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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN ENYKH

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The village of Anig is located southwest of the Gusar district center of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on the right bank of the Gusar River, at the northeastern foot of the Greater Caucasus Side range, on the left side of the Gusar-

Shahdag Olympic Sports Complex road, at an altitude of 1100 m above sea level (Fig. 1). Geographical coordinates of Anig (*Enykh*): 41° 34' 68.26" N - 48° 22' 51.76" E [2, s. 1; 3, s.43-44].



Figure 1. Image of Anig village on the map of Azerbaijan in Google Earth program

A number of monuments have been preserved at different levels in the village of Enykh. I would like to note that no archaeological research was conducted in Enykh. In the 60s of the last century, archaeologist J.Khalilov gave brief information about the Enykh fortress [1, s. 93-94; 4]. In 2018, for the first time, the Guba-Khachmaz archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences conducted exploratory research in Enykh. Our research had several directions. The first stage consisted of archaeological excavations in the Enykh fortress [2, s. 1-2; 3, s. 43-44]. In the second stage, it consisted of inspecting the surrounding areas and conducting preliminary research in the monuments belonging to the Middle Ages [2, s. 1-2].

It should be noted that Anig village is strategically located in a very favorable area. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the natural defenses were skillfully used when the fortress was built here. The ancient fortress did not occupy the entire area of the modern village, but only the southwestern part.

In general, this area resembles a peninsula surrounded by the Gusar River and its tributaries from the east, west and north. The area is bordered by mountains in the south. Once, it was possible to cross the Gusar River to the area where the fortress is located, and exit from the northwestern slope of the hill where the village is [2, s.1-10]. On the other sides, the rocks and cliffs that emerged by the fast-flowing waters of the Gusar River and its tributaries, as well as the mountains and ravines surrounding it, increased its defense capacity for many times.

The Anig fortress is located in the central part of the village. The fortress does not occupy the entire area, which is naturally so strongly

defensible, but only a part of it [2, s.1-10]. The main gate of the fortress opens to the north, to the area where the village cemetery is located. A magnificent fortress wall was built in that area for defensive purposes. On the other sides, as we have mentioned, it was protected by natural barriers. Most of the fortress wall was later destroyed in connection with the construction of the village, and its stones were used as building material (Fig. 2).

Currently, two fragments of the fortress wall have been preserved in the village. The small fragment (Fig. 3) has not been studied archaeologically yet. The preserved height of the fortress walls is 9.3 m from the highest point and 5.8 m from the lowest point. Its width is 1.9-2 m from the main part, and 5.8 m from the door side (Fig. 2) [1, s. 94; 2, s. 1-12].

I would like to note that the archaeologist J.Khalilov localized the Abkhazian city mentioned in written sources, but not confirmed from an archaeological viewpoint, in the Enykh fortress [1, s. 96].



Figure 2. General view of the Anig (Enykh) fortress.

The main goal of the archaeological research conducted in the Enykh (Anig) fortress during the 2018 field research season was to define the period when this defensive structure was built [3, s. 43-44]. The exploration excavation area set up in front of the large fragment of the Anig fortress (Fig.2) was excavated to a depth of 2 m, from where samples of glazed and unglazed pottery were discovered and tak-

en taken [2, s.1-2; 3, s. 43-44]. However, it was not possible to achieve the main goal, namely to discover the foundation of the fortification, due to objective reasons. According to the received information, when the village culture house was built next to this part of the fortress, the area of our excavation site was destroyed [2, s.2-3].



Figure 3. Images of a small fragment of the Anig (Enykh) fortress.

