

## FROM THE HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT WEAVING CRAFTSMANSHIP OF THE FERGANA VALLEY

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the history of the development of textile crafts in the Fergana valley in ancient times. The main attention is paid to the study of information related to the historical period in which textile crafts arose in the region, which local centers and historical factors played an important role in this, and what role ethnic processes in the region played in the development of valley weaving.

**Keywords:** Ancient times, Fergana valley, textiles, Chust culture, parts of a textile loom, brass instruments, traditions of pastoral ethnic groups, iron age, archaeological finds, local traditions.

Archaeological research shows that during the long historical development of mankind, relying on its high consciousness and centuries-old experience, it adapted to the conditions of the space in which it lived. Based on its needs, it first developed, and later developed, productive economic sectors such as agriculture and animal husbandry, based on natural resources. Such development led to major changes in their socio-economic and cultural life. The development of agriculture, the expansion of settlement, led to the second division of labor - crafts were separated from agriculture [1:78].

It is known that handicrafts have developed under the influence of the lifestyle, needs, economic traditions, characteristics of material and spiritual culture of peoples, as well as local natural and geographical factors. The handicraft industry consists of many branches, and the history of its textile branch is a separate topic of research.

We know that in the last stages of the primitive period, clothing and household items became increasingly important in the lives of people. People gradually gained experience in processing leather, wool, and plant fibers. They gradually mastered spinning yarn from wool and fiber and weaving fabrics from it. However, unfortunately, the fabrics, clothes made from them, and household items developed by ancient people have almost not survived to our time. Because these items have become unusable over the centuries and have disintegrated and disappeared. However, information about fabrics and items made from them in ancient times can be studied on the basis of archaeological materials.

In particular, such studies provide information that the textile craft appeared in Central Asia in the neolithic period, that is, in the VI-IV millennia BC. This is confirmed by the remains of a weaving tool, a loom, found in the Joytun culture at the foot of the Kopetdag, the oldest agricultural oasis in the region [2:81]. By the eneolithic period, the textile craft had spread even more widely in other cultural centers of Central Asia. In particular, the discovery of ceramic looms (balance stones) from the Anov monument in Turkmenistan, dating back to this period, indicates that the crafts of spinning and weaving were also mastered by the inhabitants of this region [3:70]. After all, a number of researchers provide information that many peoples of the world mastered the craft of weaving in the IV millennium BC. During this period, cloth was woven mainly from flax fiber. The main weaving tool was the ceramic loom.

During excavations carried out in Uzbekistan, archaeologists noted that traces of ancient fabrics were preserved on a number of ceramic objects. This shows that the ancient craftsmen used the following method to make ceramic objects of the neolithic period. First, a special bag was sewn from coarse fabric, that is, woven from hemp or flax fibers, and the inside

was filled with fine-grained sand. Then, strips of clay were glued to the surface of this bag and the desired ceramic object was made. After the ceramic object dried, the sand inside the bag was poured out and the inside was emptied. For this reason, it is argued that traces of fabric appeared on the inner surface of the vessel. Therefore, it can be said that textile crafts are one of the oldest crafts, like pottery.

It should be noted that the ancient centers of culture on the territory of our homeland are an integral part of world civilization, and it is no exaggeration to say that the Fergana valley is one of such ancient centers of development. In studying the ancient history of this region, archaeological research conducted in different years by such researchers as A.N. Bernshtam, V.I. Sprishevsky, Yu.A. Zadneprovsky, Ya.G. Gulomov, V.A. Shishkin, A. Askarov, A. Anorboev, B. Matboboyev plays an important role [4:70].

When studying the history of the textile craft of the Fergana valley population in ancient times, it is necessary to pay special attention to archaeological research conducted in this region to study the bronze age. Because studies of existing archaeological finds provide information that the textile craft arose in this region precisely during this historical period.

The settlements of the bronze age irrigated farming culture in the Fergana valley are called the "Chust culture" sites. Academician A. Askarov noted that the "Chust culture" arose as a result of the settlement of the Saka cattle-breeding tribes in the eastern and northern parts of the Fergana valley in the last quarter of the II millennium BC and the establishment of the first farming culture [5:179]. This culture was well studied in the 50s and 60s of the XXth century by researchers V.I. Sprishevsky and Yu.A. Zadneprovsky [6:69-76]. The sites of the Chust culture have been found in more than 80 places in the valley, of which the largest monuments are the settlements of Buvanamazar, Dalvarzintepa and Ashqoltepa. Researcher B. Eshov chronologically divides the age of these three cultural monuments into two parts: the first period is from the XIIth to the IXth centuries BC, and the second period is from the VIIIth to the VIIth centuries BC [7:112]. This is also recognized by other researchers [8:15].

In the archaeological research conducted at the monuments of Chust and Dalvarzintepa, the discovery of parts of a textile loom, such as a stone spindle whorl, a bone shuttle, and a comb, as well as textile tools such as a copper needle and a loom, indicates that the inhabitants of these places were indeed engaged in textile crafts [9:83]. Archaeological finds confirm that ancient weavers wove fabrics in this area on special looms for this industry [10:83]. Although weaving was a form of home craft, it played an important role in the life of the population. Based on the traces of ancient fabrics on the inner walls of pottery found at the Dalvarzintepa monument, researcher G.F. Korobkova conducted scientific research on the types of fabrics [11:83].

The fabrics were woven thickly from yarn spun from woolen fibers. Thin types of fabrics woven from yarn spun from plant fibers are rare. When the fabrics were analyzed according to the weaving method, it was determined that they were made on a loom. The bone shuttle, which has survived to us, has a round shape and has an oval carving on the side, and the bone combs used to straighten the raw yarn. It seems that the looms were vertical, and in order to straighten the threads on the loom, a load of a certain weight, that is, a "stone" made of ceramic fragments, was hung on the end of the threads. The fact that such "stones" are found in many settlements of the Chust culture indicates how widespread weaving was in these places. Several types of looms with a ceramic spindle whorl were also found in these settlements. Lentil-like species of beetles that are quite large - up to 4 sm in size - are rare.

All this information, as academician A. Askarov noted, indicates that in the bronze age, the textile branch of handicrafts was highly developed in the lives of the inhabitants of these three regions of the Fergana valley. The development of agriculture and animal husbandry was also clearly reflected in handicrafts.

In conclusion, in ancient times, the first foundations of textile crafts were formed in the Fergana valley. In particular, settlements based on the sites of the Chust culture of the bronze age played an important role in this. Also, the role of the Andronovo culture pastoral tribes, who

settled in the south and west of the region in the late bronze and early iron ages, was also important in the development of this craft branch in the valley. By the iron age, textiles in the region had further developed. The rise of the textile branch of the Fergana valley in ancient times served as a worthy foundation for the subsequent development of regional textiles.

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