

The Peculiarity of Theapplied Folk Art of Akhsikent

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Abstract

The spirituality of the people who have not forgotten their past is rich. History encourages people to be vigilant, teaches them to distinguish “white from black”, or encourages them to be respectful of the spirit of our ancestors. In our region there are historical shrines, historical-architectural, archaeological monuments, places of pilgrimage, so people are interested in the history of these places, their names, how they originated. The article talks about the archaeological monument under the open sky recognized by UNESCO, the history of the ancient capital of Fergana, the city of Akhsikent and the richness of its Applied Art.

Keywords: Old Akhsi, Akhsikent, Timurid, Monument, Pottery, Gold, Silver, Ring, Seal, Dekor, Carbas, Sword, Shield.

The archaeological in-depth study of the Akhsikent and the research carried out show that the memorial complex belongs to the largest three parts and to the three periods. Therefore, Akhsikent is interpreted in the following three parts:

1. The old Akhsi part dates back to the era of slavery – from the third century BC, to the fifth century BC. It is referred to as the old Akhsi among the local people.

2. Akhsikent or a separate second part of the city in the First Middle Ages. During this period, in the sixth century BC, the city was built, which included the 3 quarters of the IX – XIII centuries, and the city became the developed central capital.

3. The territory belonging to the third part and the third period was located in the western part of the Akhsikent -archaeological memorial complex, close to the current village of Akhsi. The city of Akhsikent, which was in place of the new Akhsi monument, belongs to the Timurid dynasty. This is connected with the reconstruction of the ACHSI fortress and its transformation into the capital by Umar Shaikh

Mirza(1462 – 1494), the father of *Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur* during the reign of Timurids in the XIV – XVII centuries.¹

In the city, products are produced in a specific way, according to the following branches of craftsmanship:

1. Pottery. Various household items were skillfully made and decorated with patterns. Ceramic pipes used in construction and construction were also one direction of pottery. This is because we see the use of ceramic pipes in the construction of water and sewer systems in the Middle Ages. Because we can see that the use of ceramic pipes in the construction of water and sewerage networks was established in the Middle Ages in Akhsikent. The latest excavation works indicate that the water network was brought to the workshops of the apartments and craftsmen in the city through ceramic pipes of different sizes.

2. Jewelry. Jewelry made of gold, silver and precious stones, as well as ornaments, jewelry made of fine taste, elegance. In Akhsikent, rings dating back to the IX – XII centuries have been found, and the method of making and making is unique. These rings were made in the function of a seal, a badge and a bead, in order to use as decoration. From some rings it is possible to know that the jewelers, who were masters of their work, were both creative and scientific in making rings, and mastered the art of processing various metals and natural stones, colored glass.

3. Textile. Thick and thin silk and cotton fibers, different fabrics from yarn, for example, the preparation of “carbas” – “buz” had also evolved, and even abroad there was a great demand for it. Silk and other textile products made in Akhsikent through the Great Silk Road were imported, sold.

4. Blacksmithing. It is widely used in the manufacture of various labor weapons, the preparation of swords, daggers, shields, armor and other items from

¹A. Anorboev “Akhsikent is the capital of ancient Fergana”, Popular Science Brochure, “Namangan”, 2016. 8 p.

military-technical weapons from metal. From the latest sources it is known that swords and knives made in Akhsikent were sold in Damascus and were famous for their sharpness, durability, elasticity. In the area close to the Akhsikent in the high level of development of blacksmithing, the main role was played by the assimilation of iron, coal, gold, molybdenum deposits at that time. Because the presence of ferrous and non – ferrous metals in the Chatkal - Kurama mountain formations, the presence of open coal deposits around the current Angren, the fact that our ancestors occupied the secret of metal mining and re-mining during those times, prove that Akhsikent had a special place in the history of metallurgy-blacksmithing. Especially they had highly mastered the technology of making swords and knives, which made them durable, supple, unbreakable by adding various other element-mixtures to the steel.

