

History of ancient craftsmanship in Khorezm (As an example of pottery history)

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Abstract: In the early Iron Age, cattle-breeding tribes lived in the territory of ancient Khorezm. On the monuments of Amirabad culture, Kuyusay and Meshekli found stucco ceramics. At the end of 7th and at the beginning of the 6th century BC, in Khorezm, pottery was prepared on a potter's wheel and burned in two-tier furnaces. They used red engobe from the Achaemenid era, which was a feature of Khorezm pottery ceramics. Ceramics were produced for the domestic market. From the 4th century BC revealed local features in the production of ceramics. Large pottery workshops organized for the redistribution of cities. Ceramics were produced for the foreign market.

Keywords: ceramics, stucco ceramics, horn, potter's wheel, Humbuztepa

The most ancient and widely used form of handicraft in human history is pottery. Pottery is not only the most important element of human life, it is also an crucial resource in the study of the life of the past. The type, composition, and decoration of pottery items can determine the lifestyle, areas, times and social structures of people.

Ceramics were made in two different ways:

1. They were handmade and cooked in open fires. This method of preparation was typical of the Neolithic, Eneolithic periods and nomadic cattle breeders.
2. The pottery was cooked in two or one-deck oven. There were two types of pottery wheel: hand-wheel and foot-wheels. Earthenware, made of fine clay, thinner on the feet and baked in two-deck, was of the highest quality.

In ancient Khorezm, in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, ceramic crafts were gradually developed. Researchers have observed the evolution of ceramic production in the ancient Khorezm region, from the early Iron Age to the Middle Ages [Vorobyeva M.G., 1959, p. 85].

The ceramics of ancient Khorezm were clearly analyzed, in the article by M.G.Vorobyeva “Керамика Хорезма античного периода” (Khorezm ceramics in antiquity) . This scientific article is still a benchmark for studying the history of ceramics. The bases of the research are the following monuments: Kuzaliqir, Jingilji, Qoirilganqala, Qalali-qir, Topraqqala, Anqaqala. There was extensive analysis of ceramics and ovens there.

M.G.Vorobyeva based her research on chronological classification of ceramic items proposed by S.P.Tolstov [Vorobyeva V.G.1959, p.65]. She analyzed periods separately : the Archaic, the Kangyuy and the Kushan periods. This classification is analyzed later by researchers, as in the 4th century BC the ancient Khorezm was an independent state. Therefore, the period from the 4th BC to the 4th centuries AD was given as the history of the ancient Khorezm state by historians [Bolelov S.B.2013, p. 16].

Early Iron Age, BC in 9th - 8th centuries the inhabitants of Amirabad culture scattered on the banks of the Akchadarya used handmade items. Their ceramic items were rounded body, flat-bottomed, strongly curved corolla or without corolla.

Crockeries were thick and molded, as the ceramic clay contains large amounts of gravel [Tolstov S.P. 1948, p.69]. On the flange of ceramic vessels were ornamental patterns. The ceramics of Amirabad culture were found in the Bazarqala. They were handmade and decorated with light red colour. [Gulyamov Ya.G. 1959, p. 81]. The Amirabad residents as a whole were engaged in baking the pottery. They have done this in open settlements or on special hills [Bolelov S.B. 2013, p. 5]. The ceramic cookware was cooked in large open ceramic bonfire. while the pot was well ripe. Among the earthenware

found in the culture of Amirabad, there were well-cooked dishes. Since the last Amirabad era, people began to use potter's wheel [Tolstov S.P. 1948, p. 70].

In the 8th -5th centuries BC in ancient Khorezm region was inhabited by the population of Kuyisoy culture and Meshekli monument. Because they were cattle-breeders, they made hand-made pottery and painted red angob [Baratov S.R. 2007, p. 26,27].

The people of ancient Khorezm during the early Iron Age used pottery products in primitive ways. However, radical changes in the society at the end of the 7th century and the beginning of the 6th century have affected the pottery sphere. The potters now make ceramic items on the potter's wheel, bake them in two-deck ovens, and bring them to the domestic market. The shape of the ceramic bottles was also radically different from the earlier times.

The oldest finds in ancient Khorezm was found at the Humbuztepa Monument, dating to the end of the sixth century. It was round, bunk and with a vertical chimney. It was built in the middle of the first millennium, similar to the ovens found in the Marghian region (Bolelov S.B. 2013, p.7). There was a workshop next to oven where the ceramic items were made.

