



**IMPORTED CERAMICS IN THE MONUMENTS OF THE MEDIEVAL
SOUTHERN ARAL SEA REGION ARE ONE OF THE INDICATORS OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS IN THE GREAT SILK ROAD**

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Annotation

The article describes imported ceramic products excavated during archaeological expeditions in medieval settlements of the Southern Aral Sea region. The main functional purposes of imported artifacts are analyzed, and its pseudo-manufacture by local potters is considered. They show about the roles of the Great Silk Road in the development of ceramic production in the medieval Southern Aral Sea region. With the help of trade relations, new goods, new technologies, cultural news were brought, which served for the benefit of humanity. In this respect, imported ceramic products occupied an important place among the material values. Thanks to the functioning of the Great Silk Road, the South Aral Sea potters borrowed innovative technologies and tried to produce local products. Imported ceramics, autopsies in medieval South Aral settlements, indicate the establishment of foreign trade relations with countries such as China, Iran, the Middle East, Volga and Black Sea Golden Horde cities. In the Middle Ages, ceramic goods were not only imported, but also exported to neighboring countries. Due to the existence of the Great Silk Road, the countries that used the services of this route were closely connected with each other, received a new potential for the development of not only trade, but also the development of handicraft potential.

Keywords: Imported ceramics, Chinese celadon, "minai", "lustre", gran de ri, cobalt, non-liquid red clay ceramics of the "Lower Volga" type, black-flattened ceramics.

Introduction

The Great Silk Road has served for the benefit of the development of mankind for more than seventeen centuries. It mostly reached its peak in the Middle Ages. After the opening of the sea trade routes, the Great Silk Road has not lost its original significance for the enclave states. It had a huge place in the development of the history of human civilization. With the help of trade relations, new goods, new technologies, cultural news and new achievements of human activity were brought,





which influenced the development of material and spiritual values of civilization. In this regard, imported glazed ceramics are particularly distinguished. In the ceramic complex, among the irrigation products of medieval Khorezm, there are ceramics of imported origin, mainly Chinese products made of gray porcelain dough, ornamented with an underglaze relief pattern, covered with a bluish-greenish glaze of the celadon type - "longquan-yayu" of the time of the Sung Dynasty (960-1279) [19, 161]. According to Chinese sources, they were probably made long before the reign of this dynasty. Such products were found in the settlements of Mizdakhkan and Pulzhai, located in the southern regions of the Aral Sea region. A characteristic feature of these products is high strength, smooth transparency, stable firing, delicate taste and high manufacturability. Among the samples of Chinese porcelain, dishes of the celadon type are often found. They were found among the archaeological materials of Kunya-Urgench, Pulzhai, Mizdakhkan, Dev-Kesken and rural settlements of the Left-Bank Amu Darya. Celadon products are presented in two types. The first type represents fragments of thin-walled celadon vessels. Basically, these are bowls. A celadon bowl with a hemispherical body and an edge bent outward on an annular pallet was found in the vicinity of Akkala, fragments of a thin-walled bowl in the residential quarter of Puljaya (Fig.1.3-5). The diameter of the corolla part is 15-16 cm. the wall thickness is 0.3-0.5 cm. It is also rare to find fragments of celadon bowls with a rather wide corolla, where there are underglaze ornamental motifs on both sides (Fig. 2.1). The underglaze relief ornament in the form of hollows is bordered by lines of juicy green color and applied from the outside. Another, archaeologically whole bowl, was found in the area of medieval Chermeniyab. The second group of celadon products consists of fragments of kashin thin-walled vessels with glaze without ornament. They are represented by small fragments of hemispherical bowls. The color of the watering is greenish- salad. Thick watering was applied carelessly, because of the violation of the firing technology, bubble specks and cracks formed. As a result of the great demand for Chinese products in the cities of the Volga region and the Southern Aral Sea region in the XIV century, vessels of the type "pseudoseladon" and "cobalt" began to appear [4, 135]. The painting and the manner of execution on these products differs little from Chinese ceramics. However, according to N.N. Vakturskaya, "Khorezm potters did not blindly imitate the latter, but creatively processed them on their local material, taking into account traditions developed over centuries and existing tastes" [7, 181]. But, despite this, we must admit that the local production imitated by imported products is inferior in quality to imported samples.