5. Copper-smithing. Carving, that is, from copper, various household items, dishes were made, carving on them were given different patterns and decorations. Copper coins were minted in Akhsikent, and coins dating back to the IX-X centuries were found and are now also found.

Various items found during archaeological excavations prove that both in ancient times in Akhsikent and in the Middle Ages, craftsmanship was highly developed, especially ceramic vessels, which were treated with various paints and secrets in pottery, were valued even in other countries during their period.

If we give a brief overview of the findings, we can cite the followings:

- Various ceramic items made of dark blue - bowls, bowls, pots, two-eared pots, pots and others;
- Colored bottles and accessories;
- In III-century, painted flower pot with a bluish hue of glaze;

In the X century, "I wish the owner of this dish a white road, joy, health", "happiness to give up the pursuit of wealth" were written by calligrapher in Arabic spelling on the dish and cup;

So, in the IX – X centuries, the Akhsikent also developed as a specific center in terms of craftsmanship.

X-XII centuries was the most prosperous period of the Akhsikent, the city consisted of three parts - Ark, Shahrstan and Rabat. At the end of the XV century, Umar Shaikh Mirza, the father of *Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur*, appointed Akhsikent as the capital and ruled the Fergana region. *Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur* wrote about this in his work "Baburnama": "One of the cities on the northern side of the Saykhun (Sirdarya) river is Akhsi. Its name is written in books as Akhsikat... Umar Shaikh Mirza established it as a capital. The Saykhun river flows below the fortress bank. The fortress was restored on a high cliff. Instead of a moat, the larks. Umar Shaikh Mirza made this city the capital, a couple of times out of it, again dropped the bells. There is nowhere such a solid fortress."²

The "Damascus" steel, which was famous for its outstanding durability in the Middle Ages, was produced in the center of the Fergana Valley in the VIII - IX centuries, in the ancient city-fortress on the banks of Sirdarya. Tilo Rexern, a professor at the Institute of archeology at the University of London, made such a decision. During the five-year research, he found samples of metallurgical industry developed during the excavation of the city of Akhsikent, which is located in Namangan region of Uzbekistan. According to scientists, the monuments of Akhsikent are of no less important to the world history than Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva.³

²"Baburnama". Tashkent 1960, 62-63 pages

³Askarbek Akparov. Two ancient and adjacent cities of our country, or Ahsikent and Axi, Navruz, Tashkent 2017. 5 p.

The scientific study of the ruins of the ancient city was begun in 1885 by N.I.Veselovsky. It was continued by N.A.Bernshtam in 1914 year, I.A. Kastane 1939 and M.V.Masson in 1946-1948. From the 60 years of the XX century, searches were conducted by Y.G.Gulomov, I.Ahrorov, A.Anorboev, YulchiKasimov. Now this auspicious work is being continued by AbdulhamidAnorboev.

During the construction of the great Fergana canal in 1939 year, professor M.S.Masson came to Akhsikent and carried out archaeological research. He indicated that among the layers of the rock in the western part of the city there were inscriptions and fast (rospis) ceramics, belonging to ancient times.

In 1946-1948, excavations were carried out by the staff of the Pamir-Alai archaeological expedition under the leadership of professor N.A.Bernshtam. N.A.Bernshtam identified important and interesting information by the historical archaeological background about Akhsikent.⁴

In the Namangan Regional Museum of local studies, in the "Akhsikent museum", which operated a few years ago and now ceased its activity, the equipment placed in the Akhsikent section of the Tashkent "Museum of Art", which has a very large collection of pottery items, consists of pieces of household items made of ceramic and glass items of different colors (16 different colored bottles were found).

The ceramics shown are mainly of the "black and white" of the 11th-11th centuries and from the Timurid dynasty. Ceramics in these periods are very close to each other with the ceramics of Akhsikent, Samarkand, Tashkent. Only specialists can distinguish their differences. The affiliation of items to which school, region is determined by the content of raw materials and water used in them.

