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On Studying of Historical and Cultural Processes of the Palaeolithic Epoch in Central Asia

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In the process of studying history of the early anthropogenesis in Uzbekistan at the Kolbulak site, the complex of the stone industry with two-side processing was opened. Of specific interest at the Kolbulak site are the bi-faces, including those that are leaf-shaped. Taking into consideration the increased interest with regard to articles of this type and due to the uniqueness of these finds, we made a decision that they are worthy of a special publication. To address the history of studying the Stone Age epochs and thereby to contribute to the research of ancient settlements of the Central Asian region, the expansion of the bi-facial technique in Palaeolithic industries of Eurasia is one of the key problems regarding exploration of ancient stages of settlement in this region. In addition, it is significant for understanding practically all the studies of the development of the Palaeolithic culture. In defining the features characteristic to the epoch of the early Palaeolith, the geography of location of bi-facial complexes serves as the major criterion that divides the primitive ecumene into two main cultural zones: the Eastern zone with Acheul hand-axes and Levallois techniques and the Western zone with predominance of choppers and flint splitting¹.

The Levallois techniques for splitting in stone industries of the Middle Paleolith have allowed a number of researchers to trace the roots of the Moustierian traditions as well as outline their spread across the territory of Asia². The availability of double-side worked articles in the

¹ Movius H.L. Early Man and Pleistocene Stratigraphy in Southern and Eastern Asia // Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology. 1944. Vol. 19. No. 3. p. 125.

² Okladnikov A.P. Drevnie svyazi kultur Sibiri i Srednei Azii (Ancient connections of Siberian and Central Asian cultures) // Bakhrushinskie chteniya. 1966. - Novosibirsk:

composition of industrial complexes at significant stages in the Palaeolithic epoch represents a reliable criterion for culture-and-type differentiation of Palaeolithic artifacts in Eurasia. Besides, the availability of bi-facial edges is one of the most important arguments in defining routs of the pioneer human settling across the American continent from the territories of North-Eastern Asia³.

The first leaf-shaped edges "Blattspitze" were distinguished by Obermaier in 1929. This definition is characterized by leaf-shaped edges, treated by plain retouching on both sides of tools of various sizes, with one or two edges and a predominantly thin cross-cut section. These types of tools were considered a modernized variety of stone-axes assuming their close relation with points⁴.

Such flexible wording is used to gain a broad understanding of the leaf-shaped points. In ascertainment of the lance points, beside the characters given by Obermaier, S.N.Zamyatnin introduced an addendum

NGU, 1968. Issue 1, p. 144-157; Ranov V.A. O vostochnoi granitse mustierskoi kultury (On Eastern limit of Mousterien culture) // Chronostratigraphiya paleolita Severnoi, Tsentralnoi i Vostochnoi Azii i Ameriki (Chronostratigraphy of Paleolith in Northern, Central and Eastern Asia and America). Novosibirsk, 1990. pp. 262-268; Jaubert J. Chasseurs et artisans du Mousterien. La maison de roches/editeur.- Paris, 1999. p. 125

³ Mochanov Yu. A. Drevneishie etapy zaseleniya Severo-Vostochnoi Azii i Alyaski (K voprosu o pervonachalnykh migratsiyakh cheloveka v Ameriku) (Ancient stages of human settling North-Eastern Asia and Alaska: On the problem of initial human migrations to America) // Sovetskaya etnografiya. - 1969. - No. 1. pp. 79, 86; Abramova Z. A. K voprosu o kulturnykh svyazyakh Azii i Ameriki v pozdnem paleolite (On the problem of cultural ties of Asia and America) // Kratkiye soobscheniya Instituta etnografii AN SSSR. - 1973. No. 137, pp. 22-27; Derevianko A. P. Kamennyi vek Severnoi, Vostochnoi i Tsentralnoi Azii (Stone Age in Northern, Eastern and Central Asia). - Novosibirsk: NGU, 1975. - p. 232; West F. Archaeology of Beringia. - N.Y: Columbia University Press, 1981. - p. 268; Morlan R.E. Peopling of the New World: A Discussion // Globus; Origins and Adaptation/ Cornwall: S.n., 1991. p. 303-307; Derevianko A.P., Shunkov M.V. Industrii s listovidnymi bifasami v crednem paleolite Gornogo Altaya (Industries with leaf-shaped bi-faces in middle Palaeolith in Mountainous Altay) // Arkheologiya, etnografiya i antropologiya Evrazii.-Novosibirsk. - 2002. - No. 1 (9), p. 16-42.

