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## **Regional Economic Development: The Case of Wooden Buildings of Kazan Khanate**

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**Abstract:**

*The article considers one of the stages in the research history of one of the understudied areas in the material culture of the Kazan Khanate, which concerns the matters of residential and utility buildings. Their archaeological studying is one of the important directions allowing to trace the layout of the settlement, its material culture, and development dynamics.*

*Among the most thoroughly studied archaeological monuments of this period is Kazan. Not a single architectural monument of 15th - first half of 16th XVI century has preserved in Kazan until the present day. This is also due to the fact that the primary construction material in the region was timber, which is subject to eventual complete natural destruction. Therefore, intact preserved structures are rarely discovered at excavations.*

*In rare cases, due to a greater humidity of the ground, it is possible to reveal the foundations of preserved wooden buildings. In recent years, numerous wooden buildings have been revealed as a result of large-scale archaeological excavations in the territory of Kazan Kremlin. Their investigation provided new material on the understudied period in the history of the town.*

**Keywords:** *Kazan Khanate, Town, Construction, Archaeology, Tatars, Kazan, Excavations.*

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## **1. Introduction**

In the middle of the 15th century, more precisely in 1445, Kazan became the administrative and political centre of the state, which is referred to in historical publications as Kazan Khanate. For a long time the Kazan Khanate period has remained understudied in terms of archaeology. Until 1994, minor salvage and protection activities were conducted by I. N. Borozdin and N. F. Kalinin, (1920-1950), and by A. Kh. Khalikov, L. S. Shavokhin and A. G. Mukhamadiev in the 1970s) (Sitdikov & Khuzin, 2009; Khalikov, 1983).

In 1994-2012, as a result of large-scale archaeological excavations in the territory of the Kazan Kremlin, numerous remains of wooden buildings were discovered. In total, about 70 excavations with a total area of over 30 000 square meters were started in the territory of the Kremlin during this period, and dozens of observations were made, which allowed to obtain important material for the research of ancient Kazan (Sitdikov, 1999; 2006; Sitdikov & Khuzin, 2009).

Active construction took place in Kazan during the Khanate period. This is evidenced by the nature of the deposition of layers with a large number of outbreaks of continental soil from foundation pits of buildings (Khuzin & Sitdikov, 2014).

A total of about 600 sites associated with the Kazan Khanate period were identified during the works. They include 67 dwellings, 210 utility structures, and more than 300 sites, the functional purpose of which is unclear. These are primarily residential houses and farm buildings which ceased to exist during the assault of Kazan in October 1552. Most of them perished in a fire.

## **2. Methods**

During excavations of 2003, the remains of wooden structures dating back to the second half of 15th - first half of 16th centuries were discovered in the Cannon yard north of the Qol-Sharif mosque. Their study has provided new materials on the understudied period in the history of the town. The buildings of this part of Kremlin erected before the conquest of the province in 1552 are scarce. There are descriptions of the town siege, which also feature the topography of the region. Tizitsky moat was located at the site, which stretched across the Kremlin hill, along the modern building of the Consistory and under the northern wing of the Junker school. No specific information on this period has preserved in written sources.

After 1552 and until the end of 18th centuries this area was part of the Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery. Since the beginning of 19th century and until the first half of 19th century the study area was limited by the territory of the Cannon Yard. Significant changes in the development of this territory occurred in the first half of 19th century in connection with the construction and organization of the Junker school (Sitdikov & Starkov, 2003a).

### **3. Discussion**

As previously mentioned, excavation LIII contained the remains of buildings dating back to the second half of 15th - first half of 16th centuries. A total of 36 objects were discovered, 12 of which were identified as the remains of residential buildings, and 9 as utility structures. The functional purpose of 15 buildings could not be determined.

Structure 29 (Excavation LIII. 2003. Quad. H-O/-1 - -2. Figure 1). The structure was discovered at the level of 11 spits in the form of an 80x60 cm oval spot stretching beyond the excavation wall and sectioned by structure No. 31 of a later period. The pit featured steep walls and a rough bottom with a deepest point at the level of 72 cm from the upper edge.

Items discovered in the pit were animal bones, horseshoes, fragments of Russian white clay, Kazan, and vague pottery fine-grained ceramics crafted in accordance with Bolgar traditions.

The operation period of the pit is associated with the middle construction horizons of Kazan Khanate. The functional purpose of the structure is that of a utility building.

Structure 30 (Excavation LIII. 2003. Quad. H-O/-1 - -2. Figure 1). It was recorded in the form of a band of decayed timber with a length of up to 156 cm, stretching beyond the excavation wall. The southern and northern sides of the band feature regular stratifications formed during the structure's operation period.

