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### Monuments of the Talgar according to archaeology

**Abstract.** The article tells about the study history of the medieval Talgar settlement and settlements in the locality. If we pay attention to the sources the first researchers and travelers of the city of Talkhiz report that the territory of the city was large. We are also talking about settlements that are part of the territory of this settlement, but have not yet been explored. Nevertheless, the Talgar settlement, which has been studied for more than one hundred and fifty years, undoubtedly has a special significance as a historical monument. Until now, valuable objects found during excavations are stored in many museums and museums-reserves of the country. Among the finds you can see some imported products. This suggests that the medieval settlement of Talgar was a center of artisans and jewelers, where international trade was well developed. One can see how much influence external relations had on the development of this settlement located along the Great Silk Road. Talgar is one of the most important monuments among the historical and cultural sites of Semirechye. However, the article says that some localities still need to be investigated.

**Key words.** *Talkhiz, settlement, trade, researcher, archaeological, middle ages, artifacts, international, museum*

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### Талгарын археологийн дурсгалууд

**Товчлол.** Уг нийтлэлд Талгарын дундад зууны үеийн суурин болон тус нутгийн сууринг судалсан түүхийн тухай өгүүлнэ. Судалгаа, тоо баримтад анхаарлаа хандуулбал Талхиз жотын анхны хайгуулчид, аялагчид тус хотын нутаг дэвсгэр их байсныг илтгэдэг. Мөн энэ суурингийн нутаг дэвсгэрт багтсан боловч судлагдаагүй суурин газруудын тухай ярьж байна. Гэвч зуун тавин жил судлагдсан Талгар суурин түүхэн дурсгалт газрын хувьд онцгой ач холбогдолтой, байр суурь эзэлдэг нь дамжиггүй. Өнөөг хүртэл малтлагын явцад олдсон үнэт эд зүйлс тус улсын олон музей, музей нөөцөд хадгалагдаж байна. Олдворуудын дунд та импортын зүйлсийг харж болно. Энэ нь дундад зууны үеийн Талгар суурин нь олон улсын худалдаа сайн хөгжсөн гар урчууд, үнэт эдлэлийн холбоодын төв байсан болохыг харуулж байна. Их торгоны зам дагуу орших суурингийн хөгжилд гадаад харилцаа ямар их нөлөө үзүүлсэнийг харж болно. Талгар бол Жетысу дахь түүх, соёлын өвийн хамгийн чухал дурсгалуудын нэг юм. Гэсэн хэдий ч зарим суурин газарт судалгаа хийх шаардлагатай хэвээр байгааг үг нийтлэлд дурджээ.

**Түлхүүр үг.** *Талхиз, эртний суурин, худалдаа, судлаач, археологи, дундад зууны, олдвор, олон улсын, музей*

## Introduction

A visit to the monument, its visual inspection as a World Heritage monument of the Talgar settlement has been conducted for more than 150 years, this is its uniqueness. Ch.Ch. Valikhanov visited this monument in 1854. Then, obviously, the first finds were collected from the surface, but there is no evidence of this. The museum in Verny began collecting artifacts much later. The first observation of the cultural layers exposed by the natural mudflow that swept along the river in the summer of 1921 was carried out by V.D. Gorodetsky, then he was able to rationally interpret the purpose of the premises washed out by the mudflow, located behind the western city wall, as workshops, made a description of the preservation of the monument (Gorodetsky, 1928).

The first archaeological excavations of the Talgar settlement under the leadership of I.I. Kopylov began in 1955. In one of the early works, the researcher of the Talgar settlement pointed to A.H. Margulan, who was the first to compare this settlement with Talkhiz mentioned in the source (Kopylov, 1978, p. 61). Research on the opening of the layers of the settlement was carried out by archaeologists of the Abai ASU and the Ch.Ch.Valikhanov Institute of History, Archeology and Etography of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR with some interruptions for 65 years (until 2020 under the leadership of T.V. Savelyeva), far surpassing in this indicator the other most famous monuments of the Zhetysu region. The method of archaeological autopsy has brought significant results, we can judge the layout of the city, individual blocks, residential and outbuildings. In the main museums of Almaty, artifacts from Talgar are placed on the most prominent podiums and showcases. Not all of them originate from the settlement itself.