⁴ Obermaier H., Wernert P. Alt Palaeolithicum mit Blatttypen. Mitteil.antropol. Gesellschaft in Wien.Bd. 59. H.V-VI, 1929. S. 308-309

stating that there should be a symmetrical form, with thin and sharp equally worked edges that is indicated by a purposefully treated base⁵.

As a rule, the complexes of leaf-shaped bi-faces are represented in the composition of Upper Palaeolithic industries by rather expressive but not numerous series. At the same time, the leaf-shaped bi-faces form settled typological groups and are the major peculiarity of industries that defines their individual character. In this regard, the necessity arose to pursue more detailed study and conduct a correlative comparison against the examined artifacts in Eurasia. The leaf-shaped bi-faces sometimes resembling the points of later Palaeolithic epochs were found on many sites in the Crimea, the Russian Plain, and the Caucasus⁶. The complexes with leaf-shaped points were assigned to denticulate Moustier – the Akhshtyr cave, Lysaya (Bold) mountain or kina-shaped type with numerous two-sided forms – Staroselye, Chokurcha, Ilskaya and Khotlyovo, or to the typical Moustier with rare bi-faces – the sites in the Azov-side and Transcaucasian zones⁷. The leaf-shaped bi-faces are found in significant time intervals, and, thus, the edges of the Akhshtyr cave, Yashtukh, and upper layers in Kiik-Koba are assigned to the early Moustier epoch while analogical implements from Transoxian caves and sites in the Russian Plain (Staroselye, Oryol and others) are assigned to the second half of Moustier⁸.

⁵ Zamyatnin S. N. Nekotorye voprosy izucheniya khozyaistva v epokhu paleolita (Some questions of studying economy in the epoch of Palaeolith) // Trudy Instituta etnografii AN SSSR. New series. V.IV. – M., 1960. p. 83

⁶ Lyubin V. P. K voprosu o metodike izucheniya nizhnepaleoliticheskikh kamennykh orudii (On methodology of studying of Lower Palaeolithic stone implements) // Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR. No. 131. - Leningrad, 1965. p. 60-71; Zamyatnin S. N. Ocherki po paleolitu (Palaeolithic studies) -Leningrad, 1961, p. 104-117; Vekilova E. A. Raskopki Akhshtyrskoi peschery (Akhshtyrskaya cave excavations) // Arkheologicheskiye otkrytiya 1965 goda (1965 archaeological discoveries). - Moscow, 1966, p. 48-49.

⁷ Lyubin V. P. K voprosu o metodike izucheniya nizhnepaleoliticheskikh kamennykh orudii (On methodology of studying of Lower Palaeolithic stone implements) // Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR. No. 131. - Leningrad, 1965.

⁸ Anisyutkin N.K. Listovidnye ostriya s dvustoronnei obrabotkoi so stoyanki Stinka-1 (Leaf-shaped edges with two-sided treatment found at the Stinka-1 site) // Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR. No. 185. – Leningrad, 1972. p. 88-94.

In Central Europe the leaf-shaped points are also unique the late-middle and early-late Palaeolith as they were discovered amid the artifacts of the Altmuhl, Szelet, and Micoque groups⁹. These types of implements are also found in Rumania, Greece and Italy, whereas France is the only area where this type of article was not found¹⁰.

On the site of Stinki I located in the Chernovitskaya oblast (province) in the vicinity of Khotin city, N. K. Anisyutkin examined 22 leaf-shaped points. The dimensions of these implements vary from 6 to 10 cm. According to their shape, they are similar to the type of sharpened-and-oval with one-sided bulging or lenticular cross-section. Usually both plains are treated by pressed retouching, most often by scaly one, more seldom by subparal or multigraded.

The culture, N.K. Anisyutkin singled out, with leaf-shaped bi-faces is localized in the south-west of the Russian Plain and can be subdivided into three industries of different time-periods. The earlier – Druitorian – the grotto of Old Druitory, Yarovo, Mersyna, is characterized by archaic technology with a very low Levallois index and plates as well as single bi-facial forms. The middle – proto-Stinki – the lower stratum of the grotto of Bykhvatintsy, Osypka, Shipot-2 and Bobuleshty-5 is the developed variant of Druitorian industry. The late Stinkian –Stinka-1, Shipot-1, Mamaya, the grotto of Buzduzhany-1 with typical leaf-shaped bi-faces¹¹. The earliest of these industries is dated by Riss, proto-Stinkian – by Riss-Wurm and the beginning of Wurm and Stinkian – by the first half of the Wurm period¹².

