

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WOODEN REMAINS FROM 16TH-19TH CENTURY SVIYAZHSK

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The island of Sviyazhsk is home to a number of unique archaeological sites dating back to ancient times. Intense settlement of the area occurred due to its unique river systems attracting humans to the rich biological resources they offered.¹ Numerous archaeological sites have been discovered near the flood plain, the earliest of which date back to the Stone Age.² The origin of the town of Sviyazhsk is linked with the events of the mid-16th century, the period of conquest of the Kazan Khanate.

Archaeological investigations of the faubourg (suburb), located in the lower part of the island, are of great significance in the study of Sviyazhsk's past. Intense development in the town area led to the formation of a unique damp cultural layer which preserved organic items (wooden constructions, household buildings, household items, leather goods, textiles, etc.) in its oxygen-free environment. Excavations carried out in the area along the strand line which is gradually being destroyed by water erosion, revealed numerous 16th-18th century buildings, making it possible to reconstruct the topography of the late medieval town based on the remains of the streets and premises.³

The cultural strata of Sviyazhsk were first studied in the systematic archaeological research undertaken by L. A. Belyaev and L. S. Shavokhin in

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¹ Shakirov, Valiev 2009, p. 103-111.

² *Archaeological Map* 1985, p. 15, 72-73; Galimova 2006, p. 37; Chernyshev 1971, p. 272-292.

³ Shakirov, Valiev 2009, p. 107-108; Shakirov 2010, p. 23-24.

1978-1981.⁴ Attention was drawn to the existence of a damp cultural layer in the lower part of the faubourg, although at the time no special studies were made of that part of the site.

However, during the study of the north-eastern part of the island of Sviyazhsk in 2006, some remarkable areas of destruction of the cultural layer were recorded along the strand line of the Kuibyshev water storage reservoir.⁵

In 2008, an excavation of an area 157 m² in size was begun in the north-eastern part of the island (**fig. 1/A-B**). At the time of the excavation, there were no longer any residential constructions in this area; the locals were using it as a kitchen garden.

According to certain written sources, in the 16th-17th centuries, the 2008 archaeological site had been the location of Rozhdestvenskaya, Kuznechnaya, Tatarskaya and Bolotnaya streets which were densely lined with wooden buildings.⁶ The location of streets and wooden buildings remained unchanged until the middle of the 20th century⁷ (**fig. 1/A**).

The excavation stratigraphy reflected deposits, diverse in their capacity and saturation, which were formed over a long period of household development of this area. The depth of this cultural layer was about 3 m.

The 19th-20th century building horizons, with a depth of 90-120 cm over the entire profile, were represented by loose loamy light sand with grey, brown and grey-brown variations, along with plenty of material debris such as brick and calcareous medley, gravel, sand, coal, ash and decayed wood.

The finds from this layer included present-day trash, glassware and window glass, crockery and fragments of 19th-20th century ceramics, lead cast net weights and parts of leather shoes. In addition, fragments of 17th-18th century ceramics and ceramics of the Bulgar tradition were found in the remanié form (a deposit of older material within a newer deposit) (**fig. 6/1-20**). Five sites were linked with this layer.

The most recent log house on the site was named construction 1; it was 570 x 450 cm in size, oriented with its corners to the cardinal directions with some inclination to the West. The perimeter could be traced in the form of decomposed logs about 28 cm in diameter. In the sampling process

⁴ *Proect* 1979; *Proect* 1980a; *Proect* 1980b; *Proect* 1981; *Proect* 1982.

⁵ Shakirov 2009, p. 499.

⁶ *Chronicles* 2011, p. 35, no. 7; *List* 1909, p. 36-58.

⁷ NART, fund 324, inventory 739, doc. 281; fund 324, inventory 739, doc. 282; fund 324, inventory 739, doc. 284.

used to analyse the filling of the construction on various levels, pieces of decayed wood from fallen structural elements of the building as well as the decomposed floor boards were found. From the filling of the log house, fragments of an ornamented glazed noisemaker, non-glazed encaustic tiles, stone and clay weights (**fig. 7/8, 10, 15**), leather shoes, a copper Christian cross and an iron item were found.

Construction 1 was the remains of a residential building, used in the second half of the 19th-mid-20th century. According to elderly residents in the area, it was disassembled before the emptying of the Kuibyshev reservoir.

The other four sites (constructions 2 and 3 and some pole-pits) date back to the 20th century.

In the 19th century, Sviyazhsk faced severe economic downturn.⁸ At the turn of the 20th century, the town became one of the twelve typical district towns of Kazan Province, having lost much of its former importance as a major religious, administrative and trading centre in the Volga region. When the Kuibyshev reservoir was built at the end of the 1950s, the riverside farms ceased to exist. The finds excavated in the upper horizon of the cultural layer reflect the growing desolation of the area from the middle of the 20th century.

The 18th century building horizons were of dark-grey and dark-brown humus and loamy light sand with inclusions of large amounts of decayed wood, bark and wood chips. The layer representing this period was about 34-70 cm deep.

Six constructions were linked to this layer (**fig. 2/B**). Five of them were wooden buildings from the first half of the 19th century. All wooden constructions were oriented with their corners to the cardinal directions with some inclination to the West. This cultural layer was formed during the period when Sviyazhsk became the centre of Kazan Province. The 18th century was the epoch of Sviyazhsk's most significant rise to prominence.

Specific finds from this layer included non-glazed circular ceramics and glazed ceramics of the 18th century, cast net weights, iron items and leather and wooden items, as well as white loamy ceramics and Bulgar-style ceramics in a decomposed form (**fig. 6/8**).

Before the most recent building (construction 1) was erected there was another construction - 1a - a residential building built in the middle of the 18th century and disassembled due to dilapidation at the beginning of the 19th century. It was a log house, 520 x 530 cm in size, made from logs about 34 cm in diameter. Its partition was made of 26 cm diameter logs,

⁸ *Statistics* 1830, p. 68-69.

dividing the house into two equal spaces. The construction, which included the remains of the porch and ran alongside the log house, was cleared from the south-east. The preserved height of the log house was three timber sets high. Lower timber sets and the partition were laid upon a vertical fixed wooden billet 40 cm in diameter.

An iron knife with a bronze plate on its handle was found under the porch (**fig. 9/8**). From the filling of the log house, in addition to ceramic material, fragments of leather shoes, clay and stone weights, blue glass beads (**fig. 7/11**), bronze buttons, stone items (**fig. 7/14**), an iron heel plate from a shoe, and fragments of red loamy Bulgar-style ceramics were excavated (**fig. 6/19**).

Another wooden building, known as construction 4, was the remains of a residential building similar to construction 1a. Located in the eastern part of the site, this building was 390 x 214 cm in size and reached the western wall of the excavation site (**fig. 2**). A log house built of 25 cm diameter logs, its preserved height was five timber sets. The lower sets lay upon horizontal billets of wood. Individual finds from the filling of the log house included fragments of leather shoes, leather scraps, blue glass beads, stone items (**fig. 7/17**), clay weights and fragments of vessels made in Bulgar traditional style.

Construction 6 was the remains of a wooden pavement between the buildings (constructions 1a and 4). It was a rectangular construction 320 x 470 cm in size, made from planks 16-26 cm wide laid across transverse lags 11-20 cm wide (**fig. 2**).

The eastern part of another wooden building (370 x 176 cm) was excavated on the site (Construction 5), dating back to the mid-18th-early 19th century. It was made from 25 cm diameter logs and it had been preserved up to a height of three timber sets. The lower sets lay on transverse billets of wood. Sampling the filling of the construction revealed, in addition to pieces of stoneware, fragments of copper buttons, clay weights, the remains of leather shoes and fragments of encaustic tiles with the turquoise enamel. Most of the construction stretched beyond the western boundary of the excavation site, making it difficult to determine its functional purpose.

