
JANGAR ILYASOV

THE "KANGAR POTTERY" FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF KARSHOVULTEPA IN CHACH

During archaeological excavations of the medieval monuments of the oases of Tashkent, Turkestan and Otrar, a group of pottery items was revealed, which can be distinguished by a characteristic finish that includes a depressed geometric and floral ornament, engobe and glazed finish. It received the scientific reference title of "Kangar" and is dated to the period of the mid 7th to the mid 9th century. Despite the significant corpus of the "Kangar" pottery accumulated to date, and its expressive texture, being of interest not only from the point of view of archaeological typology and chronology, but also in terms of art history, there have still been no special studies devoted to this type of pottery of the early medieval commercial art. In the course of the excavations undertaken on the settlement of KarshovulTEpa in the Chinaz district of the Tashkent region, being the ruins of a small fortified town on the right-bank terrace of the Chirchik River, the researchers discovered several vessels belonging to this particular group considered in this article. According to the finds of pottery and coins, the upper layer of the settlement dates back to the late 7th - early 8th century, and we tend to attribute its desolation to the hostilities conducted by the Arab troops of commander Qutayba ibn Muslim during his campaign against Chach / Shash and Fergana in 713-714, and the invasion of the army of the Tang Empire under the command of Gao Xianzhi or Go Seonji in 749 as a result of which the ruler of Chach was executed. The article publishes descriptions of pottery items that complement our understanding of the Kangar pottery, and it is thus being proposed to narrow down the dating, limiting it to the late 7th - early 8th centuries.

Key words: *The Middle Syrdarya, Chach, KarshovulTEpa, Kangar pottery*

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MY IN-PERSON acquaintance with this remarkable scientist, Erbulat Akizhanovich Smagulov, occurred in Tashkent, 2007. Later, we had several more meetings and interesting conversations, including in the framework of preparation and work on the IICAS international project "Tamgas of Pre-Islamic Central Asia" (TDTsA 2019), which was initiated by E. A. Smagulov. Now one comes to a bitter realization that this communication has far from exhausted either general scientific or human interests. Fortunately, he has published a significant number of books and articles that play an important part in the study of the Middle Syrdarya River region, including the Tashkent oasis. And this makes it possible to go on with this scholarly dialogue. I dedicate this modest work about an interesting type group of pottery items, which bears the generally accepted scientific name of "Kangar" pottery, to the blessed memory of the scientist and friend who passed away so early.

Pottery of the type considered herein has been discovered at a number of settlements in the oases of Otrar, Turkestan, and Tashkent. Apparently, for the first time, it was mentioned as a special group of pottery in the publication of materials from stratigraphic excavation 1 on the central hillock of the Otrar settlement. The authors noted that it was found on the flooring of the layer of the 7th-8th centuries, it looked to have been worked by hand, in a somewhat rough manner, and makes up about 8 % of the total amount of the pottery found. Pots, mugs and lids do stand out, as they were ornamented using a geometric pattern drawn with a stick in the form of a belt of herring bone pattern, sometimes in combination with semi-oval, vertical and oblique lines. The researchers indicated that similar types of pottery items are known from the middle and upper horizons of Shaushukumtobe (Akishev, Baipakov, Erzakovich 1972: 89, fig. 42, 14, 16, 17, fig. 43, 6, 17, fig. 44, 7, 8, fig. 45, 10, 11, fig. 46, 8, 9), i.e., within the Tashkent oasis. These mate-



Ил. 1. План городища Каршовултепа (Г. П. Иванов, с дополнениями Дж. Я. Ильсова)

rials were found and published by E. I. Ageyeva. The publishers of the Otrar materials noted that the red-glazed ornamented pottery from Otrar, judging by the decor, resemble the pottery of the “swamp” settlements of the lower reaches of the Syrdarya River and the upper horizon of the Dzhetyasar monuments, but differs from them in the absence of toothed handles.

