

*Materials of Conferences***INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO TEACHING  
AND RESEARCH OF SOME TRADITIONAL  
CRAFT BRANCHES OF GANJA OF THE  
END OF XIX CENTURY**

Hasanov E.L. oglu

*Ganja branch of Azerbaijan National Academy  
of Sciences, Ganja, e-mail: el-hasanov@mail.ru*

Article deals with the historic-ethnographical importance of development of the main traditional branches of decorative-applied arts of Ganja. Basic skill characteristics of these handicraft branches of the end of XIX century for the first time were systematic investigated. Also, have been researched the typical features and development perspectives of teaching of local traditional decorative-applied arts at the higher educational establishments in Ganja.

Ganja is of the ancient cities of the world and this city has more than 3000 years old. One of the areas of initially appeared human civilization was an integral part of Azerbaijan, the historical land of the city Ganja. Scientific and archaeological researches have proved that Ganja was cradle of science and culture not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole East.

The majority of historical monuments, that are demonstrate the 3000 thousand year history of Ganja, which is the national wealth of our people, today gain unique place in the expositions of world's museums. In state and private museums of Metropolis, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Louvre, Paris, Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities rare and valuable exhibits, that concern to the history of ancient Ganja are preserved.

Late in XIX – early in XX centuries in Ganja were developed such traditional handicraft branches as carpet-making, masonry, ceramics trade, metal-making trades. During this historical period these kinds of decorative-applied art had some typical features.

Many different wares of these handicraft branches are guarded in museums. In Ganja in the territory of Ganja State Historical-Local Lore Museum named after Nizami Ganjavi some unique patterns of different kinds of local traditional decorative – applied art are preserved, too.

Investigation and also teaching of these handicraft branches of Ganja of the end of XIX century is very necessary. On the basis of scientific materials it is very important to research different wares of decorative-applied arts of ancient Ganja. Teaching of these handicraft branches at schools is so necessary too, because:

1. The formation of pottery on the territory of ancient Ganja is concern to the stages of ancient

history. Basis on research works carried out by the various persons in XIX century and experts-archeologists at the beginning of XX century in old ruins of the city and surrounding areas there were found different samples of pottery [1].

First of all, there have been discovered, that initial ceramic production in Ganja and its surrounding regions are belong to the VIII–VII millennium BC. From the history point of view, these ancient clay vessels, belonging to the Neolithic stage, are differing from the pottery samples of the neighboring ethnic in a number characteristic. These differences are seen in preparing technology, also in the area of external surface decoration. In Ganja during many centuries ceramic trade was one the main handicraft branches. Different wares of this kind of decorative-applied art were considered as the qualitative and graceful patterns in whole of the country.

Ceramic patterns of Ganja of the second half of XIX century have many characteristic handicraft features. During this historical period in Ganja have been prepared different ceramic wares with various constructive – plastic forms. Seheng, shegreng, kupe, jurdeck, kuze were the main water crockeries of Ganja in the XIX–XX centuries. Basic kitchen ceramic utensils were considered cholmek, qazan, qazancha, kuvey, dopu, helimdon, ashshyuzen and others [2].

The most part of earthenwares of Ganja during this period had different local traditional ornaments. Many of these wares are decorated with geometric, botanical designs and figures of domestic, also wild animals, but always graceful and effective. The major parts of these traditional ceramic wares of Ganja have stamps (handicraft stamps). Late in XIX – early in XX centuries in this ancient city was a great district – «mehelle», which called «Duluschular» («Potters»). In the territory of this district during many centuries lived and worked craftsmen of this trade [3].

We propose a motion for investigation, also teaching of ceramic trade of Ganja just in this city. At first, in the territory of Javad khan street of Ganja this year (in 2012) was built the scientific – applied centre of national traditional ceramic trade. Here it is possible to product different pottery wares. Also, in Ganja branch (former Ganja Regional Scientific Centre) of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences were compiled and published some scientific-methodical monographs, articles on the theme of investigation of ceramics trade of Ganja by scientists [4].

These scientific-educational supplies is very necessary on teaching of the history and characteristic trade of this handicraft branch at Ganja State

University, Ganja humanitarian college, also at Azerbaijan Technology University.

2. The craftsmanship of carpet-making is one of the important cultural achievements of the Eastern people in Azerbaijan production of carpets appeared in the I millennium BC. But carpet-making in the first period of Middle Ages has turned to the independent sphere of craft. In Ganja, that has minimum 3000 years history, production of carpets differed with quickly development. In this ancient city, that is native land of great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Sheikh Nizami Ganjavi, were weaved very uncial, inimitable kinds of carpet. In Ganja, that has rich traditions, were prepared carpets with various characteristics. For this reason one of Azerbaijani carpet groups are Ganja carpets or (Ganja-Kazakh carpets). Pay attention that in Ganja namely local kinds of carpets-palaz (carpets without of pile) are weaved. These carpets that are producing by local inhabitants are differing with specific handicraft features. During XIX century in Ganja were produced different kinds of local national carpets. These wares are important historical-ethnographical sources. It is very necessary to protect all patterns of traditional carpets of Ganja of this historical period [5].

Also, teaching of these decorative-applied art wares on the basis of scientific materials is urgent problem. In Ganja during XIX-XX centuries were prepared such carpet – making trade wares as khalcha, palaz, kylim, khaly, kebe, chul, verny and etc. [6].

