



History Of Samarkand Glassmaking

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Abstract. This article is devoted to the study of the history of Samarkand glassmaking. Glass products have been found in the Afrosiyab area since the II century BC. In ancient and early medieval layers, glass beads, medallions and vessels were found from tombs and monuments. From the 8th century, the use of glass products on the same level as pottery means that there were many glassware makers and workshops. One of the earliest workshops in Turkestan was also recorded in Afrosiyab region.

Keywords. Glass beads, sak queen, medallion, glass mercury jars, glass workshop, Afrosiyab.

Introduction

The historical Samarkand region of our republic is one of the regions that are rich in archaeological sources. Many branches of craftsmanship have been developed here for centuries. At first, various jewelry were made from glass: beads, bracelets, medallions, and slowly, vessels began to be made. In antiquity and the early Middle Ages, glassware was relatively scarce and so it was considered valuable. In terms of production technology, the production of glass products was dominated by free blowing and mold blowing, typical of all glass workshops of Turkestan. Green, yellow, blue, blue glass containers were recorded in Samarkand region.

Literature analysis and methodology

Information about glass production in Samarkand can be found in a number of sources. Samarkand is adjacent to the Kichik Kuhak mountain, the stone of the cities, earth for utensils, lime, glass and other things were brought from this mountain¹. Musk was transported from Movarounnahr to the whole world, and glass containers were preferred over earthenware and other containers for storing and transporting musk². This increased the demand for glass containers. In the information of Ibn Havqal, it is noted that glass was produced in Samarkand, and the clay and lime used for making glass were mined from Kohak Mountain³.

In the city of Samarkand,

which was considered the center of Sughd, archaeological research has been carried out since the beginning of the 20th century. V.L. Vyatkin⁴, A. Trenzkhin⁵, A. Abdurazzakov and others⁶, M.

¹ Истахрий. Китаб ал- масалик вал- мамалик – Йўллар ва ўлкалар китоби. Р.Т. Худайбергенов таржимаси. 159- бет.

² Ибн Ҳавқал. Китаб сурат ал- ард. Ернинг сурати китоби. Ш. Камолиддин таржимаси. 2011. 17- бет.

³ Ибн Ҳавқал. Китаб сурат ал- ард. Ернинг сурати китоби. Ш. Камолиддин таржимаси. 2011. 57- бет.

⁴ В.Л. Вяткин. Афрасиаб городище бывшего Самарканда. Ташкент. 1927.

⁵ А.И. Тереножкин. Согд и Чач // КСИИМК, XXXIII. Москва-Ленинград, 1950.

⁶ А. Абдуразаков, М. Безбородов, Ю. Заднепровский. Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье. Ташкент.1963.



Amindjonova⁷, G. Shishkina⁸, J. Mirzaahmedov⁹ and others' researchers contributed to the archaeological and chemical study of glassmaking in Afrosiyab region. The appearance of glass vessels in Sugdiyan was also noted by modern scientists in VII century¹⁰. Sh.S. Kamoliddinov in his work “Металлургия и ремесленное производство у древних тюрков” gives details how beads were made and used in sculpture. In VI-VII centuries, there was little production of glass in the cities of Central Asia, but from the VIII century, the number of workshops increased and glass production also increased. Craftsmen were called “shishachi” in Turkish, and glass windows were called mirrors, mirror¹¹.

Discussion and results

As the central city of ancient Sughd, Afrosiyab had a high place in glass production. As early as 1948, A.Trenozhkin found long pieces of glass drop-like from the II century BC from the IV layer of Afrosiyab¹². This bottle was considered to be the oldest glass found in Afrosiab, and G. Shishkina compared the this finding with other ceramics¹³. Considering the scarcity of vessels belonging to this period, M. Amindjanova expressed the opinion that there was no independent glass production in Afrosiab even in the 1st - 2nd centuries AD¹⁴. During the Hellenistic period in Central Asia, the production of glass and various products from it rose among other industries. The Uzbek-French expedition conducted research in Koktepa, a monument of the first Iron Age, located 30 km north of Samarkand, and obtained a number of important information. The result of the successful expedition launched in 1999-2000 was the discovery of a rich burial mound dating back to the II-I centuries BC¹⁵. The studied grave is the largest grave not only in Samarkand, but also in Uzbekistan (area 11x5.50 m., depth 6.50 m.). A woman aged 25-35 was buried in the grave. The objects placed in the grave with the woman clearly indicate that the woman was a representative of the upper class, or a noble. An example of this was the discovery of 345 gold cylindrical leaves and 57 glass beads around the dress¹⁶. The glass beads were thought to have been made in Rome or India, according to researchers. The fact that 57 glass beads were found in a row of gold leaf in a nobleman's tomb, and it was imported from neighboring cultures. This indicates that glass was valued as a precious metal during this period. Glass beads imported from neighboring cultures, were similar to them, and the

⁷ М.О. Амиджанова. Средневековые стеклянные сосуды из музеев Ташкента и Самарканда// История материальное культуры Узбекистана. Вып. 3. Ташкент. 1962. С 87 – 100.

