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Исследование памятников индийского письма начала нашей эры из буддийского монастыря Кара-тепе в Старом Термезе (раскопки 60-х – 80-х годов). Изучение структуры эпиграфических текстов и выявление их жанровой характеристики дает автору ключ к дешифровке надписей и позволяет выйти на ряд проблем, связанных с функционированием буддийской общины на Кара-тепе. Публикуется полный свод всех найденных на Кара-тепе до 1989 г. индийских надписей (с фотографиями и прорисовками). Книга предназначена для лингвистов и текстологов, историков религии и культуры Индии и Средней Азии.

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SUMMARY

The book 'Indian epigraphical finds from Kara-tepe in Old Termez' by Victoria VERTOGRADOVA is a study and a publication of all Indian inscriptions (in both Kharoshthi and Brahmi scripts) encountered during the archaeological investigation at the Kara-tepe mound in Old Termez (the excavations of B.Ya.Staviski).

The excavations at Kara-tepe have not yet been completed. However, at present there is a considerable number of Indian inscriptions (more than 200 items). Those have to be interpreted in the context of other sites of Central Asia and India and the new problems have to be raised.

The methods used were based on the study of the structure of epigraphic texts and the establishment of their "genre" characteristics. It gave us a clue to the deciphering and reconstruction of many a fragmentary inscription and enabled us to trace approximately the limits of their use for the source study purposes.

The book comprises three parts and an appendix.

The first part deals with the study of the principles of composition of an epigraphic text. The problems of genre, text transformation, correlation between genre and script, between script and language are thoroughly examined. Indian inscriptions are compared with those in 'unknown lettering'. The palaeography of the inscriptions and their dating are investigated.

The latest finds of brahmi inscriptions allowed the present author to date the decline of the monastery to the late 5th-early 6th centuries A.D. To establish the typological traits of brief and poorly preserved wall inscriptions one has to investigate the correlation between the text and the painting. In many cases it allows us if not to read the inscription, at least to establish its genre and to compare it with its Indian counterparts.

The second part of the book deals with the investigation of the possibilities that Indian inscriptions provide for the study of the Buddhism and of the functioning of a Buddhist community at Kara-tepe. The problem of Buddhist schools having propagated their teaching in Termez is raised. For instance, the relations of these schools with Indian Buddhist centres, particularly with those of Central India and Eastern Deccan in the later period of existence of the monastery can be traced. The problem of the viharas of Kara-tepe is specially investigated. The name of the Kara-tepe monastery ('The Ruler's vihara') is established. Admittedly, a local ruler or governor founded the monastery on the southern hillock of Kara-tepe.

The occurrence of the name of 'the vihara of Gondofar's son' in a recently discovered inscriptions raises a whole cluster of problems related to the name and the date of foundation of the monastery.

The third part of the book is a publication of the whole corpus of the inscriptions of Kara-tepe (both Indian ones and those in 'unknown lettering') encountered from 1961 up to the fieldworks carried out in 1989. In this part the inscriptions previously published by T.V.Grek and the present author are revised with due regard to the criticism and observations of J.Harmatta, O. von Hinüber et al. The inscriptions are classified according to the materials they were written on (inscriptions on pottery, wall inscriptions) and to their script (Brahmi, Kharoshthi).

In the appendix all Indian inscriptions from the adjacent monastery of Fayaz-tepe published by M.I.Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya are revisited. In many cases their reading and interpretation can be defined more accurately in the light of the Kara-tepe data.

In the same part all the inscriptions in 'unknown lettering' from Central Asia discovered by now are published. Those are compared with the inscriptions in this lettering from Kara-tepe published in the third part of the present book.

Problems related to the study of 'unknown lettering' and its correlation with Indian script are investigated as well.

The book is supplied with an album containing 112 lists of illustrations.

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