 on the territory of Boysuntau (46, pp. 67-69).

The research was carried out in the Teshiktash-2 grotto, located 100 m below the Teshiktash 3 cave, next to the first cave of the same name in the Zavtalashsay gorge, at an absolute height above sea level of 1875 m. In 2003, an excavation of 3x4 m (12 m² ) and brought to a depth of 7 m. From loose deposits of Teshiktash-2 (17 layers), 28 specimens were collected. stone products (15. S. 101-105).

The grotto Amir Temur-1, located 2.5 km west of the village of YukaryMachai, at an altitude of 1740 m above sea level, was studied. From the cultural layers of this grotto, investigated by A.P. Okladnikov, the remains of bonfires, several small fragments of animals and a medium-sized flake of black siliceous limestone were found.

Thus, the scientific study of the ancient stone age of Uzbekistan by U.I. Islamov was started in the 80s of the twentieth century and continued until the end of his life.

With the acquisition of independence of Uzbekistan, interest in the study of the ancient history of our country has increased from the leading archaeological centers of the world. Agreements were drawn up between the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the leading scientific centers of Russia for the study of the Stone Age of Uzbekistan, which were headed by academicians A.P. Derevyanko and U.I. Islamov.

Despite the fact that U.I.Islamov began the study of primitive archeology from the Kelteminar culture, he was haunted by his interest in knowing the secrets of the "beginning of all beginnings" in the history of mankind. U.I.Islamov studied Mesolithic sites such as Tash-Kumir, Obishir 1-5, Central Fergana, Kushilish, Machai, Aktash, Sherabad sites on the territory of Uzbekistan, which were eventually combined into three independent cultures (19. p. 21 -28; 24. S. 29-31; 26. S. 126; 18. S. 28; 20. 13-16; 28. S. 24; 27. S. 181-183; 21. S. 304; 30 pp. 78).

The sites of Obishir 1-5 (19. P. 21-28) are located above the Sokh River, near the village of the same name. The caves are confined to the right bank of the Obishirsay.

In the Obishir-1 cave, along with stone products, a small number of remains of tubular bones of small cattle were found. Obishir-1 was not a long-term hunting camp; stone tools were mainly processed here. The cave Obishir-1 can be defined as a parking lot-workshop.

In the Obishir-5 cave, in comparison with Obishir-1, there are many finds, most of which were found from the 1st layer of the site. Among the stone products, the percentage of tools prevails. Decorations were also found in the layer. Judging by the nature of the finds, the large number of animal bones, and the variety of types of tools in the Obishir-5 cave, the monument can also be attributed to workshop sites.

The stone industry of the Obishir caves is a gradual continuous evolution from the early Mesolithic to the middle pore of this era.

The industry of Obishira is typologically close to the complexes of Western Asia dating back to the 8th millennium BC. Given the more developed nature of the industries, Obishir is dated to the 10th-8th millennium BC.

The Tash-Kumir cave site is located in the southern spurs of the Katrantau, on the right bank of the Obishirsay in the Sokh valley, and it differs from other sites of the Fergana complex by the presence of large elongated segments and penknives as part of the industry.

It is concluded that most of the tools of the sites of the Fergana complex are similar and they can be combined into a single culture (19. P. 21-28). The Obishir culture was widespread not only in the mountainous regions of the Ferghana Valley, but also in its flat territories, as evidenced by the monuments found in Central Fergana (29. p. 108).

The monuments of Central Ferghana are characterized by the predominance of the microlithoid splitting technique (60%). The collection includes a variety of scrapers, châtelperron and gravetti points, segments and microtrapeziums, large retouched plates, pencil-shaped and prismatic cores, as well as pendants made of marmarized limestone. There are no pebble tools (30. p. 34).

Thus, Obishir 1-5, Tash-Kumir and the plain monuments of Ferghana represent different stages in the development of a single culture. According to U.I.Islamov, the cave monuments demonstrate the early stages of the Obishyr culture, and the flat sites demonstrate its late stages (21. p. 106).