⁸ Г.В. Шишкина. Ремесленная продукция средневекового Согда. Стекло Афрасиаба. Ташкент. Издательство «Фан» Узбекская ССР. 1986. С.

⁹ Художественная культура Центральной Азии и Азербайджана IX-XV веков. Том II. Стекло. Самарканд. Тошкент: МИЦАИ, 2011.

¹⁰ Ё.Б. Алимов, Д.Нормуродов. Банокат – Шохрухия калъаси.// Мозийдан садо. 2016. 45-бет.

¹¹ Камолитдин Ш. Металлургия и ремесленное производство у древних тюрков. Тошкент, 2016.

¹² А.И. Тереножкин. Согд и Чач // КСИИМК, XXXIII. Москва-Ленинград, 1950. С.157.

¹³ Г.В. Шишкина. Ремесленная продукция средневекового Согда. Стекло Афрасиаба. Ташкент. Издательство «Фан» Узбекская ССР. 1986. С. 18

¹⁴ М.О. Амиджанова. Средневековые стеклянные сосуды из музеев Ташкента и Самарканда// История материальное культуры Узбекистана. Вып. 3. Ташкент. 1962. С 89.

¹⁵ М.Исамиддинов, К. Рапен, Ф. Грене. Раскопки на городище Коктепа. Ўзбекистонда археологик тадқиқотлар 2000 йил. Самарканд. 2001. С. 79- 86.

¹⁶ М.Исамиддинов, К. Рапен, Ф. Грене. Раскопки на городище Коктепа. Ўзбекистонда археологик тадқиқотлар 2000 йил. Самарканд. 2001. С. 79- 86.



analogy is based on those found in those regions. But in this period Old Termiz¹⁷, Khorezm¹⁸ the discovery of many glass beads in the region and the presence of a workshop in the south were not taken into account. For the nomadic Sakas who were not artisans, glass may have been a valuable commodity. They exchanged goods with the people who lived a nomadic life and were engaged in handicrafts.

There are two views on whether glass production was developed or underdeveloped in Turkestan in the early Middle Ages. The first scientists believed that in the VI-VIII centuries there was glass production in Central Asia, but not at a high level. There were also a few types of products, and it is reported that local craftsmen mainly made makeup and a small number of household items¹⁹. The establishment of simple glass production in Central Asia was proven by many successive findings, and the types of glassware were widespread²⁰. On the other hand, most scholars assume that pre-Islamic glassware was scarce and imported. They put forward the theory that glassware, cosmetics, eating utensils were imported in limited quantities and belonged only to the rich. In particular, V.I. Raspopova, in her research on early medieval glassware, comments on Sugdiyona glassware: "I assume that Sugdiyona could not produce independent quality glass until the early Middle Ages. It is too early to talk about the independently developed glassmaking of Sughd until the 8th century. According to the researcher, most of the glassware were imported. The theory was put forward that the glass objects found in Panjikent reflect the trade relations between Sugdiyana and the countries of the Near and Middle East"²¹.

As evidence for his opinion, he mentions A.A. Abdurazzakov, M.A. Bezborodov and Y.A. Zadneprovsky's information from "Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье". The work gives a brief description of the products in the beginning of the 8th century, and the conclusion says: "As you can see, the number of glassware products from the early medieval period is small. Glass vessels were found mainly in the southern regions of Central Asia. They were undoubtedly very rare and very valuable. Scientists also paid attention to the similarity of the shapes of glass vessels found in Sogd (Panjikent), Tokharistan (Balaliq-tepa) and southern Turkmenistan (Ortadepeslik)". However, they have tried to prove the existence of glass production with written sources and archeological findings.

Despite the information about the development of glass production in Turkestan in the 5th century AD in the Chinese chronicles, G. Shishkina and many other scholars believed that until the middle of the 8th century, glass was expensive and produced in small quantities²². Based on rare

¹⁷ К. Абдуллаев. Художественное стекло Старого Термеза//История материальное культуры Узбекистана. Вып. 29. Самарканд. 1998. С. 129-237.

¹⁸ С.А. Трудновская. Украшения позднеантичного Хорезма по материалам раскопок Топрак-кала//Труды Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции. Москва, 1952. С. 130 – 131.

¹⁹ А.М. Беленицкий, И.Б. Бентович, О.Г. Большаков. Средневековый город Средней Азии. 1973 С. 69.

²⁰ С.А. Трудновская. Предметы вооружения и быта. Украшения / Городище Топрак кала (раскопки 1965-1975 гг.). Москва, 1981.С.117-121.

²¹И.И. Расопова. Стекланные сосуды из Пенджикента (находки 1950-1999 гг.). Санкт-Петербург, 2010. С.4.

²² Г.В. Шишкина. Ремесленная продукция средневекового Согда. Стекло Афрасиаба. Ташкент. Издательство «Фан» Узбекская ССР. 1986. С. 18

archaeological finds, D. Mirzaahmedov believes that “Uzbek glassmaking had been handed down from generation to generation, kept strictly secret by masters until the Arab era”²³.

