

Archeological Expertise LLP, Republic of Kazakhstan
The Society for the Exploration of EurAsia,
Switzerland



**ARCHEOLOGICAL
EXPERTISE**

SCIENTIFIC REPORT
On the research activities conducted at
Kesken-Kuyuk-Kala (Dzhuvara) ancient settlement in 2016

Abbreviated Internet Version



Scientific supervisor:
Prof. Dr. K. M. Baipakov
Dr. Christoph Baumer

Head of the expedition:
D. A. Voyakin

Executed by:
I.R. Kamaldinov
M.V.Gurulev
A.V. Kuzminova

Almaty, 2016

Table of contents

Introduction	3
1 Description of the excavation	4
2 Table of finds 1	15
Conclusion	20
Annex A (Photos)	24
Annex B (Ceramic complex)	41
Annex C (Drawings, documentation)	84

Introduction

History of the Eastern pre-Aral region in the IX-XII centuries both relates to the earlier zhety-
asar culture of the Kangyu State, and is deeply intertwined with the history of the Oghuz and
Kipchak tribes who left vivid and original material evidence. Studying of the Oghuz cities is
essential in researching interaction patterns followed by the cultures and civilizations along the Silk
Road; it uncovers new possibilities for re-establishment of mutual influence and mutual enrichment
of the city and the steppe, and allows for a deeper understanding of the development patterns of
material and spiritual culture of the Turkic peoples.

Kuyukkala Kesken hillfort is located on the left bank of the Chui ducts' estuary in the
Kazalinsk district of the Kyzylorda region. This hillfort has a rounded shape of 830*710 m,
extending from East to West. The hillfort is surrounded by a wall around its perimeter, which had
become an earthwork, reaching a height of 2 m. A square shahristan of 220*220 m stands out in the
overall topography; it rises above the general level of the hillfort by 3 meters. "Street network" and
building blocks can be traced on the shahristan surface. The southwest corner of the shahristan
holds a citadel of 60*60 m and planned as a subsquare.

Basic studies were carried out on the basis of a residential block (Drawing 1) located in the
central part of the shahristan, and the designs of which could be clearly identified on aerial
photographs (Photo 1-2).

The studies facilitated opening of three construction horizons of the monument. The upper
construction horizon was completely destroyed by natural factors. The second construction horizon
contains remains of constructions, decrypted on aerial photographs and visually observable on the
surface. The second construction horizon is preserved to a satisfactory degree, but the floor is
missing in some facilities, and the walls were usually built on top of earlier constructions, making
them a foundation. Thus, the third construction horizon was identified. Adobe brick was used to
build the walls.

This paper presents the results of the excavations carried out in 2016. Premises of the South-
Eastern part of the block were researched. A total of 10 premises and the courtyard were studied.
(Drawing 2-3)

1 Description of the excavation.

Excavation # 12 was cut towards the western part of the excavation # 11, which was researched in the field season of 2015, i.e. the excavation was laid in the southern part of the block being researched to continue examination of the nature of the plot development (Photo 1-2). The excavation dimensions are 15*11.5 m, it stretches along the NE-SW lines, the total area of the excavation covered 172.5 m².

The area of the excavation is a flat surface without visible traces of the walls on the surface (Photo 2-4).

List of elements identified in the course of excavations.

Item 335 - top loose layer 0-15 cm

Item 336 - remains of a tandoor in room no. 61 (item 344)

Item 337 - fire layer in the northeastern part of the excavation (in the yard)

Item 338 - fire layer in the Western half of the excavation (top layer)

Item 339 - wall between the yard and rooms no. 62 and no. 64

Item 336 - remains of a sofa in room no. 61 (item 344)

Item 341 - wall in the southern half of the excavation (East-West)

Item 341 - wall in the northern half of the excavation (East-West)

Item 343 - wall in the western part of the excavation (North-South)

Item 344 - room no. 61

Item 345 - room no. 62

Item 336 - a sofa in room no. 62 (item 345)

Item 347 - wall in the South-Western part of the excavation at the very baulk (East-West)

Item 348 - wall between rooms no. 63 and no. 65

Item 349 - burner (floor hearth?) in the central part of room no. 63 (item 351)

Item 350 - wall in the northern part of the excavation (North-South), between rooms 63 and 66

Item 351 - room no. 63

Item 352 - wall in the north-eastern part of the excavation (East-West), south wall of room no.

65

Item 353 - room no. 64

Item 354 - wall in the central part of the excavation (North-South)

Item 355 - room no. 65

Item 357 - wall in the northern part of the excavation (North-South), between rooms 66 and 68

Item 358 - room no. 66

Item 359 - wall in the northern part of the excavation at the very baulk (East-West)

Item 363 - room no. 67

Item 365 - room no. 68

Item 366 - yard

Item 368 - burner (floor hearth?) in the southwestern part of the yard (item 366)

Item 369 - dense light brown loam in the central part of the yard (item 366)

Item 370 - wall in the SW part of the excavation (North-South), between rooms no. 67 and no.

