

SECTION 12. Geology. Anthropology. Archaeology.

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BASIC ETHNO-ANTHROPOLOGIC AND HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CRAFTSMANSHIP HERITAGE OF GANJA CITY

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

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

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. One of the areas of initially appeared human civilization was an integral part of Azerbaijan, the historical land of Ganja city. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja had been the cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East [1].

Most of the natural and geographical conditions, plenty water of rivers, fertile land, rich ore deposit, fuel, wood materials used for construction and craftsmanship, colored plants for getting color and natural caves allowed the first people to live in this area in the Late Stone Age.

1. The craftsmanship of carpet-making is one of the important cultural achievements of the Eastern people in Azerbaijan production of carpets appeared in the I millennium BC. But carpet-making in the first period of Middle Ages has turned to the independent sphere of craft. In Ganja, that has minimum 4000 years history, production of carpets differed with quickly development. In this ancient city, that is native land of great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Sheikh Nizami Ganjavi, were weaved very uncial, inimitable kinds of carpet. In Ganja, that has rich traditions, were prepared carpets with various characteristics. For this reason one of Azerbaijani carpet groups are Ganja carpets or (Ganja–Khazakh carpets). Pay attention that in Ganja namely local kinds of carpets –palaz (carpets without of pile) are weaved. These carpets that are producing by local inhabitants are differing with specific handicraft features. The size of Ganja’s carpets begins from 3 square meters to 10 square meters. Majority of local wool products, richness of natural colors and existence professional carpet–making women made for quick development carpet making craftsmanship in Ganja and in its surround territories [2-4].
2. During passage point of Zoroastrian, moslim, 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. 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. 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-Nakhchivany. 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 selcugs, 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.

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. The using Al-Ustad's work "Munisname" in scientific society made deeper the level of ancient development of the Azerbaijan's literature. A short introduction of "Munisname" book is equal to the whole literary book. Abu- Bakr ibn Khosrov al-Ustad was known as knowledgeable and experienced scholar, writer and poet had knowledge on the world and shariat sciences. That why he was awarded the nickname "Ustad" (Master).

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 [3-5].

3. 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. Osteology analysis prove, that most of samples are prepared from the bone of bull, caw, deer among big horde animals and sheep, goat, boar among little horde animals. Only deering investigations in Mingechaur there were found a lot of samples of combs, agriculture instruments and art and other bone things. Such kind of bone samples also were found in monument complexes territory of Injachay and Kerpikli in Goranboy region during excavation. Art samples and dice for playing nard, found in territory Shatal, also attracts our attention. These samples of art make more ancient history of city culture of Azerbaijan and in whole play nard .There were found knife handles, rare geometrical decorations, samples of pipe and other instruments here. 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.

4. 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. 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 [2-4; 6-10].
5. 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 .There were made such kind of important samples of art as atlas and kelaqai (silk kerchief).

We must pay attention to the moment, that differ from the other silk fabrics, kelaqai was prepared by specialists. But distinctly of production of raw silk that was city silkworm breeding and was man activity, felt production was woman work. 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.

6. 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.

During centuries in Ganja and its regions ceramic has following kinds:

1. Building ceramic materials.
2. Unglazed ceramic products.
3. Glazed ceramic products.

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.

7. 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 [3; 9-14].

8. 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. The development history of this sphere of craftsmanship can be determined only through archaeological research. In general, information about the development of this sphere of was found in 1959-1960 years, glass products in and around Ganja was obtained only at the end of the twentieth century. 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 Shatal and 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. 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. The remnants of dying from the Shamkir, Ganja, Shatal and Khunan proves development of dying here. Plant remains have been widely used in dying.

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. 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 [2-5].

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