Construction 4a was thought to be a household building or fencing wall dating back to the mid-18th-early 19th century, based on the characteristics of the deposit layer. Its construction was preserved in the form of a log wall up to two timber sets in height and 380 cm in length laid on a transverse billet of wood. The construction had a wooden frame and pillar design. Most of it had been destroyed by the waters of the Kuibyshev reservoir.

Construction 7b was a pit left where a construction had been built in the middle of the 18th century; it was excavated from the northern boundary of the excavation site.

The formation of these cultural layers and the time these constructions dated from is linked with the period following 1719, when the town of Sviyazhsk became the centre of Sviyazhsk district, Kazan Province. Eight districts were under its governance, thus intensifying life in town. The period after Sviyazhsk became a district town in 1781 is also linked with the same horizons. The 18th century was the town's period of maximum growth, represented by a great concentration of development and growing population.

The 17th century building horizons were represented by dark-brown and dark-grey humus and loamy light sand with inclusions of a large amount of decayed wood and chips. The depth of the layer was 34-50 cm. The finds included 16th-17th century circular ceramics, cast net weights, entire and fragmentary leather shoes, leather goods, wooden goods (including elm). A few re-deposited fragments of circular stoneware crafted in the Bulgar tradition were excavated here (**fig. 6/2-3, 6-7, 9-11, 15, 21**). Five log house constructions were linked with this layer (**fig. 3**).

Construction 7a was a 490 x 480 cm log house, made from 22 cm diameter logs. The northern corner of the log house had been preserved up to two timber sets in height. Among the single finds were fragments of an iron knife and an iron heel plate. Construction 7a was a residential building of the second half of the 17th-beginning of the 18th centuries. The excavated logs, which were charred on the inside, indicate that it was destroyed by fire.

Construction 7 was excavated from under construction 7a. It was also a log house, more or less square in form (360 x 388 cm), abutting the western boundary of the excavation site. Made from logs with a diameter of 26 cm, it was up to four timber sets high. The floor was made from logs and boards. Inside the log house vertical fixed raker piles and billets of wood with a diameter of 20-30 cm held the transverse lags of floor.

Adjacent and to the south of the log house there was a building space 100 cm wide made from 16 cm diameter logs. Its outer walls were additionally fixed with the vertical stakes. On the eastern side adjacent to the log house there was another building space 140-160 cm wide made from 30 cm diameter logs also fixed with vertical stakes. At the northern corner, a

Fragment of plan Sviyazhsk, 1869

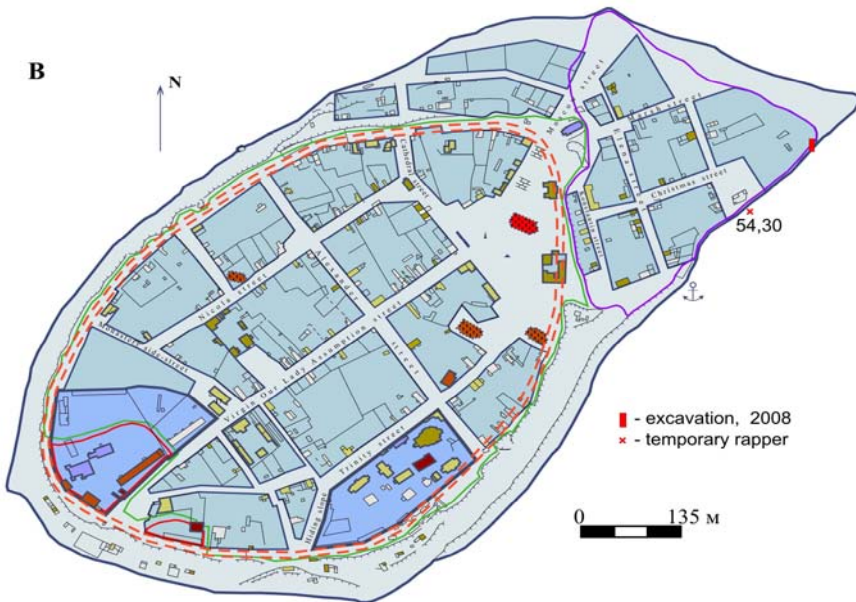
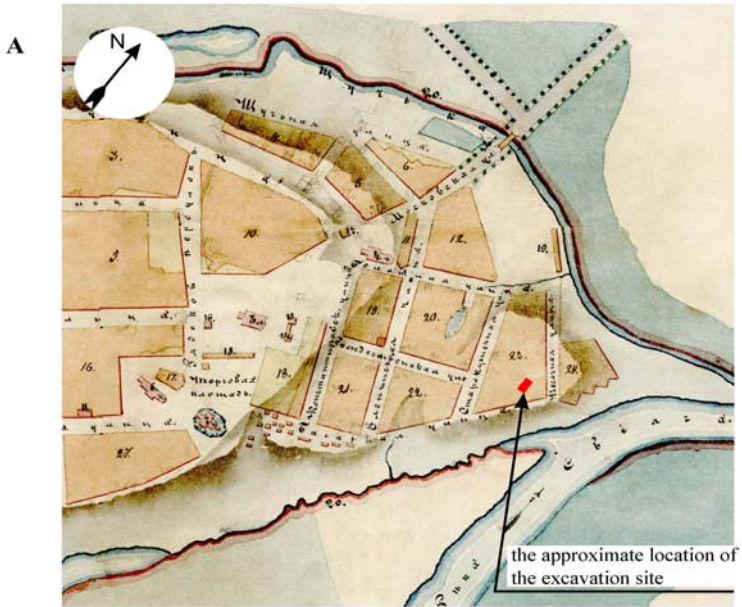


Fig. 1. A - Fragment of the plan of Sviyazhsk, 1869 (The National Archives of the Republic of Tatarstan, fund 324, inventory list 739, case 281); B - Plan of Sviyazhsk Island