70

Item 371 - room no. 69

Item 372 - paved brick floor in room no. 69 (item 371)

Item 373 - ash pan in the north-western part of room no. 69 (371)

Item 376 - burner (floor hearth?) in room no. 70 (item 377)

Item 377 - room no. 70

Item 335. Top loose layer 0-15 cm.

The layer is presented by loose soil, coming in gray and brown shades, and with its top covered with thin salt crust; thickness of the layer is about 10-15 cm, it is spread evenly on the surface of the excavation. The layer formed as a result of destruction and further building of the upper horizon of constructions and the influence of wind erosion and rainfall.

A large number of fragments of stucco red ware ceramics (Figure 1-20) were found on the surface; rims from the massive khums with loop-shaped grips, fragments of lids and sidewalls of cauldrons and pots with traced floral ornamentation, wreckage of protomai decorated with stamps and fragments of dastarkhans stand out among the fragments. The layer being excavated is filled with gray ash, wood coals. Osteological material can be found in the layer being sheared.

A paste green diamond-shaped bead was found in a form plan (Table 1, no. 1) in the western part of the excavation.

The surface of the excavation was cleaned after removal of the top layer. Walls of the rooms identified clearly on the surface of the excavation. Excavation of the identified rooms were made in layers, along outlined walls.

Item 336. Collapse of the tandoor in room no. 61 (item 344).

After removing the top loose layer in the central part of the excavation a golden stain revealed in the center part of the excavation, as well as a calcined plot of soil; as they were stripped, some fragments of the tandoor walls were discovered, all covered with a layer of black soot. The tandoor

was badly damaged (Photo 14). The condition of the tandoor made it impossible to determine its height, however the remaining part of the wall facilitated determining its diameter. The plan showed that the tandoor was round with a diameter of 0.6 m and wall thickness of 1.5-2 cm. The tandoor was intended for cooking and heating. The detected tandoor was fixed in a sofa, which barely survived. The tandoor had a hole at the top of the chimney that was laid inside the sofa crossing to the corner of the room, and fixed vertically to the wall going to the outside. The tandoor had a round lid, a fragment of which was found inside its walls.

Item 337. Fire layer in the northeastern part of the excavation (in the yard)

Removing of the top loose layer in the eastern part of the excavation uncovered a distinct big spot resulting from combustion (ash, soot and coal), i.e. traces of fire forming an amorphous shape (Photo 15-18). Spot size is 3 by 2 m.

In the course of stripping, the greatest (comparing to other parts of the excavation) number of fragments of animal bones and pottery were found in the layer. Animal bones mainly come from large and small cattle, most of the found ceramics is represented by large and medium-sized vessels like pots for boiling and humchis, more rarely - jugs, tagoras, mugs, lids, dastarkhans, etc. (Figure 21-34). Interesting finds worth individual mentioning: part of a mug with riffled trunk, tetrahedral lid handle with four holes, a fragment of a large table with traced ornamentation, in addition to the finds a ceramic incense burner (lamp) was found in the layer (Table 1 - no. 8)

Thickness of the fire layer reaches 10 cm.

Item 338. Fire layer in the Western half of the excavation (top layer)

Thorough stripping of the surface revealed major oval spot of ash (Photo 21-24). Ash, soot, coals and fragments of ceramics and large and small bones of cattle were identified in the layer. Size of the burned area is 2x2 m; its thickness is 0.15 m. The fire layer overlapped room no. 62 (item 345)

Item 339. A wall between yard and rooms 62 and 64.

The first circuit was identified in the eastern half of the excavation. A wall 0.7 to 0.9 m thick is oriented along the North-South line (Photo 43). The wall begins in the northern part of the excavation from the wall (item 342), extends in the southerly direction and goes beyond the borders of excavation, its length within the excavation borders is 7.5 m. A yard is located on the eastern side of the wall (item 366). The wall is the Eastern wall of the rooms no. 61 and no. 64. The wall is

made of yellow mud brick, 32-35X22-24X5-6 cm in size, only two rows of masonry survived, below under the wall lies a loose golden layer. The wall survived poorly.

Item 340. Sofa in room no. 61 (item 344).

The remnants of the sofa were identified in the eastern half of the excavation, where the previously described ruined tandoor stands. Side of the sofa was made of mud bricks, and the inner part was filled with construction debris, clay coating used to be secured on top of the sofa. The sofa was attached to the wall (item 339). The sofa is part of interior of the room no. 61 (item 344). The sofa's width is 0.8 m.

Item 341. Wall in the southern half of the excavation (East-West).

A wide wall following the East-West line was found in the southern half of the excavation (Photo 44). The wall width is 1.3 m, surviving height is 0.2 m or two rows of masonry. In its eastern part the wall connects to the wall (item 339) and bulges out into the yard by 1 m (item 366), then the wall extends in a westerly direction and goes beyond the borders of the excavation, its length within the excavation is 12.5 m. The wall makes south wall of rooms no. 61, 62 and 69, and northern wall for rooms no. 64, 67 and 70. The wall becomes thin between rooms no. 69 and 70.