From the III century in Central Asia, glassware was produced in such cities as Akhsikent, Afrasiab, Shahrukh, Boykand, Termez. In general, it was previously

⁴A.N. Bernshtam. Ancient Fergana, Tashkent, 1951 Pages 24.27-32.34-42.

known that quartz sand melt at 1200° into a glass. In antiquity in Greece, mosaics were made of colored smileys. Smalta and glass is one thing. It can be said that it is customary that ceramics and bottles are encountered in all excavations.

For the development of craftsmanship and applied art, it is necessary, first of all, to have the necessary raw materials in a certain territory. There were all kinds of plants, cotton, cocoons, leather, quartz sand, dolomite, pegmatite, field spar, kaolin, tin, brass, silver, gold, iron and other ores for the preparation of pure soil, colors in Akhsikent and around it, which means that all areas of crafting here had all the possibilities for the development of a high level.

The products produced by the craftsmen are divided into three categories:

First, a wide range of consumer goods prepared in large quantities to meet the demand of the population. They are simple, convenient and inexpensive.

Second, products made for rich people and officials of their time.

Third, products prepared for the people of the palace. These are made from the cleanest, expensive and quality raw materials and created by mature, master artists of their time. Such items are invaluable discoveries not only of history, but also of artistic value.

Gold is manufactured at 730 °, ceramic items at 900 ° -1000 °, copper at 1030 °, glass, chandelier, tiles-1200 °, porcelain-1350 °, iron and steel at 1530 ° -1600 °. With all the raw materials needed for the development of applied art and a sophisticated ability to reach 1,600 ° C (a very high degree), the people were able to create high-quality artworks.⁵

⁵Askarbek Akparov, Materials of the scientific-practical conference "Studying the monument to the Akhsikent and turning it into a tourist destination." Namangan 2016 .p.4.

We have all kinds of raw materials necessary for the production of porcelain products in our country. It will be ready at 1350° from an equal amount of a mixture of porcelain, kaolin, feldspar and quartz sand.

It was known that in the X-XII centuries Akhsikent was a developed city, there were racks of artisans, jewelry made by jewelers, especially men's rings were also popular in foreign countries. Even in the time of the Timurids, the level of craftsmanship was not less than in the time of the Samanids.

Since the VIII century, copper processing has developed very much in Central Asia. Have samples also been preserved from Akhsikent copper, carving? If, where?

The fact that the Akhsikent is provided with clean water through ceramic pipes, the presence of baths of men and women, in the remains of the found walls, the paint of the building is several floors, the courtyard is dug up, the waste is buried in this place, all this is evident from the fact that the inhabitants who have reached a high culture in Akhsikent and New Akhsi. Among the items found in Saganas in Pop belonging to the Sugd period (V-VI centuries), there were fabrics made of cotton and silk, as well as cloths. These are very rare finds, because fabrics are rarely preserved. The tailoring and sewing of clothes were also done skillfully. Silk fabrics were mostly dark green, brown and dark red. Most of the women's shirts were embroidered, pinned on the chest and tiny necklaces. People who were from Pop in ancient times were well versed in the art of weaving, giving different colors to the fabric, pressing flowers, embroidery, beautiful tailoring and sewing. In addition to clothing, about 10 thousand pieces of precious stones, beads made from animal bones were found. Among the findings were found rings made of metal, bites, wooden utensils, silent ornaments engraved knife handles, Combs and braces, which were demonstrated that many areas of folk applied art were well developed in ancient Pop.

In the hands of the population, in the museums of our country, in the Museum of ethnography of St. Petersburg, where the largest number of items related to the Akhsikent are stored, it is necessary to collect full information and photos about what is in the fund of the Ethnography Museum and foreign museums, to make a book and publish it.

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