

Рябченко Н.Н., студ. гр. 302 а ФК и СКД
БГУКИ
Научный руководитель – Платонова Э.Е.,
ст. преподаватель

HISTORICAL SACRED STONES OF BELARUS AND GREAT BRITAIN

Everyone will agree that historical monuments of ancient times and mysteries connected with them have excited people's minds for many years. And one of the most interesting examples is the existence of sacrificed stones in different parts of the world. For centuries these monuments were believed to be made for some special occasions that were shrouded with mysterious legends. But, in general, they are considered to be the people's first attempts to attract the gods, attention and get some help from them. This idea was common for ancient people in many parts of the world and it makes us to think over the events of pagan part of some European countries. The striking examples of it are the sacrificed stones of Belarus and Great Britain.

The Bulls. Perhaps the earliest folklore legends tell the stories of how certain evil magical forces have turned the living creatures into stones. These two stones remind two European bison - zoobrs - in a mortal fight.

Piarun - Stone. Piarun is Slavic God of Thunderstorm. Belarusians imagined Piarun as a tall well-built man with black hair and long golden beard. He is riding in the skies on the horse carriage. He holds lightning arrows in one hand and a joyful rainbow in another hand. Others thought that Piarun has huge mill stones in his hands. As he strikes them together the thunder and sparks - lightnings - appear. The chips of Piarun mill stones fall down on Earth [3].

Many Piarun-stones are known in Belarus. They were often used as sacrificial pagan stones.

Volas-Stone. Volas or Viales was a pagan God of prosperity and cattlemen. According to Belarusian scientists the cult of Viales could be connected with Neolithic period. This cult has survived to recent days. Typical Volas-Stones are

found in the small clearings in the forests. Surround it there are the skulls of the cattle. The ancient traders and travelers would do sacrifices to Volas before and after successful trips. At the beginning of the 20th century this cult was fought by Christian Church.

One of the stones was named after the farmers' God, had his stones, too. God of Sun Yaryla, who commanded the warmth of Sun and the Sun disk. The Dazhdzhibog they had some characteristic depressions in which sacral grain was milled for sacrificial bread, to ensure future crops [1].

In some instances the entire pagan ritual in Belarus were oriented to the ritual traditions which took place in many other countries and Volas stone is a sort of Belarusian Stonehenge.

Stonehenge is probably the most recognisable and enigmatic stone circle in Britain. The structure has fascinated people for centuries, and there are many theories as to what purpose it was put to by ancient man. Stonehenge has suffered over the years from trophy hunters, and the wear and tear of many visitors. The structure is now surrounded by a fence, which although not aesthetically pleasing is helping to preserve the monument from erosion.

It was started about 2700 B.C. by the late Neolithic people (or people of the Stone Age). Then somewhere around 2000 B.C. the Beaker people continued to build it. The people were named Beakers by the archaeologists when they found many pottery vessels in their graves. Stonehenge was built at various stages, and was finished at about 1500 B.C. Its oldest part is the outer ditch and circular bank. Inside the bank there were 56 pits which are known as the Aubrey Holes after their discoverer. John Aubrey Later a double semicircle of Bluestones was put up, and these stones were brought from the mountains in Wales by land, sea and river. At about 2000 B.C. the Bluestones were removed and two double circles were built. The inner one had the shape of a horseshoe. The circles consisted of huge upright stones each weighing about 25 tons. Some of the stones were supposed to be brought from a place about 32 kilometers north from Stonehenge, and others from Wales.

The stones have inspired many legends and folklore over the centuries. Much of the folklore seems to try and explain the origin of the circle structure as the work of giants, gods or wizards. It was probably easier to accept this than to believe that a past culture could have better technology.

The Devil bought the stones from a woman in Ireland, wrapped them up, and brought them to Salisbury plain. One of the stones fell into the Avon, the rest were carried to the plain. The Devil then cried out, "No-one will ever find out how these stones came here!" A friar replied, "That's what you think!" whereupon the Devil threw one of the stones at him and struck him on the heel. The stone stuck in the ground and is still there [2].

Over the years many theories have appeared and people continue to present their versions. One speculation is that its builders were sun-worshippers and that the monument was a temple to the Sun.

On the other hand, many scientists believe that it was used as a calendar to establish a fixed point in the year from which the annual calendar could be counted. However, the most interesting theory is that of Professor Gerald Hawkins. He filmed the sunrise and showed that the sun rose exactly over the Altar Stone. He also proved that the stone circle could contain other exact astronomical measurements.

At one time, people thought that Stonehenge was a temple used by the Druids. The Druids were a religious group among the Celtic tribes which inhabited Britain in ancient times. Some people he were a group of priests, while others consider that they acted as doctors or medicine-men Perhaps, they were both priests (shamans) and doctors who helped people morally physically. When the Romans came they forbade them them were connected with human sacrifice and cannibalism.

Today the traditions of the Druids arc kept alive by members of a sect called the "Most Ancient Order of Druids" who carry out mystic ceremonies at dawn on Midsummer's Day, or the summer solstice Every year, they meet at Stonehenge to greet the first midsummer sunlight as it *falls on the stones and they put symbolic*

elements of fire, water, bread, salt and a rose There is also a big festival of pop music attended by many young people. The celebration of the summer solstice is quite popular in different countries of the world In Belarus, for example, the tradition of celebrating the Night of Ivan Kupala is also connected with the summer solstice.

Throughout the twentieth century, Stonehenge began to be revived as a place of religious significance, this time by adherents of Neopagan and New Age beliefs, particularly the Neo-druids.

When Stonehenge was first opened to the public it was possible to walk amongst and even climb on the stones, but the stones were roped off in 1977 as a result of serious erosion. Visitors are no longer permitted to touch the stones, but are able to walk around the monument from a short distance away. English Heritage does, however, permit access during the summer and winter solstice, and the spring and autumn equinox. Additionally, visitors can make special bookings to access the stones throughout the year [2].

Stonehenge is surely Britain's greatest national icon, symbolizing mystery, power and endurance.

The stone monuments of Belarus and Great Britain are considered to be a great mystery that probably will be solved by several future generations. But there is one thing that is clear now: in spite of the geographical distance between our countries there is some invisible link that connects our cultures.

Список использованной литературы:

- 1). Русанова И.П., Тимошук Б.А. Языческие святилища древних славян. М.,1993
- 2). Хокинс Дж., "Расшифрованный Стоунхендж. Обсерватория каменного века" / пер. с англ. О.О.Дмитриевой. - М.: ЗАО "Центрполиграф", 2006. - 255 с.
- 3). Шапарова Н.С. Краткая энциклопедия славянской мифологии. М., 2001, с. 339