While in the Russian Plain the leaf-shaped bi-faces are an attribute of most Mousterian complexes and in combination with other two-sided forms make up typological specificity of the so called Micoque. In

⁹ Bosinski G. Die mittelpalaeolithische Funde in westlichen Mitteleuropa // Fundamenta. Reihe A. Bd. 4. – Koeln-Graz, 1967. p. 308-309

¹⁰ Sonnevill-Bordes D. de Le Paleolithique en Grece L. A. v. 69, No. 5-6, p. 604

¹¹ Anisyutkin N. K. K probleme perekhoda ot srednego paleolita k verkhnemu (To the problem of transition from Middle to Upper Paleolith) // Arkheologiya, etnografiya i antropologiya Evrazii. - Novosibirsk. - 2002. - No. 1 (9) . P. 43-46.

¹² Anisyutkin N. K. Rannii i srednii paleolit yugo-zapada Russkoi ravniny (Early and Middle Paleolith of the South-Eastern Russian Plain).: Synopsis of a thesis for the degree of a candidate of Historical sciences – Novosibirsk: IIFiF SO AN SSSR, 1990. p. 94-98.

Siberia, the bi-faces of sharpened form are rarely met in industries of the middle Paleolith. Moreover, all of them are found in Mountainous Altai.

At present, the industry with two-side treated implements are known in many regions in Central Asia. As a rule, these tools are represented in Upper Palaeolithic industries by rather significant, but not numerous series, which have no marked influence on the general appearance of stone implements. The leaf-shaped bi-faces form stable typological groups and represent the main distinctive features defining their individual character. The most striking examples of that manifestation of bi-facial tradition are given in the materials of Tyumechin-4 in Central Altai, and Mekhovo-2 in Kuznetsk basin as well as in collections gathered on the shore of the Derbin Bay of the Krasnoyarsk reservoir on the Yenisei, and on the sites in the Selemdzha river basin in the Amur-side, and finally in industries of Dyuktai okrug in Yakutiya.

In sum, despite the seemingly sporadic character of those manifestations in the spreading of two-sided points in the Upper Paleolith of Siberia, they can be traced with a certain regularity. Thus, unquestionable industries of the early stage of the Upper Paleolith with leaf-shaped bi-faces have been found in the present time only in the south-west part of Siberia, specifically on the territory of Mountainous Altai: Ust-Karakol I, Tyumechin-4, the Denisov cave and in Kuznetsk Alatau – Mokhov-2¹³.

During the middle stage of the Upper Paleolith the spread of bi-facial sharp points throughout Middle Siberia was registered in the area from Minusinsk Hollow¹⁴ up to the Northern Angara-side¹⁵.

¹³ Derevyanko A.P., Zykina V.S., Markin S.V., Nikolaev S.V., Petrin V.T. Pervye rannepaleoliticheskie obiekty Kuznetskoi kotloviny (stratigrafiya, paleografiya i predvaritelnye arkhologicheskie opredeleniya) (First early Palaeolithic objects of the Kuznetsk hollow (stratigraphy, paleography and preliminary archeological definitions). Novosibirsk: IIFiF SO AN SSSR, 1992. p. 62

¹⁴ Abramova Z.A. Paleoliticheskaya stoyanka Tarachikha na Yenisee (Palaeolithic site of Tarachikha at the Yenisei) // Kratkie soobscheniya Instituta etnografii AN SSR. - 1983. Issue 173, p. 43-50

¹⁵ Vasilievsky R.S., Burilov V.V., Drozdov N.I. Arkheologicheskie pamyatniki Severnogo Priangarya (Archeological artifacts of the Northern Angara-side). - Novosibirsk: Nauka, 1988. - p. 224; Volokitina A.V. Khronologicheskie gruppy paleolita Angaro-Okinskogo raiona (Chronological groups of Paleolith in the region of the

In the Paleolith of eastern regions of Central Asia leaf-shaped bi-faces were registered on the territory of Eastern TransBaikal – Sokhatino 4¹⁶, the Amur-side area¹⁷ and on the sites of Dyuktai culture in Yakutiya¹⁸.