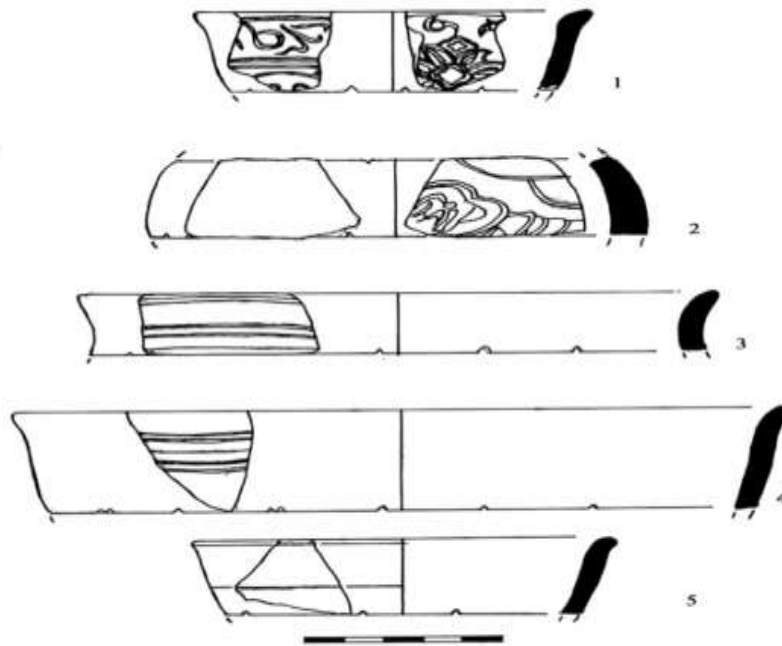
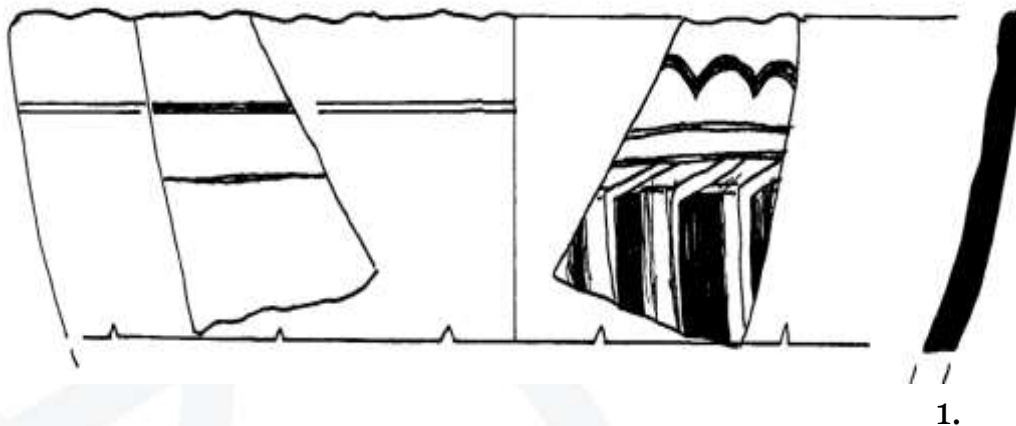


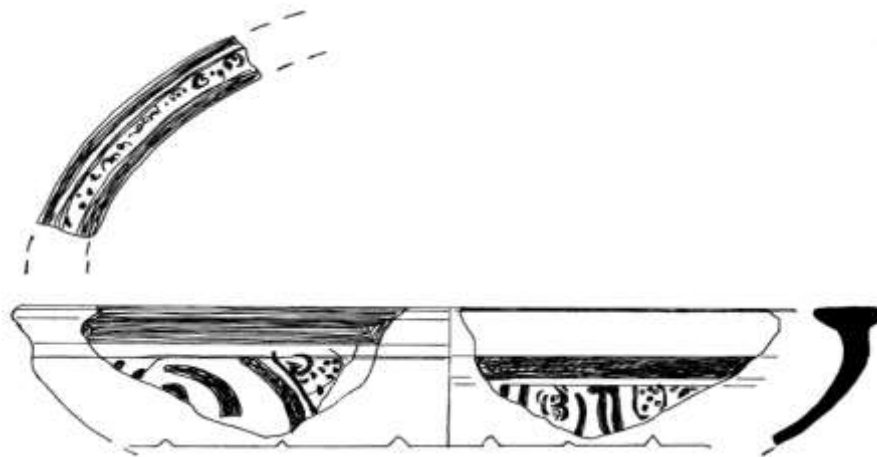
Fig.1. Imported ceramics of the Southern Aral Sea region. 1- ceramics of the "mini" type; 2-5- Chinese celadons.

