
ARMENOLOGICAL HERITAGE

HARUTYUN MARTIROSYAN

Harutyun Martirosyan (1921-1977) was one of the outstanding Armenian archaeologists whose impact on the study of the material culture of ancient Armenia is great. He is the author of a number of monographs and articles published in 1950s-1970s ("Excavations in Golovino", Yerevan, 1954 [in Russian]; "The city of Teishebaini", Yerevan, 1961 [in Russian]; "Armenia during the Late Bronze and Iron ages", Yerevan, 1964 [in Russian]; "Petroglyphs of the Geghama mountains", Yerevan, 1971, 1981 [in Arm.]; "Prehistoric hieroglyphs of Armenia and their Urartian-Armenian duplicates", Yerevan, 1973 [in Arm.]; "Argishtihinili", Yerevan, 1974 [in Russian] etc.), which had laid solid fundament for further studies devoted to the archaeology of ancient Armenia (III-I mill. BC).

In the current issue of our journal the editorial board presents two chapters from the monograph "The city of Teishebaini", where are discussed archaeological discoveries from this large political-military and economic center located in the southern part of modern Yerevan during 1947-1958 seasons (pages 91-127).

HARUTYUN MARTIROSYAN THE CITADEL OF THE CITY OF TEISHEBAINI AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH LOCAL TRIBES

According to the fragment of an Urartian inscription discovered on the south-eastern slope of Karmir blur, not far from the place where the Karmir blur idol was found (1947), the building activities of Urartians in this region had begun during the reign of Rusa, son of Argishti who had reigned in the second quarter and mid-VII century BC.¹ Beginning from 1939, has been excavated a colossal building on the rocky, slightly elevated promontory of the River Hrazdan. It has П-shaped form and stepped distribution of different buildings which is caused by the rugged relief of the mound.² According to B.B.Piotrovskij, this building was erected through two constructional periods,³ and later to its outline were added some other edifices and a yard which was adjoined from the west and fenced from the town by a strong fortress wall furnished with small buttresses, towers and projections,⁴ two gates located on the southern and north-western parts. All constructions of this extensive building had high and wide walls laid of raw bricks and standing on a massive fundament which was laid with rudely placed huge basalt blocks. This complex of buildings occupies 4 hectares.

¹ B.B.Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. I, 1950, p.15.

² K.L.Oganesyan, Karmir blur. IV. Architecture of Teishebaini, 1955, p. 36.

³ B.B.Piotrovskij, Loc.cit., p. 45.

⁴ K.L.Oganesyan, Loc.cit., p.37.

During the works the Karmir blur archaeological expedition opened great number of rectangular and square planned apartments (90) which had 7 meters in height and are located on the northern, western and central parts of the mound. Most of these apartments had elongated form and are very comfortable for the system of overlapping through short beams. Especially big apartments are supplied with massive pylons for supporting the roofs. All these apartments were interconnected through 1 meter wide doorways and had upper side illuminators. The central part of the building was two-storied, and the rest – one-storied. Some of these constructions had scalloped cornices made of basalt blocks and also small basalt towers, which, possibly, decorated the most important part of the building. Since long B.B.Piotrovskij had observed that “By its architectural forms the building excavated in Karmir blur appear to be very close to the ancient eastern monuments, particularly to Assyrian architecture, and differs from the latter by the absence of inner yards”.⁵

In the course of excavations it became completely clear the purpose of this big building. On the ring of a bronze latch discovered during excavations of 1946 was found a short cuneiform inscription of the next content: “Of Rusa, son of Argishti, the fortress (literally “house of weapon”) of the city of Teishebaini”.⁶

Thus, was proved not only the time of the construction of this building but also became clear that it functioned as a fortress-palace of the city named after Teisheba, one of the chief gods of the Urartian pantheon.

The citadel of the city of Teishebaini undoubtedly was the residence of a high-ranked Urartian official and a major military-administrative and economic center in the Ararat plain. Here were undertaken extensive building and irrigational works, were performed different religious ceremonies, equipped armed forces and here was collected the tribute from northern subject regions.

In accordance with the main functions of Urartian administration the citadel of the city of Teishebaini had different parts. On the second floor of the building, apart from dwelling rooms intended for highly esteemed persons, were also magnificent halls of the temple with highly artistic items made by Urartian craftsmen who inscribe on them dedicatory inscriptions to Haldi on behalf of the Urartian kings.

Since all these constructions were on the second floor, unfortunately they are not preserved, but the items found in different parts of the citadel speak in favor of their existence and magnificence.

Exactly to the temple belong many of the decorative bronze helmets which bear relief pictures of the god Teisheba's sign, war chariots, sacred trees and winged genies surrounded by the figures of dragons with lion heads, or bronze shields with minted pictures of lions and bulls. To the temple could be assigned great number of different items, bronze and silver vessels, and also a huge copper boiler which has capacity of

⁵ B.B. Piotrovskij, *Loc. cit.*, p.45.

⁶ *Loc. cit.*, p. 20.

approximately 600 liters found during excavations of the north-western wing of the citadel, in the apartment having a big pylon.

Similar big boilers stand at the main entrance to the Musasir temple which is depicted on the relief from Sargon's palace.

It goes without saying that the city of Teishebaini with the population of several thousands of people, quite large for that period, could not exist without solid religious personnel and corresponding constructions.

In similar manner could be distinguished numerous complexes of major items originating from the palace area of the citadel but found in different storerooms and storage facilities, along with ordinary utensils. While many of bronze quivers, shields, armor plates bear dedicatory inscriptions of different Urartian kings addressed to the god Haldi, a number of other inscriptions point that items with inscriptions were the property of the fortress, palace or another Urartian king. To such items belong, for example, bronze conical combat shield bosses with short cuneiform inscription "fortress of Argishti (the king)", "fortress of Sarduri (the king)"⁷ etc. In 1949, in one of the storerooms were found 97 bronze cups made of high quality bronze which maintained golden gloss and jingle. All these items bear cuneiform inscriptions with the names of kings of the next content: 1) "the fortress of Menua (the king)(lit. "armory")", i.e. "a cup belonging to the fortress of the king Menua", 2) "the fortress of Argishti (the king)"; similar inscriptions were minted on behalf of the kings Sarduri and Rusa.⁸

Doubtless, from the palace area of the fortress originated numerous other bronze items which bear corresponding cuneiform inscriptions, and also high quality golden and silver decorations, bronze cups, bronze and wooden parts of furniture, items of armament and armor. But the most valuable ones among all findings are various seals from the storehouse apartments and fragmented or entire clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions of economic-juridical or religious content.

In all probability, the keepers of the palace storehouses possess with as much seals as the citadel of Teishebaini has storerooms (about 120-150). In any case, the number of seals found before 1957 reaches 50. Seals made of soft steatite, clay, more solid stones and even wood has different forms, among which are distinguished weight-shaped, block-shaped, conical and columnar Urartian seals, cylindrical and columnar seals of Assyrian type, and also zoomorphic seals, on the lower part of which are depictions of animals with symbols, symbol of the god in the form of a winged disc, trees of life and winged gods, gods sitting on the throne, heroes fighting dragons etc. Let us mention, not touching upon the contents of these motives, that many of them are simply Assyrian and stress the relations of Urartu with Assyria, the mighty empire of the Ancient East. Some other seals bear, apparently, mixed Urartian-Assyrian depictions.

