

Settlement Akyrtas

Akyrtas is one of the most mysterious monuments of southern Kazakhstan. It is located 40 km east of the modern Taraz, 6 km south of the railway station Akchulak, at the foot of the Kyrgyz Alatau.

The construction of Akyrtas attracts and excites minds with its mystery for many years. It is believed in scientific world that an artist M.S. Znamensky who worked in the membership of the military expedition of M.G.Chernyayev was the first who put attention to it. He visited the ruins of Akyrtas in 1864 and left interesting sketches of panoramas and fragments of the complex walls. The information collection by Taoist monk Chang-Chun are also invaluable for science. Here is what he wrote in his diaries: “There was a stone fort on our way, there are traces of the ancient military encampments. There are large mound graves located as the stars in the pointers”.



What is the structure of this construction? It consists of four parts and built of massive stone blocks of red sandstone. Three of them are arranged around courtyards and the fourth one is free of construction. The yard with two reservoirs is in the center of the construction. The complex of Akyrtas includes a country manor, a castle, a park, stone quarry, clay pit and reservoirs.

The walls of the palace construction are composed of two rows of blocks filling the space between the rubble and clay. Wall blocks are carefully machined and fitted. The width of the walls ranges from 5 to 3,5 m.

The history of Akyrtas is for more than 130 years, but it continues to surprise. Currently, there are archaeological excavations, led by the Institute of Archaeology Ethnography NAS RK. Most scientists think that Akyrtas was built on the order of the Arab commander Kuteibain 1714-1715 years. The foundation of the palace complex founded at a depth of 5 m. the building of this city has not been completed. It was just thrown: no traces of human activity. The city ceased to exist.

Architecture of buildings reminds harems, similar to the surviving buildings in Egypt and Syria. In 1867, this monument was examined by renewed orientalist P.Lerch, who believed that Akyrtas is a Buddhist monastery. In 1893, V.Berthold visited the place, who knows the legend of the monument and thought that this monumental building is nothing like the building of Christian monastery of Nestorians.

The remained part of the large complex of Akyrtas is a new page in the history of nomads, which is the evidence of relations of human civilization and the world culture. As the poet said: "There is no East and no West". There are only shared values that enlarge each other.

Akyrtas is certainly a unique monument of Central Asian region, further study of which can give a lot of sensations and surprises.

Used resources:

- 1) http://www.drevniytaraz.kz/install/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=77:2010-02-28-16-24-22&catid=38:2010-02-28-16-21-42&Itemid=2