
**NEOLITHIC CERAMICS OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE RESEARCH SYSTEM
OF THE WORLD'S FIRST POTTERY WORKS**

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Abstract

In this article, information about the Neolithic ceramics of Uzbekistan and the research of the first pottery works at the world level is intended to be covered. In this case, the fact that pottery is the primary source in the study of the material culture of Stone Age communities, the regions of the monuments where the first ceramics were found in the world, the chronology and periodization of the monuments, the making of ceramics the factors and conditions of the emergence of technology, the process of making the oldest pottery and the social importance of their use in everyday life, as well as the results of the research of Neolithic ceramics of Uzbekistan are presented.

Keywords: North Africa, Middle East, East Asia, Neolithic, early pottery, 18,300 - 11,000 years ago, fishing, Gromotukha culture, Osipova culture, Uzbekistan, Joytun culture, Kaltaminor culture, Sazogon culture.

Introduction

The creation and development of the first pottery is one of the most important topics in the study of the material culture of Stone Age communities in human history. Researchers in this field focus on issues of chronology and periodization of the monuments in which the first ceramic objects were found, on the factors and conditions of the emergence of the technology for the production of ceramic objects, on the process of creating the oldest ceramic vessels, etc. and the social significance their use in everyday life. In the following we will focus on the first pottery works in world historiography and information about the ceramics of the Neolithic period of Uzbekistan.

World historiography reports on the existence of an indirect connection between the emergence and development of the fishing industry and the first pottery factories and explains its foundations. Both freshwater basins and coastal areas of marine basins are common areas where sedimentary deposits of clay and silt are exposed. Fishing communities lived and hunted in areas dependent on bodies of water, so in these places they had the opportunity to experience the raw clay and its ability to be plastic when wet and harden when dry. There was a high probability that people accidentally fell into the fire, noticed the change in tone due to heat, realized that it could be used in life and put this into practice. This is evidenced by the information from field researchers that most

of the monuments where ancient pottery was found correspond to the coastal zones of rivers, lakes and seas.¹.

In world historiography, the clay used in pottery is considered the first invention of an artificial material, the discovery of a special technology that allows the transformation of natural raw materials into a material with completely new quality properties. The earliest pottery (small animal and human figurines from the lives of Eastern European hunter-gatherers 26,000 years ago) have also been analyzed as material objects that were associated with religious ritual practice and had prestigious status significance in ancient society.

According to the research, three regions where the first pottery factories were established on a global scale are separately recognized. These are the regions of North Africa, the Middle East and East Asia. Among the areas mentioned, the research found that pottery was made relatively earlier, i.e. part of the Russian Far East, Korean Peninsula).² In particular, the monuments of the Japanese archipelago have been identified through radiocarbon dating (a periodization covering four stages, 17,000 to 10,000 years ago). This periodization is carried out taking into account the dynamics of natural and climatic changes, archaeological complexes, primarily the properties of ceramic material³.

The question of the functions of the first pottery in domestic culture was first raised when analyzing the materials of Japanese monuments. F. Ikawa-Smith and Ch. According to the Serizawas, fired clay pots were also very convenient for thermal processing of small molluscs, products of coastal fishing. In Japan, the Odai Yamamoto 1 monument was examined by lipid analysis of the walls of ceramic vessels and determined which products were used to prepare food.

The products are marine and freshwater animals, plant organics and, to a lesser extent, terrestrial organics.

The earliest pottery from the Japanese islands had a flat round base or a slightly more pointed base and a straight or slightly outwardly tapered mouth flange. These vessels are often made of local clay mixed with natural sand particles. Sometimes an organic (often plant-based) mixture is added to the clay. The vessels are made by molding, that is, from smaller flat pieces of clay placed together in a row. In the first stages of mastering the technology of clay processing, nail marks, depressions, linear lines and rope embossing were made horizontally on the surface of ceramic vessels. The earliest pottery was found in Southern China, in the Yangtze River basin. The material is calibrated radiocarbon dates to 17,200-14,700 BP. corresponds to the interval. Based on the set of morphological features of the first ceramic vessels (monuments of South China), the description of paleofauna remains found in cultural layers, and the results

¹ Rice P. M. On the origins of pottery. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*, 1999, vol. 6 (1), p. 1-54.

² Жущиховская И.С; Мылникова Л.Н. Древнейшая керамика Восточной Азии: актуальные вопросы исследования (материалы для учебного курса “Керамика как археологический источник”). Вестник серии: история, филология, 2020, т.19, № 7: с. 10-33. Археология и этнография.

