

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 15.05.2014

Title: The Sialk hill, seen throw historical, artistic and architectural narrations

Speakers and panel members: MR. S. M. Shahmirzadi, Mrs. S. Bierashk, Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi, Mr. H. Moslehi, Mr. M.Zandieh, Mr. S. Aivazy

The Sialk archeological site is located in the Fin area of the Kashan city, and its history goes back to 7000 years ago. As mentioned in the texts reporting the history of the Iranian civilization, about 5000 years before A. D. the cave-dwellers of the Iranian plateau after the climatic changes and the formation of the territories appropriate for agricultural activities, established in the lowlands, beginning a new era of social life, different from the ancient forms of civilization and advanced in its characteristics. The oldest habitable center in Iran is still considered the area situated in the hill of Sialk in Kashan. The 19th session of Thursdays evenings was dedicated to the presentation of the Sialk hill history, considering aspects regarding the arts, architecture and history.

The summary of the session is presented as follows:

The first speaker was Mr. S. M. Shahmirzad who presented the archeological studies and conclusions regarding the Sialk hill. Mr. Shahmirzad told that about 5500 years ago there was a river in the region that flowed in a lake. The pictures of the fishes designed on the ceramic vessels, evidence that the local population fished in the river. One of the French archeologists specialized in botanic sciences, after studying the case of the Sialk hill, believes that in ancient times the area was a forest and humid area, where different species of animals were present, like deer or gazelle, which pictures are reported on the ceramic containers found in the archeological site.

The cooking stoves discovered in Sialk are one of the most rudimentary architectural elements of the area. The inhabitants paved the streets and began to build clay-walls. The architectural elements testify the society was not defined by different classes and the people moved from a place to another, according their needs and goals. Only after the realization of the border walls the concept of the property and the social classes appeared in this local civilization. The most ancient surrounded village is considered the Sialk in Kashan and the second one is the village of Tale Sevan in Iraq and another village in Egypt.

The different areas identified in the Sialk hill can be defined as the industrial area where the iron and the copper was extracted through the fusion process; in another area the habitations and the related installations built during the iron era are located and in another area the jetties ruined the repeated earthquakes are recognizable. The southern side of the hill is different from the northern side, where during the copper era they left the area moving to the southern side of the hill, where they

made cooper tools and containers. Is in this area that for the first time the silver was obtained from the silver mineral.

Speaking about the unique form of the Ziguart Mr. Shahmirzadi explained that the structure in the first platform is 45 m. long (north-south) and 56 m. (east-west). The eastern side is decorated and 1250 bricks have been used for the construction of this monument. The construction and the materials preparation process shows a well-organized society. Under the structure of the Ziguart three hall were discovered that reported breaking damages. The successive studies confirmed that the area was located on one of the longest geological faults of the area long about 54 km, that part of it crosses the Sialk hill, so the damages are caused by the earthquakes that hit the region. The ceramic objects found in the area are probably of 5000 years ago.

At the end of his speech Mr. Shahmirzadi explained that the Ziguart building was built on a north-south axe so the first rays of the sun illuminated the building, and this was the reason that the eastern façade was decorated, for the ceremonies that were held in this side.

The second speaker was Mrs. S. bierashk, who spoke the history of the Kashan plateau and the position that this locality has in the 7000 years old Iranian civilization history. The plateau of Kashan before the Islam advent, was populated by the Zoroastrians, and one of the tribes that populated this land were the Kassies. Because of the existence of a principle (called king road) road that coonected the city of Ray and the capital Passargad crossing the area of kashan, the area was used by the caravans to transport goods and merchandise. The connection of different fortifications are the base for the foundation of kashan. The importance of Kashan is increased during the kingdom of Ale Bouye.

The plateau of kashan borders from north to the desert and the city of Qom, from south to the city of Isfahan, and from east and north-east it borders again to the desert, from the east-south it reaches the city of Ardestan and in west it borders with the mountains and cities of Golpayegan.

The climatic variety:

Trophic climate because of desert imminence from the east and south-east.

Cold climate in the south and west side of kashan.

Moderate climate in the middle areas.

The presence of two parallel mountains chains in the plateau of Kashan.

The presence of high summits in the east side of Niasar, near Brzak and the mountains of Karkas and 7 Katal

The presence of famous water sources like the source of Fin, Niasar,, Nabar, Abianeh...

BC	9000	8000	7000	6500	6000	5500	5000	4500	4000	3500	3000
Beginning of Post-Glacial Era	FINAL PALAEOLITHIC	MESOLITHIC	PRE-POTTERY NEOLITHIC	POTTERY NEOLITHIC	Late PPN in Fertile Cres	EARLY CHALC.		LATE CHALCOLITHIC		EARLY BRONZE AGE	
EGYPT		Helwan						Faiyum A · Merimda · Predynastic		Dyn. I	
PALESTINE	Kebaran	Natufian : Eynan Jericho Proto-Neo	Jericho Pre-Pottery Neolithic A			Jer. Pottery Neolithic B		Ghassulian		Proto-Urban	E Bronze Age
N. IRAQ	Zarzian	Karim Shahir	M'Lefaat	Jarmo	Hassuna Samarra		T Halaf	N. 'Ubaid		Gawrah	
S. IRAQ							Eridu · H. Muhammad	S. 'Ubaid		Uruk	Protoliterate
IRAN		Zarzian & Caspian Cave Mesolithic		Pre-Pottery Neolithic		Siyalk I-II		Siyalk III ?		Pisdeli	?
CYPRUS				Pre-pottery Khirokitia I-II		Khirokitia III, painted Troulli + pottery		Erimi			
CILICIA			Mersin	E. Pottery Neolithic		Mersin		Mersin XIX-XII		Early Bronze Age	
KONYA PL			Çatal			Çatal		Can Hasan etc.			
S.W.	Beldibi Late Palaeolithic	Beldibi Mesolithic + pottery	Kızılkaya		Hacı LN	Hacılar		Beycesultan		Age I Cultures	
N.W.					Hacı LN VI	V - I		Tigani · Beşik · Kumtepe		Troy I	
THESSALY				Pre-Pottery	Pre-Sesklo	Sesklo		Dimini · Arapi		Larissa	Rakhmani
SERBIA						Starčevo I-II		Starčevo III		Vinča	Macedonian Early Bronze Age

TENTATIVE INTERPRETATION OF CULTURAL PROGRESS IN THE NEAR EAST

The comparison of the pictures on the ceramic containers found in the Sialk hills, with the other localities.

Examples of animals and humans pictures on the ceramic containers and vessels (birds, lions, deer, cows, scorpions, ostrich, rams).