The scarce findings are represented by animal bones and fragments of Russian white clay ceramics crafted in accordance with Bolgar traditions.

The structure probably constitutes the remains of a wooden wall constructed above the ground of the upper construction horizon of Kazan Khanate.

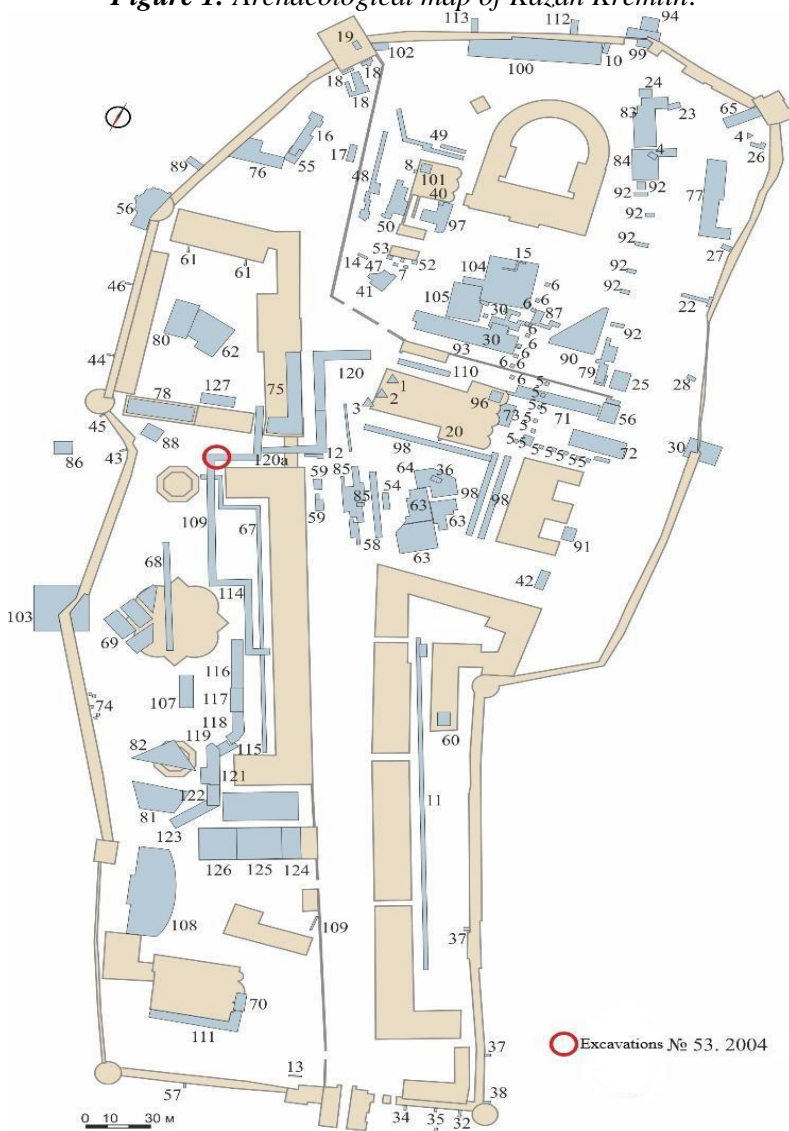
Due to the subsidence of the structure in the depressions underneath the structures, it is difficult to determine its structural relation to other excavation sites.

Structure 30A (Excavation LIII. 2003. Quad. H-O/-1 - -2. Figure 1). It was identified at the level of 15 spits in the form of a 260x110 cm rectangular spot stretching beyond the excavation wall and sectioned by structure No. 29 (layer III). Its day level was determined as 190 from 0. The pit featured steep walls and a flat bottom at a depth of 140 cm from the daily level (-330 from 0). A wooden frame of a 250x110 cm log house preserved in the form of decayed timber was discovered next to the walls of the pit.

A total of 4 inner layers were found in the filling of the frame. The upper layer, up to 40 cm in thickness, consisted of dense grey sandy loam with the inclusion of limestone. Underneath the layer, there was an inner layer 25 cm in thickness, consisting of dense grey sandy loam. It was underlain by a band of decayed timber up to 2 cm thick. The fourth layer, up to 35 cm in thickness, consisted of dense grey sandy

loam, including coal, grey core and bands of humus. The bottom of the structure featured a band of decayed timber up to 2 cm thick, possibly representing the remains of flooring.