Among the irrigation ceramics of the Southern Aral Sea region, there are kashin vessels with transparent turquoise glaze, gilded with flowers and black underglaze painting. The prototype of this ceramics are the so-called "sikula Arab" lustre faience, known in Egypt, Syria and Iran [14, 63; 4, 103]. It has been known in the Southern Aral Sea region since Mongolian times. Outside of the Southern Aral Sea region in Central Asia, chandelier products were manufactured much earlier and registered in the cities of Transoxiana in the IX century [30, 23-69], Southern Turkmenistan - XI-XII centuries [1, 101-104]. The local production of this type of products in Central Asia is evidenced by the finds of defective vessels in Merv [24, 84-89] and Bukhara [23, 303]. Until recently, single copies of chandelier products were found in the monuments of the South Aral region. However, according to archaeological works of recent years, new samples of chandelier ceramics originating from the cultural layers of Dzhanpykkala, Kavatkala, Yerburun, Kyzylkala, Mizdakhkan and rural settlements of the Left-Bank Amu Darya (Kyzylchakala) have been obtained on medieval monuments of this area [19, 179]. Chandelier products excavated in medieval cities of the Southern Aral Sea region are characterized by the following forms: dishes on a circular tray with wide sides and an edge bent outward, pial-shaped bowls (Fig.2. 2-3). The lamellar surface of the corolla is decorated with ornaments in small Arabic letters. They are by definition M.-Sh. There are three groups of Kdyrniazov. All of

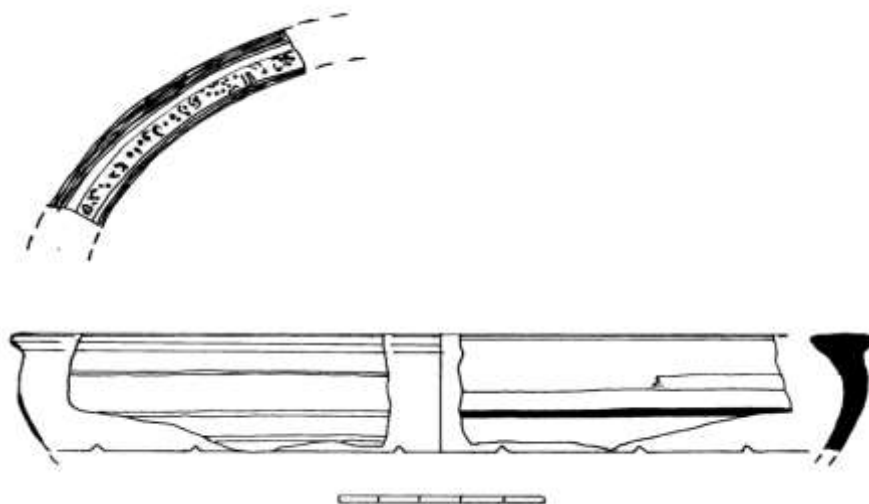


them are characterized by the basics: porous-dense milk-colored kashin. Covering glaze of white shade, overglaze ornament, golden-brown chandelier. On the inside there are ornamental belts, on the bottom there is a pattern in the form of a multipath star, figured rosettes with an ornament of zoomorphic and vegetative nature. Above the central plot on the sides: rosettes - medallions depicting birds, flowers, berries, curls or epigraphic ornaments. The last ornamental belt, applied to the upper edge, consists of images of a vegetative nature or stylized Arabic script. The chandelier bowls of the pialoid shape in the center depict anthropomorphic or zoomorphic motifs. On the outside, there are underglaze ornamental belts framed with golden-brown lines, they are filled with inscriptions and stylized rosettes with the image of berry dots. Among the open chandelier products there are fragments of vessels covered with chandelier painting on the inside, and cobalt watering on the outside. Similar items were found during excavations of medieval settlements around Zamakhshar. The closed type of chandelier products includes narrow-necked and wide-necked pitchers of small and medium size [16, 122-124] (photo. 2). Judging by the preserved fragments, they were ornamented only from the outside with plant, epigraphic and zoomorphic chandelier ornaments. The closed vessels inside were covered with white or cobalt watering. The figurative motifs of the chandelier ceramics of the Southern Aral Sea region are close to the ceramics of the medieval cities of Iran and Southern Turkmenistan. This identity is especially clearly visible on open vessels such as dishes and bowls. Subjects of decorative composition on such products: realistic images of a person (especially horsemen), animals (swan, peacock, duck) and epigraphic inscriptions. These decorative elements are found in two versions: single and strings of figures repeated many times on the inner surface of the vessel. Similar ceramics have close analogies in the cities of Southern Turkmenistan and Iran [1, Fig.5; 2, 115-119].





