

HISTORY OF KHORAZM GLASSWORK

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the period of Khorezm glassmaking from ancient times to the beginning of the 13th century AD. In the territory of ancient Khorezm, various objects were made of glass starting from the Bronze Age. Initially, beads, rings, amulets, medallions, plates for fastening on window sills, glass vessels in the form of amphoras were found. Workshops, artifacts and slag related to the craft of glassmaking were studied. It is shown that glass production was started by craftsmen in the Khorezm territory.

Keywords: glass, bead, ring, window glass, amphora-shaped glass vessel, glass workshop.

Ancient Khorezm is one of the developed regions of handicrafts. In terms of glassmaking, beads made of the oldest glass paste found so far in the Khorezm region began to spread in settlements and cemeteries of the Late Bronze Age. Like other regions of Turan, Khorezm used to make glass jewelry in ancient times: beads, rings, bracelets, and amulets. Scientists studied a total of 74 graves from the Kokcha 3 cemetery dated by archaeologists to the 13th-11th centuries BC. Of these, glass beads were found in 5 graves¹. The beads found here are made of bright blue glass paste in long, broken-angled shapes. There were also those that were made spirally on a rod, and in this form only glass could be used to make beads. Some beads were also blue-green in color. It should be noted that glass reacts in all processes, depending on whether it is stored in wet, dry soil or water. Stores relatively well in dry soil. Because of the sandy dry soil in Egypt and other countries of Asia Minor, bottles with a history of 3400 years are also well preserved². Glass changes chemically in water and soil. 1.5 mm on the outside of a glass that has been stored in the soil for 8 centuries from a total thickness of 7 mm is a different color. One such case is that you can actually see that the purple glass top has gone into the brown³. According to M. Itina, because the glass products are very old, most of them are poorly preserved⁴. In Tau-Tara cemetery (Kazakhstan) only 3 out of 22 graves were found with beads made of glass, so it can be considered that the demand for glass and glass mass was

¹ М.А. Итина Раскопки могильника тазабагъябской культуры Кокча-3, Материалы Хорезмской экспедиции, т. 5, 1961, С. 86 – 89.

² А.А. Абдуразаков, М.А. Безбородов, Ю.А. Заднепровский. Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье. Ташкент, 1963. С.26.

³ Ўша асар.

⁴ М.А. Итина Раскопки могильника тазабагъябской культуры Кокча-3, Материалы Хорезмской экспедиции, т. 5, 1961, С. 86 – 89.

not high at that time, perhaps it was considered valuable. M. Itina believes that the glass beads found here were brought from the Southern Urals. Scholars have countered this idea, saying that there were no such bead-making workshops in the Southern Urals, suggesting that beads of this type were made much earlier in the Caucasus and Iran, and trade was established earlier⁵. It is believed that it was probably brought from the Caucasus and Iran. At this point, it is necessary to take into account that glass beads were found in many regions of Uzbekistan during the Bronze Age and were produced by local craftsmen⁶. By the Iron Age, the number of glass products increases. In the Chirik-2 monument (IV-II centuries BC), biconical beads made of blue transparent glass were recorded. A similar glass bead was also found in Jonboskala⁷.

A large number of fragments of carved and polished glass vessels were also found in the monument of Koy Krylgan Kala (IV century BC - I century AD)⁸. Also, pieces of glass (transparent blue beads) similar to glass beads found in Jonboskala (V-IV centuries BC) were found in the monument⁹. Dark blue beads and an amphora-shaped glass container were found at the Jonboskala monument, which are believed by scientists to have been brought from the countries along the Black Sea (late BC-early AD centuries)¹⁰.

From the monument of Babis - mullah 2 (III-II centuries BC) bright blue circular beads, which were common in the Hellenistic period, were found. Similar close copies of beads were also found at the monument of Koy Krylgan Kala¹¹.

There is great interest in the glass vessels found in Tuproqkala, where the rulers of Khorezm lived. This is due to the fact that there are many small green, blue, red, yellow glass beads and there are samples of glass beads in different shapes. Glass vessels, glasses, beakers, bowls, rum, and broken parts of jars were also found in large quantities. One group of glasses was transparent, colorless. Green, yellow glassware is polished and decorated with carved patterns. The glass surface is coated with beautiful colors to make the bottles look attractive. These finds date back to the beginning of the IV and VI centuries¹².

⁵ А.А. Абдуразаков, М.А. Безбородов, Ю.А. Заднепровский. Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье. Ташкент, 1963. С.75.

⁶ S.B. Mamataliyeva. Shishaning paydo bo'lishi tarixi. Imom buxoriy saboqlari. 04/2023/. 43-44 – betlar.

⁷ С.П. Толстов, М.Г. Воробьева, Ю.А. Рапопорт. Работы Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции в 1957 г., Материалы Хорезмской экспедиции, т. 4, 1960, С. 48

⁸ Трудновская С.А. Изделия из металла, кости, камня, стекла и других материалов // Койкрылган-кала. М., 1967.

⁹ С.П. Толстов, М.Г. Воробьева, Ю.А. Рапопорт. Работы Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции в 1957 г., Материалы Хорезмской экспедиции, т. 4, 1960, С. 48.