## Methods

Talgar, along with Koylyk/Kailakom is one of the two most famous and researched monuments of medieval urban culture of the Almaty region, by which, most researchers still understand the historical and cultural region of Zhetysu. Since the 1960s, they have been studied, in particular, by K.M. Baypakov. The region has a significant length of sections of the Great Silk Road from Kastik and Kerim bai tobe (Ak Ter-ek) to Koylyk and tortkuli around Alakol. Along with the monuments of previous periods: petroglyphs, the most valuable of which belong to the Early and Middle Bronze Age, majestic royal burial mounds (Saka era), settlements of the Zhetysu region, belonging to the heyday of the urban culture of the region of the VIII-XIII centuries, have the greatest representativeness for educational tourism. It represents a significant segment (more than 600 km) of the Silk Road routes, as northern branches from the main routes that

passed through the Fergana and Chui valleys.

The worldwide universal value of Talgar, Kayalyk and other six monuments located on the territory of Almaty and Zhymbyl regions was confirmed by their inclusion in the cross-border Serial Nomination “Silk Road: the Network of Routes of Chang’an-Tianshan Corridor” in 2014 (Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang’an-Tianshan Corridor). In the outstanding universal value section of the Nomination, it seems to us that Criterion (v) is important: “The Tien Shan Corridor is an outstanding example of how high cost, intercity trade stimulated the growth of large cities and towns supported by complex water management systems that collected water from rivers, wells and underground sources for residents, travelers and irrigation of crops.”

## Discussion

In order to be able to protect and present the Talgar settlement at the present time, it was necessary to preserve it at the stages of anthropogenic development of the territory. One of the turning points in the history of the preservation of the settlement is the beginning of the 20s, when the commune founded here (unconsciously, but with all the determination of the communard) began to destroy this monument. Then V.D. Gorodetsky and M.E. Masson managed to defend/preserve the central part and the southern suburb, the territory of which is now a UNESCO monument. The rest of the medieval city’s territory went under modern construction even earlier. But individual finds, mostly accidental, mark the “borders” of medieval Talgar. Some structures of the medieval city, the location, now destroyed, located on a private, fenced territory, can only be established by the publication of V.D. Gorodetsky (Gorodetsky, 1928). It is obvious that the mentions of many accidental finds made by private individuals on Talgar and, moreover, its district have not reached us. As the same scientist testifies, the northern periphery of the settlement was still destroyed (more details below).

A significant number of (rare) artifacts “from Talgar” are accidental finds that originate from treasures, burials, estates separated from the urban core by distances occupied by land. Often, the sites of these finds have not been properly examined. According to some of them, a certain historiography is accumulating (including proving a different origin of a unique artifact (a Japanese bowl), mainly, judging by the chronology, not related to the medieval Talkhiz). Unlike the rest of the hoard of medieval imported items currently on display at the Central Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, found a few dozen meters to the east of the outer walls of the settlement during the laying of the ditch (Myakisheva, 2011, pp. 44-45). Other finds, on the contrary, are undeservedly forgotten, and some

of them are known only from publications and the archive of I.I. Kopylov, and the artifacts themselves are still lost (Kopylov, Kereksha, 1993). One of the reasons for the accidental finds in different places of modern Talgar is that, apparently, the territory occupied by the medieval city of Talkhiz (during its heyday: in the XI - early XIII centuries) was quite large (due to the suburbs and the surrounding area - undefended settlements that arose in the parts of the upper part of the removal cone convenient for farming) and, unfortunately, "went" under the buildings of modern Talgar in the XIX, the second surge in the growth of the territory of its development and active use of land was observed in the 50s of the XX centuries. It is obvious that the territory of the Talkhiz district was also extensive: the manor farm, workshops, necropolises occupied a huge territory and were tied to the features of the relief.

### Research results

Judging by the results of the conducted research, urban life in the medieval Talgar settlement lasted for more than 4 centuries. The early layers (VIII century) were marked in the stratigraphic pit. The late period is well reconstructed according to the chronology of the upper cultural layers, individual warehouses and finds. And also according to the general picture of the life of the region as part of the Chagatai ulus, according to numismatic data (Petrov, 2008) (a treasure from the Talgar of the Karakhanid period is also being prepared for publication).

