

Anjirota Petroglyphs

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Abstract: By studying Anjirota petroglyphs, it is possible to enrich the scientific understanding and conclusions about the emergence and development of the first art examples in the territory of Uzbekistan. These rock paintings serve as an important source for studying the mythological and religious worldviews and imaginations of the ancient inhabitants who lived here.

Keywords: Zarautsoy, Zarabog, Gadoytopmassoy, Irgoli, Kayritsoy, Siypantosh, Kyzilsoy.

The problem of preserving and studying the historical and cultural heritage of mankind is one of the important issues for all cultural countries of the world. Raising the morale of our people, realizing the national identity, forming national pride, studying the country's history and promoting it are important.

The territory of Uzbekistan is very rich in archaeological monuments, which are silent witnesses of our ancient history. Archaeological monuments are material historical sources, and these monuments are important in the study of the pre-written part of the development of human history. Among the examples of cultural heritage created by the peoples of Central Asia, rock paintings are the most valuable resources, they are historical works of art written on stone. The oldest petroglyphs in Uzbekistan are Zarautsoy and Siypantosh rock paintings.

In 2021, archaeological research was carried out in Sherabad district, Surkhandarya region. As a result of the conducted research, a number of stone paintings were found and studied in the streams around the village of Anjirota, 2-3 km west of the village of Poshkhurt. Anjirota Stream, where rock paintings were found, starts from the western part of the Kuhitang mountain range and flows southwards and widens. During the winter and spring months, due to precipitation, floods and floods occur in this stream. The stream flows into Poshkhurt, one of the tributaries of the Sherabad River, and joins the Sherabad River through Maidonsoy. The Sherabad river is formed by the confluence of the Irgoli and Kyzilsoy rivers, and 204 streams are added to it. Sherabad river is the last right tributary of Amudarya. The total length of the river is 186 km. The identified images are located in the middle and upper reaches of the Anjirota stream. Pictures depicting 63 characters were found on 18 stones from Anjirota stream. Their coordinates, height above the water level and occupied surface were determined. We gave a conditional name to the table of rock paintings found in Anjirota stream. This conditional name was called Anjirota petroglyphs –AP (Table 1).

The stones on which the paintings are made are irregularly located on the right side of the stream at an altitude of 900-1000 m above sea level, and are composed of granite, limestone and fine-grained sandstone, like the surrounding stream stones. Images on the flat surfaces of stones were made by ancient artists based on the techniques of hammering, carving, rubbing and cutting with stone and metal tools. The pictures show that once upon a time the stream and its surroundings were very rich in flora and fauna and our ancestors made good use of it.

AP1 Anjirota is on the right side of the stream, 10 m above the level of the stream. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces south-west. a single image of a man, a circle and various geometrically incomprehensible shapes are drawn on the stone. The circle is divided into four parts by straight lines and depicted in the form of a wheel. The circle representing the head of the human figure is similar to this circle, but slightly smaller in size. they are connected in one line. At the bottom of the wheel-shaped image, there are various geometric symbols in the shape of a rectangle.

AP2 is located on the right side of Anjirota stream. AP1 is 3 m from the stone. located higher. There are incomprehensible symbols on the stone.

AP3 in the north-east of the Anjirota stream, 100 m above the stream level. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces west. Two pictures of wolves and different names are written on the stone. the size of the wolf image is 10 cm. Both wolves' heads are facing south. The images are drawn similar to each other. Various names were carved and written on the stone by shepherds and tourists.

AP4 in the north-east of the Anjirota stream, 70 m above the stream level. located in Balan. the surface of the rock faces west. One wolf in stone, 3-

There is a picture of a mountain goat and incomprehensible signs. Pictures 5–10 cm. drawn in volume. The wolf and mountain goats have their heads facing south.

AP5 in the north-east of Anjirota stream, 90 m above the stream level. located at a height. incomprehensible symbols are reflected on the stone.

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AP6 in the north-east of Anjirota stream, 110 m from the stream. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces west. Pictures are drawn as a composition on the stone. Although the surface of the stone is uneven, 1 camel, 3 mountain goats and obscure pictures are drawn. pictures 5–10 cm. drawn in volume. The heads of a camel and 2 mountain goats are facing north-west. One mountain goat's head is facing north-east.

