

Azerbaijan Republic

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**MEDIEVAL MONUMENTS IN THE LITTLE CAUCASUS
REGION OF THE WESTERN REGION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Speciality: 5503.02 – History of the Motherland

Field of science: History

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of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

ABSTRACT

Baku – 2024

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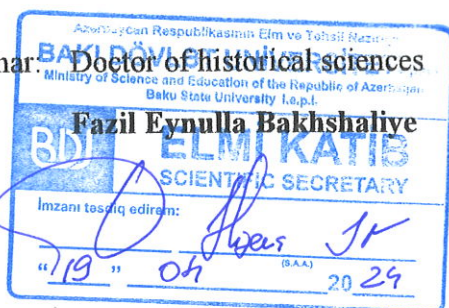
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OVERALL QUALITY OF THE DISSERTATION

The significance of the subject matter and the extent of its elaboration. The dissertation focuses on the historical and archaeological investigation of the Lesser Caucasus area in western Azerbaijan. Extensive study has revealed a wide range of material culture from the early, developed, and late Middle Ages, showcasing the important role that this region had in the history of Azerbaijan. The investigation indicates the presence of a continuous and densely populated medieval settlement in locations like Dashkasan, Goygol, and the higher mountainous region of Goranboy.

archeological activities, including as excavations and study, uncover a wide range of artifacts, religious sites, castles, and other archeological marvels, highlighting the necessity for a thorough examination into this historically abundant region. Although the Lesser Caucasus in the Western part of Azerbaijan was heavily populated in the Middle Ages, it has not been well investigated. This lack of exploration makes it a central focus for this dissertation.

The Lesser Caucasus holds great natural-geographical importance and has been continuously inhabited since ancient times, which highlights the significance of the investigation. The dissertation seeks to address the lack of research on medieval monuments in this region, therefore illuminating a hitherto neglected component of Azerbaijan's historical environment.

This dissertation is a pioneering attempt to chronicle and study the historical treasures of the Lesser Caucasus, which have been neglected in research. By addressing this paucity, it substantially contributes to the knowledge of Azerbaijan's culturally rich legacy.

A large number of religious monuments, mainly Albanian Christian monuments, were found in the territory of Dashkasan and Goygol regions, near the mountainous villages of Goranboy region, in

thick forested areas. The fact that most of the religious monuments belonging to the first medieval period have not been researched determines the scientific relevance of the research. Also, the presence of developed medieval Albanian Christian temples in the region, and the fact that a part of the population in this region remained in the Christian religion since the early medieval period, makes it necessary to study the issues. There is a great need to study the monuments of the Dashkasan-Goygol region from different periods, especially the medieval monuments as a whole. In the Goygol region, extensive archaeological researches have not been carried out in these monuments except for episodic archaeological exploration works in Balçılı Girl's Castle, Köşkü Girl's Castle, and Zurnabad Castle belonging to the medieval period. The necessity of researching the discussed medieval castles is also emerging.

Upon analyzing the textual source data and study concerns pertaining to the medieval monuments in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan, they may be categorized into three distinct groups:

1. Written source data pertaining to the medieval villages, fortifications, and historical topography of the region.
2. Research conducted in the field of archaeology.
3. Studies based on theoretical analysis.

The textual sources mostly include information on the region we have examined, particularly in relation to the city of Ganja and its environs. The contributions of Moisey Kalankatuklu¹, Zakariyya al-

¹ Moisey of Calankatuk. History of Albania. Mkhitar Gosh. Albanian chronicle. (Introduction, translation, notes and comments by Academician Ziya Bunyadov.) / M.Kalankatuklu., M.Gosh - Baku: Elm, - 1993 - 270 p.

Qazvini², Hamdullah Qazvini³, Yaqut al-Hamawi⁴, Kirakos Ganjali⁵, and Abdurrashid al-Bakuvi⁶ are significant for historical-archaeological investigations into the medieval villages and castles of the region. Zakariyya al-Qazvini's knowledge provides detailed descriptions of the natural and geographical conditions of the region throughout the medieval era. This material accurately reflects the details about Ganja and its surrounding region. In addition to the aforementioned aspects, the detailed maps of Ganja-Karabakh province, compiled by Ottoman officials in 1593 and 1727, provide comprehensive information about the medieval settlements, their administrative boundaries, population size, religious beliefs, economic activities, and occupations of the population.⁷

² Valikhanli N.M. Azerbaijan in VII-XII centuries: history, sources, comments. / N. Valikhanli - Baku: Science and education, - 2016 - p. 333-343.

³ Sources on the history of Azerbaijan. / Edited by S.S. Aliyarov and Y.M. Mahmudov - Baku: Azerbaijan University publishing house, - 1989 - p.169-176.; Yaqut al-Hamawi. Mu'jam al-buldan (information about Azerbaijan). Hamdullah Qazvini. Nuzhat al-kulub (materials from Azerbaijan). / Translation from Arabic Z.M. Buniyatov / Yakut al-Khamavi., Hamdullah Kazvini – Baku: The science, – 1983 – 68 p.

⁴ Sources on the history of Azerbaijan. / Developer and editor of the second edition: Doctor of History, Professor, Honored Scientist Suleyman Aliyarli - Baku: Chirag, - 2007 - p.182-185.

⁵ Kirakos Gandzaketsi. History of Armenia. Preface and comments by L.A. Khanlaryan. / Kirakos Gandzaketsi – Moscow: The science, – 1976 – 358 c.

⁶ Abdurrashid al-Bakuvi. Kitab talkhis al-asar wa ajaib al-malik al-gahhar (Summary of Monuments and Wonders of the Mighty Ruler). / Abdurrashid al-Bakuvi - Baku: Shur, - 1992 - 176 p.

