

ENGRAVING

Kandakorlik (Engraving) is the art of carved processing metal items. Archeological findings indicate that this type of craft has existed in the territory of Uzbekistan from the very ancient times. This fact is testified thanks to the unique bronze items from Sopollitepa and Jarqorgon ancient sites (related to the V–IV century BC), ritual cauldron of saka people (related to the XV century BC), soghdian items made of gold and silver (V–VIII centuries AD), the work of artistic engraving of Mawarannahr made of bronze and copper (IXbeginning of the XIII century AD) and gold, silver and bronze dishes, related to the Temurids epoch.

Main centers of engraving were located in the cities of Bukhara, Khiva, Kokand, Samarkand, Karshi, Shakhrisabz and Tashkent.

Initially the images of the legendary heroes, after the invasion of Arabs, khandasi patterns (decorative arabian script), subsequently in artistic engraving decorative (deep engraving (*kandakori*) as well as shallow engraving (*chizma*) patterns became widespread.

Among engraved objects such objects as jugs for water and tea; all possible cup-shaped vessels for water, milk, fruit juice, beverages, sweets and fruits; trays; buckets; vessels for keeping food; scoops for water; braziers; cases for ceramic bowls; vases; wash-basins; containers for keeping small coins; caskets; devices for smoking; snuffboxes; writing utensils (such as pen cases, inkpots, lamps); ritual-related items (bowls for alms and censers, hunting drums), etc can be met. Aforementioned objects are used in weddings and in religious holidays.

Widespread ornamental pattern called "*islimi*" (a curly vegetative pattern), has various versions. Geometric ornamental



pattern called "*giri*h" is also used widely by engravers.

From the beginning of the 1970s the number of masters and centers of engraving sharply reduced. Production of engraved items suspended in many centers of Uzbekistan. At present, however, centers of engraving are being revived and the system of apprenticeship is being re-introduced. Nowadays, the masters of traditional engraving work in such cities as Tashkent, Shakhrisabz, Kokand, Fergana, Bukhara and Khiva are developing and transmitting tradition to the younger generation.