Among the ceramic samples discovered in the excavation site, the discovery of a copy from the early Middle Ages (inv. No. 21, photo 65) leads to the formation of new ideas in the investigation of the history of Enykh fortress [2, s. 4-10]. Thus, the discovery of a grave monument from the early Middle Ages during the research conducted around the fortress, also gives reason to come to such a conclusion. However, the fact that the foundation of the relevant period has not been uncovered yet it does not give us reason to make a definite opinion about it. That piece of pottery can also testify to the revival of life at the fortress site since the early Middle Ages [3, s. 43-44]. The date of the destruction of the Enykh fortress is very precisely determined based on the comparative analysis of the Georgian chronicle of the 14th century and Fazlullah Rashiduddin's work "Jāmi' al-Tawārīkh ('Compendium of Chronicles', also "Universal History")" (completed in 1310/11). It was known that this event took place in May 1288 [2, s. 93-95].

As a result of research conducted around the Enykh fortress, a unique kurgan monument was recorded. The uniqueness of this kurgan is its magnificent appearance. The kurgan was discovered at the very edge of the steep Pachu rock, which is approximately 50-60 m high. When standing below the rock, the kurgan appears as a whole, complete landscape, as if it were a continuation of the rock. This was the purpose of erecting the kurgan on the rock [2, s. 1-4].

When reviewing the medieval monuments located in the village of Anig, I would like to note a few interesting points. According to the initial conclusion, the buildings with square walls and conical roofs located around the old graves in the village of Anig are noteworthy (Fig. 4). These pirs have small windows and very small entrances in their walls. They are distinguished from each other by different names. For example, the name of the Dervish Baba pir can perhaps be interpreted as an indication that such pirs were built by alien people. The ideas about the purpose for which they were built can be resolved during future research [2, s. 1-6].

An interesting find was discovered in the ancient cemetery of Enykh. On one of the tombstones recorded here, two crosses were inscribed side by side and Arabic writing was inscribed below the crosses. Besides, another tombstone with three crosses inscribed side by side was discovered. According to the information received, in ancient times along with Muslims also Christians lived in the village of Enykh. The depiction of a cross sign on a bronze ring-seal previously found in an early medieval tomb monument also confirms the afore-said [2, s. 1-6]. Those Christians later converted to Islam. So far, no such monument has been found in the territory of Azerbaijan. This monument is of exceptional importance in studying the problems of Azerbaijani multiculturalism.

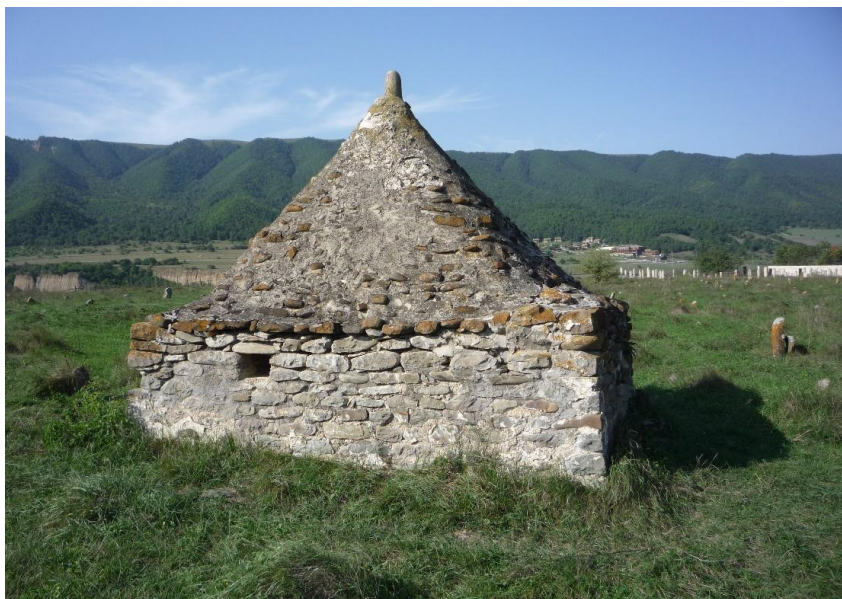


Figure 4. Conical shaped buildings

Ceramic or pottery ware

During archaeological excavations around the fortress, ceramic fragments were discovered. Ceramic ware mainly consists of two parts - unglazed and glazed.

