

SECTION 12. Geology. Anthropology. Archaeology.

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**SOME INNOVATIVE BASIS OF RESEARCH OF HANDICRAFT
TRADITIONS OF GANJA TILL THE BEGINNING OF XX CENTURY**

***Abstract:** In article has been investigated the significance of the main typical characteristics of craftsmanship traditions of Ganja on the basis of innovative technologies and methods in research of urban culture in this ancient city. Some basic local national traditions also were researched from the historic-ethnological point of view in this scientific work.*

***Key words:** urban culture, handicraft traditions, innovative methods and technologies, Ganja*

Introduction

Development of some local handicraft branches in Ganja historically offered necessary facilities for progress of urban culture. Ganja is one of the oldest cities and has more than 4000 years old as an urban center. This consideration is proved on the basis of indisputable scientific arguments and facts [1-2]. Ganja city during centuries 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. Also in XI century, during the Arab Caliphate 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.

Materials and methods

In the scientific and cultural center of the East, in Ganja's literary environment were raised Abu Hafs, Abul Ganji, Abul Ula Ganjavi, Mahsati Ganjavi, Qivami Mutarrizi, Raziya Ganjavi, Mirza Shafi Vazeh, who gave priceless pearls to the treasures of world culture. Especially in that period, presence of such kind of chess-player, composer, thinker women as Mahsati Ganjavi and Raziye, who owned world science and philosophy again shows, that city from cultural point of view, stays on high level [1-4]. 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. Investigation of the main traditional craft branches on the basis of new, innovative methods and technologies is very important. Results of these researches show the significance of different patterns of craftsmanship kinds as a source in studying of historical past of nations. The increase in quantity of handicraftsmen in a city directly has been bundled to population growth. The competition of production of production plants and factories has not reached still serious level and consequently was created a favorable condition for spreading of traditional occupations there. In addition, products of these craft branches have been closely bundled to a life and

traditions of the people, and it would be difficult to replace with their factory production. In the specified period of history in Ganja developed basically carpet weaving, weaver's business, craft of the tailor, squeeze men, forge and a jeweler, trades of dyer, the stone mason, the cooper and leather dresser, weapon business and other similar craft branches.

Results and discussion

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.

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 (shile) and nearly 400 benchchalamaya (thin cloth) spoke [2-7].

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. 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. 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. 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 [2; 6-8]. A part of the hanging beads were prepared from cockleshells "Nassagibbosula" and "Suraeva Moneta". According to experts' 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. 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. 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.

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.

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. Different facts are good example of that, the urban culture has been on a wide area of Ganjabasar more than 4000 years.

Conclusions

1. 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.
2. Mill is usually prepared from volcanic, quartz, limestone and basalt. They used for grinding seed, millet, salt and for other aims [4-7]. 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.
3. Since the time of the early Middle Ages, Ganja has 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.
4. Protecting the status of capital city Ganja, in the various stages of the history, had an important role in the preservation of the ancient statehood traditions of Azerbaijan. 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.

5. In general, in Ganja from textile there were made cotton cloth with simple painting, various kinds' decorations. In most cases, in the XIX-XX centuries after coarse calico colored in white colors of, it colored to different colors [7].

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