The next finding is a glass medallion of a new type dating back to the 7th century AD²⁴. It had a famous mother cradling her child was found in the Bolaliktepa area²⁵. There was no other information about the period from the beginning of the 7th century AD to the 7th century. Although V.L Vyatkin's study of Afrosiyab bottles did not provide accurate information on the dimensions of the glass workshop, it is noted that sand and ash remains, glass and broken glassware fragments were found in the Nomozgi area²⁶.

It was written by researchers that from the second half of the 8th century, glass production expanded in Afrosiab, and a glass workshop was studied in Panjikent²⁷. From the layers of the second half of the 8th century, vessels in the form of glass goblets with handles and large legs were found and described²⁸. It has been determined that from the territory of Turkestan, handles and handles without handles were produced from the 8th to the 12th century²⁹. It was found in 1959 together with the coin of Ismail ibn Ahmed³⁰, and this helped to identify the date when it was made. While it was said to have been made locally, it had little decoration³¹. From the middle of the 8th century, glass products became widespread and began to be used like ceramics. 25% of all vessels found in Badrab Tashnov in the Afrosiyab area, dated by coins issued in the late 8th - early 9th centuries, were made of glass³². At the beginning of the 9th century, glass-making workshops were found in the Afrosiyab region³³ and glass production appears to have been widespread. The most common vessel types in Afrosiab were bowls (glasses) with a height equal to or greater than the diameter, flat-bottomed conical vessels, and bell-shaped vessels with a base³⁴. Glass mercury gourds were also found in Afrosiyab³⁵. Conical and bell-shaped glasses in Afrosiob were made by free blowing.

As a result of his research in Samarkand, A.I. Terenozhkin came to the conclusion that “in the second half of the 8th century in Samarkand, glass vessels were as widespread and widely used as ordinary

²³Художественная культура Центральной Азии и Азербайджана IX-XV вв. Том II. Стекло. Самарканд- Тошкент: МИЦАИ, 2011. С. 96.

²⁴ Л.И. Албаум. Балалык тепа. Ташкент, 1960. С. 76-77.; А.И. Тереножкин. Согд и Чач // КСИИМК, XXXIII.Москва-Ленинград, 1950. Рис. 72:1.

²⁵ Л.И. Албаум. Балалык тепа. Ташкент, 1960. С. 76-77.

²⁶ В.Л. Вяткин. Афрасиаб городище бывшего Самарканда. Ташкент. 1927. С. 60-64.

²⁷ А.М. Беленицкий, И.Б. Бентович, О.Г. Большаков. Средневековый город Средней Азии. 1973 С. 69

²⁸ А.И. Тереножкин. Согд и Чач // КСИИМК, XXXIII.Москва-Ленинград, 1950. С.157.

²⁹ М.О. Аминджанова. Средневековые стеклянные сосуды из музеев Ташкента и Самарканда// История материальное культуры Узбекистана. Вып. 3. Ташкент. 1962. С 89.

³⁰ В.Л. Вяткин. Афрасиаб городище бывшего Самарканда. Ташкент. 1927. С. 60-64.

³¹ В.Л. Вяткин. Афрасиаб городище бывшего Самарканда. Ташкент. 1927. С. 64.

³² Г.В. Шишкина. Ремесленная продукция средневекового Согда. Стекло Афрасиаба. Ташкент. Издательство «Фан» Узбекская ССР. 1986. С. 19.

³³ А. Абдуразаков, М. Безбородов, Ю. Заднепровский. Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье. Ташкент.1963. С. 95.

³⁴ Г.В. Шишкина. Ремесленная продукция средневекового Согда. Стекло Афрасиаба. Ташкент. Издательство «Фан» Узбекская ССР. 1986. С. 14.

³⁵ В.Л. Вяткин. Афрасиаб городище бывшего Самарканда. Ташкент. 1927. С. 59.

ceramic vessels”³⁶. Archaeological monuments show that glass ornaments were made in Samarkand³⁷.

Summary

In the 5th-8th centuries AD, all fields of handicrafts began to grow in region of Turan. Conditions were also ripen for the production and development of glass. Craftsmanship did not emerge suddenly in the 8th-9th centuries. The reason for this was the slow development of the composition of the bottle, the type of product, and the manufacturing technology³⁸.

White sand (36-39 percent), which was necessary in glassmaking accounted for the largest amount³⁹. In the desert regions of Central Asia and Eurasia, it was of high quality and quantity. Skilled artisans have been making high-quality glass products of various colors since ancient times using local raw materials. By supplementing the composition and adding new substances and minerals, they achieved a clear and beautiful color of the glass based on long-term experience. In conclusion, glassmaking has been developed in Central Asia since ancient times. In the Middle Ages, glassmaking reached its highest level. The study of archaeological glass objects provides numerous opportunities in the study of the history of the peoples of Central Asia.

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³⁶ А.И. Тереножкин. Согд и Чач // КСИИМК, XXXIII. Москва-Ленинград, 1950. С. 167.

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³⁸ Распопова В.И. Стеклянные сосуды из Пенджикента (находки 1950-1999гг). Санкт-Петербург. 2010. С. 5.

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