



## Some remarks on the crafts of the Ustrushana peoples.

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ABSTRACT

There is information about the study of applied arts and crafts of the peoples of the Ustrushanas region according to written sources and archaeological data.

**Keywords:**

Pottery, tools, handicraft, Pardakultepa, Kaliyatepa, Zhou, Kangars.

As a result of targeted archaeological excavations on the territory of Ustrushana, many material sources have been obtained about the lifestyle of our ancestors and the customs associated with their burial. The pottery, tools, jewelry and other household items studied in them testify to the high culture of the population in the production of handicraft items.

The main part of the pottery studied at Ustrushana sites is hand-made ceramic utensils found in the steppes among settlers and nomads. The pottery is made on a potter's wheel from refined and soft clay, and the surface is decorated with a yellowish-red color. The rest contains many mixtures and is made by hand from unrefined clay. Almost all ceramic vessels are painted with brown, white, white-yellow, yellow and red liquid paint<sup>1</sup>.

Most of the ceramic products are pots, they are made more durable and smooth. Baking of all ceramic dishes, including pots, was carried out with high quality. Most of the

pots are short and slender, the base is flat and wide, and the height of the vessels with the mouth is much larger, 1:1 in diameter.

Wavy and straight lines were used to give them a graphic design. Some pots are not decorated at all. Lined ornaments were applied to the not yet hardened surface of the dishes using a tool with a sharp tip. For example, the surface of the pots found in the mausoleums of the tombs of Pardakultep, Kaliyatepa, Rasulboykultep, Yakubbobotep and Gulbo, Shirinsai in Jizzakh were specially processed, polished and painted with white paints. There are four carved horizontal lines on the case. One of them is wavy and is drawn below the lines. Some of them have a yellowish paint surface, a flat disc-shaped base and two indented lines on the shoulders. Most of them are painted with yellow ocher, the ceramic pot with a broken rim and spout has wavy lines on the shoulder and body and between these lines straight horizontal lines are drawn, and the ornaments are improved.

Based on the proportions of the lower and upper parts, and also based on the fact that it has a zoomorphic handle, we can say that the

<sup>1</sup> Toshboev F.E. Ancient antique culture of breeders of usrushons. Tashkent, 2014. p. 89.

nomad craftsmen made it themselves. It is possible that the jug was made by the craftsmen themselves, the nomads who began to settle, or by their order, the craftsmen of the settlers. These pottery vessels belong to the early stages of the gourd culture, and Academician A.A. Askarov gave the following description, "...thin-walled, smaller, mostly made on low-speed pottery wheels. The ceramics of this period are characterized by the appearance of dark brown streams on the surface of pots and pots. Most of the pots and pots are double-breasted, and the handles of the mugs are shaped like animal figurines. Among the jugs and pots there are jetiasar-style vessels decorated with a number of grooves, animal handles, jugs with faucets".

Archaeological purposeful excavations at sights located in the Ustrushana region revealed a large number of artifacts associated with nomadic life and customs associated with their burial. Pottery, tools, jewelry and other household items studied in the sights testify to the high culture of pastoralists in the production of handicrafts. Existing archaeological, written and ethnographic sources show that among the household items of nomads, the production of textiles is also widespread - carpets, felt, rugs, suzani, various clothes and headwear, horse accessories, bags and others.

There were no traces of habitation and remains of houses around the studied sights in Ustrushana, and this suggests that most of them lived mainly in yurts. Among the weaving items of the Jizzakh people, the yurt is of particular interest. In terms of construction, this is a uniquely marvelous living space woven with high artistic and aesthetic taste. It could be installed anywhere and lived at any time of the year and in any conditions. The first types of yurts appeared during seasonal migration. With a nomadic pastoral lifestyle, it is the most convenient way to move around housing, and it is a product of high intelligence and action.

The yurt has existed for 3000 years in various forms, and not all nomads had the same. Most of it is made from camel hair. The demand for camel wool in the textile industry

is very high and highly valued. In world markets, it is valued several times more than coarse sheep's wool. Camel wool retains heat and does not let in high humidity. Camel hair is used to make clothes for swimmers, pilots and sailors, expedition workers and travelers.

