

Medieval fortification Choban-Kule: prospects for studying the Genoese defensive structure and its possible inclusion in the number of attractions of the Crimean Peninsula

Научный руководитель – Вечканова Элина Юрьевна

Петрук Мария Викторовна

Студент (магистр)

Крымский федеральный университет имени В. И. Вернадского, Симферополь, Россия

E-mail: masha.petruk.98@mail.ru

M.V. Petruk

Crimean Federal University

named after V.I. Vernadsky (Simferopol, Russia)

Medieval fortification Choban-Kule: prospects for studying the Genoese defensive structure and its possible inclusion in the number of attractions of the Crimean Peninsula

At the end of 2019, the expedition "Genoese Fortresses of Crimea and the Black Sea-Azov Basin" explored all Genoese fortresses, the remains of Genoese fortifications, as well as former Italian settlements located in the southwestern Crimea. The purpose of this expedition was to extrapolate and reconstruct the external appearance of the Genoese defensive structures, as well as the remains of the fortifications that once belonged to the Italians on the territory of the Crimean Peninsula.

Particular attention was focused on the little-studied Choban-Kule fortress, located 5 km west of the village. Marine in the urban district of Sudak. Since the end of the 19th century, many researchers associate the remains of this tower with the Tassili castle, which once belonged to the di Guasco family, which is considered highly respected in the region [3, p.141-142]. The famous scientist-encyclopedist, member of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences Peter Simon Pallas was engaged in the study of this monument. In 1793-1794 he visited the southern governorships of the Russian state. According to PS Pallas, the fortification, called Choban-Kule by the Tatars, consists of a solid round tower. Its dimensions reach 20 yards across, and its height is more than 4 fathoms. This tower has a broken vault at the top. It was possible to get into it by a staircase, the entrance to which was raised above the ground [1, p. 92-93; 2, p. 96-97]. Since the second half of the 20th century, archaeological excavations have been carried out on the territory of this cultural heritage site of the Crimean Peninsula, which made it possible to record the condition of the tower and designate objects located in the immediate vicinity of Choban-Kule.

Today the tower has a rather poor preservation, it reaches a height of 9 meters, in other words, it is significantly different from its original appearance. Only a fragment of the fortress wall has been preserved, as well as two corner towers. Largely thanks to archaeological excavations, it was possible to determine the fact that the castle was once square in plan, and the tower, which has survived to this day, was located in the center. A little lower than the fortress ensemble itself, there was a settlement, which probably supplied the castle with the necessary food. In addition, pottery kilns are located near the site, which are of interest from an archaeological point of view.

In the course of the research work, the research staff of the expedition decided to create 3D models of fortresses, including the Choban-Kule fortress. This was done due to the fact that from the ground it is impossible to see the full picture of the fortress ensemble. Thus, thanks to the photographic recording of a plot of land with an area of approximately 1 km², which made it possible to examine the landscape and the tower itself with the adjacent objects.

Based on the results of the work carried out on the territory of the archaeological site of the Crimean Peninsula, the researchers carried out a comprehensive study of the Choban-Kule cultural heritage site, aerial photography was carried out in order to determine the boundaries of the object and create its 3D model. Information was obtained about the landscape of this site, which should contribute to a more complete study of the territory. In the future, the researchers are left with the reconstruction of the original appearance of the monument of the Middle Ages.

Over time, this historical and architectural monument and the territory that surrounds it, including the medieval settlement, pottery kilns, as well as those objects that may ever be found on the territory of the monument through archaeological research and related to the medieval era and the Genoese in overall, could be organized as a landmark. To achieve this kind of goal, it is necessary to carry out comprehensive measures aimed at improving the safety of the fortifications and other objects that make up the historical and architectural ensemble, and at the improvement of the historical and cultural landscape of the future landmark. In addition, it is necessary to develop and prepare all project documentation, according to which this or that event will be carried out in the future on the territory of the cultural heritage site of the Crimean peninsula. All these actions must be coordinated in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Thus, it will become possible not only to popularize the medieval Genoese monument of history and architecture Choban-Kule, but also, possibly, to reconstruct its former appearance.

Literature:

1. Mayko VV, Dzhanov AV Archaeological sites of the Sudak region of the Republic of Crimea / VV. Maiko, A. V. Dzhanov. - Simferopol, 2015. - 448 p.
2. Pallas PS Observations made during a trip to the southern governorships of the Russian state in 1793-1794 / per. with him. - Moscow: Nauka, 1999. - 249 p.
3. Farbey A. M., Maiko V. V., Janov A. V. Genoese in the Crimea: a historical guide / A. M. Farbey, V. V. Maiko, A. V. Janov. - K. : Gorobets, 2009. - 232 p.

Источники и литература

- 1) Mayko VV, Dzhanov AV Archaeological sites of the Sudak region of the Republic of Crimea / VV. Maiko, A. V. Dzhanov. - Simferopol, 2015. – 448 p.
- 2) Pallas PS Observations made during a trip to the southern governorships of the Russian state in 1793-1794 / per. with him. - Moscow: Nauka, 1999. – 249 p.
- 3) Farbey A. M., Maiko V. V., Janov A. V. Genoese in the Crimea: a historical guide / A. M. Farbey, V. V. Maiko, A. V. Janov. - K. : Gorobets, 2009. – 232 p.