⁷ Detailed notebook of Ganja-Karabakh province. / Foreword, translation, compilation, notes and comments by H. Mammadov. - Baku: Shusha publishing house, - 2000 - p. 64-155.8. Məmmədov A.M. Gulustan fortress of the Nizami era./ A.M. Mammadov - Baku: The science, - 1989 - 41 p.; Mammadov A. Goranboy in the Middle Ages. / A. Mammadov, A. Maharramov - Baku: The science, - 1990 - 150 p.;

The study subject draws upon textual sources, medieval monuments in the region, and the archaeological elements found within them, forming the foundation of its scientific basis. The archaeological excavations in the region under investigation commenced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, focusing on the study of the local monuments. Subsequent archaeological excavations were conducted in the Dashkasan-Goygol area. Archaeological digs mostly focused on Bronze and Early Iron Age communities and burial monuments. No intentional archaeological excavations were carried out in the medieval monuments in the Dashkasan-Goygol area, except for any accidental discoveries. Consequently, the medieval monuments in the region were not examined until the late 20th century. Archaeologist A.M. Mammadov initiated the archaeological investigation of medieval sites in the Ganjabasar area from 1988 to 1989. A.M. Mammadov has documented and conducted archeological research on the medieval monuments in the Dashkasan region since the late 20th century. A.M. Mammadov has made significant contributions to the archaeological study of the medieval monuments in the Dashkasan-Goygol region. The researcher conducted archaeological expeditions to this area and conducted study on many aspects of medieval religious sites, bridges, and the region's craft industry.⁸

⁸ Mammadov A.M. About medieval trade routes of Ganjabasar. // – Baku: Problems of Azerbaijani history (Collection of reports), – 1992 – pp. 261-265.; Mammadov A.M. Kurekchay Castle. // ASU, "Collection of reports on historical problems of Azerbaijan", - Baku: - March 27-28, - 1992 - p.3-6.; Mammadov A.M. Ganjabasar in IV-XIII centuries (historical-archaeological research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Elm, - 1993 - 204 p.; Mammadov A.M. Grave stone statues in Gurzalyar village. // – Baku: problems of Azerbaijani archeology and ethnography, – 1998. Part VI, – pp. 4-5.; Mammadov A.M. Ganjabasar Christian monuments of the Albanian era. / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Ağrıdag, - 2000 - 56 p.; Mammadov A.M. Historical-archaeological study of Goshgarchay and Kurekchay basin. / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Ağrıdag, - 2000 - 96 p.; Mammadov A.M. Dastafur-Dashkasan (historical-archaeological-ethnographic

From 1994 until 2004, the Ganjabasar archaeological team performed archaeological investigation in the Kurekchay basin.⁹ Through the investigation, the Sarvartepe hamlet from the first medieval period was discovered in the Goygol area. Since 2008, the Ganja archaeological expedition, led by Prof. A.M. Mammadov, has been doing research in the areas surrounding Ganja.

The expedition conducted archaeological excursions to medieval sites in Dashkasan, Goygol, and Goranboy districts throughout the years 2008-2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.¹⁰ They documented the monuments and conducted archaeological research. Executed. From June 23 to August 21, 2013, the Ganja archaeological expedition conducted archaeological excavations and field study in the city of Ganja and its environs. The archaeological team performed initial investigations at the Maiden's Castle in the Balchili hamlet of Goygol region. While conducting the mission, he also performed reconnaissance at the Zurnabad citadel located in the Goygol area. Under the supervision of A.M. Mammadov, the author actively engaged in archaeological research of medieval sites in the Dashkasan region. This involved conducting observations, collecting surface materials, and documenting the monuments through note-taking. In addition, he examined the medieval artifacts discovered in the Dashkasan area History-Geography Museum and recorded observations about them. In 1938, Y.A. Pakhomov undertook an

research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Elm, - 2000 - 62 p.; Mammadov A.M., Nuriyev A.B. Twin castles. // – Baku: History and its problems, – 2003. No. 3, – pp. 163-166.; Mammadov A.M. Albanian temple in Kharkhaput (Meşali) village. // – Baku: History and its problems, – 2003. No. 3, – pp. 157-159.

⁹ Mammadov A.M. Archaeological research in Kurekchay basin (1994-2004). // – Baku: materials of the scientific session dedicated to the results of archaeological and ethnographic research conducted in 2003-2004, – 2005 – p.73-75

¹⁰ 10. Mammadov A.M. Ancient Ganja (based on archaeological research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Teknur, - 2014 - p.96-157.

archaeological expedition to the Zurnabad fortifications located in the Gulustan and Goygol districts along the coast of Incechay.¹¹ During this tour, he performed brief archaeological investigations within the castles.

The stronghold of Balchili Maiden has been referenced in the scientific publications and research papers produced by A.A. Mehdiyeva¹², in collaboration with Z. Atakishiyev and A. Aslanov¹³. G.H. Mammadova, S.Kh. Hajiyeva, and Z.G. Mammadova have collaborated as scientific editors and co-authors on a comprehensive two-volume work that focuses on the architectural aspects of medieval monuments in Azerbaijan, including the Albanian Christian religious monuments.¹⁴ This work provides a condensed overview of the architectural history of Azerbaijan. Researching the architectural structure and performing comparative assessments are crucial tasks.

¹¹ Pakhomov E.A. Archaeological expeditions to the regions of Azerbaijan. SSR. // – Baku: Izv. Azerbaijan FAN USSR, – 1938, No. 3. – p.31-37.

¹² Mehdiyeva A.A. The history of girls' castles in Azerbaijan. / A.A. Mehdiyeva - Baku: Elm, - 2000 - 120 p.; Mehdiyeva A. Maiden castles located in the Western region of Azerbaijan. // Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, National Azerbaijan History Museum, German World Institute of Turks, Ağrı İbrahim Chechen University, Secuk University Turkish Arts Research and Application Center "VII. International Turkish Art, History and Folklore Congress", - Baku: - 11-15 Nisan - 2017, - p.145-150.

¹³ Atakishiyev Z., Aslanov A. Ganja Girl's Castle. // – Baku: Science and life, – 1985. No. 10 – pp. 15-16.

¹⁴ Mammadova G.H., Hajiyeva S. Architectural history of Azerbaijan. Architecture of Azerbaijan during the ancient and early middle ages. [in 2 volumes]. / G.H. Mammadova., S.Kh. Hajiyeva - Baku: East-West, - Volume I - 2013 - 268 p.; Mammadova G.H. Architectural history of Azerbaijan. Medieval architecture (VIII-XIV centuries). [in 2 volumes]. / G.H. Mammadova., Z.G. Mammadova - Baku: East-West, - Volume II - 2013 - 316 p.

