

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS OF THE KHOREZM KHANATE

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Abstract:

This article defines the types of handicrafts available in the Khorezm khanate and the involvement of women in it. It is highlighted that the main trends of craftsmanship and the new types of professions, which were influenced by the political and socio-political processes at the beginning of the 19th - early 20th centuries in Khorezm oasis.

Keywords: Khorezm, Khiva, craft, cotton, weaving, cotton fabric, dressing, yashmak, shawls.

Introduction

Khorezm has traditionally been one of the largest centers of craftsmanship in the region. Having the capital city status has had a positive effect on the evolution and development of various crafts. Describing the population of Khiva, the Russian merchant F. Skibin (1697) wrote that they were not combatant and were mainly engaged in craftsmanship.¹

The main directions of city craftsmanship were the preparation of headgear, household items, food products, yarn, silk, various fabrics, weddings, ordinary and fashionable clothes. In addition, there was a huge demand for household items such as mops, shovels, saws, axes, pins, hinges, locks and nails, produced by the city craftsmen.

According to sources, several handiwork products, including wooden tools, such as spinning wheels, winches, cradles, chest, children's toys, carpentry pallets, ploughshares, harrows, mills, doors, dish-kept shelves, saddle bag, ²prayer-mat and others were widely used by the local people.³

Urban crafts products also satisfied not only the daily needs of the ordinary population, but also the needs of senior representatives. In addition, these products were in high demand among the nomadic migrants.

A variety of yarn, silk, semi-silk and woolen fabrics were produced in the Khorezmian Khanate. In 1669, Ivan Fedotov and Matvey Muromtsev, who were sent to Khiva and Bukhara from Astrakhan by the Russian king Aleksei Mikhailovich, noted that they were welcomed by Khivian khan Anushakhan and they had gone to Khanka, Khazarasp and New Urgench, where they were the main production centers of the Khanate and "the local people had commerce with chintz, rnuslin, cotton-fabric, diversified cloth and silk."⁴

¹ Materials on the history of Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan and Turkmenistan. – M.-L., 1932. – P. 266.

² UzR NSA, II-125-charity, 1-list, 502-p, 69-page..

³The charity of Itchan-qal'a museum reservation. Item. № KP 144. Item . 3, KP 1283. Item. 5, KP 1285 Item. 7, КП 1287. Item. 9, KP 1286. Item. 8, KP 1291. Item. 12.

⁴ Ya. V. Khanykov. Explanatory note to the map of the Aral Sea and the Khiva Khanate // Notes of the Imperior. Russian Geographical Society. KN. V. - SPb., 1851. - C 306



According to Rukovkin, The Russian merchant in XIVA in 1753, there were no factories in Khiva, but the population was engaged in various craftsmanship for their needs, making fabrics of silk and yarn. These fabrics are not beautiful, but they are very solid.

In the Khorezm khanate, like in other parts of Central Asia, there was a great demand for light, airborne cotton fiber in the heat of the summer.⁵ The demand for such fabrics has led to a widespread of knitting fabric among artisans. These facts can be confirmed by the 19th century documents. There noted the names of various types of silk, wool, semi-silk fabrics and textile products, such as broadcloth, fragment, gulnor, atlas, silk, mitqol, adras, as well as woolen fabrics, such as cotton-fabric, gauze, chintz and other cloths.⁶

Fibre - cloths were made of local raw materials, which are widely produced in Central Asia, with the use of ancient fibers. Russian soldier G.I. Danilevsky gave a detailed description of the Khivian khanate in 1842, especially pointing out the importance the cotton among the other plants used in production.⁷ Cotton is a plant that produces a good crop in the climatic conditions of Central Asia and a natural, solid and well-woven yarn was made from it. Women's manual work has played an important role in this process. It was noted in the 70s of the 19th century that the cotton harvested from the field was cleaned on the bases on manual labor. Then it was dried for a week or three or four weeks if there is a well-opened cotton. Dried cotton was separated from seeds using special equipment. It had hooks, and it was stirred by the hand. Because the teeth were mounted on opposite sides, the cotton pumps moved towards the teeth and the seeds were left behind and cotton was removed.

The skill of sewing clothes for women was popular. Women's dresses and jackets were sewn by the dressmakers. The craftsmen decorated the jackets with silk and gilded fillets, and if the jacket is worn in winter, they were decorated with beaver skin. These waistcoats were tight and short, with the front button, and the ones that are worn in winter were sewn with a steep collar.

Craftsmen khan's women were also specialized in sewing long dresses. Older women wore a white cloth or chintz-sewn dresses. For girls and young women, dresses of silk and silk fabrics were sewn. Elderly and middle-aged women had a sleeveless jacket and green or blue vests for wearing on the shirt. Winter-worn fur coats and black velvet dresses were also made for women. Most of the women had a yashmak and chachvon. Chochvon - the curling net on the face, which was made of the hair of the horse's tail. There was of a class of special weavers, who engages in weaving chachvon.

The craftswomen knitted also a white cloth - a "khalaka" - a slippery for the back of the shoulder, with a piece of cloth on top and a slim head restraint.

The front of the shawl was called "tamahsa". The back was cut to prevent the back of the face from being blocked by the shoulder and chest part.⁸ The shoulders and chest pieces were covered when they were dressed. Craftsmen also produced clothes for young children. They had a jacket, which shoulder straps with a round neck cutter was designed to wear on cold days.

⁵ Turayeva. The history of manufacture in Khiva in late 18th and 70th of 20th century. Disser. for cand.of hist.science – Tashkent, 2009. –p.41.

⁶ Spasskiy G. Fragments about Bukhara and Khiva. // Siberian Anouncement. 1823. Volume. 1. – p. 90.

⁷ Danilevskiy G. I. Writings about Khivian Khanate. // Writings from Russian Geographic society. Volume 5. – 1851. – p121.

⁸ Zadihina K.L. Culture and life of Uzbeks in Kipchak region. Kara- kalpak ASSR // Collective works by the Institute of Ethnography named after N.N. Mikluho-Maklay. L., 1971. T. 97 – p. 388.



The political and socio-political processes of the 19th and early 20th centuries have led to certain changes in the craftsmanship of Khiva, which has been reflected in the emergence of new types of professions (eg firing guns, floor- lying, etc.). Large-scale penetration of Russian industry products to the region has led to the decline of some traditional craft industries. Nevertheless, the demand for traditional craftsmanship remained high. The craftsmanship of Khorezmian khanate was a textile industry with a wide range of products. Trained craftswomen mainly produced head-worn cloths such as turbans, shawls, neckerchieves and belts, which met the needs of the population.

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