Antiquity. Of course, the most attractive characteristic element of the area where the medieval Talgar settlement is located is nature: an abundance of water sources, a relatively mild climate that contributed to the development of agriculture and horticulture. This is what determined that people settled this valley back in the Neolithic era. An interesting find made of processed stone with a drilled hole (sinker) of the Neolithic era was made by the Kazakh-American expedition in the Orman Valley during exploration - inspection of the arable land of the eastern part of the valley for the presence of artifacts (KAAE Reports A.N. Maryashev discovered huge stones with cup-shaped knockouts dating back to the Bronze Age "in situ" in the Orman Valley. There would be much more archaeological sites if it were not for the anthropogenic factor of recent decades, in addition, in the adjacent valley, at an altitude of 1000 to 1500 m. above the sea level - the process of soil formation is significant, earthquakes and mudflows are frequent, all this makes it difficult to find and fix ancient monuments, for example, settlements or burial grounds of the Bronze Age, which, of course, should be there. A little-known burial ground of the ancient Turkic era at the confluence of the Left and Right Talgar belongs

to the Middle Ages. Finds of ancient monuments are extremely rare due to active soil formation. Or under modern settlements: V.D. Gorodetsky also wrote that burial mounds began directly from the territory of the settlement and stretched to the north (Gorodetsky, 1928, p. 52).

However, the monuments of medieval urban and settled agricultural culture are the most famous in the microregion. V.D. Gorodetsky wrote about the significant destruction of the nearest district of the Talgar settlement and only about some finds he mentions or gives any data. V.D. Gorodetsky mentions workshops located under the western walls of the city, about the water supply from the kuburov, passing from the southern border to the northern (at the place where the aryk now flows). It also testifies to a decrease in the center of the settlement with a diameter of about 25 m, which could be a flowing seasonal reservoir. He also mentions the discovery by local workers of the "Bolshevik Commune" of a millstone with tamgas of "Genghisids", which he documented in 1921 (Gorodetsky, 1928, p. 52). His statement that: "70 meters from the north-eastern rampart of the settlement there was another settlement with a slightly towering rampart measuring 160x180 m" (now it is also a private territory) is extremely curious (Gorodetsky, 1928, p. 53). Apparently, the cultural layers of this quarter or settlement are still visible on the Google Earth map below the north-eastern wall of the settlement today.

It is possible that this rectangular settlement (tortkul), located north of the main quadrangle of the walls of the Talgar settlement, which was testified by V.D. Gorodetsky, preserved by the early 20s of the last century, is an earlier (first) urban center of the Talgar medieval oasis, fortified by fortification. Apparently, there are significant grounds for the assumption that it was there that urban life was concentrated at an early stage of the city's life, during the period of the late VIII - early X century. In particular, because it would be logical to assume that the two early stages (out of three) that archaeologists trace, in particular on ceramics (cities and settlements) of the North-Eastern Zhetysu (VIII- beginning. X and X- the beginning of the XIII centuries, XIII-XIV centuries) (Baypakov, 2013, pp. 353-354) were determined by relatively powerful political events that influenced the entire material and spiritual culture. The beginning of the X century. - the spread of Muslim culture: spiritual and material, the formation of the Karakhanid empire and the Karluk Khanate. In the XIII century. - The Mongolian state and the Chagatai ulus, the formation of a single image of culture. Based on the results of research on the Talgar settlement, it is possible to assume that in the second half - the end of the 10th century, the central part was fortified: surrounded by a moat and pakhsov, rather, compacted (hammered into

the formwork) clay walls, towers, additional fortifications: this period is the beginning of the heyday of urban life until the beginning of the second decade of the XIII century. The essence of the relationship between the local Karluks and the Karakhanid dynasty is still not fully explored. It is possible that the authority of a branch of this dynasty, for example, the Arslanids - this was established by excavations in Kayalik (from the very end of the XII century to 1209) at a very short stage was supported, in particular by Sufis (Zheleznyakov, 2016). In 1213, Gurkhan died and, having lost power two years earlier, Kuchluk began to have full power in Zhetysu and Tien Shan.

