

Ethno-Historical Significance of Basic Artistic Handicraft Branches of Ganja

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ABSTRACT

Have been researched the historic-ethnographical importance of development of the main traditional branches of craftsmanship of Ganja. For the first time were systematic investigated the basic skill characteristics of different wares of these handicraft branches and its significance in research of artistic craftsmanship traditions. The main moments of historic-ethnographical importance of development of the main traditional branches of craftsmanship of Ganja in this scientific work for the first time has been systematic investigated on the basis of innovative technologies and facts. Also were researched the basic skill characteristics of different wares of these traditional handicraft branches. Internal conditions of craft department reflected a sort of employment of his owner. In these departments worked the master and his pupils. In a life of the population of Ganja the role of craft products was great.

Keywords: handicraft branches, Ganja, ethnographical investigation, Azerbaijan

INTRODUCTION

During centuries Ganja city considered as one of the main urban cultures and located on the ancient caravan routes, so merchants, travelers, scientists and cultural workers from different countries of the world visited Ganja, and first of all, their visiting helped our nation to integrate their spiritual values to all mankind civilizations. Ganja is one of the oldest cities and has more than 4000 years old as an urban center. Development of some local handicraft branches in this city historically offered necessary facilities for progress of urban culture.

Investigation of ancient craftsmanship traditions on the basis of local craft wares of Ganja is very important. History and art of Azerbaijan people as rich and colorful as its nature. On decorations of this descriptive art are reflected spiritual world, living style, customs and traditions of our nation. These pearls of art on material preparing and processing techniques are divided into different kinds. Among these types of craft metal treatment is mostly developed and has ancient history [Guliyeva, N. M., & Häsänov, E. L. 2014].

SCOPE, OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The main aim of our investigations is research of significance of local handicraft traditions of Ganja on the basis of new methods and innovative technologies [Azerbaijan ethnography. 2007].

Abundance of local raw materials created favorable conditions for development of metal treatment from ancient times. In general, in the third millennium BC there was high culture of the Bronze Age in our country, and in the first millennium transition period from Bronze Age to Iron Age began. In that period in Azerbaijan there were appeared several branches of metallurgy treatment. Jewelries, daggers, arms, copper products and other samples of art have

been treated so refined, that in nowadays they are protected as very valuable exhibits in famous museums. Works of art, made from metal, for their content and their form are divided into two major groups:

1. Products of art
2. Household goods

Household equipment, works of art, agriculture instruments, that made by Ganja crafts, have been executed into two main technical methods:

- a. Casting
- b. Forging

In middle ages in spheres of gentle and applied art, Ganja of inhabitants of territory, in agriculture life bone was widely applied. Bone products, raw materials that found during investigations in and around Ganja prove, that time bone processing separated from other spheres of craftsmanship. Osteology analysis prove, that most of samples are prepared from the bone of bull, cow, deer among big horde animals and sheep, goat, boar among little horde animals. Only deeding investigations in Mingachevir there were found a lot of samples of combs, agriculture instruments, art and other bone things. Such kind of bone samples also were found in monument complexes territory of Injachay and Kerpikli in Goranboy region during excavation. Art samples and dice for playing nard, found in territory Shatal, also attracts our attention. These samples of art make more ancient history of city culture of Azerbaijan and in whole play nard. There were found knife handles, rare geometrical decorations, samples of pipe and other instruments here. During excavations there was found bone products that used as raw materials and cutting with pipe. In XI- XIII centuries this sphere of art was developing mostly. This thought is proved with a lot of bone and horn, found in zone of excavation. This period from bone there were prepared buttons, knives and etc. Found during archeological excavations and used in wooden treatment and knife, showed that at the beginning of XI – XIII in and around Ganja this sphere of craftsmanship in exist. Bone boards with circular surface molding decoration were found in Mingechaur, in Khogali barrow № 2, Sarichoban, Borsunlu and others. Monument, that including to Borsunlu Complex is finishing with small wheel desk from bone and two omlets, prepared from teeth of boar. In this period also were prepared such kind of agriculture instruments as wood shovel, rake and etc. But they didn't reach nowadays [Guliyeva, N.M., & Häsänov, E.L. 2014].

METHODOLOGY

In Ganja, that know as the ancient cultural center, the saddle-making handicraft differed from others with rich old traditions. First time preparation of the vehicles was house profession. But afterwards saddle preparation needed of qualified skilled masters, so a new type of art saddle-making, started to form.

