



## "INNOVATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE 2026"

### REPRESENTATION OF THE SCULPTURE ART OF THE SOUTHERN ARAL SEA REGION IN MATERIAL ARTIFACTS

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**Abstract:** *This study is dedicated to investigating the ancient sculpture art of the Southern Aral Sea region through the analysis of key archaeological sites, including Tuproqqal'a and Mizdaxkon. The research examines the artistic characteristics of sculptural specimens, the technical methods employed by local schools, and their profound connection to the socio-religious life of the period. The findings of this study play a significant role in systematizing the historical and cultural heritage of the region.*

**Keywords:** *Southern Aral Sea region, sculpture art, Tuproqqal'a, Mizdaxkon, cultural heritage, archaeology, artistic analysis.*

#### INTRODUCTION

The territory of Uzbekistan, shaped by recurring geological processes, occupies a strategically advantageous geographical position. The fertility of the plains situated between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers resulted from sedimentary layers deposited by various river channels, such as the Akchadarya and Zarafshon branches, which formed the productive lands of the oasis. The diverse geographical landscape of the region is inextricably linked to the historical movements of the Amu Darya and its tributaries. Notably, the hydrological structure was defined by the Akchadarya on the right bank and the Davdon and Daryalik channels on the left.

#### Archaeological and Cultural Context

Research conducted by the Khorezm Archaeological-Ethnographic Expedition under the leadership of S.P. Tolstov in the late 1930s and 1940s revealed that local populations began practicing agriculture in "virgin" lands as early as the Bronze Age. While wild animals were hunted for food since the Stone Age, their subsequent domestication played a pivotal role in human development. The sanctification of these animals led to the creation of various clay figurines of livestock, marking the emergence of a new specialized craft in daily life. Consequently, during the Bronze and Iron Ages, the art of sculpture became deeply intertwined with the culture of animal husbandry.

#### Scientific Findings and Analysis

Beginning in the 1950s, excavations between Shorikhon and the Sultan Uvays Mountains yielded significant results regarding Bronze Age settlements. Archaeologist M.A. Itina identified clay figurines of domestic animals—including sheep, pigs, and camels—at sites such as Qavat-2, Kokcha-15, Jonbos-30, and Qavat-3 within the Southern Akchadarya basin, belonging to the Tazabagyab culture. The inhabitants of this period primarily raised



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small-bodied animals; sheep and goats provided meat, milk, hide, and wool for handicrafts, while camels served as vital means of transport and labor.

The density of livestock increased by the late Bronze Age, as evidenced by findings at the Yakka-Parson-2 site (9th–7th centuries BCE). Comparative osteological data from various sites highlights this development:

- Kuyisay (Sarykamys region): 37 cattle, 42 small livestock, 7 horses, and 2 camels.
- Charmanyop (near Kozaliqir): 40 cattle, 43 small livestock, 8 horses, and 2 camels.
- Ding'ilja (Kaltaminor irrigation system): 2 cattle, 61 small livestock, 5 horses, and 7 camels.

The evolution of animal husbandry and related sculpture was driven by socio-economic needs (population growth), natural-climatic conditions, ethno-cultural traditions, and the overall development of material and spiritual culture.

### Conclusion

By the end of the 6th century BCE, the ancestors of the region began constructing both minor (Ding'ilja, Qizilqal'a) and major (Tuproqqal'a, Khiva) urban centers using mud-brick architecture. Today, the defensive walls and architectural monuments of these sites, particularly the city of Khiva, stand as international tourist landmarks and pillars of national cultural heritage. Archaeological evidence confirms that sculpture related to livestock played a fundamental role in the identity and material culture of the Bronze and Iron Age populations in the Southern Aral Sea region.

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