The contributions of A.M. Mammadov¹⁵, M.C. Khalilov¹⁶, and G.H. Mammadova¹⁷ are significant in the examination of the medieval Albanian Christian monuments located in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan. A.M. Mammadov performed archaeological excavations in the Albanian temples located in the Dashkasan, Goygol, and Goranboy districts. He documented the temples in these areas and provided detailed information on their historical significance and architectural characteristics. M.C.'s works

The historical-archaeological research focused on studying the settlements and religious sites of Albania dating from the 4th to the 10th century, specifically from a historical-archaeological perspective. He focused in studying the sites in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan. R.B. Goyushov was the initial and prominent archaeologist to study the Christian religious sites of Albania.¹⁸ For many years, he focused his research on the growth of Christianity in Albania, its establishment as the official religion, and the historical-archaeological study of religious sites. G.H. Mammadova's investigations focused on the building features, historical architectural structure, and construction history concerns of Christian temples in Albania. G.H. Mammadova discussed the Dashkasan temple. N. A. Alishov's thesis focused on the Christian monuments of Albania,

¹⁵ Mammadov A.M. Ganjabasar Christian monuments of the Albanian era. / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Ağrıdag, - 2000 - 56 p.

¹⁶ Khalilov M.C. Christian monuments of Albania (IV-X centuries). / M.C. Khalilov - Baku: Khazar University publishing house, - 2011 - 344 p.; Khalilov M.C. Grave monuments of Albania (IV-X centuries). / M.C. Khalilov – Baku: Nafta-Press, – 2009 – 180 p.

¹⁷ Mamedova G.G. Cult architecture of Caucasian Albania (IV–XIV centuries). / G. G. Mamedova – Baku: Elm, – 1997 – 248 p.; Mamedova G.G. Architecture of Caucasian Albania. / Г.Г. Мамедова – Baku: Chashyoglu, – 2004 – 224 c.

¹⁸ Geyushev R.B. Christianity in Caucasian Albania. / R.B. Geyushev – Baku: Elm, – 1984 – 192 p.

specifically providing concise details on the Albanian Christian temples located in the Dashkasan area.¹⁹ Furthermore, the researcher examined Christian temples by analyzing archeological evidence.

Research aims and purposes.²⁰ The research aims to investigate the factors contributing to the formation, growth, and decline of settlements in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan. It also examines the economic activities of the population, religious gatherings, the advancement of crafts, architectural landmarks, and the economic, trade, and cultural interactions during the first, middle, classical, and last centuries. Researching the role of the Lesser Caucasus area in medieval Azerbaijan, specifically the Dashkasan-Goygol districts and the mountain villages of Goranboy district, is crucial for understanding the region's settlements during that time. Additionally, it is important to uncover the economic innovations that occurred in various fields during the Middle Ages.

A special focus of research was dedicated to studying the link between medieval villages in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan and other settlements in Azerbaijan. The research activity

¹⁹ Alishov N.A. Christian monuments belonging to Caucasian Albania of Dashkasan region. // "Academic Science Week-2015 International multidisciplinary forum" dedicated to the 70th anniversary of ANAS, - Baku: - November 02-04, 2015 - theses book, - pp. 421-422.

²⁰ 20. Alishov N.A. The study of Christian monuments of Caucasian Albania in Azerbaijani historiography. // – Baku: History and its problems, – 2009. #1-2 – pp. 436-440.; Alishov N.A. Christian monuments of the western region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the importance of their study. // "Ancient and medieval Azerbaijani mornings: archaeological heritage, history and architecture", - Shamkir-Gadabey: October 27-28, 2010 - Proceedings of the international scientific conference - Baku: Çashioğlu, - 2012 - p. 221-225.; Alishov N.A. The place of the IV-VIII century churches of Caucasian Albania in the material and spiritual culture of Azerbaijan. // – Baku: National Azerbaijan History Museum, – 2012 – pp. 248-261.; Alishov N.A. The trapezoidal churches of Caucasian Albania. // – Baku: Archeology and Ethnography of Azerbaijan, – 2014. No. 2 – pp. 121-130.

aims to analyze the source data on medieval settlements and commercial contacts in the region we are examining, compare the findings, and draw a final conclusion.

Methods of research. The thesis utilized the typological analysis approach employed in contemporary archaeology to examine the material culture artifacts found during archaeological investigations of medieval sites in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan.

The dissertation utilizes a method of comparative analysis, specifically comparing communities and archaeological discoveries in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan with information from other sources and scholarly publications. This technique improves the effectiveness of the research, especially in investigating the connections between the medieval material culture of this region and similar instances from other modern sites in Azerbaijan.

The research employs several methodologies, including comparative analysis, scientific objectivity, complete assessment of facts and information, historical approach, critical analytical technique, and cause-and-effect connection analysis, to investigate historical reality. The study incorporates the most recent advancements from historical and archaeological studies carried out in Azerbaijan in the past several decades.

The dissertation aims to investigate and clarify various aspects of the historical geography of the Middle Ages in the Lesser Caucasus region. It seeks to determine the economic role of this region in medieval Azerbaijan, conduct historical-archaeological research on medieval settlements, explore religious monuments from that era, study material culture samples obtained through archaeological research, and investigate the economic and cultural relations between this region and other parts of Azerbaijan during the Middle Ages.

The research is scientifically innovative as it is the first thorough study focused on the medieval monuments of the Lesser Caucasus area

in Western Azerbaijan. The dissertation classifies and contrasts these monuments, providing insight into the trade links, ecclesiastical structures, craftsmanship, and economic growth features of the region.

The research notably concentrates on the progression of the early, classical, and late Middle Ages in the area, establishing links to local customs and confirming discoveries with fresh scientific proof.

This text presents a novel historical-archaeological investigation of the medieval historical geography, specific religious landmarks, and medieval villages in the region.

The comprehensive examination and classification of the material culture found in the Lesser Caucasus region throughout the Middle Ages yields both theoretical and practical importance. The research elucidates the evolution of the region by analyzing specific villages, funerary monuments, craftsmanship, and trade connections, providing theoretical significance for future studies and practical consequences for the creation of comprehensive works, textbooks, and educational resources.

The dissertation, comprising an introductory section, three chapters, and a concluding section, was carried out at the Department of Azerbaijani History of Ganja State University. With a voluminous total of 144 pages, it makes a substantial contribution to the advancement of future study in this sector. The study findings have been shared through the publication of eleven scholarly publications in both national and international journals, as well as conference materials.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The introduction provided a justification for the study of medieval monuments in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan. It discussed the level of research on the subject, outlined the goals and objectives of the scientific research, explained the research method, presented the issues to be addressed, highlighted the scientific novelty and approval of the subject, and emphasized its theoretical and practical significance.