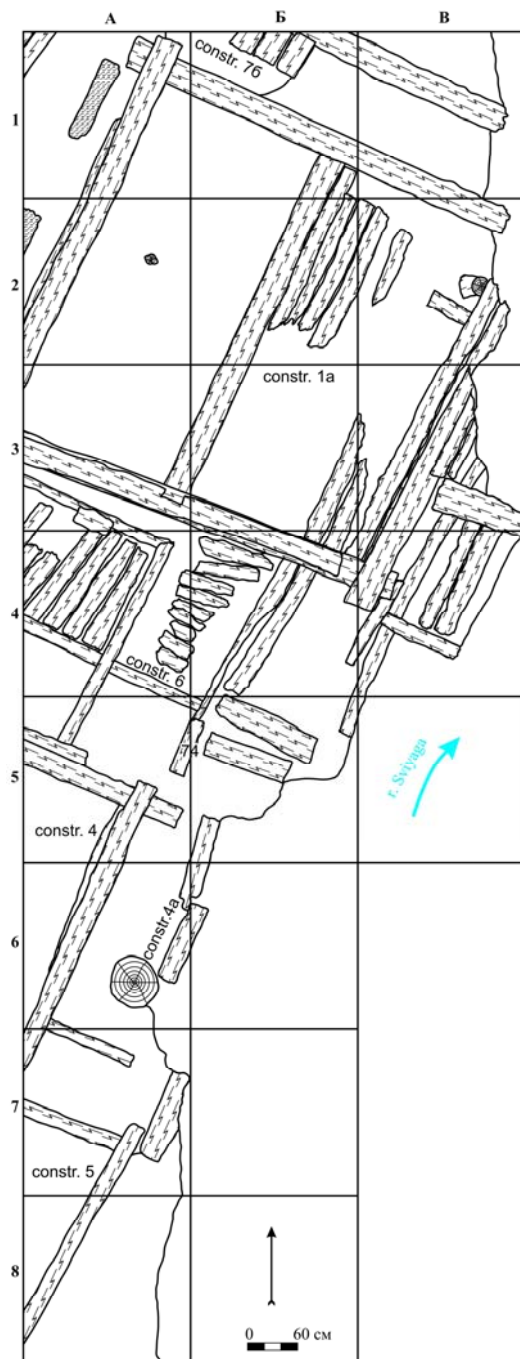


Fig. 2. Consolidated plan of the 18th century constructions

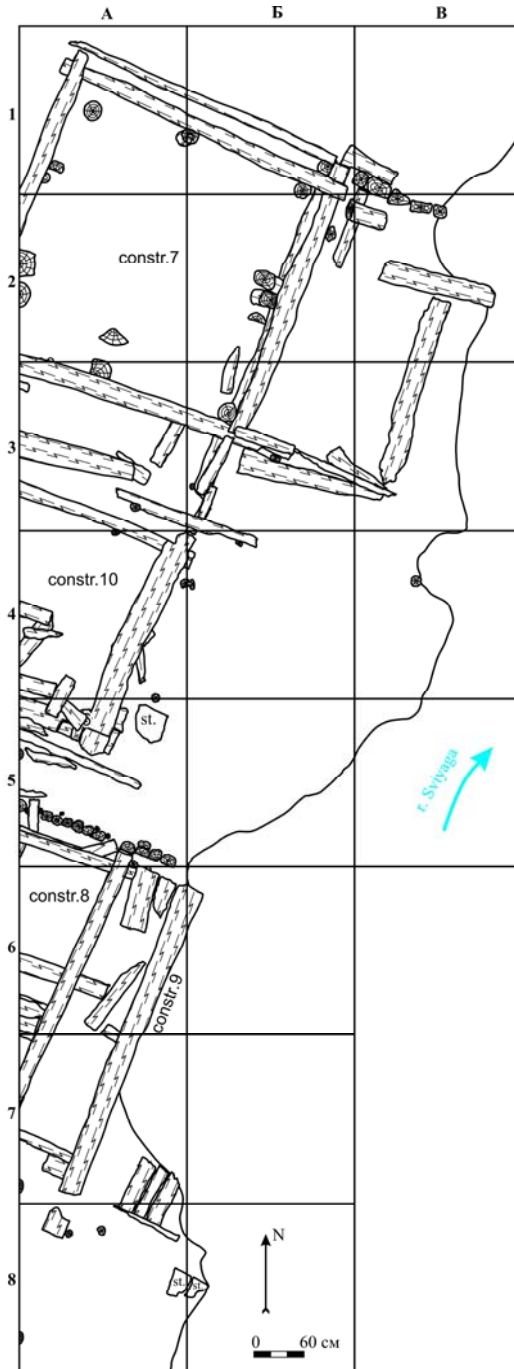


Fig. 3. Consolidated plan of the 17th century constructions

fence in the form of vertically-driven logs with a diameter of 16 cm was excavated (**fig. 3**).

The finds from the construction included fragments and entire leather shoes, iron brackets, a bone piercer (**fig. 8/15**), a round wooden float, a leather muffler and goods made from elm. Ceramics were made of Russian white clay or other white clay typical of the 17th century. Fragments of red and brown Bulgar-style ceramics were also found.

Construction 10 was part of a log house, 262 x 216 cm in size, abutting the western edge of the excavation site. It was made from 16-34 cm diameter logs (**fig. 3**). Along the north-eastern and south-eastern walls were found vertically-driven timber set edges and stakes with a diameter of 9 cm which were additional fitters. The log-house was two timber sets high, with lower sets laid on a transverse billet of wood. In addition to typical ceramic materials of that time, two fragments of stoneware designed in the Bulgar tradition were found (**fig. 6/4, 16**). To the north of the log house, which was a terrestrial household building, there was an adjacent wooden building, the entrance to construction 7 (**fig. 3**).

This complex - a house with an entrance, porch, household building and fence - was part of one courtyard. It functioned from the second quarter to the last third of the 17th century but was disassembled and filled after it became dilapidated. The date identified from tree ring analysis of a saw cut (no. 2) suggested the timber was felled in 1633.⁹

Constructions 8 and 9 were also of particular interest. Construction 8 was part of a log house 344 x 200 cm in size, abutting the western boundary of the excavation site. The log house was made from 20cm diameter logs and was three timber sets high, with the lower set laid on a transverse billet of wood with a diameter of 16-18 cm. In the process of sampling the construction, a charred floor (**fig. 3**) was cleared. In addition to various ceramic materials characteristic of that time, two fragments of Bulgar-style vessels were found. Parallel to the north-eastern wall of the log house, at a distance of 30 cm, a fence made from vertically-driven stakes and timber edges with a diameter of up to 18 cm was excavated (**fig. 3**).

Construction 9, a terrestrial log house made from 26 cm diameter logs, was uncovered to the south-east of the above construction. 444 x 166 cm in size, most of it had been ruined by the waters of the Kuibyshev reservoir. Between constructions 8 and 9 there was an entrance way 80 cm wide, with a floor made from 15-28 cm wide boards laid on transverse lags 12-18 cm in diameter (**fig. 3**).

⁹ Tishin, Shakirov 2010, p. 36-39.



Fig. 4. Consolidated plan of the 16th century constructions

We suppose that constructions 8 and 9, which shared an entrance way and the remains of the fence, were both within the same courtyard. The courtyard buildings were used until the last third of 17th century and were lost in a fire.

At the beginning of the 17th century, Sviyazhsk still served a pivotal role within the Russian State in relation to the surrounding territories, as it had done since the second half of the 16th century. Towards the middle of the 17th century, with the transfer of military personnel to the abatis (defensive) line and to Astrakhan,¹⁰ the population of the town decreased dramatically, principally in the faubourg. The population decline was connected with the gradual diminishing of the town's trade and economic role and its administrative transfer to Kazan.

The 16th century building horizons, connected with the beginning of the active development of the town, were characterised by dark-brown and dark grey humus and layers of loamy light sand with inclusions of wood chips. The layer's depth was about 94-130 cm. The finds include 15th-16th century circular ceramics, leather and wooden goods, fishing net weights, fragments of circular Bulgar-style ceramic vessels and glazed ceramics (**fig. 6/12-14, 18, 22**).

Forming the major section of the excavation site, 23 constructions were linked with this layer (**fig. 4**). All the wooden constructions had their corners oriented to the cardinal directions, reflecting the street plan. Parts of these buildings were still in use up to the beginning of the 17th century.

Construction 8 was part of a log house, 312 x 140 cm in size, reaching the western boundary of the excavation site (**fig. 4**). It was three timber sets high, with the lower sets laid on a transverse billet of wood. The floor consisted of charred boards 10-26 cm wide and logs with a diameter of 18 cm, lying lengthways along the building and laid on transverse lags.

The floor in the northern part sagged under the weight of a furnace. This building was the only construction with a preserved furnace found on the excavation site. The furnace was 118 x 60 cm in size. Its bottom plate was located near the northern wall of the log house, and was formed from white clay bricks (5 x 13 x 16 cm) in a row on a base stone. The layer of bricks was fixed by means of loam mortar with a large amount of sand (**fig. 4**). On the edge a band of hardened material was observed: 2-14 cm in width and up to 28 cm deep, it would have formed as the furnace functioned. The bottom plate was laid on a cushion of aseptic sand 30-32 cm deep. A space of 16-30 cm between the furnace and the wall of the log house was packed with aseptic light-grey solid loamy light sand with

¹⁰ Smirnov 1919, p. 167-169.

inclusions of brick medley and sandy clay. In the south corner of the furnace there was a vertically-fixed pole with a diameter of 8 cm - a detail of the furnace's construction. The building was likely to have been residential, functioning in the last third of the 16th-beginning of the 17th century and lost in a fire.