In this regard it is curious the bulla discovered in one of the storerooms intended for keeping grain (apartment N.5) which seals the door of the storeroom. On it were

⁷ B.B.Piotrovskij, *Karmir blur*. II, p. 63-64.

⁸ *Loc. cit.*, p.54f.

impressions of an Urartian columnar seal and an impression of a cylindrical seal of the Assyrian type.⁹

N.V.Harutyunyan had succeeded to find out that on the bulla mentioned above was preserved the name of Rusa, son of Rusa who, probably, was the last king of Urartu (610-585). According to him, it is quite possible that Rusa IV who is not mentioned in other cuneiform texts was residing in Teishebaini, in the last stronghold of the kingdom of Van and was the contemporary of the abolition of Urartian independence.¹⁰

From the centers like Teishebaini Urartian items spread through all Transcaucasia from where they reached the Caucasus, Black Sea region and South Russia.

In the non-Urartian burial grounds of Armenia of the first quarter of the I mill. BC are already found 9 Urartian seals.

In the Caucasus were widely distributed also items which reach Teishebaini through exchange from different regions of the Ancient East, North Caucasus, southern Russian steppes etc. In this regard are rather indicative permeation-scarabs which bear Egyptian hieroglyphic signs on the lower flat side. Such scarabs were produced not only in Egypt but also in Ashshur and many cities of Asia Minor and are spread over entire Caucasus through Urartian centers of Armenia. Scarabs of Egyptian type were found in Van, Ani, and Armavir, the ancient capital cities of Armenia and also in the village of Pemzashen of Artik region, village Gebi near the main Caucasian mountain range and the upper stream of the River Chegem, on the other side of the Caucasian range.¹¹

In all probability, through Urartian centers to the Caucasus reached also items of Eastern Mediterranean origins. As to the Urartian-manufactured items, they are found over and over again in the burial grounds of Transcaucasia. Let me remind that in the studied Khrtanots burial ground were found curved iron blades, a cup-*piala* and fragments of an Urartian belt with the depiction of a griffin,¹² and in the another, Makarashen burial ground was found horse headdress of the type known from Karmir blur which bears the inscription of Menua.¹³ In numerous burial grounds of Urartian period we meet items of Assyrian provenance or type which had reached the local population through Urartu (laminar bit shanks from Echmiatsin and Astkhadzor, daggers with bronze hilts from Lalvar and Astkhadzor, handle of a dagger and a mace from the collection of Leninakan etc.). Of apparent Urartian origins we have also bronze belts found in the burials of the village Ani-Pemza, Shirak and in the village Zakim of the Kars region, which have very close ties with the finds of Karmir blur and materials of the

⁹ B.B.Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. III, p.58-59. Detailed list and description of the seals see in Karmir blur. I, p.72-75, Karmir blur. III, p.57-59.

¹⁰ N.V. Harutyunyan, Towards the interpretation of the inscription on the clay bulla from Karmir blur, Journal of History and Philology, 1960, N.1, p.65.

¹¹ B.B.Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. I, p.84.

¹² H.A.Martirosyan, Excavations in Golovino, 1954, p.54.

¹³ H.A.Martirosyan, Excavations in Kirovakan and some monuments of the early Urartian period, Izvestiya AN ArmSSR, N.3, 1956.

Scythian complexes from Kelermes and Melgunov kurgan.¹⁴ Not to mention the fact that in the same burials of Khrtanots, Lalvar, Ani-Pemza, Shirak and also in the burials studied in Ani, the capital city of medieval Armenia, villages Akner, Ghachaghan of Armenia and the burials of the Lake Sevan basin had been found large number of items of Scythian origins. The tribes of Transcaucasia exercise relations with the Scythians directly or indirectly through Urartian centers. Archaeological complexes of the Scythian type found in Karmir blur and those originating from the Pridneprovie region and North Caucasus vividly speak in favor of intense connections between Scythians and Urartian kings.

In the cuneiform documents of Assyrian palaces was preserved information about Urartian-Scythian political contacts during the second period of Urartian kingdom. Probably, among the clay cuneiform tablets found in Karmir blur, remains of the cuneiform archive of the palace could be documents which might elucidate economic relations with the Scythians and other neighboring tribes and peoples. But the tablets or their fragments found in 1957, 10 pieces in total, are mainly economic documents of the Teishebaini palace archive.

Some fragments of tablets had preserved lists of people who, according to B.B. Piotrovskij, represented eyewitnesses of the act of purchasing and mortgage: "Among the names encounter one Ishtagi, apparently a resident of Teishebaini". Another fragment which has preserved numerals and the logogram "man", according to B.B. Piotrovskij's figure of speech, was an "order to the work".¹⁵ Is of great interest a large fragment of the tablet found in 1949 with 12 lines of text which contains an order given by some official,¹⁶ an accounting document found in 1953,¹⁷ a tablet containing the order of the king Sarduri III (1956), and discovered in 1957 in one of the storerooms a complete tablet with text inscribed on both sides, 39 lines in total. It contains an order of the governor addressed to his subordinates.¹⁸

All these are economic documents of the palace archive and point on the existence of an extensive and well-established economy based on agriculture, stock-breeding and crafts. On the existence of that large economy vividly indicate excavations of storehouse apartments and storerooms of the lower floor of the citadel. It is enough to remember that along the axis of the western façade of the citadel, from both sides of a narrow long corridor were located granaries - quadrangular (4x4) high rooms without doors and windows, with low windows on the floor for shoveling the grain. Here and in other storehouses of the citadel was kept enormous quantity of grain (*Triticum vulgare vill*), barley (*Hordeum vulgare L.*), rye (*Secale L.*), millet (*Setari italica*), sesame

¹⁴ B.B. Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. I, p.86-97.

¹⁵ About these tablets see I.M. Diakonoff, Fragments of cuneiform tablets from the excavations of Karmir blur in 1946, Epigrafika Vostoka II, 1948, p.86 and B.B. Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. I, p.75-77.

¹⁶ B.B. Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. I, p.76.

¹⁷ N.V. Harutyunyan, Newly found cuneiform tablet from the excavations of Karmir blur, Vestnik drevnej istorii, N.3, 1957, New cuneiform tablet, Journal of History and Philology, 1958, N.3.

¹⁸ On the contents of this document I was kindly informed by N.V. Harutyunyan.

(*Sesamum orientale*) and other cereals. Also were found remains of lentil vine crops (*Evrum Lens*), chickpea (*Cicer arietinuva*), watermelon etc. The study of these apartments documents pretty well also horticultures: were found apple, pits of cherry plum, grenade, peach, and vines related to the varieties of *kharji*, *voskehat* or of *garan-dmak*. Ancient vineyards were located in close proximity to Karmir blur, on the right bank of the River Hrazdan where now are located wonderful gardens of Dalma. The cuneiform inscription of Rusa son of Argishti, founder of Teishebaini tells about the improvement of the Quarlini valley, on the right bank of the River Hrazdan, cultivation of vineyards and fruit trees.