Historically the traditional art of saddle-making in Ganja developed in direction of cargo and passenger saddle making. The art of saddle-making within the local saddle-types and their components were determined on a specialization. The production of cargo or pack –saddle a rule was engaged by pack-saddle maker. For this reason, in most cases, the profession was called trade of pack-saddle maker [Smith, W. B., & Hasanov, E. L. 2013].

Afterwards military, economic and transportation significance of hoarse was decrease, the demand for goods of saddle-making also was decrease. The reason of primitive saddle-making decreasing was wide sale of cheaper factory products.

History and art of Azerbaijan people as rich and colorful as its nature. On decorations of this descriptive art are reflected spiritual world, living style, customs and traditions of our nation. These pearls of art on material preparing and processing techniques are divided into different kinds. Among these types of craft metal treatment is mostly developed and has ancient history. Abundance of local raw materials created favorable conditions for development of metal treatment from ancient times. In general, in the third millennium BC there was high culture of the Bronze Age in our country, and in the first millennium transition period from Bronze Age to Iron Age began. In that period in Azerbaijan there were appeared several branches of metallurgy treatment. Jewelries, daggers, arms, copper products and other samples of art have been treated so refined, that in nowadays they are protected as very valuable exhibits in museums.

Made of precious metals gold and silver jewelries, that prepared by Ganja masters, are divided into 4 groups for wearing and putting:

1. Neck jewelries - it is included such kind of jewelries, that gold piece coin, imperial, cardamom or barley, medallions, woman jewelries in ribbon form, bracelets, different kinds of beads and etc.
2. Jewelries for arms and fingers – this group include bracelets, bangles and rings with various precious stones as (turquoise, rubies, pearls and etc.).
3. Head jewelries – skull-cap and others.
4. Jewelries for clothiers [Guliyeva, N.M., & Hasanov, E.L. 2013].

In the first half of the XVIII-XIX centuries, as well as in other parts of Azerbaijan, in Ganja household objects, forging weapons and jewelries that made from metal were decorated with 6 technical ways.

(1) Tattooing; (2) Basma (Pushing); (3) Karasavad, (4) Ornament; (5) Khatemkarliq; (6) Mitering [Azerbaijan ethnography. 2007]

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Ganja and its surrounded territory are also rich with different stones. Presentation of white and in mountain and Aran Karabakh and also lime, traverse and marble building stones in and around Ganja, pure white, a lot of colored agates, chalcedony, veil, ametist, obsidian, agates, crystal and other kind of rare colored stones in the river basins of Shahdaq Kecheldaq, and other territories created favorable ground for developing in this ancient country from ancient times stone cutting, stone grind, stone polishing and for building great modern, columned, arched, circled and four-cornered buildings here.

Similar with it, but founding stone potter with simple surface in grave kurgan № 12 also proves it. Founding such kind of things on Uzerlik tepe also proves our thoughts. Some at the materials consist of mace stone. They coincidence to height grave borrow № 1. Mace stone have spherical form. They are similar with materials in Middle Bronze period [Stern, S.M. 1960].

Base-columns, capitals, that are symbols of irreplaceable art, part of columns, different man monuments, masonry art symbols, that have Ganja, agriculture and religious meaning, especially grave monuments and phalluses, collections of different colored (red, brown, black, grey and other rare colored) stamps and symbols of decorations, that were found in Azerbaijan during archeological investigations prove it. The best samples of monuments, that concern to stone treatment are consists of column props, mill and gridding stones. In whole there were founded in and around Ganja a lot of samples, that concern to X century. They are

consisting of stone figure, mills and column props. But stone equipment, found in Ganja, Shamkir and Shatal prepared from mill and candlestick. Mill is usually prepared from volcanic, quartz, limestone and basalt. They used for grinding seed, millet and slot and for other aims [Guliyeva, N.M., & Hasanov, E.L. 2013].

We meet mostly mill stones, scales and pumice stone in stone treatment. At the same time there were used hewed stones for decorating buildings. In this period there were prepared decorations from precious stone. Different colored stone samples and agreements, that found in monuments of Shamakhi, Barda, Mingechaur, Qakh, Ismayilli, Quba and other regions are the best symbols of art, painting, religion, heroism and art themes of Azerbaijan. Such kind of fleece monuments have been found in village Gurzalilar of Goranboy region, in Goygol, Dashkesan and Samuch and investigated here. It is interesting, that from the workshop of these monuments have been found instruments of masters and samples of raw-materials. All these aspects show, that inhabitant of Middle Ages in and around Ganja from the ancient period did masonry, gridding and stone treatment. This sphere of art in developed middle Ages could be in high level. And rare magnificent architectural monuments in and around Ganja that stay till nowadays, prove it.

