https://doi.org/10.52967/3007-6528.2023.1.103.109

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To the question of one type of mace pommel*

The article provides data on three samples of cross-shaped mace pommels from the materials of funerary monuments of the Bronze Age from the territory of Kazakhstan. All three objects were introduced into scientific circulation earlier, but in one work they were taken into account for the first time. The author describes the dimensions and detailed characteristics of each finial and provides data on the typology of such artifacts. Despite the fact that all the discovered specimens come from monuments of different archaeological cultures, they are all recorded in a complex with a ceramic vessel and a bronze knife, or several similar objects. It should also be noted that the presence of three samples of the cross-shaped mace pommel found in Kazakh monuments indicates the expansion of the boundaries of the distribution of such artifacts.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, mace pommels, Bronze Age, insignia

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Шоқпар басының бір түріне қатысты мәселе

Мақалада Қазақстан аумағынан қола дәуіріндегі жерлеу ескерткіштерінің материалдарынан табылған крест тәрізді шоқпар басының үш данасы туралы мәліметтер келтірілген. Барлық үш артефакт бұрын ғылыми айналымға енгізілді, алайда бір мақалада алғаш рет бірге қарастырылды. Автор әр дананың өлшемдері мен егжей-тегжейлі сипаттамаларын келтіреді және осындай артефактілердің типологиясы туралы мәліметтер береді. Табылған барлық үлгілер әртүрлі археологиялық мәдениеттердің ескерткіштерінен табылғанына қарамастан, олардың барлығы қыш ыдыспен және қола пышақпен немесе бірнеше ұқсас заттармен бір кешенде анықталды. Сондай-ақ, қазақстандық ескерткіштерден табылған үш крест тәрізді шоқпарлар бастарының табылуы осындай артефактілердің таралу шекараларының кеңеюін көрсететінін атап өткен жөн.

Түйін сөздер: Қазақстан, шоқпардың басы, қола дәуірі, инсигния

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К вопросу об одном типе навершия булавы

В статье приводятся данные о трех образцах крестовидных наверший булавы из материалов погребальных памятников эпохи бронзы с территории Казахстана. Все три предмета были введены в научный оборот ранее, однако в одной работе они были учтены впервые. Автор описывает размеры и детальную характеристику каждого навершия и приводит данные о типологии подобных артефактов. Несмотря на тот факт, что все обнару-

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**The work was carried out as part of the implementation of the tasks of the program of fundamental scientific research of the Committee of Science of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023, IRN BR18574223.*

женные экземпляры происходят из памятников разных археологических культур, все они зафиксированы в комплексе с керамическим сосудом и бронзовым ножом, или несколькими подобными предметами. Необходимо также отметить, что наличие трех образцов наверший булавы крестовидной формы, обнаруженных в казахстанских памятниках, указывает на расширение границ распространения подобных артефактов.

Ключевые слова: Казахстан, навершие булавы, эпоха бронзы, инсигнии

The mace pommels are one of the most common symbols of power among the ancient population of the Bronze Age. Being indicative of the high status of the buried individual and marking extraordinary burials, such artifacts may indicate the complex social structure of ancient societies [Yudin, Matyushin 2006; Kramarev 2015; Tsimidanov 2004: 74; Kirichenko, Najafov 2021: 5].

The article will present data on the cruciform or rounded with projecting hemispheres shape of pommels.

The first specimen of the cross-shaped mace pommel was discovered during the study of the Mamai burial ground by G. Kushaev and G. Kokebaeva in 1978 (Kaztal district, West Kazakhstan region) [Kushaev, Kokebaeva 1978; Mussayeva 2022: 32].

The Mamai burial ground is located in the flood zone on the left bank of the Maly Uzen River, 7 km south of the village of Kokterek and 5 km from the main structure of the hydroelectric complex, 12 km north of the Zhuldyz state farm [Kushaev, Kokebaeva 1978]. During the study of burial nr. 2 of barrow nr. 2, the burial of a man was discovered, next to which a ceramic vessel with “pinches”, a bronze knife of the Pokrovsky type and a cross-shaped pommel of a mace were found [Kushaev 1993: 38]. The monument dates back to the Pokrovsky stage of the Srubnaya culture.

