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AN AGE-OLD CRAFT

Submission Date: August 26, 2022, Accepted Date: September 04, 2022,

Published Date: September 16, 2022

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ajsshr/Volume02Issue09-01>

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ABSTRACT

In this article, information about the activity and history of blacksmithing, one of the trades in the Zarafshan oasis, was more fully explained.

KEYWORDS

Gira, halfa, water, pose.

The master of the craft is the end,

Did I take it and go to the mud?

A. Navoi

INTRODUCTION

It is known from history that crafts, entrepreneurship and trade were the main part of commerce in all times. Craftsmen have been valued in our people since ancient times, and their history goes back to the ancient times of mankind. As humanity grew, so did skills. As long as there is a struggle for living, in the process of increasing the need for a good life, the need for manual labor, hunting weapons, and household items has increased. The crafts that our ancestors left us as a legacy are becoming the immovable foundation of our life. Handicraft came into existence with the production activity of man, and with the development of society, its types gradually expanded. Crafts production products were the main factor of the development of the society. First of all, stone carving, bone carving, blacksmithing, coppersmithing, and later wood carving and other crafts are now in the pages of history due to their antiquity.

Even when A. Temur captured unruly cities by force, he created an opportunity for artisans, people of knowledge, and writers to move and live in their desired places. He moved the Hunar people to the cities of Movarunnahr, such as Samarkand, Bukhara and Khorezm, and provided all the conditions for them to work and live freely.

In our nation, the members of this category, i.e., blacksmiths, lived on the basis of the profits they

earned from their crafts. The craftsmen sold their products in the village markets and bought the goods they needed in exchange for the sold items. In historical books, both among the settled population and among the nomads, the artisans have clearly preserved their former position. Although blacksmiths could not leave their homes and rise to the level of large-scale industrial production, small hand-made products were also exported to foreign countries. That is, the products made on the handmade machine, which look strange at first glance, have not lost their value and importance.

Blacksmithing was one of the main branches of crafts of the Zarafshan oasis at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. At that time, it was difficult to imagine the inhabitants of the Zarafshan oasis without handicrafts.

Cities and regions such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Gijduvan, Kattakurgan, Karmana had many large craft centers due to their dense population.

Master Jora, master Sharif, master Abdullah, master Khudoiberdi, master Turdi, master Eshmurad, master Nusratullah, as well as Yorchha Hojiev, Shercha Hojiev, Turob masters from the village of Uyrot, who lived in the Karmana district, were very famous blacksmiths with the name of Pozagir. They passed on their knowledge and experience to the next generation.

Blacksmiths have been teaching their apprentices the secrets of their laborious craft for years. In this way, they served to ensure the continuity of centuries-old traditions in this regard. In ancient times, parents who wanted their child to learn a trade took him to a master craftsman, and there was no written contract between them about taking the young man as an apprentice, usually this matter was settled by verbal agreement.

In most cases, the apprentice was not paid for his services, as all his support was provided by the master. In the early years, the apprentice looked after the household chores of the master. After some time, with the master's permission, he entered the shop and gradually learned the secrets of the trade by watching the master's work. 16-17-year-olds were accepted as apprentices in hard-working professions such as pottery, blacksmithing, and coppersmithing. In the past, the apprenticeship period lasted from 3 to 10 years, sometimes more, depending on the severity of the trade. As it turns out, due to the hard work of blacksmithing, the arrival of apprentices from abroad is rare, so this craft is passed down from generation to generation. Only the masters took only very few patient and agile students to this craft. Thus, after a certain period, the disciples began to work independently.

The art of metalworking is also developed in Karmana district. In particular, at the beginning of the 20th century, about 10 large blacksmiths in Karmana and its

surroundings had small blacksmith shops in their homes.

In the shop, the working tools of blacksmiths were very simple, consisting of ombir, pencil ombirs, two types of egos, sangdon, hammer and gira (air) hammer. In most cases, three people worked in the workshop - the master, the apprentice (an apprentice who learned a trade in the medieval workshops. After completing the apprenticeship, he worked for several years under the master and became a master;) and the apprentice. While the master performed the difficult and complex processes himself, the servant assisted him in hammering the metal object he was working with with a heavy hammer. The student was lighting the fire from the plane with the help of a ladder.

Blacksmiths were very popular at the end of the 19th century. Iron and copper raw materials were mainly imported from abroad to the blacksmiths and metal products production workshops operating in the cities and villages of the Lower Zarafshan oasis.

Brought. Merchants who were engaged in selling cotton and yarn products to Russia, in turn, started to bring iron and copper from there. Although precious metals, primarily gold and silver, were mined from the territory of the Bukhara Emirate, those who made tools and household items from these metals could not satisfy the ever-increasing demand. For this reason,

most of the precious metals are imported from India, Iran and China.

We mentioned above that iron and copper, which are the main raw materials for blacksmithing and metalworking crafts in the Lower Zarafshan oasis, were mainly imported from Russia. However, the findings found in the Kyzylkum and Nurota mountains prove that metal has long been developed in the territory of Central Asia, and Uzbekistan has long been famous for its mineral wealth, such as gold, silver, copper, and iron.

According to historical sources, blacksmiths received huge orders for weapons during wars and military actions, and during the rest of the time, when peace reigned in the country, craftsmen made a living by making small items such as knives, water bottles, and horseshoes. It was in high demand because farmers had to change the ploughshare (a straight metal trivet for the ploughshare) often, sometimes once a week. During the winter months, potters were busy casting and making other metal objects. In other seasons of the year, and especially in the spring months, the demand for the pose has increased.

In the 6th-12th centuries, when knife-making developed, and the technologies of its decoration changed, in the 15th-17th centuries, types of knives hanging on the side appeared. This can be seen from

the miniatures of Navoi and Babur. Later, special schools of knives appeared.

Fortunately, there are master blacksmiths among us who do not neglect their craft. The work of a farmer without a hoe made by them, a craftsman without a hole, and a cook without a knife is not complete.

In general, the blacksmith profession tried to use all the possibilities to fully satisfy the population's need for these fine products.

By nature, patient and hardworking artisans, even in difficult conditions, honor their ancestral profession and strive to preserve the age-old traditions in this regard.

In the collections of the State Museum of History and Culture of the Navoi region, the unique creations of the oasis craftsmen are preserved.

In the museum sections, there are a lot of tools made by skilled Uzbek blacksmiths and given a unique artistic appearance, plows, national swords, daggers and knives, hook, bell, chain, candlestick, hoe, axe, ax, khaskash, panshakha, household household items. objects, such as scrapers and doorknobs, are included in the collection and exhibits of the Air Raid Museum, among the works of the blacksmith's workshop. These objects still inspire incomparable admiration in the hearts of the audience with their delicacy and perfect forms.

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