



НІЖИН АРХЕОЛОГІЧНИЙ ТА ЛІТОПИСНИЙ

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Ivan KEDUN
(Nizhyn)

Archaeological research in Nizhyn's territory in 2012–2014

During 2012–2014 in Nizhyn worked archaeological expedition within the archaeological practice and graduate students of Nizhyn Hohol State University.

Work carried out on the territory tracts Nove Misto, Comuna (Horodok) and Vethe (Vethe Settlement-1) were designed to clarify the nature and degree of preservation of cultural monuments layer (Fig. 1).

On the study of archaeological sites in the city and its environs repeatedly called historians, archaeologists and historians, since the eighteenth century [1]. These materials allow to conclude that in the modern Nizhyn there are two ancient time settlement situated on both banks of the Oster river.

The first settlement (Zamok) is located on the left bank of the Oster river (Fig. 1). In 17–18 centuries within this archaeological site of cultural heritage there was located Nizhyn Castle [2].

Settlement takes a playground rounded, raised above the floodplain of the Oster river at 3–4 m. In the west, south and east it is bounded basins – filled ditches, which today are on Podvoyskiy str., Moscovska srt. and Zankovetska sqr.

The area of the posad is bordered by post settlement from the east, south and west. Area – over 30 hectares [3].

In one version (O.F. Shafonskiy, M.E. Markov, V.P. Kovalenko and others) the settlement in Zamok is the town of Nezhatyn mentioned in chronicles in 1071 [4].

Another ancient settlement is known in the north-eastern edge of Nizhyn. It is located at sea level Comuna (Horodok) on outcrops of Cape radical right bank of the terrace of the Oster river (height 4,5 m), including marshy floodplain. Settlement takes playground round shape (diameter about 100 m) in the west and south moat limited [5].

For the first time Comuna is mentioned O.M. Lazarevskiy in 1893 [6]. It is believed that this – the town of Unyenizh mentioned in the Ipatska Chronicle in 1147 [7].

During numerous archaeological research undertaken since 1981 [8] found that cultural layer of the settlement heavily damaged as a result of numerous alterations and construction of 19–20 centuries. He finds poorly saturated and contains material of 11–13 centuries. Archaeological facilities and wells are ancient time. It was also investigated strengthening settlement.

From the south, west and east of Comuna adjacent positions the posad. It is located at a bend low terraces right bank of the Oster river that this place turns north-west. This increase in the north and west plain envelope depth 30-50 m wide, on which the cultural layer of the settlement continues north, south and west. The total area of the posad – up to 13 hectares.

According to a previous study, cultural layer of the cultural heritage's site has a capacity of more than 1 m, but poorly saturated findings. The site multi dates back to the Neolithic era (VI–III millennium B.C.), Copper (II millennium B.C.), Early Iron Age (7–3 century B.C.) and 9 – the middle of 13 century. At the territory of the posad also found the remains



Fig. 1. Location of the studied sites (○ – Comuna; • – Nove Misto; ● – Vethe)

of buildings (commercial buildings, pits) of 12–13 centuries [9].

Explored during 2012–2013 areas at Comuna located in the territory of southern stronghold and post settlement. There were laid 3 excavations and 3 pit totally.

Excavations 1 (2012) located in the south-western part of the citadel, a pillar, near the ruins of the landed estates of 19–20 centuries.

The stratigraphy of the investigated area clearly seen in profile north-western wall of the excavation, below the modern surface under a layer of soil displaced (up to 0,9 m) horizontal layer is dark, very humused loam (0,5 m), which overlaps the mainland. The continent was discovered at a depth of 1,4 m from the current surface.

During disassembly loam layer was collected debris circular vessels 12 century. Archaeological sites outlined at the continent as spots loam dark shades. They were represented by three wells, but the lack of archaeological materials in filling them did not give the possibility to set the time of their occurrence.

Excavations 2 (2012) located near the borders citadel, at the probable location of the fortifications of the ancient settlement.

Below the modern surface of the whole area was excavated layer displaced soil capacity to 0,4 m. Under it – a layer of dark grey loam thickness of 0,3 m, which contained fragments of pottery vessels separate 11–13 centuries. Along the south-western wall of the excavation said layer lies at the mainland, which was at a depth of 0,7 m.

