

Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
Archaeology and Ethnography Institute

BRIEF SCIENTIFIC REPORT

**Excavations of Sarıtəpə household pot at KP 327.3 SCPX
pipeline**

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2018

1 SUMMARY

The report relates to the archaeological excavation of a pottery storage vessel located near Saritepe village of Shamkir district, on the SCPX pipeline corridor at KP327.350 of the pipeline route. The storage vessel was found on the side of the trench excavated for the pipeline. Also, one sherd of a smaller sized vessel was found in association with the large pot. Both vessels date to the antique period in terms of form and content.

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2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 SITE DISCOVERY

This was a chance find during excavation of the pipe trench. Operation of machinery was stopped and studies were conducted directly on the site [1, p. 1]. The find was discovered on May 3, 2017 by the Head of the Archaeological Monitoring Group on the Cultural Heritage Muzaffar Huseynov when supervising ground works.

2.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

This site is located in Saritepe village in the Agstafa district. It was found in a plain area at the foot of a shallow hill. Coordinates of the territory were as follows: ROW KP 327.350. N-40° 54'75.7" E-045°58'66.4. The territory is located at an altitude of 200-250 meters above sea level. The current population uses the territory as a pasture for hayfield and grazing.

2.3 WHO AND WHEN CONDUCTED THE WORK

In order not to delay excavation and construction works on the site, and as the find was represented by only one household pot, the Representative for the Cultural Heritage (Muzaffar Huseynov) conducted archaeological excavations on this site. Archaeological excavations on the site were conducted for only one day, May 7, 2017 by Muzaffar Huseynov and archaeologist David Maynard.

3 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The site where the household pot was found is the southeast slope of the hill with a wide area extending from west to east (photo 1). Geographical location of these territories is generally very beneficial for occupation. The site is well located and there is a fertile land fund and a water source to arrange farming around. It is likely that there is ancient settlement nearby based on forms and dimensions of the household pot and detection of other material cultural patterns around it. As previously mentioned, there is no cultural layer and the pot is buried on this site.

There are no cultural layers on this site and this pot, most likely was of household purpose and was buried by local population to store food. It is likely that somewhere in the nearby territories there is a settlement to which the pot belongs.

A random find - household pot was found near Saritepe village of Shamkir district. This find located in SCPX pipeline corridor, KP327.350 of the pipeline route, Two vessels were found, one large, and the other with a smaller volume (photo 1-3). The large vessel had a height of 110cm, rim diameter of 25cm, base diameter of 22cm and a body diameter of 100cm [4, p.1]. The vessel was found in the SCPX pipeline corridor, close to the north wall of the trench (photo 1-3). Machinery operation was suspended and studies were performed directly on the site. No further evidence of settlement could be traced on this site, and the find comprises of two portions of two pots. In order not to delay the construction, the Observer for the Cultural Heritage conducted these excavations by himself and the household pots were excavated and removed. The vessels were partially restored later. The pottery was fired at a stable fire temperature, have mixed clay composition, thick-walled. A mouth of the large vessel was slightly damaged. This household pot was at a depth of 60cm from the ground surface, in an upright position. Pink and black pottery

fragments were found inside household pot. Fragments of another vessel were found 100cm southeast of the large vessel, 75cm from the surface of the ground. The diameter of the broken pot is 70cm, height is 86cm. Household pots and ceramic patterns found in it can be dated to the ancient era or I-II centuries AD. [4, p. 1].

It became clear from the fragments of pottery that these are well made on a potter's wheel. Some sherds are polished and covered with a thin layer of engobes. Pot and jug fragments have clean clay composition, thick-walled, fired at stable temperature.

Analysis of results obtained in the field As a result of archaeological excavations, two household vessels of pottery were found (photo 1-3). This household pot was probably used for storage and was buried here by residents of some nearby settlement. Potsherds were found in the large household pot have a different shape and content and could be used mostly to store liquid.

4 ANALYTICAL RESULTS

4.1 COLLECTION OF RESULTS

The site where the household pot was found is not a settlement, and there is no an occupation layer here. The material found in this site classified as a location of one, random find (Photo 1-3). Various pottery fragments found in it, along with the pot in the complex, relate to a number of vessels for storage of the ancient times.

General description of each class of artefacts. All artefacts found in this area are fragments of pottery.