The initial chapter, titled "Residences", is partitioned into five paragraphs based on its organizational framework. The first paragraph of the first chapter, titled "Natural-geographical conditions and historical geography of the territory of the Little Caucasus of the Western region of Azerbaijan," examines the natural-geographical conditions of the territory and investigates how the region's natural resources influenced its economic life during the Middle Ages. Simultaneously, this paragraph also examined the historical geography of the medieval period in the region.

The historical geography of the Lesser Caucasus area in Western Azerbaijan has been elucidated by consulting literary source materials. The land of the Lesser Caucasus in the Western region of Azerbaijan was historically part of an administrative region and a historical-ethnographic area.

During the early Middle Ages, the city of Ganja served as the center or was situated in this territory. In the early Middle Ages, the region we examined, which mostly encompasses the territory of present Dashkasan and Goygol districts, including the hilly section of Goranboy region, was part of the Uti province of Caucasian Albania. During the early Middle Ages, the city of Ganja and its surrounding areas, which now comprise the Dashkasan-Goygol region, were part of the Sakasena province within the Uti province. The Sakasena Province was situated in the region bounded by the Kura River and Arsak Province.²¹ The early Arab authors referred to the provinces and districts of Sakasena, Uti, Kambisena, Sisakan-Sunikin, etc. as part of the land of Arran.²²

²¹ Historical Atlas of Azerbaijan. / Under the guidance and editing of Y.M. Mahmudov, responsible editor A.M. Gasimov - Baku: Baku Cartography Factory, - 2007 - p.15; PiriyeV V.Z. Historical and political geography of Azerbaijan. / V.Z. PiriyeV - Baku: Teacher, - 2006 - p.40.

²² Azerbaijan historical atlas. / Under the guidance and editing of Y.M. Mahmudov, responsible editor A.M. Gasimov - Baku: Baku Cartography Factory, - 2007 - p.16;

From 955 to 971, the region became part of the Ganja Emirate ruled by the Salaris and the Shaddadis. This emirate, along with the city of Ganja, served as the capital of the Arran province under the Salari empire. The emirate lasted until 1065. Following the Seljuks' conquest of Azerbaijan, Ganja assumed the role as the administrative hub of Arran, serving as the capital for the Seljuk sultans-regents and housing the homes of the Seljuk emirs. During this time, the Ganja districts were granted as iqta. Based on this information, it is evident that the regions surrounding Ganja are separated into districts for administrative purposes. Regrettably, there is a lack of data on the specific nomenclature of the districts and the corresponding geographical expanse they include. Without a doubt, the territory we examined was within the administrative authority of Ganja.

During the 13th-14th centuries, the area known as the Lesser Caucasus in the western region of Azerbaijan was a constituent component of the Aran province, which was incorporated under the administrative jurisdiction of the Hulacul state. In the 15th century, the land was partitioned into Azerbaijan, Arran, Mughan, Shirvan, and Sheki provinces under the rule of the Garagoyunlu and Aggoyunlu republics. The provinces encompassed counties. Ganja was one of the districts in Arran.²³ During this era, the land of the Small Caucasus in the Western part of Azerbaijan was included into the Ganja district. Under the Safavid rule in Azerbaijan, the Karabakh Beylerbey encompassed the land of the Lesser Caucasus in the western portion of Azerbaijan. The notebooks of the Ganja-Karabakh province, produced in 1593 and 1727, provide a comprehensive account of the province. Upon comparison, it is evident that the geography of the Ganja-Karabakh province remained mostly

Piriyev V.Z. Historical and political geography of Azerbaijan. / V.Z. Piriyev - Baku: Teacher, - 2006 - p.46-48.

²³ Piriyev V.Z. Historical and political geography of Azerbaijan. / V.Z. Piriyev - Baku: Teacher, - 2006 - p.65-66.

unchanged over the period from the late 16th to the early 18th century.²⁴ According to the notebooks from 1593, it is documented that the Dashkasan-Goygol region in the Western part of Azerbaijan, namely the Lesser Caucasus territory, belonged to the Nagorno-Sungur, Nagorno-Ganja, and Kurakbasan districts.²⁵ These districts were part of the Ganja sanjak under the Ganja-Karabakh province. The hilly Sungur region mostly encompasses the land of the present-day Dashkasan district and partially extends into the Goygol district. The area of the Nagorno-Ganja district encompasses a portion of the Dashkasan district, a portion of the Goygol district, and a portion of the hilly region near the settlements of the Goygol district in the contemporary Goranboy district.

Based on the notebooks from 1727, it is evident that the area in question comprised the Sungurabad and Beyuk Kurekbasan districts within the Ganja district (sanjak) of the Ganja-Karabakh province.²⁶ The Sungurabad district mostly encompassed the present-day Dashkasan district and partially included the land of the Goygol district. The Great Kurakbasan region encompasses the hilly territories of the present-day Goygol and Goranboy districts. A portion of the Goygol and Dashkasan districts has been included into the Ganjabasan district inside the larger Ganja district.

The second paragraph of the first chapter, headed "Village-type dwellings," examined the medieval village-type dwellings in the

²⁴ Detailed notebook of Ganja-Karabakh province. / Foreword, translation, compilation, notes and comments by H. Mammadov. - Baku: Shusha publishing house, - 2000 - p.4-7.

²⁵ Detailed notebook of Ganja-Karabakh province. / Foreword, translation, compilation, notes and comments by H. Mammadov. - Baku: Shusha publishing house, - 2000 - p.5; Piriye V.Z. Historical and political geography of Azerbaijan. / V.Z. Piriye - Baku: Teacher, - 2006 - p.73.

²⁶ Detailed notebook of Ganja-Karabakh province. / Foreword, translation, compilation, notes and comments by H. Mammadov. - Baku: Shusha publishing house, - 2000 - p.6; Piriye

region. Within the examined region, village-type houses hold a distinct significance among the archaeological monuments.

Of the several communities, including Yukhtugar, Nagara mountain, and Yurdtepe, particular emphasis is placed on studying these locations as focal points. Rural communities frequently have limited knowledge available in historical archaeological literature, which necessitates the heavy reliance on archaeological excavation materials.

Gushchu hamlet, located in the Dashkasan region, is notable as one of the oldest medieval communities in the area. The archaeological discoveries, including the identification of an Albanian Christian temple, indicate the presence of a community in the area throughout the period under consideration. The Yukhtigar hamlet, located in close proximity to the historic village of Amirvar, may be traced back to the III-VIII centuries. The first medieval hamlet in the Goshgarchay basin has an area of 0.6 hectares and is located 4-8 meters above the surrounding terrain. It spans 220 meters from east to west and has a width of 150-170 meters from north to south. Archaeological digs unveil two distinct cultural strata, with the initial stratum going back to the III-V centuries and the subsequent stratum, situated over the remnants of the first, spanning the VI-VIII centuries.