Outside the designated areas throughout the area excavated at this level recorded archaeological site, may be – moat of ancient settlement. Its width reaches 3,0 m. It crossed the investigated area towards the northwest – southeast (parallel outline increase that takes citadel) and went abroad.

The walls of the moat down to bottom at an angle of 45°, the bottom was let in to the mainland by 1,3 m. The width at the bottom of the moat was 1,2–1,3 m. At the bottom were two parallel longitudinal grooves (1 groove – width 0,5 m; 2 groove – width 0,6–0,7 m),



Fig. 2. Explored area of the moat at Comuna (view from the east)

separated by mainland bridge (width 0,2 m). Rather, the grooves are traces fence installed at the bottom of the ditch.

The upper part of the moat fill to 2/3 of its depth, formed successive layers of dark grey, grey-spotted yellow, brown, black loam. They contain a small amount of debris ceramic pots of 12 century. At the bottom was a layer of grey-yellow layered sandy loam; grooves on the bottom filled yellow-grey laminated sandy loam. Archaeological materials in the lower layers of fill were found.

The researching the moat were continued in 2013. As a result of work managed to capture another of its area length 8 m (Fig. 2). The nature of the filling, width and depth of the ditch were the same as in the plot investigated in 2012 [10].

In addition to researching the moat in 2012 was laid 3 pit in the southern part of the post. During the work could detect fragments circular receptacles of 12 century and a fragment of a glass bracelet. Archaeological sites presented economic pit of 17 centuries. With the collapse pit comes pottery pot.

Overall, during studies in 2012–2013 were able to confirm the existence of the ancient settlement at Comuna. It was pretty primitive fortifications – was surrounded by a moat with installed fence at the bottom. Having these fortifications probably in 11 century and used very little time. Such simple in design reinforcement is typical in contemporary settlements of the Russ. This fact and a minimum of materials in ancient cultural layer settlement leads to the conclusion that, most likely, it was a fortified village. However, this issue needs further investigation.

Nove Misto now located in the central part Nizhyn in Turhenyev str., Dzerzhynskiy str., Redkinska str., Chernihivska str., Hohol sqr. – on the right bank of the Oster river, opposite the Zamok. Castle. Today the area is under new city urban development. Settlement area – 25 hectares. According to popular versions during its operation is limited to the era of the late Middle Ages (16–18 centuries) [11]. The researching of this site carried attractions Yu.M. Sytiy in 1990 and I.S. Kedun in 2004–2012, respectively [12].

Old Russ first material at Nove Misto could fix security during archaeological research in 2004 on 5, Moscow str. However, a small number of ancient materials (only 2 pieces of ceramics) are not allowed to express any assumptions about their origin. Further work on the territory of site were continued in 2011 as well as protective digs. As a result, it was possible to fix the last remains of ancient buildings excavation time. Unfortunately, it was almost completely destroyed by modern redigging. During disassembly filling the trench structures were found fragments of circular dishes of XI–XII centuries. Ibid found a fragment of bone needles and the stone rubber [13]. To test the assumption of the existence in Nove Misto of ancient settlements, work has continued in 2012. They are allowed to fix the remains of another Old Russ buildings, partly destroyed by the modern redigging. With this in mind, set design features of the facility is impossible.

During disassembly filling facilities there were found fragments circular vessels of 11–13 centuries spindles (Fig. 3), the fragment edge grinding bar and arrows. Thus, the results of this work confirm the existence in the new town settlement of pre-Mongol period, sufficiently large area. However, the status of settlement remains unclear.

Vethe Settlement-1 is 0,5 km south-west of Nizhyn neighbourhood, near the bypass road Pryluky–Chernihiv, in central part of Vethe natural boundary. The site takes a swampy backwater protruding raised portion of the left bank of the Oster river area 200x300 m. The settlement was discovered and explored in 1993–1994 by O.S. Morozov [14].



