



**NATIONAL DEPARTMENT
FOR PROTECTION,
INVESTIGATION AND
RESTORATION OF
HISTORICAL AND
CULTURAL MONUMENTS
OF TURKMENISTAN**



**MARGIANA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXPEDITION**



**N.N. MIKLUKHO-
MAKLAI INSTITUTE OF
ETHNOLOGY AND
ANTHROPOLOGY
OF RUSSIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES**



**Athens Institute
for Education and Research**
9th Annual International Conference
on Mediterranean Studies

Bronze Age Center of Oriental Civilization in the Karakum Desert (Turkmenistan) and its Connections with Mediterranean World



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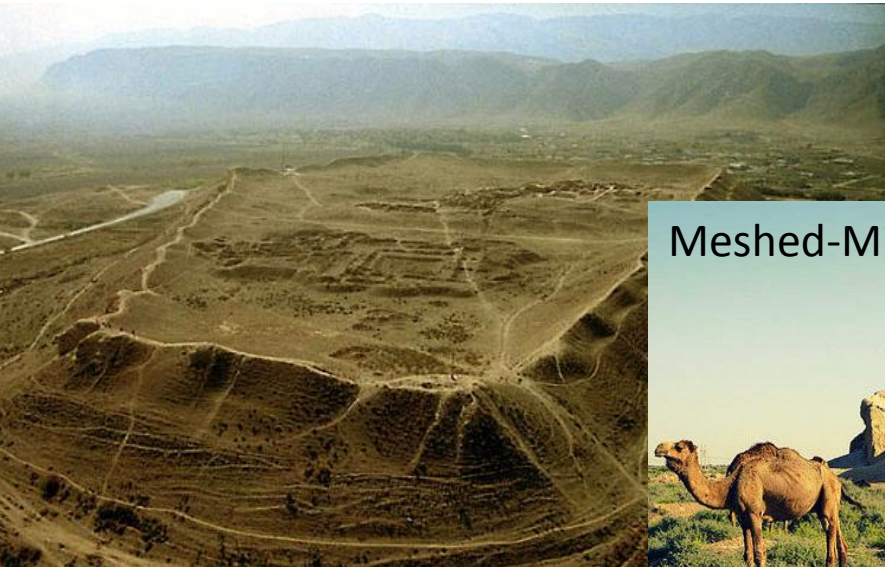


In the late 1940s – early 1950s later world famous Greek-Russian-Turkmenien archaeologist Victor Sarianidi took part in his first excavations after graduating of the Historical faculty of the Middle Asian State University in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). His father borne in Trebizond and mother born in Yalta have married in Russia in the second half of 1920s and moved to Tashkent where there were more possibilities to find a job.





In the 1950-1970's the South-Turkmenistan archaeological complex expedition (YuTAKE) under leadership of prof. Mikhail Masson and later Vadim Masson in collaboration with Turkmenian archaeologists excavated many new and well-known sites near Kopet-Dagh foothills – Nisa, Sultan-Kala, Namazga depe, Altyn depe, Meshed-Misrian, Ulug depe and in the ancient basin of Tejen river as well. They began to make excavations along the Murghab river also. Victor Sarianidi – was one of them – a young archaeologist who want to know all about the Turkmen ancient history.



Nisa - Parthian capital



Meshed-Misrian



Namazga depe



Ulug depe



Being a head of the Soviet-Afghan archaeological expedition during 1969-1979 and excavating Bronze Age sites there, in Tillya Tepe site in 1978/1979 Victor Sarianidi found 7 Kushan royal tombs, where