A vivid testimony of the well-developed viticulture are 9 huge wine cellars with big *karases* buried into the earthen floor in which could be kept about half million liters of wine in total.

It is especially noteworthy that the researchers of all these cultures unanimously state that the remains of cultures found in Karmir blur are related to local varieties. Does not it indicate that the mentioned gardens and fields were cultivated by the local population of the region before the arrival of Urartians and that many of these fields were located immediately in the neighborhood of Teishebaini?

The agricultural population of the city which continued its creative life on the inhabited long ago native land performed different agricultural works after the construction of the Urartian city as well.

In the storehouses of the citadel along with the supplies of cereals was found a great amount of agricultural iron tools: pitch forks, shovels, sickles, hoe tips which until the siege of Teishebaini certainly were in the ordinary houses of the city and were removed to storehouses of the fortress only not long before the siege, in order to save the most necessary items. That these tools belong to the agricultural population and were kept in private houses of the city speak the fact that in the excavated houses of the city in 1949 were found identical tools (sickles and hoes). Moreover, despite the existence of a great number of iron tools, items of armory and tools, in the citadel of Teishebaini were not found any traces of metalworking or forge shops. I suppose that such facilities were located on the territory of Teishebaini and could be found by time. In any case, undoubtedly, items of bronze delivered to Teishebaini and acquired as tribute or through looting, were melted and re-melted into ingots which were found in the apartments of the citadel, sometimes near huge pieces of iron.

But if the existence of metalworking crafts in the pre-Urartian settlement of Karmir blur was proved by the finding of a mentioned mould for the rather big axe-poleax and small disc-shaped mould for slotted jewelry, there is no doubt that in Teishebaini should be opened significant remains of metalworking production corresponding to the highly developed level of ironworking in Urartu. The production of such workshops arrived not only to Urartian cities and fortresses but was widespread in the Caucasus and in south Russian steppes. Urartian items made of iron were found almost in all burial grounds of Armenia which are dated with the VII-VI centuries BC and belong to the culture of local

tribes (Lalvar, Khrtanots, Golovino, Akner, Astkhadzor and many others). Apparent Urartian origin has curved blades and some other items from the burials of Mingechaur and the village Dolanlar (Mountainous Karabagh), from Central and North-Eastern Caucasus. In the rich kurgans of Northern Caucasus (Kelermes) and Pridneprovie (kurgans in the region of Kiev and others) were found items of Urartian-Assyrian origins or mixed Urartian-Assyrian and Scythian type. Wide intertribal exchange provided the influence of Urartian metallurgy in the Caucasus and promoted the intensification of the development of iron industry among local tribes. In this regard it is difficult to overestimate the significance of such cities as Teishebaini.

Along with metalworking crafts in the city of Teishebaini were highly developed woodworking, weaving, tanning and other crafts, and ceramic production as well which produced "mass" good-quality and fine items. Pottery kilns were located, in all probability, in the south-eastern part of the city where stand out several small artificial mounds. If among the metallic items of the citadel all the time we meet imported items produced in other Urartian cities, all Urartian ceramics almost exceptionally was made in Teishebaini. Great number of superb vessels of Karmir blur speaks in favor of large-scaled ceramic production of the city of Teishebaini. Suffice to say that in the apartments of the citadel and in the houses of the city was found over 500 large *karases* with the capacity from 250 to 1250 liters which have flat-edged high crowns and flagellate rollers on their shoulders. In one small room of the citadel (N.29) placed next to the storeroom N.25 were found 1036 light-engobed jugs, the handles of which, according to V.S.Sorokin, in the section have the form of a bean. Alongside similar vessels in the room N.39 were found cigar-shaped ones of different colors, cups without handles, shallow light-engobed bowls and beakers, and different small pots with spherical bodies and lamps. The listed samples of various Urartian vessels are extant in all houses of Teishebaini. In contrast to metallic items, Urartian ceramics was not popular in the local population of the Caucasus. In the contrary, during excavations of the houses of the city, temporary dwellings in the yard of the citadel, and apartments of the citadel was found a large group of ceramics consisting of samples of local items made by the natives of the city and has numerous analogues in the VII-VI centuries BC burials of Armenia. This group could be divided into two types. Rude vessels often covered with smoke, black pots having wide neck, decorated with wave lines and seed ornament and fur-tree grooved design, and black-flattened (also of other colors) jugs, pots, ladles and other vessels, among which the most characteristic are the next ones:

1) One-handled ladles with one or two horizontal grooves on the rim.

2) Pots with elongated proportions with rather high cylindrical neck and two handles on the widest part of the body. These handles have a stepped deepening decorated by minted triangles put on each other. Similar vessels are found in the burials of Tazakend, Khndzorut, Gegharot dated to the Late Bronze age and some burials of Leninakan, Golovino, Gegharot (excavations of H.A. Martirosyan), Nor-Bayazet (excavations of Ye.A. Lalayan), dated to the VIII-VI centuries BC.

3) One-handed jugs of black, dark grey or red colors decorated with relief ornamentation and pattern made through polishing. Ornamentation covers only the upper part of the vessel, it consists of semicircular arcs in relief, which in the center has small cones, and the rest space is filled with grid or oblique polished lines. The handles of these jugs have triangular decoration characteristic for the mentioned above group of two-handed light-earthenware, ochre-red and black pots. But besides the minted triangles on these handles we encounter also rectangular or circular grooves and cones, big triangular or trapezoidal grooves placed on some distance from each other. Some handles differ by zoomorphic arrangement and quite appropriately correspond to the handles of metallic vessels of the VIII-VI centuries BC explored on the enormous space from Dnieper to the foot of Mount Ararat and belong to the category of purely Caucasian products.¹⁹ Such vessels originate from the excavations of Morgan in Lalvar, Sevan district (Ye.A. Lalayan), burials of Khrtanots, Golovino (excavations of A. Khacatryan, H. Martirosyan, A. Mnatsakanyan), and other places. **Vessels described above, which were produced by Uartian potters rarely occur in Karmir blur and in all cases they point on the unskillful imitation of Uartian potter of the local sample.**

Thus, excavations of the citadel of Karmir blur gives abundant materials which documents not only various aspects of economy, but also reflects close cultural-economic contacts between Uartians and agricultural-cattle breeding population of the regions conquered in the VIII century BC. We are well informed about the facts of destruction, capture of prisoners, looting and cruel exploitation of the population of conquered regions by Uartians, but from other side, we are well aware that in order to develop these fertile lands Uartians established here their administrative-political centers, improved and extended irrigation for the sake of fertility, promoted the extensive mastering of iron industry and development of broad intertribal exchange and trade, thus securing intense relations between the Caucasus and countries of ancient civilization.

Written documents found in Assyrian palaces and items excavated in Uartian fortresses give us various materials for characterization of the exchange and trade which sometimes takes the form of organized looting, but already is based on the development of main spheres of economy which had reached unprecedented flourishing due to the construction of massive irrigational system along the water arteries by means of the organization of large-scaled "public works" which demanded imperative interference of the central Uartian authorities.