2.



3.

Fig.2. Imported ceramics of the medieval Southern Aral Sea region. 1-Chinese celadon; 2-3- chandelier bowls.

Another type of imported ceramics is minai. Researchers of ceramics of the Southern Aral Sea region noted that local ceramics with white polychrome overglaze painting developed in the ceramic centers of Central Asia as an imitation of the Iranian ceramics "minai" [7, 191-192]. Such vessels were covered with opaque white watering on both sides, and their surface was decorated with overglaze painting with red-brown and blue-green paint, forming an elegant ornament. During the excavation of the ancient settlement of Dzhampykkala in 2015, a fragment of ceramics of the "minai" type was found, the bowl has a conical shape, a diameter of about 10 cm, a wall thickness of 0.3-0.5 cm. Inside, under the rim of the bowl there is a linear



stripe with a brown tint, under it there is a composition with figures of stylized fish (Fig.1.1, photo. 1). This form of decoration of the famous Chinese symbol "yin- yang", they have blue-green shades, under it is a brightly open chrysanthemum, where the middle of the petals and the central part are painted with gilding. The latter patterns were especially widely used in architectural ceramics of the XIII-XIV centuries [11, 74]. The outer surface of the vessel is decorated with a red-brown linear ornament divided into sectors. The origin of the motif of the sector compositions is connected with the imported chandelier product of the IX century, on which sectors with the image of a plant shoot alternated with sectors filled with small geometric patterns. [30, 72; 12, 27]. The production of such ceramics was developed in the Golden Horde centers on the Volga, defective ceramics of this type were found in the Saltpetre settlement [27, 199].



Photo. 1. A fragment of ceramics of the "minai" type from the settlement of Dzhampykkala.

A fine example of Iranian imported ceramics of the minai type depicting a string of winged sphinxes and fantastic creatures - half-griffins, half-lions was found in 1957 in Kunya-Urgench and published by N.N. Vakturskaya [8, 191-192]. The plot of the ornamental composition coincides with the decoration of ceramics made in the XIII century in Khorasan [13, fig. 197]. In addition, in 1987, during the excavations of the Golden Horde part of Dzhampykkala, a rather large fragment of an Iranian bowl was found on a high ring tray of the "minai" type with the image of horsemen (XIII-XIV centuries) [10, 129-131]. In recent years, dozens of fragments of minai ceramics have been found in Mizdakhkan and Pulzhai. It can be assumed that the production of ceramic products imitated Iranian products, took place in the Southern Aral Sea region. This is confirmed by the finds of pottery fragments in rural settlements of the



Left-Bank Amu Darya. Characteristic features of ceramics, imitated "minai", covered with turquoise glaze, has an overglaze ornament of red, brown, gilded and black paint. Among the archaeological materials of the medieval cities of the Southern Aral Sea - Zamakhshar, Yarbekirkala, Dzhanpykkala [20, 78] and Kyzylkala [29, 98], there are kashin products decorated with punctures, openwork ornaments and covered with irrigation, the so-called "rice grain" technique. In the special literature, he notes that the center of the production of this ceramics was the south of Central Asia (Khorasan), from where in the XII-XIV centuries. It spread in China [1, 100], and in Khorezm and the Golden Horde [27, 148].

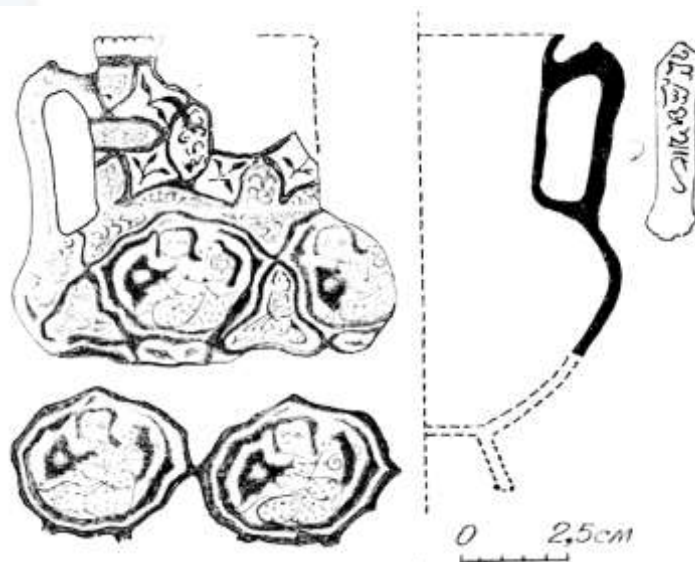


Photo.2. Chandelier jug. Fig. Based on the materials of M.-Sh. Kdyrniyazov.