According to U.I.Islamov, the cave sites of Obishir 1-5 should be dated to the Middle Mesolithic, which in numbers corresponds to the 9th-8th millennium BC.

For the dating of the Early Mesolithic of Fergana, analogies are used, obtained by radiocarbon dates from the 2nd horizon of Tutkaul (54. P. 32), since this horizon lies under a layer dated to the 9th-8th millennium BC. The materials of Tash-Kumir look more archaic in comparison with the products of the 2nd layer of Tutkaul. This is demonstrated in the segments and points of the châtelperron type. This circumstance makes it possible to date the early stage of the Obishir culture to the 9th millennium BC.

Thus, the chronological framework of the Obishir culture covers the 10th-7th millennium BC. The Obishir culture played an important role in the formation and development of the Neolithic cultures of Central Fergana (42, pp. 127-149).

The Kushilish site in the Tashkent region was excavated and studied by U.I. Islamov in 1967. The parking lot is located at a height of 7-8 m, on the terrace of the canal flowing here. The thickness of the loess sand here reaches up to 7 m. It was revealed that the remains of animal bones in the excavation are concentrated in the southern part of the site. In the northern part of the site, on the contrary, there are a large number of stone products, and the remains of bones are almost absent. Apparently, this arrangement is not accidental (31. p. 3-23). Among the tools of the site are scrapers, chisels, scrapers, knives, cutters, and there are only two specimens of cores.

U.I.Islamov made a great contribution to the study of the Mesolithic era of Southern Uzbekistan. Here he continued to study the Machai cave and a number of other monuments, such as Airitam, Aktash and Old Termez. One of the discoveries of U.I.Islamov was the discovery and research of a flint-working workshop - Aktash (Kattyk-Kamysh 1, 2, Gaz-1) in the Surkhandarya valley.

The Airit monument is located on the terrace of the Amu Darya, at an altitude of 25 m above the river level. The cultural layers of the monument were destroyed in the process of construction work by people of the ancient period.

Among the materials collected from the area of Old Termez, a cone-shaped core and retouched flakes, as well as fragments of knife-shaped blades, at the end of one of the latter, an end scraper is formed.

Machai Gorge was the object of research as early as 1931-1934 (8. p. 15; 48. p. 16). As a result, two cultural layers were found in the cave - Mousterian and Mesolithic.

In 1970-1971, the Surkhandarya Paleolithic detachment led by U.I. Islamov conducted archaeological research in the Machai cave, located on the right bank of the Machaidarya, between the villages of Sredny and Upper Machay. The height of the cave above the river level is 70 m (22. p. 31-32).

The excavations revealed two cultural layers, in which stone and bone artifacts, as well as remains of animal bones were found. The open area was completely covered with coal residues. In the central part of the excavation, at a depth of 1.1 m, the remains of 4 human skulls and teeth were found (25. C. 13-23), one of these skulls belonged to an adult man, two young women, 3 and 4 skulls turned out to be children's (23. C. .26).

As a result of excavations in the Machai cave in 1971-1972. U.Islamov both layers of the monument are dated to the Mesolithic era.

During the excavations of 1970-1971. rich osteological material was obtained in the Machai cave (5, p. 145). The stone inventory consisted of cores, blades, blades, flakes, fragments, tools on flakes and pebble tools. 50% of all stone products consisted of flakes. But the number of stone tools is not small.

The final Mesolithic age of the Machai cave is evidenced by radiocarbon analyzes of samples from the upper layer, dated 7550 ± 110 years BC. U.I. Islamov considers Machai as a monument

representing the transitional period from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic era.

Data on the production nature of his economy serve as the basis for classifying the Machai site as a separate culture.

The activities of U.I. Islamov as an archaeologist began in 1960 with the study of the Tuzkan Neolithic sites in the lower reaches of the Zarafshan (16. p. 75; 17. p. 11).