After the looting of the Musasir temple, the richest religious center of Urartu, Sargon II's army took to Assyria precious items made of ivory which once was brought to the temple from distant countries, golden, silver, bronze goods produced in Urartu,

¹⁹ Ye.I.Krupnov, Zhemtalinskij treasure, Moscow, 1954.

Assyria, Khabkhi, Tabal.²⁰ Apparently, the scribes of Sargon were not aware of the origins of many items which they thoroughly mention during the looting of the temple.

During excavations of economic apartments of the Teishebaini fortress were found products brought from Egypt (scarabs of the Naucratis type), Assyria (beads, seals, some golden items etc.), Asia Minor and Manna (carved box from stone), from the regions of Eastern Mediterranean basin (golden earrings) and other places. The study of these materials obviously show relationship with the Hittite culture and the cities of Syria (items from ivory of Arslantash in Northern Syria which does not differ from griffins on Urartian belts of the Nor Aresh burial ground)²¹ and Phoenicia. Among the materials of Karmir blur now is distinguished a group of carnelian beads of Indian origins.

Versatile cultural interrelations of Urartian state had colossal significance for the whole Caucasus and regions separated from the Caucasus by hundreds and thousands kilometers. We think that, for example, the Assyrian type phials²² in Priuraliye should have been exported from Urartu, taking into account that they were widely produced in Urartu. Apparently, through Armenia hereinafter were imported into the mentioned regions also Achemenid phials which were influenced by ancient Near-Eastern and particularly Urartian toreutics.

It must be assumed that the conquest and mastering of the fertile Araxes plain and other regions of Eastern Armenia to a large extent promoted the development of Urartian state trade. Not without reason the tribute collected in Teishebaini was delivered to the center of the kingdom of Van in the form of half-finished materials.

The Ararat plain which is surrounded from all sides by high mountains and is watered by the River Araxes is almost permanent green oasis where used to live numerous tribes which practice agriculture and cattle-breeding. Already in the III millennium BC these tribes practice integrated economic-social lifestyle, being on the same level of cultural development.

Many of other regions of the Armenian Highland conquered by Urartians beginning from the late IX century BC were related to the metallurgical centers (confederacies of Uduri-Etiuni, Diauhi etc.) and possess with essential economic and military power.

From the other side, the integration of the mentioned and some other confederacies into the economic sphere of the ancient Near-Eastern life promoted the unprecedented rise of productive forces and cultural flourishing of the state which faces great economic and military shifts.

That great cultural-economic development prepared ground for early Armenian culture with corresponding influence on neighboring regions of Transcaucasia and whole Caucasus. In the culture of the early period of the ethnogenesis of Armenians everywhere is visible the spirit of Urartu, preservation of Urartian traditions in the spheres of building techniques (cf. Argishtikhinili-Armavir-Garni), architecture (cf.

²⁰ Assyrian-Babylonian sources about the history of Urartu, *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, N.2, 1951, Appendix. 4 (346ff.), p. 331f.

²¹ A.A. Iessen, *Early contacts of Priuraliye with Iran*, *Soviet Archaeology* XVI, 1952.

²² H.A. Martirosyan, A.O. Mnatsakanyan, *Urartian columbarium of Nor Aresh*.

Musasir-Garni-Sagalas), arts (cf. stelae with *khachkars*, items of Urartian toreutics etc.), metallurgy and crafts.

But the process of cultural transformation of primitive tribes inside the Urartian state took place slowly, like the conquest of Eastern Armenia.

To the conquest and mastering of these lands, their transition into organic part of the Urartian kingdom contributes the passive foreign policy of Urartians in the south against Assyria, comparatively low level of tribes who fought against Urartians in the north, and considerable technical capability of Urartian army. Urartian expansionist policy in the north took place in the condition of final decline of primitive community relations, under the pressure of property differentiation and the rise of private property. Despite that, extensive tribal unions which emerged in the process of the decline of primitive community system on the regions of later Armenian provinces of Tayk, Ararat, Gegharkuni and others fiercely resisted Urartians.

Violent resistance to Urartians by the tribes of Erikuahi, Etiuni, Uduri-Etiuni and others was the main cause which prevented Urartians from establishing their authority to the north of the line Erzerum-Kars-Leninakan-Lake Sevan.

Despite the violent resistance of the aborigines in Urartian cuneiform inscriptions which glorify and commemorate the conquests of Urartian kings and their deeds, sometimes we meet phrases written by Urartian scribes and carvers, according to which the places where building of fortresses, cities etc. were undertaken appear to be barren, “(in the past) nothing was built there”.

The information regarding the building of the city of Erebuni located at the distance of some kilometers from Teishebaini which is preserved in the Khorkhor annals, contains exactly the next statement: “The land was barren (in the past), nothing was built there” (UKN, 127, II). Really, the area of the fortress of Erebuni was one of the most heavily fortified places in the Ararat plain which defends the approaches from the Geghama mountains. Let us mention that not far from the city of Erebuni, on two mounds are preserved remains of the pre-Urartian fortified settlements. From Erebuni to the village of Garni is located a chain of high mounds under which are hidden the remains of big and small fortresses constructed long before the appearance of Urartians.

Similar proof we have also in the Zvartnots cuneiform inscription of Rusa II (UKN, 281) where is told about activities conducted for the accomplishment of the valley of the “country” of Quarlini.

B.B.Piotrovskij quite reasonably thinks that the valley of Quarlini was precisely the place where Urartians had built the city of Teishebaini. The information of the inscription fully correspond to the picture opened by archaeological excavations of the citadel and habitable quarters of the settlement. In the mentioned valley or land of the Quarlini “country ... was not cultivated (?), nothing existed there”.

Above we had already characterized in general terms pre-Urartian settlement in the place of Teishebaini, and there can be no doubt that the lands of the Quarlini valley were densely populated and that they were cultivated from ancient times.

HABITABLE QUARTERS OF THE CITY OF TEISHEBAINI

The ruins of the habitable quarters of the city of Teishebaini, one of the largest Urartian centers in the Ararat plain, are located on the left bank of the River Ildarunia, to the west and south of the colossal citadel. The area occupied by the ruins of the city is equal to 30-35 hectares and comprises a slightly expressed hilly section stretching from east to west. Excavation works which continued since 1948²³ are carried out in the middle section of the mentioned territory which differs by almost smooth relief. The territory of the city is limited by massive fortification walls, 3 meters in width, small buttresses, towers and ledges which surrounded the city almost from all directions, interrupting only in the sections where existed natural defensive barriers. The walls encircled not only the territory of the city but the whole citadel as well. The northern wall begins near the north-western gates of the citadel and stretches to the south-west. Another wall adjoins the south-eastern angle of the citadel, bends to the west and interrupts on the remains of the tower. According to V.S. Sorokin and K.L. Oganessian, fortifications were not finished since the western part of the city remained unprotected.

Inside the limits of city were found traces of the wall which had defensive function.

On the territory of the city were revealed three streets, six meters in width which proceed from the west to the east and from the north to the south. On the main straight street which proceeds from the west to the east are narrow alleys leading to the north and south. By the time should be opened also city squares, one of which, as it was suggested by the architect K.L. Oganessian, is expected on the empty territory in front of the citadel walls, the sizes of which as most massive architectural form apparently dominated on this main square.²⁴ The settlement consists of complete complexes of dwellings adjoining each other and located by separate quarters formed between the streets of opposite directions or from separated big and small houses, between which always are trails. In contrast to the citadel, these houses were built from rude basalt and *tufa* of local provenance.