The presence of ceramics from the end of the VIII - beginning of the IX century in the pit on Talgar does not give a clear dating of the construction of the outer walls of the settlement, but only indicates that the cultural layers of the corresponding periods were recorded. Recent major studies of the city wall of the Talgar settlement by archaeologists of Archaeological Expertise LLP give detailed descriptions of the layers and finds, but say nothing about the dating of the lower layers of the walls, for example, the northern wall, the north-eastern tower, where the research was conducted (Voyakin, 2015).

The abundance of random finds (including unique imported artifacts) in the Talgara district also testifies to the oasis structure, when the population settled in several settlements and the homestead nature of farming, about the heyday of urban life in the Karakhanid period. The presence of wide spaces occupied by fortified rabads during the XI - early XIII centuries, when Islam was strengthened not only in the urban, but also in the nomadic and semi-nomadic environment of the population of the Karakhanid empire in the Ili Valley; in the Talas, Shuisky valley, this has been recorded since the very end of the IX century, in the Arys since the second quarter of the IX century, testifies to the safety of the population's life outside the city walls, with garrisons (Zheleznyakov, 2009, pp. 191-192). By analogy with the well-known monograph on the traditional culture of life support of the Kazakhs, we can confidently assume that in the late Karluk, Karakhanid and early Mongol periods of history, in Zhetysu in the foothills, the culture of cities-settlements-estates was deeply rooted, where agriculture and a variety of crafts occupied key positions, along with cattle breeding (Alimbai, Mukanov, Argyrbayev, 1998, pp. 62-109). Indirectly, this can be confirmed by the relatively thin cultural layer of the main settlement, the weak representation of early materials. However, while the study of the monument on a private territory is not possible. It is possible that with certain events, for example, the beginning of the second half of the tenth century, there was either the destruction of the old center, or an increase in popula-

tion and centralization of power. Currently, this area is fenced and belongs to private ownership. Apparently, it belongs to the territory of the commune, which almost destroyed the main settlement of Talgar. Studies on this territory have not been carried out.

Tonk/Tonk. Talkhiz, even before its heyday (which, obviously, fell on the XII - beginning of the XIII centuries), was honored to get into the historical and geographical chronicles. The heyday, traced by finds and cultural layers related to this period. It is mentioned by a Persian geographer, which dates back to 982, in his description of the work "Hudud al-Alem" ("Borders of the World"), as a junction on the busy route of the Great Silk Road, which is quite worthy of attention (traveler). On its pages, the village of Talkhiz was named among the settlements of the region. It was located: "among the mountains on the border between the Turkic tribes of Chigil and Karluks. According to the characteristics of a medieval geographer, its inhabitants are belligerent, brave and valiant" (Kopylov, 1978, p. 61).

Next to Talkhiz, the village of Tunka is mentioned on the opposite left bank of the river. I.I. Kopylov wrote that the name "Talgar" may come from the ancient Turkic "Talkyg" - "saddle" - from a mountain resembling the humps of a Bactrian camel, the name "Tun" means "Rest". It is important to note that I.I. Kopylov wrote that A.H. Margulan was the first to compare the city of "Talkhize" from the essay "Hudud-al-Alem" with the Talgar settlement (Kopylov, 1978, pp. 61-62).

In 1966, I.I. Kopylov conducted a thorough study of the terrain on the left bank of the Talgar River from the foot of the Camel mountain to the road to Almaty. Unfortunately, by that time the central part of this fortified settlement was completely destroyed by large-scale leveling. Only the memories of contemporaries of those works have been preserved; the bulldozer work was carried out in the 50s. At the time of the work, the nursery workers noted traces of ruins made of raw and stone, a significant number of ceramic finds, including large humps, as well as bones, both animals and traces of human burials, a large number of fragments of burnt bricks. The territory of the apparently fortified settlement, according to I.I. Kopylov, was about 6 hectares and was located between the "Matochkin" and "Collection" gardens (Kopylov, 1978, p. 63). A detailed survey led to the fact that the remains of a pottery workshop with two furnaces and potter's tools were found in the center of the proposed settlement localization territory (Kopylov, 1978, p. 63). I.I. Kopylov attributed ceramics from the destroyed "Tunka" to the IX- beginning of the XIII century. Together with a significant number of ceramic fragments, this indicated the presence of an early medieval settlement there. Attention is drawn to

