



Fergana Valley Rural Population Metal Handicrafts

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the development of blacksmithing, knife-making, degreasing and coppersmithing in the Uzbek, Tajik and Uyghur villages of the Fergana Valley, as well as the ethno-territorial features of rural handicraft centers and products, methods of preparation.

Keywords:

Fergana Valley, metallurgical industries, development factors, rural centers, handicrafts, ethno-territorial features, methods of preparation

In the economy of the peoples of Central Asia, including the Fergana Valley, various branches of handicrafts made of metal have long been developed. In particular, the development of these networks is confirmed by archeological data [1; 89]. The development of metallurgical industries in the Fergana Valley continued in the early and advanced Middle Ages, where metal products were popular throughout the East [2; 34]. It should be noted that these traditions were preserved in the Fergana Valley in the late XIX - early XX centuries. In particular, during this period, cities such as Kokand, Andijan, Chust were considered the largest metallurgical centers of the valley. However, the peculiarity of the region is that as a result of the rapid development of socio-economic relations on this land, during this period, the metallurgical industry also developed in rural areas. However, in research, this issue is relatively poorly covered or such data are not systematized. For this reason, we consider it appropriate to shed light on this issue.

It is known that during the period under study, in the villages of the Fergana Valley, especially in the settled Uzbek, Tajik and

Uyghur villages, metal handicrafts were relatively developed.

Of course, a number of factors have played a role. For example, first of all, these ethnoses lived in the hearths of ancient culture, where agriculture was developed, and naturally found a high demand for metal tools and household items [3: 112; 92-102]. On the other hand, in the villages close to the ancient mines, centuries-old traditions related to metalworking were formed, and the dynasties of dynastic blacksmiths were formed. It was typical for such families to prepare not only domestic but also some types of products for the foreign market. Also, some of the Uyghurs, who live in a densely populated area of Uzbeks and Kyrgyz in the east of the valley, developed their ethnic traditions and gained a place in the local division of labor as skilled craftsmen. In particular, it is known that only Uyghurs were engaged in blacksmithing in the villages of Aravon volost [4: 119]. Because they had a high level of skill in tying the horse, making the metal parts of the cart.

As mentioned above, a number of factors influenced the development of metallurgy in rural areas. Researchers attribute the villages

to the proximity of ancient ore deposits, the availability of the necessary conditions for the development of handicrafts, the location of the settled and semi-settled population near the exchange centers, and the high natural demand of the population for metal products. In particular, the analysis of available materials on handicrafts of the Fergana Valley shows that it is located in the villages of Chodak, Konibodom, Kosonsoy, Uchkurgan, Asht, Shahrikhan, Kokand, Uzgen, Karasuv, Aravan, Rishtan, Chimgan and Koshtegirmon. In turn, in these villages developed industries of metallurgy, blacksmithing and cast iron [5: 112].

From time immemorial, the people of the Fergana Valley have been mining ore from the mines and smelting iron from it [6: 1]. Metal smelting from ore developed in the Uzbek, Tajik and Kyrgyz farms in the valley. The method of smelting metal from ore by these artisans differed little from the methods of smelting metal in other regions of Central Asia [7: 245]. Local traditions were manifested in the process of processing after this semi-finished metal was brought to the blacksmith shop. This reflects the specifics of each center. For example, Chust blacksmiths improved the quality of such a piece of metal by processing it in the "four-step" method. Because high quality metal raw materials were required to make the knife.

Rural blacksmiths made hammers, sickles, hammers, axes, chisels, hammers and various household utensils from the processed iron raw materials. In rural blacksmithing, as in urban production, there is no tradition of narrow specialization, the use of sophisticated equipment and the use of production methods, the production of a wide range of metal products. During this period, almost every village in the valley had its own blacksmith, who made the product not by commodity, but by order of the villagers. In doing so, the customer usually supplied the blacksmith with food, sometimes iron and coal as well. If a blacksmith worked at the expense of his own raw materials, he was paid with grain. If the blacksmith performed the service of the whole team, he was in the supply of the team. For

example, in the village of Sang in Namangan region, until the beginning of the twentieth century, there was a tradition of providing blacksmiths and hairdressers with a special share of the autumn harvest "hakala".

