

SOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS FOR KARAKALPAK CRAFTS

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the sources of raw materials for Karakalpak crafts. The study revealed that open-pit copper ore was mined from 38 deposits in the Aktov area, and two miners' settlements, ore smelting furnaces and a large amount of copper alloy (rock) remains were found near the monument. The mines appear to have been used seasonally for a long time. Another thing is that these wells are not very deep and we can see that the copper ore is close to the surface. During the geological prospecting, mining specialists in northern Uzbekistan proved the presence of polymetallic ores (titanium, nickel, manganese, rutile) in the Sultan Uvays mountain range, along with gold, copper and iron.

KEYWORDS:- Raw materials, miners' settlements, gold, copper, iron, titanium, nickel, manganese, rutile, polymetallic ores, geological prospecting, mining specialists, northern Uzbekistan.

INTRODUCTION

Written sources, archeological and geological research confirm the existence of some sources of raw materials for handicrafts in the region, and provide a comprehensive

study of the field [1.242]. In particular, al-Maqdisi in his work “Ahsan-at-taqasim fi ma’rifat al-aqalim”, al-Umari in his work “Kitab masalik al-absar and mamalik al-amsar” Borategin village and mountain in the city of (Jampiqqala) they say that millstones and cauldrons were made. As mentioned in the previous chapter, al-Umari in his work noted that the stone cauldrons produced in Khorezm had a service life of 60 years.

Subsequent research has shown that it is a talc chlorite rock, the reserves of which have been identified in the Sultan Uvays mountain range. Lamps, pots, pans, teapots, construction and architectural ornaments (columns, capitals, embossed tiles) and other products made of it are found in many monuments of the region. Sources also say that turquoise and its products are highly valued not only in Karakalpakstan, but also in Central Asia and the Middle East. This product was one of the most valuable medieval goods of the oasis. Studies have shown that turquoise deposits are common in the Sultan Uvays Mountains [2.80-83].

THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

It should be noted that the raw materials and semi-finished products from this place have long been in demand not only in the region, but also in the Middle East (suffice it to recall the “Achaemenid” stone) and neighboring areas. Archaeological excavations and geological mining around the Jampiqqala monument have uncovered numerous traces of medieval caves and wells from which turquoise and serdol were excavated. Among the finds from the ruins of the city are many semi-finished items with traces of turquoise ore [3. 77-78] This is material evidence that a certain part of the population of Jampiqqala was engaged in handicrafts, stone carving and precious stone processing.

Khorezm is bordered on the northwest by the Ustyurt Mountains, and in this areas, there were medieval cities (Shemakhakala, Katta Aybuyirkala, Toprakkala, Puljoy, Bugrakhan) and caravanserais. In particular, Shirvonkala, a major center for mining craftsmen, has a well-developed center for construction and architectural work.

At the same time, other monuments of the oasis have a lot of material sources that show the development of stone carving. In particular, such monuments as Qizkal'a, Eshan rabod, Toshqala are famous, and large monuments rebuilt from processed stone slabs are being erected in these monuments. The walls of the Qizkal'a and the underground cisterns are made entirely of specially treated stone slabs [4.167-168]. This indicates that these monuments were the centers of stone-cutting.

Studies show that the inhabitants of this region have known the use of copper ore reserves located in the relatively shallow part of the earth since the Bronze Age. In this regard, the monuments of the Tozabogyob culture (II millennium BC) in the cemetery Kokcha 3, Kokcha 15, 15 A, 16 and in the deposits of the neighboring South Kyzylkum mountain range began to use metallurgical products in the Bronze Age. There are indicative spectroanalytic analyzes. In particular, the analysis of researchers Y.F. Buryakov and V.D. Ruzanov shows that 70% of the raw materials produced in these areas come from local sources, i.e they are made from ore from the ancient Bukon-Tomdi-Aminzatag deposits in South Kyzylkum [5. 29-31;200-204]. Archaeologist Y.P. Manilov studied the traces of the center of ancient copper deposits around the Aktov site, northwest of the Jampiqkala monument near Sultan Uvays Mountain. The study revealed that open-pit copper ore was mined from 38 deposits in the Aktov area, and two miners' settlements, ore smelting furnaces and a large amount of copper alloy (rock) remains

were found near the monument. The mines appear to have been used seasonally for a long time. Another thing is that these wells are not very deep and we can see that the copper ore is close to the surface. During the geological prospecting, mining specialists in northern Uzbekistan proved the presence of polymetallic ores (titanium, nickel, manganese, rutile) in the Sultan Uvays mountain range, along with gold, copper and iron. It was found that it was mined from Akimbetsay, Kyzylsay, Qazgansay, Tebinbulak regions [6. 31;533;8-9]

However, even in these scientific researches the sources of raw materials of metallurgical handicrafts in Khorezm oasis have not been studied as the object of research. The Aktov site in the Sultan Uvays mountain range dates back to the IV-II and X-XIV centuries BC, the Achchiktog hill in the X-XIII centuries, the Sheikhjalil mountain in the XII-XIV centuries, and the ancient Zangi Baba site working centers. Mining is mainly done in the open, by digging trenches. In some places, there are deep excavated underpasses and horizontal excavations that do not go directly to the surface. The findings mainly consist of pieces of utensils and tools of labor.

In addition, the Sheikhjalil Mountain area in the Sultan Uvays mountain range was a major center for processing local iron ore in the oasis. It is noteworthy that in a large area of 12,000 cubic meters near the tomb of Sheikhjalil Baba in the Sheykhhalil mountain massif, iron dust, fragments and remnants of iron scum are found in layers. There is a lot of information about this in the researches of geologists Y.S. Vesnevsky, K. Orazov, S.V. Lopatin and archeologists S.A. Dudakov [7. 23.25;88-91]

For a long time, stone (iron alloy), the primary raw material for iron ore, was extracted here. This is confirmed by the data obtained from the nearby monument of

Abumuslimkala, known as the site of miners. The monument is located on the top of Mount Shaykhjalil, 4 km south of Khojakol [8.26]. The area was inhabited by miners who worked seasonally.

Based on written sources, M.Y. Masson hypothesizes that in the Middle Ages the metallurgical handicrafts in Khorezm were probably based on raw materials imported from the Bulgarian state on the Volga [9.29]. However, local archaeologists N.Y. Yusupov and Y.P. Manilov's article "Study of mining in Sultan Uvays" based on written and scientific analysis of geological sources on mining in Sultan Uvays refutes this idea. The article mainly analyzes the data of talc (white or blue mineral), ancient deposits of turquoise, and the Russian ambassador of the XVIII-XIX centuries, tourists' information about precious metals. Iron ore deposits were also discovered in southern Khorezm in the Sultansanjar depression [10.81-89] (IX-XIII centuries) near the town of Sadvar and in the Nurum oasis (western Khorezm-Tuzkir) [11.34-37;110-118]

CONCLUSION

In short, copper and iron ore were mined from the Sultan Uvays mountain range. The Sultan Uvays mountain range, the Achchiktog hill, the Sheikhjalil mountain, the Zangi bobo site, and others have served as copper ore deposits and ore processing centers at various times, many of which have been studied. In short, the main sources of raw materials for oasis crafts during the period under study were metal ores from local deposits and precious and semi-precious stones. But, unfortunately, no research has found accurate archaeological data on metal ore deposits and processing sites in the oasis, and no scientific conclusions based on this.

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