

## Ancient Musicians' Monuments in the Kazakh Altai

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**ABSTRACT** The paper presents new archaeological data obtained in the course of research on the burial Karakaba Kazakh Altai (Republic of Kazakhstan) in 2012-2014. The authors explore the funeral ceremony, features the design and facilities inside the grave. Musical Instruments and craniotomy and other data allows authors to reconstruct the hierarchy of the society of the ancient Turks.

### INTRODUCTION

Alpine Valley Karakaba, where ancient funerary monuments that the researchers have studied since 2012, is located in the Kazakh Altai (Katonkaragaysky district of East Kazakhstan region). It is at an altitude of 1750 m above the sea level and stretches in the direction NE-SW at 15 km. The surface of the valley is flat and it's surrounded by mountain ranges. Mountains in the south-east are completely covered with thick pine forest to the snow line. Above the level of the forest is span covered by vegetation, above the snow line is grey rocky surface without vegetation. There were revealed several burial groups, numbering tens of multi-temporal structures of rannesakskogo period to the Middle Ages. To ancient Turkic era, the researchers refer four objects (N.N. 9, 11, 12, 13) to the mound group Karakaba-I and one (N<sup>o</sup> 4) Karakaba-II (Samashev and Chotbaev 2012; Samashev 2014).

Archaeological study of ancient Turkic monuments on the territory of the Altai Mountains started in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continuing to the present day (Rudenko and Glukhov 1927 Ceregin 2014). The researchers identified the area of distribution of Turkic archaeological sites, picked their chronology studied of funeral ceremony, stone sculpture, and other complex weapons (Gavrilova 1965; Kubarev 2005). Researchers on the basis of archaeological excavations and written evidence produced reconstruction of the historical development of Turkic tribes of Altai in the Middle Ages (Klyashtorny and Savinov 2005).

### METHODOLOGY

In carrying out archaeological excavations, the authors used standard field methodology.

Archaeological works were conducted by removing stratified layers of the mound and disassembly of the burial chamber. The researchers produced a clear photographic fixing, description of the stages of excavation and field conservation of revealed findings. Also, the authors conducted laboratory analyses, including research on the typology of objects, production of technology, cultural and chronological attribution of the monument.

### OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

#### Burial Mount N. 9

Before the excavation work, the object was a small cluster of oval cut stone without grass, with 9x10 m of size and jagged edges. The surface was uneven; there were small elevations. The design of the Burial mount had boulders that were small and medium in sizes, grey and green slate.

The original design of the monument was a sub rectangular stone fence with rounded corners.

The edges of the ground structure of the object formed the stones of larger sizes. The maximum height of the structure was 0.6 m. The spot of the burial pit, revealed in the stone wall, oriented along the east-west line.

At a depth of 0.65 m on the level of the ground surface, the researchers recorded stones of the upper layer of backing entrance hole. This layer extends to the bottom part, its capacity 0.9-1.0 m. In the northern corner of the pit at a depth of 0.5 m above the horizon, the researchers found a fragment of an ancient wooden shovel. At the bottom of the front of the pit, along the southern wall, a horse lay on the left side, with its head turned sharply to the right.

In the north-western wall of the pit, there was the curving in the upper part of which was re-

corded at a depth of 1.4 m from the surface. The entrance overlap of the burial consisted of several layers. They were vertically placed four narrow boards and wooden poles, standing at an angle to each other along the wall. The dome of the burial pit gradually narrowed to the northern wall. The light brown sandy loam with small stones was used to fill the pit.

At the bottom of the pit burial, the researchers found the remains of a man who was put on the back, head to the east. On the skull in the crown, a recess was carved perfectly circular, diameter 5.7 cm. On the surface of this "deepening" there are several small holes with a diameter up to 0.4 mm.

