

RABATI MALIK'S CERAMICS

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Abstract

The lower cultural layer of Rabati Malik's activity related to the Mongol period was preserved relatively unchanged. In the northern part of the settlement, based on the building periods of the XI-XII centuries, household ceramics, numismatic material and jewelry belonging to different periods, and a large number of dishes of the last stage were found. In the 12th century, the complete reconstruction of the northern part (the construction of a semi-domed gallery with an octagonal dome in place of the northern colonnaded courtyard) made it possible to distinguish the ceramics of the 11th century from a general set of materials of the 11th-12th centuries. Materials of the 12th century (household buildings of the side yards of the southern half and northern half of the monument) were found in some places of Rabati Malik. In the lower cultural layer of the southern half, mainly materials of the XI-XII centuries have been preserved. The rooms of the southern side (stables, porches between stables, farm rooms with a platform) became a garbage dump in the 16th and 17th centuries, and were filled with ash and coal waste and animal bones. In some parts of the southern part, the soil floor is raised up to 1-1.15 meters.

Keywords: Rabati Malik, Ceramics, Findings of Rabati Malik, Qasim Sheikh.

At the level of the primary earthen floors, pits with household waste and ceramic materials of the 14th-16th centuries were cleaned. The upper layers formed in these rooms were mixed and yielded materials of different periods in one horizon. As a result, during the years of activity of the expedition, various evidentiary materials were studied - household ceramics, jewelry, bone and bronze equipment, coins, as well as interior decorations in the form of carvings, fragments of carved terracotta, including glazed and polished tooth-like decorations. The material culture of Rabati Malik aroused great scientific interest among scientists.

The significance of the materials found in Rabati Malik is that the medieval household ceramics, considered to be the most popular material of the medieval material culture of the Bukhara oasis, are an indicator of the high level of development of the economy, arts and crafts of the region, and have been studied in separate periods.

The detailed internal dating of the Rabati Malik materials is related to the level of study of the medieval Bukhara oasis and the craft products of Central Asia, the style and forms of the objects. In the region of Rabati Malik, the material culture objects marking the periods of rise and fall of the "King's Castle" have been preserved at different levels, which in turn are related to the level of cultural development of this region, as well as historical-political and socio-economic events. The practical, domestic ceramics found at Rabati Malik are considered important for the development of the medieval Bukhara oasis.

Archaeological scientists N. Grajdankina, E. Sayko, G. Brykina, G. Shishkina, Sh. Tashkhodjaev, D. As a result of the scientific research of Mirzaakhmedov, L. Brusenko, T. Senigova, K. Baypakov, B. Erzakovich, A. Anarbaev, E. Nekrasova, S. Ilyasova, Sh. Pidaev, in the second half of the 20th century, the archaeological researches in Central Asia in particular

areas of this place (Samarkand, Tashkent, Fergana, Marv, O'tror, Taroz, etc.) made it possible to see in detail the development stages of pottery in the Middle Ages, the evolution of production forms and technology, the chemical composition of raw materials of different periods, the artistic decoration and style of pottery vessels. In the following years, separate scientific works of D. Mirzaakhmedov dedicated to the study of medieval ceramics of Bukhara were published. Scientific research on the 12th century pottery of the Bukhara oasis is a rich material for imagining the ceramics of the pre-Mongol period. In particular, in the study of ceramics of the 9th-10th centuries in Poykent, scientific information about the ceramics of the 11th century was mentioned.

In Bukhara, E.G. Nekrasova discovered large complexes as a result of archaeological research on medieval ceramics. The introduction of various other objects of Rabati Malik's handicrafts and art, such as household ceramics, from the 11th to the 18th century, for the first time, serves to fill the gaps in this direction.

Findings of the lower cultural layers of the "King's Castle" where Rabati Malik's craft products were purchased from local central city markets, Bukhara, and possibly from nearby cities such as Karmana, Gijduvon, Vobkent, Romitan, are of great importance and are related to the first period and date of the castle's operation.