Of the artifacts of irrigation ceramics, fragments of vessels lined with transparent irrigation and ornamented with underglaze painting with cobalt paint with a relief pattern are found. Ceramics of this type are not peculiar to the Khorezmshakh monuments of the Southern Aral Sea region. Cobalt ceramics first appeared in the IX century in China [4, 138]. In Iran and Central Asia, it became known only at the end of the XII century. as a result of the merger of the traditions of Chinese and Iranian masters [30, 62]. In the XIV century, cobalt ceramics also spread in the South Aral regions. Ceramics with a cobalt pattern has an underglaze painting, is represented by elegant and dinnerware such as dishes, bowls, pots and jugs.

In the monuments of the northern part of the Southern Aral Sea region, fragments and whole forms of non-watering red clay polished products are often found. Researchers associate them with imported products, mainly from the Volga region [3, 187; 21, 115].

In the Middle Ages, there were trade links between the cities of the Volga region and the Southern Aral Sea region. This is evidenced by the ceramic materials of the Lower Volga cities, gray clay and black-flattened ceramics brought from the Southern Aral Sea region are known. Black-flattened bowls and large jugs with massive handles round in cross-section were brought from this region. Such jugs caused local imitations in the Golden Horde cities of the Volga region [28, 210]. Grey-clay Khorezmian jugs are found in Azov [5, 5]. The Golden Horde city of Azak was the westernmost point of the Golden Horde, to which ceramics and other products of Central Asian origin reached in considerable quantities, since it was here that the caravan route from Khorezm ended and goods were transshipped to ships [6, 22]. The most numerous group of ceramics from Central Asia is the products of Khorezm and, above all, its center (Kunya-Urgench), the most significant Golden Horde city in Central Asia [22, 412-416]. Centers for its production have been studied not only in Kunya-Urgench itself, but also in other urban centers of the Golden Horde Khorezm [18, 112]. The findings from Azak were first published by A.L.Boyko [5, 5]. Here, in some complexes, their share can reach 1.5%. About the same amount as in Azak, ceramics are represented in Majara. In a very small amount, it even reached Akkerman (Belgorod-Dniester). Isolated finds were noted in the settlements of the Lower Podonye and Zakuban. They are also isolated in the Crimea [6, 24]. In addition to the gray clay ceramics of Khorezm, Azak and Majar, unlike the Volga region, received irrigation ceramics from Central Asia in very small quantities [22, 450-452]. In general, it should be said that the number of Central Asian imports in Azak, Majar and Belgorod-Dniester is an order of magnitude less than in the cities of the Lower





Volga region. This number decreases by an order of magnitude in the cities of the South-Eastern Crimea [6, 25].

Imported ceramics such as Chinese celadon, "minai", "lustre", gran de ri, cobalt from the Middle East and non-liquid red clay ceramics of the "Lower Volga" type (Eastern Europe), black-flattened ceramics undoubtedly influenced the development of local ceramic production [26, 505]. But the high price and complex manufacturability of these types of products forced local master ceramists to fill the ubiquitous market demand with their goods, who were forced to find more new approaches to manufacturing products that require innovative methods of manufacturing ceramic products.

Thus, thanks to the existence of the Great Silk Road, the countries that used the services of this route were closely connected with each other, received a new potential for the development of not only trade, but also the development of handicraft potential. Imported ceramic products were widely used in everyday life of the medieval Southern Aral Sea region. However, the high cost of ceramic imports, the difficulties of their transportation led to the establishment of new types of ceramics on the ground. Under the influence of foreign products, local potters have established the production of goods imitating the elegant products of different ceramic centers. This led to the development of the ceramic industry in the medieval Southern Aral Sea region. This phenomenon is based primarily on the extensive use of the services of the Great Silk Road and the great interaction of human civilization.

In general, it should be stated that imported ceramic products in medieval settlements of the Southern Aral Sea region indicate the revival of trade relations not only domestic trade, but also serves as an indicator of indicators of the development of international trade, on the other hand, the very functioning of the Great Silk Road made it possible to penetrate new technological innovations in ceramic production.

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