**BAHÇESARAY**

İBRAĞİMOVA, Aliye
UKRAYNA/UKRAINE/УКРАИНА

**Kırk-yer:** Is the castle in mountain remote district. It was the residence with extensive economic structure of the feudal nobility. Castle was built in the XIV\textsuperscript{th} century. It was situated on the mountain Plato between rivers Kacha and Alma, occupying territory from the west part of old Bahçesaray (at the place of modern station) and to the natural boundary nowadays called Eski-yurt. Kırk-yer was important economic center that included eastern markets, workshops, caravanserais (motels), pastures and cemeteries.

From the early Tatar period on the Plato Chufut-Kale kept two buildings - the ruins of the mosque (stone dated 1397 year of Hijra) and Çanıke Hanım Türbe (date of death -841 Y. H.).

At the bottom part of city was found cemetery of Tekie Gazi-Mansur. Also was localized the place of Gazi-Mansur Sultans, Sheikh-Halil and Sheikh-Ramazan burials.

**Salachik:** like the others works of the earlier Crimean Tatar architecture in Crimea, medrese at Salacık represents reduced and simplified variant of the Asia Minors Seljuk medrese. Close to the medrese there is Hacı Geray’s Türbe that was built by his son, Mengli Geray in 1501 A.D. Its architecture is similar to Türbe on the Plato Kırk-Yer; On plan Türbe represents an octahedron, each side of it repeated outside – 3,81 m, inside from side to opposite side – 5,91 m, the depth of the portal is 2,33 m, width – 5,24 m. Height of the wall to a socle – 0,85 m. Inside, at the left part from the entrance there is a niche in a wall with 60 cm. ladder inside which is leading upstairs. This ladder was built for the maintenance service of the domes. The dome above a portal, apparently, was double. Possibly, external dome has been destroyed during khans’ period (to the end of XVIII\textsuperscript{th} century). Walls of the portal inside are covered by vegetative arabesques; ceiling in the form of a caiasson; on the each sides of the portal there is one richly decorated niche with small columns. Above the entrance there is a stone plate with names and titles of the architects and date of construction.

On the monument together with prevalence of the eastern methods we can feel the influence of the Italian renaissance. For example - the usage of the typically antique narrowed up step caiasson. Strongly acting portal is the decorative center of the mausoleum.
On a facade the portal is framed with “Seljuk chain”. The top part of a portal, possibly, was cut decorative ornament, that symbolizing infinity. We can compare it with portal with “Seljuk’s chain”, with the door portal in the

Surb-hach monastery and others.

According to the historical sources in this Türbe have been buried four governors of Crimean Khanate:

Hacı Geray Han I (1466 A.D.)
Mengli Geray Khan I (1515 A.D.)
Gazı Geray Han (1524 A.D.)
Sahib Geray Han I (1551 A.D.)

Data about the first burial place in XV\textsuperscript{th} century in difference from the date, written above an input, testify to more ancient construction of the mausoleum. Apparently, Hacı Geray was buried in the crypt in 1466/67 according to Golden Horde ceremonies, but his son Mengli Geray has constructed the mausoleum above a crypt in 1501; The riches of scenery of this building were confirmed with its relevancy: it was a tomb of the Golden Horde khan and the first independent governor of Crimean ulus – Hacı Geray.

During the researches of the monument has been established two building periods:

2. Construction of the Mengli Geray’s mausoleum.

But the burials of the next khans, nevertheless, have been made on a Golden Horde ceremony. They also have been buried in earlier constructed crypt.

As an example of development of a funeral ceremony at the first khans, we shall consider burials in the mausoleum of XCI c. on the territory of the Bahçesaray palace. In the mausoleum of XVI c. burials with gravestones and stone sarcophagi. That is, during these period crypts any more did not built.

Zincirli-medrese in Salachik.

