

discovery awaited the archeologists on a bank of the river Pechora and its tributary Ortino: the remains of the most ancient town north of the Polar Circle.

"Regular ramparts and moats, weapons we have found, work objects and domestic objects place it alongside the known Siberian sites of ancient towns," says O. Ovsyannikov, Head of the expedition and Candidate of Historical Sciences. "These finds allow us to date the ancient town from the VI-XI centuries A.D., when the Russian, that is, Novgorod influence on this region was only just beginning. So, by all appearances, this town was a tribal centre of that extinct people which in ancient historiography was known under the name of "Pechera."

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Page 4 (full text)