AVRASYA Uluslararası Araştırmalar Dergisi Cilt:5 •Sayı:10•Ocak 2017•Türkiye

DOĞU MOĞOLİSTAN'IN DELGERHAN DAĞI BÖLGESİNDEKİ TUNÇ DEVRİ MEZARLARI

Yrd. Doç. Dr. Dorjpurev KHATANBAATAR[♣]

ÖZ

Arkeolojik saha çalışmaları esnasında (2008-2009) arkeoloji ekibi Delgerhan Dağı bölgesinde, Tuvşinşire köyünde ve Sukbaatar ilinde daha önce bilinmeyen, 469 mezarlı eskiden kalma üç kabristan keşfetti. Ulaanzuuk Vadisinde 33 mezar, Adgiin, Gol ve Bulgiin Ek Vadilerinin her birinde (2008-2013) iki mezar kazdık. 3-8 mezarlı, 30-50 cm uzakta, her kabristanda ortak taş parmaklıkla gruplandırılmış şekilde, mezarların dış yapısı tamamen aynıydı. Her mezarın dışında üç ya da dört katmandan meydana gelen taş levhalardan oluşan biçimli kareler vardır. Merhumlar yüzüstü ve doğuya dönük bir şekilde gömülmüştür. İnsan kalıntıları üzerindeki radyo karbon 14 metodu, kabristanların Tunç Devrine (M.Ö. 1400-1300) dayandığını göstermektedir. Bu mezarlar bazı yönleriyle Doğu ve Güneydoğu Moğolistan'da Tunç Devrinin iyi bilinen levha mezarları ve resmedilmiş mezar anıtlarından yapısı, defnetme gelenekleri ve insan yapımı olması yönünden ayrılır ve Doğu Moğolistan'daki Tunç Devri mezarlarının yerel varyantları hakkında bilgi sağlar.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Moğolistan, Tunç Devri, mezar, kabristan.

BRONZE AGE GRAVES IN THE DELGERKHAAN MOUNTAIN AREA OF EASTERN MONGOLIA

ABSTRACT

During the archaeological fieldwork (2008-2009) the archaeological team discovered unknown before ancient three cemeteries with 469 graves in Delgerkhaan mountain area, Tuvshinshiree soum, Sukhbaatar aimag. We excavated 33 graves in the Ulaanzuukh Valley and two graves each in the Adgiin Gol and Bulgiin Ekh valleys (2008-2013). The external construction of the graves were all similar, with 3-8 graves, spaced 30-50 cm apart, grouped within a common stone enclosure in each cemetery. Each grave has an external square shaped construction composed of stone slabs in three or four layers. The deceased were buried face down with orientation to the east. Radiocarbon dates on human remains indicate the cemeteries go back to the Bronze Age (1400-1300 BC). These graves in some respect differ from the well-known slab graves and figured grave monuments of the Bronze Age in eastern and southeastern Mongolia in their construction, burial tradition, and artifacts,and provide us with information about local variants of the Bronze Age graves in eastern Mongolia.

Keywords: Mongolia, Bronze Age, grave, cemetery.

The wide distribution of different historical monuments in the Delgerkhaan Mountain region shows its importance in Mongolian archaeological heritage. Archaeological studies show notable cultural diversity and complexity during the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age of Mongolia and surrounding territories (Erdenebaatar 2002; Erdenebaatar et al. 2007; Turbat et al. 2006; Navaan 1975; Tumen et al. 2009, 2010, 2012; Esther and Tseveendorj 2004; Novgorodova 1970, 1987, 1989; Volkov

♣ School of Business Administration and Humanity, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, khatanbaatar@must.edu.mn

