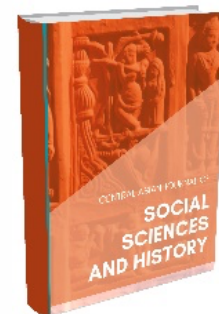




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Home Weaving and Crafts of the Villagers of the Fergonia Valley (Late 19th, Early 20th centuries)

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Abstract:

The process of modern development of independent Uzbekistan is going on taking into account the historically established tenor of life, customs and traditions, the national character of the Uzbek people, the nation's achievements for the last centuries.

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During the second half of the 19-th century and at the beginning of the 20-th domestic industry of Uzbekistan including that in the Fergana Region still continued to play a considerable part in the life of the local population. Thus, the population was supplied with necessities especially needed in everyday life of farmers, of the inhabitants of remote districts. Nowadays domestic craft plays an important role in economic and social life of regions of Uzbekistan, and in all Uzbekistan as well. In this connection the researches of domestic craft, the wide application and use the handicraftsmen's experience of Fergana as one most developed economically is of great importance today. For a correct understanding of the problem of economic and social development of the Fergana Valley, a deep study of handicraft production, the degree of distribution of its individual types, the role and place in the life and everyday life of the population, the socio-economic working conditions of handicraftsmen and artisans and their participation in social movements of that time are very significant. For many centuries, this branch of the economy not only met the needs of the population, but also supplied products to export, i.e. was the link through which connections between Central Asia and neighboring countries were carried out and, first of all, "

A characteristic feature of the handicraft production of the Fergana Valley was that this important branch of the national economy, although it underwent some evolution during the period under study,

but basically retained its established features. Even when capitalist relations began to penetrate into the economy of the region, handicraft based on skills and traditions coexisted closely with the factory industry, trying to compete with cheaper products of the factory industry, which, however, did not always satisfy the tastes of the indigenous population of the region. And today, handicrafts are important in the economic and social life of the valley, as well as throughout Uzbekistan. However, along with other aspects of social production, the stagnant phenomena of the past have not escaped the current economic crisis. Getting it out of the crisis, increasing the technical equipment of the craft industry, improving the systems of labor and production of handicraftsmen and artisans, streamlining the supply of raw materials to crafts, improving the quality of handicraft products in accordance with market requirements - all these factors are the most important conditions for increasing the efficiency of the research we are studying. industry. In this connection, it seems an extremely urgent task for scientists of Uzbekistan to study the history of handicraft production, extract from the past and bring to the present the rich experience of artisans and handicraftsmen of the Fergana Valley as one of the most developed economically. The study of this industry is relevant not only from a historical point of view, but mainly as a generalization of information on one of the sectors of the economy that is important in the life of the population of the Fergana Valley, as well as Uzbekistan as a whole.

The degree of knowledge of the problem. In preparing this research, the dissertation author proceeded from the fact that the rich traditions and skills of artisans on the scale of the Fergana Valley, within the chronological framework we have defined, have been very insufficiently studied.

Our analysis of literary sources covering the history and ethnography of craft production in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries allows us to conclude that the issue of interest to us was not the subject of special research. The fragmentary information given in a number of works does not provide a holistic picture reflecting the role of crafts in the socio-economic development of the Fergana Valley, which, as can be seen from the materials of our research, was one of the centers of handicraft production in Central Asia.

At the beginning of the 20th century, especially in 1908, in the Fergana region, as well as in other regions of the Turkestan region, there was an increasing reduction in weaving skills, and accordingly, the number of textile weavers also decreased. The number of workers against 3662 in 1907 decreased to RVU, and the number of people employed in this ei where per tesla was found n 5 times.² All this is explained by the influx of industrial goods from Russia, especially cotton, and the development of industry in the region, which led to a reduction in handicraft industries. commodity producers. In search of a piece of bread, they went to work in industry, large handicraft establishments, or were engaged in other waste trades; in the city and village.

Local products made from cotton fabrics were rough compared to Russian ones, but they were much cheaper than Russian ones and therefore were in high demand among the population. The dissertation author also characterizes the production associated with weaving - sewing, dyeing, production of heeling and lining material; polished. Much attention in the dissertation is paid to silk weaving and its raw material base - sericulture. The measures taken by the tsarist government to boost sericulture in Turkestan, including the Fergana Valley, are considered.

The work emphasizes that despite the fact that the Fergana Valley was the largest silk producer in the Turkestan region, the level of technical equipment of silk weaving production was extremely low. All the main processes of unwinding cocoons and weaving were carried out on the basis of manual labor using primitive devices. There was specialization within silk production. The local importance of silk

weaving in the Fergana Valley was determined mainly not only by the fact that it provided income to the population of several million rubles, but also by the fact that it actively used the wealth of local women who did not take part in agricultural production.

Having survived a period of decline and crisis in the second half of the 19th century. Sericulture in Fergana, as well as in the entire Turkestan region, developed again and played a very significant role in the economy. As a result of the conquest of Central Asia by Russia, the owners of silk-processing enterprises, trying to get as much profit as possible, invested capital and tried to develop this industry. One of the main types of handicraft production in the Fergana Valley was potting, the products of which were popular throughout Central Asia. Rishtak pottery was exhibited at the Paris World Exhibition. Jugs, basins, braids, bowls of leading Rishtan masters - the mouth of Ulmas Artykbaev, the mouth of Abdulla Tukh-taev, Khodzhibay Bokoev were in great demand.

If at the beginning of the colonial period, ceramic masters still continued to produce excellent products, distinguished by their fine workmanship, luster of glaze and beautiful artistic patterns, as evidenced by the objects produced in various ceramic centers of Fergana, then the competition of factory-made porcelain, earthenware and glassware astaviled them will soon abandon the production of high-quality and expensive products.

Jewelry craft, unable to withstand competition with factory products imported from Russia, at the beginning of the 20th century. began to decline. And only thanks to the creative energy of skilled jewelers, the ancient tradition of this artistic craft did not fade away, its local schools, including Andijan, were preserved. In different regions of the Fergana Valley, as in Central Asia in general, crafts had different character and functions. Thus, in the nomads it was not commercial and served mainly for the exchange of items of their craft for those that the semi-nomads did not produce, but in cities and large villages it had a pronounced commercial character, '-.ts To a large extent it was due to the proximity of the market.

The focus of various silk weaving workshops was Margilan and Kokand. Rishtan was famous for its pottery not only in the valley itself, but also far beyond its borders; Namangan supplied the entire western part of the valley with khums. One of the most developed crafts in the Fergana Valley was the production of shoes, the largest suppliers of which were Andijan and Kokand with their districts. The inhabitants of Asht achieved perfection in metal processing and blacksmithing. Chuet was famous for his knives and skullcaps. Another center of skullcap production was Margilan. The nature of handicraft production was also determined by ethnic traditions associated with different areas of farming. Thus, the settled population was mainly engaged in weaving cotton and silk, while cattle breeders produced mainly woolen fabrics, rugs, carpets, and rolled felt. One of the most important areas of the economy, providing income and means of living for a large part of the population, was trade in the Turkestan region.

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