The finds from the log house included an iron buckle (**fig. 9/27**), a cup hook and an ordinary nail. Three fragments of Bulgar-style ceramics and one fragment of a pot made of Russian white clay were found.

Construction 11 was a charred log house 424 x 432 cm (**fig. 4**) in size. Only the lower timber sets made from logs with a diameter of 23-30 cm, had been preserved. Sampling at different levels revealed fallen wooden fragments from the building in the form of logs with a diameter of 18-26 cm and a floor made from 15-30 cm wide boards. Some of the material that had fallen into the construction resulted from a fire. A saw cut (no. 1) taken for tree-ring analysis indicated that the building was constructed in 1591.¹¹

Near the eastern corner of the building, vertically-driven poles with a diameter of 10-12 cm and the remains of a wooden fence (**fig. 4**) were found. Among the ceramic finds were fragments of vessels made in the Bulgar tradition. The finds also included hazelnut shells, textiles, iron items, nails, a knife, heel plates from shoes (**fig. 9/35**), whole leather shoes, fragments of shoes and leather cuttings. Clay whistles shaped like birds (**fig. 7/9**) were also found, typical of objects found in medieval Russian cities.¹² There were also wooden goods, such as a mixer, chopping board, pitcher, ladle and saucepan (**fig. 8/4**), a part of a spinning wheel (**fig. 8/14**), an unidentified item (**fig. 8/6**), a toy boat (**fig. 8/5**), a float (**fig. 8/8**) and birch bark shoe inserts.

Construction 12 was part of log house 284 x 146 cm in size, located along the western boundary of excavation, made from logs and timber set edges with a diameter of 16-30 cm. The preserved height was two timber sets. In the central part of the log house, a 16 cm wide timber set edge was found, dividing it into two halves. The floor was made from boards 20-30 cm wide, which lay on transverse lags (**fig. 4**). The finds included iron heel plates from shoes, Bulgar-style ceramics, fragments of Russian clay ceramics and other white clay items.

100 cm to the south-east of construction 12, construction 13 was discovered: the remains of a terrestrial wood frame and pillar building 260 x 230 cm in size. In slots cut into vertically-fixed logs with a diameter of 24-28 cm in the corners, 12-22 cm diameter logs had been driven (**fig. 4**). The

¹¹ Tishin, Shakirov 2010, p. 36-39.

¹² Ekimov 2005, p. 12-18; Nesterova 2002, p. 24-28.

walls of the construction were two timber sets high. The floor was of round lagging made from 10-22 cm diameter logs, laid on transverse lags with a diameter of 14-26 cm. Individual finds from the filling included iron items such as a knife, heel plate and spinning wheel (**fig. 9/28**). There were many wooden floats (**fig. 8/7**) and leather items such as a quiver (**fig. 10/10**), children's shoes, a whole boot, fragments of leather shoes, leather cuttings, birch bark shoe inserts and birch bark floats (**fig. 8/11-12**), a felted insole and clay weights.

Construction 16 was also a terrestrial wood frame and pillar building. Most of it had been ruined by water from the reservoir. 232 x 170 cm in size, the construction was made from logs with a diameter of 16-26 cm and pillars with a diameter of 18-20 cm (**fig. 4**). The floor was a layer of planks up to 20 cm wide, laid on transverse lags with a diameter of 26 cm.

The complex, which included a residential building with a fence (construction 11), household buildings (constructions 12, 13 and 16), and pavements between them (**fig. 4**), was part of a courtyard complex from the last third of 16th-beginning of 17th century which was lost in a fire.

Construction 15 was the remains of a square cut log house (387 x 390 cm). The preserved height was two timber sets, made from logs with a diameter of about 20 cm (**fig. 5**). In the process of sampling at different levels, fallen wooden items from the building itself in the form of logs with a diameter of 14-18 cm and a floor made from 26 cm wide boards were discovered. Finds included fragments of a cast iron boiler (**fig. 9/24-25**), an iron knife, shoe heel plates (**fig. 9/32, 34**), a horseshoe (**fig. 9/36**), a bracket (**fig. 9/23**), a nail, a disruptive chain (**fig. 9/17**), a wooden comb, a toy sword, bark goods, fragments of leather shoes and cuttings, a leather case for a knife (**fig. 10/12**), clay weights, Bulgar-style ceramics, etc.

Beyond the eastern corner of the log house, an L-shaped fence was discovered in the form of a row of vertically-driven logs with a diameter of 10-14 cm (**fig. 5**). The construction had been a residential building with a fence, dating from the third quarter of the 16th century.

The above-mentioned constructions were the earliest wooden buildings on the site, and may have been among those mentioned in the cadastres (real estate registers) of 1565-1567.¹³

Among them was construction 14, which was charred from a fire (505 x 360 cm). The log house was made from 20-31 cm diameter logs (**fig. 5**), with a height of three timber sets. To the south, adjacent to the log house, a separate building (construction 14a) was excavated. Inside this construction and in areas nearby, flooring made from tree bark 16-44 cm and 50-366 cm

¹³ *List* 1909, p. 36-58.



Fig. 5. Consolidated plan of the 16th century constructions

long was found; this would have served as the floor of the construction and the pavement of the courtyard. In the process sampling various levels of the fill, wooden items from the structure of the building, namely logs of 14-20 cm in diameter and boards 11-22 cm wide were unearthed. There was a layer within the construction formed when it was lost to fire. Among the finds were iron heel plates of shoes, a knife with a wooden handle (**fig. 9/15**), a leather bag, a case (**fig. 10/9**), a whole boot and fragments of shoes, a mitten (**fig. 10/11**), wooden floats, the handle of a lash and a beetle. Among the rare archaeological finds was an iron tripod for placing pots over the fire (**fig. 9/16**) and a small wooden head from a potter's wheel (**fig. 8/13**).¹⁴

Inside this log house, construction 14a was excavated. It was in the form of a square cut wooden building 190 x 242 cm in size, adjacent to the log house (construction 14) and made from logs with diameter of 10-24 cm (**fig. 5**). The lower timber sets were laid on transverse billets of wood with a diameter of 8-16 cm. The most interesting find there was a thrift box (**fig. 7/21**).

Construction 14b had an original design, namely, some woven, square-shaped flooring, 396 x 270 cm in size, made from canes threaded between poles 3-7 cm in diameter (**fig. 5**). The construction dates back to the third quarter of the 16th century. During the excavation, a collection of weights (5 pcs.) (**fig. 7/1-5**), whole leather boots, shoe fragments made from birch bark (**fig. 10/17**), iron heel plates, wooden floats and willow fibre rope were found.

Construction 20 was a terrestrial joist and pillar structure with a fixed size of 278 x 18 cm, made from vertical logs with a diameter of 24-28 cm, into the slots of which were fixed timber set edges 7-18 cm wide (**fig. 5**). This construction was in use in the third quarter of the 16th century, and was part of a farm complex which included a residential building (construction 14) and household buildings (construction 14b and c) and which was destroyed by fire.

Construction 14c was another an early example of the excavation site: a terrestrial log house (396 x 270 cm) subdivided into two spaces, made from logs and timber set edges with a diameter of about 18-20 cm (**fig. 5**). The single finds included an iron knife, wooden items, fragments of leather shoes and cuttings, and Bulgar-style ceramics. The construction may have been a residential building within the courtyard in the third quarter of the 16th century.

¹⁴ Bobrinsky 1962, p. 47-50; Plokhov, Sorokin 2006, p. 105-114.