The first khans palace “Ashlama-saray” has been constructed in XV\textsuperscript{th} century in present suburb of Bahçesaray-Salachik. It has been disassembled under the Potemkins order in the end of XVIII c. The history of Bahçesaray began here. According to Martin Bronevskiy, “already in 1578 in the end of Bahçesaray there was other city with good houses called Salachik. Here were Khans palace with mosques, tombs and baths”. From all it two monuments were kept only - medrese and durbe or mausoleum. Both buildings have been constructed during the ruling
of Han Mengli Geray (1466-1515). The name of school Zincırlı occurs from the Turkish word meaning a “chain” because under a ceiling of a front entrance the iron circuit forced each entering respectfully bows his head before a relic of a Muslim science has been suspended. Above a door the small plate has been built in. The inscription informs date of construction of a medrese:

“This school by means of the God ordered to build Mengli Geray, the son of Hacı Geray Han; Let the god will prolong his reign till the end of time.”

The beginning of the Bahchisaray, the capital of the Crimean Khanate, was started with this buildings and the first palace – Ashlama-saray.

The ancestor of a dynasty – Hacı Geray – all over again has located in town Crimea (Old Crimea nowadays). Subsequently, being afraid all over again Genoeses, and then the Turk, he has transferred the residence to a remote place - Qırık-yer. The kept khan labels and coins testify to it. Han Hacı Geray has based the residence here and has constructed a palace Ashlama-saray which has gradually acquired other constructions. After the ending of interstine struggle Crimean Khanate was allocated from Golden Horde and became independent. That’s why staying near the castle became not so important and the residence of the governor is again transferred from close gorge to more spacious valley on open bank of Churuk-Su river. The life has moved to Bahçesaray. Evliya Chalabi called this place Old Salachik Castle and describes:

“Beş mahalle, beş mihrabı vardır. Evvelce nice cami, hamam ve medrese var,. Hala Mengli Giray Han’ın Medresesi vardır. Çell hat ile üzerinde (Sahib Giray Han oglu Mengli Giray) tarafından yaptırıldığı yazılıdır. Medreseye bitişik bir hamam, onun karşılışında Cuci Giray Han Sarayı vardır. Etrafında dört külesi, Batıya bakan demir kapısı, içinde bir camii var. Sarayın yolu üzerinde de bir Adalet Köşkü var. Salacık’ın list yanında, Çufud Kalesi dışında Aşlama Bahçesi ve Saraylar vardır. Her han tarafından burada altın yaldızlı, işlemeli, sanatlı maksiyeler, köşkler, salonlar, havuzlar, şadırvanlar yapılmıştır. Buradaki köşklerden Bahadir Giray Han’m köşkü (1049), Mehmed Giray Han Köşkü (1052), diğer bir kösk de (1056) tarihlidir. Salacık’ta Mengli Giray Han Sarayı yakınında Sahib Giray Han Medresesi, 17 adet sibyan mektebi, 9 tekke, 70 adet çeşme vardır”.

“Five quarters, five relics are there. Before mosques, baths and medrese were much more here. Till now staying Mengli Geray Han’s medrese. The inscription in “jely” style on an entrance says that medrese was built by Mengli Geray Han, the son of Hacı Geray Han. The bath (hamam) adjoins medrese, opposite there is a palace of Cuci Geray Han. Palace is surrounded by four towers; there is an iron door at the west side and the mosque inside. On the road leading in a palace there is a House of Court or Justice. Hardly above Salacık, not reaching Çufut Kale there
are the palaces surrounded by gardens Aşlama. Lists mosaic gold, skilful furnish of country houses and halls of a palace, numerous fountains and pools have been made by khans. In Salacık, not far from Mengli Geray khan palace there is Sahib Geray Hans’ medrese with 17 different school (maktabs), 9 tekie, 70 fountains). From all of magnificence described by Çelebi today we can see Zincirli-medrese and Hacı Geray Han’s Türbe.

The monumental building of Zincirli-medrese showed prestige of science of a new residence of khan. By that this only such thing in Crimea the escaped structure, medrese in Salacık gets special value. After a gain of Crimea by Turks in 1475 the architecture of Tatars tested strong influence of Osmanian Turks. A number of fine monumental constructions in Crimea testify to it. The Osmanian architecture has replaced the early Golden Horde period of culture of the Crimean Tatars, occurred from theirs first teachers – Arabs. Monuments of this period are characterized by a relief ornament, carved inscriptions, a beautiful list. The building of Zincirli – medrese is enclosed by a blind wall and looks ascetically like castle. It looked almost square with murmured fountain in the center.

