



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Metal objects from Kimirek-kum 1: cultural and chronological aspects

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Abstract

The site of Kimirek-kum 1 (KK1) in the ancient Zerafshan delta, Uzbekistan, investigated since 2022, has provided a unique assemblage of more 500 metal items. Of these, more than 300 are typologically identifiable. This presentation is a first attempt to build a formal typology of this corpus and to apply a structural-functional approach to its interpretation. The KK1 metal items can be minimally divided into 10 categories, with at least 15 preliminarily-defined item types. These include weapons, miniature chisels, sickles and other blade tools, miniature spoons, gold, silver and bronze jewelry, and perforated lead rods. Item types characteristic of the post-Andronovo sphere in northern Central Asia can be distinguished from types originating from southern Central Asia. Lead rods, spoons and a gold triangular earring are unique types found only at KK1. The KK1 complex dates to ca. 1250-1050 BCE, chronologically connecting it with steppe sites from the southern Urals to the middle Yenisei and with southern Central Asia during the second half of the first millennium BCE. Longstanding gaps in our knowledge of this period are partially filled by KK1 metal items, which speak to the long-range connections of the sites within a wide cross-cultural horizon of specific metal jewelry.

Keywords

Central Asia, metal items typology, cross-cultural relationships, final bronze age, chronological horizon

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7. Characterizing culture ?

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