

Some Problems of Investigation of Traditional Local Decorative-Applied Arts of Ganja

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Abstract:

Scientific article deals with the research of historic-ethnographical importance of development of the main traditional branches of craftsmanship in Ganja on the basis of innovative technologies and facts. For the first time in this work were systematic investigated the basic skill characteristics of different wares of these handicraft branches.

Ganja city, which located on an altitude of 400-450 meters above sea level, is situated on the west of Azerbaijan, 375-kms to the west from the capital city Baku, on Ganja-Kazakh plain, that located in the Kura - Araz lowland, at the foot of the Lesser Caucasus on the north-east. Ganja is situated in the Western part of Azerbaijan and has more than 3000 years old. During centuries in this ancient cultural and scientific center developed different branches of craftsmanship. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja was cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East.

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 by a

prominent Azerbaijani archaeologist Isaac Jafarzade, 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.

During 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 Mingechaurs 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 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 till nowadays.

Key words: Ganja, handicraft branches, historic-ethnographical investigation, decorative-applied arts, innovative technologies, Azerbaijan

Introduction

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 [1]. Among archaeological equipment there have been found two big boards from stone “camel eyes”. Base-columns, capitels, 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.

These rare discovers in and around Ganja are known from the archaeological investigations in ancient cultural, art and trade centers of Azerbaijan, such as Mingachevir, Barda, Baku, Smamakha, Qabala, Ganja, Shatal, Beylagan, Shabran, Khazakh, Qakh, Quba, Qushchu, Shargah, Torpaggala and other archaeological and architecture complexes. 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, slot and for other aims [3]. 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. Traditional textile of art of silk weaving products has a special place in Ganja. In the city formed two main method of silk treatment - the first was spinning and second winding.

From the point of view silkworm breeding development and its preparing technology there were two main forms of production: so-called raw silk weaving and felt weaving. In this important technological processes it has such kind of production stages as cocoon opening, silk initial processing, preparing of raw silk, weaving technology, painting and decoration. In the ancient Ganja during the stage of the Middle Ages the great progress of silkworm was represented by raw silk weaving. For this reason, on the basis of local traditions production of delicate silk textiles from raw silk. There were made such kind of important samples of art as atlas and kelaqai (silk kerchief). We must pay attention to the moment that differs from the other silk fabrics, kelaqai was prepared by specialists. But

distinctly of production of raw silk that was city silkworm breeding and was man activity, felt production was woman work. 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 [4].

Afterwards military, economic and transportation significance of horse 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.

Materials and methods

There is no any source about glass production in and around Ganja. The majority of archaeologists agreed with the idea, that the homeland of glass production is ancient Egypt, but the famous English archaeologist, Egyptologist Petri Flinders thought, that it could be Mesopotamia or the Caucasus. Taking into account that cobalt, used in glass coloring wasn't in Egypt, the scientists thought that, it could be in the Caucasus, also in Dashkesan.

Samples of glass decorations, of BC, we met in the patterns of Ganjachay, Mingechevir, Xachbulaq and others. In these areas, the first centuries BC were found in samples of the glass plate. The majority of containers and the analysis based on graphical elements of the Roman scholars came to the

opinion that the samples of the same scale as the Roman Empire through trade.

There are more than 2000 beads in complex materials. Colored beads have prepared of different types products. Mostly distinguish beads that prepared from blue green and grey paste. A group of beads made of bone and antimony.

A part of the hanging beads were prepared from cockleshells "Nassagibbosula" and "Suraeva Moneta». According to expert's thoughts, such kind of cockleshell that widely spared in the Indian and Pacific Ocean, also the Eastern Mediterranean region were put to Azerbaijan with economic relations. Among the materials of Borsunlu Complex are differ with number of beats in majority and form. In III-V centuries, the local craftsmen themselves also became to produce better-designed containers. Among the local clay and glass utensils that found in and around Ganja there were big similarity in the form and also in the decoration.

All the glass dishes found in and around Ganja are similar with the local clays on decoration of that period. Glass dishes were containing of iron, cobalt, magnesium and other elements, that were specific elements for Ganja and its surroundings. The development history of this sphere of craftsmanship can be determined only through archaeological research. In general, information about the development of this sphere of was found in 1959-1960 years, glass products in and around Ganja was obtained only at the end of the twentieth century.

Results of archaeological excavations in the territory of Azerbaijan and research show that in the preparation of glass utensils were two technical methods: casting method and the method of blowing. The first of these methods is more ancient, but in the Early Middle Ages and Middle Ages were used both of them. Produced glass alloys were transparent colored. By the addition of dusts of various metals in glass alloys people got colored glasses. We can see also to get her with different tinted

green glasses also parts of blue, black and pink colored glass dish in sections of IX-X century in Shatal and Ganja. In IX-X centuries appeared dishes, that had handle and spout. Glass products, obtained in Ganja and Shatal in the IX-X centuries, find their similarities in dwelling places of the Middle Ages in Barda, Beylagan, Mingechevir, also in the obtained materials of the neighboring republics of the same period.

Among decorations of that period yellow, white and red beads of round and plain form are met mostly. At the beginning of X-XIII centuries development of production of glass in and around Ganja characterized by improvement from the technology point of view. Archaeological researchs show, that outside of the cities in the VIII-IX centuries, also big settlements were established. This is often due to density in cities. 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.

Results and discussion

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.
2. Transport means: sleigh, car, and ski.
3. Weaving tools: comb, face.