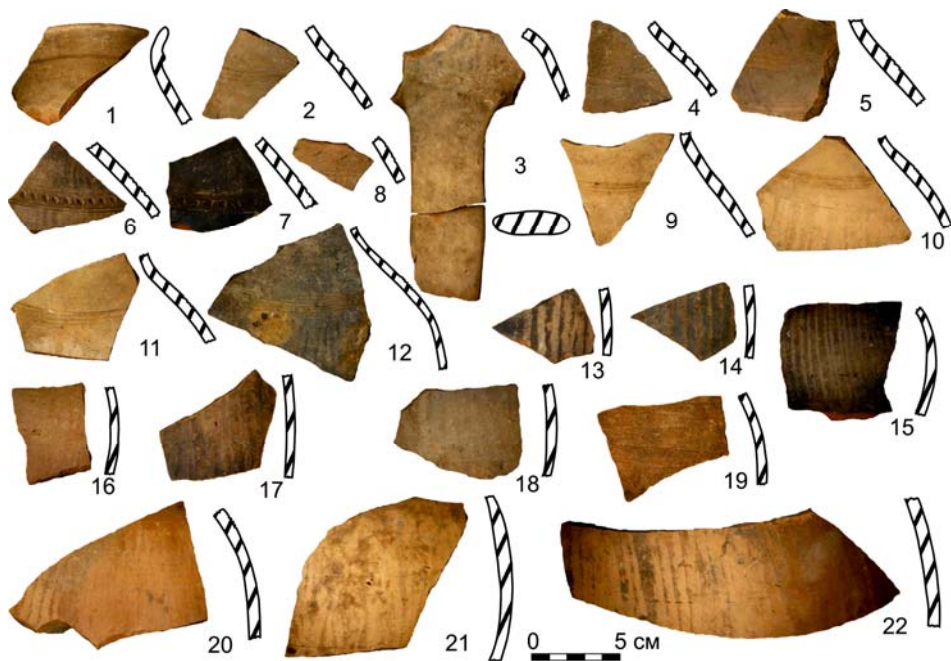


Fig. 6. Bulgar-style ceramics

A cellar (construction 17) and some middens (constructions 18, 19 and 21-29) from the mid-16th century were linked with the early horizon.

The formation of this layer was contemporaneous with the development of the town during the second half of the 16th century. Sviyazhsk fortress and its faubourg played a major role as one of the most important pivotal towns and an outpost for the colonisers of the neighbouring territories, a hub of intense activity compared to other periods. Sviyazhsk played an important role as a trading centre, with a bazaar and other trading spots such as street-stands, benches, shelves and huts along the banks of the Sviyaga River.¹⁵ During this period, the upper area of the town held over 370 courtyards and the faubourg consisted of more than 700 courtyards. There were approximately 300 trading spots, some of which were located in the lower unfortified faubourg where the excavation site was located.

Summary

The 2008 archaeological survey represented the first research on the Sviyazhsk faubourg and yielded much information on the town's plan.

¹⁵ *List* 1909, p. 16-52.

Around 40 constructions dating from the second half of the 16th to the beginning of the 20th century were studied as a result of the excavation. The residential character of the excavated buildings was determined by the presence of furnace remains found in the excavation site.

The unified orientation of the household buildings from the mid-16th right up to the 20th century indicates the preservation of the original street plan throughout the period when the faubourg was inhabited. The direction in which the streets ran may have been influenced by the line of the Sviyaga River and the surrounding landscape. More than half the studied constructions had been damaged by fire, which accordingly gave rise to the development of the faubourg.

5,374 finds from the late medieval and modern periods were excavated. Ceramic items (2,862 fragments) reflected the general patterns of pottery production in the Volga Region in the 16th-19th centuries.¹⁶ Of greater importance was the collection of ceramics (334 fragments) made in the Bulgar tradition (**fig. 6**) which were also well represented amongst the materials found in the Kazan Kremlin.¹⁷

Approximately half the finds were leather goods (2,391 fragments). The range of leather goods included mittens, entire shoes and fragments of shoes (**fig. 10/5-8, 13-16**), leather scraps, etc. Similar finds were discovered in other medieval Russian cities.¹⁸ The methods of producing these leather goods were analogous to the traditions of the Kazan Khanate.¹⁹

Also among the finds were fragments of knitted woollen and homespun linen fabric (**fig. 10/1-2**) as well as felt (**fig. 10/3**). The wooden items represent a special aspect of the collection. They include birch bark, bark and willow fibre goods (**fig. 8/2-3, 9-10; 10/4**). Iron goods included knives and fragments of knives (**fig. 9/2-4, 6-7**), fragments of scissors (**fig. 9/10**), shoe heel plates (**fig. 9/30, 33**), a buckle (**fig. 9/28**), brackets (**fig. 9/22**), a cup hooks, rims, nails (**fig. 9/19-21**) and other items (**fig. 9/11**).

Household items included a key rusted into the spring mechanism of a lock (**fig. 9/24**), analogous to the antiquities of 14th-15th century Novgorod.²⁰ Agricultural implements such as ploughs (**fig. 9/13**), hoes and scythes (**fig. 9/12**) were discovered. Scythes with a folding handle are well known from amongst the finds relating to Novgorod the Great, dating back

¹⁶ Gordeev, Pavlenko 2004, p. 158-179; Sitdikov 2006, fig. 25-32, 58-64, 73-75; Sitdikov, Khuzin 2009b, p. 51-72.

¹⁷ Sitdikov 2006, fig. 22-23, 56-57, 71; Sitdikov, Khuzin 2009a, p. 107, fig. 7.

¹⁸ Kurbatov 2004; Osipov 2006.

¹⁹ Valiev 2009a, p. 112-124; Valiev 2009b, p. 73-95.

²⁰ Kolchin 1959, p. 82-84.

to the 13th-15th century.²¹ Weapons were represented by arrowheads (fig. 9/9) typical of those used from the 10th-17th centuries.²²



Fig. 7. Clayware (1-11, 18-21), glass (12-14) and stone (15-17). Items 1-8, 10, 15 - weights; whistle; 12-13 - beads; 14 - wine cup bottom; 15-17 - fragments of items; 18-21 - crockery)

²¹ Ibid., p. 74-75.

²² Medvedev 1966, p. 47, type 40; Dvurechensky 2006, p. 281-284.