Clay: All the artefacts belonging to this class of materials are fragments of various parts of pottery. Mostly, the bases predominate. They are plain and thick-walled. Mouth fragments are mostly slightly curved outward, their surface well-polished, and sometimes relate to engobe dishes (Fig. 1-2). These grey, light red ceramic fragments are well fired. Household pots themselves are thick-walled and have a spherical body. Despite being broken, the part below the body remained intact so allowed dimensions to be recorded.

No paleontological, paleobotanical and paleozoological remains were found.

4.2 PERIOD AND CHRONOLOGY

The household pot and ceramic samples found inside of it similarly belong to the Late Middle Ages and cover approximately the I BC-I-II centuries A.D.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 COMPARISON WITH OTHER SIMILAR SITES

this type of random buried household pot on the pipeline route have also been found near Girag Kasaman village of Agstafa district, in the SCPX pipeline project corridor, at KP384.700. Nevertheless, dozens of similar household pots were found during excavations of villages that relate to different periods [2, p. 145-146]. For example, dozens of similar household pots were found in the village of Kerpjilitepe discovered at KP247.250 of the SCPX. Later, similar household pots were also found intact or broken in fragments in Faxrali (KP267.450), III Hajjalili (KP280.370), Hasansu (KP379.500), I Seidler (KP295.530). Intact household pots more than 1 metre high were found in Hasansu village (KP379.500). Household pots are typical for all settlements and are typical household utensils. It should be noted that in former times (Eneolithic, bronze), people kept their food supplies in household wells drilled in the ground. In later periods, household wells began to be replaced by the household pots. In modern terms, household pots played the role of a small food warehouse for people. However, in the certain periods, household pots were used along with household wells. This was a factor inherent in the economic life of people engaged in summer and winter livestock. [2, p. 149-150]. Thus, it was easier and more convenient to move household pots filled with food from one place to another.

6 INVENTORY

No	Type	Description	Quadrat and depth	Dimensions
1	Household pot	Light red, spherical, thick-walled (2cm) household pot and its parts. Clay composition of is mixed and comprise a mixture of fine sand and gravel. Fine gravel is also felt in clay. There are large chips on the inner surface. Thin polishing and engobe layer is clearly visible on the pot. On the outer surface, on the mouth edge and the body there are patterns painted by scratching. One side of the body of the household pot, which is located in the trench, has been exposed to debris. Other parts are in a good condition. Pot is partially restored.	Depth 60cm	Height 110cm, Mouth diameter 25cm, base diameter 22cm, Body diameter 100cm
2	Household pot	Light red, spherical, thick-walled (1.6cm) household pot and its parts. Clay composition of is mixed and comprise a mixture of fine sand and gravel. Fine gravel is also felt in clay. There are large chips on the inner surface. Thin polishing and engobe layer is clearly visible on the pot. On the outer surface, on the mouth edge and the body there are patterns painted by scratching.	75	Height 86, body diameter 70, base 18cm, mouth diameter 20cm.
3	Potsherd	A mouth fragment of thin-walled pottery type cup with pure clay content. Mouth edge is curved outward. On the part below the mouth, parallel scratching and wavy patterns are applied.	From within the Pot	4 x 4,5cm

7 Appendices

7.1 References:

1. Najafov Sh.N. *A brief scientific reference to the archaeological excavations around Girag Kasaman Household pot, located on 384,700km of the pipeline route under the SCPX infrastructure project.* Baku, 2017, IAE of ANAS, SASNCS sector, 1 p.
2. Najafov Sh.N. *On the results of archaeological studies in Sarvantepe village in 2010 (Gazakh district).* // Archeological studies in Azerbaijan -2010 (IAE of ANAS), Baku, 2011, Khazar University, pp. 143-151.
3. Dostiyev T.M., Kvachidze V.A., Guseynov M.M. *A wide scientific report on archaeological excavations in Girag Kasaman village on 405 km of the BTC route.* Baku, 2007, IAE of ANAS, SASNCS, 122 p.
4. Huseynov. M.M. *A brief scientific reference to the archaeological excavations around Saritepe Household pot, located on 327.350km of the pipeline route under the SCPX infrastructure project.* Baku, 2017, IAE of ANAS, SASNCS sector, 1 p.

7.2 Photos



Photo 1. Large pottery vessel as discovered in the side of the pipe trench. View to north.



Photo 2. Large pottery vessel in the course of excavation. Second vessel can be seen to the rear in second image. View to north and to west.



Photo 3. Large pottery vessel in the course of excavation. View to north and west.



Photo 4. Pottery sherds from interior of large vessel.