

# **ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

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Commemorative monuments of the Ancient Turk: square fences made of stone plates, earthen platforms with sarcophaguses bordered, with ditches and ramparts, statues, steles with tamga, lines of stone columns-balbals are widespread ground monument constructions in the steppes of the Central Asia in the period of the early Middle Ages. Since 1st scientific expedition in Siberia and Mongolia the "stone wives" and "runic characters" permanently were in the range of vision of the scientists and travellers. Among Ancient Turkic commemorative monuments on the area of the Mongolia constructions of the noble turks, which are called the "prince's graves" were the most interesting. Texts of the commemorative tomb inscriptions were analyzed for many times, there are numerous scientific books on this subject. Besides, an attention was attracted to stone statues and commemorative constructions. A big contribution to study of these monuments in Mongolia was made by members of Orhonskaja, Mongolo-Tibetskaja and others expeditions : V. V. Radlov, N. M. Jadrincev, D. A. Klemenc, P. K. Koslov B. Y. Vladimircov. G. I. Borovka, V. A. Kazakevich and others in the end of XIXth-beginning of the XXth centuries.

Since the end of the 40th this work was continued by members of the Sovetsko-Mongolskaja, Mongolo-Czechoslovak, Mongolo-Hungarian expeditions: S. V. Kisilev, L. A. Evtuhova, V. V. Volkov, S. G. Kljashtorniy, E. A. Novgorodova, N. Sir-Odgav, H. Pallee, L. Iisi, I. Erdley and others. The study of ancient Turkic commemorative constructions is continued and nowadays. As a result of publication a great volume of sources V. E. Voytov succeeded to classify in details commemorative monuments of ancient turks nobility, and U. S. Hudjakov - memorials of the ordinary nomads and noble turks. However we still haven't monographic research on ancient Turkic commemorative monuments, like we have on statues in Altai, Tuva and Semirechje. It is possible to do only as a result of planned and systematic exploration of the whole area of Mongolia, which will take many years.

121

**ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

In this connection the local exploration in different regions of the Mongolia became very important. Analysis of the original series of statue and commemorative mound from the Eastern regions of Mongolia allow D. Bajar and L. L. Victorova to select the monuments of the Mongolian period. Ubsunurskaja hollow between mountains is a region with good prospects for studying of ancient turkic commemorative monuments. The northern part of Ubsunurskaja hollow was visited by G. N. Potanin, D. A. Klemencev, V. A. Oshurcov, S. A. Teplouhov in the end of XIX- beqining of the XXth centuries. In 1947 S. U. Kisilev and L. A. Evtuhova made a trip along the southern slope of Tannu-Ola Range for recgnaisance. In the 50s-60s M. N. Mannay-Ool and L. R. Kizlasov made a recgnaisance and excavations on the north-eastern part of the hollow, and A. D. Grach worked in Soglinskaja valley too. In the 80s. U. A. Plotnicov, G. P. Danchenok and S. A. Kim explored series of statues in the valleys of Torgalig and Narin rivers. The matirials on this area were generalized by U. S. Hudjakov. The southern part of the hollow along the slopes of Han-Huhiy and Togtohin-Shil Rangers was visited by explorers for many times. In 1949 N. B. Vjatkina had found three statues with fences. Later they were published by L. A. Evtuhova. Unfortunately their photographs were published only, without the information on their location and without the description of the monuments. In the 50s-60s some of the statues were found by N. Sir-Oglav V. V. Volkov in Ubsunursky aymak In 1981 the stone statues were found by D. Cavandorg in the valley of Turgan-gol river. In 1986 U. A. Plotnicov, the member of Soviet-Mongolian expedition (historical-cultural), explored the group of statues on the northern spruts of Han-Huhiy. In the commemorative monuments and staues of the Ancient Turk located along the northern spurts of Han-Huhiy and Togthin-Shif Rangers were explored by U. S. Hudjakov, the chief of the 11th troop of composite bio-sphere expeditions of Academy Sciences of the USSR.

As a result of the work over the past years the series of commemorative monuments and statues of the ancient Turk were found on the south of Ubsunurkaja hollow. The generalization of the information will make it possible to study the ancient Turkic commemorative ritual, to learn the confine of their culture and to see how did they develop the virgin lands in the south part of Ubsunurskaja hollow.

The group of statues and fences was found in the Ulaan-Irigny-Hoyt-Hamar sepulchre area which is located on the outskirts of Cagan-Hayrhan sumon. There are herekurs, the circular laying-out, the steles and the fences. Four commemorative fences of the Ancient Turk located in pairs on the northern and sothern sides of the eastern outskirts of the grave field. Fences 1 and 2 are located on the northern outskirts of the sepulchre area constructed on non-high square earth base which was surrounded by sloping ditch. Both fences are square, consist of stone plates, which were put on ribs and fixed in the ground with laying-out of flagstone inside. Their sides are orientated towards the parts of the world. Fence 1 (southern) : area-4\*4 m, high-0. 1 Fence 2 (northern): area-2. 5\*2. 5m, high-0. 1 m. (Pic. 1. 1).

There is stone statue installed on the eastern side from the fence 1. It is made from grey granite monolith. The monolith was processed on three sides. There is a head, neck, arms, shoulders and waist are designed. The high of the statue 1. 2 m. It is faced towards to the East. The statue is a portrayal of fligting man with high forehead, curved eyebrows, narrow eyes, narrow and flat nose, big strethed ears, hanging moustaches, jutted out lower lip, tight and heavy chin. Ears and left cheek of statue are rather injured. His face belong to Inner Asian mongoloid. His neck is designed as a wide chute around lower part of the face, as usually. In order to this, the figure seemed stocky, thick set. The shoulders of the statue are wide and sloping. The aims are designed by recesses from armpit to waist. The rigt arm bent in elbow-There was depict a vessel in his hand, but it is impossible to store his original shape because of damages. There are only three fingers on the right hand, which are well preserved. Left arm is gently bent in elbow, the palm; is on the hilt of saber. The ends of the fingers are broken off. The belt consist of massive guardrangular badges-rims with horizontal slitted aperture. There is a bag-kaptagark for ognivo hanged on a belt is depicted on the right side. The belt-buckle is broken off. There is a saber hanged on two straps on the left of the belt. The saber is depicted in the scabbards with two projections-holders and curved stripe. The end of the scabbard isn't distinguished. The scabbard is hanged in a slope on straps of different length. Crossing of the saber is in the form of a boat and taper. The hilt is covered by palm. The end isn't distinguished (Pic. ).