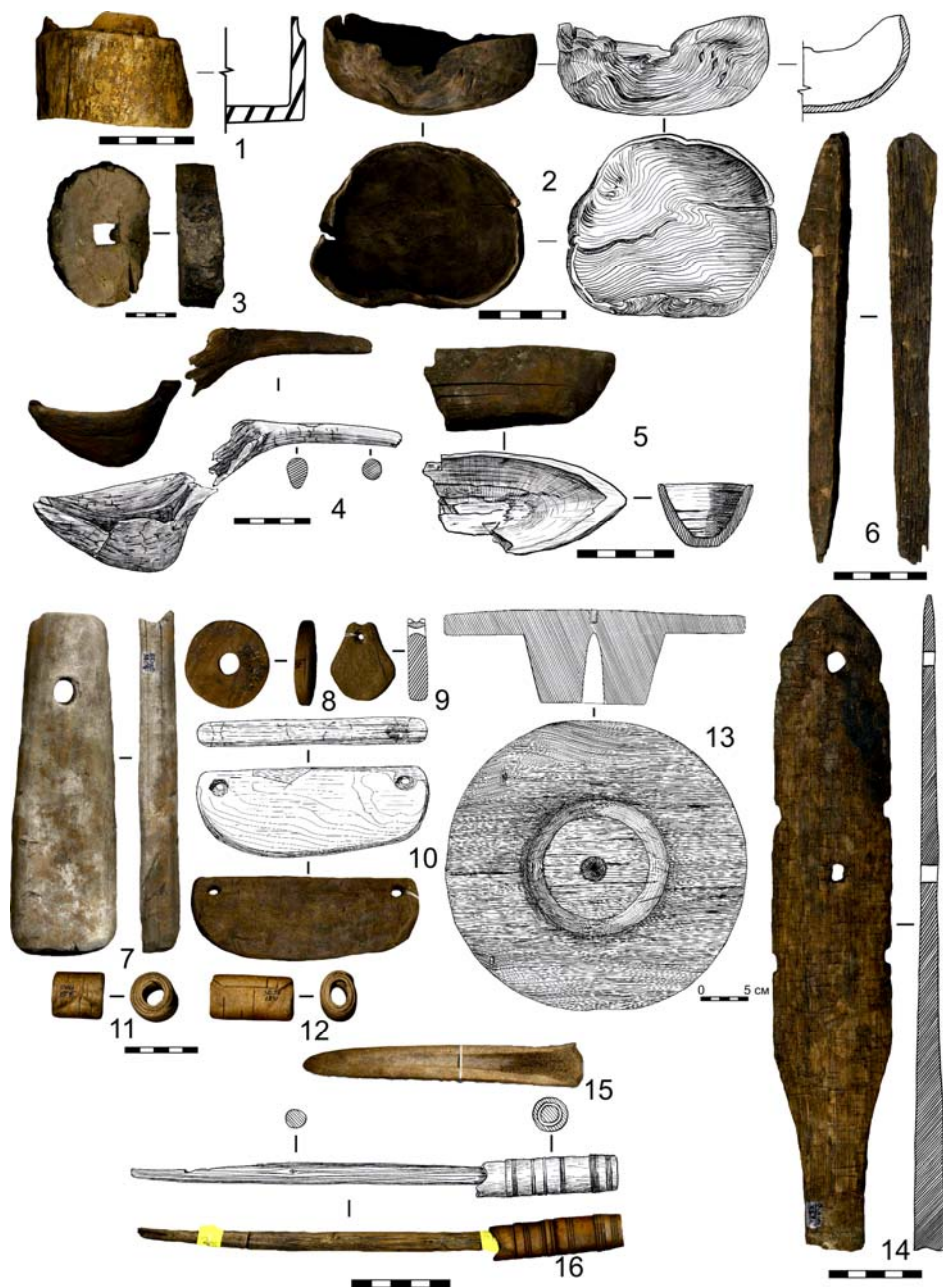


Fig. 8. Wooden goods (1-10, 13-14), birch bark (11-12), bone (15), wood and bone (16). 1-2 - vessels; 3, 6 - unidentified items; 4 - saucepan; 5 - toy boat; 7-12 - floats; 13 - small head of pottery wheel; 14 - digger (from a spinning wheel); 15-16 - piercer



Fig. 9. Iron goods: 1-7 - knives; 8 - knife in a leather case; 9 - arrowhead; 10 - scissors; 11 - unidentified item; 12 - folding scythe; 13 - plough; 14 - bush hook; 15 - broadsword; 16 - tripod; 17 - disrupted chain; 18 - drift pin; 19-21 - nails; 22-23 - brackets; 24-25 - fragments of cast iron boiler; 26 - fragment of a lock with key; 27-28 - buckles; 29-35 - heel plates of shoes; 36 - horseshoe)

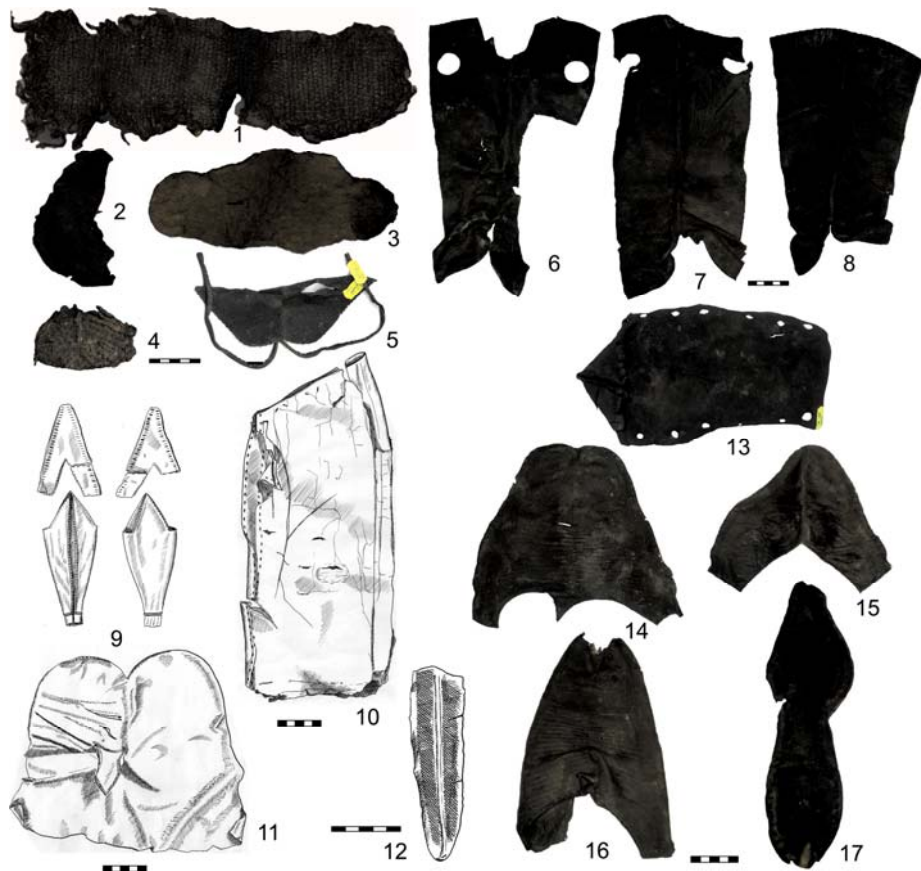


Fig. 10. Textile/ leather fragments: 1 - wool; 2 - linen; 3 - felt 4 - willow fibre and 5-17 - leather. 5 - snip of a shoe head, 6-8 - boot-tops, 9 - spoon case?; 10 - quiver; 11 - mitten; 12 - knife case; 13 - piston (part of a shoe); 14-16 - shoe ends; 17 - heel plate)

The numerous finds that emerged from the excavation reflect the life, craft, farming and trading activities of the population of this medieval town,²³ and concurred with the other known sources illustrating the life of Sviyazhsk residents.

Among the excavated materials were finds which indicated the existence of an earlier Bolgar-Tatar settlement, linked with the pre-Russian development of the site. Among the ceramics found in the lower horizon of the cultural layer and in the filling of some holes (the daily levels of which were remade in the second half of 16th century) pieces of Bulgar-style red glazed ware (**fig. 6**) predominated, dating from the 14th-first half

²³ Gordeev, Pavlenko 2004, p. 104-157.

of the 16th centuries. Such ceramics were found in the constructions and strata relating to the second half of the 16th century (about 68% and 17% respectively of all ceramics found).

Recent archaeological studies have made it possible to clarify important data about the features of the cultural layer and the topography of the former faubourg in the area around the eroded bank of the new wharf. The excavated strata indicated that this part of the island settlement was developed in the Bolgar-Tatar period. It is clear that the active development of the outlying area began in the second half of the 16th century after the construction of the fortress and annexation of Kazan Khanate by the Russian State. The data obtained from this study has been used to compile museum exhibits and recreate the historical and cultural landscape of the site. The information can be used for further research to create a model of late medieval town which could be used to improve the touristic potential of this valuable piece of cultural heritage.

Archaeological Survey of Wooden Remains from 16th-19th Century Sviyazhsk

(Abstract)

This article is devoted to the results of an archaeological survey carried out in 2008 on the site of the former faubourg (suburb) of Sviyazhsk town. The survey obtained and analysed useful information about the nature and contents of the cultural layer being revealed by the eroding banks of the Kuibyshev reservoir.