The ceramic objects found in the lower layer of the northern part are not strictly related to the construction periods of the monument. Ceramics of the 11th century are relatively few, and the main number of materials corresponds to the beginning of the 12th-13th centuries. The temporal division of the group of finds was determined by the analysis of the architectural remains, including the materials that filled the space between the raw materials under the period 1 columns. Ceramics of the 11th century can be seen in the fragments of open vessels with a white background, inwardly bent yellow open vessels and dark brown pseudo-epigraphic patterns. Figure 1.

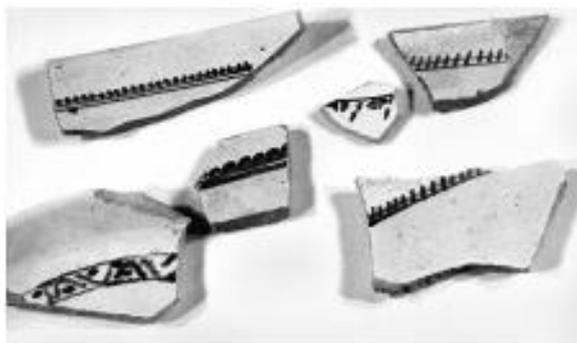


Figure 1: Glazed ceramic. XI century.

The epigraphic pattern is unrecognizably stylized. The 11th century ceramics of Rabati Malik are complemented by ceramic assemblages found in the lower and mixed layers. These include open bowls with a light oil glaze on the inside and rimmed with a brown geometric pattern, the interior filled with triangular dots. Gultoj is straight, the edge is sharp, bent back. Siri is

brighter, transparent, painted with white angob (the type of paint). The inside is completely painted, and outside only the edges of the gullet are covered with paint.

Morphological and artistic features indicate that the item was made in one workshop. Rabati Malik's first collection of ceramics includes plates, trays, and bowls with brown-red decoration on a light-yellow background. Motifs of the pattern - the edge of the petal is decorated with a necklace, a g-shaped border with a scroll. Figure 2.

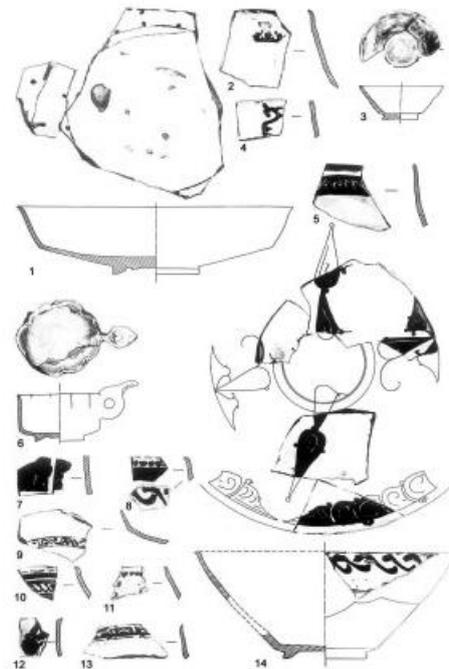


Figure 2: Fragments of glazed pottery. XI-XII centuries

Banded borders with G-shaped figures, glazed and painted on the outer or inner side along the petal, are indicative of the 11th-century date for Central Asia, including Khorezm wares. The first ceramic group also includes an elegant white angob-glazed small bowl with a conical straight body. Items from the second half of the 11th century include bowls with a conical body and a red-green glazed patterned border band with a petal border. Numismatic material also completes the first group of ceramics found in Rabati Malik. During the excavations, 6 coins belonging to the first quarter of the 11th century were found in different places.

The early ceramic group also includes two-color "floating" green-white glazed lamps with open reservoirs, small curved noses, and ring-shaped. Another type of lamp is a bowl with a smooth or pointed, long spout, and decorated with a black-brown light-yellow pattern.

The largest number of this group of ceramics was found under the floors, in the lower cultural layer, mainly in the northern half of the settlement and a number of rooms of the main terrace. The collection of items includes enameled and unglazed kitchenware, including trays, plates, bowls, bowls, and lanterns in various shapes. This chronological group includes small finds of

valuable glass and porcelain objects, Chinese bowls, which are clearly imported, which are not typical for local crafts made in Iran, northern Khurasan and southern Central Asia, in Samarkand. This group testifies to the extensive trade relations of medieval Movarounnahr with China, Khurasan and other cultural centers of the Far and Middle East.