¹⁰ А.А. Абдуразаков, М.А. Безбородов, Ю.А. Заднепровский. Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье. Ташкент, 1963. С. 80.

¹¹ С.П. Толстов, М.Г. Воробьева, Ю.А. Рапопорт. Работы Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции в 1957 г., Материалы Хорезмской экспедиции, т. 4, 1960, С. 61.

¹² С.А. Трудновская. Предметы вооружения и быта. Украшения / Городище Топрак кала (раскопки 1965-1975 гг.). Москва, 1981. С.117-121; Е.Е. Неразик. Археологическое описание памятника // Городище Топрак кала (раскопки 1965-1975 гг.). Москва, 1981. С. 51-55.

It is especially important that a glass medallion-falera with the image of a bearded man covering a lion skin was found along with the palace archives, glass and gold jewelry from the ruler's palace conditionally designated as the "Supreme Palace" in Tuproqkala¹³. The medallion may have an image related to the legend of the lion defeated by Heracles. The medallion is currently kept in the Hermitage Museum, its size is 2.7x3.5 cm, and its thickness is 0.4 cm. constitutes Made of green glass in an oval shape. For detailed information about the medallion, see Yu.A. We can get from the Rapoport article. According to him, the medallion was found from the upper layer of the palace walls. Although Tuproqkala Palace existed from the 2nd to the 6th century, it was abandoned by the inhabitants from the 4th century. By the researcher, the horses by the commanders of the Roman army show that although Ancient Khorezm was not conquered by the Greeks, trade relations were established and cultural exchanges took place. Glass plates measuring 3.5 x 3.5 cm were found from the settlement of Tuproqkala during the reign of Khorezmshahs (III century BC). According to the researches, the Tuproqkala plates were made in this area by local masters, similar to the Nisa plates, or rather, exactly like its copy¹⁴.

Green, large round glass beads dated to the first centuries AD from Jumankala were found by I.V. Ptashnikova believes that it was produced by local craftsmen¹⁵.

As an example of a workshop, a sample of crafts has been found at the Jampiq-Kala archaeological site (XII-XIV centuries), and the discovery of workshops, objects and stones related to the craft of glassmaking shows that glass production was started by local masters¹⁶. Glass products found in several monuments of the Khorezm region were analyzed to determine their chemical composition. As a result, although the composition is very close to each other, some differences are also noticed. Therefore, it is argued that the bottles were made in a single workshop, if there was no single workshop, the craftsmen used the same mine: the same sand, ash and, in general, the same raw materials¹⁷. In conclusion, Khorezm bottles are considered to be the closest type to Halbuk bottles.

Another piece of antique glassware was probably produced locally. The above indirect evidence confirms the existence of domestic glass production at that time. It should be added that archaeologists studying ancient Khorezm only note the uniqueness of the shapes of some glass objects found in Khorezm, and on this basis they conclude that they were produced by local craftsmen.

¹³ Ю.А. Рапопорт. Античный стеклянный медальон, найденный в Хорезме // Древние цивилизации. История и культура. М., 2001.

¹⁴ С.А. Трудновская. Украшения позднеантичного Хорезма по материалам раскопок Топрак-кала//Труды Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции. Москва, 1952. С. 130 – 131.

¹⁵ И.В. Пташникова. Бусы древнего и раннесредневекового Хорезма. ТХАЭЭ, т. 1, 1952, С. 111.

¹⁶ В.О. Тургенев. Xorazmning o'rta asrlardagi metallsozlik hunarmandchiligi. Diss., 2009. 43 bet.

¹⁷ А.А. Абдуразаков, М.А. Безбородов, Ю.А. Заднепровский. Стеклоделие Средней Азии в древности и средневековье. Ташкент, 1963. С.59.

As a result of the archaeological excavations carried out in the Qavatkala monument, which provides information about the last period of the existence of the Khorezmshahs, broken glass vessels were also found in the room¹⁸. The bottles found in the monuments are mainly thick and beveled window panes. It was in Qavatkala that window panes were used for the first time. Qavatkala was destroyed by Chigatoy and Oktoy due to a big fire. The fire was so big that copper and bronze vessels melted.

In conclusion, it can be said that glass beads can be found in the territory of Khorezm, starting from Kokcha 3, one of the oldest settlements. Glass beads are rare and are found in graves. The glass making and composition are very similar to Halbuk (Iranian) glass. The medallion found in the mud castle, the jewelry found in other monuments, and the lack of glass objects are assumed to have been brought from the Black Sea region. As a result of recent studies, the number of glass objects is increasing, and the evidence that glass production processes were carried out from ancient times in the developed cities of ancient Turan is accumulating enough. By the advanced Middle Ages, the discovery of glass-making workshops, objects and stones from the Jampiq-Kala archaeological site indicates that glass production was established by local craftsmen. The fact that a number of glass objects are unique to Khorezm also shows this (plates). The fact that window panes were first used in the Khorezm region from the 11th-12th centuries also gives information about the creativity of Khorezm glassmakers.

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