

## Archaeological studies of pottery hearths at bolgar fortified settlement in 2016 (Excavation CCXVI)

Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

---

### Abstract

© 2018 Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan, A.Kh. Khalikov Archaeology Institute. All rights reserved. Excavation CCXVII was investigated in 2016 within the framework of a complex project Cultural Heritage - the Island Town of Sviyazhsk and Ancient Bolgar. The total area of the exposed cultural layer was 256 square metres. A total of 14 structures (5 pits, 4 hearths for ceramics firing, 2 pre-hearth pits, 2 platforms for accessing heating chambers of the hearths and a single auxiliary structure) of the late Golden Horde period were identified in the excavation. The presence of four hearths for ceramics firing, which operated in the period of 1330–1360, can represent a direct evidence of pottery production in Bolgar settlement during the late Golden Horde period. The hearths were destroyed in the early period of the Great Troubles in the Golden Horde (1359–1380) circa the second half of the 1360s. The author suggests that a sanitary burial of 7 people was arranged in the previously abandoned hearth No. 6 (structure 6) during the period in question. As a result of the excavations, the researchers obtained a collection of 741 individual findings, including defective ceramic vessels of a spherical shape, pitchers and an unfired band used for ceramic moulding. The collection of mass material amounts to 8,334 fragments of locally manufactured Bolgar ceramics.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.24852/pa2018.2.24.253.269>

---

### Keywords

Archaeological studies, Bolgar fortified settlement, Ceramic production, Ceramics firing hearths, Excavation CCXVI, First all-Bolgar group of ceramics, Historical topography, The Golden Horde

### References

- [1] Aksenova, N. D. 1970. Otchet o rabotakh na Bolgarskom gorodishche v 1969 godu (Report on Works Conducted at Bolgar Fortified Settlement in 1969). Moscow. Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, R-1, no. 3921 (in Russian).
- [2] Aksenova, N. D., Poluboiarinova, M. D., Kramarovskii, M. G. 1980. Otchet o rabotakh na Bolgarskom gorodishche v 1978–79 gg. (Report on Works Conducted in Bolgar Fortified Settlement in 1978–79). Moscow. Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, R-1, no. 39621 (in Russian).
- [3] Bobrinsky, A. A. 1991. Goncharnye masterskie i gorny Vostochnoi Evropy (po materialam II–V vv. n.e.) (Pottery Workshops and Kilns of Eastern Europe (based on the Materials of the 2–5 centuries A.D.)). Moscow: "Nauka" Publ. (in Russian).
- [4] Poliakova, G. F. Otchet o rabote na Bolgarskom gorodishche v 1980 godu (raskop LXX) (Report on the Fieldwork in the Bolgar Fortified Settlement in 1980 (Excavation Area LXX)). Documentary Fund of the Bolgar Historical and Architectural Preservation Area. Inv. no. 66-1. КП-405. (in Russian).

- [5] Sitdikov, A. G. 2017. Otchet ob arkheologicheskikh raskopkakh v Spasskom raione, g. Bolgar, na Bolgarskom gorodishche (Raskop CCXVI) v 2016 g. T. I (Report on Archaeological Excavations conducted in Spassky District, Bolgar Town, at Bolgar Fortified Settlement (Excavation 216) in 2016. Vol. 1.). Kazan. Scientific Fund of the Museum of Archaeology of the Republic of Tatarstan, Institute of Archaeology named after A. Kh. Khalikov, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences. Fund 4. Inv. 1, p. 202 (in Russian).
- [6] Sitdikov, A. G., Bocharov, S. G., Iozhitsa, D.V., Kuklina A.A., Yavorskaya, L. V. 2017. In Sitdikov, A. G., Valiev, R. R., Starkov, A. S. (comp.). Arkheologicheskie issledovaniia 2016 g.: Bolgar i Sviiazhsk (Archaeological Studies in 2016: Bolgar and Sviyazhsk). Kazan: "Kazanskaia nedvizhimost'" Publ., 13–15 (in Russian).
- [7] Smirnov, A. P. 1949. Otchet Bolgarskoi ekspeditsii 1948 g. (Report of the Bolgar Expedition of 1948). Moscow. Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, R-1, no. 219 (in Russian).
- [8] Khlebnikova, T. A. 1984. Keramika pamiatnikov Volzhskoi Bolgarii: (K voprosu ob etnokul'turnom sostave naseleniia) (Ceramic Ware of the Volga Bulgaria Sites. On the Question of Ethnic-cultural Composition of the Population). Moscow: "Nauka" Publ. (in Russian).
- [9] Khlebnikova, T. A. 1987. In Fedorov-Davydov, G. A. (ed.). Gorod Bolgar. Ocherki istorii i kul'tury (Town of Bolgar. Essays on History and Culture). Moscow: "Nauka" Publ., 32–88 (in Russian).
- [10] Khovanskaia, O. S. 1954. In Smirnov, A. P. (ed.). Trudy Kuybyshevskoi arkheologicheskoi ekspeditsii (Proceedings of the Kuybyshev Archaeological Expedition) I. Series: Materialy i issledovaniia po arkheologii SSSR (Materials and Studies in the Archaeology of the USSR) 42. Moscow: Academy of Sciences of the USSR, 356–368 (in Russian)..