

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF ANCIENT CITIES AND STATES OF CENTRAL ASIA TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD CULTURE AND ART IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE HISTORICAL MONUMENT BY AYRITOM FROM A SERIES OF MONUMENTS OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UZBEKISTAN

Bozorov Asror Botirovich Termez State University, Faculty of National Costume and Art, Lecturer at the Department of Graphics and Design. asrorbozorov240191@gmail.com Tel:99 042 24 91

## Abstract

This article was written to students of art school and higher education institutions to gain more extensive knowledge from fine art and art history classes.

**Keywords**: Hellenism, Antiquity, Zurmala, Afrosyab, Ayritom, Holchayon, Dalvarzintepa, Tuprokkala, Jarqo'ton, Visual arts, Applied arts, Music, Sculpture, Frieze, Buddhism, Gandhar culture, Pancha mahashabda, Double avlos, Lutynia, Harp, Drum, Ensemble, UNESCO.

## Introduction

Human civilization has gone through several stages of development to this day. From the creation of humanity to this day, there has been a great development in its thinking, daily life, cultural and spiritual development. Different languages, different nationalities, different religious beliefs, different cultures appeared, and some other cultures, beliefs, peoples suffered and went down in history. The cultures, beliefs and languages of peoples were created in different ways, primarily under the influence of the geographical places where they live and the conditions there. In many cases, ethnically, politically and culturally large tribes or peoples increased their influence on smaller tribes, which led to the emergence of new cultures, new peoples and new languages. For example, instead of the culture that existed in Central Asia in ancient times, the Hellenistic (Hellenistic) culture arose.

Hellenism is a period in the history of Macedonia, Greece, the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Western Asia and the Black Sea, from the conquest of Alexander (334-323 BC) to the occupation of Egypt by Roman troops in 30 BC. e. . The term "Hellenic" was first used in science by the German scientist I.G. It was used in Droysen's 2-volume History of Hellenism, published in 1836-1843, and the term meant the dominance of the Hellenes in the eastern countries and the new culture



created by merging their culture with that of the Hellenes. peoples of the East. The harmony of these cultures is preserved to this day by historical and architectural monuments and archaeological finds: materials, household items, ceramics, jewelry, handicrafts, frescoes, sculptures, tools, architectural objects and other similar objects. We can observe similar valuable finds, using the example of the most valuable resources. In short, Hellenic culture can be called a mixture of Eastern and Western cultures. Today, there are thousands of ancient historical monuments in Central Asia. In particular, Uzbekistan, with its wealth of such historical sites, attracts scientists and travelers from all over the world. Remains of the ancient city of Afrosiab in Samarkand, Zurmala in Termez (2nd century AD), Airitom (1st-4th centuries AD), Kholchayon in Denov (4th century BC), Dalvarzintepe monument in Shorchinsky district, Zharko, found in the Sherabad region. The ruins of ancient settlements such as 'ton (2nd millennium BC), Kampirtepa, Tuprokkala, located on the territory of Karakalpakstan, testify to the distant past of our country, the history of its statehood, culture and art, flourishing since ancient times. Let's look at the addresses, and not at their geographical location, we will see that they are mainly located at addresses very close to the Amu Darya and Syr Darya. The reason is that by that time these peoples were engaged in agriculture, crafts and trade. The transition to a sedentary cultural way of life, in turn, paved the way for the emergence and development of such industries as fine arts, applied arts, sculpture, pottery, and music. From the statues, frescoes and inscriptions found at the above-mentioned settlements, we can obtain information about the lifestyle, customs and forms of government of the people of that time. To prove our word, we will provide brief information about the settlement of Airitom and the wall friezes found there.

