

FROM THE HISTORY OF UZBEK NATIONAL CRAFTS

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Abstract: *This article provides information about the development of national and traditional crafts in our country, which types of crafts developed in historical states and cities, as well as the special attention paid by rulers in this regard. Information is also provided on the state's attention to the development of crafts during the period of independence.*

Keywords: *Amir Temur, Maverannahr, Khorezm, Termez, Fergana, Samarkand, pottery, jewelry making, glassmaking, carpentry, calligraphy, knife making, national crafts, leatherworking.*

Since the emergence of humankind on Earth, people have been engaged in various activities. Throughout the three-thousand-year history of our homeland, the ancient inhabitants of our land were also engaged in various activities that were necessary for them. During this period, along with various fields, the first types of crafts were also formed. In the 9th-10th centuries AD, such types of crafts as weaving, pottery, metalworking, coppersmithing, jewelry making, glassmaking, and carpentry flourished in the cities of Maverannahr and Khorezm [1,49]. As a result, the overall appearance of cities will change dramatically. Craftsmen's quarters specializing in various crafts began to emerge in the cities. Buildings with large domes, arches, and portals, workshops, mosques, madrasas, mausoleums, khanqahs, and caravanserais were erected there. During this period, as a result of the development of Islam in our country, we can see the influence of Islam in crafts. Now the cities turned into large craft centers with more than ten gates. High-quality paper was produced in Samarkand. The high-quality paper produced in Samarkand was famous not only in our country, but also abroad. The climate and natural resources of the region also played an important role in the development of various types of crafts. In particular, Shash was famous for its leather goods and leather goods, while Ilaq was famous for its silver and lead mines and silver coin mint. Shipbuilding flourished in Khorezm. Because the location along the Amu Darya River was the main factor in this. Boats built in Khorezm and Termez constantly transported goods along the Amu Darya to the Aral Sea, making merchants' cargo lighter and distant ones closer. This transportation route was convenient and safe for merchants as well.

During this period, villages, along with cities, occupied a significant place in the country's economic life. Because during this period, the majority of the population lived in villages, and not all of them had the opportunity to engage in agriculture. Therefore,

various types of craftsmanship flourished in the villages as well. The reddish-brown fabric "zandanicha," woven in the village of Zandana in Bukhara, and the fabric "vadoriy," prepared in the village of Vador in Samarkand, were famous not only in our country but also throughout the East [1,50].

At the beginning of the 9th-12th centuries, along with architecture, the art of painting and carving also developed significantly. Some parts of the facade, doors, and walls of the building were covered with inscriptions of various content. In this period, calligraphy was one of the most important and widespread branches of folk art. Due to the fact that printing had not yet been invented and copies of manuscript books were only copied by hand, the art of calligraphy developed significantly. Examples of calligraphy, written in various styles of calligraphy, are also used in architectural patterns as decorations that give life content and aesthetic pleasure.

Samarkand, Bukhara, Tashkent, Shakhrukhiya, Termez, Shakhrisabz, Karshi, and many other cities of Maverannahr became centers of craftsmanship. The number of craft neighborhoods in cities increases, and new guzars, streets, market stalls, tims, and toqs (domed bazaars) related to crafts appear. In many cities, there were neighborhoods of jewelry making, coppersmithing, needleworking, armor making, stone carving, glassmaking, and leatherworking. In medieval crafts, pottery became the most developed and widespread industry. During this period, the art of carving stone, polishing it, and creating carved patterns and calligraphic inscriptions reached perfection. In Samarkand, a huge stone tablet installed in the Bibi-Khanym Mosque for displaying the Quran, a jade tombstone in Gur-e-Amir, and mausoleums in Shahi-Zinda (Shayhi-Zinda) and other places are decorated with intricate patterns, with carved verses, elegies, and historical records inscribed. In this period, paper production occupied a special place in the crafts of Samarkand. Samarkand paper was very popular in medieval Eastern calligraphy, and a certain part of it was exported to foreign countries [1,141]. During this period, construction work intensified in the country's major cities, particularly Samarkand and Herat, and the role of builders increased significantly. Those who erected buildings by laying bricks were called "banno," and those who decorated the building by covering portals, arches, and ceilings with rivets and girihs were called "ustoz." Woodworking also flourished during this period. Skilled carpenters were engaged in wood carving. They made ornate doors, lattices, columns, arches, low tables, chairs, and a multitude of other furnishings. The ornate doors of Gur-e-Amir and Shah-i-Zinda with verses are considered among the rarest examples of the art of wood carving by folk masters of the 15th century.

