

Mound “Issyk”

Issyk burial mound located on the western outskirts of Issyk. The diameter of the mound — 60 m, height — 6 m. Burial mound is a multilayer, the layer of gravel alternate with crushed stone-clay layer, around the central grave marked accumulation of large rounded stones. Under the embankment there are two graves: the central and side (south). The central tomb is completely destroyed by the robbers. Side grave remained undisturbed. Burial chamber is a rectangular pit, which raised frame, built from processed logs of Tien Shan spruce. Dimensions of pit by inside measurement: 2.9 x1, 5 m, by outside: 3,3 x1, 9 m, 1.5 m — height with the counter floor.

Burial structure in the Issyk mound obviously being constructed in this way: a pit dug grave of rectangular shape, the long side oriented from west to east. Log cabins — a burial chamber was built in it. The logs do not contacted each other at the corners, but only come into contact, the butt-ends of logs of the longitudinal and transverse walls of the chamber at the corners alternately go at each other, thereby preventing blockage.

The walls of the chamber consist of five logs, and on top of it is covered with logs, laid crosswise on the long walls. At the bottom was covered with floor of the ten well-treated boards, adjusted to each other. On the floor placed the remains of the deceased and the grave goods. Floor was once covered with cloth bedding, embroidered with small gold plaques. The deceased was laid on it, dressed in ceremonial dress, with full arms. The deceased was laid on his back with outstretched extremities, head west, face up, his right hand laid on the groin, left arm thrown away.

Along the right thigh (most likely suspended from the sword belt), lay flat iron sword in a wooden sheath, stained in red. Belts sword belts were decorated with gold ring and proniz (binder straps) with a relief depicting the head of a tiger (leopard). Between the torso and left hand put an iron dagger in a wooden sheath, leather and decorated with two gold plates with images of animal style, two cylindrical plates-holder for the cross-belts with relief images of rolled up the wolf.

Close to the corpse at the elbow of his left hand placed an arrow tipped with gold, right there, but lies above the elbow whip, the handle is wrapped helically by wide gold band, even higher — cloth (silk) toilet bag, which is a bronze mirror and a red dye. On the floor of the chamber are once filled with food ceramic and ritual vessels. The latter include a silver cup with the inscription and bronze-gilt dish. There were a few golden curly plates made in the form of the beak and claws of a bird of prey. None of the vessels were found animal bones and remains of meat.

In placing of dishes maintained a certain order. Clay and wooden vessels were placed separately. The south wall was a wooden utensils, and the background is two rows of four dishes, side by side, but in the foreground, bowls and ladle. Clay pitchers, and bowls in front of them were lined up in a row close to each other at the other wall. Among them stood together two silver cups and spoons. The bronze bowl is in the side at the head of the buried. Floor site on the eastern walls of the chamber is free of things. Obviously, the entrance to the chamber was just to the east.

After the burial chamber was covered with logs, and the pit was filled with soil, then mound was erected.

K. M. Baipakov, “*Saki of Zhetysu-Semirechye*”