Among the findings of Rabati Malik, a large number of molds for drawing patterns is thought provoking. Perhaps within or outside the second ring of walls was a pottery workshop producing valuable molded vessels. Molds are usually the product of special potters' workshops, made for sale, and the reason why Rabati became Malik varies. We believe that the highly crafted, richly and elegantly patterned water bottles were purchased from the nearby craft centers of the Bukhara oasis. As it is known, it was problematic to transport thin, delicately patterned vessels over long distances, and it was considered traditional to invite craftsmen to this place. According to ethnographic records, during the summer season, it was a practice for craftsmen or their apprentices to travel to distant places with simple equipment to produce temporary ceramics. At all stages of Rabati Malik's career, there was a need for kitchen and travel utensils. This place was one of the permanent points of sale of handicrafts, including valuable molded tableware.

The discovery of a type of elegant high-art mustahar (type of dish), decanters, and wide-mouthed jugs at Rabati Malik indicates that they invited craftsmen who bought molded patterned tableware wholesale from some large workshops with skilled craftsmen who knew Arabic script and script. Presumably, the discovery of the above-mentioned molded dishes near the Mag'oki-Attori mosque is the basis for concluding that there was a ceramic workshop in Bukhara.

Recorded examples of molded ware from the Bukhara oasis, comparative materials from the large ceramic centers of Central Asia and Khorasan allow us to note that there was a local design of morphological and decorative characteristics. In the molds of the Rabati Malik collection, for example, zoomorphic plots typical of Marv are not found.

No vessels with epigraphic patterns were found in the collections of Termiz and Lashkaribozor. The styles of the epigraphic motifs on the Marv and Rabati Malik molded vessels are different. These scientific-historical findings show that Central Asia had three independent local art schools and three mold ceramic production centers-Marv (wider than northern Khurasan), Termiz (wider than Tokharistan) and Bukhara (western Sogd). It should be said that even some finds from Rabati Malik testify to the high quality and rich decoration of these dishes in western Sogd. In Rabati Malik, multicolored glazed dishes of the second half of the 13th-14th centuries were found, mainly bowls, plates, small plates and large-diameter dishes, as well as fragments of unglazed kitchen utensils - jugs, pots, lids, jugs, khums (type of dish). In the collections of the 11th and 12th centuries, there is no tile in such local vessels. There was no need for porcelain of a high artistic level, typical of other urban centers of this period (Marv, Samarkand, Urganch), because they were not effective for public use. Even then, the finds were distinguished by their quality, elegance and colorful decoration. The set of dishes found - plates and plates for pilaf and fruits, bowls for soup were considered the most necessary types of kitchens set when Rabati Malik turned into a large caravanserai after the Mongol conquest and

served many guests. Based on Rabati Malik materials, glazed ceramics of the Bukhara oasis in the second half of the 13th-14th centuries, as in other parts of Central Asia, differed sharply from the kitchen utensils of the previous periods, although they almost completely repeated the traditional forms with the gloss of paints, motifs, and epigraphic writing styles. Here, even in the context of changing color gloss, there is a succession of many pattern styles in the artistic decoration of ceramics. Certain motifs of the decoration known in the early collections of Central Asian ceramics of the X-XII centuries have been preserved, but in a different transformation and a more developed color gloss in accordance with the style of the new period.

After the Mongol invasion, the "King's Castle" served as a roadside caravanserai, and the above two types of kitchenware were in high demand. The traditional shape of large plates, small bowls, and large-diameter dishes has not changed. In the 14th century and especially in the 15th century, all types of cobalt, as well as turquoise, blue, and green colors were leading in the variety of colors.

The center of the composition of the picture is a circle showing the bottom of a bowl or a plate, a thin decorative ribbon indicates the edge of a petal, the main area of the interior is sometimes divided into sections by vertical lines, stylistic-vegetal pattern decoration - branches, tree leaves, garden landscapes, chrysanthemums, fruit products - apples, peaches, filled with pomegranate, "running meander" motif borders, triangular figures, landscape motifs, geometric pattern elements. In the pre-Mongol period, the "arabesque" epigraphic pattern, a wishful decoration, was sometimes used, as in ceramics.