The blacksmiths of the village of Asht in the valley are known for their skillful making of blacksmiths. There was a great demand for the metal products they made in the valley. In particular, in the Besharik market in the west of the valley, ketmon, sickles, axes and other iron products made mainly by Asht masters were in demand [8:20]. The Ashtians were also invited to many villages as skilled blacksmiths and settled there. Field research shows that until the middle of the twentieth century, they were mainly blacksmiths in the Karakalpak villages west of the valley [9: 1].

A number of Uzbek villages in the Fergana Valley also specialize in the production of some metal products, as craftsmen pay special attention to their production. For example, the villages of Chimgan, Shahrikhan and Koshtegirmon are known to be the villages in the valley that specialize in the production of some such metal products. For example, blacksmiths in the village of Koshtegirmon in the west of the valley used to make small, thin, trapezoidal, sharp-edged ketmon in the middle of the 20th century. are widely known in the valley for their construction. Their products were in demand in the markets. He played an important role in distinguishing the quality product from the population, as such masters have their own tree stamps on their products. In particular,

The blacksmiths of the plain region made a mark on the objects in the form of almond, asterisk, letters of the Arabic alphabet, and the craftsmen of the foothills, for example, the blacksmiths of Asht, put a sign in the form of a quail trace. It is obvious that even the stamps reflected the ethnos way of life, especially its economic and cultural traditions.

Along with the cities of the Fergana Valley, including Kokand, Andijan, Chust, knife-wielding has developed in some villages. Shahrihan and Karasuv knife centers are examples of this. Local traditions are reflected in the craftsman's equipment, knife blade,

handle shape, decoration [10:99]. In the valley there are such types of knives as "boat", "straight", "leaf", "Kazakh" and "Kashgar". These traditions have been passed down to future generations in the families of tree masters [11:46]. For this reason, among the people there were such names as anjanpichok, chustpichok, shahrikhonpichak, koqonpichok.

In the settled Uzbek and Tajik villages of the Fergana Valley, the coppersmithing industry has been developed, in part, due to the needs of the population. For example, in the villages of Kosonsoy, Chodak, Sang, Shahant in Namangan region, Karasuv in Andijan region, Bekabad in Fergana region, this type of profession is developed. Although the number of coppersmiths in these villages was not so great, they skillfully made copper bowls, teapots, bowls, plates, jugs, jugs, nosdon, cigarettes, ink, trumpets, flutes, and sometimes horse harnesses for the needs of the population. The ethno-territorial features of coppersmithing in the villages of the valley are reflected in the type and shape of the item, its decoration.

During this period, Uzbeks, Tajiks and Uighurs settled in the Fergana Valley and developed handicrafts in the form of simple metal ornaments. The povons who migrated to Kashgar were also known in the valley as skilled decorators [12:94]. Because they have been engaged in this type of craft on caravan routes since ancient times. They continued to practice this exercise even after they later moved to the valley. Also, in the villages of Besharik, Chodak, Sang, Shahrikhan and Asaka in the valley, craftsmen made ornaments from silver and various stones.

In short, in the economy of the settled population of the Fergana Valley from ancient times developed a variety of handicrafts that make metal products. These traditions were also preserved in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During this period, a number of factors influenced the development of handicrafts, and industries developed not only in cities but also in rural areas. In the villages of the valley, blacksmithing, blacksmithing and, in part, coppersmithing flourished, and ethno-territorial traditions of

each region emerged. The consistent study of these issues today will lead to a more detailed study of the problems of handicrafts of the people of the Fergana Valley, as well as the ethnology of the peoples of Central Asia.

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