Item 342. The wall in the southern half of the excavation (East-West).

The second wall, identical to the south wall (item 341), wall was identified in the northern half of the excavation. The wall thickness is 1.2 m -1.4; it follows the East-West line (Photo 45). In its eastern part the wall connects to the wall (item 339). The length of the wall within the excavation is 8 m., in the western part the wall goes beyond the excavation. The south wall makes wall for rooms no. 63, 66 and 68, and the northern wall - for rooms no. 61 and 62.

The wall is made of mud bricks, fixed by clay-based mixture and clayed with thin layer of plaster on the outside. Only on two rows of masonry survived. In its eastern part the wall reaches a width of 1.4 m, and in the western part it narrows to 1 m.

Item 343. Wall in the Western part of the excavation (North-South).

Wall in the western half of the excavation goes along the North-South line (Photo 46). The wall thickness is 1.2 m. The wall separates rooms no. 62 and 69. The wall is well preserved; one can clearly see laid adobe bricks. In the southern part of the excavation the wall joins to the wall (item 341), and extends in the northerly direction by 7.5 m. It was impossible to trace the wall in the northern part of the excavation.

Item 344. Room no. 61.

The first room at the excavation no. 12 (Photo 47-48). A small room is identified in the central part of the excavation, the room has a rectangular area of 3.1x2.2 m. At the eastern wall (item 339) there was an integrated sofa (item 340) with the tandoor cemented into it (item 336). In its western part the room shares a wall (item 354) with room no. 62 (item 344), in its north - with rooms no. 63 and 66 (items 358 and 359), in the south - room no. 64 (item 353) and in the east wall separates the room from the yard (item 366).

In the course of stripping the room many fragments of ceramics and animal bones were found on its floor, as well as fragments of ceramic floor altar decorated with a stamp.

Item 345. Room no. 62

The second room was found in the central part of the excavation (Photo 49). On the eastern side the room shares a common wall with room no. 61 (item 344), in the South - with room no. 67 (item 363), in the West - with room no. 69 (item 371) and in the northern part - with room no. 68 (item 365)

The room is planned as a rectangle. Room size is 3.2 x 2.9 m., the room is equipped with "Г"-shaped sofa (item 346) lying along the western and southern walls. The sofa's width is 0,9 m.

During stripping the room interior a large number of fragments of pottery and animal bones and one piece of glass (Table 1 - no. 13) were found.

Item 346. Sofa in room no. 62 (item 345).

A "Г"-shaped sofa located along west and south walls of the room no. 62 (item 345) (Photo 50). The sofa's width is 0,9 m. Side of the sofa was made of mud bricks, and the inner part was filled with construction debris, clay coating used to be secured on top of the sofa.

Item 347. The wall in the south-west part of the excavation at the very baulk (East-West).

The wall was identified in the southern part of the excavation at the very boundary of the excavation (Photo 51). The wall is oriented along the East-West line. The width of the wall could not be identified, because its southern edge remained outside the excavation. The wall originates in the eastern part of the excavation, where it connects to the wall (item 339) and extends in a westerly direction by 12.2 m and then goes beyond the excavation.

The wall makes south wall of the rooms no. 64, 67 and 70 (items 353, 367 and 377).

Item 348. The wall between rooms no. 63 and no. 65

A small wall identified in the north-eastern part of the excavation, which is oriented along the North-South line (Photo 52). The wall is a common wall between rooms no. 63 and 65 (items 355 and 351). The wall thickness is 1 m exactly. In the southern part the wall is 0.7 m thick, it goes into the yard (item 366).

Item 349. Burner (floor hearth?)

In the western part of the excavation, at the very edge of its boundary, was found a small site used for burning, similar to an outdoor hearth (Photo 53-54). The hearth was filled with traces of burnt organics. The hearth had a round shape with a diameter of 1 m and a depth of 0.1 m.

Item 350. Wall in the northern part of the excavation (North-South).

A small wall was identified in the north-eastern part of the excavation, oriented along the North-South line (Photo 52). The wall is a common wall between rooms no. 63 and 66 (items 351 and 358). Wall thickness is 1.1 m, length - 2.3 m. The wall is well-preserved (solid), made of whole and crushed adobe bricks, several fragments of burnt bricks were found in the wall along with the adobe bricks.

Item 351. Room no. 63.

The third room on the site of excavation no. 12 (Photo 56). The room represents a rectangle on the plan. Dimensions are 2.3 x 1.5 m. In the central part of the room there locates a round floor hearth, poorly preserved. Diameter of the hearth is 0.9 m. It's filled with ashes and coals.

Item 352. Wall in the north-eastern part of the excavation (East-West).

The wall is located in the north-eastern part of the excavation and is oriented along the East-West line. The wall is the south wall in rooms no. 65, a court yard (item 366) is located to the South side of the wall. The wall thickness is 0.9 m. The wall is poorly preserved, is barely identifiable.

