

## **HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF JEWELRY OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL KHOREZM**

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**Annotation:** The article examines the history of the study of jewelry in ancient and medieval Khorezm. Khorezm jewelry began to be studied as a separate category of archaeological finds from the middle of the 20th century. Initially, researchers of the Khorezm archaeological and ethnographic expedition, and later local archaeologists, studied the morphological and technological features of jewelry.

**Keywords:** Khorezm, jewelry, expedition, oasis, settlement, bead.

In ancient and medieval Khorezm, jewelry played an important role in the social life of the population. Nevertheless, no special work has survived to this day that offers a systematic classification and detailed analysis of these products.

The beginning of the study of ancient and medieval Khorezm jewelry dates back to the mid-20th century. As a result of archaeological research conducted by the Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition in the Southern Aral Sea region, numerous jewelry finds were discovered. Professor S. P. Tolstov, along with other products, pays attention to jewelry for the first time. It describes the jewelry items found at the ruins of ancient and medieval sites in Khorezm during archaeological research (7, 88-89, 108-109).

Scientific works on jewelry of ancient and medieval Khorezm appeared in the mid-20th century. In I.V. Ptashnikova's article, a description of beads found at the sites of Janbas-kala, Bazar-kala, Ayaz-kala 3, Duman-kala, Narindjan, and the takyr of the medieval Berkut-kala and Kavat-kala oasis is provided. Among the beads studied within the framework of her research, beads made of various decorative stones constitute the majority. As we mentioned above, since beads are mainly lifting materials, the researcher relied on their analogy to date them. Comparing beads with materials found in archaeological sites of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and partly Central Asia, she argues that the main number of beads is not typical for Khorezm, as some of the decorative stones used to make beads are not found in our region and are likely imported products (6, 105-118).

The jewelry of Ancient Khorezm in the late archaic period of the middle of the 1st millennium BC were studied by M. G. Vorobeva based on materials found in the Dingilja estate. During the excavations of this estate, a small number of jewelries were discovered. The main mass of jewelry is made of bronze, except for beads made of stone and glass. Among the materials found are temporal rings, pins, rings, bracelets, beads, plaques, and small fragments of indeterminate jewelry (3, 119-134).

The Toprak-Kala site has been an archaeological site studied by the Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition for many years and has provided us with rich material finds. During the excavations of this monument's palace, a large collection of jewelry representing many aspects of late antique Khorezm's jewelry art was collected. S. Trudnovskaya was one of

the first to turn to the jewelry of the Toprak-kala settlement. In 1952, her first scientific work on the jewelry of Toprak-Kala was published, and in this work, only materials found in the Toprak-Kala palace are published (11, 119-134).

During the excavations of the Toprak-Kala palace, a large collection of jewelry representing many aspects of late antique Khorezm's jewelry art was collected. S. Trudnovskaya was one of the first to turn to the jewelry of the Toprak-kala settlement. In the corresponding part of the monographs "The Toprak-Kala Settlement" and "Toprak-Kala. Palace", S. Trudnovskaya reworked the new finds. Most of the jewelry obtained during the excavations further belong to the last stage of the city's existence, and the main mass consists of beads. Based on new findings, the author complements the typological scheme and technological features of the jewelry (4, 119-122; 8, 223-229).

In the process of E.E. Nerazik's study of the history of ancient and medieval settlements and dwellings of Khorezm, a collection of jewelry was collected. In his scientific works, a brief description of the jewelry found in the settlements of the Khorezmshah period is given. The author notes that materials similar to these finds have been found in Central Asia and beyond (5, 103-110). Several variants of earrings, rings, and pendants are also presented, but their morphological and technological features are not characterized.

The collection of jewelry from the Djigerbent settlement, excavated since the 1970s of the Khorezm archaeological site, is described in the monographic work of N. Y. Vishnevskaya. The metal jewelry found on this monument are few. Among the jewelry described by the author are plates and rings made of bronze, girths made of iron, and rings made of bronze and silver. The author described them separately by material and gave general information about their shape, size, and the discovered layers. The main part of the jewelry of this monument consists of beads and pendants, therefore the author paid more attention to them. N. Y. Vishnevskaya provided a more thorough typology and technological features of the beads of Khorezm, using the example of Jigerbent materials dating back to the 9th - early 13th centuries (2, 96-103).

The jewelry of medieval Khorezm have been examined in a number of works co-authored and authored by N. J. Torezhanova. Her research is mainly devoted to the study of metal jewelry. As the researcher notes, Khorezmian jewelry are divided according to their purpose into head jewelry, chest jewelry, and hand jewelry, as well as belt set elements, jewelry, and clothing embroideries. It is also noted that the main part of Khorezm's jewelry is made of bronze. A comprehensive study of the manufacturing technology, ornamentation, and other aspects of jewelry, as the researcher emphasizes, can serve as a dating material in a number of cases (9, 204-206; 10, 33-34).

Certain ethnographic information about the jewelry of the Turkmens of the Khorezm oasis is found in the works of G. P. Vasilyeva. G. P. Vasileva led the Turkmen detachment of the Khorezm Archaeological and Ethnographic Expedition for many years and collected ethnographic data on the material culture of the Turkmens of the Khorezm oasis. She paid special attention to the study of Turkmen jewelry and published a number of scientific works. According to the nature of the Turkmen jewelry, the author divides all Turkmens into two groups, and this division, from her point of view, reflected the predominance of certain ethnic elements that participated in the formation of the Turkmen people (1, 427-460).

In the collective book "Ethnography of Karakalpaks. XIX - beginning of the XX century". describes many issues of Karakalpak ethnography. In a separate section of this book, entitled

“The Production of Jewelry”, A. Utemisov illuminates the issue of the Karakalpak jewelry industry in the 19th – early 20th centuries. In his work, the author described the Karakalpak master jewelers of that time and their activities, the tools used by the master jewelers, Karakalpak jewelry, raw materials and the technical principles of their processing, as well as the features of Karakalpak jewelry and their similarities with neighboring peoples (12, 159-170).

It is worth noting here that some elements of medieval Khorezm jewelry art have been preserved in the jewelry art of the Karakalpaks, Uzbeks, and Turkmens to this day.

Studying the history of ornamentation, we can observe that the main part of the works is descriptive in nature and has not been subjected to special study, but has been covered in the works fragmentarily as an auxiliary material in the study of the monument. The jewelry of Khorezm require more thorough research, which will allow us to obtain more complete scientific data on the issues of studying the jewelry of medieval Khorezm. The main task of further research should be to generalize all research and focus on aspects that have not been studied in practice.

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