The deceased lay on a bed of sub rectangular shape that completely covered the bottom of the red lining. The top layer was from a birch bark, the bottom layer were coniferous branches. To the right of the buried there were weapon objects, that is, a bow, a quiver with arrowheads. A composite, wrapped in birch bark, bow with bony plates was placed on top of the right hand and the right wing of the pelvis, slightly at an angle; so that it was on top of the central part of the pelvis. Under the bow, there were large fragments of dense silk brown. On the right, along the body of the deceased, a bark quiver lay, with its "pocket" open. Length of the quiver was 86 cm. He took up space from the elbow joint (upper part) to the area little below the knee (lower part). The quiver was made of three sheets of birch bark. In place of their connection, there are two bone cross straps, one strap forms the end of this quiver. The entire length of the quiver are two longitudinal, bone lining.

At the top of the quiver there was an open-work square plaque with the figure of a deer and three small round plaques with an ornament in the form of concentric arcs, lying face down. All of them were on the same line along the left edge of the quiver. Metal was the silver with gilding. In a square frame figure of a deer, skilfully was inscribed, shown in profile. One could see a small tail, horns massive trunk with three branches.

In an open "pocket" of the quiver, one could see iron arrowheads. There were only 23 copies, one of them has a bone pennywhistle. To the left of the quiver, there was a rectangular iron adze with a straight blade.

Under leather case, there was an elongated bow quiver, the size is about 54 cm. Only fragments were preserved. In the central part of the edge, there were rounded plaques with an orna-

ment of concentric arcs. At the bottom of the product there were clasps, on the half of which palmettes were depicted and below there is a round plaque with concentric patterns.

For the design of the top part of a bow the researchers refer, apparently, to a plaque with a picture of a man's head made of silver with gilding. There was a large rectangular slot with rounded corners, where the belt should have been threaded and remained a fragment thereof. The eyes, nose, eyebrows, mouth and ears were thoroughly elaborated. The line merged with the line of the eyebrows nose. The eyes were large, with pupils. The character's hairstyle is of great interest. It had a middle parting, wavy hair, with the face framed by wavy curls.

Above the top of the bow and under the "pocket" of the quiver, there were concentrated large pieces of leather belts with heart plaques (14 copies), rounded plaques with concentric arcs (5 copies), semi-elliptic (3 copies) and with palmetto (2 copies), pentagonal plaque (1 sp.), a rectangular clip (1 sp.), buckles (5 copies). There are two small plaques: round and square, may be part of the plaques. The metal was Bronze, except rounded plaques (silver gilt) and pentagonal without ornaments (Silver).

Under the quiver sword, its sheath was located. Its length was 1.1 m. The top of the handle has alloy cage, made of silver with gilding. The scabbard was made of wood, covered with leather in the upper part and the lower was coated with silver stripes, stitched with two collars. The handle was covered with ray skin. Crosshairs iron, direct. The end of the clips was in the form of a brace, the surface has a picture of figures of horses, located to both sides of a large vegetative curl. On the surface of the pommel handle, there were graceful vegetable curls, the end of the sheath is the figure of a winged horse with a tail, made in the form of vegetative curls.

At a distance of 7.5 cm from buteroli object was a bone in shape of the tapered cylinder. From the expanding side, there were four holes located opposite each other.

Over the left arm below the elbow joint, leather handbag was posted. Its surface color was black, with valve rounded edges.

At the level of the left hand was a wooden bowl, it is a little deformed and stood at an angle (left above). Next to the bowl at the level of the tibia there was a wooden dish. On a platter, partly coming beyond, the caudal vertebrae lay as

well as ribs and scapula horse and vertebrae of sheep and goats.

On top of the feet and to the left foot bridle sets were placed. Its elements were within the triangular-shaped spots of dark brown color. There were bits of iron, ringed with horny psalium, with the end of a fish tail. Haphazardly arranged headlight badge teardrop-shaped, silver plate with holes at the edges (3 copies), bronze rectangular cage (2 copies), silver with gold plaques in two varieties: 1) an elongated rectangular shape, an ornament of three contiguous lozenges on the surface (10 copies); 2) small pentagonal shape with a picture of a flower on a per-surface (8 copies).