The court yard has been surrounded by gallery divided by arches on ten parts, each of which is covered by a small dome. The gallery from the external part is surrounded with small rooms for pupils. The lay-out of school, despite of the small sizes, is sustained in strict classical traditions. At absence of ornaments it surprises with strict beauty of arch designs and vaulted overlapping. According to the notes of B. Zasypkin, “this is small and modest premise was until last time the center of the Tatar culture and education. By the form of arches and time of construction the monument should belong to the Tatar-Osmanli period”.

It is possible to assume, that in the beginning on this place was other construction with the same purpose or it has been essentially altered because The plate which has been built in above a door, seems to be foreign. It is a lot of traces of alterations such as the incorporated doors, windows and re-planning. Considering history of Crimea which is full by events it is possible to understand numerous destructions and the alterations connected with them. Not numerous archival and references do not allow to define precisely the periods of construction of medrese. Strict external forms of it did not inspire artists and travelers. The basic historical materials describe its interesting plan and sketches of an interior in the form of arch overlapping.

At beginning of 20th century during the researches of Zasypkin by his words “this is small and modest premise was until last time the center of the Tatar culture and education ...nowadays requires clearing walls and arches of plaster. Windows have especially suffered. It means that in the beginning of 20th centuries the medrese still worked. Considering an antiquity and architectural value of this unique structure in 2003-2004 architectural-archeological researches of school
have been made. The purpose of researches was development of the project for the subsequent restoration and use to destination this monument.

During the researches of the internal yard of the medrese above an entry in premises from east part the Arabian inscriptions have been found out.

During the excavations the great number of archeological materials dating 15-18 c. have been found out: parts of architectural details, gravestones with inscriptions; building ceramics – ceramic brickets, roofing tile, fragments of plaster – “Horasan”, water pipes; great number of red clay ceramics; collection of red clays candlesticks; inkwells, pipe, flowerpots, a glass bracelets, import ceramics – manufacture of ceramic workshops of İznik and Kütahiya, metal wares – nails, locks, door and window loops. A centuries-old tradition of art ceramics from the ancient centers was a source of forms, decorative styles and ornamental motives of glassed pottery in Crimea during XV-XVIII cc.

Though forms and the assortment of pottery are connected with products from Persia, Transcaucasia and Turkey they in many cases are original and are not of simple imitation. Excavation of last years allows to consider, that the part of overglaze ceramics was production of local manufacture. It was produced on local raw material and here again could be on sale.

**Khan’s Palace**

The city’s central feature was the palace of the Gerays. A sprawling complex of relatively low buildings, its layout differed considerably in style from either European or Russian palaces. Although it was not comparable in decoration and elegance with Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, its size and structure had great similarities with the latter. The palace was divided into the customary Islamic three-courtyard system with the innermost court reserved for the royal family and its personal servants.

Most Tatar and Western accounts give the date of its construction as 1503; he date found on the Golden Door at the entrance to the third court. Yet Professor Ernst, through a careful examination of diplomatic sources from Muscovy and Poland, has decided that the palace was most probably built between 1533 and 1551, during the reign of Sahib Geray I. Ernst has discovered that northern diplomats, at least until 1533, delivered their notes and received responses from “the khan and/or his representatives” in what they called the Crimean capital at Solhat. After this date, the name of Bahçesaray appears in the sources as the Crimean capital. Thus it is likely that: Khan Sahib Geray I brought the famous door from his earlier palace to emphasize the continuity in political authority. Further evidence for this proposition is the fact that in the late sixteenth century Bahçesaray was not – large city; it only began to grow in the early seventeenth.
Bronevskii had described mid-sixteenth-century Bahqesaray as “a small town with a stone house in which the khan lives.”

Unfortunately, the khans’ first palace in Bahgesaray was destroyed by the invading Russian army in 1735, and beginning in 1738, was rebuilt according to a somewhat different style. The many surviving detailed descriptions of the palace are only of the later version.

