

**SECTION 12. Geology. Anthropology. Archaeology.**

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**ETHNOLOGICAL FEATURES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF GANJA  
(On the basis of Mahsati Ganjavi's creation)**

***Abstract:** In this scientific work for the first time have been researched the basic typical characteristics of craftsmanship traditions of Ganja on the basis of innovative technologies and methods. Some main local national traditions also were investigated from the ethnographic-archaeological point of view in this article.*

***Key words:** Ganja, handicraft branches, Mahsati Ganjavi, innovative methods and technologies, Azerbaijan*

Ganja city was cradle of science and culture from the prehistoric periods. Mahsati Ganjavi (1096-1160) was one of the genius woman person of the World during the Middle Ages period and she lived in ancient city Ganja. In this scientific work we try to research the importance of rich heritage of this great personality from the historic-ethnographical point of view on the basis of poems, rubais (rubaiyat) and different historic sources. It's important to research the significance of the heritage of Mahsati Ganjavi as the main historic-ethnographical source on the basis of investigation of ancient craftsmanship patterns, preserved in different museums in Ganja, especially in Ganja State Historic-Local lore Museum named after Nizami Ganjavi, in Scientific-applied ceramic (pottery) center of Ganja. Most of the natural and geographical conditions, plenty water of rivers, fertile land and craftsmanship, colored plants for getting color and natural caves allowed the first people to live in this area in the Late Stone Age. Ganja, that has changed its location at least 4 times since its establishment, is located in a favorable position from the strategic point of view. That why it always has been the center of attention of foreigners. Ganja, that was the victim of a terrible earthquake many times, also was the subject of attacks of Mongols, Kharezmshahs, Georgians, Arabs, Russians and other invaders. But in spite of it didn't shaken, and using the genetic power revived and developed, and rose to the level of great cities. Most of the historical monuments, that show, that national wealth of our nation Ganja city has more than 4000 years history, today in great museums expositions of the world have unique place. At the end of the VII century Ganja was the provincial city of Arabs, in the X century the capital of Arran, in the XI century Seljuk's, in the XII-XIII centuries was the residences of Atabek's empire. During this period Ganja had renaissance time of its development, science, culture, trade, crafts reached the highest peak.

Ganja is 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. Also in XI century, during the Arab Caliphate flowering, the great thinker Gatrán Tabrizi's population in Ganja shows, that Ganja has become a major center of culture and science in the Muslim East.

From the sources it becomes clear; in that period in Ganja there were personal and public libraries, medresses as modern universities, observatories and medical centers. Muslim culture has spread to the neighboring Christian states from here. That why, many scientists, poets, architects, artists from different countries of East settled in Ganja. During passage point of Zoroastrian, muslim, and christian civilization, also location on the Silk Way from West to East, from North to South, suitable natural-geographical conditions, rich soil, mild climate, plentiful rivers, also talented and gifted people of Ganja played exceptional role for developing in Azerbaijan science and culture history [3-7].

Also, Sheikh Nizami, appreciating Ganja's cultural level more highly, praised his native city "My Babylon". In the middle of the XII century there were schools, medresses, private and public libraries,

"The houses of wisdom" and "Health centers» in Ganja. In historical sources there was information that, in Ganja there was a large library "Dar al-kutub» that had been led by a famous scientist Abulfaz al-Nakhchivani. From Sheikh Nizami's reading and the names of the works, it becomes clear, that there were rich libraries in Ganja. The high value of seljugs, that replacing arabs, to the science and culture, was the reason of formation of a new school of poetry, that was founded by Sheikh Nizami in Ganja. Sheikh Nizami's knowledge on all the spheres of all the sciences, known at that time, show, that he has studied in madras, that belonged to the rich library, where worked well-known scientists of Ganja. Encyclopedic and perfect knowledge on all areas of science of the great poetries of all proves that Ganja was a center of science and culture. The great Azerbaijani poet Sheikh Nizami had good knowledge about philosophical thoughts of such coryphaeus as Farabi, Kharezmi, Ibn Becci, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Ibn Rusd. It shows, that the language of science of that period - the Arabic language and philosophy were highly taught in Ganja. Nizami's works analysis shows, that he was familiar with the ancient Greek and Indian philosophy also. Sheikh Nizami in his work "Iskendername" discusses the creation of the world from the Iskender's language with such famous ancient scientists as Aristotle (Arastun), Fales (Valis), Platon (Aflatun), Tianlı Apollonia (Rumlu Bulunus), Socrates, Timbered Parfiri (Forforius) and with the founder of the alchemy, magic and other "magical sciences" Hermes (Khormus). It shows that there were a lot of philosophical thinkers, who had good knowledge about philosophical schools in Ganja.

In 40s years of XII century in Ganja lived Abu Bakr ibn Khosrov al-Ustad, who was born in Ganja, had a high madras education and with his knowledge, literacy had gained great popularity. He was an author of such works as "Mansur and Marjan", "Sanem and Acem", "Mehr and Mushteri", "Hakiza -ya kitab-i Alfiyya and Salfiyya ", "Rahat ar- Ruh", " Huzhat al-maclis". [2-4; 8-12]. The ancient cultural center of Azerbaijan Ganja is rightly proud of well-known persons and valuable contribution that it has given to treasury of the World's musical culture. In the Middle Ages in Ganja poets, musicians, wise men and artists had meetings and were talking about science, literature, music, art.

An existence of such kind of meetings prove participation of the first well-known poetess of Azerbaijan, the first woman chess player and the first prominent female musician Mahsati Ganjavi and other scientific and literary sources. Creation heritage of the great poet and thinker of Azerbaijan Nizami Ganjavi (1141-1209) on the universal importance gave rich information to the national culture, and also influenced to the development of literature and art.

Music, singing always has a great place in the life of Azeri people. Even in the early periods of human history all the household and religious ceremonies are accompanied by music. We know that, in VII centuries, Dede Gorgud played on gopuz. In IX-XII centuries the music developed in Ganja. In palaces stringed, wind, percussion musical instruments are widely used in the mughams, singers sang songs and artists have won fame with beautiful music works in the Middle East. Along with mugham in Ganja ashug art widely spread among the people. In XI-XII centuries there were creative meetings in Ganja, where singer, musician and poets took part.

Great Nizami Ganjavi in his works has said the name of thirty popular musical instruments that were widely spread in Azerbaijan at that time. This fact also proves that in XII century and more that earlier Azerbaijan people had high musical culture [11-13].

One of the basic importance of heritage of Mahsati Ganjavi as a main source is preserving the much historical information about the development of traditional craft branches in Ganja and the whole of Azerbaijan. 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 and connected dishes. Pottery dishes, that concern to the first stages of Middle Ages of Ganja, are differ 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. In this historical period in Ganja and its regions ceramic has following kinds as building ceramic materials, unglazed ceramic products and glazed ceramic products.

For Middle Ages 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 this period 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 [4-14].

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