In their left feet at the ankles, there lay a wooden seat with a high front pommel, the size is 39x33 cm. The seat was laid with the front pommel to the feet. It consists of two flanges connected with a belt, 7.5 cm of width, and two bows (front and rear). The front bow piece, in the form of an arc, was higher than the back. Rear bow consisted of two parts, forming an arcuate shape.

In the middle of the saddle top was a bronze cage and rectangular buckle with a fragment of leather strap underneath. Right on top of the rear part of the bow and partially on the shelf, there were fragments of leather belts with a rectangular clip, buckle and four silver-gilt plaques, forming elongated rhombic patterns.

Closer to the inner surface of the rear bows and of the left shelf, there were four elongated plaques with rhombic patterns with fragments of leather belts. Also, there were two bone fasteners for bonds. At the level of the rear bows is a bronze plaque with wavy edges and Palmetto on the surface.

On each side of the seat were iron stirrups with a wide footrest and dedicated eye rectangular shape. Stirrup at the left (relative to the seat) lies upside down footrest upward and the other is on the right upright. Near the saddle lay bone fastener from the shackles and girth buckle tongue.

### **Burial Mount N. 11**

Before the excavation work surface facility was fixed on the accumulation of stones without grass and had a shape of an irregular circle 9,5H9,7 m in size. The top layer of the structure were the stones of small and medium sizes. When erecting a monument to the ground facilities, slate

slabs of blue and grey colours were used, occasionally - boulders.

The original design was a sub-rectangular fence. Stone fence lay flat, tilted on edge. Inside the fence, the researchers revealed a gravel pit of oval shape, oriented along the line SW-NE.

At a depth of 0.9 m, the researchers recorded a top layer of backing of the burial pit. In the south wall of the pit, the upper edge of burial was marked and overlap made of thick branches of cedar, with a diameter of 3 to 10 cm. Overlapping of burial during installation was apparently almost upright, but later took an inclined position due to pressure exerted by the mass of the earth. The average length of wood floors is about 120 cm. At the bottom of the input, the horse was laid on the right side, with its head leaning against the corner of the pit. Burial height is 1 m, the wall is 0.7 m, with is 1.2 m. The body gradually descended to a straight wall with rounded corners.

At the bottom of the burial, there were the remains of a man lying stretched on his back, head to the northeast. At the bottom of the pit was fixed wooden flooring. The skull of the buried has a perfectly round artificial deepening - a bone cut 4 cm in diameter. The bottom part of the face had traces of a mask made of a very thin silver plate. Tapered edge of the mask has two oblong holes. In the region of the right temporal bone there was a round earring of bronze wire.

To the right of a person, partially overlapping arm bone, combat bows lay, wrapped in birch bark. The length of the bow was 1.2 m. One end of the bow is at the level of the right shoulder, the other end is on top of a wooden dish.

At the level of the tibia of the right leg of the buried, there was a wooden bowl and a ceramic vessel.

Lower, against the right foot, there was a large wooden dish called *Astau*, with an elongated shape, size 30x60 cm. One end was rounded, the second was in the form of an arc. The dish had a low rim, mostly well-documented, its outlines were only with rounded sides, it has a width of 4 cm. On a plate lay a traditional set of funeral food: caudal vertebrae and rib horse while an iron knife is next to it.

To the left of the buried, blocking the left hand, lay a birch bark quiver, with its "pocket" closed. The quiver birch bark consists of two sheets, and the valve made of skin. The length of the quiver was 89 cm. The size of the leather valve was 24x15 cm. On its surface, there were

nine rounds and one cross shaped plaques of silver. Along the quiver, there was a stem of a reed.

Cover of the "pocket" was made of a rectangular piece of leather. The sides of the "pocket" formed elongated pieces of birch bark, bent in the middle. It also placed rectangular wooden slats.