Ages. The discoveries unearthed in the cemetery of Ahmadli hamlet provide evidence of a highly populous and consistently inhabited region during the medieval era.

The Yukhtigar village experienced upheaval as a result of the Arab conquest of Albanian land, changes in the course of the river, and the disruption of trade lines. Consequently, the disruption of life in Yukhtigar resulted in alterations to the territorial map.²⁷ The Yurdtepe hamlet, which emerged during the Middle Ages, replaced the Yukhtigar community and covered an area of 0.8 hectares in close

²⁷ Mammadov A.M. Dastafur-Dashkasan (historical-archaeological-ethnographic research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Elm, - 2000 - p.18.

proximity to the village of Ahmadli. Yurdtepe existed between the 9th and 16th centuries, following the tradition of Yukhtigar.

Ahmadli hamlet, located in the Dashkasan area, is a medieval settlement that has grave markers, tombs, and evidence of continuous habitation, especially from the early Middle

The Yurd tepe village is situated at an elevation of approximately two to three meters above the surrounding land. It consists of parcels of land that are encircled by stones and cannot be used for any practical use. The measurements of the object are 50 meters in width and 50 meters in length, extending from the north to the south. During the 1980s, archaeological digs in a confined area of 5x5 meters revealed a noteworthy find of skeletal remains from both humans and fish, as well as the presence of a well associated with a farm.

The village exhibits three distinct cultural strata, with a combined depth of 2.7 meters. The earliest cultural stratum dates to the VIII-IX centuries, followed by the subsequent stratum spanning the 9th-11th centuries, and the topmost stratum ranging from the 11th-16th centuries.

Gabagtepe, recognized as the inaugural medieval village, is located at the foundation of the Goshgar River. The structure is 50 meters in width from the north to the south direction and 165 meters in length from the east to the west direction, encompassing an area of roughly 1 hectare.

The archaeological excavations at Gabagtepe revealed two distinct cultural strata, reaching a combined depth of 2.5 meters. The initial cultural stratum, measuring 1.5 meters in thickness, corresponds to the time period between the III and VIII centuries. The subsequent layer, which is 1 meter thick, encompasses the IX to XIII centuries.

Khoshbulag, a historic village located in Dashkasan, showcases religious monuments and cross stones dating back to the early Middle Ages, indicating that the area was inhabited consistently over

subsequent times. The presence of tombs confirms the existence of village-type communities.

The Goranboy district in Western Azerbaijan's Lesser Caucasus region was home to several villages throughout the early Middle Ages, including Meshali (Kharkhaput), Yukhari Aghjakend, Buzlug, Karachinar, Boru, Todan, Manash, and Erkec. The existence of Albanian temples dating from the 5th to 8th centuries in these communities suggests that people have been living here continuously from the 1st century AD to the 17th-18th centuries. During the medieval era, the region consistently maintained a stable population, with enduring village-like communities.²⁸

During the 16th to 18th centuries, a significant number of rural settlements developed in the Dashkasan and Goygol districts, namely in the vicinity of Ganja city. The Ottoman literature has references to many villages, including Kilsa, Arabli, Gizilgaya, Juket, Dinareshin, Imamli, Kokhnashaher village, and Molla Jalil villages.²⁹ Several settlements, such as Molla Jalilli and Kyzylgayali, continue to exist in the administrative region of Goygol district.

Despite being now unpopulated, Kizilgaya and Kokhneshaher are situated in close proximity to Ganja and possess notable historical importance. The episode known as the "Kyzilgaya Betrayal" took place in 1751 near Ganja, specifically in the location referred to as Kızılğaya. Kokhnashaher, located near Ganjachay and the contemporary city of Ganja, is surrounded by legends that indicate the existence of an ancient city.

²⁸ Hajiyev G.O. Goranboy monuments testify to our 2500-year history. // People's newspaper - 2009, March 12, - p.5; March 15, - p. 6

²⁹ Detailed notebook of Ganja-Karabakh province. / Foreword, translation, compilation, notes and comments by H. Mammadov. - Baku: Shusha publishing house, - 2000 - p. 30-31, p. 39, p. 52.

Yenikend, a community mentioned in recorded records, lacked agricultural land but possessed 25 vines. The tax records from the 16th-18th centuries of the Ottoman Empire contain references to several villages in the Dashkasan-Goygol region.

These villages include Gaftape, Hastin, Amiryar (now known as Amirvar), Upper Bayan, Ashagi Bayan, Gushchu, Shadag, Chovdar, Afuja, Yenice, Bahshik, Veng, Nukzar, Quytul, Savur, Zanzahal, Dashkasan, Basil, Khorkhut, Hadil, Chanagchi, Seyid, and others. Several villages, like Mirzik and Murut, are still present in the Goygol district.³⁰ However, certain villages including Todan, Küşk (now Köşkü village), Chaykend, Azad, Hajikand, Toganabad, Yayla, Baykhosh, and Zogalli are now part of the administrative area of the Goygol district.³¹

It should be noted that these settlements were not there during the 16th century when the tax books were created. However, they did exist in previous eras and continued to be inhabited in the subsequent centuries, namely during the 16th-18th centuries when the Ottoman tax books were written, as well as in later years.

During the Middle Ages in the Lesser Caucasus region of the Western region of Azerbaijan, specifically in Dashkasan, Goygol regions, and the mountainous part of Goranboy region, the primary economic activities of the population in village-type settlements were cattle breeding, agriculture, and beekeeping. As a result of the region's natural and geological characteristics, agriculture was limited to the mountainous areas, while the foothills provided a larger expanse for farming. Overall, millet cultivation was dominant in the region.

Cattle raising has become a significant aspect of the economic livelihood of the residents in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan. The topographical characteristics of the region,

³⁰ Ibid., p. 73-78.

³¹ Ibid., p. 64-72.

encompassing both mountains and foothills, have facilitated the establishment of cattle farming in this area. The osteological remains recovered from the initial medieval and subsequent medieval communities in the region indicate that the practice of raising both large and small-horned cattle was prevalent as a kind of agriculture.