Item 353. Room no. 64

The fourth room on the site of the excavation no. 12 (Photos 57-58). The room is located in the southern part of the excavation. On the eastern side, behind the wall, lies the yard (item 366), and in the North the room has a common wall with room no. 61 (item 345), and on the West - with room no. 67 (item 367).

The room represents a rectangle on the plan. Dimensions are 2.5 x 1.5 m. In the course of stripping the room interior the greatest (comparing to other rooms) number of fragments of ceramics and animal bones were found. A fragment of metal product was found in the room as well.

Item 354. Wall in the central part of the excavation (North-South).

The wall was found in the central part of the excavation. The wall is oriented along the North-South line, it is a common wall for rooms no. 61 and 62 (items 344 and 345). The wall thickness is 0,7 m.

The wall, as all other walls, was built of adobe bricks, fixed with clay solution. On the outside the wall was plastered with thin clay mixture.

Item 355. Room no. 65.

The fifth room on the site of excavation no. 12 (Photo 59). A small room was found in the north-eastern corner of the excavation. On the southern side of the room, behind the wall (item 352), stands the yard (item 366), and on the West side - room no. 63 (item 351).

During stripping the room interiors there were identified many fragments of pottery, among which there must be mentioned a ceramic incense burners (lamp?) covered with a layer of soot, as well as a fragment of a tandoor lid adorned with traced rosace, it was found in the center (Table 1 - no. 9).

The floor of the room has very dense clay coating.

Item 357. Wall in the northern part of the excavation (North-South).

The wall is common for rooms no. 66 and 68 (item 358 and 365). The wall is oriented along the North-South, it is 2.3 m long. The wall thickness is 0.9 m. The wall, as all other walls, was built of adobe bricks, fixed with clay solution. On the outside the wall was plastered with thin clay mixture.

Item 358. Room no. 66.

The sixth room was found on the site of excavation no. 12 (Photo 60). The room is located in the northern part of the excavation, and in the East it has a common wall with room no. 63 (item 351), and on the West - with room no. 68 (item 365), on the South - with room no. 61 (item 345).

The room represents a rectangle on the plan. Dimensions are 2.3 x 2 m. In the course of stripping the room interior the greatest (comparing to other rooms) number of fragments of ceramics and animal bones were found.

Item 359. The wall in the southern part of the excavation (East-West).

End-to-end at most very baulk of the excavation, in its North part, there was found a wall following the East-West line. The wall is the northern wall of the rooms no. 63, 65, 66 and 68 (items 351, 355, 358 and 365).

Item 363. Room no. 67.

The seventh room on the site of excavation no. 12 was found in the southwestern part (Photo 61-63). The room is rectangular and elongated. Dimensions are 4.5 x 1.6 m. On the eastern side the room has a common wall with room no. 64 (item 353), on the North - with room no. 61 (item 345) and on the West - with no. 70 (item 377).

In the course of stripping the room interior large amount of fragments of ceramics and animal bones were found. An interesting find was identified on the floor in the Western half of the room - 63 glass beads (Table 1 - no.2). The beads are in five varieties and three colors, some of the beads have cut marks.

Item 355. Room no. 68

Eighth room on the site of excavation no. 12 (Photo 64). Found in the north-western part of the excavation. On the eastern side it has a common wall (item 357) with room no. 66 (item 358), and a common wall (item 343) with no. 62 (item 344) on the South. No constructive elements were found in the part of the yard located on the west side the room.

The room is rectangular, its dimensions are 2.3 x 1.6 m.

In the course of stripping the room interior fragments of animal bones and ceramics were found. Cupped incense burners (Table 1 - no. 7) and a spindle (Table 1 - no. 5) should be separately noted from the amount of all ceramic fragments. And a fragment of metal product (Table 1 - no. 3).

Item 366. Yard

The eastern part of the excavation is taken by the yard. The size of the yard within the excavation is 7.3 x 3.8 m. In the western and northern part of the yard are located the rooms, in the east the yard continues into the previously researched excavation no. 11.

Many golden layers or so-called fire layers were identified in the course of yard stripping. (Photo 65-68). A small burnt out area, similar to the remnants of the floor hearth (item 368) were found in the upper layers of the yard, namely after removing 0.2 m of the layer in the south-western

part of the yard. And a dense layer of light brown loam was found in the central part of the yard (item 369).

A dastarkhan and a pot were discovered in the central part of the yard as a result of digging into the yard to a depth of 0.4 m in its central part, and a collapse of khumcha was found in the north-western part of the wall (item 352) (Photo 69-74). Particular attention was attracted by one of the walls of khumchi, which depicts a guise (an anthropomorphic figure) among floral ornamentation (Table 1 - no. 13). Khumchi is decorated with glossy surface and has engraved wet clay patterns in the form of semicircles and plant painting on its top. Two loop-shaped handles were fixed to the rim of the vessel, the rim is decorated with engraved traced alternating lines. Also an interesting item is an intact dastarkhan, however no decoration were identified on it, next to the dastarkhan a collapse of a cauldron was found, it was decorated with a traced pattern in the form of alternating lines on the top, also fragments of lids with floral ornamentation (Table 1 - no. 11) and fragments of mugs were found in the center of the yard. Besides the named finds there was found the only fragment of pottery, which was glazed with green color (Figure 57), a fragment of a bawl base, which had been made on a potter's wheel (Table 1 - no. 14).