The Makhandarya, being an ancient channel of the Zarafshan, flowed into the Amu Darya, flowing through the Kyzylkums through the Karakul district of the Bukhara region, forming a number of lakes on its way. Neolithic people built camps and lived around these lakes. About 50 sites have been found here, two of which have preserved cultural layers. Now these areas are called Small and Big Tuzkan.

The Tuzkan sites are included in the range of local variants of the Early Kelteminar culture.

The Darbazakyr I site is located in the northwestern part of Bolshoi Tuzkan, 600–700 m northwest of it. The reason for the preservation of cultural layers here is that the monument is located on the banks of the Bolshoi Tuzkan and on the southwestern side under a high natural sandy hill, which blocks the parking lot from the north and northeast winds.

In 1961, large-scale excavations were carried out at the site. Three cultural layers have been identified in Darbazakyr I. The monument has undergone four new floods. The thickness of the strata here reaches 3.7–3.8 m.

The upper layer of Darbazakyr was excavated on an area of 2,500 m2 (50X50) and divided into squares (2x2). From the undisturbed upper layer of the site, two polished axes, scrapers, drills, scrapers, corers and other items were found. From the second layer, the remains of several bonfires were found.

The third layer of the site is more powerful and very rich in finds. Remains of hearths and dwellings were found here. The remains of pillar pits and hearths are well preserved, since the layer was spread directly on the takyr.

Among the cultural remains, there are flint tools, polished axes (2 copies), shards of ceramic vessels with a wavy ornament, and animal bones. According to the definition of H. M. Yermolova, the collection contains the remains of the bones of a fox and a goitered gazelle (10. p. 25).

Dwellings here have a flat floor and an almost rectangular shape in terms of 81 m2. The inner part of the house is outlined by rather symmetrical pillar pits with a small distance between them (1-1.5 m). Pillar pits are located in two rows, outlining the inner and outer parts along the perimeter of the dwelling. They had the shape of a two-row rectangle; the distance between these rectangles is 0.5 m. The first inner row of pillars held the roof of the house, and the second outer row, apparently, served as a frame for the walls.

After cleaning the floor, two rounded pits were found in the central part of the house, which were relatively large in size and apparently served to establish the supporting pillars of the house. Similar pits were found in each of the four corners of the dwelling.

The entrance of the dwelling is 2 m wide, with a total area of the house - 7x11.6 m, located in its eastern part and has a width of 1.2 m. , was covered with reeds. The outbreaks were located outside, to the northeast and southwest of the house.

A total of 3,731 specimens were collected from the monument. stone products, among which approximately 35% are tools, and the rest are production waste (41. p. 14).

Bone tools were also used in Darbazakyr, but all of them were found from the third layer.

First of all, attention is drawn to the fact that the ceramics found in the layer are very rich in ornamentation. It is dominated by wavy-striated lines, triangles filled with strokes, small horizontal impressions, etc. These rich compositions are not found in ceramics of the second and upper layers.

Ceramics of the second layer are characterized by ornaments of rows of impressions with a thin curved spatula, horizontal stripes, parallel impressions of a receding stick, rows of impressions of a sharp stick outlined by a weak double line, etc.

For ceramics of the upper layer, ornaments of two rows of horizontal stripes of parallel impressions of a stick and connecting vertical short strips, impressed by a stick, etc. are typical. Here there are no such rich ornaments as in the II and III layers.

The Darbazakyr II site is located at the foot of a plateau-like hill from the east, in the eastern part of the Big Tuzkan. The excavations here have been brought to 208 m2.

It was revealed that the parking lot is a single-layer seasonal camp. The foci in it are mainly located in the northeastern part and have oval or rounded shapes. Their depth is 40-45 cm.

A total of 584 specimens were found at the Darbazakyr II site. stone products, of which approximately 35% are tools, and the rest are production waste. Elongated cylindrical pendants made of shells and decorations made of marbled limestone were found from the site.

Ceramic vessels of Darbazakyr II, similar to those of Darbazakyr I, have a rich ornamentation and this is a feature of the early stage of Kelteminar (4. p. 28-36).