There is broken off stone statue with a damaged head on the eastern side of fence 2. It is made from white large-granular granite monolith which was prossessed on three sides. There is a head, shoulders arms and waist are designed. The high of well preserved part of the statue - 1. 1 m. The statue is a portrayl of fighting man. It is possible to see eyebrows wide and flat nose, cheeks. There is depicted a neck, wide round shoulders. The right arm is bent in elbow and there is a vessel-cup or a goblet in the palm. The left arm is bent in elbow too, the palm is on the belt. The belt is wide without any addition details. There is a bag-kaptagark is depicted on the right side. Many details of face, arms, vessel and belt are indistict because of time (Pic. 2. 1).

There are fences 3 and 4 consist of stone plates which are put on ribs and fixed in the ground on the southerr. ourtskirts of the sepulchre area. Their faces are orientated towards to the part of the world. There are flagstones disorderly scattered on the surface of the fauces. The area of both fauces - 2\*2 m. , high - 0. 1 m. (Pic. 1. 2). There is a stone statue in a sloping lying position on the eastern side of fence 3. The statue is fixed in the ground up to the chest. It is made from grey granite monolith, prossessed on three sides and faced towards the East. There is a head anci a neck are designed. The high of the statue above the ground is 0. 7 m. The statue is a portrayl of fighting man.

There is a round headgear-cap on the head. It has high forehead, curved eyebrows, narrow eyes, narrow and flat nose, small lips, big ears, small chin. The neck is depicted

123

**ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

as rather narrow recess around the chin. The head taken almost all width of the monolith, so the shoulders are very narrow (Pic. 2. 2).

All fences of this monument don't have the lines of balbals.

A group of fences and statues was found on the Ulaan-Culuu monument, which is located in wide opening valley along both sides of Cagan-Hayrhan-Kirgis-sumon road, 1:kilometres away of Cagan-Hayrhan sumon. The monument is a wide grave field with herksurs this circular and square ance, round stone hills, circular and rectangular facing, besides there are two pair square fences with statues and steles in the southern part of the field.

Fences 1 and 2 are located in the northern part of sepulchre area, on west or the main chain of hereksurs. The fences has square shape and consist of massive plates. They are orientated towards the part of the world. The area of the fence 1 - 2. 2\*2. 2 - m, high - 0. 1 m. The area of fence 2 m. , high - 0. 1 m. The fence 1 is partly exavated and there is a mark of covering with turf along the sides of stone plates. The northern side of fence 2 isn't noticeable above the ground (Pic. 3. 1 ).

There a broken off stone statue with head is installed east of fence 1. It was made from white granite monolith , which is possessed on three sides. There is a head, shoulders and arms are designed. The high of the statue - 1m. The statue is faced towards the East. There is a semicircular eyebrows, narrow eyes, thin nose, wide lips. The neck isn't designed, shoulders are narrow. The right arm is bent in elbow and lifted up to the chin. The fingers of the hand keep small round-bottom jug with narrow neck. Left arm is bent in elbow, the palm is on a belt. The belt consist of square badges. A portrayls of the arms and jug are broken off in some parts. A lower part of the monolith isn't possessed.

Fences 3 and 4 are located in the southern part of the monument and on the east of the main chain of hereksurs. The fences have a square shape and their sides are orientated towards the part of the world. There are stone steles which are installed on the eastern side of the fences.

No one of four fences has a lines of balbals.

There is a solitary fence with Kirgis-Sumon statue on the left bank of Baycan-Gol river, 0. 5 kilometres away to the North of Kirgis sumon. The fence has square shape, consist of plates and it is orientated towards the parts of the world. Its area - 3-\* -3 m. , high - 0. 1 m. (Pic. 3. 2).

There is a statue on the eastern side. It is made from massive granite plate of dark-grey colour. High of the statue is 1 m. It is faced towards the East. The head and the neck are designed. It is possible to see the head-gear in the form of round cap, a line of the chin, a recess which formed the neck. The details of face are unobtrusive. The other details are unobtrusive too (Pic. 4. 1).

The fence hasn't the lines of balbals. There is a solitary fence with Bulgan-Hangay statue. It is located on the opening plain in the west of Kirgis-Malchin, 19 kilometres away of Kirgis-sumon. The fence has square shape, consist of plates and there is a stone scattered in the center of it. The area -m. , high - 0. 15 m. It is orientated towards the part of the world.

There is a statue made from light-pink granite. It is lie on the surface on the eastern side. The high of the monolith - 1. 4 m. Both ends of the monolith were processed. The lower part of statue, which was buried in the ground is wider. There a head, a neck, shoulders and arms were designed on this part. The head is round, it has low forehead, semicircular eyebrows, narrow eyes, wide nose and oval chin. The neck is designed in form of rather narrow recess. The shoulders are straight and wide. The arms are outlined a little lower elbows and a little bent. Probably this statue had been made from monolith formerly. Later Turks used the monolith for the second time and made else one statue on the other end. The head of this statue was beaten off. There arms and waist are designed. The right hand is bent in elbow. A jug with a narrow neck is gripped in the palm. The left arm is a little bent in elbow, the palm is on the belt. The belt consist of square badges. There is a bag-kaptagark on the right side and a saber in the scabbard with two holders in form of a plate. A stripe is curved, crossing is straight and taper. The hilt is straight.

There is just the end of the hilt without any additions. (Pic.).

The fence hasn't its lines of balbals. A fence with a statue was found on the Burhayrhan sepulchre area, which is situated nearby the foot of the northern spur of Burhayrhan mountain, along both sides of Hushot-Malchin road, 10 kilometres away of Hushot-brigade. There are hereksurs, burial mound with two lines of small stones diverge in different directions, circular burial mound, layings and a fence. The fence is in the northern part of the sepulchre area, to the north of group of the burial mounds and hereksurs. The fence is square, its area - 3\*3 m. , high - 0. 1 m. , with a stone scattered inside. The sides of the fence are orientated towards the part of the world (Pic. 5. 2). There is a statue which was made from grey granite plate on the eastern side of the fence. Its high - 0. 8 m. The head of the statue is designed by two recess, which begining from the both sides of the plate. The other details are indiscernible (Pic. 4. 2).

The fence hasn't its line of balbals. A group of fences with statues was found on the Togtohin-Shil sepulchre area, which is located by the both banks of dry bed of a river, along both sides of Malchin-Ulangom road, 45 kilometres away of Ulangom-Hot. There are hereksurs, rounded stone burial mound, quadrangular fences with columns at the corners, rectangular flat-laying with columns, square fences with statues, steles and lines of balbals. Ancient Turkic commemorative fences are located in the northern part of the sepulchre area, to the east of the main range of hereksurs and burial mounds.