Makalenin Dergiye Ulaşma Tarihi:14.12.2016 Yayın Kabul Tarihi: 29.12.2016

1967, 1981; Tsebyk- tarov 2006; Tseveendorj 1999). During these periods and into the historical period, western Mongolia was inhabited by populations associated with various cultures, including: the Afanasev Culture (2800-2500 BC), the Chemyrchek (2500-1800 BC), the Munkhkhairkhan (1800-1500 BC), the Khergisuur or Stone Mound or Kurgan Culture (1600-300 BC), the Pazyryk Culture (500-300 BC), and the Chand-man (6th-3rd c. BC), along with Deer Stones and rock art. These cultural variants were widely distributed in the Russian Altai, Tuva, southern Siberia, and northwestern China, as well. During these same periods, the territory of eastern and central Mongolia was occupied by populations with at least three different archaeological cultural variants: the so-called Slab Grave Culture (1600-300 BC), the Figured Grave (1300-1100 BC) and the Ulaanzuukh Grave (1500-1300 BC).

Beginning in 2008, an archaeological team from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, National University of Mongolia carried out archaeological survey in the Delgerkhaan Mountain area located at the border region of Tuvshinshiree, Munkkhaan and Uulbayan Soums, Sukhbaatar Aimag, southeastern Mongolia, as part of the East Mongolia Archaeological and Anthropological Approaches research project. Fieldwork for the project in the southern and southeastern valleys of the mountain discovered many archaeological monuments (cemeteries) belonging to different historical periods, including: Bronze Age (2nd-lst millennium BC) cemeteries in the Ulaanzuukh, Adgiin Gol, and Bulgin Ekh valleys, a Xiongnu Period (3rd c. BC-AD 2nd c.) cemetery in the Engeriin Buuts valley, seven unique constructions from the Qidan or Mongolian Period, and graves from the Mongolian Period (AD 13th-14th c.) in the Togootin Gol and Bulgin Ekh valleys. In addition, abundant Neolithic microlithic tools were collected in all of the above-mentioned valleys, but they were most concentrated within the Ulaanzuukh and Togootin Gol valleys. All of the archaeological sites were situated in close proximity to others, with around 5-6 km between them. During the 2008-2013 fieldwork seasons, the archaeological team excavated 33 graves at the Ulaanzuukh site, two graves at Adgiin Gol sites, and two graves at the Bulgiin Ekh site all dating to the Bronze Age, and three graves from the Xiongnu Period at the Engeriin Buuts cemetery. Also, the Neolithic team of the archaeological expedition dug several trenches in the locality of the richest distribution of stone tools, in the Togootin Gol valley in the Delgerkhaan Mountain area.

Below, we introduce the preliminary results of the excavations of the graves in the Bronze Age cemeteries in the Ulaanzuukh, Adgiin Gol, and Bulgiin Ekh valleys. External and Internal Constructions of the Graves and their Burial Traditions A total of 470 graves were registered and documented from the Bronze Age Ulaanzuukh, Adgiin Gol, and Engeriin Buuts cemeteries (110 at Ulaanzuukh, 129 at Adgiin Gol, and 241 at Bulgiin Ekh). The external construction of all of the graves in the three cemeteries was similar. Most of graves in each cemetery were arranged into several rows and appeared to be in groups. Graves in a row were positioned so closely to each other that it was difficult to distinguish the boundaries between some graves in the row, and so adjacent graves could appear to be a single large grave with a rectangular shape.

The graves are constructed with large flat stones positioned upright on one edge to form a frame or sometimes a double frame, and sometimes there are associated additional constructions outside of the grave. Some of the graves have