The houses and buildings of non-habitable character built from pebble and clay mortar occur in the central quarters rarely, but more often in the outskirts. They are built on the soil, without base. The width of the walls equals to 0.7-1.00 meters, and the height - approximately 3.5 meters. All apartments of the city quarters had flat ceilings made of poles and reeds. In some cases they stand on one or several wooden poles and, judging by the preserved stone bases, were situated longitudinally. Apartments had upper and upper lateral illumination, their façades does not have towers, buttresses and profiled elements are very characteristic for the fortress. Even the doors did not lead to the street. For this reason quarters of the city constituted bare surfaces of walls and the streets took the form through the walls of entire quarters which came out on

²³ V.S. Sorokin, Excavations of the ancient settlement. Karmir blur. II, p.79, and also K.L. Oganessian, Karmir blur. IV, Architecture of Teishebaini, p. 12, there also a thorough description of fortification walls and other details.

²⁴ Karmir blur. IV. K.L. Oganessian, Architecture of Teishebaini, Yerevan, 1955, p. 15.

them. They remind us narrow and long corridors very typical for many ancient eastern cities. Such character of the architectural design of streets in the city of Teishebaini was fixed during the excavations of 1954²⁵ and our work before 1957.

Thus, the colossal building rising on the rocky bank of the River Hrazdan, with its towers, buttresses, architectural design and huge scales stands in sharp contrast to the city quarters where along the edges of the narrow unpaved streets were situated uniform houses with blind façade of walls and flat roofs.

In the course of excavations were clearly revealed the traces of tracking of the streets and separate buildings which hinted at the idea that the main part of the city was constructed according to a plan composed beforehand.

In short, unquestionably, the settlement so great for the time being with a citadel, massive fortified walls and straight streets with numerous buildings was a city of ancient eastern type.

Precisely in the period of Urartian governors in Armenia had begun city building practice connected with the rise of strong state power, one of the main functions of which was the establishment of irrigational network in the most important regions of the country. About the city building sufficient clear information was preserved in Urartian cuneiform inscriptions which associated newly founded cities with the names of Urartian kings and gods (Menuahinili, Argishtihinili, the small city of Rusa, Teishebaini, the city of the god Haldi etc.). The application of certain city building techniques along with the existence of city building traditions in more later period of Armenian Orontids (III century BC)²⁶ indicates on the positive experience of Urartians in the establishment of big and small cities.

Habitable constructions of Teishebaini are the most ancient buildings of the city type on the territory of the USSR and hence are of great interest.

From 1948 to 1950 were opened two city quarters located on northern and southern sides of the main street consisting of dwellings adjoined to each other, as though covered by a single roof.²⁷ Over time to the more ancient buildings were attached new ones, other houses were rebuilt and had undergone different changes and in this way were built house after house, quarter after quarter. All this indicates that the city of Teishebaini was settled by Urartian population not simultaneously but during some time span, in the process of extension of the main functions of this large economic and military-administrative center on the northern periphery of the Urartian state.

The dwellings of these two quarters consist of three interconnected apartments, one of which was the main one. In the main apartments of all dwellings were located *tonirs* made of clay, rectangular stone hearth and different utensils. Part of these apartments almost always was separated by low partition wall made of stone.

²⁵ Idem, p.32.

²⁶ G.Kh. Sarkisyan, City building in Armenia during Tigran II ..., Izvestiya Akademii nauk ArmSSR, N.2, 1955.

²⁷ V.S. Sorokin, Excavations of the ancient settlement. Karmir blur. II, and also K.L.Oganesyan, Loc.cit., p.18-36.

One of the distinctive features of these dwellings was the absence of apartments for the cattle and agricultural products. This indicates that the part of population living in this quarters actually does not have own household and live by means of state allowance.

But in studies devoted to excavations of these quarters appear suggestions that in the city are absent any significant traces of private household.²⁸

Detailed study of osteological materials and ceramic production (thick-walled vessels with small crown, ordinary dishes and pots, red-glazed one handled jugs with slotted small handles, which is abundantly represented in the apartments of the citadel, the occurrence of the items of weaponry and armor in the citadel's temporary dwellings), and some other observations forced V.S.Sorokin to suggest that the mentioned living complexes belong to Urartian soldiers who defend the citadel and enjoy "comparatively high status and liberty".²⁹

Judging by the items of weapon and armor found in the storerooms of the citadel, the garrison of Teishebaini was well-equipped with military techniques and, probably, presented a formidable power intended to defend the city with its countless goods and was able to carry out any military operation of local significance. In the armory of the city were found not only items of heavy (spears, swords, armor and shields) and light (arrows) infantry merged together and which play major role during the defense and in attack but also different items of horse headress belonging to cavalry and chariots of the garrison. After the discovery of various rich materials of Urartian armory and bronze belts of Nor Aresh with the depiction of the Urartian military detachment we have quite concrete idea not only about the division of the army and its organization but also that of the representatives of one or the other division. Riders, archers, equestrians and infantry carry different costumes. Riders wear long dresses, they were armed with spears and shields, archers carry, as a rule, wide belts, the dress of the riders freely falls down, and the infantry wear short tunics with fringes, and were armed with shield, spear or quiver and bow. All soldiers wear pointed helmets. Warhorses had light harnesses and horse blankets adorned with metallic parts. Their heads were adorned with metallic bell-shaped and fan decorations, and long tails were fastened by knots.³⁰

It is not difficult to imagine a solemn procession of military detachment with glittering arms and ammunition, between the walls stretched along the narrow streets of Teishebaini. Such detachments look much more terrifying compared to the conquered and tormented communities who were deprived of their military resources and suppressed by heavy state taxes.

²⁸ B.B. Piotrovskij, *Karmir blur*. I, p.18; G.A.Melikishvili, Some problems of the socio-economic history of Nairi-Urartu, *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, 1951/4, p.22, 40.

²⁹ V.S. Sorokin, Archaeological data for the characterization of the socio-economic system of Urartu, *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, 1952/2, p.128; *Ancient settlements near Karmir blur* (Dissertation abstract), Leningrad, 1955, p.11-12.

³⁰ H.A. Martirosyan, A.O.Mnatskanyan, Urartian columbarium of Nor Aresh, *Izvestiya Akademii nauk ArmSSR*, 1958 (in Arm.).

We must assume that the obligatory presence of garrisons in Urartian cities was determined not only by guard service but also different more complicated functions imposed on them. They were agents of Urartian military-administrative policy in the hostile environment and thus comprise very important layer of the population of Urartian city. But the mentioned circumstance could not give us reason to state that soldiers were the significant and main part of the city's population.³¹

According to the discovered by excavations part of the dwellings intended for soldiers was not too big. There was no need, especially during the reign of Rusa son of Argishti who had established quite close relations with Scythians who could threaten northern regions of the kingdom. Later, at the end of the VII - beginning of the VI century BC over the Urartian kingdom loomed a deadly danger coming from Media. And in that case there was need of reinforcement from southern garrisons.