125

**ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

The fences 1 and 2 are on the northern outskirts of the sepulchre area. Both fences are square consist of plate, with stone scattered inside. Its area - 4\* 4 m. / high - 0. 1m. Their sides are orientated towards the part of the world (Pic.

There is a statue on the east from fence 1, which was made from stone massive stele of 0. 55 m. high. There only a face is designed. The contour of face is designed by unbroken recess, there are narrow eyes, small nose, moustache and juttet out lower lip (Pic. 4. 3).

There is a statue, which was made from massive stone stele of 0, 5 m. high, on the eastern side of the fence 2. There only a face is designed. The contour of the face is designed by unbroken recess. There are narrow eyes, moustache and mouth. Both fences haven't balbals.

Besides there are fences 3-5 with steles, but without balbals, fences 6, 7, 9 without steles and balbals and fences and 9, which have steles and lines of balbals.

A solitary Gashun-gol statue is located on the crossing of Ulangom-Narin-Bulag and Ulangom-Bajan-Ulgiroads, 15 kilometres away to the south-east of Ulangom (Pic. 6. 2).

The statue was made from grey friable sandstone of 0. 9 m high. There ahead, a neck and arms are designed. There is a high forehead, semicircular eyebrows, narrow eyes, nose and mouth, wide ears with a pendant in form of drop. The neck is designed in form of narrow recess. The arms are bent in elbows and there is a vessel in the palms. The left hand, the leftside of the face and the chin are injured. The statue is faced towards the south-east (Pic. 4. 4).

There were found a series of Ancient Turkic commemorative monuments on the left bank of Barun-Turun river. A group of fences which called Barur. -Turun 1 is located on the 1st over-flood-lands terrace of the left bank of the river, 15 kilometres away of Barun-Turun village. It includes two square fences, which are consist of stone plate with boulders between them. The area of the fences - 4\*4 m. and 3\*3 m. , high -0. 2 m. They are orientated through North-South. There is a stele of m. high and a solitary balbal on the western side of the fence 1 (Pic. 7).

A group of commemorative monuments which called Barun-Turun 2 is located on the high terrace of the left bank of the river, 13 kilometres away of Barun-Turun village. It includes some group of fences. The fences 1-3 were made of granite plates and boulders. The area of fences- 4\*4, 4\*4 and 1. 5\*1. 5, high - 0. 2 and 0. 3 m.

There is a statue on the eastern side of the fence 1. There is a line consist of 7 balbals of m. longh and an eight balbals in the distance of 30 m. to the east of the statue (Pic. 8. 1). There is a statue of 0. 5 m. high which was made from grey stone of fine-grained granite. The head is broken off. The statue is inclined towards to the back and left side. It is designed as a relief. The shoulders are wide, the neck is narrow the left

arm is bent in elbow. There is a vessel on the balbals in the hand. The vessel is depicted at the level of the chest on the palm. The thumb is on the vessel, the others keep the plate with vessel on it. The right arm is down, the palm is on a hilt of a broadsword. There is a typesetting belt with badges on the waist. The form of the badges is vague. The broadsword with straight blade and without crossing is hanged on the belt. There is a kaptagark and a hanging strap on the right side.

There is a fence 4 which was destroyed because of predatory excavations. There is a line of balbals in the direction of the east.

There are fences 5 and 6 in the south-east. The fences were made of plates and stones, their area - 5\*5 m. , and 5\*6, high - 0. 1 m. There is a stele on the eastern side of the northern fence (Pic. 10. 6) and a statue on the eastern side of the southern fence (Pic. 8. 2). The statue was made from granite, high - 0. 4 m. The head is rounded and a little narrow than shoulders. The eyes and the nose are designed by one line. There are the eyebrows and the mouth are depicted. The neck is designed in form of wide recess which separate the chin, the shoulders and the chest (Pic. 10. 2).

There is a fence 7 in the south. It was made of plates and boulders. Its area - 3\*3 m. , high - 0. 1 m. A stone statue is installed on the eastern side of the fence (Pic. 8. 3). It was made from granite of 0. 4 m. high. It is inclined towards to the back and to the left. The head is rounded and a little narrow than shoulders. The eyes and the nose are designed by one line, the mouth is in form of horizontal recess. The neck is designed in form of wide recess which separate the head and the shoulders (Pic. 10. 3).

A group of commemorative monuments which called Barun-Turun 3 is located on the high terrace of the left bank of the Barun-Turun river, 15 kilometres away of the Barun-Turun village. It includes two groups of fences. A group of fences 1 and 2 was made of boulders. Then area - 4\*4 and 6 \* 6 m. , high - 0. 3 m. There are embankments with a trap in the center. There is a stele which looks like a man's figure, on the eastern side of northern fence. There is a line of 360 m. length, which consist of 65 balbals, east of the southern fence (Pic. 9).

There are fences 3-5 in the south-east. They were made of plates and stones (inside). Their area- 3\*3, 4\*4, 3\*3 m. , high-0. 2m. They are orientated through North-South. There are steles on the eastern side of the fence 3 and 5. One of the steles have chipped edges (Pic. 10. 7). And there is a statue on the eastern side of the fence 4. The statue of 0. 5 m. high was made from black fine-grained granite. A head of the statue is broken off in some parts. The head is separated from shoulders by narrow recess. The eyes, the nose, the moustache and the chin were stood out against a deep background (Pic. 10. 4).

Method of processing of the statue is different from other statues, which were found in the valley of the Barun-Turun river.

127

**ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

This series of commemorative monuments of the Ancient Turks is an addition to the known materials on the Ancient Turkic culture on the area of Mongolia. The commemorative complexes are equal spread on the area of Ubsunurskaja hollow, concentrated along the rivers, on the high terraces, in the hollows between mountains and on the opening valleys. All commemorative monuments which were found, were devoted to the ordinary fighting men. The fences are small, they are located as a complex of some groups or solitary. We can find the fences without steles, statues and balbals. But most of them have steles or statues (with balbals or without ones). Now it is difficult to say why sometimes the statues were installed, while sometimes steles or even nothing. There wasn't any chronological or social cause in as much as steles and statues can be nearby the fences of the same group of fences or complex. It is the same with services to war inasmuch as the fences with statues haven't balbals usually/unlike the fences with steles. The difference in extent of processing of the statues and steles show that preservation of simobolical figure of commemorated man was essential part of ritual, but only a handful could make a perfect sculpture and the craftsman-stonemasons were not everywhere. So often there was only a representation of head and face on the unprocessed stone, or even unprocessed stele was installed instead of sculpture. The attempts to show the evolution from steles to statues which had place early could be correct to some extent only. It is possible that the steles were being installed earlier than statues, but their installation continued while statues were being made till the Ancient Turkic commemorative ritual existed.