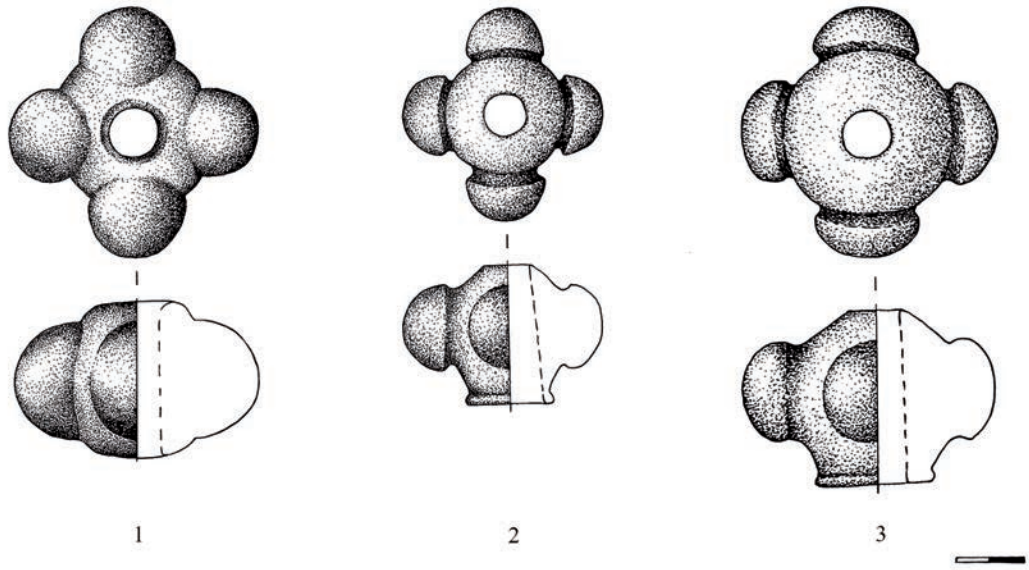

Fig. 1. Cross-shaped pommels: 1 – Mamai burial ground, kurgan 2, burial 2, after – Kushaev 1993: 132, fig. 9;
2 – Tokanai 1 burial ground, burial 15, after – Logvin 2005: 192, fig. 1;
3 – Bestamak burial ground, pit 5, after – Kalieva, Logvin 2008: 47, fig. 15

1-сур. Айқыш тәрізді сүйір ұш: 1 – Мамай қорымы, 2 оба, 2 жерлеу орны ([Кушаев 1993: 132, 9-сур] бойынша);
2 – Тоқанай 1 қорымы, 15 жерлеу орны ([Логвин 2005: 192, 1-сур.] бойынша);
3 – Бестамақ қорымы, 5 шұңқыр ([Калиева, Логвин 2008: 47, 15-сур.] бойынша)

Рис. 1. Крестовидные навершия: 1 – мог. Мамай, к. 2, п. 2 (по: [Кушаев 1993: 132, рис. 9]);
2 – мог. Токанай 1, п. 15 (по: [Логвин 2005: 192, рис. 1]); 3 – мог. Бестамак, яма 5 (по: [Калиева, Логвин 2008: 47, рис. 15])

The mace pommel has four diametrically spaced protruding hemispheres. It is made of rounded white marble. The surface is meticulously polished. In the central part of the top, there is a round through hole with a diameter of 1.0 cm at the base and up to 1.5 cm at the top of the product. The height of the object is 4.5 cm. The diameter of the central part is 4.5 cm, and with protrusions of the hemispheres 7.5 cm. The L/B index is 1.0 cm, and taking into account the protrusions is 0.6 cm. The upper and lower parts of the mace are flat (Fig. 1, *1*).

The second pommel originates from the Tokanai-1 burial ground, studied by an archaeological expedition led by V. Logvin in 1982 (Jangeldy district, Turgay region – modern Kostanay region) [Logvin 2005]. The monument is located on the right bank of the Tokanai River, the northern channel of the Turgai River. During the study of burial nr. 15, a collection of finds was discovered, numbering 536 items [Logvin et al. 1982: 14]. No burial was found. The monument dates back to the Sintashta-Petrovka period.

Among the bronze objects, there is the pommel of a mace with four diametrically arranged protruding hemispheres (Fig. 1, *2*). In the central part of the top, there is a round through hole with a diameter of 3.3 cm, at the base, up to 3.1 cm, at the end of the hole. The height of the object is 4.3 cm, the diameter of the central part is 4.3 cm, and with protrusions the hemispheres are 6 and 6.5 cm (one of the hemispheres is 0.5 cm "apart" from the central part of the product). The L/B index is 1 cm, and considering the protrusions, it is 0.66-0.72 cm. The upper part of the mace is rounded. There is a small side at the base.

The complex configuration of the pommel and the absence of traces of rivets and adhesions may indicate that it could probably have been cast in a closed mold. It is unknown whether this burial was ritual or could have been intended as a commemoration of an individual holding significant importance within the community that left this burial site. However, it can be argued that it represented a "male" burial, since the ceramic vessel – bronze knife – mace complex was more often referred to specifically male burials.

Another cross-shaped pommel originates from the burial ground near the settlement of Bestamak (Auliekol district, Kostanay region), which was studied under the leadership of V. Logvin and S. Kalieva in 1991 [Kalieva et al. 1992]. The monument is located in the northern part of the Turgai hollow, on the right bank of the Buruktal River, an eastern tributary of the Ubagan River, at its sources. During field research, a paired burial of an 18–22-year-old man and a 10–12-year-old girl was found in pit nr. 5, accompanied by a rich inventory and the burial of several animals [Kalieva, Logvin 2008: 50]. The monument dates back to the Sintashta-Petrovka period.