Written sources further verify that beekeeping is a significant economic sector in the medieval village-type settlements of the Dashkasan-Goygol area, and that it is one of the jobs of the rural people. According to the Ottoman notebooks created in 1527, it is evident that the villages in the Dashkasan-Goygol region of the Ganja-Karabakh province paid a tax known as the "honey tribute" due to their involvement in beekeeping. The indigenous bee species found in Azerbaijan is known as the Gabaghtep bee, which originates from the hamlet of Dashkasan.

The third paragraph of the first chapter, headed "Urban-type dwellings," provided an examination of the urban-type dwellings found in the region. The land of Dastafur village is home to one of the first known medieval urban towns. The Dastafur medieval urban community is situated inside the Dastafur village boundary, about one kilometer southwest of the village gate. It is specifically located in the region known as "Eynal throne" near the temple, on both sides of the stream named "Nazik su". The remnants of the initial medieval settlement are situated on the right side of Derin Dera, while the medieval settlement itself is positioned on its left side. The first medieval village of Dastafur dates back to the 3rd-8th centuries and spans an area of 1.5 hectares. Its subsequent expansion, which occurred from the 9th-15th centuries, covers an area of 2.3-2.5 hectares. Here is a cemetery that dates back to both the early Middle Ages and the Middle Ages.³² The Dastafur urban village features a

³² Mammadov A.M. Dastafur-Dashkasan (historical-archaeological-ethnographic research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Elm, - 2000 - p. 24-25.

12th-century bridge over the Ganja River, measuring 15 meters in length and 3.5 meters in width.³³

Archaeological research in the Goshgarchay and Kurekchay basins uncovered various household items such as jugs, pots, pitchers, buckets, basins, sudans, cauldrons, taygulps, and plates. These items were adorned with inscriptions in the Albanian alphabet on the top and numbers on the surface. Additionally, candlesticks containing paintings, tiles, and other items were also found. The pottery produced during the advanced medieval era had superior firing techniques compared to earlier periods, highlighting the exceptional skill and professionalism of the artisans of that time. This suggests that the art of pottery in the region had reached its pinnacle.

The research conducted in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan focused on the art of metalworking, which holds a distinct position in the artistic domain of both rural and urban settlements. This study was based on archaeological findings from medieval settlements in the area. The Dashkasan area, located in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan, is renowned for its abundant natural resources and minerals. Archaeological excavations and geological studies in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan reveal that the ore deposits in the area were efficiently utilized during the Middle Ages. The extracted metal ores were either processed near the mines or, in certain instances, in the city of Ganja, depending on the available resources and circumstances.

The glassware found during archaeological excavations and studies in early medieval, advanced, and late medieval communities and monuments in the region was examined. The local populace frequently saw these glass samples while engaged in agricultural labor. The Dashkasan soil is abundant in minerals like as cobalt, copper, iron,

³³ Ibid., p. 21.

gold, silver, antimony, agate, etc., which are essential for imparting various hues to glass alloys. This high mineral content in the soil is a significant contributing factor to production. The exposed rock formations collected during the archaeological excavation indicate the presence of glass manufacturing in the immediate vicinity.

The exposed rock formations collected during the archaeological excavation indicate the presence of glass manufacturing in the immediate vicinity. The glassware of Caucasian Albania was acquired from the region now known as Dashkasan.

In the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan during the Middle Ages, there were several skills and professions for which there is scarce archeological evidence. This encompasses several crafts such as transportation, carpentry, weaving, dyeing, leather processing, and more. Art and vocations serve as illustrative examples.

The abundant natural resources in the Lesser Caucasus area in Western Azerbaijan have greatly contributed to the growth of arts and professions throughout the Middle Ages. This is shown in the thriving of transportation, carving, engraving, and sculpting in the region throughout this time.

The second chapter, named "Defensive Fortifications, Economic Relations, and Roads," consists of two sections. The initial segment, which centers on "Defensive Fortifications," examines medieval defensive buildings and castles in the area—a crucial element in comprehending the history of feudal society. Some notable examples are Gülüstan in the hilly Goranboy region, Köşkü Gyz Castle in the Goygol region, Balchili Gyz Castle, Zurnabad Castle, and several medieval castles in the Dashkasan region. The castles in the Lesser Caucasus area may be classified into two distinct groups: those fortified for defensive purposes and those utilized as feudal fortresses.

Gulustan Castle, located at the base of Murovdag on the boundary of Aghdara and Goranboy districts, presents a distinctive

archeological site.³⁴ In 1988-1989, Prof. A.M. Mammadov conducted thorough archaeological research on the castle, which is located at an elevation of 1700 meters above sea level.

The region's notable historical characteristic is its ability to withstand and recover from the Mongol invasions in the 13th century. Despite widespread disturbances throughout Azerbaijan, the mountainous areas of Goygol and Dashkasan provided a refuge for those seeking to escape the oppressive rule of the Mongols. This surge of people resulted in a revival, which led to the building of medieval strongholds in the vicinity of Ganja. Some notable examples of castles within the Goygol area include Zurnabad Castle, Balçılı Gyz Castle, and Köşkü Gyz Castle.

In 2010, the Ganja archaeological expedition conducted archaeological excavation of the Maiden's Castle monument located in Köshku village, Goygol district. Based on a comparative investigation of archaeological evidence, it has been determined that Köşkü Gyz Castle, which was constructed in the 9th century, continued to be utilized until the 17th century.³⁵

The Maiden's Castles in Ganja, including Balçılı Maiden's Castle and Köşkü Maiden's Castle, are renowned for their formidable defensive characteristics. The building of Balçılı Gyz Castle in the 9th century and its usage until the 16th-17th centuries played a vital part in the defense of Ganja, as evidenced by archeological sources.³⁶ In

³⁴ Pakhomov E.A. Archaeological expeditions to the regions of Azerbaijan. SSR. // – Baku: Izv. Azerbaijan FAN USSR, – 1938, No. 3. – p.31.

³⁵ Mammadov A.M. Ancient Ganja (based on archaeological research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Teknur, - 2014 - p.118.

³⁶ Mehdiyeva A. Maiden fortresses located in the Western region of Azerbaijan. // Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, National Azerbaijan History Museum, German World Institute of Turks, Ağrı İbrahim Chechen University, Secuk University Turkish Arts Research and Application Center "VII. International Congress of Turkish Art, History and Folklore", - Baku: - 11-15 Nisan - 2017, - p.146.