Yurt - The tent of the Turkish Khan will amaze the ambassador of the Byzantine emperor Menander, as well as "everyone who saw the magnificence of the Blachernae Palace"<sup>2</sup>. The landscape of the yurt, the symbolic images in it, the way of life of the population reflect the real life that surrounds the nomads.

Usually yurts are of two types. These are the cone-shaped Mongolian type and the domed Turkish type. Both types are found among the Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, and only the Turkic type is common among the Turkmens.

All clothes, hats and woven household utensils of the population are made from wool and animal skins. As K. Sh. Shaniyazov, a scientist of the Kang era, wrote: "Leather products were also common in the Kang era. ... Leather products and clothes were used by nomadic and semi-nomadic Kans engaged in cattle breeding. Leather was used to make special bags for ammunition, knives, tokens, nets and other items"<sup>3</sup>. This tradition continued later, and Choch and Ustrushana became famous for their leather goods. Until recently, leather shoes were made - boots without heels, boots with high heels for riding, and leather capes and cloaks were worn. Bedding, lining, netting and other necessary household items were made. To this day, the practice of manufacturing many leather products has been preserved among the Ustrushana cattle-breeding population.

Clothes were made from sheep and goat wool, as well as strong and durable lining accessories, which were decorated with various patterns - carpets, rugs, bags and felt. A scientist who studied China A. Khodzhaev cites the following from the research of the Chinese

<sup>2</sup> Gumilyov L.N. Ancient Turks. (Translation, foreword by authors and publishers B. Ordabekli and A. Airitomy) - Tashkent: Fan, 2007. -p. 82.

<sup>3</sup> Shoniyoov K.Sh. Kansk State and Kans... - p. 110.

researcher Wang Zhunghan. "The carpets found by archaeologists while excavating the tombs of the Huns show that they had a high level of art in this area, he said. For example, a one-color carpet 2.6 meters long and 1.95 meters wide was found in Hun tomb No. 6. It is made of green, yellow, dark red and black and red threads. Around the carpet pattern in the form of small cells 24-28 mm. It is woven with green threads in the form of 9 trees in the center. Between the trees there are 4 pairs of deer and birds, 5 pairs of lions and an image of bulls for cultivating the land. These pictures are surrounded by patterns in the form of rectangles, round, thin corners and plus signs with green, yellow, black, red and burgundy thread"<sup>4</sup>. From this source, taking into account the commonality and similarity of the culture of the Turkic tribes, it is clear that textile production among the Ustrushana pastoralists was also widely developed from ancient times. If we compare this find with the fabrics currently woven by pastoralists, there is little difference between them, which means that the textile tradition has existed for a very long time.

The clothing and headdresses of the ancient peoples, their adaptability to heat and cold, their ease of walking over rocky places, both for riding and for protection, are well documented in historical sources. According to the ancient Indian folk epic "Mahabharata", the festival of sacrifice to spirits introduced by the Indian king Yudhishtira is celebrated solemnly. Ambassadors from different countries (Shak, Tohar, Kang and others) came to participate in the ceremony. Among the gifts presented by the ambassadors were many fabrics made of wool, cotton and silk. They also brought clothes made of fine fabrics made of cotton, yarn and sheep's wool, ... several types of sweets, various spices, as well as jewelry and precious stones<sup>5</sup>. From this information, it can be understood that the pastoralists living in our country mastered the weaving of fine

fabrics and clothes not only from wool, but also from cotton and silk.

Most of the uniforms worn by the settlers in neighboring areas are modeled after pastoralists. "In the 4th century BC, as a result of Greek persecution, a group of Saks moved east, to the Chinese border. Wuling (325-298 BC), the current ruler of the Zhou dynasty, realized that the clothes of these guz (hu) (F.T., as many Chinese in the steppe call the Chinese) are convenient for riding and shooting arrows, and despite the strong resistance of his people, he urged them to dress like guz (hu)"<sup>6</sup>. Arrian notes that the Scythians valued precious skins and various products made from them are valued as gold and silver, yurts were made from thin animal fur, which were not how much even harsh winters were, and that even bulletproof shields and saddles were made from animal skins<sup>7</sup>. The thinnest and most durable ropes were made from goat and camel hair, as well as horse tails. Observations during archaeological expeditions have shown that in the mountainous regions of Ustrushana, weaving and manufacturing of the above items from wool and cattle leather is still going on.