The pommel of the mace was located next to the radius of the left arm of the male skeleton (Fig. 1, *3*). In addition to other equipment, the man was also accompanied by ceramic pots and a bronze knife [Logvin, Kalieva 1991: 27].

The product we are interested in is made of jade, has four diametrically arranged protruding hemispheres. The shape is rounded; the surface is carefully sanded. In the central part of the top, there is a round through hole with a diameter of 2 cm at the base, up to 1.8 cm at the end of the hole. The height of the object is 6 cm, the diameter of the central part is 6 cm, and with protrusions of the hemispheres is 8 cm. The L/B index is 1 cm, and considering the protrusions it is 0.75 cm. The upper and lower parts of the mace are flat; the hole is slightly expanding. There is a small rim at the base, 0.2 cm wide [Kalieva, Logvin 2008: 5].

The cross-shaped pommels of the mace are known in many monuments of the Bronze Age across Eurasia [Kirichenko, Najafov 2021: 7] and, depending on the affiliation of the identified artifacts in the environment of a certain archaeological culture or local territory, they have different names and are included in various author's classifications.

Thus, V. Klochko proposed to name this type of pommel "Borodino-Mariupol" after the names of monuments in which similar artifacts were found [Klochko 2001: 31; Shishlina 2020]. According to V. Kileynikov's typology, this specimen belongs to variant II-b – cross-shaped high-truncated rhombic finials with a rim at the base [Kileynikov 2004: 140]. E. Krupnov, based on the analysis of finds from North Ossetia, attributed such finds to the third type of round-ovoid maces with four hemispheric projections on the sides, located closer to the upper half of the horizontal section [Krupnov 1951: 44]. According to N. Malov's typology, cross–shaped finials belong to the first type of mace pommels of Srubnaya culture – cross-shaped pommels having four protruding bulges on the body [Malov 1991: 33].

As the analysis of the given names of the cross-shaped type of the pommel of the mace showed, there

is no unambiguous opinion among the authors about the name of the protrusions. They are called cones, projections, hemispheres, bulges, mushroom-shaped outgrowths [Kileynikov 2004: 140; Krupnov 1951: 44; Malov 1991: 33; Passing 2013: 159; Klochko 2001: 31]. Analogies to the cross-shaped mace pommels can be found on monuments from the Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age across a larger territory of Eurasia [Kileynikov 2004; Kirichenko 2022; Kirichenko, Najafov 2021; Korolev et al. 2018; Krupnov 1951; Magometov 2018; Malov 1991; Melnikov 1999; Passing 2013; Nelin 1995; Monuments 1993: 147; Pyankov, Khachaturova 2002: 5; Klochko 2001].

In his study of burial sites in the Volga region, N. Malov noted that they occupy the second position in the hierarchical classification after the "royal" burials, which include a complex of arrowheads and other equipment [Malov 1991: 38]. V. Kileynikov, agreeing with E. Melnikov, attributed the pommels of the mace to military attributes [Kileynikov 2003: 144; Melnikov 1993]. V. Tsimidanov, in turn, notes that scepters and maces can indicate the military path of politogenesis among tribes of Srubnaya culture [Tsimidanov 2004: 75].

The multifunctional purpose of such artifacts is a generally recognized phenomenon, however, for specimens from the Mamai, Tokanai and Bestamak burial grounds, it is rather limited by a socially marking factor. The absence of other finds related to military affairs also indicates in favor of this assumption. They probably mark the burial of a man with a high social status – the leader of the tribe. Confirmation of this could be the fact that individuals possessing symbols of authority in the form of cross-shaped mace pommels could embody the god Indra, the Thunderer [Kileynikov 2004: 142; Malov 1991: 30-31; Gorelik 1993: 58, Tsimidanov 2004: 73]. A number of authors noted that the stone mace with four protrusions was a weapon in the hands of Bhimasena, the son and partial incarnation of the wind god Voyu [Vasilkov; Yevtushenko 2003; Kuzmina 1994: 191].

Thus, the considered cross-shaped mace pommels may indicate the complex social structure of the ancient population in the Bronze Age and the wide territorial distribution of such archaeological artifacts.

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Мүдделер қақтығысы туралы ақпаратты ашу. Автор мүдделер қақтығысының жоқтығын мәлімдейді. /
Раскрытие информации о конфликте интересов. Автор заявляет об отсутствии конфликта интересов. /
Disclosure of conflict of interest information. The author claims no conflict of interest.
Мақала туралы ақпарат / Информация о статье / Information about the article.
Редакцияға түсті / Поступила в редакцию / Entered the editorial office: 24.02.2023.
Жариялауға қабылданды / Принята к публикации / Accepted for publication: 27.03.2023.