Several circular bowls and trays were also found, which are unusually graceful and light in free composition, with a finely worked floral pattern on the white background of the base. It was noticeable that the artist skillfully used the brush and created freely in the space of the open vessel. Figure 3 (1, 2, 3).

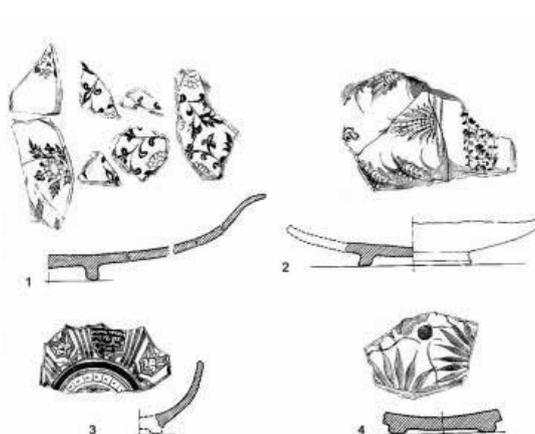


Figure 3: Glazed ceramics. XIV century

Rabati Malik's 14th-century ceramics featured epigraphic decoration typical of the Bukhara oasis on small bowls on a finely mottled background. A combination of geometric, plant and epigraphic decoration is used in the composition. The size of the bowl is not large (diameter

14-15 centimeters, height 9-11 centimeters). The correct conical appearance of the base part of the cup, typical for the beginning of the XII-XIII centuries, has disappeared. The general decorative composition of such bowls is a circle filled with Arabic writing in style with a black outline on a background of small dots, or a circle of open flowered pea net is depicted. The holly net was an ancient decorative style known in 10th century Choch, Khorezm, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Iranian ceramics.

The small "dots" filling the decorative reserves are popular artistic styles. The foundations of this style were found in the 9th-12th century enameled tableware of Samarkand and Choch and other pottery production centers of Central Asia before the Mongols. The ceramics of this period, as in other cities of Central Asia, are distinguished by the fact that the light cobalt color is different in all its shades mixed with light brown (brown) or black. In the decorative paintings, the plots of living plants are reflected in the pictures of curls, spirals, fruits and berries. Figure 4 (12, 14), Figure 5.

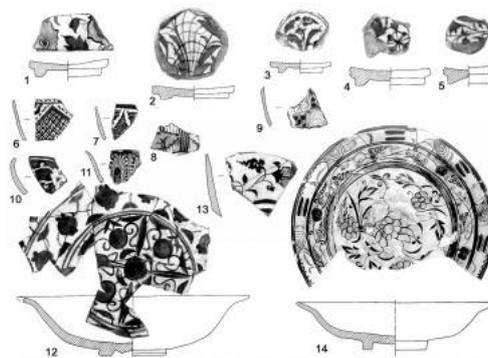


Figure 4: Glazed pottery. XIV-XV centuries

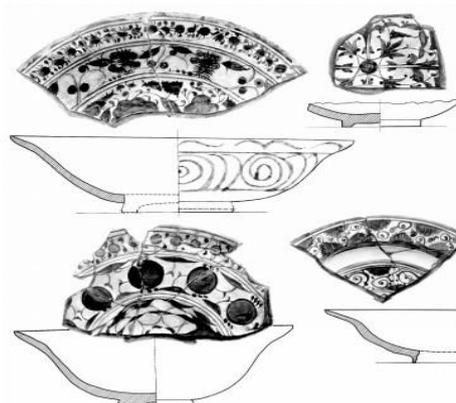


Figure 5: "Cobalt" type plate, bowl (blue color) dish. XV century

The tableware from Rabati Malik dating back to the 15th century was represented in large, archaeologically complete copies, and had a high technological and artistic value. The shape of the vessels was wide (diameter 35-40 centimeters, height 10-11 centimeters), slightly bent

inward, with a circular base, and the cast edge was in the form of a semi-horizontal petal.