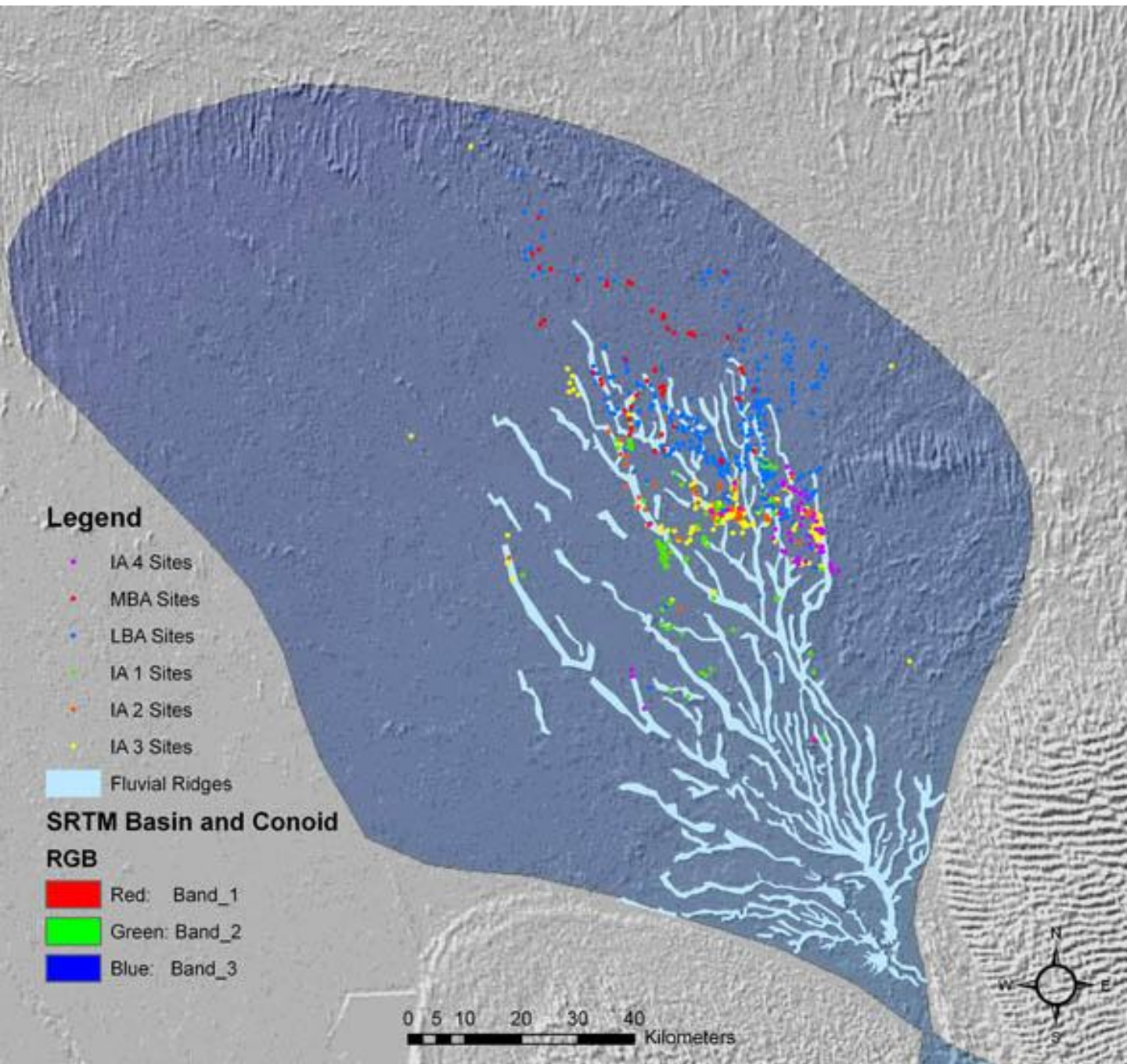


there were more than 20 000 gold goods



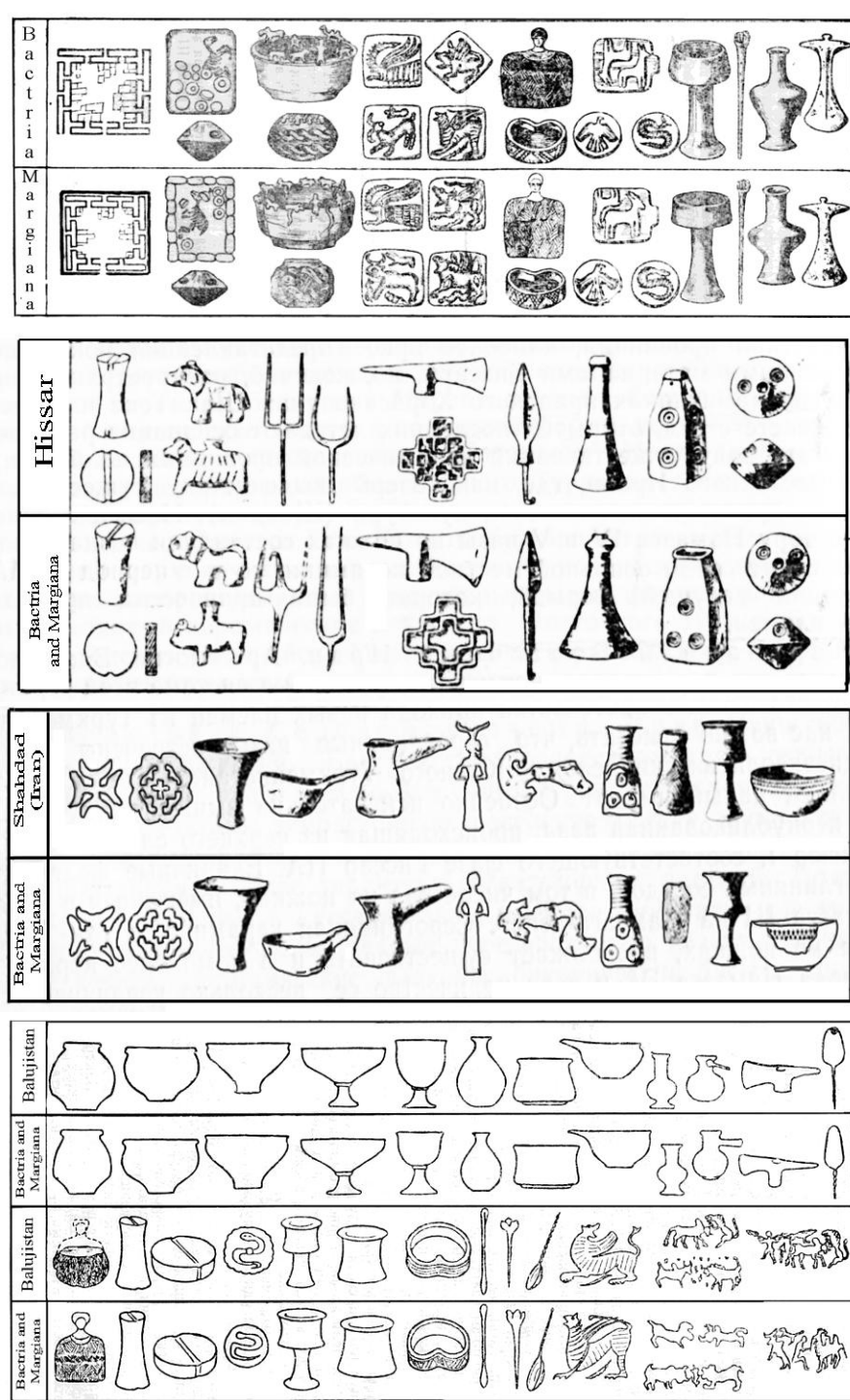


During excavations it became increasingly apparent to Victor Sarianidi's inquiring mind that in prehistory people might have been able to master not only the foothills of the Kopet Dag but also those territories which are now concealed by the desert. Clear evidence of this emerged from the work of Victor Sarianidi at Takhirbai and Yaz-Depe in the Merv oasis.



To the very beginning of 1990th in ancient delta of the Murghab River **more than 200 sites** were opened by prof. Sarianidi. **Only 8 from then are excavated now. Togolok 21 and Gonur Depe are excavated as a whole.**

More than 500 archaeological sites in the ancient Murghab delta (by Tozi, Cerasetti, 2010). Bronze Age and Iron Age sites are pointed by different colors



Making excavations, working in museums and libraries Victor Sarianidi draws his attention to the similarity of monumental architecture, forms of ceramic, bronze objects, stone artifacts, "narrative" stories on seals and amulets, reconstructed beliefs and practices on the archaeological sites, scattered over a vast area from Mesopotamia, and sometimes modern Greece in the west to the Pamir mountains to the east, from the Iranian Kerman in the south to the north of the Zarafshan River.