In the Humbuztepa monument, crafts workshops and numerous pottery and trash dumps were found. The size of the ovens was from 2.2 to 7.5 meters, and around it were gray, scrap fragments, dishes for cooking, crumb and raw bricks were found. These findings confirm that Humbuztepa was the center for the production of ceramics.

Large xums with different stamps were found on the Humbuztepa. Researchers believe these might be masters' stamps . [Yatsenko S.A. 2001, p. 95]. However there were not such signs in the Humbuztepa III in the 4th and 3rd centuries. On the contrary, from this time on, ceramic dishes, before cooking, were marked by simple blades, and such ceramic containers were found throughout the Khorezm region [Bolelov S.B. 1997, p. 8]. Researchers believe that through the Khumbuztepa, handicrafts were spread throughout ancient Khorezm. All the excavations found in other areas are related to ancient

times The three khoums, which are found in the around of Ko'zaliqir and Jingilji fortress, are also belong to the archaic period.

In the VI-V centuries B.C, some of the pottery things were made by pottery distaff during the reign of Achaemenid. Archaeologists expressed this as an archaic period. In VI-IV centuries B.C, 31 places are registered, which were produced crockery productions, in the south Aral Sea territory. There are 178 khoundon in the archaeological map. However, only 38 of them have been fully investigated [Bolelov S.B. 1997, p. 64]. Excavations of this period, khoundon were found in the monuments of Kuzalikir, Jingilje, Bazarqala, Hazarasp, Humbuztepa and their surroundings. The xumdon were double-stepped and rounded. The chimneys were set in a straight, vertical shape. Researchers suggest that such xumdon and distaffs of pottery were brought to ancient Khorezm by people of Margiana or Bactria. The analysis of ceramics and ovens found in Margiana and Bactria justifies this idea.

In the Archaic period, the use of red angob was used in the painting of ceramics in ancient Khorezm. This shows the peculiarity of Khorezm ceramics [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p. 81].

During the Archaic period, differences were also observed in the processing of making xum. Khoums were made with distaff in ancient Khorezm, whereas in Sughd they were made by hand. [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p. 80]. The khoums were flat, the lower part was straight and wide. Their height is 0.80-1 meters, and 0.45-0.50 meters wide, where grain products are stored [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p. 83]. Such large khom vessels were found only in the settled population engaged in farming. Ancient Khorezm in the fourth century BC is mentioned in written sources as an independent state [Bolelov S.B., 1997, p. 11]. In the 4th century B.C ancient cities of Khorezm was revived and trade and craftsmanship developed. There were great successes in the field of pottery. Special crafts workshops have been set up. Each pottery center has 10 to 12 hearth, 13 khoundon dating fourth and second centuries B.C were studied. They were all double-stepped, with a sheer chimney [Bolelov S.B, 1997, p. 11].

The ceramics workshop of that period was built on the abandoned Kuzalikir monument at that time. This workshop dates back to the 8th century AD and found 8 khoumdon with waste and household waste. The khoumdons were arranged in pairs. This pottery workshop is located 7 km away from the Kalalykir 2 monument. Researchers believe that this workshop provided pottery products for the religious center, Kalaikirir 2 [Bolelov S.B., 2013, p. 13].

The remains of a pottery workshop with 5 to 8 oval remains were also found around the Kuykirilgankala. No traces of accommodation were found in such workshops. They were built near waterways and near the big cities. With this in mind, researchers suggest that craftsmen in such workshops may work seasonally and only work for a specific period of time [Bolelov S.B., 2006. p. 122].

In ancient Khorezm, craft workshops were built near the big cities. Only within the fortress of Khazarasp ancient khoumdon and area, which was covered with bricks, were found in two ruins of the 4th century BC [Vorobyeva M.G., M.S.Lapirova-Skoblo, 1963, p. 168-170]. In other ancient states of Central Asia, except for Khorezm, especially crockery workshops were built within the city. [Bolelov S.B. 2013, p.13]. In Khorezm, handicraft products were marketed and production processes are distributed among artisans [Bolelov S.B. 2013, p.11].

