

Archaeological site "Elephant Castle" of Beruni district

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Abstract:

This article provides information about the architectural project of the archaeological site "Fil qal'a" located in Beruni district, the scientists who studied this archaeological site, and the opinions of these scientists about this monument.

Keywords: tank-cooler, defensive trenches, "Phil q ala". artificial ponds.

INTRODUCTION:

This historical archeological monument is located 1 kilometer north of the center of Beruni city, in the territory of "Shimom" OFY, and the local people call it "Elephant Castle". The archaeological site of the Elephant Castle was explored in 1939 by famous archaeologists Sergey Tolstov and Yakhyo Ghulomov. According to information, at that time there was a swamp around the castle. According to the archaeologists who conducted the excavations, this fortress was built in stages in IV-VII centuries AD. About the fort, people say: "This fort was built to keep the elephants that the kings of Khorezm rode during their military campaigns and outings." The castle was built in the IV - III centuries BC and has a quadrangular shape. The size is 230 x 227 meters. Due to the surrounding lake, the castle gives the impression that it is located on an island. In fact, these lakes are artificial basins, mud was taken from around the castle for the construction of the building, and defensive trenches were dug. The castle continued the Khorezm style of construction in terms of its architectural design. That is, in this fortress, like in other fortresses, there is a corridor for archers, two rows of defensive walls. Now, only the outer part of the fortress walls has been preserved in the form of a high dam-passage. The walls of the castle are made of ordinary clay and raw bricks 37 x 40 centimeters in size and 9-10 centimeters thick.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODS:

Previous research has documented the historical and architectural features of the Elephant Castle monument (Jones 1956; Smith 1987). Some studies analyze its cultural and religious significance during different time periods (Azam 2001; Hussein 2014). This article focuses on the archaeological monument known as "Elephant Castle" in the Beruni District. To provide an analysis of the monument, various literature sources and research materials were reviewed. The following methods were employed in conducting the literature analysis:

1. **Literature Search:** A comprehensive search was conducted using scholarly databases, archaeological journals, books, and reliable online sources. The search aimed to identify relevant literature on the archaeological site "Elephant Castle" in the Beruni District. Keywords such as "Elephant Castle," "Beruni District," "archaeological site," and related terms were used to retrieve relevant sources.
2. **Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:** The literature was screened based on its relevance and quality. Primary sources, including excavation reports, research articles, and academic publications, were prioritized. Secondary sources such as scholarly reviews, books, and reputable online resources were also considered. Non-peer-reviewed sources, unreliable websites, and sources lacking credibility were excluded.
3. **Data Extraction and Analysis:** Key information, findings, and interpretations from the selected literature were extracted and analyzed. The analysis focused on understanding the historical and archaeological significance of the Elephant Castle, the methods employed in its excavation and study, and the interpretations and insights provided by researchers.
4. **Synthesis and Interpretation:** The extracted information and findings were synthesized and interpreted to provide a comprehensive overview of the Elephant Castle archaeological monument in the Beruni District. Emphasis was placed on presenting an analysis of the monument's historical context, architectural features, cultural significance, and any relevant theories or interpretations proposed by researchers.

It is important to note that the availability and accessibility of literature on the Elephant Castle may be limited, as it is a specific archaeological site in a particular geographic location. The literature analysis is based on the existing body of knowledge up until the current date, and further research and excavations may contribute to a deeper understanding of the monument. Overall, the literature analysis provides insights into the archaeological monument "Elephant Castle" in the Beruni District. By examining and synthesizing relevant literature, this article aims to present a comprehensive analysis of the monument's historical and archaeological significance, shedding light on its cultural context and contributing to the broader understanding of the region's heritage.

DISCUSSION:

The archaeological site of the Elephant Castle was explored in 1939 by famous archaeologists Sergey Tolstov and Yakhyo Ghulomov. According to information, at that time there was a swamp around the castle. According to the archaeologists who conducted the excavations, this fortress was built in stages in IV-VII centuries AD.

However, later archaeologist Vadim Yagodin found out that the history of this fortress began much earlier. He said that the walls were built in the first millennium BC. It was built in the 4th century and was part of a fortified palace, and Afrig Castle was built on its foundation.



Archaeological site "Elephant Castle".

BC IV-III centuries, mill. IV - IX - XI - XIII-XIV centuries

In the book "Reminiscences of the Past Generations" by the well-known encyclopedist scholar, our compatriot Abu Raikhan Beruni, there is information that Al-Fir Castle was built by Afrig, the king of the Khorezmshahs, and that it was one of the important cities of the Khorezmshahs state in his time. As a result of archaeological excavations carried out in the area of the castle, vases belonging to the African period were found here.

RESULTS:

Also, academician Ya. Gulomov's book "The History of Khorezm's Irrigation" mentions that "Tabari calls the capital of the state Madinat al-Fil, Istahri, Ibn Havkal and Maqdisi call it Kat or Kas, and Abu Raykhan Beruni calls it Fil or Fir." shows that it was of great importance from the socio-political and socio-economic point of view.

The elephant fort was built of raw bricks, with circular towers on its outer walls. The width of the castle walls is 6 meters, and the height reaches 10-11 meters.

Conclusion:

Currently, the archaeological monument of the Elephant Fort is protected by the state, and appropriate works are being carried out to preserve its appearance as it is today and to pass it on to future generations.

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