To the right of the quiver, on the top of the tibia, there was a musical instrument with a long neck. Its length was 63 cm. Its body was of the navicular oblong form. In the centre, there was a hole in the form of three angled short connecting lines. The shape was elongated, forming a figure in the form of a pentagon. In its lower part, the researchers could see a hollowed inner edge. Next to it, there is a small heart-shaped plaque, 30x23 cm in size.

On the top of the pelvic bones, between the legs up to the level of the knee, a leather quiver was put. It was a case for bows of rectangular shape consisting of four strips of leather, there are small round patches (there are at the moment 8 copies). The second and the third strip at the bottom had a toothed edge. "The Kinks" were of pentagonal shape. At the lower edges of the strips round silver plaques are arranged (10 sp.). The lower band is also rectangular. On the surface the plaques are not fixed. On the surface of the second strip, there is a cross-shaped plaque of silver in the centre. To the right of the quiver there is a fragment of a leather belt.

Under quiver, when clearing, the researchers found a significant part of silk. The upper part of the piece, just below the pelvis, was divided into two bands extending to the knees. The material is of rare fabric weaving, brown in colour.

At his feet, a wooden saddle lay with a horse bridle and iron stirrups. Saddle lay slightly diagonal, with its back pommel at the feet of a man. The front pommel is high, arcuate in shape. Back bow is round in shape, 34x34 cm in size.

Also, here were placed, parts of horse harness. Fragments of round bridle bit were found and oblong iron plates that were plaques, designing the belts.

### **Burial Mount N. 12**

It was directly adjacent to the south of another object. The basis of the original structure, as in other graves of studied era, was sub-rectangular fence erected around the graves pit. Inside this fence, at the level of the ancient horizon, at the north side of the main tomb burial

were committed in a small depression, surrounded by river stones. The dead man lay on its back, with its head to the west, and was covered with longitudinal thin wooden slats, one of which has a square (1x1 cm) hole. Strips, for the most part, were burnt-out that indicates the possibility of committing ritual of purification by fire. After covering the body of the deceased person with wooden slats, on the left side, at a shoulder level, there were tubular bones of a horse. Next to the skull of the buried person, round silver earrings were found.

At the bottom of a small-size inlet hole (well), with river stones, a horse was put on the legs tucked under the belly, its body oriented to the west. Neck of the animal rests in the form of the arc on the western wall and its head with the crown to the northwest corner of the entrance hole.

On the horse's head, there were the remains of a belt from a bridle with an iron 8-shaped bridle bit and S-shaped bone Psalia, which had a ribbed surface. The lower end of the psalia was designed as a bifurcated fish tail, the top was in the form of a direct, slightly pointed ribbed rod.

On the belt bridle, silver with gold plaques were preserved, they were covered with rich floral ornaments. Other elements of the horse harness with a cover burial of animals were not found.

In the middle of the southern wall of the entrance, a short cross passage was dug that connected the horse burial with the parallel burial pit designed for the burial of the deceased.

The mouth of the arched doorway, that is, of the dromos was lined with several layers of limestone and then faced with Cork trees.

One large plate with a yellowish tinge front surface and several other stones near it were found between the skeleton of a horse and the southern wall of the pit, that may have served as a partition saver of the burial.

At the bottom of the pit burial, lined with felt a person was put in a stretched position on the back, head to the east, arms alongside the body. The legs of the deceased rested with its feet on the western wall of the burial pit, that is a rare event, documented in the funerary practices of the ancient Turks.

The body of the deceased was also covered with a blanket of felt mats, as evidenced by its scraps and black ashes preserved in skull, bones and on the surfaces of the accompanying equipment.

There were buried earrings made of silver wire. At the head, there was an iron helmet, however, its preservation is very poor, which made it diffi-

cult to study the shape, composition and manufacturing technology. However, finding such a thing of protective arms is rare.