In the territory of Azerbaijan the oldest samples of wood treatment were found in the territory of ancient Ganja. Around Ganja area – in the region of Lake Goy-gol in the IV-III millennium BC have been discovered wooden thicker board, also wooden sugar bowl, that concern to the end of the II millennium BC, found in Mingechevir pitcher grave are material evidences of science thoughts.

Along with the works and notes of medieval authors and travelers, a lot of material samples, found in the territory of ancient Ganja, also found in Mingechevir and concern to Middle Ages trough, ladle, wooden threshing board, shows that in Ganja wood treatment and sculptor art have a rich tradition.

Wood treatment products historically have been represented in various fields of social and cultural life in Ganja:

1. Kitchen appliances: trough, quadruped, rolling-pin, mortar and pestle, ladle, spoon, trough.

Ganja kitchen with its national characteristics is differs from other regions of Azerbaijan. The cooked dishes, prepared sweets, sherbet (sweet drink) are differing for their tasty and manufacturing technology. Ganja has a positive impact on national food composition in the human body, is the health service [*Azerbaijan ethnography*. 2007].

It is important to know that one of the areas of initially appeared human civilization was an integral part of Azerbaijan, the historical land of the city Ganja. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja was cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East.

CONCLUSION

Ganjabasar is one of the richest areas from archaeological point of view. As a result of archaeological investigations here were found samples of material culture that concerned to the stages of different history period. Today most of them are kept in various museums of the world. The flint tools, that found in Gillikdag workshop and camp around Ganja, ladle, that were found here, give the reason to say, that people, who lived in this area in VII - VI millennium BC were the founders of the Late Stone Age culture.

Archaeological investigations prove that in this period the main population of this region had sedentary lifestyle and were engaged with farming. In V millennium BC in Ganja region all

known to us domestic animals were domesticated. This fact is approved with osteology remainders that were found during archaeological excavations.

The formation of pottery on the territory of ancient Ganja is concern to the stages of ancient history. Basis on research works carried out by the various persons in XIX century and experts-archeologists at the beginning of XX century in old ruins of the city and surrounding areas there were found different samples of pottery [Hasanov, E.L. 2014a].

First of all, there have been discovered, that initial ceramic production in Ganja and its surrounding regions are belong to the VIII-VII millennium BC. From the history point of view, these ancient clay vessels, belonging to the Neolithic stage, are differing from the pottery samples of the neighboring ethnic in number characteristics. These differences are seen in preparing technology, also in the area of external surface decoration.

From the construction point of view, samples of pottery, that concern to Antique period, also to the period of Hellenism in Ganja, differed in various forms:

1. Pictorial vases
2. Ceramic figures
3. Connected dishes

Pottery dishes, that concern to the first stages of Middle Ages of Ganja, are differing from the ceramic samples of Antique period in two features:

1. On shape.
2. For preparing techniques.

Potter's products of the Early Middle Ages of Ganja and its regions for their technical characteristic are divided into 2 major groups: glazed ceramic products and unglazed ceramic products.

The main types of samples of ancient clay toys in Ganja regions are the follows:

1. Rattle
2. Zoomorphic figures
3. Toy dishes

The end of middle Ages and New Period. In this historical period in Ganja and its regions ceramic has following kinds: 1. Building ceramic materials. 2. Unglazed ceramic products. 3. Glazed ceramic products [Quasebarth, J. W., & Hasanov, E. L. 2014].

For Middle Ages and New period among pottery products of Ganja ceramic samples as clay construction materials have great importance. First of all, glazed bricks that used in construction of most buildings in the XVII-XVIII centuries, and also in great monuments and the main construction material- air-dried bricks, attracted attention. In addition to the found samples in residential areas as a result of archaeological excavations, also were found a lot of brick spoilages. According to such kind mass finding of brick spoilages, we can make the conclusion, that the bricks used in construction of buildings in Ganja, were wares of local production [Hasanov, E. L. 2014b]. As in many places, production of wool, cotton and silk in and around Ganja made necessary emergence and development of weaving.

Becoming weaving one of the ancient spheres of crafts in and around Ganja was connected with the rich raw material base here. Presence of useful plant species for textile, including cotton, high level development of wool area of agriculture- sheep and goat breeding, camel breeding, horse breeding, presence of cotton cropping in Middle Ages and finally, regular

expansion of silkworm breeding in this area created a foundation for growth of weaving here [Häsänov, E. L. 2014].

In this scientific work importance of typical local wares of handicraft branches of Ganja was investigated for the first time in research of historical formation and development of the main Urban culture elements and construction feature – craftsmanship blocks (quarters).

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