4. Household tools: harrow, wooden plow, threshing board, spade, wooden shouvel, pitchfork, rake.

5. Musical instruments: saz, ud, tar, chamahcha, tambourine, drum.

Along with the mosque Cuma (Shah Abbash), that constructed in 1606, local samples of trade ornamentals, that built in Sheikh Javad Khan Street, that have 3 century history and was built in the nineteenth century in building of Sheikh Nizami Ganjavy's (1141-1209) representatives Sheikhzamanlylars property and, that was restored in 2011, are attractive especial attention [5].

The craftsmanship of carpet-making is one of the important cultural achievements of the Eastern people in Azerbaijan production of carpets appeared during I millennium BC. But carpet-making in the first period of Middle Ages has turned to the independent sphere of craft. In Ganja, that has minimum 3000 years history, production of carpets differed with quickly development. In this ancient city, that is native land of great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Sheikh Nizami Ganjavi, were weaved very uncial, inimitable kinds of carpet. In Ganja, that has rich traditions, were prepared carpets with various characteristics. For this reason one of Azerbaijani carpet groups are Ganja carpets or (Ganja-Kazakh carpets). Pay attention that in Ganja namely local kinds of carpets-palaz (carpets without of pile) are weaved [6]. These carpets that are produced by local inhabitants are differing with specific handicraft features:

1. Ganja carpets are differing with pile.
2. Thickness indicators of such kind of carpets with comparatively small number attract attention (25 x30).
3. Composition is more distinct and simple.
4. Most of ornamental patterns have geometrical features.
5. In coloring carpet samples were used bright colors.

6. Local carpet masters skillfully used buta's amatively patterns [6].

The size of Ganja's carpets begins from 3 square meters to 10 square meters. There are 2 important carpets groups:

1. Ornamental carpets.
2. Carpets with a plot.

Majority of local wool products, richness of natural colors and existence professional carpet-making women made for quick development carpet making craftsmanship in Ganja and in its surround territories.

Just only in 1845 there were produced 2969 carpets in Ganja. Among them products of 1784 manats have been exported. Also, from Ganja province there were exported 23 thousand pod in 1886, 30 thousand 275 pod in 1889, 33 thousand 156 pod in 1893, and 37 thousand 228 pod in 1913 carpets by railway. One part of these qualitative Ganja carpets has been transported with Batumi part top Turkey to Istanbul, and from there to West Europe and North America [7].

In whole at the beginning of IX- XX century the quality of carpet craftsmen were more than XX thousand. At the result of it during a lot of years were prepared such kind of qualities carpets as "Kohne Ganja"("Old Ganja"), "Phahrali", "Chiraqli", "Chayli", "Samukh", "Zeyva", "Sarisi", "Shadilli". In this period in Ganja were produced as carpet with pile, also carpets without pile. Such kind of carpets without pile as phalas, kilim, holdall, bead, verni, sumach, heybe, carpet – bag were different with qualities and colored ornamental elements. Especially we must say that Ganja carpets have always been valued for its quality and art characteristics. As the result of in IX – XX centuries most of Ganja carpets were showed in world in fluent exhibition. In 1850, 1852 and 1912 years in Tbilisi, in 1896 – in Nijni Novgorod, in 1900 year in Paris, in 1911 year in Turn Ganja carpets were showed and highly in international exhibition. Nowadays, Ganja's carpets are kept in authoritative museums of world, and also in collection of different people. The

studying of Ganja's carpets for art characteristics quality form science point of view is very important for investigation heritage of world culture [8].

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 famous museums in such cities, as Paris, London, Brussels, Istanbul, Tehran and other cities.

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:

- 1) Casting
- 2) Forging

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,"

iyirmibeshlik”(25), medallions ,” bogazaltı” (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 [9].

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 made from metal were decorated with different technical ways. 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. In addition, during the research work in Mingachevir, Kazakh, Shamakhi, Sargah, Pirsaat River Basin monuments there have been found whole and parts of weaving loom and different sizes of clay and bone samples that consist to weaving [9].

Conclusion

Mousey Kalankatly notes that along the banks of the Kura River there are the large amount of silk (mulberry tree) and cotton. Arab author who lived in the X century Al-Istakhri gives big information about, that in Barda in ownerless gardens were cultivated mulberry leaves and silkworm, then mulberry silk sent to Farsistan and Khusistan for sale. His contemporary and fellow townsman Ibn Hovqal gives information about preparation of silk clothing from them. Also, Al-Istaxri

provides detailed information about cutting of textile in Derbend. The art of Textile materials, that concern to weaving craft, consists of spindle heads and needles. The remnants of dying from the Shamkir, Ganja, Shatal and Khunan prove development of dying here. Plant remains have been widely used in dying. In traditional production of cloth manufactory trade historically played an important place. This kind of craft that developed on the basis of local raw materials was tied with cotton-growing economy. Since the time of the early Middle Ages, Ganja as Tabriz, Ordubad have been the main center of Azerbaijan in production of cotton cloth. In this ancient city printed cotton and calico fabrics have been widely produced. In traditional cloth productions the main place took the urban mines. In the early 30s of the XIX century in Ganja there were more than 164 people - weaving. The majority of these artists were weaving. In Ganja, which was the most important center of cloth production were produced different kinds of cotton cloth. Only in the 30s of the XIX century in Ganja were presently working 30 cloth bench. During one year this machine were producing 2000 of white cloth, 200 top of red cloth (shale) and nearly 400 benchchalamaya (thin cloth) spoke [7].

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. 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 as pictorial vases, ceramic figures, connected dishes. During the end of Middle Ages and New Period in Ganja and its regions ceramic has following kinds as building ceramic materials, unglazed ceramic products, glazed ceramic products. 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 [9].

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