



KOŠĀNIYA

KOŠĀNIYA (or Košāni), a medieval Sogdian town to the west of [Samarkand](#). Its name is most probably related to the Yuezhi Kušān dynasty (see [KUSHAN DYNASTY](#))—or, more probably, its claimed heirs, such as the [Kidarites](#) (see Aman ur Rahman et al., p. 128), who once controlled [Sogdiana](#) in the 5th century CE. Ethnic adjectives based on the place name, Sogd. (ʾ)kwšʾnyk(ʾ), are attested in several Sogdian texts (see Sims-Williams, pp. 54-55).

The Chinese sources, namely the itinerary of Xuanzang and the history of the Tang dynasty (*Tangshu*), describe 7th-century Košāniya and its lands as the “country He” (Early Middle Chinese *ɣa), a name which possibly reflects Avestan Gauua-, another name for Sogdiana (see Tomaschek, pp. 89 ff.; see also [AVESTAN GEOGRAPHY](#)). It was also called Qushuangnijia or Guishuangni, that is, *Kušānī(k). The only king we know of bore the name Podadi; he organized an embassy in 650-55 CE, which was approved by the Tang court. The *Tangshu* relates that to the east of the town was a pavilion where the king performed his morning prayers. The Chinese emperor was depicted on the northern wall of this pavilion, the Turkic rulers, on the eastern; the southern wall depicted the Indians, and Persians with Syrians were depicted on the western. The organization of these paintings resembles that of the “Ambassador Hall” excavated in [Afrāsīāb](#) (see Grenet).

No details are known about the Arab conquest of Košāniya, although the title Košān(i)šāh is mentioned by [Ṭabari](#) and [Ebn Kordāqbeh](#), but without any relation to the Košāniya principality (see Barthold, p. 96). The 10th- to 11th-century Košāniya is described as being the “heart of Sogdiana” (*ibid.*) and the



area with the highest population within this country; the town was equal in size to its neighbor, Eštikan, but its district was smaller. During the **Qarakhanid** period, a mint was located in Košāniya (coins issued between 396 and 416 H./1005-26; see Kochnev). Following this period, Košāniya disappears from historical records; however, the village Kašān-(atā) to the west of Kattakurghan seems to have preserved the name of Košāniya through the Timurid period (see Vyatkin, p. 49) up to the present day. During recent archeological surveys, a site tentatively identifiable with Košāniya has been found near this village (see Raspopova and Shishkina, p. 53), but M. Isamiddinov and B. Rondelli (p. 118) propose, differently, to identify Košāniya with the site Kozokota in the western part of Miyankal.

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