This form of dishes, typical of the XIV-XIX centuries of Central Asia, has been preserved to this day in Khurasan, China, and the Middle East. The composition of the three-part pattern corresponds to the shape of the dishes. As decorative motifs, luxurious plant fruits such as pomegranate, cherry, cotton swab, grape branches, chrysanthemum, flower bud, etc., were further developed.

The 15th century black-brown-blue vases decorated with floral motifs are included in the collection of world masterpieces, as are several cobalt-type dishes of Rabati Malik. Figure 6.



Figure 6: Plate. XV century

A three-part circular composition decorates the wide base with a vivid plant pattern, in the center is a flowering lily surrounded by small flowers, the second circle has a grape branch and large fruits around the edges, and the third circle has a petal - double borders are depicted in spiral order. Again, in the same style, in the gloss of colors - a half-opened flower in soft blue and black-brown colors is depicted surrounded by grape branches and small leaves. 7 pictures.

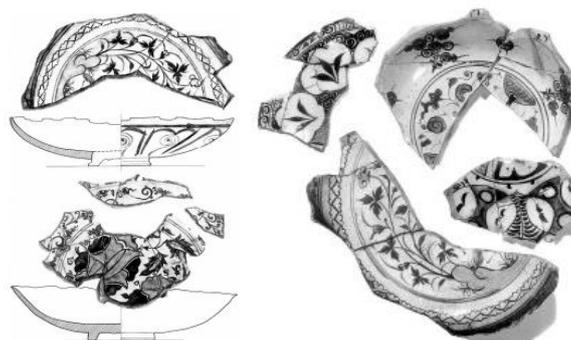


Figure 7: pictures. Plate. XV century

A few 15th-century bowls and bowls found in Rabati Malik with light silver floral motifs and stylized fruits on a white background or turquoise with black outlines create an impression of the diversity of ceremonial tableware of the Bukhara oasis. It is known that the rich flora of the 15th century was diversely expressed not only in household ceramics, but also in the tiles and

mosaics of architectural buildings. Innumerable variants and compositions of scrolls, bouquets, buds, chrysanthemums, islimi, meanders, garden scenes can be observed in the facades, panels, domes and wall decorations of Samarkand, Shahrisabz, Bukhara in the XIV-XV centuries.

Kitchenware of this period is presented in the largest section of Rabati Malik's glazed ceramics. The set includes the usual kitchen sets needed for a roadside fort - trays, bowls, plates, bowls. The collection of unglazed vessels consisted of khums, bowls, jugs, teapots and pots. The previous forms typical for the past period were preserved, the vessels were heavy, thick-based, light-yellow in color. In the variety of colors, together with "manganets" color and turquoise, the technological quality of the products typical for the second half of the 16th century and the 17th century was good. In addition to manganese and turquoise, the collection of colors includes brown-brown, blue and their various shades.

Rabati Malik's 16th-17th century ceramics are so similar in shape and decoration to those of earlier periods that there is no doubt that they were purchased wholesale from some local workshop. Including the discovery of 3 plates of the 16th century (diameter 23-24 centimeters, height 8-10 centimeters) of the same size and shape, decorated in turquoise and brown manganese glaze, the interior is all plant images in an open turquoise circle and placed radially. filled with the image of delicate leaves or light-turquoise colored fruit branch - clearly indicates that it is a product of a master. Figure 8.



Figure 8: Three plates belonging to the same workshop. XVI-early XVII centuries

In general, Rabati Malik's large collection of various ceramic kitchen utensils of the 16th-17th centuries, glazed, of high quality, reflects the important signs of the economic and economic condition of the caravanserai in this period. Ceramics and other evidence found in Rabati Malik In the 16th and 17th centuries, Rabati Malik was an important stop on the Samarkand-Bukhara corridor, well-improved (as noted above, major restoration of the bathhouse and cistern) and functioning. Large collections of kitchen utensils were constantly supplied to the caravanserai during this period. Written sources of the 16th century (Badriddin Kashmiri) report that the dome of the Rabati Malik cistern was repaired in 1574 by the sheikhs of Dzhoybor. The prosperity of the caravanserai is also confirmed by the data of the results of archeological works, which show collections of various household equipment. The last period of Rabati