**Figure 1: Archaeological map of Kazan Kremlin.**



1-Discovered architectural details of the 1860s, 2-Hoard of Russian coins, 1861, 3-Hoard of coins, 1878, 4-Fragment of a tombstone discovered in 1935, 5-Shafts behind the Annunciation Cathedral of 1928-1929, 6-Shafts in the garden of the Council of Ministers, 1928, 7-Shafts near Suyumbike Tower, 1929, 8-Shaft near the former Palace Church, 1929, 9-Shaft near the Kiprian and Iustina's Church, 1928, 10-Excavation 1935,1954, 11-Trench 1947, 12-Trench 1948, 13-Observations near the Spassky Tower, 14-Trench 1925, 15-Trench 1948, 16-Excavation No.1 1953, 17-Excavation No.2 1953, 18-Excavation No. 1.1954, 19-Excavation

1954, *Tainitskaya Tower.*, 20-Shaft No.1 1970, 21-Shaft No.2 1970, 22-Excavation No.1 1971, 23-Excavation No.2 1971, 24-Excavation No.3 1971, 25-Excavation No.4 1971, 26-Excavation No.1 1972, 27-Excavation No.2 1972, 28-Excavation No.3 1972, 29-Excavation No.1 1973, 30-Excavation No.1 1974, 31-Excavation No.2 1974, 32-Shaft No.1 1974, 33-Shaft No.2 1974, 34-Shaft No.3 1974, 35-Shaft No.4 1974z., 36-Excavation No.1 1975, 37-Shaft No.1 1975z., 38-Shaft No.2 1975z., 39-Shaft No.3 1975, 40-Shaft No.4 1975, 41-Excavation No.1 1976, 42-Excavation No.2 1976, 43-Shaft No.1 1976, 44-Shaft No.2 1976, 45-Shaft No.3 1976, 46-Shaft No.4 1976, 47-Excavation No.1 1977, 48-Excavation No.2 1977, 49-Excavation No.3 1977, 50-Excavation No.4 1977, 51-Excavation No.5 1977, 52-Shaft No.1 1977, 53-Shaft No.2 1977, 54-Excavation No.1 1978, 55-Excavation No.2 1978, 56-Excavation No.3 1978-1979, 57-Shaft No.1 1978, 58-Shaft No.2 1978, 59-Shaft No.3 1978, 60-Excavation underneath a cafe of 1976, 61-Shaft 1, 2 1993, 62-Excavation No.1 1994-1995, 63-Excavation No.2 1994-97, 64-Excavation No.3 1995, 65-Excavation No.4 1995-1996, 66-Excavation No.5 1995, 67-Trench 1996, 68-Excavation No.6 1996, 69-Excavation No.7 1996, 70-Excavation No.8 1995, 71-Excavation No.9 1997, 72-Excavation No.10 1997-1998, 73-Excavation No.11 1999, 74-Shaft of 1995 in the barracks of the Junker school, 75-Observations at the mess hall excavation., 76-Excavation No.12 1997, 77-Excavation No.13 1997-1998, 78-Excavation No.14 1997, 79-Excavation No.15 1997-1998, 80-Excavation No.16 1998z., 81-Excavation No.17A 1998z., 82-Excavation No.17B 1998z., 83-Excavation No.18 1998, 84-Excavation No.19 1998, 85-Excavation No.20 1998, 86-Excavation No.21 1998, 87-Excavation No.22 1998, 88-Observations behind a water supply trench, 89- Excavation No. 24. 1999, 90-Excavation No. 31. 1999, 91-Excavation No. 30. 1999, 92-Excavation No. 33. 2000, 93-Excavation No. 34. 2000, 94-Excavation No. 35. 2000, 003, 95-Excavation No. 36. 2000-2001, 96-Excavation No. 40. 2001, 97-Excavation No. 41. 2001, 98-Excavation No. 42. 2001, 99-Excavation No. 43. 2001, 100-Excavation No. 43A-B. 2001, 101-Excavation No. 45. 2001, 102-Excavation No. 46. 2001, 103-Excavation No. 47. 2001, 104-Excavation No. 48. 2001, 105-Excavation No. 49. 2001, 106-Excavation No. 50. 2001, 107-Excavation No. 51. 2001-2002, 108-Excavation No. 42. 2002, 109-Excavation No. 53. 2004, 110-Excavation No. 54. 2004, 111-Excavation No. 55. 2003, 112-Excavation No. 56. 2003, 113- Excavation No. 57. 2003, 114-Excavation No. 58. 2003, 115-Excavation No. 59. 2003.-116, Excursion No. 63. 2004., 117-Excavation No. 63A. 2004.-118, Excavation No. 63B. 2004., 119-Excavation No. 63B. 2004., 120-Observations at the Annunciation Cathedral. 2004, 120a-Observations at the Annunciation Cathedral. 2004, 121-Excavation No. 63G 2004., 122-Excavation No. 63D 2004., 123-Excavation No. 63E. 2004.-124 Excursion No. 64. 2004., 125-Excavation No. 64 (2). 2004., 126-Observations at the arena. 2004, 127-Observations at the cannon yard. 2004, 128-Observations between the arena and the barracks of the Junker school. 2004