A legend that was used by the Crimean Tatars to explain the authority of the Giray khans, and that served as the title of an important Tatar history of the Crimea, is the *Rose Garden of the Khans*. This legend was inscribed on the portal of the main royal mosque, just outside of the palace.

It read:

Who is Had Selim? This was the most famous of all of the khans, the heroes inspired by God. That God grant him all thanks for the construction of this mosque. The person of Selim Geray is comparable to a rose garden; the son who is born to him is a rose. Each in his turn has many honors in the palace.

The rose garden is ornamented by a new flower; its unique and fresh rose has become the lion of the padishah of the Crimea, Selamet Geray Khan.

Architecturally-archeological researches of Khans palace in Bahçesaray

During architecturally-archeological researches on revealing an early lay-out of Khan’s palace we have checked up H.G. Manshteins descriptions. It was found out, that his notes are exact enough.

In August-December of 2004 objects of palace and park have been investigated. The palace represents almost independent three complexes: smart-administrative, inhabited and a harem.

One of the main part of palace is the Biyük Han Cami mosque (Big Khans mosque). Mosque is situated at the eastern part of the palace. It is turned by the western facade to a smart part of a palace. By the main north facade it’s turned to Aşlama river. From the east to it the medrese which was not kept once adjoined. By south mosque is turned by Crimean khans’ cemetery. The mosque is constructed between 1500-1578, and in 1740 was just restored. The letter of the ambassador of the Polish king M. Bronevsky to Han Mohammad Geray II confirms it. In this letter he describes Bahçesaray of 1578. He writes about a mosque as about existing: “Stone mosque and tombs of khans are constructed of Christian ruins”. Russian traveller Sumarokov writes about this mosque too: “In Crimean history written in the Tatar language is mentioned that about 1500 Han Mengli Geray has built in Bakhchisarai medrese and a mosque”. The most detailed description of a
mosque meets at the Turkish traveller Çelebi. In his “Book of travel” (1666-1667) we can read: “The cathedral mosque of Sahib Geray Han is strongly combined from a stone. It is an old designed house with a dome covered by a shingle...

- In this ancient mosque from kiblas door to mihrab 110 steps, its width of 70 steps.
- On the right there is a worship place of family of the glorified khans.
- Before doors the Çürük Su river flows.
- There are khans doors, kibla doors, one low, in old style minaret in a mosque. On the left, right and from the kiblas side there are windows leaving in a garden Türbe”.

In view of Çelebi’s descriptions it is possible to assume, that the mosque has been constructed till 1551.

Above an entry from northern part of a mosque there is an inscription and dating: “the nearest date telling about 1740 year and calls Selamet Geray Han. This year he has constructed the cathedral mosque leaving on the river”. This inscription was kept up to now.

Mosque has three entries: Northern - from the street, Eastern - from the garden and Western - from the palace square. There is khans’ lodge at the southwest part of the palace. The entrance is located at a level of the second floor from the western facade. The stone ladder decorated by a carved wooden arch leads to entrance. There are two rooms in a khans’ lodge. Internal walls of the first room is decorated with tiles - Turkish faience of XVIth century, İznik.

Near the northeast corner of the mosque is a room with marble fountain for ablution, XVIth century. During 2003-2004 the natural researches of the monument and downturn of a ground on 0,8 meter on perimeter of a building have been made. In 2004 at courtyard of Great Khan mosque the fountain for ablution and Sari Güzel baths have been investigated.

During the excavations in 2004 before an Sari Güzel entrance the architectural rests of gallery, a fountain from marble looked limestone and the rests of water pipe have been found. The waterpipe conducts from room with fountain at the mens part to the women part of a bath. From the both part of a bath waterpipes conducts to Aşlama (Çürük-Su) river.

In August 2004 architecturally-archeological researches of Persian courtyard territory have been concentrated to detection of its lay-out. Nowadays from Persian courtyard the Falcon tower and northern wall were only kept.

