

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS ON THE CISTERN OF THE JIZZAKH OASIS

Axmadkulov Nozimjon Ravshan ugli
Independent Researcher

Annotation

This article discusses the cisterns and their construction, which were built in the territory of the Jizzakh oasis and occupied a worthy place on the trade caravan routes. The YYogocli, Mirzarabat and Yakka cisterns in the oasis are among the water structures that have solved the water-related problems of merchants and tourists during their operation.

Keywords: Great Silk Road, cistern, obambar, the era of Amir Temur and the Timurids, Abdullakhan II, the activities of Russian researchers, YYogocli cistern, Mirzaraboat cistern, Yakka cistern, the work “Sharafnamai Shahi”.

INTRODUCTION

The achievements in the scientific culture of European countries during the Renaissance, which in history is called the transition from medieval culture to modern culture, also found their expression in marine science and shipbuilding. It led to the opening of cheap and convenient sea trade routes, which were considered a high development for the shipping industry of that time. This also had a negative impact on the “Great Silk Road”, which had little movement due to the disintegration of the Timurid empire in the 15th century and internecine wars. It began to lose its place in international trade relations between the countries of the East and the West. The Uzbek khan Abdullakhan II (1556-1598), belonging to the Shaybanid dynasty, managed to unite the divided Transoxiana, occupying a large territory from Turkestan to Merv and Balkh [Suyunov S. 1999.p.33-34].

MAIN PART

The reign of Abdullakhan II was a relatively powerful and centralized state in Transoxiana after the time of Amir Temur. Abdullakhan II, who was considered the progressive and enlightened khan of his time, made many efforts to restore the former glory of Maveronnahr in international trade along with a series of

construction works. The cisterns on the old caravan routes were built as a practical result of such efforts.

Cisterns were built in areas with a shortage of drinking water. Cisterns are domed pools that are filled with snow and rain water, groundwater (using korizas) and running water depending on the terrain. The term sardoba is derived from two Persian words sard-cold, ob-water [www.wikipedia.uz. website].

Cisterns were widespread among the indigenous population in some parts of Central Asia with names such as “gumbaz” and “mula”. These structures, which are still used in Iran and Khorasan, are called “obambar”. According to information, 44 cisterns in Central Asia have survived to this day. Of these, 29 are in the Karshi desert, about 10 are in Turkmenistan, and another part is located between Syrdarya-Tashkent and Jizzakh-Chinaz [Gafurov J. 2020. p.110-111].

In the autumn of 1996, the Jizzakh archaeological detachment conducted research to determine the construction history and period of the currently preserved cisterns, as well as why they were built mainly in desert areas. Observations were carried out at the Yogocli cistern, located 35 km. north of Jizzakh, on the Akmal Ikramov collective farm belonging to the Sharaf Rashidov district, which is currently preserved in its entirety.

Initially, M. Masson provides information about this cistern. After that, M. Bilalov interprets the Yogocli cistern as the Khudaysar rabodi mentioned in the works of medieval authors. If so, the city of Dizak should also be in this desert area. This indicates that M. Bilalov was mistaken.

The Ogochli cistern is located in the desert area of the oasis. This structure has a hemispherical appearance from the outside, its walls and dome are made of square-shaped high-quality baked bricks. There are holes in the top of the dome, and “gulfak” holes below, through which water flows into the pool. The walls of the cistern are cylindrical in cross-section, with a width of the lower base of 1.25 m, an upper part of 0.55 m, a total height of the walls of 11.20 m, an internal diameter of the dome of 15.35 m, and a depth of the water storage pool of 5.50 m [Kudratov S. 2001. p. 36-37].

A staircase with more than 10 steps was used to draw water from the bottom of the pool. The cistern has an arched wall and a square dome (26x26x5 sm.) made of bricks. Three arched windows are installed on the sides of the dome. The height of the arched window is 2.60 m and the width is 0.8 m. The entrance to the cistern is



arched and the height is 2.90 m. The next cistern that I would like to discuss is the Mirzarabot cistern, which is located 35 km. north of the Yogocli cistern in the village of Sardoba, Okoltin district. Currently, the upper part of the Mirzarabot cistern is destroyed. According to research data, Y. Yakovlev notes that N. Khanikov mapped the Mirzarabot cistern in 1842. At the same time, N. Khanikov noted in his Turkestan album of 1871-1872 that there was a picture of the Mirzarabad cistern. Y. Skyler notes that in this picture, at the entrance to the inner part of the cistern, there is a picture of stairs leading down to the lower part of the pool [Mukhammadjanov A. 1997. p. 63-65].

