

To the Question on the Innovative Results of Research of Some Basic Handicraft Traditions of Ganja for XIX Century

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Abstract: *This scientific article deals with the historic-ethnographical importance of development of the main traditional branches of craftsmanship of Ganja till and during XIX century. For the first time in this work were systematic investigated the basic skill characteristics of different wares of these handicraft branches and its significance in research of artistic craftsmanship. In article for the first time has been researched the significance of traditional craftsmanship patterns from ethnographic and archaeological point of view in investigation of development of features of urban culture in Ganja on the basis of scientific arguments. In this scientific work were noted the main results of investigations of local researchers in this field with scientists from the USA and Japan on the basis of application of innovative technologies and methods.*

Keywords: Ganja, traditional handicraft kinds, Azerbaijan, historic-ethnographical research, methods of innovative research

1. Introduction

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. Ganja is one of the oldest cities and has a rich historical past as an urban center. Development of some local handicraft branches in this city historically offered necessary facilities for progress of urban culture. [1]. In the territory of ancient Ganja during the end of 2012 - in 2013 have been carried out scientific researches, archaeological and ethnographical investigations by local scientists together with researchers from National Museum of Natural History of Smithsonian Institution of the USA and Tokio Museum University of Japan with the purpose to study of historical formation and development of Urban culture. Because, one of the areas of initially appeared human civilization was an integral part of Azerbaijan, the historical land of the city Ganja. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja was cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East. The majority of historical monuments, that are demonstrate the ancient history of Ganja, which is the national wealth of our people, today gain unique place in the expositions of World's museums. In state and private museums of Metropolis, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Louvre, Paris, Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities rare and valuable exhibits, that concern to the history of ancient Ganja are preserved [2]. Ganja city that 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, 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. Ganja has turned to the arena of war damage of different countries of the World. But in spite of it didn't shaken, and using the genetic power revived and developed, and rose to the level of great cities. We must say that, investigation of ancient craftsmanship traditions on the basis of local craft wares of Ganja is very important.

2. Goals and Objectives of Research

The main aim of our international investigations for the second half of 2013 with scientists from the US and Japan is research of significance of local traditional handicraft patterns as a source in research of features of urban culture in Ganja. As known, this territory 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.

Research of the main kinds of handicraft of Ganja is so important. One of the basic branches in Ganja was the pottery trade. 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 [3]. But during long historical periods in Ganja

and its regions ceramic has following kinds: 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 [4].

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 [5]. During our researches in 2011-2013 years we determined some new scientific arguments and facts in this field. 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. Among these crafts especially developed carpet weaving. To so wide development of carpet weaving promoted availability of raw materials. In addition carpets were very widely used in a population life-both as furniture, and as a curtain, both as sand bed and as a coating for a floor. In carpet weaving have been held basically women. It has been bundled by that in a Muslim society of the woman preferred to work in house conditions. However also know cases when men were occupied with this craft [6]. Tailors and hatters created both national clothes, and clothes in style of the European fashion. According to the spent explorations there are exact data on wide development of a jeweler in Ganja in the end of XIX century – in a beginning of XX centuries. Jewelers basically fabricated ornaments to order. Among them there was a specification. Jobs of skilful masters amazed even foreigners. Development of trading and economic relations of Ganja with the next states promoted recognition of local jewels abroad. As an example it is served by unique samples handmade the Azerbaijan jewelers, stored in different museums.

But the flint tools, that found in Gillikdag workshop and camp around Ganja, ladle, that were found here give the reason to say, that people, who lived in this area in VII - VI millennium BC were the founders of the Neolithic Age culture [2]. 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 various remainders that were found during archaeological excavations.

Basic objective of research is outreach, also publish in international academic journals of the main results of scientific researches in this field on the basis of application of innovative technologies and methods.

3. Materials and Methods

Each area of Azerbaijan possesses characteristic environmental resource bases for it and it promoted development of various crafts. Thus, a number of employments in Ganja, during the period since XIX century to the middle of XX century, differed from crafts of other areas of the country. It was first of all the trades bundled to a spreading of a city and population grown has increased demand for craft products. Under such circumstances the handicraft work could not keep the natural character [7]. Already in a number of branches finished articles have been exposed on a market. Ganja is one of the richest areas from archaeological point of view. As a result of ethno-archaeological investigations here were found samples of material culture that concerned to the stages of different history period.