**Airitom** is one of the ancient settlements of the Uzbek people, testifying to the ancient history and culture of the Uzbek people. It is located 18 km east of Termez, on the banks of the Amu Darya. The material and cultural monuments of Airitom are of great importance in the study of the history, cultural heritage, traditions and art of our people during the Kushan period. Among the world-famous examples of ancient art found on the territory of Uzbekistan, archaeological finds called the Ayritom frieze deserve special attention. The frieze was found and studied by archaeologist M.E. Masson in 1932-1933. This frieze, made of a marble-lime mixture, once decorated a Buddhist temple in the city of Airitom on the banks of the Amu Darya near Termez (at that time the inhabitants of these places mainly believed in Buddhism). It depicts five musicians, and there are different opinions about the era of their creation. Most scientific researchers believe that it dates back to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. S.P. Tolstov, G.A. According to Pugachenkova and other scientists, the women depicted on



the frieze belong to the local Bactrian ethnic group. This work of art, dating back to the ancient period, represents a synthesis of various artistic traditions, which is broadly called Eastern Greek culture. It combines Greek and East Indian or Gandhara culture based on Buddhist philosophical ideas. Buddhist scholar S.F. According to Oldenburg, according to archaeologist M. E. Masson, the sculptural composition of five female musicians personifies the "five great voices" (pancha mahashabda) in Buddhist teachings. They are often called "heavenly musicians." In this complex synthesis, the musical instruments on the frieze stand out. In the ensemble we also see Greek, North Indian, possibly East Turkestan and local musical traditions.



AIRYTOM FRIEZE (WOMAN PLAYING THE HARP)



**AYRITOM FRIEZE (DRUMMER WOMAN)** 

In particular, a two-stringed wind instrument - the double aulos - was widely used in Ancient Asia and Ancient Greece, and was used by the Greeks as a military instrument when performing ancient tragedies. Likewise, musical instruments are rare in Central Asia. This instrument, reminiscent of a lute-shaped guitar, was not typical for the historical and cultural environment of that time in Central Asia. Similar ones are scattered throughout East Turkestan, partly in Khotan. The drum, with its different appearance, undoubtedly dates back to India. A small angular harp with nine strings is a musical instrument typical of the countries of Central Asia. A few years after the discovery of the Ayritom friezes, the government of the Uzbek SSR donated them to the Hermitage.



Three of these eight-part friezes depict musicians and are taken from the Central Asian section exhibition. This frieze is the largest of the others and depicts female drummers, lutenists and harpists. From the data obtained we can make conclusion that not only sculpture and fine arts flourished in these places, but also music, crafts and architecture, which shows how great.

In a word, the priceless material and cultural heritage left by our ancestors is proof that the territory of Central Asia was the cradle of enlightenment, which made an incomparable contribution to the improvement of world art, culture and science. It should be noted that until today, the history of our people has repeatedly experienced periods of stagnation. During those times of stagnation, the faith, language and culture of our people were attacked, and many of our historical sources and old monuments were destroyed or completely destroyed. The invasion of the Mongols in the late 13th and early 14th centuries, the invasion of the Russian Empire against the countries of Central Asia in the late 19th century and the rise to power of an authoritarian regime called Bolshevism in the early 20th century caused unprecedented damage to the development of our country. Hundreds of our nationalists, intellectuals, writers and scientists were repressed. Their patriotic ideas, the rare works they created, and they themselves were branded as nationalists and enemies of the people. The grave consequences of the moral damage they caused to our people are still felt today. After our country gained independence, a lot of practical work was done to restore the heritage of our ancestors. Thousands of historical sources, historical monuments and antiques of our country are taken under state protection. Many of our historical cities and the archaeological sites located there are included in the UNESCO list. Currently, attention is paid to the tourism sector in our country, and much attention is paid to attracting tourists from all over the world. In this regard, the large-scale reforms carried out in our country make a great contribution to the economic development of our country, and also introduce Uzbekistan to the whole world. Today, the task of every young generation is to preserve the rare, ancient historical treasures left by our ancestors, leave them to the next generation and ensure that all mankind can enjoy them.

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