the fact that this settlement was located at a distance of about / at least 500 m from the shore of the Talgar river (480 m from an asphalt road passing near the shore). Water was supplied by a canal or taken from springs. (Whole) cubes with a length of 60 cm were found (Kopylov, 1978, p. 63).

Thus, if the presence of Tunka was proved by I.I. Kopylov, he also carried out its localization, then the square of the heavily swollen walls below (northeast) was obviously destroyed (apparently to the foundations or their bases) in the 20s of the XX century. and its cultural layers are now on private territory under the leveled surface. In this sense, the destruction of the 20s on the Lower Talgar may not be as significant as with the help of bulldozers in the 50s on the Tunka (apparently, the Tunka coincides with the localization of T.V. Savelyeva of the Talgar I settlement) (Savelyeva, 1994, p. 34).

It is obvious that after a significant reduction in the territory of the settlement of the Karluk tribes and the transformation of the Karluk khaganate into a khanate in the early 940s, the Talgar were able to keep the Karluks, obviously in view of the importance of this point on the Silk Road route, thanks to their militancy, which is mentioned by a medieval source. Apparently, some "consolidation" of the population occurs in the period of the X- beginning of the XIII centuries.

And now, on the topography of the upper part of the city (1.5 km below the Talgar settlement), the "Laptev" kurgan stands out - the Saka royal mound. V.D. Gorodetsky, in 1921, still found some "voids" in the Talgar building and noted that there were other mounds, obviously belonging to different eras. The researcher also noted a huge number of potsherds in the ditches on the territory of the settlement (Gorodetsky, 1928, p. 51). However, both the city district and the settlement itself have yielded very significant findings and results over decades of research, indicating developed trade ties and the developed craft of Talgar. At least the treasure of the Karakhanid period, exhibited in the exposition of the Issyk Reserve-Museum, can speak about some development of trade relations of Talgar.

In addition to Talkhiz and Tank, as well as Rahat, which, being located between Issyk and Talgar, refers more to Issyk, but has its own drain and outflow of the Rahat river. There are several other settlements mentioned by T.V. Savelyeva in her monograph. The fortified settlement of Talgar I is located on the banks of the Topolevka River, west of the Talgar settlement. Apparently, this is the settlement or settlement of Tunk, located 0.5 - 1 km west of the Talgar River to the northwest of Talgar-Talkhiz. According to our data, the remains of the settlement were studied in the most detail by I.I. Kopylov.

The fortified settlement of Talgar II is located on

the eastern outskirts of Talgar, 4 km northeast of the Talgar settlement. Now it is almost completely occupied by the construction of a brick factory. The area of the settlement is about 4 hectares (200 x 200 m). From the side of the outdoor part, and the settlement itself was located in the foothills on a hill, it was protected by a natural ravine. The ceramics collected at the settlement, according to the available analogies, date back to the X-X centuries.

The undefended settlement of Talgar III was discovered on the territory of the village "Kazstroy" (now Ryskulovo) 5 km east of the Talgar settlement. It occupies a part of the valley measuring 200x300 m. The cultural layer traced in the ravine washout has a thickness of up to 1 m (Savelyeva, 1994, pp. 34-35). The fortified settlement of Kaynazar is located 12 km northeast of the center of Talgar, 1-2 km to the left of the Talgar - Issyk road, on the bank of the Kaynazarovka river.

The settlement occupies an area stretching 250-300 m from east to west and 200 m from north to south. The upper layer of the settlement was destroyed by 30-50 cm by plowing. On the surface of the arable land there are fragments of ceramics, mainly non-wa-tering: fragments of boilers, as well as handles from them, jugs and pots, necks of hums. A few years ago, the researcher of the monument, archaeologist A.E. Rogozhinsky handed over the lifting material of the 80s of the last century to the author, the author jointly describes the finds and transfers them to the funds of the Issyk Museum.