From the 4th century BC onwards, the local peculiarity of Khorezm in ceramics was demonstrated. The technique of making pottery products has been improved and the appearance has changed dramatically. Manufacture techniques of crockery productions were improved and the appearance of them were quietly changed. Many types of ceramic vessels were increased. (Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p.84). From IV to III centuries in Khorezm region, potters began to use distaff, which was worked with leg. [Gulyamov Ya.G., 1959, p.83]. Much attention was paid to the clay of ceramic products. It is thoroughly cooked and then baked in the oven until the pottery became reddish and painted ribbonally khoumdon [Vorobyeva M.G.1959, p. 76]. The main dishes were light, red-

brown and brown. Roadside, circular and spiral patterns are given. The outside part of ceramic dishes are decorated. Most dishes are decorated with scallops or scratches on the abdomen or neck. They were printed with stamps or signs, before cooking. [M.G. Vorobyeva, 1959, p.86]. Such earthenware vessels were found in the bottom layer Kuykirilgankala, in Kalalykir, and in the fortresses of Kuhna-Uaz.

Characteristic features of earthenware vessels of IV-II centuries BC (the first Kangyuy period - M.G. Vorobyeva):

1. The rectangular triangles and triangles were drawn around the neck of the canvas and the jugs, and the inside of them is chess-coated with red and brown [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959. p. 87]. Such decoration was typical of this period.

2. Earthenware began to be glazed [M.G.Vorobyeva, 1959, p. 189].

3. It was typical to stamps the dishes.

4. The khoum abdominal part of the sac and the sac were decorated with spiral ornaments. Spiral decoration began from that time and has continued in later times.

5. New types of ceramic dishes, such as pitcher, rhyton, flask, were created [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p.136].

6. The shape of khoum, little khoum and pots has changed.

7. They began to use pottery distaff.[Tolstov S.P. 1948, p. 84].

8. The handles of jugs were made as a lion's head and was reflected in the way it bites its flange.

9. Rhytons made of ceramics. Below them there was an image of a horse, griffon, or camel head. They were published by M.G.Vorobyeva he considered them to be from the 4th century [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p. 87]. No rhytons were found in recent times.

10. The flasks were decorated with special decorations. They were decorated with various illustrations. In recent times, the swelled images have not been found in flask.

11. There were many types of small ceramic dishes. Other times, only a small canvas with a small canvas worked.

The ribbon-like decoration of ceramic bottles was one of the elements of the archaic period. It continued after the 4th century [Vorobyeva M.G.1959, p.88]. Earthenware vessels, which were decorated as a ribbon view, were found in the upper stage of the Kuzalykir (5th century BC). Such decorated earthenware vessels spread throughout Khorezm in recent times. From the second stage of the Kuzalykir monument, inscriptions on ceramics, especially khoum, have been made [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p.74]. The lower stage of the Qykirilankala was also found in the sand of the III century BC. Similar items found in clay pots were found in the fortified villages and numerous monuments of Khorezm on the right bank. Similar earthenware was also found on the left bank of Khorezm in Qal'aliqir 1 [Vorobyeva M.G. 1959, p. 89]

The small ceramic dishes were skillfully made out of gray soils and were well treated. Many of them were decorated with scratches and glazed exterior of a ceramic container. Such items might have been used for religious ceremonies.

In the 4th century BC there were small private workshops along with large ceramic workshops. At that time ceramic vessels were manufactured by craftsmen, along with home-made ceramics. They made khoums, pans, utensils and used them for household purposes. The clay dishes of such ceramic containers contained various additives, foam and undercooked [Vorobyeva M.G., 1959, p. 135]. Such hand-made ceramics were often found in the border areas of the Khorezm oasis. Researchers consider this to be the effect of their relationship with nomadic herders, as they were rarely found in central and major cities.

Ceramics made in antique times resemble one another in Khorezm, Sughd and Bactria. Researcher M.G.Vorobyeva shows the similarity between the Kohna-Uaz ceramic containers and the Aiyrtam ceramic vessels, with the Kobadian IV tall legs, the vertical canvas, the vessels with the inner and outer reverse [Vorobyeva M.G., 1959, p.168]. Such ceramics were first observed in

northern Bactria during the Kobadian period III, in the first century AD, and in ancient Khorezm, such ceramics were discovered in the late 1st and early 2nd centuries.

Ancient Khorezm is not indifferent to the political changes that took place in the 4th century BC in Central Asia. Changes in the political and economic life of nations have led to the development of ceramics as well. In ancient Khorezm the influence of neighboring countries, including Margiana and Bactria, was significant in the development of ceramics.

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