On the right side of the buried, close to the edge of the pit, a wooden vessel with a handle was put, and in front of the elbow was placed a wooden dish on three short legs with horse tail vertebrae. Caudal vertebrae, judging by the excavations in the ancient Turkic elite burials, belonged to the category of the sacral part of the body of the sacred animal with a complex meaning. Therefore, they were placed in a special container in the tomb of the most notable people.

On top of the buried body was laid a composite bow and an arrow passed through the medial bone lining. Flat iron tip of the arrow rests on the lower edge of birch bark quiver, which occupies the space of the left breast to the knee of the left leg. In an open pocket of the quiver remained heterogeneous arrowheads, among which there is a sample from a bone whistle. On the quiver, there was a short wooden object, consisting of two halves. One end of this object was wrapped by a leather strap and had a hole. The subject was covered with a silk cloth with a brownish tint. From the sword, lying on the left side, through the quiver and the human hip bone in the wrist of his right hand passed a belt with silver buckles, iron hooks and various rings.

Sabre had an imaginary crosshairs, bark sheath wrapped with a narrow leather strap.

To the right and to the left of the deceased, were two tapered poles (the right long one was broken into two parts and put), which functions are still unknown.

On the left, along the body of the deceased, some flat wooden object was put, like a cover.

Near the ulna of the right hand was an iron axe. Below, in front of the right tibia, a composite wooden saddle was placed with a well-preserved *Lence* (part of the saddle) and high front and rear low bows. Nearby lay the iron stirrups. Preservation was poor.

The most important subject that has been with the warrior, was a stringed musical instrument made of wood. It lay to the left of the man and a little higher under the grip of iron swords mentioned above. The total length of the tool is 0.70 m. Clearly headstock with two pegs is seen. The body of the instrument is rounded, with the bowl-shaped cavities. At the end of the cup-shaped body there was a small projection with a hole adapted, obviously, for fixing strings.

#### Burial Mount N. 4

It was situated in a group Karakaba-II apart from a chain of Burial mounts located on the east side. The Burial mount built of limestone with a small proportion of rounded stones. Armoured layer consisted of fine limestone. The size of the ground structure 8x8 m, of rectangular shape, angulated and oriented to the cardinal. The wall of the original buildings was a fence built of slabs of different forms, mostly rectangular and oval, laying had three or four plates, in some areas the height of the walls reached 0.6 m. The wall thickness was of 0.4-0.5 m. The space inside the walls was filled with small limestone, pebbles were not used.

In the centre of the ground structure, the researchers found scattered embers and the horse's teeth. Burial pit of rectangular form with rounded corners, is oriented with its long axis along the line northeast - southwest.

The pit was shut by rounded stones of large and medium sizes, among them were much decayed remains of three poles, their thickness is from 5 to 10 cm, the distance between them was 0.4-1 m. In the layered removal, it was revealed that these poles – splash of the burial - went to the bottom with a certain inclination.

At a depth of 2.75 m, there are two horses "insitu", heads oriented to the southwest. Animals occupied the entire burial chamber at this level, were placed in two tiers, close to the southern wall. Horses are on the right side, legs bent inward, neck extended, head turned to the north and are on the right side. Lower horse is placed closer to the western wall; such arrangement put their heads together, and not in two tiers. Between the skulls, the researchers found iron bits; difficult to determine to which animal they belonged. Around the lower jaw bone was a bridle of the buckle. Among the bones, the researchers found much corroded iron objects.

At a depth of 1.71 m in the northern wall of the burial pit, a burial began, which covered the western corner of the wall. The width of the digging at the bottom of the pit reaches 1 m.

At 3 m from the surface were the bones of the buried. The dead lay stretched on his back, head to the northeast. The head of the deceased turned to the left, on the frontal part of the skull are remains of hair. Under the buried, the researchers fixed strongly decayed remains of a wooden deck, probably one piece.

Under the skull, near the ear openings, the researchers recorded two identical annular articles, made of silver. In the area of the crown on the floor there was a fragment of the wooden products with traces of cuts on the edges. Its length is of 23 cm. In the upper part of the skull, the researchers fixed leather sheath sword with silver details.

