

## Scientific Cooperation Between French and Uzbek Scientists in the Field of Archaeology During the Years of Independence

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**ABSTRACT:** This statistic focuses on the problems of the formation and development of French-Uzbek archaeological cooperation, which made it possible to study the region of Central Asia during the years of independence. In this way, the process of studying the eastern civilizations of the Hellenistic period is highlighted. This includes a discussion of new approaches and methods in the field of the corpus of information bases of ancient and medieval civilization.

**KEYWORD:** archaeological-cooperation, Hellenistic period, Central Asia, eastern civilization, medieval civilization.

### INTRODUCTION

Given article is devoted to problems formation and development French-Uzbek archaeological cooperation which have given the chance will study region the Central Asia in days of independence. And also process studying of east civilisations hellenistique the period is covered. Including it is considered new approaches and methodology in the field of the arches of information bases of these ancient and medieval civilisations.

### Main body

The great interest in our great ancestors, their lives, works and activities, and the study of our region has never gone unnoticed by European countries. Our great ancestors carried the glory of our homeland and our country all over the world, including France.

Hazrat Amir Temur, known to the French as Tamerlane, *"became famous for conquering the world and creating a great state, and his grandson Mirzo Ulugbek, known for his greatness, is known for his victories in science"* [1].

Attitudes to the past and present of the Central Asian republics that gained independence in the 1990s prompted representatives of the French school of oriental studies, which had significantly weakened in the post-Soviet period, to conduct additional research, study ancient manuscripts, and explore the language, religion and culture of the region. As a result of the 1917 revolution, the study of Central Asia, which had been suspended due to the Russian government banning visits by French tourists and scholars, resumed, and new works, pamphlets, scholarly articles, and journals by French orientalists began to be published [2].

International cooperation in all fields of science is always fruitful. This cooperation is a tool that brings together factual and experimental material, research and studies from different scientific schools on a specific scientific problem. Scientific cooperation between Uzbek and French scientists contributes to this.

The field of archaeology occupies a special place in the research of French scholars on Central Asian history during the years of independence. The area of archaeology holds a special place among those academics who have conducted research in this area: *P. Bernard [3], F. Grenet [4], C. Rapin, P. Leriche [5], L. Boulnois [6], Etienne de la Vaissiere [7], Mathilde Gelin, J. C. Gardin [8], and J. Boulmin [9]. S. Gardin [8], H.P. Francfort [9], Bernus-Taylor Marta [10], F.Beaupertuis-Bressand [11], J. Soustiel [12].*

Scientists at the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan have made major contributions to the study of the history, culture and socio-economic life of the ancient, ancient and medieval periods not only in Uzbekistan but also in Central Asia. Since gaining independence, the expansion of international ties in the Institute's activities and the organization of joint research projects and expeditions on their basis have reached a new level. The Institute is currently implementing several research projects in cooperation with specialists from France, Germany, England, Japan, Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic and Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg and Novosibirsk).

The Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (*Centre Nationale Recherche Scientifique - CNRS*) signed an agreement on scientific cooperation in 1989 entitled "Central Asian Civilisation in Antiquity and the Middle Ages".

The agreement consists of two clauses: since 1989, research under Programme A and, since 1994, under Programme B. This cooperation is funded annually by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) (Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs) and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

*In Programme A:* Programme A is led by Professor Frantz Grenet. This research programme plans excavations at Afrosiab (Samarkand), Koktepa (Payarik region), Sangirtepa (Shakhrisabz), and Iron Gate (Darband, Surkhandarya).

A Soviet-French agreement on scientific archaeological cooperation was signed in 1989, and an Uzbek-French agreement (led by Professor Franz Grene and Professor Muhammadjon Isamiddinov) was signed in 1992.

*Scientific results:* Joint Uzbek-French archaeological expedition on the ruins of Afrosiab for more than 15 years [14]. During this period a great deal of new information was gathered about one of the most ancient cities in the East.

As a result of the scientific research carried out in Afrosiab, new features of the ancient urban culture of Samarkand have been studied. On the basis of new materials received by the international expedition in Afrosiab it was scientifically proved that the period of formation of Samarkand as a city began 2750 years ago.

A group of international expeditions excavated the ruins of a palace from the Karakhanid period (11th-12th centuries) in Afrosiab. Hundreds of samples of majestic frescoes depicting people, birds,

animals and epigraphic inscriptions were found in the ruins of this palace. These paintings are the only frescoes in Central Asia dating from the Muslim era. These paintings are now being repaired by Uzbek and French craftsmen.

An international expedition found the ruins of Central Asia's oldest city near the Koktepa monument, the ancient settlement of Chelak. The Koktepa monument is located 5 km south-east of Chelak, between the villages of Shamot and Chandir, and covers an area of 23 hectares. Archaeological excavations by French and Uzbek scientists began in 1995. A palace was discovered in the centre of this ancient city, dating back to the IX–VIII centuries B.C., and the remains of a Zoroastrian temple, which occupied another hectare, were discovered next to it. These structures provide scientific evidence that a strong state apparatus operated here. Koktepa is recognized by scientists as the ruins of Basil, the second capital of Sogd, mentioned by ancient Greek historians. The Koktepa Monument was also found the burial vault of Saka Tsarina, who became famous in later years. The discovery and discovery of the Koktepa monument can be considered one of the greatest discoveries of Uzbek archaeology in the years of independence.