Thus, the general tendency of spreading the Upper Palaeolithic industries with leaf-shaped bi-faces from south-western regions of Siberia towards north-east allows us to come to a reasonably sufficient conclusion that this direction was one way in which bearers of the bi-facial tradition migrated to America. At the same time, up to the present, the progressive advance of the two-sided stone treatment tradition in the Paleolith of Central Asia remained a considerable chronological gap due to lacking of bi-facial implements in the industries of the Middle Paleolith. Therefore, as a genetic basis of this tradition, it is most logical to consider the Central Asian Acheul type complexes of the Early Paleolith¹⁹.

Studying Palaeolithic artifacts of the Central Asian region, understanding and interpretation of the results obtained are reflected in a number of works written by A.P.Okladnikov and V.A.Ranov, R.Kh.Suleimanov, S.A.Nesmeyanov, L.B.Vishnyatsky and others²⁰.

Angara-Oka) // Chronostratigraphiya paleolita Severnoi, Tsentralnoi i Vostochnoi Azii i Ameriki (Chronostratigraphy of Paleolith in Northern, Central and Eastern Asia and America). Novosibirsk: IIFiF SO AN SSSR, 1990. p. 94-98.

¹⁶ Okladnikov Kiril 1980

¹⁷ Derevyanko

¹⁸ Mochanov Yu. A. Drevneishie etapy zaseleniya Severo-Vostochnoi Azii i Alyaski (K voprosu o pervonachalnykh migratsiyakh cheloveka v Ameriku) (Ancient stages of human settling North-Eastern Asia and Alaska: On the problem of initial human migrations to America) // Sovetskaya etnografiya. - 1969. - No. 1 pp. 79, 86

¹⁹ Derevyanko A.P., Shunkov M.V. Industrii s listovidnymi bifasami v srednem paleolite Gornogo Altaya (Industries with leaf-shaped bi-faces in middle Paleolith in Mountainous Altay // Arkheologiya, etnografiya i antropologiya Evrazii.-Novosibirsk. - 2002. - No. 1(9), p. 16-42.

²⁰ Okladnikov A.P. Paleolit i mezolit Srednei Azii (Paleolith and Mesolith in Central Asia) // Srednyaya Aziya v epokhu kamnya i bronzy. - Moskva-Leningrad, 1966. p. 10-16; Okladnikov A. P., Ranov V. A. Kamenny vek // Istoriya tadzhikskogo naroda (The Stone Age/History of the Tajik people).- Moscow, 1963. v. 1. p. 5-10; Ranov V.A. Kamenny vek Tadzhikistana (The Stone Age in Tajikistan). - Dushanbe, 1965. -p. 145; Ranov V.A. K izucheniyu mustierskoi kultury v Srednei Azii (studies of Moustierian culture in Central Asia // Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii (MIA). No. 173. -

In this region, the most explored are the artifacts of Moustierian culture. Here there are about a hundred artifacts of Moustierian period which were discovered and explored in different extents of detail. They include the cave settlements of Teshik-Tash, Amankutan, Obirakhmat, Kolbulak, Khodjikut, Ogiz-Kichik, locations of Kara-Bura, Khudji and Semiganch. The majority of location-sites are represented by places with singular finds. The most informative artifacts are located in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. A lack of a unified methodology for technique-and-typological analysis of Palaeolithic artifacts represents a major obstacle in carrying out comparative analyses.

Up to the present, the question on chronological limits of Moustierian industries in Uzbekistan still has remained open. For age ascertainment of most artifacts, there are no faunistic or palinologic characteristics or absolute dating. It should be noted that the concept on provenance and genesis of Palaeolithic industries in Central Asia at the early stages of research was formed under the influence of H. Movius's theory²¹.