stone props on the four corners, while others have such props only on the left side of the. All excavated graves were disturbed at some time in the past, so only a few artifacts were found, which included mostly pieces of dark reddish pottery with simple ornamentation, small white beads, and one stone artifact of unknown purpose. In Grave 32, two legs of a tripod pottery vessel were unearthed. Each of the excavated graves in all three cemeteries contained a human skeleton in a face downward position with an orientation slightly northeast. This shows us that the Bronze Age people inhabiting the Delgerkhaan Mountain region practiced a special burial tradition that featured laying the deceased in a prone position. Radiocarbon determinations on seven human bone samples show that the excavated Bronze Age graves from the Ulaanzuukh cemetery date from 1443-1385 BC (see Table 1). Calibrated 14C dates given in Table 1 show, using the 2-sigma range, that Graves A, B, C, D from Row 1 dug in 2009 date roughly between 1420-1190 BC. Grave D might be the latest of the four graves, but the 2-sigma date ranges of the other three graves overlap significantly, perhaps indicating that these burials were completed relatively closely in time. 8 graves in Row 2 were excavated in 2010-2011: dates for three of these (Grave 2, 3, and 6) are given in Table 1. The two-sigma ranges for these three graves range approximately 1450-1200 BC, but also with, significant overlap, so perhaps each date within a century of others (Table 1). The radiocarbon dates also undoubtedlydemonstrate that the cemeteries at Adgiin Gol, and Bulgiin Ekh, Tuvshinshiree Soum, Sukhbaatar Aimag, belong to the early Bronze Age period of Mongolia.

All of the cemeteries likely belonged to the same people from this period in the region. A comparison of the external and internal constructions and artifacts from the grave monuments in the Ulaanzuukh, Bulgiin Ekh, and Adgiin Gol cemeteries with other well- known cultural monuments from the Bronze Age of south, east, and northeast Mongolia (such as slab graves and figured grave monuments) shows that these archaeological monuments totally differ from each in their external and internal constructions, materials used, and shape of the beads recovered in them. However, some archaeological artifacts are almost identical to artifacts from the slab graves of the Bronze Age excavated in central and east Mongolia, and in Transbaikalia, such as the color and some ornamentation on the pottery from the graves (Tsybektarov 1998; Kiselev 1947; Grishin 1980; Amartuvshin 2003; Amartuvshin and Jargalan 2008).

Nevertheless, the burial tradition of the studied graves from the cemeteries is similar to figured graves (Dikov 1958; Okladnikov and Krillov 1980; Erdenebaatar and Kovalev 2006; Volkov 1967).

The graves with similar burial tradition (deceased were buried face down position with orientation to the east) were discovered and excavated in Nomgon and Gurvantes soums, Umnugobi aimag (Tumen 2008, 2010), Chandmai Khar Uul site, Delgerekh soum, Dornogobi aimag (Amartuvshin et al. 2010), Delgertsogt soum, Dundgobi aimag (Amartuvshin and Jargalan, 2008 Amartuvshin and Honeychurch, 2010b) Khankhongor, Tsogttsetsii, and Khanbogd soums (Tseveendorj et.al., 2005a) Bogdsoum, Uberkhangai aimag (Erdenebaatar, 2009; Gunchinsuren, 2010 et.al., 2010; 133-134), Dariganga soum, Sukhbaatar aimag (Erdenebaatar, 2011, 43-45). Most of

the excavated graves from above mentioned sites had totally different external construction (round shaped stone mound, rectangular shape and stirrup shape)than graves from Ulaanzuukh and most the graved belong to figured grave monuments from the Bronze age.

Based on the fact we can conclude that in the Gobi region inhabited tribes with local cultural variants such as figured grave and Ulaanzuukh and in spite of that circumstance the tribes had common burial ritual or tradition until middle of the Bronze age.

REFERENCES

AMARTUVSHIN, Ch (2003), ***Archaeological Monuments in the EgiinGol River Basin***, Ph.D. dissertation, National University of Mongolia.

AMARTUVSHIN, Ch and B. Jargalan (2008), "The Study of Bronze Age graves in Baga Gazaryn Chuluu), *In Studia Archaeologica*, Tom (VI) X XVI. fast. 5.

AMARTUVSHIN, Ch; HONEYCHURCH, W. (2010), "The archaeological study of Dundgobi province", Baga Gazariin Chuluu, Ulaanbaatar.

AMARTUVSHIN, Ch., BATBOLD, N.; EREGZEN G.; BATDALAI B., (2015), "Archaeological monuments of Chandmani Khar uul I", Ulaanbaatar.