During these scientific investigations have been used some main innovative academic methods:

1. Determination of traditional methods and materials of handicraft wares on the basis of innovative roads;
2. Application of biochemical innovative technologic methods (as radiocarbon, dendrochronologic methods and etc.);
3. Investigation of local materials of craftsmanship patterns [2-4];
4. For the first time research of problem of genesis of handicraft traditions on the basis of production technology and technique of local craftsmanship patterns of ancient and classical periods;
5. Foundation of the new scientific direction on ethnography and ethnology on the basis of investigation of sustainable historical features of handicraft branches in research of the historical past of formation and development of Urban culture;
6. Investigation of importance of the handicraft patterns as the main source in research of characteristics of formation and development of Urban culture (formation process of the features of urban culture) for ancient and classical periods on the basis of scientific arguments.

The increase in quantity of handicraftsmen in a city directly has been bundled to population growth also during XIX century. 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 [3-5]. 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. Among these crafts especially developed carpet weaving. To so wide development of carpet weaving promoted availability of raw materials. In addition carpets were very widely used in a population life-both as furniture, and as a curtain, both as sand bed and as a

coating for a floor. In carpet weaving have been held basically women. It has been bundled by that in a Muslim society of the woman preferred to work in house conditions. However also know cases when men were occupied with this craft.

4. Discussion of Results and Applicative Significance

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 that 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. Internal conditions of craft department reflected a sort of employment of his owner. In these departments worked the master and his pupils. In a life of the population of Ganja the role of craft products was great. These products were widely used inhabitants of Ganja they decorated conditions of living rooms, with them filled up a dowry of brides. The dresses created in local departments, suits and caps were an integral part of an attire of town-dwellers. In comparison with villages though the national clothes in XX century began to supersede them gradually. It also has been bundled to accruing arrival to Ganja representatives of other nationalities [6-8].

Therefore changes in clothes were more marked. Only female ornaments as an attire constituent part left the national feature. At this time there were fashionable ornaments on a breast, hands, set pins and on clothes. Its hereditary transfer to descendants was one more feature of craft business in Ganja. Hereditary jewelers, weavers, manufacturers of carpets, cobblers, potters and stone borer were especially allocated. 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 Ganjabasar and other territories monuments there have been found whole and parts of weaving loom and different sizes of clay and bone samples that consist to weaving [11]. 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 other big cities 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.

Among decorations of different historical periods yellow, white and red beads of round and plain form are met mostly. 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 during since Middle Ages, also big settlements were established. This is often due to density in cities. 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 these 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 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 [12].

On the basis of our researches:

- a) Were noted the main results of investigations of local researchers in this field with scientists from the USA and Japan on the basis of application of innovative technologies and methods.
- b) For the first time has been researched the significance of traditional craftsmanship patterns from ethnographic and archaeological point of view in investigation of development of features of urban culture in Ganja on the basis of scientific arguments.

5. Conclusion

Local, traditional handicraft wares of Ganja for the New and modern periods (XIX -beginning of XX centuries) for the first time have been researched. Importance of typical local wares of handicraft branches of Ganja was investigated for the first time in research of historical formation and development of the main Urban culture elements and construction feature-craftsmanship blocks (quarters).

For the first time in the territory of ancient Ganja have been carried out scientific researches, archaeological and ethnographical investigations by local scientists together with researchers from National Museum of Natural History of Smithsonian Institution of the USA and Tokio Museum University of Japan with the purpose to study of historical formation and development of Urban culture.

6. Future scope

1. These scientific investigations have a great applicative significance. It is possible of production of these handicraft wares for ancient, classical and Medieval periods on the basis of its production technology and materials in the modern time as new models.
2. In the future it would help to continue the both scientific-research works, also ethnographic and archaeological investigations, excavations and for the main academic results in this field.

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