The results of excavations of habitable complexes opened in the southern part of the studied section along both sides of the main street, and across intersecting street in 1955-1957 make us believe that the population of Teishebaini consists of different ethnic and social groups which defines unique face of Urartian cities, the latter being not only military bases but also great economic centers who embraced into its orbit of cultural-economic influence vast regions of the Caucasus.

During three years on the mentioned section, besides pre-Urartian houses belonging to native population of the city were studied the remains of four buildings which stand apart, of which completely were excavated two houses located on the crossroads of the main street. Let me turn to the description of these buildings.

In 1956 were revealed remains of a big house located on the southern part of the main street. Like the dwellings opened in 1948-1953, this house was built of rudely worked stone of local andesite-basalt formation. For the construction of doorway, thrust bearing of the door axle, support posts and bases for the pillars was used thoroughly worked *tufa* and occasionally more solid stone formations. The walls were built without connecting materials, but from inside and outside they were covered with clay. The floor of the main apartment paved with pebble and the step stone-chair made of stone also were covered with thick layer of plaster.

During the cleaning of cultural layers were not found any details which could characterize the means of illumination of apartments or indicating on the existence of window opening, although, judging by the planning of the building, all apartments could possess with side or upper illumination.

Unlike the dwellings studied until now the house under consideration presents a complex of habitable and economic apartments which includes a section of 400 m² and

³¹ V.S. Sorokin, Archaeological data for the characterization of the socio-economic system of Urartu, *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, 1952/2, p. 129.

was built according to the principles and peculiarities of Urartian palace architecture and building techniques.

The habitable part of the house consisting of the main and two secondary apartments, was situated in parallel to the axis of the main street. The main apartment (40m²) has rectangular form, a floor paved of basalt stone and stone pylon supporting the roof are very characteristic for the architecture of fortresses. From both sides of the column were situated low step stone-chair made of pebble and step stone-chair covered with clay plaster. The existence of these step-chairs is justified by the reconstruction of the apartment, when it was separated into two different parts along the line of the column. The first half of the apartment was empty, and in the second was situated a rectangular stone hearth with the fragments of big vessel made of light-colored clay, a basalt mortar with shallop-shaped grinding stone, and *tonir* of small diameter made of clay.

Near the entrance to the second apartment (about 20m²) was discovered a stone buried into the floor and having a special deepening for the vertical axis of wooden doors. During the cleaning of the layer the doorway appeared to be closed and on that place stood a crushed Urartian *karas* with characteristic flagellate ornamentation on the shoulders and triangular grooves on the body. The earthenware *tonir* with shallop-shaped grinding stone was buried into the corner of the doorway, exactly near the door support, against which on some distance lies very thin, flat rectangular basalt plate with the remains of a charcoal and ash on it. Near the eastern wall of the apartment stood a vessel which has light-brown polishing, and on the floor were scattered fragments of different vessels.

Apparently, the accommodation of this corner to economic needs was connected with the reconstruction of the dwelling which later was separated from the main apartment. The third apartment was empty.

Thus, the habitable part of the described building initially consists of one main and two secondary apartments. By its appearance and main details it corresponds to dwellings excavated earlier. As a result of following restructuring by means of fencing of the main apartment from secondary ones, the mentioned three-roomed habitable complex was separated into two dwellings which consist of two apartments - main and secondary.

Leaving aside the causes which triggered different disruptions of the city dwellings, let us mention that the details listed above allow us to speak about the common shape and originality of the discovered Urartian dwellings in the city of Teishebaini.

But the study of the other parts of the building reveals a number of important peculiarities which distinguishes this complex from that excavated earlier. This is not so much about the difference in the planning of different dwellings or the place of the main building in regard to the general planning of the house, but rather about the existence in this complex economic apartments and a yard built according to the type of the citadel

storehouses. These are long and narrow apartments of rectangular planning with placed *karases* and vessels for different purposes.

One of the storerooms (N.4 - 1956) located along the southern façade of the building (30m²), once was furnished by two *karases* of Urartian type and a great number of small vessels which were smashed under the weight of the collapsed walls and roof. Near the eastern wall stood a high step-chair and next to it was buried into the adobe floor a black polished *karas* of local type ornamented with pinch and two relief belts. The vessels with such ornamentation were discovered still in March 1936 by the locals of the village Charbach, in the ash layer on the bottom of Karmir blur. They repeat the samples known from the stone boxes of the Early Iron age, and are not related to Urartian ceramics.

In the doorway of the northern wall was found a big pot containing small vessels which belong to the samples of local ceramic production.

The second storeroom (N. 5 – 1956) adjoins the habitable part from the west.

By the construction and details it is almost identical with the storeroom apartments of the citadel-palace. A cigar-shaped light earthenware vessel (fragmented) discovered with two smashed vessels in the eastern part of the apartment, fairly correspond to the “bear” vessels found in the citadel which took their characteristic name after finding in some of them the remains of the filter and barley malt. A single-handled red polished jug has its numerous analogues in the inventory of the citadel. More interesting are preserved fragments of a big jug produced by Urartian potter by the standards of local black polished *karases*, and encircled with relief strips. On the floor of the apartment is spread great number of fragments of black polished and light earthenware bowls and basalt cups, probably, intended for the decorative furnishing of the palace apartments. Big grain pits (1, 3x1.8) situated in the central part of the apartment stresses its economic significance. Apparently, in them was kept millet the seeds of which were discovered not far from the pit. The pits themselves were empty. While taking seeds from the first pit somebody had lost a bronze bracelet.

Besides ceramic and other products in the mentioned apartments are found stone anchor, a sharp tool made of bone, an overlay made of worked bone, and also some other items.

The described storehouse apartments were interconnected through extensive apartment (N.6 - 1956) which had doors leading to both storerooms and which was absolutely empty. To this apartment adjoins a big rectangular construction intended for the cattle. This apartment is isolated from other parts of the building, is situated behind the house and has wide (1.8) doorway in the northern part, which does not appear in ordinary habitable houses. Here were absent any remains of household and material products, except two occasional pieces of thin basalt cup. The apartment occupies about 60m² of space where it was possible to keep 15-18 cows.

Thus, the extensive building excavated in 1956 consists of habitable and economic apartments. The existence of the latter is an important peculiarity of the studied object and points on the certain social stratum of Teishebaini's population. The

study of building techniques, architectural peculiarities and details of inner furnishing proves the Urartian affiliation of the described type of the dwellings.

In favor of their Urartian affiliation speak also complete similarity of materials with the materials from the citadel.

Taking into account all what was said above we are inclined to regard the discovered building as “house of a noble Urartian”. Along with materials which are completely similar to the Urartian items of the citadel, in the “house of a noble Urartian” were found also items of undoubtedly local production which is a result of contacts between the neighboring quarters of Teishebaini, settled partly by local population. In this regard, first of all it must be mentioned fragments of brown, dark earthenware and black polished butter churns which were items of the local ceramic production and sometimes appear in the Transcaucasian burials of Urartian period.³² They had a horizontally placed handle and through hole in the upper part of the vessel.

