

## **Monuments as a priceless national heritage**

There is a famous phrase, “Without knowledge of the past there is no future”; first of all, it applies to national heritage — historic monuments, as inviolable values of any state.

During the years of Kazakhstan independence, national ethnographers, ethno-archaeologists, and architects have been developing a new trend of our ethnologic and historic science: Kazakh study of monuments, which does not have analogs in Kazakh humanitarian fields of science.

As researches in this direction showed, materials on Kazakh study of monuments started appearing in press and were introduced into scientific use in the second part of the XVIII century, when military leaders, travelers and scientists started visiting the territory of Kazakhstan. Particularly, definite memorial religious steppe monuments were mentioned by P.I. Rychkov, N.P. Rychkov, I.Ph. Blumberg, A.I. Levshin, etc. Purposeful research of tombstones and religious monuments of Kazakhs had been commenced by the members of Orenburg scientific archival commission, especially by I.A. Kstanje: “Antiquities of Kyrgyz steppe and Orenburg area”, “Tumuli stones in Kyrgyz steppes”. Mentions about monuments of the Kazakh steppe can be found in the works of Ch. Valikhanov, V.A. Kallaur, N. Rudnev and E. Smirnov. It is known, that in the postwar soviet period, the problem had been researched by ethnoarchaeologists A.Kh. Margulan, architects T.K. Bassenov, M.M. Mendikulov, D.B. Perveyev, and others. Intentional research of the monuments of national architecture had been conducted by expeditions led by S.E. Azhigali from the end of the 1970s to beginning of the 1990s; results were published in monographs: “Genesis of traditional sepulchral and religious architecture of the Western Kazakhstan” and “Nomads’ architecture: phenomenon of Eurasian history and culture”. Currently, problems of the Study of monuments have been analyzed by S. Zholdasbayev, L.R. Turganbayeva. T.T. Arshabekov, R.A. Beknazarov, etc.

After Dissolution of the Soviet Union, preservation of monuments had been pushed to the sidelines and until now it has not drawn due level of attention of historians, architects, politicians and in whole of the CIS public.

It should be noted, that problems overall stay the same: organization of field researches, determination of priorities during the field work, intensification of the inquiries’ complexity, improvement of the rules of documentation maintenance and keeping, methodology and praxis of the field research, handling of field materials (office studies) and their preservation.

Fieldwork implies coordination of activities of multiple specialists: ethnoarchaeologists, architects, epigraphists, etc. Particularly, there are problems with empirical definition of some monument types, e.g. funerary monument, fencing or mausoleum.

Generation of universal reference designations, which could have accentuated some architectural peculiarities of the monument, their chronological and historical attribution, work material and locality orientation, remains difficult unplumbed problem.

From our point of view, the Republic of Kazakhstan, its public authorities have not defined the system of preserving monuments of historical-cultural significance; thus, thoroughly weighted policy of monuments’ preservation and development of Kazakh Study of monuments is required.

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Mangilik El magazine, April 2004