

## FABRIC WEAVING

Fabric making is one of the most ancient types of handicraft. Fabric making is being developed and enriched in Uzbekistan on the basis of ancient traditions. In this type of handicraft a fabric is woven and processed with artistic decorations. In the second half of the XIX century weaving in Uzbekistan was the most developed type of craft. Cities of Bukhara, Namangan, Margilan, Samarkand, Shakhrisabz, Kitab, Karshi, Khodjand, Urgut and Khiva were famous with their fabrics. Along with cheap fabrics of mass consumption, which were produced under house-based conditions almost in all villages and cities, there were special weaving workshops, where beautiful and high-quality cotton, half-silk and silk fabrics called "*abr*" were produced.

In terms of production technique *abr* fabrics are divided into two large groups: silk fabrics, in which wrap weft are made of natural silk and the fabrics like *adras*, in which wrap is made of natural silk and weft — of cotton threads.

In the past there was a method of "*abrbandi*", which involved reservation of separate areas by means of stitching with consequent dyeing in accordance with the pattern and color. Such method allowed creating an interesting effect, i.e. the pattern acquired fuzzy outlines. The color scheme of such silk fabrics ranged from two-colored to multicolored ones. Usually, silk fabrics are made of cocoon. While extracting silk from cocoon, preparing natural paints and weaving fabrics about thirty operations are carried out.

The patterns of *abr* fabrics can be divided into vegetative, zoomorphic and geometric

ones. Also, there are many patterns, which reproduce images of household items. A multicolored pattern, which includes all colors of solar spectrum, bears the name of "*tirikamon*" (rainbow), "*bahor*" (spring) and "*chaman*" (blooming). Until the beginning of the XX century in central districts of present-day Uzbekistan men's strict-cut dressing gowns were made using *abr adras*. Decorative *adras* fabrics were used in making pillows, *kurpachas* (bed quilts) and furniture.

At present such cities as Marghilon, Namangan, Andijon and Kokand are constituted as the centers of modern traditional weaving and fabrics weaved in these cities are spread to the whole country and to the neighboring states.

Some oases produce artistic fabrics, peculiar to the territory. In particular in Boysun district of Surkhandarya region such fabrics as "*alacha*" and "*janda*" are produced.