Leaving aside numerous vessels of this type which are used until now in some regions of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, let us mention only that the fragments of brown butter churns made of rude dough and supplied with sharpened angles on the inner surface were discovered during the excavations of Teishebaini still in 1949. Another butter churn discovered in the “apartment of a doorman”, on the southern gate of the citadel, repeats the butter churns from the settlement by its general form and the presence of sharpened angles.³³

Characteristic group of local ceramics represent also the fragments of two-handled light-earthenware, ochre-red, black colored jugs collected in great number from the apartments of the citadel as well. The remaining fragments discovered during the cleaning of the storerooms of the “house of a noble Urartian” belong to different cups, pots, jugs – black, simple and polished, brown, and gray. These ceramic remains fully correspond to ceramics from the Late Bronze age and Early Iron age burials, and also to the groups of earthenware vessels of local production from the citadel’s storerooms described above. Among them especially are distinguished the fragments of shallow black polished cups with profiled small crowns and frequently vertical fluting on the body, brown, grey, and black simple, often smoked pieces of big pots which are ornamented with wavy lines sometimes are combined with single-rowed or two-rowed sunflower ornamentation. Let me remind that in the dwellings attached to the “house of a noble Urartian” was found exceptionally such ceramics.

Now we shall turn to the description of a habitable complex which adjoined the “house of a noble Urartian” from the west and was in sharp contrast to Urartian buildings by its planning, building techniques, and some architectural peculiarities. The walls of this complex, ruined in some parts or preserved only as one row of the masonry, were on different points and were constructed from small pieces of pebble on a clay mortar. Due to their poor preservation the places of doorways could be possible

³² See H.A.Martirosyan, *Excavations in Golovino, Yerevan, 1954*, Table XIX, p.63-64, 89-90.

³³ V.S.Sorokin, *Excavations of the ancient settlement, Karmir blur. II*, p.81-82.

to establish only through detour, taking into account the existence of one or the other detail. While in the construction of Urartian buildings often was used thoroughly worked *tufa* for especially important cases, here we rarely see *tufa*.

An essential peculiarity of these houses was also a complete absence of economic units and the presence of dwellings consisting of one or two apartments. The main apartment of the dwelling (N.1 - 1955-1956) comprises a rectangular habitable unit with three spherical basalt bases which were situated almost in its center. A huge basalt mortar and earthenware *tonir* were in the corner, near the wall. Judging by this detail, the doorway was precisely in the western wall and connected the main apartment with a small, secondary room (N.2 - 1955-1956), on the floor of which were discovered different ceramic fragments of local production.

Another dwelling (N.3, 4 – 1955-1956) also consist of two apartments. The south-eastern corner of the big apartment was blocked with small pieces of pebble. In this rectangular unit were preserved remains of a *tonir*. The apartment itself had quadrangular form with a protrusion on the southern part. Here just opposite the wall lays a remarkable basalt plate worked in the form of a ladder. Obviously, exactly here was an entrance to the neighboring apartment.

The remaining one-type apartments (N.5, 6 – 1955-1956) were not connected with any secondary constructions. They both had blocked rectangular parts inside which were preserved remains of the *tonir*, and from outside - bottoms of big light-earthenware *karases*. The apartment N.5 - 1955-1956 had a ladder in the northern part, and in the center of the other apartment – remains of a stone hearth.

The ceramics of these dwellings consist of the same main groups of earthenware which was described above and characterizes the ceramic production of pre-Urartian settlement and burial ground, with only one difference – among numerous fragments of local ceramics appear seven pieces of Urartian red-engobed vessels. The study of ceramic inventory in the buildings of the mentioned type, and considering architectural and building peculiarities of the dwellings as well which have their prototypes in the earlier dwellings of the local population, we are inclined to suggest that the mentioned dwellings belong exactly to the local population of Teishebaini who after the conquest of their country found themselves in the Urartian state and *de facto* (or *de jure*) were enslaved. Could this population layer belong to the category of Urartian people many representatives of which had fled to Shupria in the inaccessible mountainous country of Sassoon,³⁴ to the north of the Upper Tigris, because of their plight? Here were gathered also Assyrian fugitives who had left their households. G.A.Melikishvili correctly notes that by the time the flight from Urartu and Assyria took more threatening character and for that reason the kings Assarhaddon and Rusa (II) were forced to carry out severe measures.³⁵ The stressed distinction of possessions which is revealed by the archaeological study of the habitable complexes of Urartian cities was exactly an

³⁴ N. Adontz, *Histoire d'Arménie*, Paris, 1946, p.292.

³⁵ G.A. Melikishvili, *Problems of social-economic structure of Urartu*, *Vestnik drevnej istorii*, 1951, N.4, p.31-32.

underlying cause for the class struggle which the exploited people initiated against the slaveholding elite.

Excavations of 1957 proved that the “house of a noble Urartian” was neither the first nor the least of its character. On the small space near that house were revealed traces of three more separately located houses. First of these stood in front of the “house of a noble Urartian” and was completely cleaned, and the second was located on that same northern street, to the east of the first on a distance of 5 meters, on the opposite side of the narrow alley. Between these houses, in the alley was detected a dwelling of pre-Urartian period.

The third building is located on the crossroads of the main and south-western streets where begins the city's new (southern) quarter. By its technical and architectural peculiarities these houses repeat the “house of a noble Urartian” described above. There difference was only in the planning and number of apartments. As we have mentioned above, of these houses is cleaned only one. Habitable and economic apartments of this house compose a trapezoidal construction, the three façades of which face the main street and those crossing it from the south and north. It consists of two separated parts with individual entrances. First of them had five rooms, and the second – one extensive apartment with two doorways and corresponding details. Habitable rooms of the first complex were situated along the axis of the main street representing rectangular apartments, each one about 40m². The construction had a roof from the eastern part which rests on the parallel appendages of transversal walls of the first apartment which ends with two big lumps having deepening in the center for columns. Under the roof was the main, fairly wide entrance to the building with threshold made of big and small stones. Here, near the threshold was a thrust bearing of the door axis made of flat, well worked plate of orange-colored *tufa*. In the first apartment were two solid basalt grain bruisers and rather big fragments of Urartian and local vessels. Against the main entrance was a doorway constructed from more or less hewn stones with flat basalt plate on the threshold and medium-sized thrust bearing made of a black *tufa* plate. This entrance leads to the main apartment of the building which presents a marked economic unit. On the distance of two meters from the eastern wall was situated a rectangular stone hearth (55x45cm.) with the pieces of a big light earthenware vessel on the bottom. Between the hearth and eastern wall was discovered the so-called movable hearth – a flat basalt plate (60x40cm.) with the remains of ash and cole. Near the stone hearth were very big thrust bearings made of rectangular pieces of basalt with concaved surface and shallop-shaped grater above them. In the northern part of the apartment was discovered the basic part of Urartian earthenware vessels and a big basalt mortar with a hole on its bottom. Among earthenware vessels and their fragments especially are distinguished two cigar-shaped red polished vessels, fragments of a big light earthenware *karas* with tourniquet-shaped ornamentation on their shoulders, usual types for the citadel's storehouses, fragments of a medium-sized *karas* near the western wall, the upper part of black polished pot of

local type supplied with two handles having stepped triangular ornamentation, two spherical pots of Urartian type with red-engobed surface, one handled red polished jug, a complete ochre-red engobed cup, a fragment of the handle of a jug with the master's sign, etc.