³ Morisaki K., Natsuki D. Human behavioral change and the distributional dynamics of early Japanese pottery. *Quaternary International*, 2017, vol. 30, p. 1-11. DOI10.1016/j.quaint.2016. 09.040.

of experimental studies, Chinese experts recognize that the main function of the vessels was heat treatment of freshwater molluscs.⁴

The oldest Neolithic ceramics in the Lower and Western Amurboi regions were found and studied (on the basis of signs of ceramic complexes) from the monuments of the Osipov and Gromatukhin cultures of the early Neolithic period. It was found that the first ceramics of the Osipovo culture were used to prepare fish, probably salmon the remains of fat of ruminant mammals were found on pottery vessels of the Gromotukha culture found in the Middle Amur region.⁵

On the eastern edge of the Eurasian continent, the technology of making pottery appeared about 10,000 years earlier than in the Middle East. Experts say that the oldest ceramic monuments in the Middle East (Chotal-Guyuk, Mersin, Ras-Shamra, Khosilar, Abu-Huraira) date back to 8300-7800 years ago.

The dishes were mainly bowls, pots, and large dishes. The surface of the items is smoothed and painted with ocher, decorated with simple patterns. Low-temperature cremation was carried out in an open fire.

In Europe, the first pottery appeared later than in East Asia, North Africa and West Asia, that is, during the life of the early Neolithic communities (Balkan region). Ancient ceramics have been found and examined during archaeological research throughout the North African region. According to radiocarbon analysis, the ceramics of the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene monuments were dated to $9550 \pm 100 - 8500 \pm 100$ years ago. Various variants of comb patterns and traces of rope stamps can be observed on the surface of clay vessels, often covering a large part of the vessel surface. The factual materials presented above allow us to provide information about the first pottery works in world historiography: pottery vessels were first used by primitive peoples on a global scale between 18,300 and 11,000 years ago in East Asia (The Japanese archipelago, South and North China, the southern part of the Russian Far East, the Korean Peninsula) began to be used in the regions of North Africa, the Middle East; Early pottery river, lake. used in the life of fishing communities living on the sea coast. This was made possible by the presence of sedimentary deposits of clay and clay mud in the coastal parts of freshwater basins and sea basins; Therefore, nowadays experts in the field emphasize that it is correct to connect the beginning of pottery work not only with the life of settled farming communities, but also with the life of fishing communities; These factual materials in world historiography require a new approach to the periodization of Old Stone Age monuments where pottery is found.

⁴ Lu T. L.-D. Early Pottery in South China. *Asian Perspectives*, 2010, no. 49 (1), p. 1–42.

⁵ Медведев В. Е., Цетлин Ю. Б.Происхождение гончарства и этнокультурные процессы в неолите Приамурья // Проблемы археологии, этнографии, антропологии Сибири и сопредельных территорий. Новосибирск: Изд-во ИАЭТ СО РАН, 2017. Т. 23. С. 167–171; Медведев В. Е.Глиняное совершенство амурского неолита // Природа. 2017. № 9. С. 48–57.

When it comes to the Neolithic ceramics of Central Asia, especially Uzbekistan, the first pottery works were studied on the basis of studies of Joytun, Kaltaminor, Hisar, Sazogon Neolithic cultures and Ustyurt Neolithic monuments.⁶

In particular, Kaltaminor ceramics were put into scientific circulation for the first time in the study of monuments such as Jonbos 4, Kunyak 1, and Qavat 5.⁷ A.V. Vinogradov gave a detailed scientific interpretation of the ceramics obtained during the research of the monuments of the Kaltaminor culture in the following years. He emphasized that, while the ceramics have their own characteristics, they are similar to the ceramics of the settled peasant communities of South Turkmenistan, Iran and the Middle East in many aspects.⁸ Kaltaminor ceramics obtained during the years of the independence of our republic, in particular, the ceramics of the Ayoq agitma monument in Lower Zarafshan (Early Neolithic period) were analyzed by the author.⁹

The role and significance of ceramics found in the excavations of monuments of the Sazogon culture (Sazogon 2, Jangal 1, Tepakul 3, 4, Akhilgor Makoni and Sazogon 3), explored on the slopes of the Karatepa Mountains in Middle Zarafshan. The oasis of Uzbekistan are important for the study of Neolithic pottery in Uzbekistan.¹⁰ The analysis of the pottery works showed that Sazogon Neolithic pottery is similar to the ceramics of the Lower Zarafshan oasis, the Amudarya foothills Okchadarya oasis, and the Kyzylkum kaltaminor communities in terms of their form and patterns, and that these communities were in cultural contact with each other¹¹.