During many centuries carpets of Ganja differed from other carpet wares for their typical handicraft features. This carpet kind had very various decorative-ornamental characteristics. Buta, also different geometric and botanical ornaments are considered as the basic decorative-handicraft accounts of local traditional carpet wares of Ganja [7].

Today the youth of the Azerbaijan Republic would learn this ancient traditional kind of handicraft. In our country we have specialists of this branch and at some colleges; universities are teaching different kinds of traditional decorative – applied arts such as carpet – making trade. But also we have to pay attention to this fact, that in our villages of Ganjabasar (Western part of the Azerbaijan Republic) region lived many women (also men), who considered the elderly specialists of this ancient trade.

3. Ganja and its surrounded territory are also rich with different stones. Presentation of white and in mountain and Aran Karabakh and also lime, travertip and marble building stones in and around Ganja, pure white, a lot of colored agates, chaldons, viel, ametist, obsidian, agates, crystal and other kind of rare colored stones in the river basins of Shahdag, Kecheldag, and other territories

created favorable ground for developing in this ancient country from ancient times stone cutting, stone grind, stone polishing and for building great modern, columned, arched, circled and four-cornered buildings here. In the second half of XIX century in Ganja one of the main traditional handicraft branches was a masonry trade. During this historical period masonry trade differed with its speedy development [4–6].

For this period masonry trade was considered the basic indicator of development of local traditional architecture. Main and more popular wares of masonry trade of Ganja in the XIX century were architectural and construction buildings [8], epigraphically monuments, epitaphs (sepulchral stones with calligraphy) [9].

Basic models of the national masonry trade of Ganja for this period are considered the dwelling houses and public buildings. Common quantity of these historical buildings is more than 200. But the main epigraphically wares of Ganja of this period are stony models («shebeke») and stells of Ganja Imamzadeh tomb, also Shah Abbas mosque.

In the territory of Ganja there are many epitaphs wares. During XIX-XX centuries here lived some popular lapidaries. In the territory of this ancient city were preserved a lot of models of this handicraft branch. In «Sebzikar» grave-yard, also in the territory of cemetery of «Imamzadeh» complex there are more than 150 epitaphs of this historical period. These epitaphs are considered the main sepulchral stones with calligraphy of the end of XIX century of Ganja [10].

At Azerbaijan State Agrarian University, Azerbaijan Technology University and Ganja State University in Ganja have been prepared some methodical-scientific supplies on the theme of investigation and teaching of this ancient traditional handicraft branch [11].

We must say, that is very necessary to teach the main handicraft features of traditional decorative-applied arts of Ganja of the XIX-XX centuries. Also in Ganja branch of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences during 2011–2012 years were systematic investigated the basic national characteristics of these trades and published some scientific works. In the future we have to continue our researches in the field of learning, investigation and teaching of these main traditional handicraft branches of Ganja.

#### References

1. Azərbaycan etnoqrafiyası: 3 cildə, I c., Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, 2007, 544 p.
2. Guliyeva N.M., Hasanov E.L. About ethnographic-archaeological research of some handicraft branches of Ganja during XIX-XX centuries / Progressive scientific explorations – 2012: Proceedings of the 8th International scientific-practical conference. –Prague: Publishing House – Education and Science s.r.o., Prague, (Czech Republic), 2012, P. 56–58.

3. Hasanov E.L. Innovational ethnographic facts on investigation and teaching of some basic decorative – applied arts of Ganja of the XIX–XX centuries / *Applied and Fundamental Studies: Proceedings of the 1st International Academic Conference*. Saint Louis: Publishing House – Science and Innovation Center, Saint Louis, Missouri (the United States of America), 2012. – P. 400–403.
4. Həsənov E.L. Die Gändschänischen teppiche von XIX – XX Jahrhundert als geschichtliche – ethnographische quelle // *European Science and Technology (Die Europäische Wissenschaft und die Technologien): 2<sup>nd</sup> International scientific conference*. – Bildungszentrum Rdk e. V. Wiesbaden, (Germany) 2012. – P. 26–27.
5. Hasanov E.L. Typical ethnographic features of traditional craft of Ganja in the end of XIX – beginning of XX centuries / *Scientific potential of the World – 2012: Proceedings of the 8th International scientific – practical conference*. Sofia: Publishing House – Bial GRAD. – BG, Sofia, (Bulgaria), 2012. – P. 23–24.
6. Həsənov E.L. Gəncə İmamzadə türbəsi (tarixi – etnografik tədqiqat). – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2012, 268 p.
7. Quliyeva N.M., Həsənov E.L. Gəncənin qədim və antik dövr saxsı məmulatlarının öyrənilməsində biokimyəvi innovasiya texnologiyalarının tətbiqinə dair / *Biokimyəvi nəzəriyyələrin aktual problemləri mövzusunda II Beynəlxalq konfransın materialları*. – Gəncə: GDU, 2011. – I hissə. – P. 210–213.
8. Nemət M.S. Azərbaycanca pirlər. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, 1992. – 104 p.
9. The dawn of Art. – Leningrad: Aurora Art Publishers, 1974. – 196 p.
10. Caucasian calendar for 1854. – Tbilisi, 1853. – P. 338–341.
11. Guliyev N.M., Hasanov E.L. On the development of art pottery in ancient Ganja // *Questions of the social sciences: sociology, political science, philosophy, history: proceedings of the international correspondence scientific conference*. – Novosibirsk: Apriori, 2011. – P. 132–135.

---

The work is submitted to the International Scientific Conference «Problem of international integration of national education standards», France (Paris), March, 15–22, 2013, came to the editorial office 23.01.2013.