The survey represented the first archaeological research carried out in the Sviyazhsk faubourg, and yielded much information on its layout. The remains of approximately 40 wooden constructions (buildings, fences, pavements, etc.) from the second half of the 16th-beginning of the 20th century were uncovered during the excavation. The residential character of the excavated buildings was determined by the presence of furnace remains found on the excavation site.

The unified orientation of the household buildings from various layers of the excavation site, dating from the mid-16th up to the 20th century, indicates the street plan of the faubourg, which was more or less maintained throughout its existence. More than half the studied constructions were damaged by fire which accordingly gave rise to the development of the Sviyazhsk faubourg.

The finds - 5,374 items in total - included 2,863 ceramic fragments (of which 334 were of traditional Bulgar style); 2,391 leather items (shoes, mittens, quivers, etc.); textiles (wool, homespun linen, felt, willow fibre) and iron goods (knives, scissors, nails, etc.). The numerous finds that emerged from the excavation site reflect the life, craft, farming and trading activities of the population of this medieval town and concurred with other known sources illustrating the life of Sviyazhsk residents as the town waxed and waned in its political importance as a trading post and economic centre of the region.

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Keywords: Middle Ages, Sviyazhsk, faubourg, suburb, damp layer, residential and household buildings.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	- Acta Archaeologica. Copenhagen.
AAL	- Asien Africa Lateinamerika. Zeitschrift des Zentralen Rates für Asien-, Afrika- und Lateinamerikawissenschaften in der DDR. Berlin.
AAMT	- Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory. Orlando.
AAnt	- American Antiquity. Society for American Archaeology. Washington.
ABM	- Alaska Business Monthly. Anchorage.
Acta Asiatica	- Acta Asiatica. Bulletin of the Institute of Eastern Culture. Tokyo.
AO	- Arkheologicheskoye otkrytiya (1965-2013). Moscow.
AOASH	- Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Institute of Oriental Studies. Budapest.
AP	- Arkheologiya Podmoskov'ya. Materialy nauchnogo seminara. Institute of Archaeology Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
ArchOttoman	- Archivum Ottomanicum. Wiesbaden Ottoman Archives. Wiesbaden.
Ars Judaica	- Ars Judaica. Bar-Ilan University. Ramat Gan.
Art-menedzher	- Art-menedzher. Business magazine considering culture and art as a resource for the social and economic development of society and offering various technologies and methodologies of management of this process. Moscow.
Bibliosfera	- Bibliosfera. The Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Novosibirsk.
BKF	- Baltiiskii filologicheskii kurer. Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. Kaliningrad.
BM	- Byulleten' Moskovskogo obshchestva ispytateley prirody. Otdel biologicheskoy. Moscow Society of Naturalists. Moscow.
BMMS	- Byulleten Muzeya Marka Shagala. Marc Chagall Museum. Vitebsk.
Byilyie godyi	- Byilyie godyi. Sochi State University. Sochi.
CAn	- Current Anthropology. Chicago.
CHR	- The Canadian Historical Review. University of Toronto Press. Toronto.

CIS	- Culturulogicheskie issledovania Sibiri. Omsk State University. Omsk.
Comparativ	- Comparativ. Leipziger Beiträge zur Universalgeschichte und vergleichenden Gesellschaftsforschung. Universität Leipzig, Global and European Studies Institute. Leipzig.
CRJ	- Classical Reception Journal. The Open University (UK). Oxford.
Den'gi	- Den'gi. Publishing House "Kommersant." Moscow.
EDV	- Ekonomicheskaya zhizn Dalnego Vostoka. Geographic Society. Khabarovsk, Amur.
EHQ	- European History Quarterly. University of London. London.
EJNH	- European Journal of Natural History. The Russian Academy of Natural History. Moscow.
Ethnos	- Ethnos. Journal of Anthropology. London.
Études/Inuit/Studies	- Études/Inuit/Studies. Association Inuksiutiit Katimajit Inc. Québec.
EZ	- Evolucijazni na Zemle. Tomsk State University. Tomsk.
Femida	- Femida. Media Corporation "ZAN." Almaty.
Florilegium	- Florilegium. The journal of the Canadian Society of Medievalists. Ottawa.
Forsait	- Forsait. Higher School of Economy. Moscow.
Francia	- Francia. Forschungen zur westeuropäischen Geschichte, hg. vom Deutschen Historischen Institut Paris (Institut Historique Allemand). Paris.
Fundamental Research	- Fundamental Research. Russian Academy of Natural History. Moscow.
Genetics	- Genetics. Genetics Society of America. Bethesda (USA).
Genetika	- Genetika. Russian Journal of Genetics. Moscow State University. Moscow.
Geologiya i geofizika	- Geologiya i geofizika. Institute of Geology and Geophysics of the Siberian Department of the Science Academy in the USSR, Novosibirsk. Published by the Siberian department of the Science Academy in the USSR. Novosibirsk.
Gyanovashchya	- Gyanovashchya. Dnepropetrovsk State University. Dnepropetrovsk.
HN	- Hraniteli naslediya. Altay State Pedagogical Academy. Barnaul.
HZ	- Historische Zeitschrift. Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main.
Karavan	- Karavan (newspaper). Almaty.
KAS	- Der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung - Auslandsinformationen. Berlin.

KPZ	- Kazanskij pedagogicheskij zhurnal. Institute of Pedagogy and Psychology. Kazan.
IAIAND	- Istoriko-arkheologicheskie issledovaniya v g. Azove i na Nizhnem Donu v 2006 g., Don.
Istoriografiya	- Istoriografiya i istochnikovedenie istorii stran Azii i Afriki. Leningrad State University. Leningrad.
Istoriya i sovremennost'	- Istoriya i sovremennost'. Moscow.
Izvestia Ugo	- Izvestija Ugo-Zapadnogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta. Kursk.
IzvSamarsk	- Izvestiya Samarskogo nauchnogo tsentra RAN. Samara.
JBAA	- Journal of the British Archaeological Association, British Archaeological Association. London.
Kulturnoe nasledie	- Kulturnoe nasledie. Altai State University, Altai Territory, Barnaul.
Lesnoi Zhurnal	- Lesnoi Zhurnal. Izvestiia Vysshikh Uchebnykh Zavedenii. Bulletin of Higher Educational Institution. Arkhangelsk.
LKK	- Literatura i kultura v Kitae. Moscow.
LSJ	- Life Science Journal. Acta Zhengzhou University Overseas. Zhengzhou University. New York.
JAMT	- Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory. New York.
JAR	- Journal of Archaeological Research. Journal of Archaeological Research. New York.
JISV	- Jekonomicheskie i istoricheskie issledovaniya na Severo-Vostoke SSSR. Economic and historical research in the North-East of the USSR. Magadan.
KT	- Kazakhskaya tsivilizatsiya. University Kaimar Almaty. Almaty.
Marketing	- Marketing. Centre for Marketing Research and Management. Moscow.
MBD	- Molodyye v bibliotechnom dele. Youth in Library Science. Moscow.
MEJSR	- Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research. International scientific journal published by the international digital organization for scientific information (IDOSI).
Memoirs SAA	- Memoirs of the Society for American Archaeology. Society for American Archaeology. Washington DC.
MENP	- Materialy po evolyucii nazemnykh pozvochnykh. Moscow.
MIA	- Materialy po istorii i archeologii SSSR. Moscow, Saint Petersburg.
MIFFK	- Materialy po istorii fauny i flory Kazahstana. Kazakhstan.