Statistical analysis of unglazed ceramics shows that there are many kitchen and tableware and chronologically covers the 9th-13th centuries. Unglazed ceramics are mainly represented by body parts, heel and handle fragments. Among them, a fragment of the handle of an unglazed pottery vessel is noteworthy (Fig. 5: 8).

The color of the clay is dark brown, almost black. The composition is pure, well-fired. The handle is flat, ribbon-like. Such handles are typical of the Shirvan ceramic school. The thickness of the handle is 0.8 cm, the width is 2.1 cm. A fragment of the handle of an unglazed pottery vessel (Fig. 5:13). The color of the clay is light brown. The composition is pure, well-fired [2, s. 7-12]. There are fingerprints on it. The handle is ribbon-like. The thickness of the handle is 1.1 cm, the width is 3 cm.

A fragment of the second unglazed pottery vessel is of pure composition. The color of the clay is light brown, well-fired. The mouth is folded outwards (Fig. 5: 9). The height of the folded part of that mouth is 1 cm, the width is 1.3 cm, and the wall thickness is 0.6 -0.7 cm [2, s. 7-12].

Glazed pottery fragments are mainly represented by tableware: mouth, body parts, handles. Body parts are distinguished by several fragments. For example, they are mainly brown in color. Glazed ceramics are mainly glazed with white, yellow, green glaze. Many of the patterns consist of floral and geometric images (Fig. 5: 1, 2, 3). Intact vessels were almost never discovered during excavations, mainly small samples were found. Glazed ceramics are mainly of pure composition, well-fired, the color of the clay is brown [2, s. 7-12]. They were formed on a potter's wheel. Brown glaze was first applied to it, and then it was patterned with white-yellowish glaze. The patterns are of a floral nature. However, since the pieces are small, it is impossible to fully follow the pattern (Fig. 5: 1, 2, 3). Some of them have a brown glaze on their upper surface, followed by a pattern composition of three lines resembling the rays of the sun, radiating from a point. The rays are marked with white-yellowish glaze (Fig. 5: 1) [2, s. 7-12]. The thickness of the wall is 0.5-0.7 cm. The fragments differ from each other. The upper surface of some pieces is covered with dark brown glaze that turns black. On the surface of it, a pattern consisting of a line and a dot is painted with yellow-white glaze. After that, the upper surface of the vessel, as seen from the fragment, is covered with transparent glaze. The thickness of the wall is 0.4 cm [2, s. 7-12].



Figure 5. Enikh. Ceramic product. Scale varies.

One of the exemplary pieces is a glazed pottery vessel. Its clay is brown in color. Its composition is pure (Fig. 5) [2, s. 7-12]. This piece has a different feature from the others. On one side of the pottery vessel fragment, the remains of a pattern drawn with white-yellowish glaze are observed, but the background of this pattern consists of the natural color of the pottery and is not covered with transparent glaze. On the other side, brown glaze was first drawn, and a pattern was depicted on it with yellow-whitish glaze. As can be seen, the pattern is drawn as a decoration resembling a net consisting of rhombic elements. After all the work was completed, this surface of the vessel was covered with transparent glaze (Fig. 5: 3). The wall thickness is 0.5-0.6 cm, the width of the pattern line is 0.2 cm, and the length of one side of the rhombus is 1.5 cm [2, s. 7-12].

There are also fragments distinguished by patterns. For example, a piece of glazed pottery (Fig. 5). On its upper surface, brown glaze is observed, and above it, a trace of a certain ornamentation, marked with light-colored glaze, is observed. This side of the vessel is covered with transparent glaze. The thickness of its wall is 0.4 cm [2, s. 7-12].

Among the finds is a fragment of a small handle of a glazed pottery vessel (Fig. 5: 4). The color of the clay is brown. It contains a small amount of impurities. The handle of the glazed vessel has a ribbon-like shape. Its cross-section is oval. The top and bottom of the handle are covered with brown glaze. There is a narrow, not very deep groove on it. Besides, traces of a not very clear, pattern-like image drawn with white-yellowish glaze are observed. The thickness of the handle is 0.9 cm, the width of the handle is 1.3 cm [2, s. 7-12].