Near the left side of the skull, there were the remains of the ribs, scapula and caudal vertebrae horse lying on a wooden platter with legs and arms.

On the body of the deceased, there were two birch bark quivers with a set of iron arrows. The quivers were located above left and right hand respectively.

The Quiver 1 (right): the surface is not preserved, here, the researchers found the remains of nine shafts of arrows. Arrows in the quiver were with the tips upward. On the upper side of the quiver there was a wooden lining, L-shaped form, below square aperture or recess was traced, where the researchers found tips of iron arrows. The lower portion was wider, to 15 cm from the upper end of the quiver narrows, forming a neck. Length of the quiver is 85 cm, maximum width is 16 cm. The length of arrows with tips was 7b cm, diameter of the shafts was 0.5-1 cm.

The Quiver 2 (left): completely preserved, but the state of birch bark boxes was bad. The shape was identical to the first quiver. On birch bark box, the researchers fixed longitudinal grooves, where thin rods were inserted, which may have served as ribs. Length of the quiver was 87 cm, width of the lower part was 20 cm, the top - 13 cm. On the upper side, there was a cut-end side, made of an L-shaped carved wooden plates. There were four iron arrowheads with shafts. On the right side, on top, is a metal buckle with a moving tongue.

Between the quivers, along the buried, there is a wooden bow, the central part of which is preserved. A composite bow, strapping was fixed with leather straps.

Under the quiver, there was a spear with a large iron tip.

On the bones of the deceased, in the space from the left side of the chest to the right knee, there was an iron sword. Blade slightly curved, triangular-shaped in cross-section with a conical tip. The handle is made of wood, it is crowned by a metal back plate with rhombic, triangular and circular holes made in a row, forming a kind

of square; on the pommel, and there was a leather band. Crosshairs was direct, narrow, ornamented, possibly made of silver. The handle was slightly curved, in two places, there were metal boxes, in the middle, there was a leather cord tying. Next to it, there was a leather sheath of a sword, in the lower side, there was threaded ferrule with diamond-shaped openings. Around the central part and at the beginning, there were threaded collars arcuate ornamented metal parts intended for hanging at the belt. Ornamental plant in the form of branched leaves, and the arcuate part –was rhomboid openings as at the tip. Inside the leather wrap, there is a wooden bottom. Near the sheath there were two metal pendants of round shape, with holes in eyelets.

Under the quiver, near the elbow of the left hand, the researcher cleared a headstock with four pegs and fingerboard fragment of a musical instrument made of wood. The remaining parts were highly decayed, whereby they merged with the deck. As a result, the shape of the tool could not be recovered.

Between the legs, below the knees, the researchers found the pelvic bone and caudal vertebrae sheep. About the tibia of the right leg, there was a large iron stemmed arrowhead without shaft. Just below, there was a leather strap attached to the ring.

At the foot of the deceased, there was a saddle set, its bottom is made of wood, there were also poorly preserved leather items.

Numerous iron suspensions, ringed seals, belt tips were scattered around the saddle. Next to him was a bit, put on the horn psalia. Near the saddle, there were iron stirrups, one of them had a leather belt. Stirrups were massive, with flat footrest. Around saddle set, there is a bone buckle with a tongue, most likely, it is not in its original place.

On the backbone of a set of weapons, there were the remains of clothes, it consisted of several layers of fabric. Around the chest are scraps of knitted garments.

Thus, studied at Karakabe, the Burial mounts characterize the culture of ancient Turkic peoples of the region who had close ethnic, cultural and economic ties and cooperation with the peoples of neighbouring regions of Central Asia (Gavrilova 1965).

For the reconstruction of religious beliefs of the ancient Turks, that were clearly seen in the funeral and memorial rites, as well as for determination of the ethnic appearance of the buried,

the ethnographic analysis of the features of burial is very important, that is, with a horse, components of land and buildings of the funerary objects.