BOROVKA, G. I. (1927). "Archaeological investigation in Tula river basin", In Northern Mongolia II, pp. 43-88. Leningrad: Nauka.

DIKOV, N. N. (1958), ***Bronze age of Transbaikalia,*** Ulan-Ude: Buryat, Kn. p.108.

ERDENEBAATAR, D. (2002), ***Slab grave and Kheregsuur cultures of Mongolia***, Ulaanbaatar.

ERDENEBAATAR, D.; KOVALEV, A. A., (2006), ***Tevsh Culture***, In D. Erdenbaatar (editor), (Proceeding of School of Social Science, Ulaanbaatar University), Ulaanbaatar.

ERDENEBAATAR D.; BAYAR, D., MIJIDDORJ, E.; ORGILBAYAR, S., (2009), "Archaeological monuments in Vaarankhavtsal", Journal of Social Science, Proceeding of School of Social Science, Ulaanbaatar University, № 5(4), Ulaanbaatar

ERDENEBAT. U; TURBAT, Ts., (2011), ***Heritage in Ongon***, Ulaanbaatar.

ESTHER, Jacobson; CUBAREV, V.; TSEVEENDORJ, D., (2001), "Repertoire des Petroglyphes D'Asie Centrale."In Memoires de la Mission Archaelogique Francaise en Asie Centrale, Tome V.6, Fascicule No.6. Paris: De Boccard.

GRISHIN, Yu. S, (1980). "On the figured graves and slab graves in Transbaikalia and Mongolia" Proceeding of Institute of Archaeology, Vol.162, pp. 12-14, Moscow: Nauka.

GUNCHINSUREN, B; GANTULGA, J.; BAZARGUR, D.; KHATANBAATAR, P., MARKOLONGO, B.; MARKOLONGO, P, "Preliminary Results of Archaeological Excavation in Orognuur", *SA*. tom (IX)XXIX, Fasc.7, Ulaanbaatar

KISELEV, S. V. (1947), "Ancient Mongolia", *In Proceeding of Academy Science*, USSR, T.IY. Vol.4, pp. 355-372. Moscow: Nauka.

NAVAAN, D.; ERDENE, M.; TUMEN, D. (2008), "Fieldwork in East Mongolia-2008" *Mongolian Journal of Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology*, Vol.4 (312): 1-37.

NOVGORODOVA, E. A., (1970), ***Central Asia and the problem of Karasuk***, Moscow: Nauka.

NOVGORODOVA, E. A. (1989), ***Ancient Mongolia***, Moskow: Nauka.

OKLADNIKOV, A. P.; KRILLOV, I. I. (1980), ***Stone and Bronze Age of southeast Trans-Baikal***, Novosibirsk: Nauka, Sibir. Otdelenie.

SOSNOVSKII, G. P. (1928), "Figured grave Findings*", In Archives of the Institute for the History of Material Culture, Russian Academy of Sciences*, Ф-42. №251, Leningrad.

TSBYCTAROV, A. D. (1998), *"*The Slab Grave Culture in Mongolia and Trans-baikal", *Buryatckogo Gocuniver-citeta*, Ulaan-Ude: pp.126-128.

TSEBYKTAROV, A. D. (2006), ***Slab Grave Culture of Trans-Baikal***, Novosibirsk: Nauka, Sibir. Otdelenie.

TSEVEENDORJ, D., (1999), ***History of Mongolian Ancient Art***, Ulaanbaatar: Shinshlekhukhaany Akadem, Ulaanbaatar.

TSEVEENDORJ D.; AMARTUVSHIN, Ch.; GUNCHINSUREN, B.; TSOGTBAATAR, B.; Batbold, N.; YROOLERDENE Ch.; BAZARGUR, D.; BOLORBAT, Ts., GANTULGA, J. (2005a), "Report of Rescue Archaeology in Khanbogd", *Umnugobi aimag. Ivanhoy Mines Mongolia Ink. co. ltd. Institute of Archaeology*, Science Academy of Mongolia.