Item 368. Burner (floor hearth?) in the yard.

After removing 0.1 m of the top loose layer in the south-western part of the yard researchers revealed a burnt oval spot (Photos 67). A burner is identifiable by the edges of the burnt spot, there are ashes and coals in its center. Most likely it is the remains of a floor hearth. The hearth size is 0.3x0.2 m, its depth is 0.2 m.

Item 369. A dense light brown loam in the central part of the yard.

Removing of the top layer in the eastern part of the excavation revealed an oval spot (Photo 68). The spot is made of thick light brown loam. Spot size is 2 x 1.5 m.

Item 370. A wall in the south-western part of the excavation.

The width of the wall is 0.6 - 0.7 m, it is aligned along the North-South line and is the common wall for rooms no. 70 and 69 (items 367 and 377) (Photo 77). The southern part of the wall is outside the excavation.

Item 371. Room no. 69

The ninth room of the excavation no. 12 was found in the western part (Photo 79-81). The room is rectangular. Room dimensions: width 3.5 m, length is unknown due to the fact that the

western part of premises remained outside the excavation, the length within the excavation is 2 m. On the eastern side it has a common wall (item 357) with room no. 66 (item 358), and a common wall (item 343) with room no. 62 (item 344) on the south.

The floor identified indoors there (item 372) was fully paved with adobe bricks. Brick size 32-35X22-24X5-6 cm.

In the north-western part of the room there is a large vessel resembling khumchi, which is cemented into the floor (Photo 82). The upper part of the khumchi is lost. Vessel diameter is 0.4 m, preserved height is 0.3 m, thickness of the vessel walls is 2 cm. Bottom part of the vessel is made narrower.

To the northwest of the vessel, end-to-end to it, there is identified a layer of gray ash (item 37) (Photo 83). The spot of has an amorphous shape of 1 x 0.7 m, thickness of the layer is 0.1 m.

Item 372. Floor paved with bricks in room no. 69.

Floor in the room no. 69 (item 371) was paved with adobe bricks laid flat (Photo 79-81). Brick size 32-35X22-24X5-6 cm. Thickness of the mortar is 1.5-2 cm.

Item 373. The layer of ash in room no. 69.

The layer of ash found in the north-western part of the room no. 69 (item 371) (Photo 83). The plot of ashes closely adjoins the vessel that is built in the floor. The spot of has has an amorphous shape of 1 x 0.7 m, thickness of the layer is 0.1 m.

Item 376. Floor hearth? in room no. 70.

In the south-western part of the excavation, and more precisely - in the area of the room no. 70 (item 377) was found a small burnt spot (Photo 84). The spot has a shape of an elongated oval. Dimensions are 0.8 x 0.5 m. The spot is filled with soot and coals, calcine was identified around the edges of the spot. Supposedly the spot represents remnants of a floor hearth.

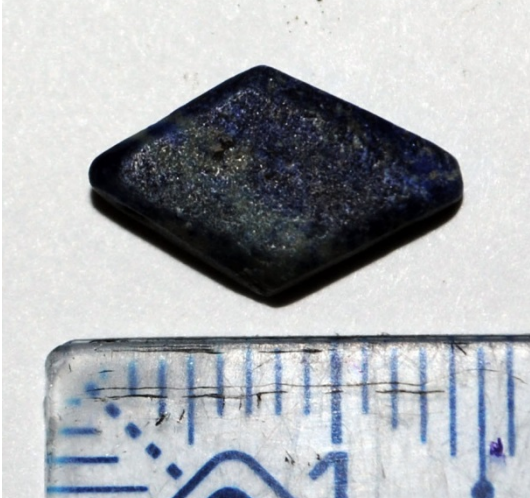


Item 377. Room no. 70.




The last - and more specifically - tenth room found on the area of the excavation no. 12 was located in the south-western corner (Photo 85). Western extremity of the room was not included into the boundaries of the excavation. Room dimensions are: 2.5 m long and 2 m broad within the excavation borders. On the eastern side the room has a common wall (item 370) with room no. 67 (item 367), and in the northern part - a common wall (item 341) with room no. 69 (item 371).




In the course of stripping the room, remains of the floor hearth (item 376) were found in the upper layers.





2 Table of finds 1



Inventory of collected finds from the excavation no. 12 of the Kuyukkala Kesken hillfort.

