

## **Issyk Warrior**

Buried in a barrow Issyk, by definition of anthropologists, was 17-18 years. He was dressed in richly embroidered with gold clothes. On his head he wore a high (65-70 cm) cone-shaped headdress, entirely decorated with gold plates of different shapes and sizes. The entire front of the headdress was decorated with sculptures of two winged horses with goats' horns, and two pairs of long bird's wings. Issyk soldier wore on his neck a gold grivna (neck ornaments), whose ends are terminated with relief images of heads of tigers.

Outerwear of soldier was from his coat and pants. Short red leather kaftan was covered bordered by triangular braces buckles and coat-breasts, bottom and collar – by large images tiger's head in the frame. Nearly three thousand gold objects embellished kaftan. Pants trimmed with tiny rectangular gold plates on the outer and inner longitudinal seams. They were tucked into leather boots with high tops. The boots were also decorated with gold plaques of triangular shape, similar to plaques of leather kaftan.

Cloth shirt under a leather caftan, collar and sleeves were decorated with ornamental which whimsically patterned gold plates of different shapes. Kaftan girded with a leather belt set with massive golden plaques with relief images of lying moose and elk heads. A long iron sword suspended by a belt on the right, and iron dagger-akinak – on the left. It was richly inlaid with gold. Two massive gold rings were put on the fingers. One of them is a ring-seal with the image of a human head in profile in a magnificent headdress, shield the second was smooth. Burial in the Issyk burial mound is dated from the late IV-III century B.C.

Here is a description the ritual of burial by opening K.A. Akishev: “Crowded the funeral procession slowly moves to the place of burial. Priests carry a stretcher with the body of the deceased soldier, ritual vessels and vessels with food. Relatives, soldiers, tribesmen followed by an endless stream... Burial structure is ready and priests waiting for, where the body will be transferred to them.

Rich robes were worn by the deceased, he belongs to the nobility. The clothes he wore in the days of receptions and ceremonial parades. High arrow-cap in the form of three ear bottom wearing on his head, fastened under the chin, adorned with gold buckles and plates, in the left ear lobe the gold earring with a grain and pendants of turquoise, in the neck — a gold torque, on the body of a short coat, trimmed with gold entirely plaques, on the fingers — two gold rings. Kaftan girded by heavy typesetting belt buckles glittering massive sixteen-plates. A long iron sword is sheathed in red, sheath overlaid with gold plates. Narrow pants on the legs tucked into boots with high tops, decorated with golden curly patches.

Finally, the funeral procession reaches the ultimate goal. Mourners remain at the top. The body of a soldier falls in the “frame”, the priest placed the vessels on the floor, shut the camera by logs. Thousands of tribesmen poured huge burial mound”.

**K. M. Baipakov, “*Saki of Zhetysu-Semirechye*”**