Besides the ceramic remains in the habitable apartments of the building were discovered great number of animal bones - remains of meat food. Based on the materials obtained in previous years the zoologist S.K.Dal has determined bones of a domesticated dog (*Canis familiaris palustris*), small cattle and cattle, wild sheep and big goat (*Capra cylindricornis*), bull (*Bos Taurus*), buffalo (*Bos Bubalis*), and also pig (*Sus Scrofa*), horse (*Equus caballus*), gazelle (*Gazella Subquitturosa*) and a skull of stone marten. In the materials found after 1954 were additionally revealed bones of the domesticated donkey (*Equus asinus L.*), domesticated goat (*Capra domestica*), and zeboid cattle (*Bos indicus*). Interestingly, the existence of zeboid cows was mentioned also for the pre-Urartian settlement, some of their skeletons are discovered in the apartments of the citadel.

In the central part of the apartment were basalt bases of wooden columns, and in the northern wall - a doorway with cubic thrust bearing which leads to the storehouse apartment of the building. Connected with the discovery of thrust bearings near the doorways of this building it should be stated that similar ones were found in all buildings of Teishebaini and that very ancient system of the doors is characteristic for the Armenian regions and villages of Iranian plateau and, correspondingly, for Nakhijevan.

In the backside of the habitable part of the complex under study were situated three storehouse apartments which were interconnected with each other through the northern door. Some of them are of considerable interest. Worth to mention, for example, the bottom and a big fragment of the upper part of two Urartian *karases* with cruciform incised signs of masters minted on the soft clay, black or light earthenware small handmade vessels in the form of the models of big Urartian *karases*, a bomb-shaped pot with ochre-red engobe, wide neck and triangle protrusion on the side, upper part of the wide-necked engobed pot of elongated proportions, and polished single-handled ladle with external horizontal groove on the crown as well.

Thus, in the studied dwelling were revealed all samples of Urartian and non-Urartian ceramics which are characteristic for the ceramic production of Teishebaini and appearing in the storehouse apartments all the time.

From the western side to the described habitable complex adjoined an isolated rectangular apartment with doorways from the west and north. In the center stood a basalt mortar and a small *karas*, and near the eastern wall were preserved parts of rather big *tonir*. To the important finds of this apartment belong bone snaffles with three side holes of the so-called Scythian type, a big bead made of glass, Urartian red-engobed cup with profiled ladle and black polished small pot with sharply bended ladle and unique ornamentation of the shoulders which consist of circular concentric circles and incised hook-shaped figures located below it.

Among two other buildings are cleaned two apartments which do not differ from that described above.

The study of the photo of Karmir blur made from the airplane in 1947, before the excavation of the habitable quarters, show that to the east of the building, on the crossroads of the south-eastern street was situated a city quarter with isolated big houses. This quarter has not been studied yet since the significant part of its ancient buildings had suffered due to the removal of stones by villagers of Charbakh for their needs, and on the film figure exactly the outlines of non-existing now houses which represent narrow trenches as a result of the removal of stones. But on the photo are still clearly visible untouched spots which should be studied in the near future.

The ruins of several separately standing buildings are preserved also in the southern and eastern parts of the city. During excavations of the mentioned objects, certainly, would be discovered buildings like the "house of a noble Urartian" the study of which along with the materials of cuneiform sources will let us approach to the establishment of the proportion of wealthy part of the population to which maybe belong representatives of the royal family, military and serving aristocracy. Apparently, that layer of the population possessed with extensive domains³⁶ and, probably, herds of large horned and small horned livestock. Unfortunately, on the basis of the whole extant materials it is impossible to characterize these large private households.

Looking on the results of excavations of Teishebaini it is not difficult to observe that its habitable quarters are divided into two main categories. Single-roomed, two-roomed or three-roomed dwellings which did not have economic apartments, and houses which, besides habitable part, possess also with apartments for economic purposes. The mentioned peculiarity of the habitable complexes proves not only the suggestion regarding the existence of certain layers in the population of the settlement which were under the state allowance,³⁷ but gives a reason to state that some part of the population of Teishebaini was wealthy and had its private household. In so doing, part of the studied dwellings apparently belong to the buildings of Urartian type representing peculiarities of Urartian architecture and building techniques, while another part was built according to local techniques. Most probably, the existence of habitable complexes which reflects architecture and building techniques of different ethnic groups is one of the main peculiarities of Urartian cities founded in the VIII-VII centuries BC in the Ararat plain.

Let us remind that during the excavations of A.A. Ivanovskij in Tashburun (Urartian fortress of Menuahinili) along with the remarkable Urartian buildings exist also dwellings of the second type which were constructed of small pebble³⁸ and by their all peculiarities repeat habitable complexes of Teishebaini discovered in 1955-1956.

³⁶ G.A. Melikishvili, Loc.cit., p.34-36.

³⁷ B.B. Piotrovskij, Karmir blur. II, p.10.

³⁸ A.A. Ivanovskij, Through Transcaucasia, MAK VI, p.35-55.

The suggestion of A.A. Ivanovskij that in the buildings of the second type could be seen annex buildings to the habitable apartments of the complex should be rejected connected with the discovery of autonomous habitable units of that type. But his observation regarding two different types of buildings not only remains valid but is proved by excavations of the habitable quarters of Teishebaini. The existence of dwellings of different types in the mentioned Urartian cities is not enough to judge on the principles of territorial distribution of the main social layers of population, as it was demonstrated by the architect K.L. Oganessian (see Karmir blur. IV, Architecture of Teishebaini, p.16-17), who outlined some parts of the city (by the way, not excavated) which were allegedly intended for Urartian soldiers and administrative personnel, impoverished layer and other strata of the population. Excavations of the so-called "central quarter", where, according to K.L. Oganessian, were situated the houses of soldiers and administration, were opened dwellings maybe belonging to soldiers and "noble Urartians", and along with them also miserable huts which sometimes consist of single room. Similar picture has been observed also during the excavations of Ivanovskij where, according to Urartian inscriptions, continued to live also the local tribe. Such position of habitable complexes belonging to the representatives of different social and ethnic groups was quite natural for the newly founded Urartian cities which came into existence in a number of cases at the base of major settlements existing long before the arrival of Urartians.

The results of excavations of habitable quarters of Teishebaini and its magnificent citadel disprove the established opinion that Teishebaini was only a military-administrative stronghold on the northern borders of Urartian kingdom supplied with garrison. The more and more expanding excavations give us certain possibilities to reconstruct the picture of Urartian city, albeit not very large, with its multifunctional life, complex social-economic structure, crafts, trading and roaring military activities.

With the existence of such large economic centers in the Ararat plain and other regions of the modern Armenian SSR was conditioned the great influence of ancient Near Eastern culture on the cultures of the Caucasus, South Russian steppes and Northern Black Sea region. Exactly they were guides of the ancient Near Eastern culture in the Caucasus who embrace into the orbit of their cultural-economic influence vast regions which live in the stage of the fall of the primitive-communal system.

Translated from the Russian by Aram Kosyan