№	Description	Photo
1	<p>Code: Ks-16-12-335-1 Name: Insert for a ring? Diamond shape Material: Stone Dimensions: 1,3x1,1x0,3 cm. Location: in the western part of the excavation, in the upper layer State of preservation: good</p>	
2	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-363-1 Name: beads - 5 species (qty 63) Material: glass, paste Location: on the floor in the western part of the room no. 67 State of preservation: good</p>	
3	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-365-1 Name: fragment of a product Material: metal Dimensions: 2.8 x 1.1 cm Location: on the floor of the room no. 68 State of preservation: poor</p>	

4	<p>Code Ks-16-R12-366-1 Name: spindle ring (spindle) Material: ceramics Dimensions: 2.8 x 1.1 cm Location: in the fire layer in the yard State of preservation: good</p>	
5	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-337-1 Name: spindle ring (spindle) Material: ceramics Dimensions: 5-5,5x1,1 cm Location: in the fire layer in the eastern part of the excavation State of preservation: good</p>	
6	<p>Code Ks-16-R12-366-2 Name: spindle ring (spindle) Material: ceramics Dimensions 2.8 x 1.1 cm Location: in the western part of the yard State of preservation: fair</p>	

7	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-365-3 Name: incense burner Material: ceramics Dimensions: diameter 9 cm, height 5 cm Where found: on the floor of the room no. 68 State of preservation: 20% lost</p>	
8	<p>Code Ks-16-R12-337-1 Name: incense burner Material: ceramics Dimensions: diameter 8 cm, height 3.5 cm Where found: on the floor of the room no. 65 State of preservation: fair</p>	
9	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-355-1 Name: a form for stamping Material: ceramics Dimensions: 13x11 cm Where found: on the floor of the room no. 65 State of preservation: fair</p>	

11	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-366-3 Name: Part of a vessel lid decorated with traced ornamentation of semicircles Material: ceramics Dimensions: diameter 15 cm, height 7 cm Where found: in the yard State of preservation: 60% lost</p>	
12	<p>Code: Ks-16-0-2 Name: fragment of a hollow tube Material: bone Dimensions: 1.5 x 0.7 cm Where found: on the day surface (excavated) State of preservation: good</p>	
13	<p>Code: Ks-16-R12-345-1 Name: fragment of a product Material: glass Dimensions: 1x1x0.1 cm Where found: on the floor of the room no. 62 State of preservation: fair</p>	
14	<p>Code: Ks-16-0-3 Name: fragment of a coin Material: metal Dimensions: 1.5x1.5x0.1 cm Where found: on the day surface (excavated) State of preservation: fair</p>	

<p>13</p>	<p>Code: Ks-16—R12-366-4 Name: fragment of sidewall of a khumchi with traced depiction of a guise inscribed in floral design Material: ceramics Dimensions: 12 x 7 x 1.5 cm Where found: in the north-western part of the yard State of preservation: fair</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Code: Ks-16—R12-366-5 Name: a fragment of a bowl bottom covered with green glaze. Material: ceramics Dimensions: diameter of 5.8 cm Where found: in the western part of the yard State of preservation: fair</p>	

Conclusion

In 2016, archaeological excavations at the shahristan of the Kesken Kuyuukkala hillfort continued. Excavation covering an area of 165 square meters is located in the southern part of the block being examined. No traces of buildings and constructions could be observed prior to research within the excavation borders.

A total of 10 rooms and 1 yard space were investigated. Found: 1 destroyed tandoor, remnants of three floor hearths and one vessel like khumchi, which was built into the floor.

Almost all the studied constructions belong to the upper construction horizon. In general only 1-2 rows of bricks of the walls survived, the only site of the yard belonging to the second construction horizon was located in the eastern part of the excavation.

In the field season of 2016 archaeologists found fragments of ceramics and whole vessels, mostly manual molding and decorated with carved floral patterns. One piece of a bowl bottom decorated with a green glaze was found in the yard premises; the bowl, unlike other ceramic products, was made using potter's wheel. Fragments of glass and metal products were found.

Such finds as beads that were found on the floor of one room, in the amount of 63 pieces, should be separately noted. The beads come in five species, some of them have traced signs. A dastarkhan, one small vessel like a cauldron were found in the yard as well.

Yet, the most interesting discovery, the first one in the Kuyukkala Kesken hillfort, was the collapse of the glazed humchi decorated with traced floral ornamentation and anthropomorphic depiction - a guise.

In the 12th century the famous Arabic geographer al-Idrisi, author of one of the largest geographical writings "Nuzhat Al-Mushtaq fi-ihitirak Al-Afaq (Stories of a man tired by traveling across countries) so described the city of the Ghuz people: "Cities of the Ghuz are plentiful, they stretch one from another to the North and East. They have forbidding mountains, and they have fortified fortress where their princes lurk, where they have their food stocks"¹. This information made it possible to identify the areas where the "Ghuz cities" used to be, and to begin researching them. One such major areas was the North-Eastern Aral Sea Region - delta of the Syrdarya river, where stood the capital of the Oghuz - the city of Yangikent².

¹ B.E. Kumakov, State of Kimaks in IX-XII centuries per arab sources. Alma-Ata, 1972. P.21.

² V.V. Bartold, Turkestan in the times of the Mongolian invasion. Writings. Moscow, 1964. T.I. P. 235; S.G. Agadzhanov, Overview of the history of the Oghuz and Turkmen in the Central Asia in IX-XIII centuries. Ashkhabad, 1969, P. 49-85.