2013, the Ganja archaeological expedition performed study on Gyz Castle in Balchili village. Their findings show that the fortification was constructed around the 9th-10th century. The castle consists of three sections and presents itself as a substantial stairway, encircled by profound ravines on either side. It is regarded as a key defensive stronghold of the Ganja Emirate of Shaddadi.³⁷

The Zurnabad Castle is renowned for its grandeur and serves as a stronghold for the defense of Ganja. The castle bears architectural elements evocative of the 13th-14th centuries, like Mardakan, Nardaran, and Ramana Castles in Baku. The Ganja archaeological expedition concluded that Zurnabad stronghold, once a feudal stronghold, thereafter functioned as a "post office." The presence of a guard station positioned around 500 meters away from the fortification along the major road indicates its potential utilization as a movement pathway for the indigenous population and nomadic herding communities. Historical sources suggest that throughout the 13th-14th centuries, the inhabitants of Tarekame in Azerbaijan built miniature fortresses in hilly regions as a means of defense.

Along the path leading to the castle, there are around 500 meters of impressive entry gates on either side. Based on these remains, it is evident that the upper part of the entry gate was constructed in the shape of a tagband. There was both an entry gate and a guard post. It may be inferred that the Zurnabad stronghold does not comprise the extant ruins of the original fortification. Hence, the castle occupied a broader expanse, with its domain encircled by fortifications. The castle's size is believed to exceed 5 hectares. Structures have been constructed at this location. The surviving remnants of the castle might be regarded as the pomegranate castle inside the Zurnabad castle complex. The primary residents of Zurnabad fortress are predominantly livestock farmers.

³⁷ Mammadov A.M. Ancient Ganja (based on archaeological research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Teknur, - 2014 - p.154-155.

The Mongol invasion in the 13th century acted as a catalyst for the region's economic transition by causing a shift from agriculture to cattle rearing, which played a crucial role. This transition facilitated the creation of architectural edifices such as the Zurnabad castle, distinguished by an arrangement of different-sized constellations and a well planned entryway. The stronghold was constructed using indigenous river stone and lime mortar. It had a courtyard with two strategically placed watchtowers that provided a commanding view over the surrounding regions. The region's economic success and resiliency during this era are clearly demonstrated by the abundant forest cover that surrounds the stronghold.

The second section of the second chapter, entitled "Economic Relations of Residential Areas, Roads, and Bridges," explores the commercial interactions, trade routes, and medieval bridges in the area. The road network linking communities along the eastern slopes of the Lesser Caucasus had heavy traffic, spanning from Dashkasan to Goygol and the hilly region of Goranboy. The routes from Tiflis to Ganja and Dashkasan diverged into Ahmadli, Dastefur, Zinzahal, Yolgulular, Chanagchi, Gedemis, and Zivlan villages. The medieval bridges spanning the Ganja, Goshgar, and Gushgara rivers in the Dashkasan area, particularly the 13th-century bridge at Dastafur hamlet, showcased impressive architectural skill.³⁸

The Goygol region boasts several historic bridges that exemplify the region's dedication to infrastructure during the Middle Ages. These include the ashrim bridges from the 16th century and the White bridge from the 12th century near Goygol city, as well as an ashrim bridge in Dozular village and two arched stone bridges in Topalhasanli village.

The third chapter, titled "Religious Monuments," is divided into two halves. The initial section, titled "Temples," examines medieval

³⁸ Mammadov A.M. Dastafur-Dashkasan (historical-archaeological-ethnographic research). / A.M. Mammadov - Baku: Elm, - 2000 - p.21.

temples in the area, namely those located in the southern foothills of the Greater Caucasus and the eastern foothills of the Lesser Caucasus.³⁹ The Goygol region is rich in religious monuments dating back to the early Middle Ages. It has early medieval burial monuments and remains of Christian temples at Balchili, Zurnabad, Shahriyar (previously Mizrik), Keramli, Yeni Zod, Chaikend, and Yeni Goyche (Ablah), among other locations. The Band temple, which dates back to the VI-VIII centuries, serves as a notable illustration, together with the Sinıgkilsa church, constructed in 1285 following the instructions of Albanian Catholicos Stepan. The renovation endeavors in 1639 highlight the lasting importance of these ecclesiastical edifices.

Albanian Christian temples can be discovered in close proximity to the highland settlements of the Goranboy area. Examples of such temples are Yukhari Agjakend, Buzlug, Erkej, Ballıgaya, Gulistan, Karachinar, Borü, and other similar structures. The Kharkhaput Temple is an example of a medieval Albanian Christian temple. The Kharkhaput temple shares architectural similarities with the Mingachevir, Govurgala, Jalut, Band, and Azad temples located in the Aghdam, Oguz, and Goygol districts.

There is a significant abundance of religious monuments that have survived to the present day in the Dashkasan area. The Dastafur temple church in the Dashkasan area is a trapezoidal-shaped three-nave basilica, as per its architectural design. Three notable temples in the region are situated in Bayan village in Dashkasan district: Bayan church, Bayan monastery-Chicharvang temple, and the church next to Chichravang temple. Both temples were constructed on elevated terrain in Bayan village.

The church in Gabaghtepe hamlet, situated in the historic Dashkasan area, is believed to have been constructed around the 15th century. This temple is a basilica constructed in a rectangular form,

³⁹ Geyushev R.B. Christianity in Caucasian Albania. / R.B. Geyushev – Baku: Elm, – 1984 – p. 138-140.

including three naves. The dimensions of this temple are 21.5 meters in length and 13.30 meters in width. The temple is an antiquated structure situated in the Gushchu hamlet in the Dashkasan area in Albania. The temple is officially named the Monastery of the Holy Interpreters. This church was constructed in the year 487 and had renovations in 989 and 1845. Presently, the church is in a somewhat deserted condition. Within the Dashkasan district, namely in the Zaylik village, there are two temples that belong to the Albanian community. The first monument is situated near the heart of Zaylik village. This temple is a church with three levels.

There are remnants of a temple complex located in a wooded location near Yolgullar hamlet in the Dashkasan region. Based on observations, it has been concluded that the temple is a three-nave basilica. In the middle of Chovdar village, there is a church that features three naves. The monument has incurred damage both indoors and outside. An Albanian Christian monument with a single nave was documented in the hilly and wooded region of the administrative territorial unit of Chovdar village.

