

SECTION 12. Geology. Anthropology. Archaeology.



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**PROBLEMS OF INVESTIGATION OF SOME ETHNOGRAPHIC-  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OF HANDICRAFT OF GANJA**

***Abstract:** The basic typical craftsmanship branches of Ganja were investigated for the first time from the ethnographic-archaeological point of view in this article. Also, in this scientific work have been researched the main features of these national craftsmanship kinds.*

***Key words:** ethnographic-archaeological research, Ganja, handicraft branches, Azerbaijan*

Ganja is one of the oldest scientific and cultural centers of the World. This consideration is proved on the basis of indisputable scientific arguments and facts. Development of some local handicraft branches in Ganja historically offered necessary facilities for progress of urban culture. 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.

1. From the point of view silkworm breeding development and it's preparing technology there were two main forms of production: so-called raw silk weaving and felt weaving. In this important technological process it has such kind of production stages as cocoon opening, silk initial processing, preparing of raw silk, weaving technology, painting and decoration. 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. 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. Samples of glass decorations, of BC, we met in the patterns of Ganja and surround territory. 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 [3; 7-9].

2. A part of the hanging beads were prepared from cockleshells "Nassagibbosula" and "Suraeva Moneta". According to experts' thoughts, such kind of cockleshell that widely spread in the Indian and Pacific Ocean, also the Eastern Mediterranean region were put to Azerbaijan with economic relations. 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.
3. 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. 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 Ganja. In IX-X centuries appeared dishes that had handle and spout. Among decorations of that period yellow, white and red beads of round and plain form are met mostly.
4. 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 researches show, that outside of the cities in the VIII-IX centuries, also big settlements were established. This is often due to density in cities. The art of Textile materials, that concern to weaving craft, consists of spindle heads and needles.
5. 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 and 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: on shape and for preparing techniques.
6. 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 Mingachevir 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. 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: products of art and household goods. Household equipment, works of art, agriculture instruments have been executed into two main technical methods-casting and forging.

On the basis of innovative methods investigation of local craft and national cultural traditions of Ganja as the main features of urban culture is necessary. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja was cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East. Historically, Ganja city has been managed by government agencies, along with the elders. Folklore materials, collected from Ganja and historical information are confirming sayings. 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. In Ganja relationship ties are very strong. It is the tradition of Ganja people to often visit relatives, and to share their sadness and happiness. In whole Ganja's traditions are leading to spiritual pureness, they are collection of the universe laws to perfection, way of nation. Different facts are good example of that, the urban culture has been on a wide area of Ganjabasar more than 4000 years. In nowadays, when people speak about its historical, geographical location and position they mean the area of Ganjabasar. This area in various stages of the history was named as Ganja-Karabakh beylerbeylik, Elizavetpol province, also Ganjabasar with the center in Ganja. Nowadays, the historical territory of Ganja is also named Ganja-Kazakh economic region or Western region. 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. 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 anonymous author of the article "Russian city" gave the schedule indicating the date of cities of the South Caucasus, also of Azerbaijan. And here he matched, that Ganja was founded in II century BC - IV century AD [3; 4].

Ganja and its surrounded territory are also rich with different stones. Presentation of white and in mountain and Aran Garabagh and also lime, travertin and marble building stones in and around Ganja, pure white, a lot of colored chalsedons, viel, ametist, obsidian, agates, crystal and other kind of rare colored stones in the river basins of Ganjabasar 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 [1-6].

These rare discover in and around Ganja are known from the archaeological investigations in ancient cultural, art and trade centers of Azerbaijan. 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. Mill is usually prepared from volcanic, quartz, limestone and basalt. They used for grinding seed, millet, salt and for other aims [6-8]. 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. 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 has been the main center of Azerbaijan in production of cotton cloth.

The prominent geography Strabon lived in 1 BC wrote about natural geographical feature the following: “The soil planted one time can give twice or trice harvest, to plow the soil all plains will be full of the rivers and waters. it is well irrigated and in the result of this the meadow will be full of grass. Besides that the air is also fresh. Comparing Ganja with the culture in Egypt and and Babylon dating to the 5 century Strabon noticed that it’s the best. Since its foundation and changing its location five times Ganja became one of the most favourable cities and that’s why foreign in vaders always wanted to occupy it. To the ancient Turkish tribes name taken from the name of the cityGanja. At different stages of the history of the capital city of Ganja status while maintaining the traditions of the ancient statehood and independence was of great importance. The city is in the province of the Caliphate of the seventh century, the X century and Shaddadis capital of Arran, in the eleventh century Seljuk, was the twelfth and thirteenth centuries residence in Atabaylar state. Zare, Morgan, Virxov, Belk, Resler, Ivanovski, Rozendorf, Schulz, Skinder, Paritsenmayer, Hummel Brothers, and long-term archaeological excavations carried out by archaeologists Isag Jafarzadeh known as the city has confirmed at least 4000 years history.

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