A distinguished scientist S.P. Tolstov was the first one to begin studying the cities of the Oguz³. However, extensive excavations of the cities, to be more precise, the hillforts - the monuments of urban life - were initiated by the Kazakhstani archaeologists.

The present scientific report shows materials brought from the excavations and analyzed in the aspect of the study of medieval urbanization of Kazakhstan in the Aral Sea region, in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya River. The topography of the Zhankent, Kuyukkala Kesken, Big Kuyukkala, Small Kuyukkala hillfort evidences that they used to be cities with developed parts, like citadel - arcom, shahrstan - the inner city and the rabad - suburbs for craftsmen. Peculiarities of the topography are good street network, powerful system of fortification - walls around the citadel, shahrstan and rabad, towers along the walls perimeter, fortified entrances.

Excavation of Kesken Kuyukkala revealed city blocks, character of habitations. The habitations were built of adobe bricks, consist of dwellings with sofas and hearths, utility rooms. Fire sanctuaries with altars decorated with sheep protomai stand out in the blocks.

The upper horizon of the Kuyukkala Kesken hillfort is dated based on coins of the 9th-11th centuries (coins of the Samanids and Karakhanids). The lower horizon dates back to the 7th-8th centuries based on Khorezm, Tyurgesh and Chinese coins. Ceramics of the upper horizon is presented by a complex of vessels for kitchen, table and storage use.

Low truncated-conical shaped mugs with loop-shaped handles attached to the edges and bulging slightly above the edges were found in the hillfort. Also cylindrical mugs decorated with thick bright red engobe and glazing were excavated. Most cups are thin-walled, covered with red, red-brown, sometimes black engobe and glazing on the outside. The rim has a thin edge, it makes a continuation of the neck and is separated from the body by a sharp ledge. Oval or subtriangle in section handles usually have a ledge at the top. Shape of these mugs is specific for the late phase of the dzhetysay culture of the Aral Sea region, suggesting a continuity of traditions and culture.

There are fragments of dastarkhans with diameters up to 35 cm among ceramic complexes as well. Found tabletops are either smooth or have plastered round moulds with tucks at the bottom of the outside. Similar clay tables were widespread in Semirechye, in the Chui Valley cities of 8th-9th centuries, in the West Karatau and Otrar in the middle Syrdarya over the same period of time.

Numerous finds were hand-made stucco lids. All of them are conical (only one instance of a flat lid) with a diameter of 13-35 cm, they have a smooth edge, occasionally emphasized rim. Most of these lids have handles - rounded ledge and support. All lids are glazed with dark gray, grayish, rarely brownish engobe. There was found one lid with a knob on top of it and with bent edge and

³ S.P. Tolstov, Cities of Ghuz // Soviet ethnography. Moscow, 1947. No3. P. 35-102.

four symmetrically positioned ledges along the edge. The absolute majority of the lids are covered with rich carved floral and sometimes geometric patterns on the inner and outer sides.

A peculiar sort of incense burners or lighting fixtures found in the Kesken Kuyukkala and Large Kuyukkala deserve specific mentioning. Incense burners are ornamented with engrailments and dents made by an end of a wand before roasting. Similar lamps positioned on a high pallet with a condenser cup at the top, sometimes supported by three legs and decorated with cutwork geometrical, fishbone pattern. Lamps in the form of a cup on three low legs were repeatedly found in the layers dating back to 6th-8th centuries in the hillforts of Semirechye. In general lamps placed on a high cylindrical, more rarely - conical, leg were found in Middle Syrdarya, in Sogdiana starting with mid-1st millennium and until the 8th century AD.

A hallmark in ceramics is the elements of Semirechye that were clearly identifiable on the monuments of Dzhetyasar stow of the last stage, and Kesken Kuyukkala shows them more vividly and in greater variety. Perhaps cut-through fishbone and floral ornaments placed on the Kesken Kuyukkala vessels resulted from a synthesis of the local Dzhetyasar tradition and the influence of Semirechie.

During the same period close ties between Lower Syrdarya and the Afrigid Khoresm started to develop. The hillfort Kesken Kuyukkala yielded Tyurgesh, Tang, Khorezm, Bukharkhudat coins; plaques and belt buckles sets of imported production, which testifies to the international relations of the city.

So far, as mentioned before, the excavations of the hillfort uncovered two layers: upper one dating to 9th-12th centuries, and the layer of 7th-9th centuries.

In general all finds received as a result of archaeological research in the Aral Sea region describe the “steppe civilization of Kazakhstan”, characterized by interaction and mutual enrichment of the sedentary and nomadic cultures.

In the bowels of this synthesis lie many civilization achievements created by the peoples of Kazakhstan, as well as the origins of their ethnogenesis. One of the "ethnogenesis hubs" became the Aral Sea region.