The second paragraph, headed "Grave monuments," discusses the medieval grave monuments found in the region. The Christian burials found in the Dashkasan-Goygol area predominantly include of uncomplicated earthen graves, stone box graves, and tombs adorned with stones. The Dashkasan region is home to several ancient Christian cemeteries and tomb monuments, including Bayan, Dastafur, Gushchu, Amirvar, Chovdar, Ashagi Dashkasan, Danayeri, Gabagtepe, and others. The species was discovered in residential areas, namely in the wooded regions of the Zivlanchay and Alakhanchalli river basins, as well as in the villages of Shahriyar, Keramli, Balchili, Yeni Zod, Chaikend, Zurnabad in Goygol district. Additionally, it was observed near the temples in this region.

The "Result" section of the dissertation presents the scientific findings and conclusions derived from historical-archaeological research

conducted in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan. It includes an analysis of information from scientific literature and sources. During the Middle Ages, this region was closely linked to the city of Ganja, which was a significant hub for trade, craftsmanship, and culture in the Arran region. It played a crucial role in the economic, political, and cultural aspects of Azerbaijani society during that time. This region, situated in the Ganjabasar area, served as a crossroads for the country's trade and internal transportation routes.

The second paragraph, headed "Grave monuments," discussed the medieval burial monuments found in the region. The Christian burials in the Dashkasan-Goygol area predominantly include of uncomplicated mud graves, stone box graves, and graves adorned with stones. The Dashkasan region is home to several ancient Christian cemeteries and tomb monuments, including Bayan, Dastafur, Gushchu, Amirvar, Chovdar, Ashagi Dashkasan, Danayeri, Gabagtepe, and others. The species was discovered in residential areas, namely in the wooded regions of the Zivlanchay and Alakhanchalli river basins, as well as in the villages of Shahriyar, Keramli, Balchili, Yeni Zod, Chaikend, Zurnabad in the Goygol district. Additionally, it was located near the temples in this region.

The "Conclusion" section of the dissertation provides a concise summary of the scientific conclusions derived from historical-archaeological research conducted in the Lesser Caucasus region of Western Azerbaijan. It encompasses the analysis of information from scientific literature and sources, presents the scientific conclusions reached, and proposes suggestions for further study.

No text provided. The investigation revealed the presence of several villages, feudal castles, and strongholds in the Lesser Caucasus area of Western Azerbaijan throughout the Middle Ages. The strongholds served to enhance the city of Ganja's protection and acted as primary shelters for the populace during conflicts. Furthermore, the castle and

feudal castles situated in the hilly region served as the summer retreat for the nobility, judges, and other inhabitants of Ganja city.

Historical-archaeological study indicates a significant presence of settlements in the indicated region throughout the first and middle centuries, with a high population density. The research revealed that the Lesser Caucasus area in the Western part of Azerbaijan was the specific place where Albanian self-awareness, Albanian Christian religion, and culture thrived and remained intact throughout the Middle Ages. The Albanian Christian temples in this location functioned until the eradication of Albanian Catholicism.

There is no text provided. Castles in the region under investigation have been constructed from the 9th century. Scholars regard this era as a significant time of growth in the architectural history of Azerbaijan. Gulustan Castle, Balçılı Gyz Castle, and Köşkü Gyz Castle have been constructed on the banks of Incechay since the 9th century. Zurnabad Castle, situated on the banks of Ganjachay in the Goygol area, is renowned for its formidable fortification system. It is said to have been constructed between the 12th and 14th centuries.

No text provided. The examination of archaeological artifacts, anthropological research, and written records once again validate that the inhabitants of the region we investigated were predominantly Turkic tribes. The presence of stone box and kurgan grave monuments in the Dashkasan-Goygol region provides evidence that the ancient and early Middle Ages inhabitants of this area were Turkic-speaking tribes such as the Saks, Huns, Savirs, Albanians, etc. This further confirms the presence of a Turkic-speaking population during the Middle Ages.

The following scientific articles covering the content of the dissertation have been published:

1. Glass production in Ganjabasar in the Middle Ages. // - Ganja State University "I International scientific conference of young scientists", - Ganja, - October 17-18, - 2016, - Part I, p. 5-7.

2. The first medieval settlements in Dashkasan. // – Ganja: Ganja State University Scientific news, Fundamental, humanitarian and natural sciences series, – 2017. No. 3, – pp. 265-270.

3. The Medieval Monuments of the Shamkir-Gadabay district of Azerbaijan Historical Archeological. // – Vienna: The European Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, – 2020. No. 3, – p. 7-24.

4. On the historical-archaeological study of the early medieval Albanian temples of the Goygol region of Azerbaijan. // – Baku: History and its problems, – 2021. No. 2, – pp. 243-247.

5. Medieval urban settlements of the Dashkesan district. // – Ukraine: Current work of the Junitian sciences: inter-university collection of sciences of the ancestors of centuries Drogobitskogo state pedagogic university named after Ivan Franka, – 2021. Том 1, выпуск 39, – стр.4-7.

6. Albanian Christian religious monuments of Dashkasan region. // – Baku: History and its problems, – 2021. No. 3, – pp. 188-192.

7. Grave monuments in the Lesser Caucasus region of the Western region of Azerbaijan. // – Baku: Geostrategiya International social-political, scientific-theoretical journal, – July-August 2021. №04(64), – pp. 58-61.

8. Art of metalworking in Dashkesan in the Middle Ages. // – Qafqaz University "IV International scientific conference of young researchers", - Baku, - April 29-30, - 2016, - Book II, p. p. 1715-1717.

9. Albanian Christian religious monuments in mountainous villages of Goranboy region. // – The XIV International Scientific Symposium "A Person in History". Dedicated to the 140th anniversary of the founder of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, - Ankara, - Turkey, - May 26, - 2021, - p. 210-215.

10. Memorial monuments of the Lesser Caucasus region of the Western region of Azerbaijan. // – Folklore Institute of ANAS. 4th international Nowruz conference on scientific research. Karabagh. Azerbaijan, - March 18-21, - 2021, - Pp. 168-172.

The defense of the dissertation will be held at the ED 2.20
Dissertation Council meeting at Baku State University on 29 may
2024 at 12⁰⁰.

Address: AZ 1148, Baku city, Academician Zahid Khalilov
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It is possible to get acquainted with the dissertation in the
scientific library of Baku State University.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and abstract are posted on
the official website of Baku State University.

The abstract was sent to the necessary addresses on 29
aprel 2024.

Signed for printing:
Paper format: 60/84, 16/1
Volume: 49 446
Circulation: 100