Malik's activity is determined only by a few random finds, but these data also indicate that Rabati Malik or its individual rooms were used as a parking place in the late 17th century and the first half of the 18th century. In the small assemblage of ceramics, it can be seen that there were a large number of similarities in the materials of the late medieval period for Central Asia and Bukhara itself. Medieval ceramics characteristic of the region can be seen in the materials of Otrar and the cities of Kazakhstan on the banks of the Syrdarya, and in some ceramics of Khorezm. The works of D. Mirzaakhmedov are devoted to the ceramics of the last medieval period of Bukhara. This information, introduced into scientific circulation in the second half of the 20th century, serves as a comparison material for the analysis of the next collection found in Rabati Malik.

The last phase of Rabati Malik's activity is dated by ceramics found in a bathroom in the courtyard of the caravanserai. Three intact archaeological vessels found in the bathhouses indicate that the bathhouse continued to function here until the last period of the caravanserai's life. On either side of the entrance to the bathroom are closets where the bathroom accessories are stored. In the room to the left, three almost intact, glazed trays from different periods were found, one of which dates back to the late Middle Ages. The replicas of vessels found in the bath were semi-circular in shape and size (diameter 18 centimeters by height 9 centimeters) on a heavy circular base. All three bowls are multi-colored decorated in different styles and colors. The dish on the yellow background is characteristic of the 18th century. Figure 9.



Figure 9: Bathroom utensils. XVI-early XVII centuries

A second bowl of the same style and period is also light yellow in color and decorated on a light yellow background. Figure 9 is on the left. The third vessel is made of porcelain, with black-brown, white-blue and blue decoration on a white background. (XVII-XVIII centuries). The complex composition of the image is given in the bottom part - dashed triangles and "flower in the pot". A visible border at the top of the border and other small elements are depicted. Figure 9 is right. At the end of the 18th century, as a result of the development of the economy and the revival of trade relations of the Bukhara Khanate with China, ceramic dishes appeared in local pottery complexes, which was a phenomenon that had not been observed in the previous few centuries. Utensils from the end of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century were found in the southern half of the monument, where the cultural layer of 1.5 meters has been preserved. The complex of finds includes dishes, plates, lamps and kitchen equipment - pots, pans, lids. The colors and composition of their decoration have changed. 18th century ceramics were completely covered with yellow glaze and green was used as a

background. Unglazed vessels are mostly large - khums, circles, and pots, with a narrow neck, ovoid shape, and the jugs are decorated with wavy edges (water mark). Due to the scarcity of findings with signs of late 18th century ceramics, the time of the last periods of Rabati Malik's life is limited to the beginning of the middle of the 18th century. In conclusion, it can be said that the quantitative analysis of the ceramics found in Rabati Malik shows that a large percentage of pre-Mongol kitchen utensils and equipment belong to the late 12th-early 13th centuries, and the rest to the 15th and 16th-17th centuries. The paucity of ceramics and other evidentiary materials in the eleventh century is represented by single copies of vessels and fewer copies for the fourteenth century.

This aspect does not mean that the steppe settlement of the Karakhanids was not active in the 11th or 14th centuries, but on the contrary, it testifies to the diligent management of the economy, full life, cleaning of the rooms, and their full use. One more important factor should not be forgotten, the "King's Castle" was reconstructed in the first half of the 12th century. The period of reconstruction is associated with the decline of the "King's Castle". That's why the 11th century ceramics found in various centers of Central Asia are the only rare ones in Rabati Malik. Even so, a collection of coins of the 11th century was found (probably, it is not surprising that they were in circulation in later periods as well). Most of the materials from the middle of the 15th century - the first half of the 17th century were mainly taken from the southern half of Rabati Malik (stables, farm buildings) and were turned into landfills in the 17th century. Their floor levels are raised at a height of 1-1.5 meters. Ceramics of the 14th and 15th centuries were common to Central Asia with their shape, set of colors, decorative compositions, but different from the ceramics of Samarkand, Marv, Nisa in the 70s of the 14th century. Late medieval kitchen utensils of the late 17th and 18th centuries are well-studied in Bukhara and O'Tror, and direct analogs can be found in finds from Rabati Malik's latest complex.

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