During the reign of Sahibkiran Amir Timur, craftsmanship also flourished. Every defeated country and city gave Timur its scholars, artists, and best craftsmen. About a thousand artisans, along with their tools and family members, were taken from conquered countries to Samarkand. Hundreds of artisans from abroad, including:

- Silkworm breeders, tailors, weavers, stonemasons, carpenters, tent makers, bow and arrow makers, weaponsmen, hat makers, animal healers, engravers, falconers, engineers in the production of glassware and porcelain from Syria;
- jewelers, cloth producers, stonemasons, and archery masters from Turkey;

- Famous cotton spinners from Aleppo;
- stonemasons from Persia and Azerbaijan;
- The most skilled bricklayers, architects, builders, metalworkers, stonemasons, and jewelers from India;

Builders and engravers were brought from Tabriz and Khorezm.

The local population also benefited from the secrets of their profession, new professions developed, and the variety of handicraft products began to increase. This measure by Amir Timur gathered the best craftsmen of Asia in Samarkand and led to the expansion of oases and cities, increasing the population of Transoxiana.

During this period, a fair policy was pursued on conducting handicraft activities, establishing new types of handicrafts, teaching various professions to the able-bodied but unemployed part of the population, and, if necessary, allocating capital from the state treasury to start their own activities and creating other favorable conditions. Large and small caravanserais and yurts, caravanserais and khanqahs were built along all caravan routes passing through the territories and provinces of the country. As a result, caravan traffic has intensified, and domestic trade has stabilized. External trade intensified, and trade between cities and the agricultural oases and the nomadic pastoral steppe population increased.

Amir Timur, while skillfully managing the state and pursuing policies for the well-being of the population, also strictly demanded this from his successors. He even punished those who abused their position.

During celebrations, every craftsman and artist showed great zeal in demonstrating their art; for example, a reed weaver made and displayed a mounted warrior equipped with perfect tools and weapons from the reed. "The craftsman perfected it with such skill," writes the historian, "that he even accurately depicted his nails and eyelashes from reeds."

On the outskirts of the city, there was a separate palace where, along with storing the royal treasury, about a thousand artisans worked, making specialized items for military activities, such as armor, helmets, bows, spears, and others.

At that time, there were about 500 types of crafts. In particular, the main directions of craftsmanship by industry were:

1. Specialized crafts for military activities: armor making, saddle making, bow making, tent making, falconry.
2. Specialized crafts for the construction industry: paintmaking, wood carving, construction, architecture, stone carving, ganch carving, painting, glassmaking, rope making.
3. Types of crafts specialized in the production of household and other goods: pottery, blacksmithing, needleworking, knife making, metalworking, tanning and leather tanning, shoemaking and shoemaking (shoe repair), perfumery, soap making.
4. Specialized crafts for clothing and certain items: weaving various fabrics from cotton, silk and wool, gold embroidery, printing on fabrics, chitgarlik, sewing, embroidery, making items from precious metals.

5. Various types of crafts of national importance and specialization in other fields: coinage, calligraphy, bookbinding, musical instrument making, spices and spices, embroidery, and others.

In the process of studying historical works, one can be convinced that Amir Temur carried out large-scale strategic reforms not only in the military sphere, but also in the socio-economic sphere. He valued not only craftsmen but also scholars, philosophers, religious leaders, and people of all beneficial professions.

From the above, it can be concluded that throughout our history, craftsmanship has developed in our country. This process continued equally in different states and during the reign of different rulers.

Today, the leadership of our state continues to work on the development of national and traditional crafts. After our country gained independence, special attention was paid to the development of national crafts in the process of national self-awareness and the development of national values. Indeed, their importance in strengthening independence is incomparable. Also, many laws and regulations were adopted for the development of the sphere. As a result of these works, our national crafts continue to develop rapidly.

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