

Coppersmith

Coppersmith is part of the art of metalworking and is one of the most ancient crafts and only yields the superiority to ceramics. The art of copper working is attested from the Samanid Era and attained perfection in the late medieval period.

In the middle of the 19th century the manufacturing of embossed copper articles in reaches the highest level. In big cities there were big quarters of coppersmith craftsmen – called *guzari misgaron*. The centers of copper working were the northern, central and the southern regions of Tajikistan. Masters made

different kinds of embossed articles using copper – from household stuff to vessels for execution of religious ceremonies. Among them were ablution jugs (*oftoba*), tea pots (*choyjush*), various bowls (*miskosa*), trays caskets, smoking devices (*chilim*), inkwells, pen cases censers, and lamps all decorated with embossed ornaments. Today these traditional forms are also included into the range of goods produced by embossers. The researchers note that varied embossed copper ware of Tajikistan has analogues among the similar stuff created by craftsmen in East Turkestan, India, Iran, Turkey and the





recessed relief. Moreover, to make details of lids, lugs and saucers for vessels the Tajik masters apply a cut-through engraving *shabaka*. Following the ancient techniques, a *kandakor* (embosser) uses a copper or brass sheet to manufacture embossed articles. Brass constitutes an alloy of copper and zinc with addition of some other metals.

The tools and equipment in the embosser's workshop hardly differ from what handicraftsmen in the Middle Ages used. By means of simple, plain tools the copper-smith creates works of art shaping the articles into any possible freakish forms and decorating them with fine figures.

Caucasus. This fact evidences the century-old trade and cultural contacts of Central Asia with the countries on the Great Silk Road. In 19th century a Tajik coppersmiths also began using infusing semiprecious stones and glass into copper items, which has made these more attractive and pleasant. The copper items made by commission were richly ornamented

The Tajik embossing, actually, constitutes various techniques of engraving. The deep engraving *kandakory* or *kalamkori* has a more