Kyzyl Gayrat settlement is located 0.5 km west of the modern village. Kyzyl Gayrat, 6 km northwest of the Talgar settlement on the right bank of the stream. The settlement is square in plan, oriented by angles to the cardinal directions, the dimensions of each side are 60 m. It is surrounded by a shaft 1-1.5 m high and 5-5.5 m wide at the base. Rounded towers are arranged at the corners of the shaft, the only entrance is in the middle of the northeast wall.

Ceramics collected on the surface of the pendulum and in the scree of the shaft are represented by fragments of boilers with loop-shaped riveted handles, jugs and hums. All the dishes are made on a potter's wheel and have direct analogies to dishes from the layers of the XI- XII centuries of the Talgar settlement. The specified time can also be dated to the settlement of Kyzyl-Gayrat.

In addition, there is data on the medieval settlements of Alatau, Bayterek (Novoalekseyevka), Expanse. All these medieval settlements need monitoring of the condition, accounting of finds, study, including for long-term use in various historical periods. The undefended settlement of Alatau. The remains of the plowed settlement are located north of the village of Alatau, 15 km northwest of the Talgar settlement. A

large amount of ceramics of medieval appearance has been collected on the surface of the arable land. The presumed dating of the post - millennium of the X - XII centuries. (Savelyeva, 1994, p. 35).

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The undefended settlement of Razdolye is located 8 km north of the Talgar settlement on the western outskirts of the village. Ceramic outcrops can be traced along the stream for 200 m . The sections show a cultural layer containing animal bones, ash. Ceramics date back to the X - XII centuries . Also, the fortified settlement of Bayterek (Novoalekseyevka) is located northwest of the village, on the bank of a stream. Destroyed by modern arable land. Fragments of ceramics dating back to the X – XII centuries are collected on an area measuring 100x100. (Savelyeva, 1994, p. 29).

Talgar imported mirrors are status finds. There are many mentions on online pages, including authoritative authors. For example, A.G. Lukhtanov writes about the finds in Talgar's "vegetable gardens", in that case it was connected with the construction of a house by his family in the 60s. Then a flat metal object was found - a "tray", unfortunately, the find itself is lost in the future, and the author himself suggests that it was a bronze mirror. In total, 7 imported bronze mirrors were found (2 – Iranian, 4 – Chinese and 1 – Central Asian) at the Talgar settlement, which were published more than once. Unfortunately, the exact localization of the finds is not given. However, the article does not provide data on the localization of these finds (it is mentioned only that they were found during excavations), questions of origin, dating and interpretation of plots are investigated (Markova, 2013, p. 37).

Currently, the territory of the Talgar settlement, a UNESCO monument, is completely and completely fenced with a lattice , is about 30 hectares. But this is not the entire territory on which the medieval city was located, as studies show, mainly random finds made at different distances from the Talgar settlement. So far, the only mention in the Persian-language source of "The Borders of the World", although it complements the archaeological data about Talkhiz, but not significantly.

Thus, the northern district of the Talgar settlement was built up with buildings of the XIX - early XX centuries. As it turns out, even 3 km north of the settlement there were finds of interesting artifacts, apparently, some of them could relate to the northern city necropolis. One of the interesting finds is a large

water-bearing jug decorated with anthropomorphic carvings. A zoomorphic jug similar in ornamentation and dating was also found with him.

In the cities of Semirechye and Southern Kazakhstan, their own ceramic schools are beginning to take shape. Thus, the center of ceramic production was formed in the North-eastern Zhetysu. In the X-XI centuries the city reached its heyday. The excavations of the Talgar settlement yielded a rich collection of ceramics of the Talgar ceramic school. Technologically, Talgar ceramics is characterized by an admixture of river sand in the dough, the absence of bright red, burgundy angobs, the presence of a large number of mortars in ceramics of the X-XII centuries and a small number of dustarkhans and lids in comparison with South western Zhetysu and Southern Kazakhstan.