Early the most of scholars thought that fences were being constructed from 6 to 8 centuries A. D. , because as they said later the Ancient Turks "didn't construct them probably". L. P. Kizlasov picked out a group of "Uigurskie" statues without fences with vessel in one's hands. J. A. Sher considered that those statues were a representations of the women. But V. D. Kubarev and D. G. Savinov shown that "classical" Ancient Turkic statues with vessel in one hand were being installed during the second half of 1st millennium A. D. The statues with vessel in both hands is a variant of Ancient Turkic statues but they aren't the statues of " Uigurskiy period".

Now there are some new chances to definite chronology of the statues because of finding of double-sided statue from Bulgan-Hangaj. One side of the sculpture was made after, the other one but it is difficult to say how much is chronological break. It's obviously that more simple figure were before the "classical" representation with vessel in one hand, composing belt, saber and kaptagark.

Inasmuch as the earliest fences of founded in Altay (4-5 centuries) aren't called, we could assume that first statues emerged in the period of the 1st Kaganat. It is still difficult to pick out the canon of this period. But probably the statues of that time didn't have such details as belt, vessel and head-gear. Mostly it were statues with depiction of face, head, hands (not so often).

The classical canon of Ancient Turkic statue with depiction of dresses, vessel, arms formed in the period of the 2nd Kaganat and was exist till the 10 century. During the 9-10 centuries there emerged alson one variant of the statue without arms but with vessel in both hands, which exist along with classical one. During the all period of 6-10 centuries, along with perfect statues, were being installed statues with depiction head and face only and even unprocessing steles.

In the begining of 2nd millenium A. D. Ancient Turks became assimilated to related nomad tribes. However the custom of installing commemorative constructions continied in the Eipchak-Polovec and Mongol's culture.

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129

**ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

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### Inscriptions to the pictures.

To the article "Ancient Turkic stone statues in the south part of the Ubsunurskaja hollow. " by U. S. Hudjacov, U. A. Plotnikov.

Pic. 1. Ulaan-Irigni-hoit-hamar: 1 - fences 1 and 2; 2 -fences 3 and 4.

Pic. 2. Ancient Turkic statues: 1-3 - Ulaan- Irigni -hoit-hamar, fences 1-3; 4, 5 - Ulaan-Chuluu, fences 1-2; 6m - Bulgan-Hangay, fence 1.

Pic. 3. Monuments: 1 - Ulaan-Chuluu, fences 1-2; 2-Kirgis-sumon, fence 1.

Pic. 4. Ancient Turkic statues: 1 - Kirgis-sumon, fence 1; 2 - Burhayrhan, fence 1; Togtohin-Shil, fences 1-2; 4 -Gashuni-Gol.

Pic. 5. Monuments: 1 - Bulgan-Hangay, fence 1; 2 -Burhayrhan, fence 1.

**ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE** 131  
**UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW**

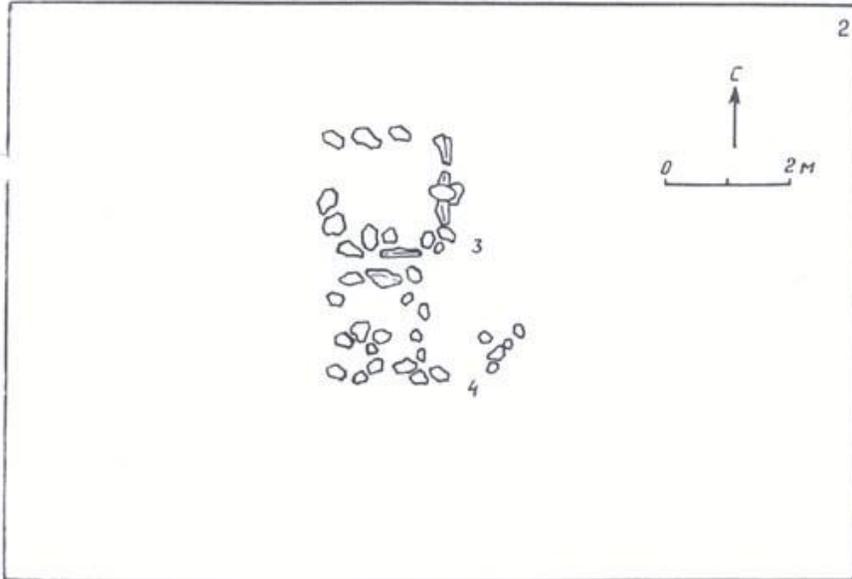
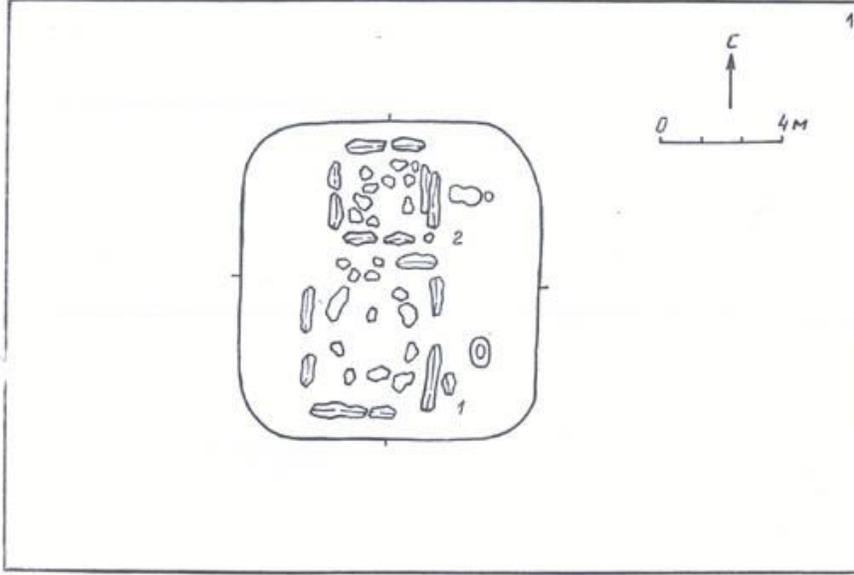
Pic. 6. Monuments: 1 - Togtohin-Shil, fences 1-2; 2 -Gashuni-Gol.

Pic. 7. Barun-Turun 1 monument.

