



FROM THE HISTORY OF EARLY MEDIEVAL POTTERY CRAFT

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: September 11th 2022 Accepted: October 11th 2022 Published: November 17th 2022</p>	<p>In Ustrushona, one of the historical and cultural regions of Central Asia, pottery craft has been active since ancient times. In Ustrushona, ancient cities were studied, where potters' neighborhoods were recorded. The article analyzes pottery khumdons of ancient times found in Munchogtepa, Nurtepa, Qaliyatepa monuments of Ustrushona, city monuments such as Orda in Jizzakh, Kultepa in Zomin, Bunjikat, pottery khumdons of the middle ages and materials of potters' quarters. These finds really indicate that the pottery craft was developed in Ustrushona and had local characteristics.</p>
<p>Keywords: Archaeological complexes, handicrafts, pottery khumdons, potters' neighborhoods, Munchogtepa, Nurtepa, Qaliyatepa, Orda, Kultepa, Bunjikat.</p>	

An in-depth study of the history of the pottery craft of Ustrushona in the early Middle Ages, which has an important place in the history of Central Asia, is an important task facing Ustrushona scholars today. Because pottery is one of the important branches in the history of Ustrushona crafts.

It is known that, as a result of archeological excavations, samples of pottery vessels are among the most commonly recorded finds. In most cases, pottery serves as the main material source for determining the chronological date of ancient structures and monuments of archaeological complexes. The history of a number of historical and cultural countries of Central Asia, in particular, Khorezm, Ferghana, Sogd, Bactria-Taxoristan, of ancient and medieval pottery crafts and samples of earthenware, has been scientifically researched. In particular, L.M. Levina, N.F.Vakturskaya, O.M.Peshchereva, Yu.Ya.Yakubov, G.V.Shishkina, N.P.Stolyarova, T.J.Annaev, G.Mirzaaliev such specialists as the history of ceramics and ceramics of Central Asia have conducted research on the subject of properties and published a number of their scientific works on this topic.

Written and archeological sources testify that the pottery craft has been active since ancient times in Ustrushona, one of the historical and cultural regions of Central Asia. In Ustrushona, pottery khumdons, potters' quarters, ancient cities were found and studied by archaeologists. For example, pottery khumdons of ancient times are found in Munchogtepa, Nurtepa, Kaliyatepa monuments of Ustrushona [M.Pardaev, A.Pardaev. 1998], medieval pottery khumdons and potters' quarters in Orda in Jizzakh [M.Pardaev, A.Pardaev. 1999.], recorded in city monuments such as Kultepa in Zomin, Bunjikat in Oratepa [Buryakov Yu.F, Gritsina A.A. 1994]. These finds really indicate that the

pottery craft was developed in Ustrushona and had local characteristics.

It should be noted that the ceramic vessel samples found during certain excavations carried out in Ustrushona were recognized as findings determining the periodic date and were partially mentioned in scientific reports and articles. However, until now, there have been no scientific works dedicated to the history, development stage and research of local characteristics of Ustrushona pottery craft. This negative reality is especially characteristic of early medieval pottery. However, a number of early medieval cities and fortresses of Ustrushona were thoroughly studied in the 80s and 90s of the last century. In particular, the samples of pottery taken from the cultural layers of the Qaliyatepa, Pardaqultepa, and Komilbobotepa monuments of the V-VIII centuries were not analyzed through special research.

In Ustrushona in the early Middle Ages, local pottery underwent certain changes, which were caused by political, economic and cultural factors. It is known that during this period, the political rule of nomadic herding peoples was established in Central Asia between two rivers, and this situation also had an impact on material culture. The potters who made earthenware moved to make a series of new forms of vessels based on the needs of the population. In particular, mustakhara (designed for transporting water on a horse), braziers (for lighting fire in the grass or in rooms in cold weather, for storing coals), pans (for preparing foods such as dough, layers, etc. in desert conditions) were produced in large numbers.

One of the most common types of household pottery in the early Middle Ages were hummocks. Attempts were made to store as much food and drinking water as possible in castles and fortresses under natural economic conditions. These things are extremely rare in



situations of military action and siege caused by political instability. The size of the storage rooms for grain, flour, and drinking water was large. In 2003-2004, the height of the hummock found in the territory of Jizzakh city is 1.85 meters, and the maximum width is 0.85 meters. About 200 liters of water can be stored in this chum [M.Pardaev, A.Pardaev. 1999, Basymovich, T. B. (2022). 11, 18-22].

Among the noted pottery there are also some pottery belonging to the cultural life of the early medieval society. In particular, incense sticks were used in religious observances and celebrations. Frankincense consists of a tubular, hollow body, a flat base, and a "cup" attached to the head of the body. Aromatic herbs (incense, etc.) were placed in the cup and lit during ceremonies.

Local potters made dishes based on the household needs of the population. During this period, due to the increase in livestock production, the production of wells, dates, and oilseeds, where milk and fat products are obtained and stored, increased. Traditional pottery, such as jugs, bowls, plates, pots, lamps, and bowls, was produced almost unchanged from the previous form.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the early Middle Ages Ustrushona had a variety of dishes. Hands on pottery making the prestige of prepared dishes also increased. The influence of settlers on the form and technology of pottery was also significant. This problem awaits extensive research.

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