ANNEX A
(Photographs)



Photo 1. General view of the complex being researched. Aerial photograph. View to the North-East



Photo 2. General view of the eastern part of the complex being researched. Aerial photograph. View to the North-North-East

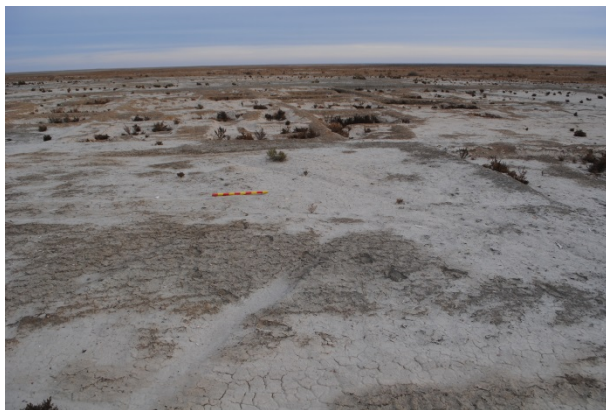


Photo 3. General view of the excavation no. 12 before beginning of works. View to the North



Photo 4. General view of the excavation no. 12 before beginning of works. View to the East



Photo 37. Working time - the process of stripping the wall in the northern part of the excavation. View to the North-East



Photo 38. Working time - the process of stripping the excavation with brushes and brooms. View to the East



Photo 39. General view of the excavation.
View to the North



Photo 40. General view of the excavation.
View to the North-East



Photo 41. General view of the excavation.
View to the North-East



Photo 42. General view of the excavation.
View to the East



Photo 73. Dastarkhan and vessel in the central part of the yard (item 366). View to the East



Photo 74. Dastarkhan after extraction from the central part of the yard (item 366). View to the East



Photo 75. The collapse of the khumchi in the north-western part of the excavation. View to the East



Photo 76. The collapse of the khumchi in the north-western part of the excavation. View to the West



Photo 77. Wall (item 370) in the SW part of the excavation (North-South), between rooms no. 67 and no. 70 View to the South



Photo 78. Working time - the process of stripping the floor in room no. 69 (item 371). View to the North-East



Photo 79. Room no. 69 (item 371). View to the South-East



Photo 80. Room no. 69 (item 371). View to the North-East



Photo 81. Room no. 69 (item 371). View to the South-West



Photo 82. Vessel (khumchi) built into the floor in room no. 69 (item 371).



Photo 83. A layer of ash (item 373) in the NW part of room no. 69 (item 371). View to the South



Photo 84. The remains of a floor hearth (item 376) in room no. 70 (item 377). View to the North



Photo 101. Working time - off-site material handling (the process of washing-- ceramics and bones)



Photo 102. Working time - off-site material handling (the process of washing-- ceramics and bones)



Photo 108. Working time - preparation of drawing documentation (processing data of the total station)



Photo 106. Working time - process of processing ceramic complex (drawing collected material)

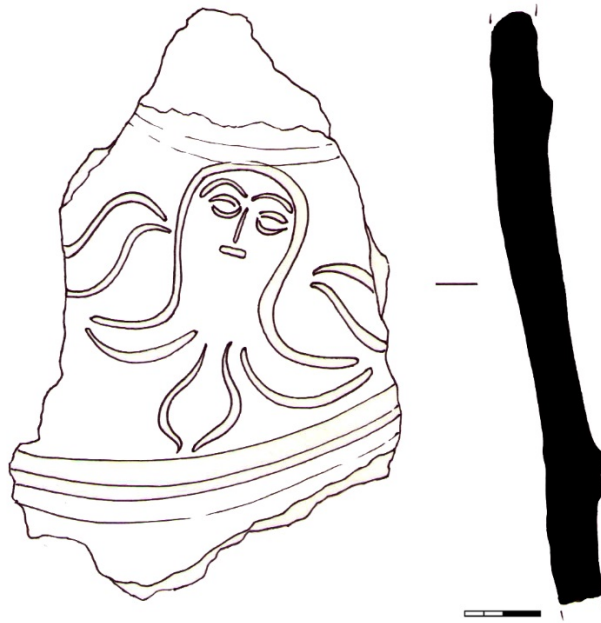


Figure 54 - fragment of ornamented side

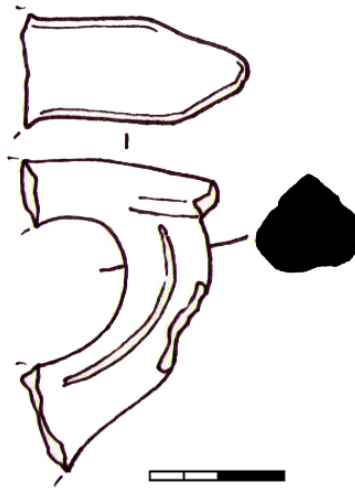










Figure 55 - loop handle with a knob

ANNEX C
(Drawing documentation)

5	<p>Explication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Sofa  Wall  65  Number of a room  Ceramics  Ash-pit  63.383  Hights 	<p>General Plan of excavation sites</p>	<p>Drawn by _____ Page _____ Year _____ Scale _____</p>
---	--	---	---



Drawing 1. General Plan of excavation sites