In the following years, A.A. Vybornov, M.A. Kulikova, F. F. Gilyazov, A. A. Vasilenko, E. O. Researchers such as Surina (Samara State Social and Pedagogical University) are achieving interesting results in the study of the material culture of the Neolithic communities of the Lower Volga, Northern and Eastern Caspian regions. It should be noted that these archaeologists focused their research on the results of the study of the material culture of the Neolithic communities of Kaltaminor, studied between two rivers in Central Asia, and began to compare the material culture of the Neolithic communities that in these lived in two different natural landscapes (desert and semi-desert). In particular, A.A. Vybornov, M.A. Kulikova, on the one hand, Uchashchi, Ayakagitma,

⁶ Массон В.М. Поселение Джейтун (проблема становления производящей экономики)-МИА, №180, Л.: Наука, 1971.С.207; Виноградов А.В. Древние охотники и рыболовы Среднеазиатского междуречья. – ТХЭ, т. XIII. – М.: Наука, 1981. С.173; Исламов У.И., Тимофеев В.И. Культура каменного века Центральной Ферганы. – Ташкент: Фан, 1986. С.164-165; Бижанов Е.Б. Каменный век Устюрта. Авт.реф. на соискание уч.степени д.и.н. – Нукус, 1996.С.50; Виноградова Н.М.,Ранов В.А.Филимонова Т.Г. Памятники Кангуртуга в Юго-Западном Таджикистане (эпоха неолита и бронзовый век.) М.2008.С.123-130; Джуракулов М.Д. Холматов Н.У. Мезолит и неолит Среднего Зарафшана.- Ташкент, Фан, 1991.С. 3-122; Холматов Н.У. Узбекистон неолит даври жамоаларининг моддий маданияти. Тошкент, 2008, 210 б; Холматов Н.У. Сазогон маданияти ва унинг Ўзбекистон неолит даврида тутган ўрни. СамДУ нашриёти, Самарқанд, 2020, 378 б.

⁷ Толстов С.П. Древней Хорезм. – М.: Издательство МГУ, 1948.С.65-74.

⁸ Виноградов А.В. Древние охотники и рыболовы Среднеазиатского междуречья // ТХЭ, т. XIII. М.: Наука, 1981.С.171.

⁹ Холматова З.Н. Калтаминар сополлари (маҳаллий маданий варианлар мисолида) -// ЎММТ, 38-нашр,Самарқанд, 2012, Б.106-110;

¹⁰ Джуракулов М.Д. Холматов Н.У. Мезолит и неолит Среднего Зарафшана.- Ташкент, Фан, 1991.С.207; Холматов Н.У. Сазогон маданияти ва унинг Ўзбекистон неолит даврида тутган ўрни. СамДУ нашриёти, Самарқанд, 2020,Б. 383.

¹¹Холматова З.Н. Амударё ва Зарафшон воҳалари тош асри археологияси (Республикамиз мустақиллиги йилларида). Марказий Осиё тарихи ва археологияси муаммолари. Республика илмий конференцияси материаллари.2-кисм. Самарқанд, 2018,Б.114-116.

Tolstov area, and on the other hand, in the study of the monuments of Qairshah, Tenteksor, Jekalgan I, Taskuduk, compared the results of the analysis obtained on the basis of natural sciences from ashes, ceramic fragments, and bones. determined that the development stages of the Neolithic period are chronologically different from each other. They point to the fact that the material culture complex of the Jonboss phase of Qairshah and Kaltaminor culture is different.¹².

F. F. Gilyazov, E. O. From the research of Surina, we can get interesting information about the pottery used in the life of Kaltaminor communities. In this study, the pottery of the Neolithic communities of Orlov and Kaltaminor is compared. In particular, there is the fact that 3 pieces of pottery similar to a "boat-shaped" kaltaminor cup were found in Vorfolamei area. However, the undulating and stamped patterns characteristic of Kaltaminor pottery are not found in Orlov pottery. Patterns that are similar to each other are patterns that have an "arched" appearance. It has been determined that the vessels have a mutual difference in whether they are painted in red or yellow color. In this context, experts have recognized the fact that the material culture of these two Neolithic communities is similar and different from each other.¹³.

So, the factual materials presented above show that pottery works in the territory of Uzbekistan began in the early Neolithic period (Uchashchi 131, Oyokagitma) and Neolithic ceramics of Uzbekistan have a special place in the world historiography of early pottery research.

¹² Выборнов А.А., Кулькова М.А. Хронология этапов неолита Нижнего Поволжья и Среднеазиатского междуречья // От Подонья до Памира: вопросы изучения неолита. Международный научный семинар / Отв. ред. А.А. Выборнов. Новосибирск, 2023. С.17,18.

¹³ Гилязов Ф.Ф., Сурина Е.О. Сравнительный анализ керамики орловской и кельтеминарской культур // От Подонья до Памира: вопросы изучения неолита. Международный научный семинар / Отв. ред. А.А. Выборнов. Новосибирск, 2023. С.21,22