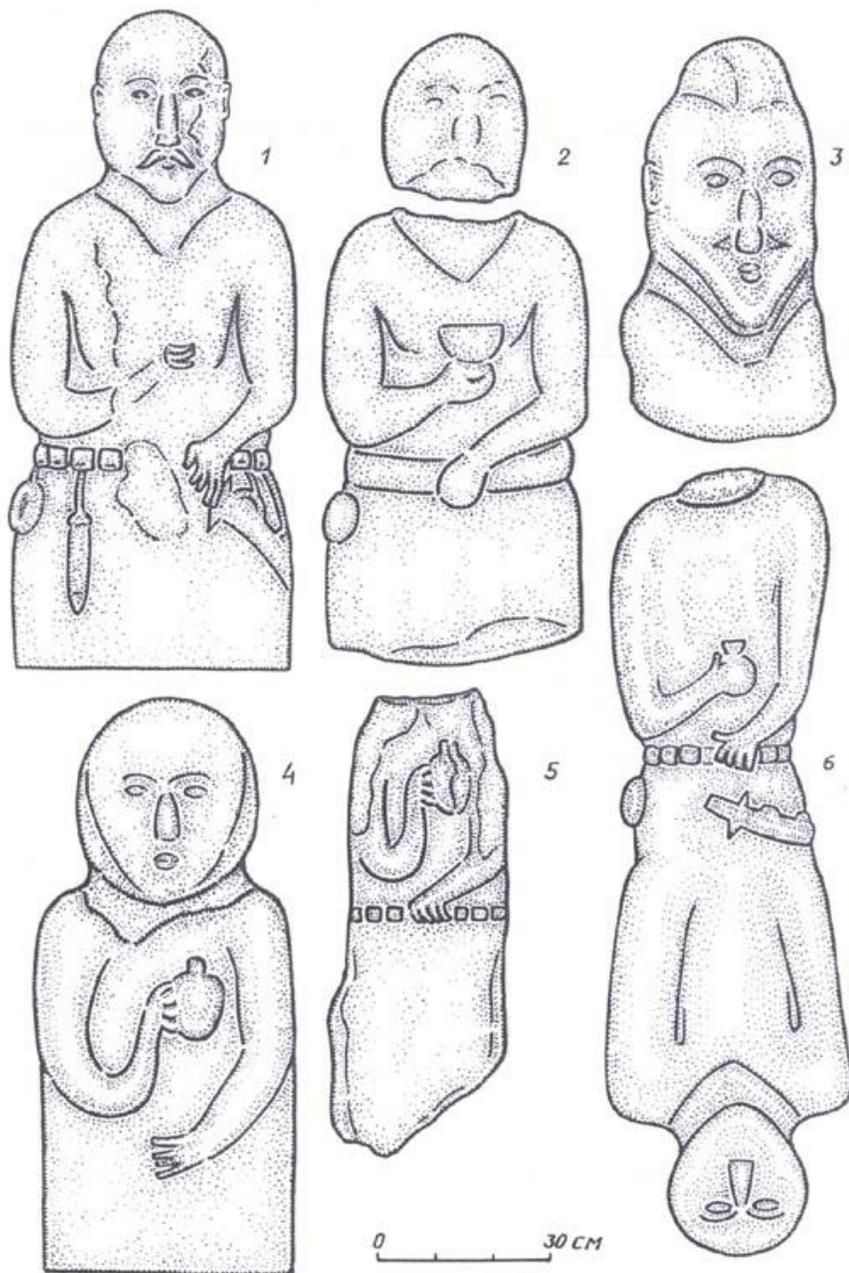
Pic. 8. Barun- Turun 2 monument: 1 -fences 1-3; 2-fences 5-6; 3 - fence 7.

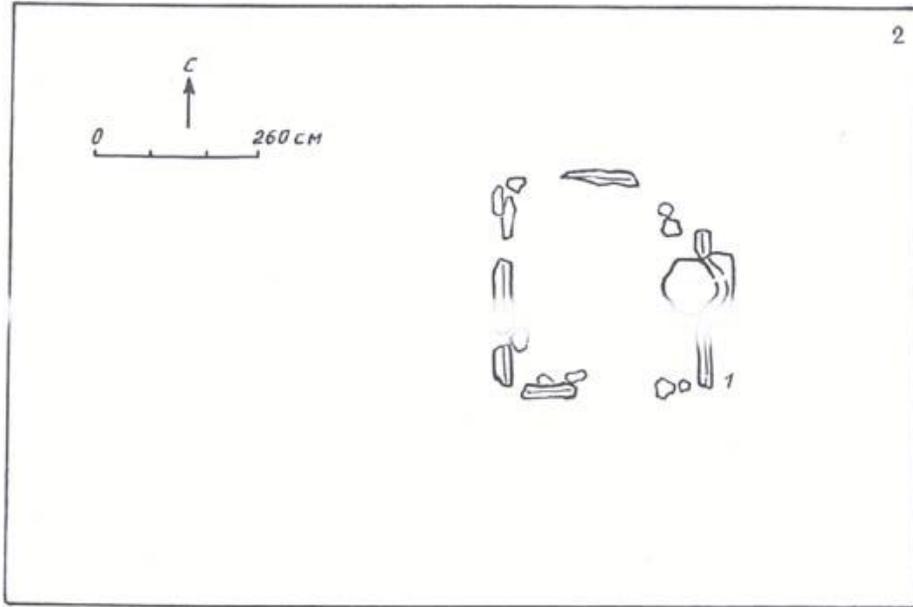
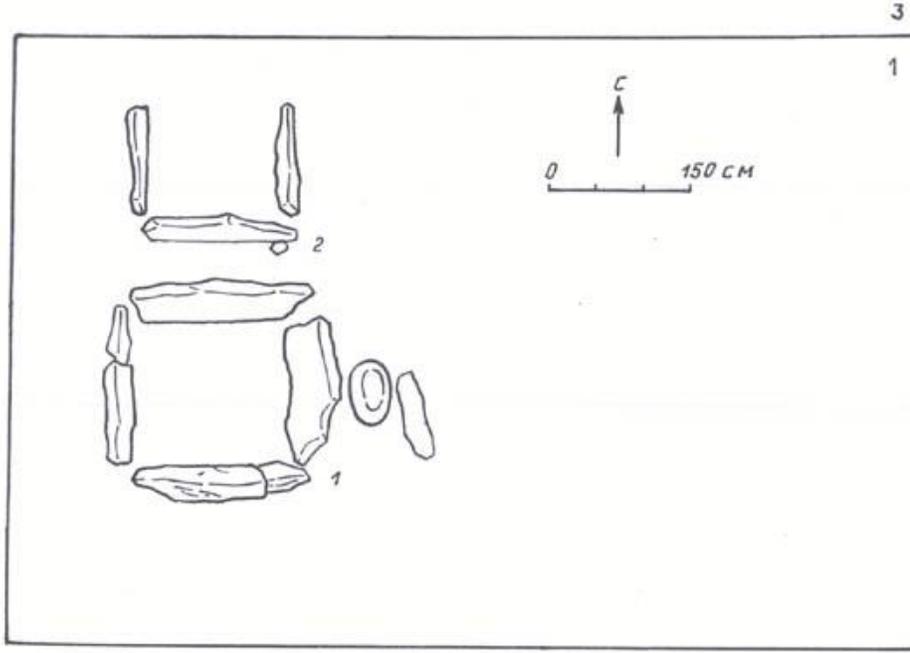
Pic. 9. Barun- Turun 3 monument.