The expedition discovered and studied about 50 locations on the channel of the Makhandarya. As a result, a large number of ceramic and flint products were obtained.

In 1960-1964 from the sites of Small and Big Tuzkan a huge collection of stone tools has been collected. There are only 11,230 of them, of which 45% are tools, and the rest are waste products.

From the sites in the lower reaches of the Kashkadarya and the southwestern part of the Big Tuzkan, no remains of ceramic vessels were found at all. But they found peculiar arrowheads. They are different from ordinary Kelteminar arrows; they have elongated liners and short points. The deep antiquity of these arrows is confirmed by the presence of similar items in the Late Melithic layer of the Jebel Cave (47, p. 56). It is not for nothing that such arrows found from the Kelteminar complexes by A.V. Vinogradov are attributed to the early stages of this culture (6. P. 21).

A. V. Vinogradov, studying the Kelteminar culture, divided it into two stages: early and late periods (7. p. 28).

In all respects, the Tuzkan sites indicate that they belong to the early stages of the Kelteminar culture. Based on the chronology of the early Kelteminar, the 3-layer site of Darbazakyr is dated to the end of the 4th or the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, since, in the 3-layer, vessels with continuous ornamentation are twice as large as vessels with ornamentation only in the upper part of their walls. In addition, on the vessels of the 3rd layer, there are mainly wavy-girdle lines and inscribed ornaments, which are characteristic of the early stage of Kelteminar. In the 2nd layer, along with a wavy ornament, a depressed ornament appears, which is a sign of the late Kelteminar stage. The straightness and complexity of ornamentation is weakened, mainly depressed ornament with the help of sticks is found. Therefore, the second layer of the monument can be dated to the first half of the 3rd millennium BC, and the upper layer of the site should be dated to the middle of the 3rd millennium BC.

On the basis of the chronology of the Darbazakyr site, the rest of the Makhandarya sites are also dated. 921 specimens were collected from the Darbazakyr II site. stone products and are dated to

the early stages of the Kelteminar culture.

The main occupation of the Neolithic population in the Lower Zarafshan was hunting and fishing. This is evidenced not only by the location of sites around lakes and rivers, but also by tools and bones of animals found in excavations.

Apparently, here much attention was paid to hunting goitered gazelle, since the remains of its bones are found most of all. In addition, hunting was carried out for horses and wild boars, as well as for deer and wild birds (51. p. 32).

A large number of bow arrows were found from the Tuzkan sites, and this indicates that the main weapon of the Tuzkan hunter was a bow and arrow.

The location of the sites directly on the banks of rivers and lakes, as well as their long existence, testifies to the stable provision of the population with food. Fish, apparently, was one of these products.

According to N.K. Vereshchagin (45. p. 212), carp and pike bones predominate in Tuzkan, therefore, it can be assumed that harpoon-type tools were mainly used in fishing; in addition, predatory fish could be caught using fishing rods. Sinkers found in the parking lots indicate the existence of fishing with the help of nets.

In addition to hunting and fishing, the population in the Lower Zarafshan was engaged in simple gathering. Tuzkan hunters widely used the rich natural resources of the territory of Central Asia and there were a large number of edible plants - fruits, vegetables, root fruits, etc., which the Tuzkans ate. This is evidenced by the tools found in the parking lots in large numbers associated with gathering.

Pestle and grater found from the sites of BT (Big Tuzkan) 3, 8, 9 testify to the existence of agriculture. These tools were used to grind wheat, barley, roots, dried fruits and other plants. In the Kelteminar sites, similar grater pestles were used to crush wild cereal plants.

Animal skins served as a necessary material for covering the roofs of houses, dressing outerwear and shoes, etc. Scraping tools are widespread in the Tuzkan sites. Among them, scrapers and scraping tools stand out.

It is possible that the population of the Lower Zarafshan had an exchange of goods. This is evidenced by flint tools and marbled limestone pendants found from the Tuzkan sites. There are no outcrops of flints and other types of stone in Tuzkan. Based on this, it can be assumed that stone raw materials were brought from other places, in particular from Altyntau, Karatau, Nuratatau, i.e. from a distance of at least 200 km, through the exchange of goods.