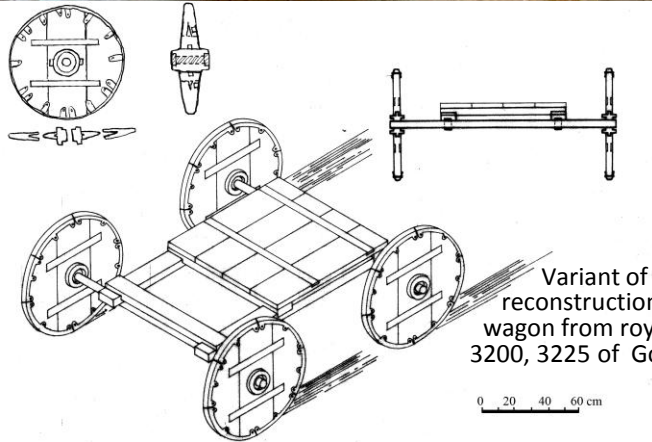


Therefore, already in 1974, he formulated the idea of the existence of the Bactria-Margiana archaeological complex (BMAC). It's very important to underline that similarities have taken place with the local features of cultures, those roots going back to the more ancient epochs.



Few goods from Gonur-depe site in Turkmenistan (2300-1600 BC)





Variant of the reconstruction of the wagon from royal tombs 3200, 3225 of Gonur Depe



Few goods from Gonur-depe site in Turkmenistan (2300-1600 BC)



Silver vessel
from
Mardvasht
(Iran)



Silver vessel from the royal
tomb 3220 at Gonur Depe
(2250 BC)



U.S. Dept of State Geographer
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Google earth

Дата съемки: 4.10.2013 39°44'38.36" С 37°04'44.59" В Высота над уровнем моря: 1207 м

обзор с высоты 3664.45 км



Gonur Depe, Turkmenistan. Bird-headed man on the impression of the cylinder seal on the ceramic vessel.

Investigation of these distinctive objects indicates that, for all its originality, the BMAC shows clear parallels to the seals and amulets of Iran (especially Elam) and Mesopotamia. Famous French archaeologist Pierre Amiet (1986) was the first who draw attention to the fact that these parallels are not limited to Mesopotamia but extend as far as Syria and Anatolia.



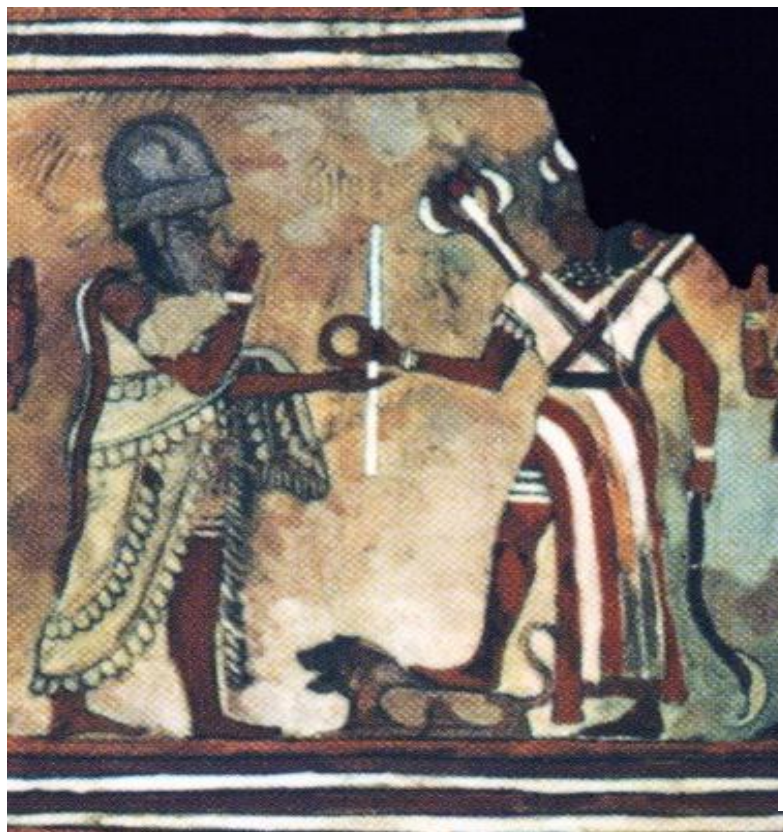
Togolok 1, Turkmenistan. The cylinder seal and its impression.