Pic. 10. Ancient Turkic statues and steles: 1 -Barun-Tunm - 2, fence 1:2- Barun-Turun - 2, fence 6:3-Barun-Turun - 2, fence 7. 4- Barun-Turun - 3, fence 4; 5 -Barun-Turun - 3, fence 3, 6- Barun-Turun - 3, fence 5; 7 -Baain-Turun - 3, fence 5.



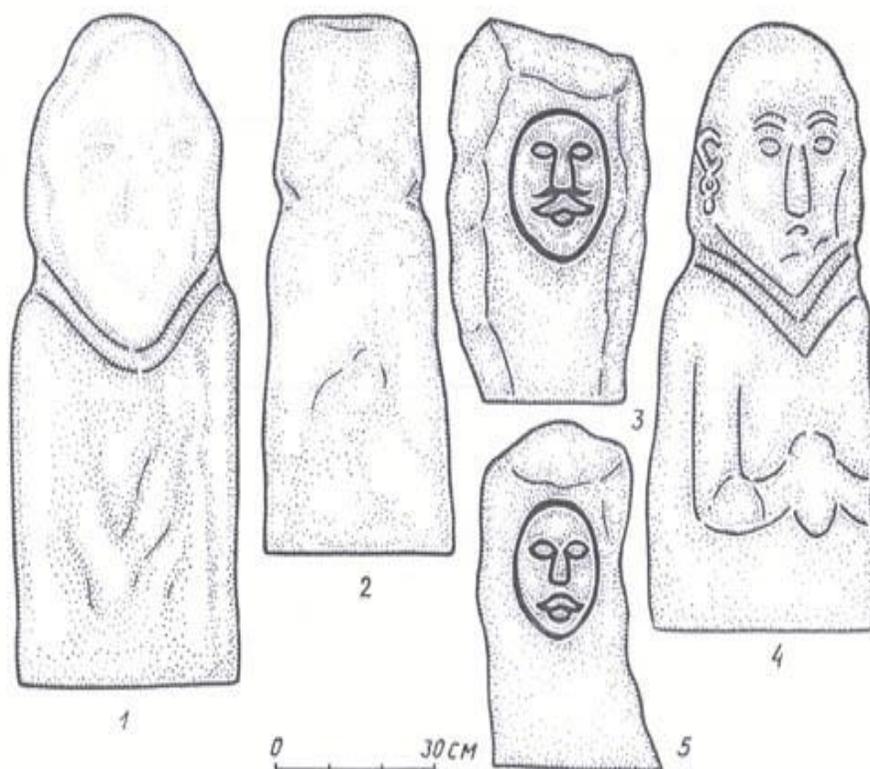
ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW



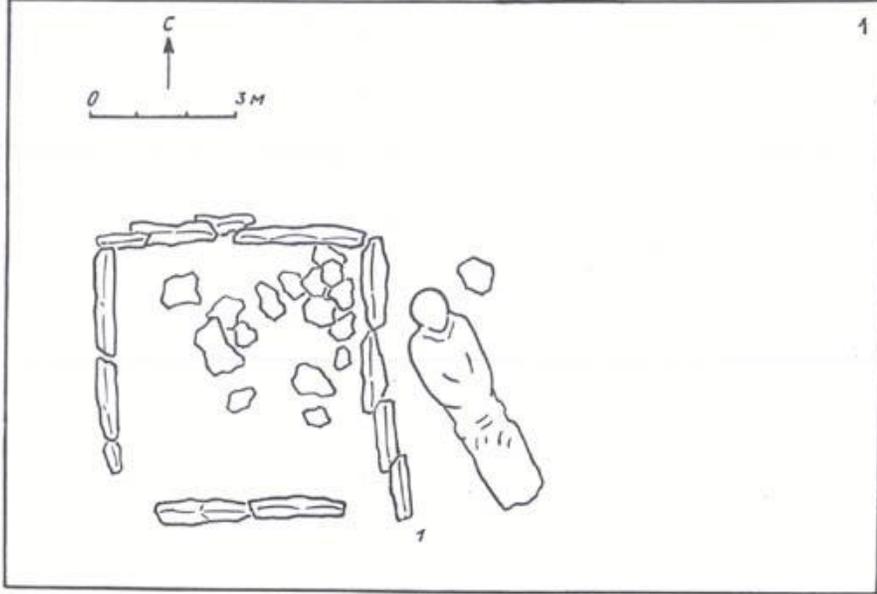


ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW 135

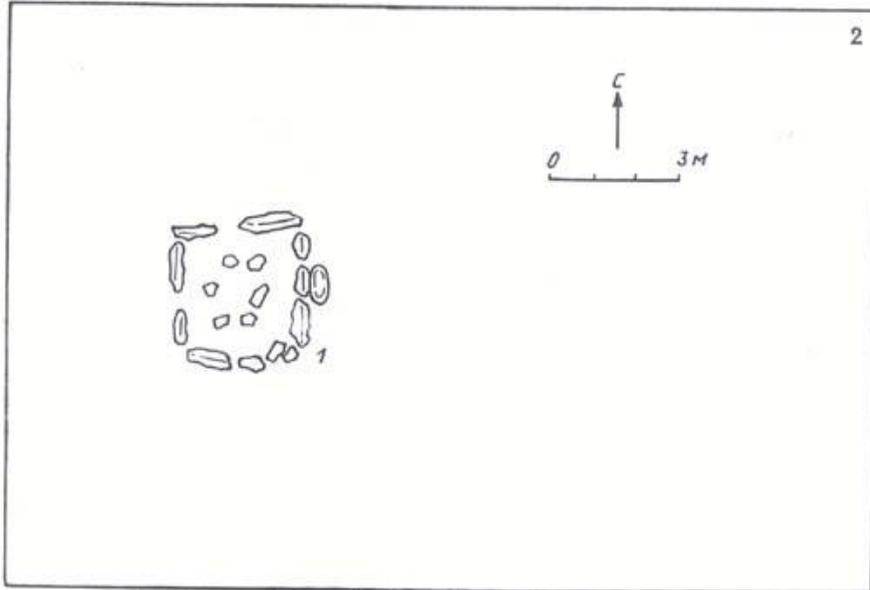
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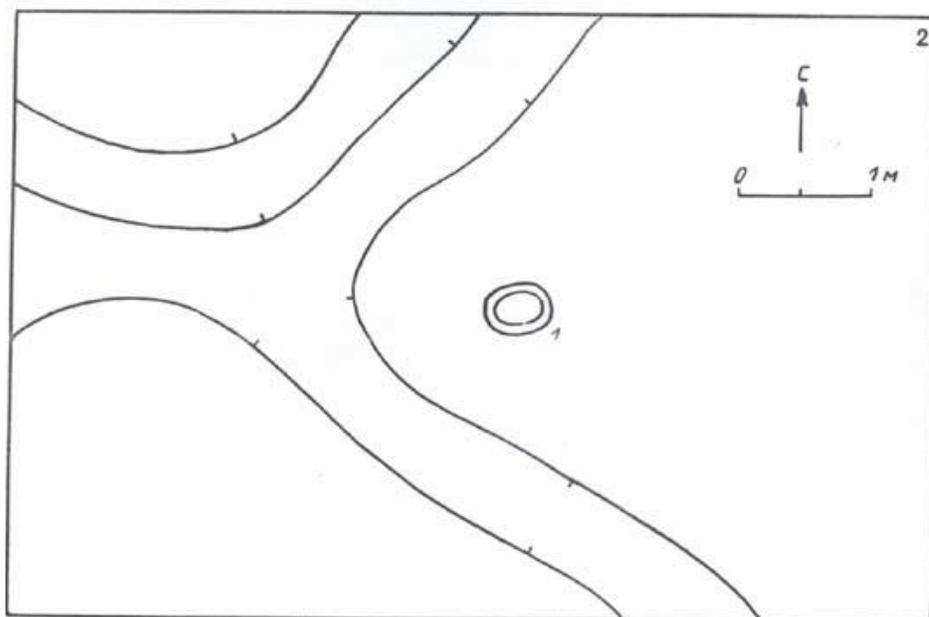
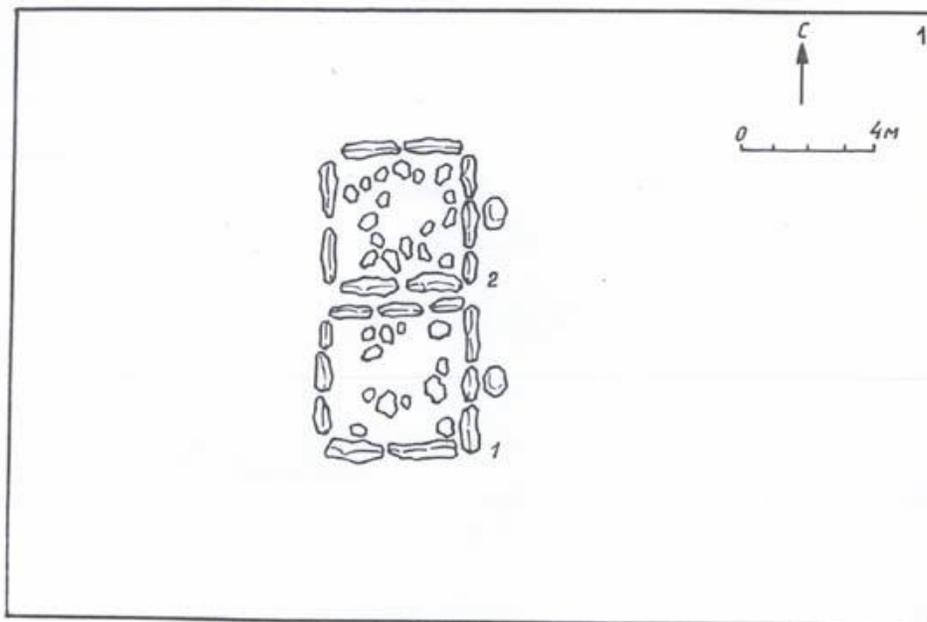
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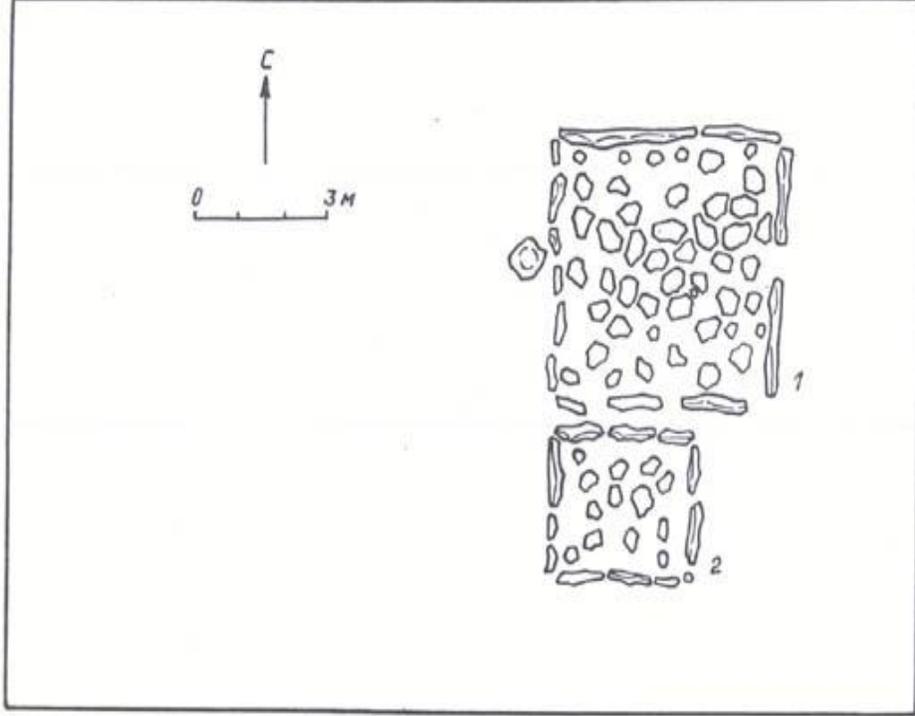


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ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW 137