It is difficult to speak from the available materials about the existence of family and clan relations, but the general nature of production and some household details allow us to speak of the existence of a maternal clan system in the Kelteminar culture.

Thanks to the actions of U.I. Islamov, monuments of a completely new unique culture were discovered and introduced into scientific circulation on the territory of the Karakalpak steppe of Central Fergana. The “Fergana complex” of the beginning of the Neolithic era was singled out by G.F. Korobkova on the basis of a large collection of materials collected by Yu.A. Zadneprovsky (42. p. 138). But U.I.Islamov called this complex the Central Fergana Neolithic culture (28. p. 66).

When dating the materials of the Central Fergana culture, it is necessary to take into account the absence of pottery and production elements in them. Taking into account the high share of microlithism on the monuments and evolved industries from the Obishyr culture, the Central Fergana Neolithic culture should be dated to the initial stages of the New Stone Age (16.56; 17.p. 31-43). Apparently, the sites in the northern part of Central Fergana belong to the late Neolithic

period. They are characterized by large blades, scraping tools typical of the Neolithic era, and a number of other artifacts (Madyar 3, 4, etc.).

Stone pendants are found in abundance in the Central Fergana complexes, which are divided into 115 types. Most of the objects of the Central Fergana Neolithic are known from the complexes of the Obishyr culture, and this indicates their genetic connection.

**CONCLUSION**

The main feature of the relevance of the scientific conclusions of U.I. Islamov lies in his good understanding that archaeological research is not the work of one branch, but the result of the efforts of multidisciplinary sciences, and only the results of joint research with the world's leading scientific centers will be tenacious. He has always adhered to these principles.

U.I. Islamov discovered a number of completely new cultures of the Stone Age on the territory of Uzbekistan. These include: according to the Early Paleolithic - the Asian Acheulean culture (based on the materials of the Selungur cave), the Acheulean culture (based on the materials of the Dzharsai, Tashsai and Kyzylalma 2 sites); according to the Middle Paleolithic, the Levallois-Mousterian culture (based on materials from Dzharsai 2); the culture of transitional industries from the Middle to the Late Paleolithic - according to the materials of the sites Obirakhmat, Kulbulak, Kyzylalma 2; according to the Late Paleolithic - the Tashkent Late Paleolithic culture (based on the materials of the sites of Obirakhmat, Kulbulak, Kyzylalma 2, as well as Dodekatym 1 and 2); according to the Mesolithic - the Obishir culture (based on the materials of Obishir 1-5 and the Mesolithic monuments of Central Fergana); Surkhandarya Mesolithic culture (based on the materials of Machai, Airitam, Sherabad sites); according to the Neolithic - the Tuzkan version of the Kelteminar culture (based on the materials of the Tuzkan sites).

It is worth noting separately that at the Darbazakyr site, U.I. Islamov discovered and introduced into scientific circulation the remains of a completely new type of dwellings, unique for the Kelteminar culture.

U.I.Islamov made a great contribution to the development of paleoanthropology in Uzbekistan. From the cultural layers of the Selungur cave, he discovered the remains of bones belonging to three individuals of archanthropes. According to experts, this is the first and so far the only ancient remains of hominids in the entire territory of Central Asia, dating back to the Early Paleolithic.

Thus, today and in the future, it is impossible to imagine the primitive history, archeology, paleoecology and cultural and chronological features of the Stone Age monuments not only in Uzbekistan, but throughout Central Asia, without the research and scientific conclusions of U.I. Islamov.

The scientific activity of U.I. Islamov is distinguished by its versatility, the chronological scale of his studies of material culture covers a wide range from the Paleolithic to the Neolithic era inclusive.

The results of U.I. Islamov's scientific activity for more than 60 years are summed up in 6 monographs and about 200 scientific articles. His scientific achievements are worthy of appreciation and were awarded the Abu RayhanBeruni State Prize.

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