In 1870, the Russian traveler U. Tatarinov noted that the cistern was built near a dilapidated caravanserai, which had become a ruin, and gave information about some of the dimensions of the Mirzarabad cistern. The inner diameter of the cistern is 6 sazhen (1 sazhen = 2.13 m), that is, 12.78 m. The width of the lower foundation is 1.30 m. The total height of the wall from the floor is 6.35 m. [Suyunov S. 1999. p. 35-37].

According to Karavayev, the Ogacli cistern has 3 windows, and the Mirzarabot cistern has 7 windows. So it is clear that the Mirzarabot cistern had 7 windows.

A single cistern is a structure 13 km. away from the Mirzarabot cistern, to the north. Currently, the place where the cistern was built has been developed. Information about the single cistern was first recorded in his memoirs by the Russian traveler A. F. Kostenko. Since this unique structure has now been destroyed, we will rely on written information. According to the observations of A. Kostenko, the cistern has a hemispherical shape, and the wall part and the dome are built of square-shaped baked bricks. The wall part started from the ground level and its thickness is 1.5 m. and the total height of the wall above the ground level is 7 m. The inner diameter of the cistern is 15.80 m. It is noted that there are seven arched windows on the sides of the cistern. The pool is surrounded by high-quality square bricks, and its depth is 4.30 m. Holes are left in the upper part of the cistern dome, and "loopholes" are left in the lower part, which flow into the pool. It was determined that water was brought to the pool from the Syrdarya through artificial irrigation channels. This information is also noted by the Russian traveler A. Kostenko in his memoirs [Gafurov J. 2020. p.113-114.].

From observations and written information, it became known that the height of the cistern domes is from 6.20 meters to 12 meters, the diameter of the pools is from 16



m. to 11.20 m. It was observed that the depth of the cisterns was from 4 to 10 meters. Thus, it was found that the Yogocli and Mirzarabad cisterns located in Mirzachul were filled with snow and rainwater in the autumn and spring months, and the Yakka cistern, according to the conclusion of the Russian traveler A. Kostenko and the results of subsequent research, was filled precisely at the expense of an artificial irrigation channel brought from the Syrdarya [Pardaev M., Suyunov S.1994. p. 50-52].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

So, initially, structures similar to cisterns were built in the 10th century. An example of this is the construction of the “Hovuzi Said”. At the same time, in the 11th-12th centuries, wells were dug in place of caravanserais built on trade routes and filled with water, that is, water from springs was brought into the wells and lowered. To prevent the water from flowing out, it was surrounded by a wall. In later periods, namely during the Timurid period, cisterns were restored in place of some caravanserais and trade was established.

Abdullakhan, who united all of Transoxiana and Khorasan and established the Bukhara Khanate in the second half of the 16th century, was famous not only for his military achievements, but also for his enlightenment. In this regard, the “Abdullaname” (“Sharafnamai Shahi”) contains important information about the Qarovul-Bazar cistern on the Karshi-Bukhara trade route built by Kukaldash Kulbaba and the caravanserais near it. The cisterns built on the Karshi-Bukhara, Karshi-Amu Darya, Khujand-Tashkent, and Jizzakh-Chinaz routes played an important role in the development of trade culture in Transoxiana. Cisterns were considered one of the main architectural structures that marked the routes of caravan routes in ancient times [Khafiz Tanish Bukhari. 1969. pp. 119-120].

O from the archaeological research and written information, it became clear that all three of the Sardobas located in the Jizzakh oasis that we observed date back to the 16th century.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the unique structure of the sardobas played an incomparable role in determining the routes of the intercontinental “Great Silk Road”, which connected the countries of the East and the West economically,

spiritually and culturally since ancient times. This road, which crossed deserts, steppes and deserts, mountains, valleys, seas and lakes, and did not obey any state, creed or ideology, facilitated communication between peoples speaking different languages and practicing different religions, and introduced their cultures to each other. Therefore, traders and tourists shared their last drops of water on this road, supporting and supporting each other. For more than two thousand years, caravanserais were built in the Middle Ages to ease the burden of traders traveling along this road, mainly in desert areas, and then in their place, unique structures with domes were built. Cisterns are domed pools built mainly in desert areas of the Great Silk Road, in areas where drinking water is scarce, and are located at a certain distance according to the terrain. Among the indigenous population in some parts of Central Asia, cisterns were called “gumbaz” and “mula” by their names. The Yogocli, Mirzarabot and Yakka cisterns located in the Jizzakh oasis are considered water structures that solved the water problems of traders and tourists in trade and diplomatic relations for their time.

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