Fig. 3. Spindles from excavations at Nove Misto

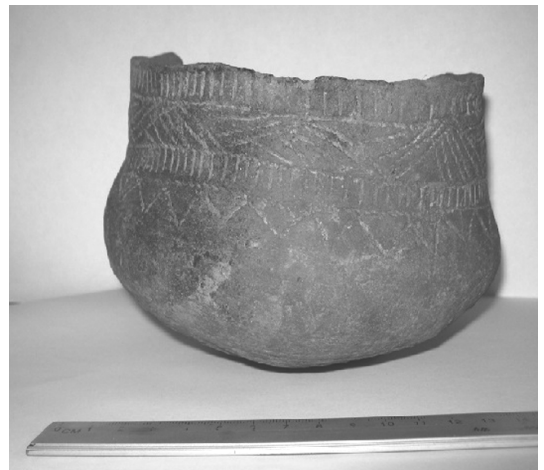


Fig. 4. A Pot from Medium-Dnipro Culture of excavations in 2014 in Vethe Settlement-1

As a result of intelligence researcher determined that the monument is layered and identified two periods of operation: II millennium B.C. and the second half of the second 14 centuries. B.C. O.S. Morozov suggested a possible connection after Mongol settlement of the nearby St. George's Monastery in Vethe [15].

Given that history Nizhyn area after Mongol days (second half 13 – 14 centuries) is less explored, the study starts at this time is an absolute scientific interest. In view of this, in September 2012 there were made reconnaissance study (pitting), and in summer 2014 – excavations.

In 2012 was founded 2 pits. These materials have allowed to confirm the presence of the cultural layer settlement debris circular vessels of 13–14 centuries.

During excavations in 2014 failed to clarify the chronology of interest. You can define two horizons corresponding period of the two places. The first horizon include materials after Mongol time. This is mainly fragments of ceramic vessels marked characteristic massive rim and date from the second half of 13–14 century. The second horizon is clearly dated form found by a Medium-Dnipro Culture (second half of III millennium B.C.) (Fig. 4).

Thus, as a result of field work in 2012 and 2014 it was confirmed the assumption O.S. Morozov on two stages of settlement of this cultural heritage's site, also it was clarified its cultural identity and dating. It seems that Vethe Settlement-1 – one of the many small towns that arise on Nizhyn area after the Mongol invasion. At this point suggests a small capacity and low saturation layer cultural attractions.

In general, in the course of archaeological work in 2012–2014, a study was conducted residues few settlements of 11–14 centuries located within the modern Nizhyn. However, their chronological sequence and relationship needs further verification. Most important in this regard seems to refine the dating and determination of the status settlement Nove Misto, which is not quite formulated by V.P. Kovalenko and accepted in the literature of ancient Nizhyn scheme.

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Kedun I. Archaeological research in Nizhyn's territory in 2012–2014

The articles a brief of archaeological research on the territory of the modern town of Nizhyn in 2012–2014. The study examines the archaeological of landmarks of the town and its immediate environs in terms, the modern state of their settlements, their cultural layer and fortifications are analyzed. Attempting to clarify the chronology of landmarks. Identify promising are as for further research.

Key words: Nizhyn, New Town, fortifications, ceramics, settlement.

Кедун І. Археологічні дослідження на території м. Ніжин у 2012–2014 роках

Стаття присвячена публікації попередніх результатів археологічних досліджень на території сучасного міста Ніжин у 2012–2014 роках. У дослідженні аналізуються археологічні пам'ятки на території міста та його найближчих околиць. Розглядається сучасний стан поселень їх культурний шар, оборонні споруди. Здійснюється спроба уточнити хронологію пам'яток. Визначаються перспективні напрямки для подальших досліджень.

Ключові слова: Ніжин, Нове місто, укріплення, кераміка, поселення.

Kedun II. Археологические исследования на территории г. Нежин в 2012–2014 гг.

Статья посвящена публикации предварительных результатов археологических исследований на территории современного города Нежин в 2012–2014 гг. В исследовании анализируются археологические памятники на территории города и его ближайших окрестностей. Рассматривается современное состояние поселений их культурный слой, оборонительные сооружения. Осуществляется попытка уточнить хронологию памятников. Определяются перспективные направления для дальнейших исследований.

Ключевые слова: Нежин, Новый город, укрепления, керамика, поселение.

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