Leningrad, 1972. v. VII, p. 209-232; Ranov V.A. O vozmozhnosti vydeleniya lokalnykh kultur v paleolite Srednei Azii (On possibility of identification of local cultures in the Paleolith in Central Asia) // *Izvestiya otd. obsch. nauk Tajik. SSR*. Dushanbe, 1963. Issue 3 (53), p. 3-11. Ranov V.A. Semiganch – novoe mustierskoe mestonakhozhdenie v Yuzhnom Tadzhikistane (Semiganch is a new Moustierian localization in Southern Tajikistan) // *Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii (MIA)*. No. 185 (Paleolith and Neolith SSSR). - Leningrad, 1972. v. VII, p.100-110; Ranov V.A. Kamenny vek Yuzhnogo Tadzhikistana i Pamira (The Stone Age of Southern Tajikistan and Pamir): Synopsis of a thesis to degree of a candidate of Historical sciences in the report format–Novosibirsk: 1988. p. 52; Ranov V.A. Paradoks levallua (Levallois paradox) // *Kamenny vek. Pamyatniki. Metodika. Problemy*. - Kiev: Naukova dumka, 1989. p. 46-50; Ranov V.A. O vostochnoi granitse mustierskoi kultury (On Eastern limit of Moustierien culture) // *Chronostratigrafiya paleolita Severnoi, Tsentralnoi i Vostochnoi Azii i Ameriki* (Chronostratigraphy of Paleolith in Northern, Central and Eastern Asia and America). Novosibirsk, 1990. pp. 262-268; Suleimanov R. Kh. Statisticheskoe izuchenie kultury grota Obi-Rakhmat (Statistical studying of the culture of the Obi-Rakhmat grotto). - Tashkent, 1972; Vishnyatsky L.B. Paleolit Srednei Azii i Kazakhstana (Paleolith in Central Asia and Kazakhstan). - S.-Petersburg, 1966, p. 169.

²¹Movius H.L. Early man and Pleistocene stratigraphy in Southern and Eastern Asia // *Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology*. 1944. Vol. 19. No. 3. p. 125.

A.P.Okladnikov's works directly articulate the divergence of ways of development of Palaeolithic cultures in the western and eastern areas of Central Asia. They also state the connection of Movius's theory with V.A.Ranov's concept in singling out two lines of development beginning from the early Paleolith up to the Early Metal epoch. The first line (group A) is connected with artifacts located westward from Central Asia, mainly with cultures of the Middle East, and the second line (group B) is connected with artifacts located in the east (cultures of the East-Asian type)²². Later on, under the influence of F.Bord and his followers' works, V.A.Ranov singles out a number of technical variants or facies: Levallois-Moustierian (Kairak-Kumy, Tosor, Khudji, Ogzi-Kichik, Kuturbulak, Semiganch) and Moustierian-Soan (Kara-Bura, Ak-Djar, Kukhi-Piyoz)²³. Later V.A.Ranov also stated the existence of two distinctive cultures that did not proceed other traditions. The existence of the above mentioned lines V.A.Ranov explains by the hypothesis that the normal development of autochthonic pre-Chelles culture of Karatau is overlapped by some culture having come from outside. Perhaps it was Levallois-Moustierian culture from the Middle East. As a main explanatory hypothesis, he suggested the substitution model. According to that model, Central Asia experienced the rapid change of a late type of erectus - the Karatau culture bearer - by a Neanderthal man²⁴ coming from the West.

Based on differentiations in technique traditions, mode of splitting, and assortment of implements, R.Kh.Suleimanov defined two groups of Moustierian artifacts in Uzbekistan. One was denticulate Moustier (Kolbulak site), and the other was Obirakhmat culture²⁵. Later, he added to them a group of sites-shops Uchtut and Idjont²⁶. Thus,

²² Grigoriev G.P. Problemy levallua (Problems of Levallois) Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii (MIA). No. 173. - Leningrad, 1972. v. VII, p. 68-74.

²³ Ranov V.A., Nesmeyanov S.A. Stratigrafiya antropogena Srednei Azii (Stratigraphy of anthropogenic period in Central Asia). - Dushanbe, 1973, p. 23-25.

²⁴ Ranov V.A., Davis R.C. Toward New outline of the Soviet Central Asian Palaeolithic/Current Anthropology. Vol. 20, No. 2. 1979, p. 249-262.

²⁵ Suleimanov R.Kh. Statisticheskoe izuchenie kultury grota Obi-Rakhmat (Statistical study of the culture of the Obi-Rakhmat grotto). - Tashkent, 1972. p. 101-117.

²⁶ Ibid. p. 117.

R.Kh.Suleimanov combined, on the basis of criteria, he distinguished, the same group of artifacts which was singled out by V.A.Ranov under the title of Levallois-Moustierian.

In Kazakhstan, according to technique-and-type indicators, the following traditions were distinguished: typical Moustier (Koshkurgan); Levallois-Moustier (Aktogai, Semizbugu – complexes A and B); Moustier-Soan (Muzbel), denticulate Moustier (Burma) and Moustier with Acheul tradition of Levallois facies (Khantau, mid- Moustier complex Semizbugu)²⁷.