For several years this expedition included all archeological monuments of the northern part of Samarkand region, i.e. to the north of Zarafshan river, on the map of archeological monuments of Samarkand region. Very precise geographical coordinates of these monuments were determined by means of modern GPS devices.

The next site in Programme A of the international expedition was the location of Sangirtepa. Sangirtepa is located in the village of Komirtepa of Kitob district of Kashkadarya province. The total area of this settlement is 3 hectares of land and consists of two parts, the central part has a rectangular shape and is surrounded by defensive walls. The defensive walls of Sangirtepa were built in the 13th century B.C., where life continued until the 4th century B.C. An Uzbek-French archaeological expedition has been working at Sangirtepa since 2006.

*Programme B:* Based on the project "Fortification Systems and Urban Culture in Ancient Bactria" was carried out in collaboration with the Hellenism and Orient group (CNRS) of the French National Centre for Scientific Research. The project is led by Prof. Pierre Leriche (France) and Dr. Shakir Pidayev (Uzbekistan). The expedition is to be carried out on the territory of Surkhandarya province in the town of Old Termez, which emerged in the middle of the first millennium B.C. Thanks to its convenient location this town soon became one of the economic, political and cultural centres of Central Asia in ancient and medieval times, connecting East and West, North and South.

Archaeological excavations carried out by an Uzbek-French expedition in the ancient city of Termez revealed that the oldest part of the city is located in the eastern part of the citadel, around which the city arose in the first millennium B.C. During the Greco-Bactrian period (3rd and 2nd centuries B.C.) Termez took the form of a large city.

Monographs, collections and scientific articles will be written on the results of the Uzbek-French cooperative expedition. They are published in the following local and foreign academic journals: "History of the Material Culture of Uzbekistan, Social Sciences in Uzbekistan, Archaeological Research in Uzbekistan, La Timuride (Paris), Bulletin of the Institute of Asia (Paris), Bulletin of the Academy of Inscriptions and Beautifications (Paris), and Aftar Alexander Central Asia before Islam (London) ".

The two major French expeditions mentioned above also provided, in a sense, an opportunity to increase impressions and knowledge of the material culture and ideology of the region.

In 2004, an Uzbek-French archaeology expedition was organised to study the archaeological sites along the Great Silk Road through Ustrushna. Dr Frantz Gréné of France and Dr. Etienne de la Vaissière of Uzbekistan, a leading researcher at the Institute of Archaeology of Uzbek Scientists, Ph. Alexei Gritsina, a junior researcher, K. Rakhimov, a representative of the General Inspectorate for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments in Uzbekistan, Sattor Karabaev, as well as a local ethnographer, Vladimir Gaybullaev [15]. The journey started from Samarkand (the city of Afrosiab) and headed in the direction of Bulungur district or, as mentioned in Arabic sources, towards the Katvan desert. The archaeologists headed towards Afrosiab-Katvan Desert-Barket (Abarkas)-Ustrushona. During the expedition, a GPS device helped to determine the exact location of the monuments and the distance between them.

The two-day expedition explored the monuments of Ustrushna as an offshoot of the Great Silk Road. The remains and caravanserais of each town were carefully studied and their geographical location, nature, climate, culture, history and archaeological value were typologically analysed by scientists.

On 29 August 2005, the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (MOTXI) began work on a project called "Creating a computer database of archaeological sites in Central Asia" [16]. The scientific project meeting was attended by such archaeologists as A.Anarbayev, A.Berdimuradov, M.Isamiddinov, A. Gritsina, B. Matboboyev, M. Khojanazarov (Uzbekistan), F.Grene, C.Rapin (France). The projects of Sebastian Streid and Bernardo Rondelli, who have been studying the Surkhandarya region for many years, were approved. Their programme, called the Archaeological Information System for Central Asia (AISCA), was to create a database using a large-scale map and new technologies. The aim of the project was to increase the likelihood of the disappearance of archaeological monuments, reducing their preservation quality year by year and the deterioration of their original state. In addition, all information about the monuments will be collected as part of the project. The reason is that as the number of scientists who know and understand such information decreases, so does the risk of losing valuable databases. This is a problem affecting all Central Asian republics.

On 29 May 2009 a workshop on "Nominating a series of Central Asian rock art sites for the UNESCO World Heritage List" was held in Paris. The meeting was attended by experts from Central Asia and Europe as well as by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IICAS.

The session was held in three sections:

1. ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) case studies on rock art in Central Asia;
2. Development of a draft concept for the World Heritage nomination series for Central Asian rock art sites;
3. Management of Rock Art Monuments, CARAD (Central Asian Rock Art Database) [17] and others.

The main theme of the workshop was the creation of a draft Concept for Central Asian Rock Art Sites on the World Heritage List, prepared by experts from Europe and Central Asia. This project

involves data retrieval, research, typical chronology, preliminary comparative analysis, selection of nomination sites, compilation of primary lists and preparation for serial nominations.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, it should be noted that scientific cooperation between French Orientalists and Uzbek archaeologists is aimed at providing an in-depth study of the region's ancient and medieval history and culture and at uncovering new aspects of the history of that period.

In carrying out such research projects, representatives of the French and Uzbek schools of archaeology have an opportunity to exchange experience and seek new research methods and methods of archaeological research adapted to modern information technology, including large-scale mapping and large-scale photographing. All databases aimed at processing archaeological data and developing new knowledge with the help of modern information and communication technologies, the exact location of settlements, geography, period, monuments, mineral resources, sources of written and spiritual life will be passed on to future generations of archaeologists as a great scientific treasure.

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