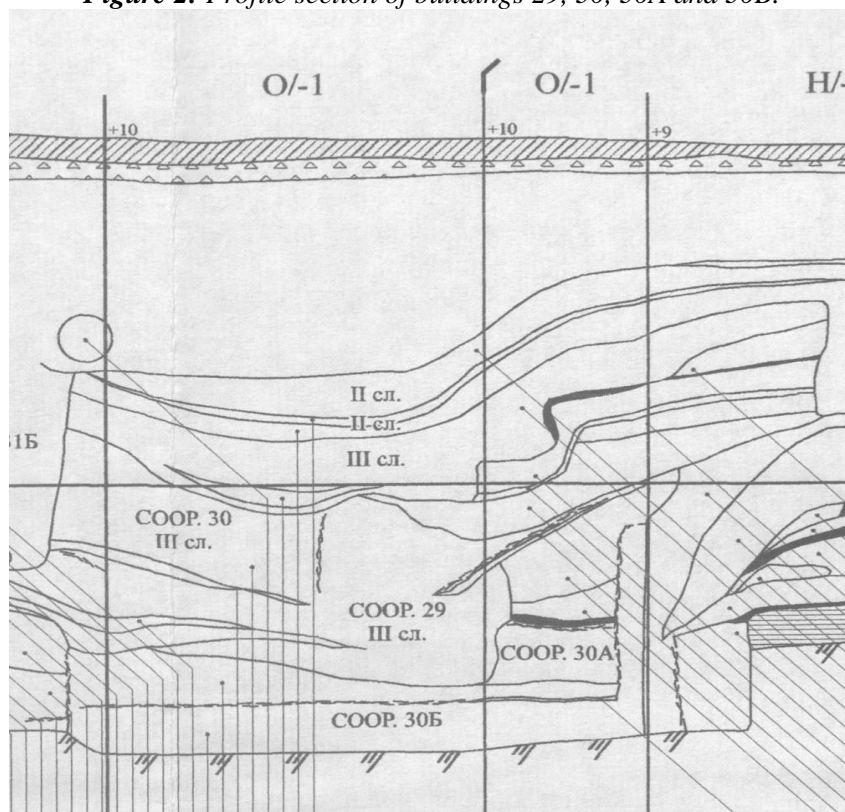
The findings comprise animal bones, metal and copper items, fragments of Russian white clay and sandy-slit undetermined Kazan fine-grained pottery ceramics, and a carnelian bead.

In terms of stratigraphy, the pit is connected with layer III. The functional purpose of the structure is that of a buried section of a ground building.

Structure 30B (Excavation LIII. 2003. Quad. H-O/-1 - -2. Figure 1). It was discovered at a level of 15 spits in the form of a 260x150 cm rectangular spot stretching beyond the excavation wall and sectioned by structures 29 and (layer III). Its day level was determined as 160 from 0. The pit featured steep walls and a flat bottom at a depth of

190 cm from the day level (-350 from 0). The wooden structure of a 215x110 cm log house which has preserved in the form of decayed timber intersected the pit.

**Figure 2:** Profile section of buildings 29, 30, 30A and 30B.



The filling material of the log house comprised dense grey sandy loam with the inclusion of coal and grey core. The space between the pit wall and the log house was filled with red loam with the inclusion of grey core and humus.

In terms of stratigraphy, the pit is connected with layer III. The functional purpose of the structure is that of a buried section of a ground building (Sitdikov, A.G. & Starkov, 2003b; 2003c).

#### **4. Summary**

A total of four objects which functioned during the Kazan Khanate period were identified within a small area of the excavation. This indicates the density of the urban development of Kazan Kremlin.

#### **5. Conclusions**

Archaeological studies of recent years vividly illustrate the characteristic features of the culture of the medieval town. The obtained material characterizes all spheres of life and activity of the Kazan Khanate's population. The successive character of the territorial development of the Kremlin was also identified. There are several construction horizons in the area. In general, the obtained material can be used in a more thorough studying of the sites, as well as the issues of medieval Kazan dating back to the mid-16th century.

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