TUMEN, D.; NAVAAN, D.; ERDENE, M.; KHATANBAATAR, D., (2008), "Report of Salvage Excavation in Tsagaantolgoi", Nomgon, Umnugobi aimag, NUM.

TUMEN, D.; NAVAAN, D.; ERDENE, M.; KHATANBAATAR; ANKHSANAA, G. (2009), "Archaeological Fieldwork in East Mongolia-2009", *Mongolian Journal of Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology*, Vol.4, No.1 (344): 1-54.Ulaanbaatar

TUMEN, D.; NAVAAN, D.; ERDENE, M.; KHATANBAATAR; ANKHSANAA, G.; VANCHIGDASH, Ch. (2010), "Archaeological Fieldwork in East Mongolia-2010", *Mongolian Journal of Anthropology*, *Archaeology and Ethnology*, Vol.6, No:1 (365): 167-215, Ulaanbaatar.

TUMEN, D.; NAVAAN, D.; ERDENE, M.; KHATANBAATAR; ANKHSANAA, G., (2012), "Archaeological fieldwork in East Mongolia-2011", *Mongolian Journal of Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology*, Vol.7, No.1 (378): 1-38, Ulaanbaatar.

TUMEN, D., (2012), "Delgerkhaanmountain in East Mongolia –one of unique archaeological site on Mongolian Bronze age", In *Abstracts of the 5th International Congress of Society of east Asian Archaeology*, pp. 45-51, Japan: Fukuoko.

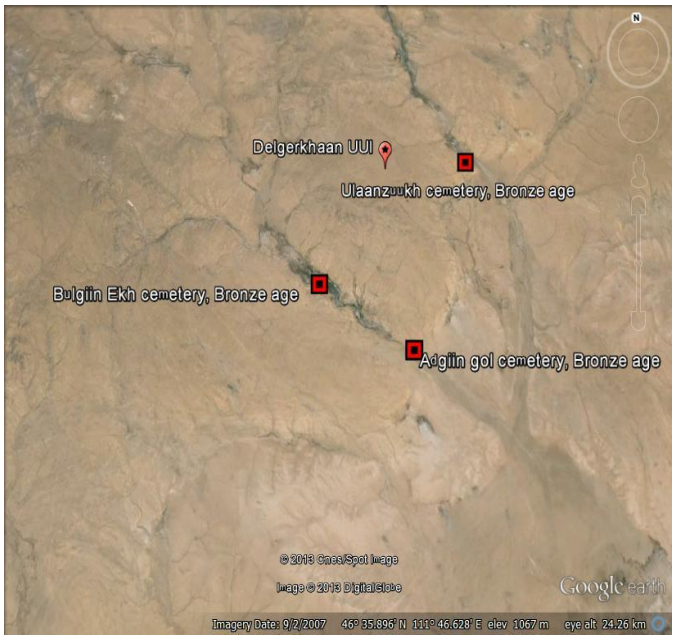
TUMEN, D., (2012), “Bronze Age cultural diversity and populations migration in Mongolia”, *In Proceedings of Mongolia and Baikalian Siberia*, pp. 321-324, Ulaanbaatar.

TUMEN, D.; KHATANBAATAR, D. (2012), “Report of archaeological survey in Erdentsagaan in Sukhbaatar”, МУИС-ийн Археологи-Антропологийн тэнхимийн ГБСХ. NUM.

TURBAT, Ts.; Pierre-Henri Giscard; BATSUKH, D., (2006), “Pazyryk culture of Mongolia”, *Mongolian Journal of Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology*, Vol.2, No.1 (254): 209-211.

VOLKOV, V.V., (1967), ***Early Iron Age of Northern Mongolia***, Ulaanbaatar.

VOLKOV, V.V., (1981), ***Deer Stones of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar***, Uzdatelictvo, AN MIR.