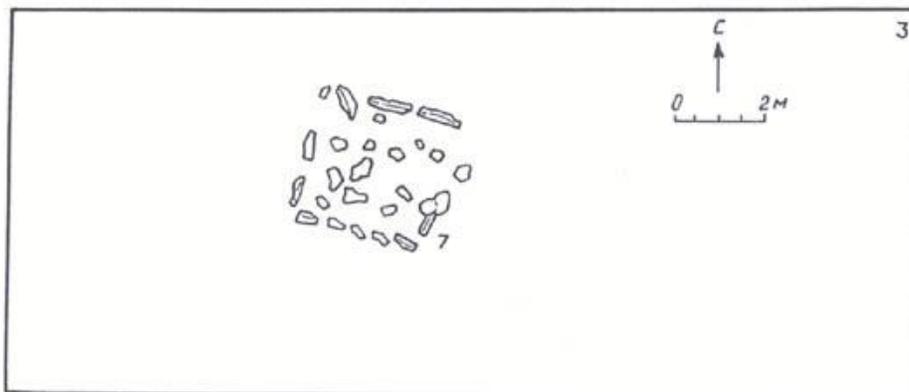
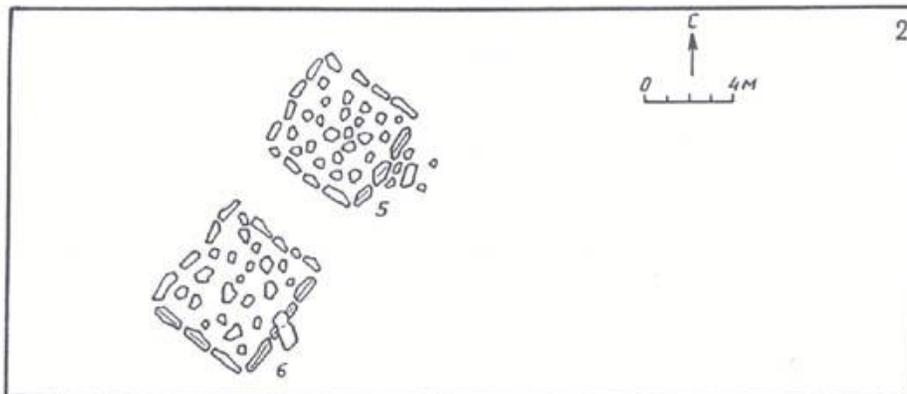
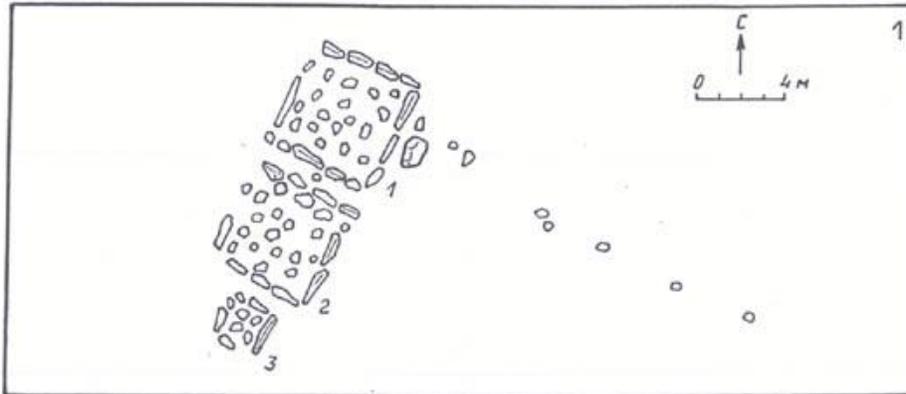


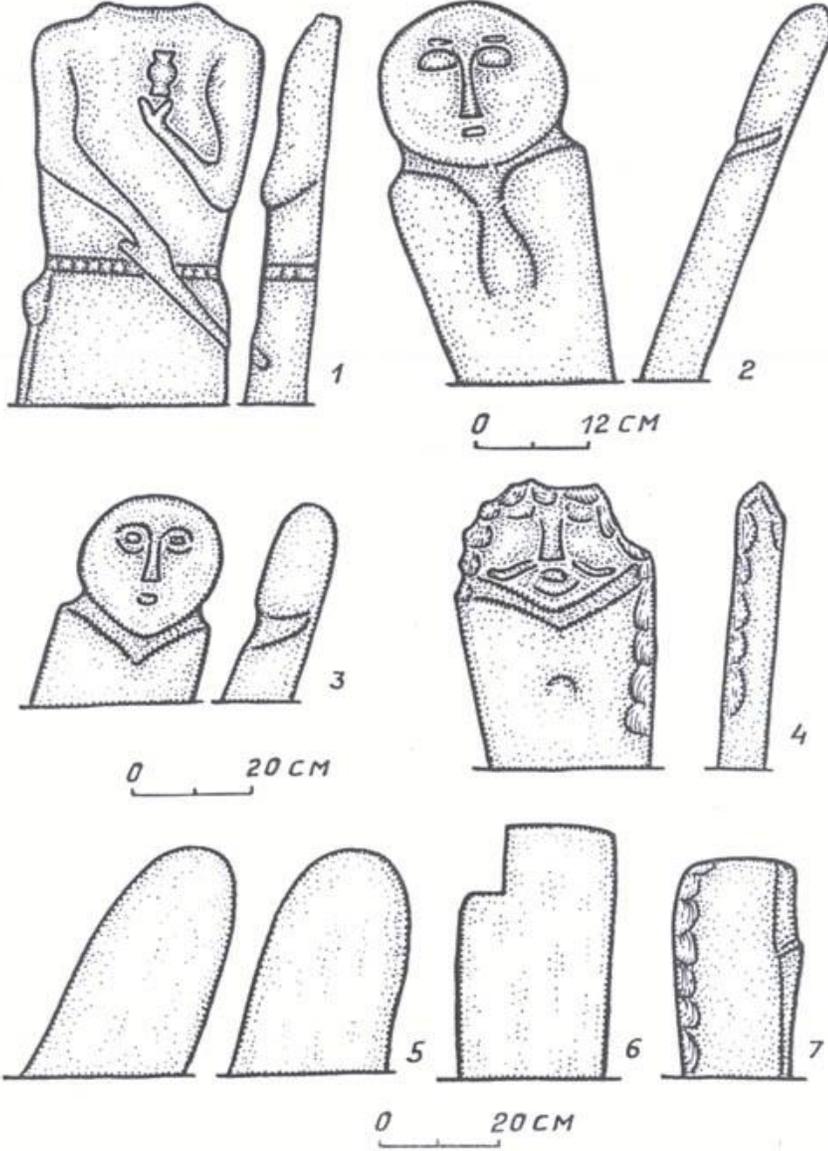


ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE  
UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW

139

2





ANCIENT TURKIC STONE STATUES IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE UBSUNURSKAJA HOLLOW 141

12