At the same time, in the mountains of Ustrushana today you can often see horses prepared for goat kupkari. From careful care of them, it is clear that some of them understand the position of the owner in any situation. Horse harnesses deserve special attention. The back of the saddle is comfortable, strong and wide, the front edges are high and curved, placed on two dense (cereal F.T.) fabrics. This is very convenient for the rider on horseback in any situation. In some places, unlike the saddle above, we saw another separate strap trailing from the top side through the saddle to the bottom. This seems to be a simple equestrian equipment, but it will facilitate the descent from the Ustrushana Mountains. In the 1st and 4th tombs, the late Gulba in the form of a rider on horseback, his legs set in a triangular shape, which means that the rider warrior suddenly

<sup>4</sup> Khozhaev A. Information from the history of Fergana... - p. 228.

<sup>5</sup> Shoniyozov K.Sh. Kansk State and Kans... - p. 109.

<sup>6</sup> Khozhaev A. Information from the history of Fergana... - p. 203.

<sup>7</sup> Parдав M.Kh., Toychiboev B.B. Ustrushana in antiquity and the early Middle Ages. Tashkent, 2017, p. 98

used bows and ropes for a surprise attack, and indicates that depending from the situation, he could quickly disappear from sight.

The fact that the metallurgical industry of Ustrushana was also highly developed is evidenced by the pointed iron weapons mentioned in the sights of Ustrushana. In fact, the pastoralists were skilled in the manufacture of iron weapons, which determined the success of military operations. On the slopes of Tangritog (river Alai) in East Turkestan, the main objects recovered from the tombs and residential remains of the Sakas were items made of gold, silver, copper, iron, ceramics, wood, silk and lacquer. "Especially the use of objects made of gold among the Saks was a priority"<sup>8</sup>. The Byzantine ambassador Zemarch was surprised when the Turks offered him iron for sale and suspected that this was done in order to distract him, there were rumors that "it is usually very difficult to find iron from them"<sup>9</sup>. In fact, the Turks were able to develop metallurgy, re-equip their army, create selected armored units for the cavalry. They were armed with helmets with horns, armor, spears, swords and sharp daggers.

1984 yili Sirdaryodan topilgan, bundan 2000 yil oldin yasalgan dubulg'aning zirhi qo'shqavat bo'lib, turli metall qotishmalaridan iborat bo'lgan. Mutaxassislar uni yasash uchun maxalliy xom ashyo, jumladan, Qoramozor rudasi asosiy material bo'lib xizmat qilgan deb taxmin qiladilar<sup>10</sup>. Yodgorliklarda qayd etilgan arxeologik materiallar Ustrushana mozorqo'rg'onlaridagi ashyolar orqali yana bir bor o'z tasdig'ini topmoqda.

According to the research of S.L. Sverchkov, in the northwest of the Turkestan mountains is Morguzar, and in the southwest - Chimkartov, both of which are located at an altitude of 3000 meters above sea level. Dozens of streams merge with numerous sources in these areas, starting from the Zaminsuv and Sangzor rivers. Currently, 4 zones of mountain

metal are distinguished in the Ustrushon mountains: Lyataband in Chimkartag, Bogmozor, Shoibaksay and Miksai in the Morguzar mountains. The centers of extraction and processing of ores were located in Shoybaksai and Miksai, where the metallurgical industry existed before the Mongol invasion. The Myk I, Myk II and Myk III departments of the Myk mining center in North Ustrushana had the largest full-scale specialized metallurgical center in Central Asia, from ore mining to ferrous metal production<sup>11</sup>. It is this economic activity of the Myks that is different from others (iron ore mining) and is sponsored by the state itself.

Thus, the analysis of archaeological and written sources shows that the applied art of pastoralists was highly developed.

<sup>8</sup> Khozhaev A. Information from the history of Fergana... – p. 208.

<sup>9</sup> Gumilyov L.N. Ancient Turks... – p. 75.

<sup>10</sup> Komsomolskaya Pravda, 1984, February 10; Soviet Uzbekistan, 1984, February 18.

<sup>11</sup> Sverchkov L.M. Settlement Myk - a source on the history of medieval Ustrushana ... - p. 145-146.