AP7 in the north-east of Anjirota creek, 120 m above the creek level. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces west. 3 mountain goats are depicted on the stone. The heads of the mountain goats are facing north-west. Image 5–10 cm. drawn in volume.

AP8 is on the east side of the Anjirota stream, 150 m above the stream level. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces south-west. A solitary image of a mountain goat is depicted on the stone. The mountain goat's head is facing south. Picture 10 cm. drawn in volume.

AP9 on the north-eastern side of Anjirota stream, 153 m from the stream. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces west. Pictures are drawn as a composition on the stone. There are 6 mountain goats, one horse and geometric drawings on the stone. on the stone, a mountain goat and a horse's head facing south. Chapters 5–10. drawn in cm.

AP10 in the north-eastern part of Anjirota stream, 160 m above the stream level. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces west. There are images of two people on the stone. The man's head is facing east. pictures 10 cm. drawn in volume.

AP11 in the north-east of Anjirota stream, 150 m above the stream level. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces south-west.

Animal images are depicted on the stone. The picture shows one wolf, 7 mountain goats and some obscure pictures. wolf attacked mountain goats and mauled one mountain goat. All the animals in the images have their heads facing south. Pictures on stone 5–10 cm. drawn in volume.

AP12 in the north-east of the Anjirota stream, 20 m above the stream level. located at a height. the face of the stone faces west, a solitary mountain goat is depicted on the stone. The mountain goat's head faces south. Image 10–13 cm. drawn in volume.

AP13 on the north-eastern side of Anjirota stream, 80 m above the stream level. located at a height. The surface of the stone faces west. a single mountain goat is depicted on the stone. A mountain goat with its head facing south. It is significant that the ears of the mountain goat are also drawn in the picture. The size of the picture is 10-13 cm.

AP14 on the north-eastern side of Anjirota stream, 10 m above the stream level. located at a height. The surface of the stone is facing up. There are 3 mountain goats on the stone. Mountain goats have their heads facing west. Mountain goats are drawn in a running position. The size of the pictures on the stone is 5 cm. described in size.

AP15 is located on the north-eastern side of Anjirota stream. The stone is 50 m above the river level. high, facing west. Two mountain goats are depicted on the stone. Both mountain goats have their heads facing east. The picture is drawn in a size of 10 cm.

AP16 is located on the north-eastern side of Anjirota stream. 30 m above the stone stream level. high, facing south-west. Two mountain goats are depicted on the stone. Both mountain goats have their heads facing east. The picture is drawn in a size of 10 cm.

AP17 is located on the north-eastern side of Anjirota stream. It is located 75 m above the stream. incomprehensible symbols are reflected on the stone.

AP18 in the north-east of Anjirota creek, 60 m above the creek level. located at a height. Geometric symbols are displayed on the stone.

Our investigations on the techniques of painting showed that most of the marks on the stone surface are triangular, dotted and egg-shaped marks. because any sharpened tool hits the stone once or twice, the tip becomes slightly blunt, and as a result, the cross section of this tool leaves a semicircular mark on the stone surface. prepared tools, its sharpness, shape, how hard it is hit on the surface of the stone, and finally, the painting depends on the softness and hardness of the stone. the surface of some ancient and later paintings has rough, shallow, large traces. Such paintings are probably made of stone or carved with a piece of stone. Pictures of mountain goats are common among Anjirota rock paintings. images of mountain goats attract one's attention. The reason is that in these pictures the states of the animal's body parts are skillfully depicted in a lively, natural state (pictures 1, 2, 3, 4). At the same time, human, wolf, camel, horse and various geometric symbols are also found in the pictures (pictures 4, 5, 6). Sarmishsoy, Ilonlisoy, Karaqiyasoy, Kuduqchasoy, Noqisoy, Gadoytopmassoy, Kayritsoy and almost all rock monuments found in the mountains of Central Asia.

Based on the above information, we can come to the following conclusion, New rock paintings serve as an important source in the study of the history of the art of the primitive period of Central Asia. The analysis of Fig. ota rock paintings showed that they are similar to each other according to the technique, style, content, size and degree of darkening in sunlight. There are no differences in the state of preservation and surface preparation of the pictures. This commonality in the images is not accidental, but indicates that they were created chronologically in different periods. These rock paintings are characterized by Bronze Iron, Early and Middle Ages.

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