Mir bibliografii	- Mir bibliografii. Moscow.
Mir obrazovaniya	- Mir obrazovaniya - obrazovanie v mire. Scientific-Methodological Journal. Moscow Psychology and Sociology Institute. Moscow.
MNKO	- Mir Nauki, Kul'tury, Obrazovaniya. Gorno-Altaysk.
Molodezh' Tatarstana	- Molodezh' Tatarstana. Newspaper. Kazan.
MUSEUM	- MUSEUM. UNESCO.
Narodnaya shkola	- Narodnaya shkola. Saint Petersburg.
Nauchnoye obozreniye	- Nauchnoye obozreniye, series 2, Gumanitarniye nauki. Lomonosov Moscow State University. Moscow.
Nauch.-tekhn. Inform	- Nauchnaya i tekhnicheskaya informatsiya. Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Naukovedeniye	- Naukovedeniye. Institute of History of Natural Sciences and Technics named after S. I. Vavilov of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Neues Leben	- Neues Leben [newspaper]. Berlin.
NIV	- Novyy istoricheskiy vestnik. Obshchestvo s ogranichennoj otvetstvennost'yu "Izdatel'stvo Ippolitova." Moscow.
NKOGK	- Obshchestvo i gosudarstvo v Kitae: XXXIX nauchnaia konferentsiia. Moscow.
NNZ	- Novgorod i Novgorodskaya zemlya. Istoriya i arkhologiya. Veliki Novgorod.
Novosti	- Russian News Agency "Novosti." Moscow.
NT	- Nauchnyi Tatarstan. Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan. Kazan.
NTB	- Nauchnyye i tekhnicheskiye biblioteki. The State Public Scientific and Technical Library Russia. Moscow.
Odyssey	- Odyssey. Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Universal History. Moscow.
ONS	- Obshchestvennuyye nauki i sovremennost. Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
OT	- Otechestvennyye zapiski. Saint Petersburg.
Panorama iskusstv	- Panorama iskusstv. Sovetskii khudozhnik. Moscow.
Pervye amerikancy	- Pervye amerikancy. First Americans (Almanac). Russian Society of Indianists. Saint Petersburg.
PGI	- Problemi Gumanitarnih Issledovaniy. Russian State Institute for Regional Issues in Northern Caucasus. Pyatigorsk.
Polar Record	- Polar Record. A Journal of Arctic and Antarctic Research. Scott Polar Research Institute. Cambridge (UK).
Politische Wissenschaft	- Politische Wissenschaft. Deutsche Hochschule für Politik Berlin.

Polzunovskiy vestnik	- Polzunovskiy vestnik. Altay State Technical University. Barnaul.
Pozdneplejstocenovye	- Pozdneplejstocenovye i rannegolocenovye kul'turnye svyazi Azii i Ameriki. Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy. Novosibirsk.
Prizrenie	- Prizrenie i blagotvoritel'nost' v Rossii. Izdanie Vserossijskogo sojuza uchrezhdenij, obshhestv i dejatelej po obshhestvennomu i chastnomu prizreniju. Saint Petersburg.
Problemi filosofii	- Problemi filosofii. Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Proceedings Volgograd	- Proceedings of the Volgograd State Pedagogical University. Volgograd.
PsZ	- Psikhologicheskij zhurnal. Institute of Psychology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
PT	- Perspectives on Terrorism. The Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI) headquartered in Vienna, and the Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) headquartered at the University of Massachusetts' Lowell campus. Massachusetts.
RA	- Rossiiskaia Arkheologiya. Moscow.
Reka vremen	- Reka vremen. Moscow.
Rivista di Bizantinistica	- Rivista di Bizantinistica. Bologna.
RossEconom	- Rossiski ekonomicheskij jurnal. International Academy of Business and Management. Moscow.
Rossiyskaya Gazeta	- Rossiyskaya Gazeta. Russian government daily newspaper. Moscow.
SA	- Sovetskaja Arkheologija. Institute of Archaeology, Russia, Moscow. Moscow.
SC	- Sviyazhskie chteniya. Sviyazhsk.
Scientometrics	- Scientometrics. Akadémiai Kiadó. Budapest.
Serdalo	- Obschenacionalnaya gaseta Respubliki Ingushetiya "Serdalo." Nazran.
SGV	- Saratovskie gubernskie vedomosti. Saratov.
Shagalovskii sbornik	- Shagalovskii sbornik. Marc Chagall Museum. Minsk.
SI	- Sociologicheskije issledovaniya. Science Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Soziale Geschichte	- Soziale Geschichte. Zeitschrift für historische Analyse des 20. und 21. Jahrhunderts. Bremen.
Spectrum	- Spectrum. The Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies. Astana.
SS	- Sibirskaya stolitsa. Tobolsk State Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve. Tobolsk.

SSM	- Social Sciences and Modernity. The Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences "Science." Moscow.
SV	- Sovremennaya filologiya. Ufa.
SZ	- Sociologicheskiy zhurnal. Moscow.
Tarih Dergisi	- Istanbul Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Tarih Dergisi. Istanbul.
TKA	- Tolski kraevedchesky almanah. Tula.
Traditzionnaya kultura	- Traditzionnaya kultura. An academic almanac representing the perspective direction in complex study of ethnoculture: national outlook, pedagogics, life, mythology, customs, ceremonies, poetry and music. Moscow.
Trudovaya pomoshch'	- Trudovaya pomoshch'. Izdanie Popechitel'stva o trudovoj pomoshhi. Saint Petersburg.
Vestnik AAJ	- Vestnik arheologii, antropologii i jetnografii. Institute of Problems of Development of the North, Russia. Tyumen.
Vestnik Chelyabinsk	- Vestnik Chelyabinskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta, Istoriya. Publishing house of Chelyabinsk State University. Chelyabinsk.
Vestnik Chuvashskogo	- Vestnik Chuvashskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta im I. Ya. Yakovleva. I. Y. Yakovlev Chuvash State Pedagogical University. Cheboksary.
VestKrasno	- Vestnike Krasnoyarskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta imeni V. P. Astafeva. Krasnojarskiy gosudarstvennyj pedagogicheskij universitet im. V. P. Astafeva. Krasnojarsk.
Vestnik Kazak	- Vestnik Akademii nauk Kazakhskoy SSR. Academy of Science of the Kazakh SSR. Kazakhstan.
Vestnik RAN	- Vestnik Rossiyskoy Akademii Nauk. Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Vestnik Samara	- Vestnik Samarskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Samara State University. Samara.
Vestn Tomsk Gos Univ.	- Vestnik Tomskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Kul'turologiya i iskusstvovedeniye. Bulletin of Tomsk State University. Tomsk.
Vestnik Semej	- Vestnik gosudarstvennogo universiteta imeni Shakarima goroda Semej. Shakarim State University of Semej.
Vestnik Ufa	- Vestnik Vostochnoy ekonomiko-yuridicheskoy gumanitarnoy akademii. East Economic-Legal Humanitarian Academy. Ufa.
Vestnik VyatGGU	- Vestnik Vyatskogo gosudarstvennogo gumanitarnogo universiteta: Vyatka State University of Humanities. Kirov.

Vizantiysky vremennik	- Vizantiysky vremennik. Institute of General History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Voprosy Istorii	- Voprosy Istorii. Russian academic journal for historical studies. The Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
Voprosi Literaturny	- Voprosi Literaturny. Writer's Union of the USSR. Moscow.
Voprosy filosofii	- Voprosy filosofii. Russian Academy of Sciences. Moscow.
VTP	- Istoricheskiye, filosofskiy, politicheskiye i yuridicheskiye nauki, kul'turologiya i iskusstvovedeniye. Voprosy teorii i praktiki. Tambov.
WASJ	- World Applied Sciences Journal. International Digital Organization Scientific for Information "IDOSI Publications" UAE. Dubai.
Zapiski	- Zapiski Vostochnogo otdeleniya Russkogo arkhologicheskogo obshchestva. Archaeological Society. Saint Petersburg.
ZDMG	- Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft. Berlin Magazine of the German East Society. Berlin.