Geographic location of Bronze Age cemeteries at Delgerkhaan mountain located in border area of Tuvshinshiree, Munkkhaan and Uulbayan soums, Sukhbaatar aimag, (Southeast Mongolia)

Ulaanzuukh 1-16. Row excavation. 2008-2013.

Table 1. Results of ^{14}C dating and subsequent calibration of human remains from Ulaanzuukh site[1]

ab.Inven. No	^{4}C date (BP)[1]	Calibrated date (cal BC±2σ)2				ab. ode
T-788	3,082±31		cal BC 1,408 - cal BC 1,370 cal BC 1,356 - cal BC 1,316	cal BP 3,357 - 3,319 cal BP 3,305 - 3,265	0,495 0,505	AAA-103368
		σ	cal BC 1,423 - cal BC 1,288 cal BC 1,283 - cal BC 1,269	cal BP 3,372 - 3,237 cal BP 3,232 - 3,218	0,970 0,030	
T-789	3,101±30		cal BC 1,419 - cal BC 1,374 cal BC 1,340 - cal BC 1,319	cal BP 3,368 - 3,323 cal BP 3,289 - 3,268	0,710 0,290	AAA-103369
		σ	cal BC 1,435 - cal BC 1,299	cal BP 3,384 - 3,248	1.000	
T-790	3,054±29		cal BC 1,386 - cal BC 1,298	cal BP 3,335 - 3,247	1.000	AAA-103370
		σ	cal BC 1,409 - cal BC 1,260 cal BC 1,227 - cal BC 1,222	cal BP 3,358 - 3,209 cal BP 3,317 - 3,171	0.992 0.008	
T-791	3015±28		cal BC 1,370 - cal BC 1,356 cal BC 1,316 - cal BC 1,255 cal BC 1,238 - cal BC 1,214	cal BP 3,319 - 3,205 cal BP 3,265 - 3,204 cal BP 3,167 - 3,163	0,097 0,692 0,211	AAA-103371

[1] ^{14}C analysis was carried out by Dr. Hashimoto Makio and Dr. Kanai Shinji from laboratory "*Palyno Survey" co.LTD, Japan*

		σ	cal BC 1,385 - cal BC 1,441 cal BC 1,325 - cal BC 1,192 cal BC 1,176 - cal BC 1,162 cal BC 1,143 - cal BC 1,132	cal BP 3,334 - 3,390 cal BP 3,274 - 3,141 cal BP 3,125 - 3,111 cal BP 3,092 - 3,081	0,195 0,767 0,019 0,020	
T-821	3127±29		cal BC 1,437 - cal BC 1,386	cal BP 3,386 - 3,335	1,000	AAA-103372
		σ	cal BC 1,491 - cal BC 1,479 cal BC 1,456 - cal BC 1,369 cal BC 1,358 - cal BC 1,315	cal BP 3,440 - 3,428 cal BP 3,405 - 3,318 cal BP 3,307 - 3,264	0,020 0,840 0,140	
T-822	3006±30		cal BC 1,367 - cal BC 1,361 cal BC 1,314 - cal BC 1,210 cal BC 1,137 - cal BC 1,136	cal BP 3,316 - 3,310 cal BP 3,263 - 3,159 cal BP 3,086 - 3,085	0,038 0,956 0,005	AAA-103373
		σ	cal BC 1,379 - cal BC 1,336 cal BC 1,322 - cal BC 1,187 cal BC 1,183 - cal BC 1,154 cal BC 1,146 - cal BC 1,130	cal BP 3,328 - 3,285 cal BP 3,271 - 3,136 cal BP 3,132 - 3,103 cal BP 3,095 - 3,079	0,128 0,770 0,059 0,043	
T-823	3115±28		cal BC 1,429 - cal BC 1,383 cal BC 1,333 - cal BC 1,324	cal BP 3,378 - 3,332 cal BP 3,282 - 3,273	0,887 0,113	AAA-103374
		σ	cal BC 1,443 - cal BC 1,313	cal BP 3,392 - 3,262	1,000	