The second half of the XII - the beginning of the XIII century. marked by the renewal of form and means of expression, imitation of metal decoration, rejection of intricate patterns. During the XIII-XIV centuries, a new style of artistic ceramics was formed. Angob coatings for paintings come out in the first place, especially reddish-brown angob. The dark color covered with glaze became deeper, and the light paintings (green, yellow, blue, cream) acquired the color of the glaze being painted and became particularly expressive. Colorless glazes were also used.

The jug is wide-necked, made on a potter's wheel, covered with pink angob. The height of the jug is 65 cm, the height of the throat is 25 cm, the diameter of the body is 40 cm, the diameter of the throat is 10 cm. The neck and corolla of the jug are designed in the form of a human head: he has a straight nose that is in line with the forehead; a clay ring is threaded through the nostrils; eyebrows are in the form of a solid drawn line, and the mouth is marked with inserts of pieces of gray vitreous slag; there are no eyes. The corolla with a plum depicts a three-pronged crown, which is inlaid with three inserts of pieces of vitreous slag, imitating probably precious stones. The cranked handle of the vessel consists of two twisted braids, which, starting from the back of the head, fall on the back (trunk). Three large cones with relief images of crossed coniferous branches are stuck on the body of the vessel. Two stripes on the body in the form of triangular teeth, apparently, imitate the ornament of clothing.

An anthropomorphic jug of the IX-XI century, an accidental discovery 3 km north of the Talgar settlement in 1973 (for several years the Talgar detachment of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR worked). As studies show, rather consultations with researchers, this territory belonged, most likely, to the lower necropolis of medieval Talkhiz, according to the reasonable assumption of T.V. Savelyeva,

expressed in an oral consultation. Note that the original dating of the “pulled” forward spouts-plums of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic pitchers are found in Sogda and Chacha in the VI-VIII centuries, in the Chui Valley and in Talgar in the VIII-X centuries. (Savelieva, 1994, p. 16). One can also find a later dating of these two Talgar vessels. Thus, only an approximate mention of the place where the jug was found approximately marks the limits of the northern suburbs of the city of Talkhiz, rather, the necropolises of the city adjacent to them. The second jug from the place of accidental discovery has a throat decorated in the form of a turtle’s head (Baypakov, 1974, pp. 466-467).

Another unique treasure was found on the periphery of the settlement during the laying of the ditch. In 1941, a unique treasure found in the eastern suburb of the Talgar settlement, apparently now occupied by a private territory (horse farms), was received by the Central State Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It includes four faience Chinese bowls, two bronze dishes, one Iranian with a unique pattern. Now they are exhibited in the archaeological exposition of the mentioned museum. One of the most exquisite finds on the site of the settlement is a bronze dish.

The cities of Semirechye and South Kazakhstan developed their distinctive ceramic schools. Thus, the center of ceramic production was formed in the Northeast Zhetysu. In X–XI centuries the city reached its heyday. Excavations of the ancient settlement of Talgar gave a rich collection of ceramics of the Talgar ceramic tradition.

Technologically, for the Talgar ceramics is characterized by an admixture of river sand in the paste, the lack of bright – red, burgundy slip, apparent in the ceramics of the X–XII centuries a large number of inclusions in the ceramic pastes, compared with the Southwest Zhetysu and South Kazakhstan, including the dastarkhans and their covers.

The second half of the XII – the beginning of the XIII century the ceramic tradition is marked by the renewal of the form and the means of creative expression, the imitation of decorations found on metal objects, and the rejection of intricate patterns. During the period of XIII–XIV centuries a new style of artistic ceramics emerged. First, ceramics were slipped, usually with reddish-brown slip underneath a glaze coating.

Dark colored glazes on the ceramics became more popular, and light painted colors (green, yellow, blue, cream) became the primary glazes and often the decorations were particularly expressive. Transparent glazes were also used. In the second half of XIII – beginning of XIV centuries Talgar began to decline. By the middle of the XIV century, the city was abandoned.

According to the findings at the ancient craft workshops and ceramic production, iron and other metal production, and glass production, it is now possible to have a good understanding of such crafts as pottery, blacksmithing, glass, copper, and jewelry production during the first half of XI – beginning XIII century.