In 2000 at northwest of Persian courtyard the bath or Hamam of XVIth century has been explored. This Hamam is a small building for individual using. Its
general sizes 8 on 6 meters, both room 4 on 4, niche under heating system 4 on 2, vestibule or verandah before an entrance 4 on 2 meters. To a southern part of a hole structure, possibly, the fountain adjoined. Its details have been taken from filling of structure. The base of a fountain demands detail research.

Building methods and architectural decorations identical Sary-Guzel hamam. Time of its construction is precisely known owing to the kept plate with inscription above Hamam entrance. All this allows us to date Hamam in Persian courtyard by the beginning of XVI\textsuperscript{th} centuries.

In 2003-2004 at southern part of the courtyard was found the rests of hydraulic engineering constructions (water pipe, pool), that started at a water basin (10 on 30 m.). The water basin is situated in 10 meters from a southern wall of Persian courtyard.

In 50 meters from southern wall there is a hydraulic engineering of XVI c. – closed pool. From it ceramic waterpipe conducts to bath at Persian courtyard.

Thus during excavation 2003-2004 in territory of a Persian courtyard the new architectural objects ma XVI-XCIII c. which are absent on known plans of 18-19 of a Khan’s palace have been found out.

In 2004 the excavation of the main case of a Khan’s palace have been begun. At the poolyard from the east facade of Divanhall the excavation JMbl was started. Its sizes 2 on 2 meters, depth from a level of a day time surface is 2,5 meters. The results received during these researches, have confirmed Mansheineins memories.

Also from east facade of a Small palace mosque excavation number 2 are begun. The size of excavations 2 on 2 meters, depth 2,5 m. On depth of 2,15 from a level of a daytime surface the stone pave of mosque is found out.

At southeast corner of poolyard wall excavation number 3 are begun (2,5 on 2 on 2). The results of prospecting dig have allowed to reveal a western wall of pool yard from a level of a day time surface up to a subfoundation (pic. 3.4).

At the harem courtyard in the southwest part of Main case excavation number 4 are begun (2 on 2 on 3,5). Here the basis of a wall of a coffee room as which base the wall of more ancient building leaving in depth on 3 meters from a level of a day time surface serves has been found. At the south of Main case excavations to the poolyard walls are begun. Thereof the southern part of the main case and a Small palace mosque on full height have been opened. Here we reached the level of a day time surface of XVI c. After preliminary researches have been made excavation on downturn of a level of all southern part of a harem court yard up to the case of a harem.

In the autumn 2004 there are begun works on an accomplishment of territory around of a monument of architecture of 18 centuries the Dilyara Bikeç mausoleum.
The poetic mausoleum with which many legends have been connected, has been constructed by Kırım Geray Han in 1764. The mausoleum represents an octahedron with an entrance from the western side. Corners are decorated with pilasters and flutes. The bottom has a socle, above eaves in the form of attic, above it the octahedral drum turned on 45 degrees and a dome. All structures are relief and strongly act from a plane of walls. Inside the mausoleum is plastered and has traces of a inscriptions. There are windows in the bottom of small arches. The dome is faced with ceramic brickets. Dilyara Bikeç Türbe is the last monument of dome architecture in Crimea. Around of the mausoleum there are begun works on downturn of a ground on perimeter on height of a socle with the subsequent device of water removal.

The rich archeological material found during excavation of the set forth above monuments includes some new objects, before unknown (pools, fountains), the rests of material culture of XVI-XVIII cc. A plenty of fragments of red clay tiles, green glassed tiles, ceramic brickets, ceramic water pipes, fragments of plaster with inscriptions, fragments of tiles from İznik workshops of XCI c, faience tableware from Kütahiya workshops of XVI-XVIII cc, fragments of glass products, the Chinese porcelain, 7 coins of Crimean khans, significant number of pipes, metal wares, forged nails were found. Also metal and forged doors were found. Fragments of architectural details of pools and fountains of a white marble are found out.

Summing up archeological works in territory of the Bahçesaray Reserve we shall note, that carrying out security, protective works, we managed to specify essentially the periods of construction of Crimean khan’s palaces. It is significant addition in development of chronology of public building city, its development in time and space from Kırk-yer up to Bahçesaray.

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