Gonur Depe, Turkmenistan. Eagle-shaped stone pendant from the tomb № 2938 (a) and stone metal-casting mold (b).



a)



b)



c)

“Harpoons” or “rods” from the tombs of Gonur Depe, Turkmenistan (a) and in the hand of Ishtar Goddess (her foot is on a lion's back) on the wall drawing in the Mari Palace (b) (Syria, II Mill. BC); Egyptian sword khopesh (c).



a)

b)



“Griffin in cartouche” from the royal tomb 3210 of Gonur Depe, Turkmenistan (a) and griffin from the wall drawing in the Mari Palace (b).



WIKTOR SARIANIDI
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MARGUŞ

Marguş

TÜRKMENISTAN

Murgap derýasynyň köne hanasynyň aýagyndaky gadymy gündogar şalygy

Древневосточное царство в старой дельте реки Мургап

Ancient Oriental Kingdom in the Old Delta of the Murghab river



şalygyň haýwanatlyk şalygyň çyňdaşlygynyň netijesinde ýerleşýän. Şalygyň haýwanatlyk şalygyň çyňdaşlygynyň netijesinde ýerleşýän. Şalygyň haýwanatlyk şalygyň çyňdaşlygynyň netijesinde ýerleşýän.

В книге известного российского исследователя древности, доктор исторических наук, заслуженный профессор кафедры Музейологии и реставрации Государственного университета культуры и искусств им. Сергея Есенина Виктор Сарияниди рассказывается о древней культуре туркменского народа.

The book of famous Russian researcher, doctor of historical sciences, professor of the Museumology and Restoration Department of the State University of Culture and Arts named after S. Eсенин, Viktor Sarianidi tells about the ancient culture of the Turkmen people.



WIKTOR SARIANIDI

Goňurdepe

TÜRKMENISTAN

Şalaryň we hudaýlaryň şäheri
Город царей и богов
City of Kings and Gods



Meşhur bir arheologiki tapylyşyň netijesinde, Margiana şalygyň çyňdaşlygynyň netijesinde ýerleşýän. Şalygyň haýwanatlyk şalygyň çyňdaşlygynyň netijesinde ýerleşýän. Şalygyň haýwanatlyk şalygyň çyňdaşlygynyň netijesinde ýerleşýän.



In an unexpected benefit of the cold war's end, Russian and American archaeologists say they have discovered an ancient civilization that thrived in Central Asia more than 1,000 years ago before being lost in the maelstrom of history. The people of this area, the archaeologists say, built oasis settlements with irrigation, mud-brick buildings and fortifications. They had sheep and goats and grew wheat and barley in irrigated fields. They had bronze axes, fine ceramics, alabaster and bone carvings and jewelry of gold and semiprecious stones. They left luxury goods in the graves of an elite class.

WIKTOR SARIANIDI

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MARGUŞ

Marguş

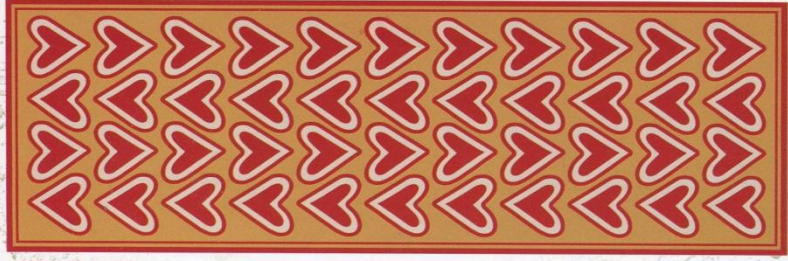
TÜRKMENISTAN

Beýik medeniýetiň syrly dünýäsi
we onyň hakyky keşbi
Таина и правда великой культуры
Mystery and True of the Great Culture



GADYMY MARGIANANYŇ GENJI-HAZYNASY

Treasures of Ancient Margiana
Сокровища древней Маргианы





1955

More than 60 years of archaeological excavations in Middle Asia, more than 300 scientific publications (including around 30 books) of Victor Sarianidi resulted in the discovery of the new center of Oriental civilizations in the Kara-Kum desert (Turkmenistan). Many of the world's leading experts agreed with this notion. Many ideas suggested by him some decades of years ago now are finding new evidences, and number of his adherents increases year by year.