Craftsmen were a significant part of the urban population. Every craftsman wanted to open his own shop close to the liveliest places of trade. In each city there were bazaars with rows of shops and workshops where it was possible to obtain any household utensil made of metal, ceramics, and glass. There were shops with finished products, as well as workshops, where objects could be ordered or repaired. During the excavations of the shops there was no waste of metal working, ceramic, glass production, which suggests that the main function of the city was as a marketplace where the needs of the population were serviced. In the excavations in the vicinity of the southwest corner tower, a pottery furnace was found inside the southern and northern fortress walls. The pottery furnace collapse but the combustion chamber has been preserved. When cleaning out the combustion chamber during excavation, pieces of the hearth with vents, fragments of the cover which was placed over the firing chamber were discovered. The lid is flat on both sides, about 4 cm thick, and in the center of the outer side is a mushroom-shaped handle. Several fragments of glazed kettles and jars were found. After the removal of debris and fill, the furnace chamber had a round shape with a diameter of 168-170 cm and a depth of 75 cm. The walls are covered with uneven gray-brownish-greenish drips. The bottom in the center of the furnace slopes downwards. The «spout» of the kiln is located at an angle relative to the surface and extends north of the furnace chamber.

The largest quantity of materials found in excavations, are ceramics. The collection of plain ware ceramics is dominated by kettle-shaped vessel forms. These are kitchen utensils. Kettles without decoration, although sometimes the body of the vessel will have the incisions of one or two concentric lines. The serving vessels include plates and dishes.

The special category of ceramics includes chirkags (lamps) and chandeliers with multiple armatures. Household utensils are represented by massive bottoms of large vessels, fragments of basins, large vessels for food storage and oil – (khums). Among the large amount of ceramics there are fragments covered with glazed decorations of dark green and yellow brown colors. These are bowls decorated by wheel-turned applications red-brown paint under translucent glazes, and special lamps like chandeliers. Such dishes are typical for XI - early XIII century.

Ceramic assemblage of the ancient settlement of Talgar. As a result of several years of archeological

excavations at the ancient settlement of Talgar a collection of ceramics was found. These are mainly fragments of plain ware vessels, mainly kitchen utensils. This assemblage is typical for the already examined ceramic assemblage from Talgar. According to the functional categories of the ceramic assemblage there are the following main categories:

The image on the platter consists of several circles inscribed into each other. In its very center is a round medallion. Inside it are depicted two sphinxes - winged creatures with the body of a lion and a human face. They stand in a heraldic pose: on their hind legs, with their backs to each other, with crossed tails. The bodies are depicted in profile, the faces are in full face. On the heads of fantastic characters - three-pronged crowns. The entire free area of the medallion is covered with plant ligature. The next ornamental ring is filled with the image of an "animal race" of three pairs of dogs and two foxes separated by circles. All dogs are in rapid motion: with outstretched legs and pressed ears. Fleeing foxes look back. The most likely place of manufacture of this object is Iran (XII - early XIII century). Treasures of valuable, imported items, both accidentally discovered and during excavations, clearly hidden from contemporaries make up a significant proportion of artifacts (Baipakov, 2013, p. 374).

### Conclusion

It is obvious that the processes that influenced the heyday of the urban culture of Semirechye in the VIII-XIII centuries, that is, more than a millennium after the heyday of the development of the region by the Sakas and Usuns were much more complicated. Among the factors of influence of the state on the processes of urban formation, scientists call: 1) the creation of political and ideological unity; 2) the formation of a single economic organism; 3) ensuring external security; 4) strengthening military importance through the support and construction of fortress cities, which have become the most common type of cities (Zinyakov, 2019, p. 932) and a number of other factors.

The history of the development of the city, the ruins of which now represent the Talgar settlement, may indicate that not only the largely ideal natural conditions of the area located in a unique foothill landscape determine the growth in the number and well-being of the urban population, but also "external" circumstances, geopolitical conditions: safe farming at a distance from the city walls that do not accommodate the main population of the microregion. The question of the prerequisites for the formation and development of the city and the corresponding HCT on the II and Zhetysu Alataus sections of the Silk Road was considered in the most detail by N.M. Zinyakov (Zinyakov, 2019).

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