A fragment of the seat of a glazed pottery vessel (Fig. 5: 6). The color of the clay is brown. The composition is pure. It was thrown on a potter's wheel, well-fired. Unlike the previous fragments, the vessel is covered with turquoise glaze, on which are traced plant images covered with black glaze (Fig. 5: 6).

A fragment of the mouth and body of a glazed monochrome vessel is also noteworthy. The monochrome ceramics are glazed with green glaze. Such monochrome vessels are consistent with the Shirvan ceramic school.

The conclusion

Initial research conducted in Enykh has led to the emergence of a new idea that the Enykh fortress was built in the early Middle Ages. The

fact that the village was active in the early Middle Ages is evident from the early medieval grave monuments and ceramic products.

In the future, extensive research around the Enyxh village and the fortress will reveal interesting scientific facts that will allow us to study in detail both the history of the foundation of the village and the exact period when the fortress was built.

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Xülasə

Elmira Cəfərova

Enyxda arxeoloji tədqiqatlar

Məqalədə Enyxdakı arxeoloji abidələrin öyrənilməsinə baxılır. Məlumdur ki, tədqiq olunan ərazi orta əsrlər dövründə Şirvanşahlar dövlətinin tərkibində olmuşdur. Şirvanşahların siyasəti dövlətin müdafiə qüdrətini gücləndirməyə və çoxkonfessionallıq ənənələrinə riayət etməyə yönəlmişdi. Enyx qalası IX-XIV əsrlərdə fəaliyyət göstərmişdir. Qalanın erkən tarixinə dair yeni məlumatlar əldə edilmişdir. İlk dəfə olaraq qala ətrafındakı çox maraqlı qəbirlər tədqiq edilmişdir. Fərqli olaraq qəbir daşlardan birinin üzərində həm ərəb qrafikası ilə yazılmış yazı həm də bir xaç təsviri vardı. Bu, tədqiq olunan dövr üçün xarakterik olan müsəlman və xristian dinlərinin nümayəndələrinin birgə yaşayışının göstəricisidir.

Daha erkən dövrə aid abidələrin Enyxda qeydə alınması arxeoloji qazıntıların davam etdirilməsi və tədqiq olunan obyektlərin xronologiyasının aydınlaşdırılması üçün yeni imkanlar açmağa imkan verir.

Açar sözlər: Azərbaycan, Qusar rayonu, Enyx, tədqiqatlar, arxeoloji qazıntılar, müdafiə tikilisi

Резюме

Эльмира Джафарова

Археологические исследования в Эныхе

Рассматриваются исследования археологических объектов в Эныхе. Как известно, исследуемая территория в средневековый период входила в состав государства Ширваншахов. Одного из сильных государств, существовавших на северо-востоке Азербайджана. Политика

Ширваншахов была направлена на укрепление оборонной мощи государства и соблюдение традиций многоконфессиональности. Крепость Эных, несомненно, была частью единой фортификационной системы и функционировала в IX-XIV века. Были получены новые данные о ранней датировке крепости. Впервые были исследованы весьма интересные захоронения в окрестностях крепости. Отличительной особенностью погребений стало изображение пары крестов, на одном из надгробных камней ниже которых имелась надпись, выполненная арабским письмом. Это показатель совместного проживания представителей мусульманской и христианской конфессии, характерный для исследуемого периода.

Фиксация памятников более раннего периода в Эныхе открывает возможность пересмотра сложившихся концепций. Средневековое поселение Эных существовало на территории одноименного современного села, этот вопрос требует более тщательного исследования и тем самым создает стимул для продолжения археологических раскопок с целью уточнения хронологии изучаемых объектов.

Ключевые слова: *Азербайджан, Гусарский район, Эных, исследования, археологические раскопки, средние века, оборонительное сооружение*