A brief review of researchers' conclusions on characteristic features of material culture in the Paleolith reveals a rather complicated history of peopling of the Central Asian region, where the differentiation of archeological cultures was made with deficient grounding. The major difficulty of the Stone Age archaeology in differentiating archaeological cultures is not in determining the exact point where the line differentiating them should be drawn, but that there is a lack of rules as to where a subdivision should be made²⁸. The suggested assessments require further analysis of scholars' procedure to differentiate archaeological cultures. Numerous researchers in recent years have stated that such a mosaic history of the evolution of culture as Moustier of Central Asian region is not well grounded²⁹. A more definite statement on homogeneity of Central Asian Moustier was made by L.B.Vishnyatsky³⁰.

²⁷ Derevyanko A.P., Petrin V.T., Taigambetov Zh.K., Isabekov Z.K., Rybalko G., Ott M. Rannepaleoliticheskie industrialnye komplekсы v travertinakh Yuzhnogo Kazakhstana (Early Palaeolithic industrial complexes in travertines of Southern Kazakhstan). - Novosibirsk, 2000. - 300 p.

²⁸ Derevyanko A.P., Felinger A.F., Kholyushkin Yu.P. Metody informatiki v arkhologii kamennogo veka (Methods of informatics in archaeology of the Stone Age). - Novosibirsk, 1989. p. 48.

²⁹ Kulakovskaya L.V. Mustie Azii: vzglyad iz Evropy (Asian Moustier: through Europeans' eyes) // Chronostratigrafiya paleolita Severnoi, Tsentralnoi i Vostochnoi Azii i Ameriki (Chronostratigraphy of Paleolith in Northern, Central and Eastern Asia and America). - Novosibirsk, 1990. pp. 210-214.

³⁰ Vishnyatsky L.B. Paleolit Srednei Azii i Kazakhstana (Paleolith in Central Asia and Kazakhstan). - S.-Petersburg, 1996. p. 169.

Here it should be noted that among the known mid-Palaeolithic artifacts of the Central Asian region the undoubted bi-faces were registered only at a single site – that of Kolbulak³¹. In the collection of obvious Moustier horizons, the nuclei of radial and parallel principles of chipping predominate. Mainly short massive flakes were used as the basic material for making implements due to a lack of good quality stone plates and Levallois flakes. The main distinctive feature of that collection, which distinguishes it from other industries in the region, is a small set of two-side treated implements, Figures 1-6, which includes bi-faces.

In recent years, on the Kolabulak site, the industry was explored and was characterized by parallel splitting of platform nuclei with a great number of base stone plates and the implements themselves on large plates. According to its typological signs, this industry finds close analogs in materials of the mid-Paleolith, of Kara-Bom pattern (variant). The major technique variants of Kolbulak also manifest close affinity with Palaeolithic industries of the Eastern Mediterranean. In particular, Levallois-Moustier materials of Kolbulak, according to technique-and-typological characteristics, are also cognate to industries of Moustier of Levante(Eastern)³². The basic unifying attribute of all these industries is the high level of development of technology of parallel Levallois splitting which is designed to yield prolonged flakes – large plates and Levallois sharp-points.

Thus, the direct technique-and-type analogs are representative of Palaeolithic cultures of Kolbulak to the unified cultural space including the Palaeolithic artifacts from the Russian Plain, Middle East, Altai and Eastern Siberia. In this regard, it seems possible to consider the Palaeolithic sites in the Central Asian region as a linking chain between the industrial complexes.

However, the question of continuity of Moustier traditions from the West to the East still remains unresolved, as the ancient Altai complexes of the mid-Paleolith are at least two or three times older than known at present Moustier sites in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

³¹ Kasymov 1972 22

³² Bar-Yosef 1992; Marks, 1992 (23)

Nowadays after revealing a large group of Palaeolithic artifacts analogical and synchronous according to technique-and-type traditions of Moustier - Upper Palaeolithic epochs, occupied a tremendous area, one can think that we are dealing with a broad history-and-culture community united by the uniformity of an econiche of landscape zones of foothills and medium-level mountains in the central part of Europe. The material obtained in the result of interdisciplinary research allows us to accomplish reconstructive formation within compact paleographic systems and introduce certain regions into the contexts of macrogeographic level with cultural-and-historical correlations, identifying regularities and specificities of their forming and further development. In this context the present development paper is determined by the concrete chronological section of the epoch of the Middle – early Upper Paleolith.