Among the features of the funeral rites of the ancient Turks era, in the territory of Kazakh Altai, is undoubtedly burial of the companion horse in full gear, not next to a dead person, but at the bottom or at the top of the front of the pit, and mostly without equipment (Zhalmaganbetov et al. 2015). The exception was a small burial of the horse in the Burial mount No.12, where the horse was left with a bridle and a saddle, stirrups and other items of equipment placed beside the dead man.

Horse equipment (a saddle, stirrups, a bridle with the bit) in the investigated Burial mounts intentionally placed at the feet of the dead individual in burial pit, which was a measure of the change of cultural and ethnographic order. Presumably, these differences are not the indicator of a large chronological gap between them. The presence of the burial pit with wood miniatures, the orientation of the head of the horse in the opposite direction than that of the deceased person, undoubtedly are the specific funeral rites Karakabe Turks.

If the prevalence of a part of the accompanying inventory of armaments is perceived as a natural manifestation of the militant spirit of the age, the finding in three of the four excavated burials on Karakabe of three musical instruments (with different designs), of course, indicates the specific profile of the spiritual development of the ancient nomadic society.

Normally a musical instrument is treated as an attribute of the shaman or priest (Sarsambekova et al. 2015). However, full confidence that these burials are shamanic is still absent.

With the cult of shamanism, the researchers can relate, probably, the rare case of trepanation in a perfect circle on the crown area of the skull, fixed by the researchers in two ancient tombs of Karakabe. Judging by the formation of nodules on the edges of the small burr hole, after these medical procedures, the man even lived for some time. It is possible that such operations were carried out in the commission of shamanic ritual "Chosen" and associated with the notion of special forms of communication with heaven Tengri and perception of information over elected representatives of the spirit (Beysenov and Kitov 2014).

Findings of stringed musical instruments in ancient Turkic monuments are known in the

Mongolian Altai, Polovtsian burials in the territory of Ukraine, indicating the sacred role of music in the cultural complex of ancient Turkic people throughout their habitat (Samashev and Choibaev 2012). A solid set of weapons, combined with a musical instrument indicates the special social status of the buried, representing one of the groups of the Altai Turks localized in this fertile area for the life of the Altai.

As for the type of stringed musical instruments, among them, there are, perhaps, a bow, that is usually included among the essential attributes of shamans (Sarsambekova et al. 2015).

The origins of the musical culture of the Altai Turks are to be found in the depths of the Pazyryk archeological culture Yueh-chih, who had known the various types of stringed instruments (Klyashatornyy and Savinov 2005).

At present, there are several archaeological sites of Turkic Middle Ages where similar investigated musical instruments were found. Known unique musical instrument in the burial of the rock Omnohiyn aman in the territory Mankhan soum in Mongolia in 2008, kobyz Qypchaq burial in the Volga region. Researchers offer various options for the interpretation of social and professional affiliation of their owners (Fomin 2007; Bazylhan 2013).

## CONCLUSION

In general, the findings in the investigated Burial mounts allow to look at the problems in a new way. It is associated with socio-genesis in the ancient society, and develop a new level of world issues, religion and culture with the involvement of these written sources.

With regard to the establishment of the investigated three Burial mounts, they can be dated back to VIII-IX centuries A.D. Continuation of excavation of these sites may open good prospects for the development of actual problems of cultural complex of ancient Turks, especially religion, funeral and memorial rites, and solve some issues related to ethnic and socio-cultural history.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Research in this area is urgent and promising direction in the development of archeology and the history of Turkic people. Resolution of questions that were raised by new unique finds of musical instruments, the data will allow scien-

tists to understand the anthropology of how ancient Turkic cultural genesis proceeded on the territory of Altai. It may be noted, the need to continue the archaeological excavations in the region, which will provide the hands of archaeologists, historians and anthropologists, new and important artifacts of ancient Turkic culture.

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