L. M. Levina, characterizing the pottery of the settlements of the Tashkent oasis, notes the appearance of some novel features and forms: most of the pots are lightly glazed over a thick reddish-brownish, dark brown or black engobe, many pots with a thick red, reddish-brownish engobe are decorated on the shoulders and body with a belt of ornaments formed by shallow and wide stamped stripes in the form of herring bone pattern, solid or combined with a belt of open triangles, festoons or scallops (*Levina 1971: 147, fig. 51, 1, 77 - 79, 88 - 90*).

It seems that for the first time this group of pottery was referred to as Kangar or kangarian by K. M. Baypakov, when he published in 1986 some materials from the excavations of Kuyruktobe (equated with the city of Keder - the capital of the Otrar oasis of the 10th-11th centuries). He noted that in the layers of the 7th-8th centuries a group of locally produced pot-

tery items featuring the novel style had been discovered. It consists of jugs, mugs with one or two toothed handles, coated with dark red, cherry and black engobe, with geometric ornament patterns in the form of a grid, with inscribed triangles, and semi-oval garlands. On the basis of the materials of the above-mentioned stratigraphic shaft produced in Otrar, he dated it to the 7th - early 9th century. K. M. Baypakov also provides data on the discovery in the upper layer of Dzhuvantobe (near the Borzharsky burial ground on Arys) of a pot and a jug covered in carved geometric patterns and glazed over the bright red engobe. He refers to them as being identical to the “local group of pottery with the features of a new style from the excavations of Kuyruk-tobe,” that is, as the Kangar or kangarian group (*Baypakov 1986: 58, fig. 12*). The first good quality reproductions of Otrar pots were published by K. M. Baypakov and L. B. Erzakovich in their wonderful album “Ceramics of Medieval Otrar” (*Baypakov, Erzakovich 1991: 44-45*).

The ceramics samples within our focus of interest and the pottery items groups found in other medieval towns of southern Kazakhstan, such as Altyntobe, Zhuantobe / Dzhuvantobe, Kuyuk-Mardan, Shoytobe (*Smagulov 2011a: 64, Fig. 9, 5; Baytanaev, Ergeshbaev,*



Ил. 2. Столовая корчага (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)



Рис. 3. Столовая корчага (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

Suleimenova 2011: 88; *Zheleznyakov* 2011: 92, Fig. 1, 5; *Baytanaev, Ergeshbaev, Suleimenova* 2013: 77, Fig. 2, 41, 52; *Avizova* 2014: 448 - 449, Fig. 6; *Avizova* 2016: 33, 34 - 35, Fig. 9, 13; *Smagulov* 2017: 174, Fig. 17, 4, Fig. 21, 22).

In the publications of materials from excavations of monuments in Tashkent and the Tashkent region, one can also find the same type of pottery (*Ageeva* 1968: Tab. VI-VIII; *Levina* 1971: Fig. 51, 1, 76 - 79, 88 - 90; *Abdullaev* 1975: 148, Fig. 7, 124; *Ilyasova* 1997: Tab. 3, 9; *Sheyko, Ivanov, Ilyasov* 2019: Fig. 9, 1-4).

The previous researchers - our Kazakhstan colleagues, who unfortunately, left us one after another for the better world - have earmarked pots, jugs, mugs and lids in the midst of the "Kangar" or kangarian pottery group. I would like to add to this list one more kind of objects that E. A. Smagulov successfully and keenly studied, in particular these are oil ceramic incense burners, as he referred to them (I would rather call these items, owing to the method of their application, - ceramic oil lamps). These are vessels, including zoomorphic ones, whose mouth is tightly closed with a bowl, where, closer to the edge, there is a hole for inserting a cotton wick wound about a long dry wooden stick (or splinter)¹. In his works dedicated to the incense burners of South Kazakhstan, E. A. Smagulov published several items, which, in terms of their decor, are quite consistent with the characteristics of the "Kangar" pottery. For their ornamentation, engobing, polishing and relief patterns consisting of flutes, nets, herring bone decor, and garlands were used (*Smagulov* 2013: Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 7

- 9; *Smagulov* 2011a: 66 - 69, Fig. 11; *Smagulov* 2011b: 36, Fig. 1, 1, 4, 5, Fig. 2, 1, Fig. 3, 2; *Smagulov* 2017: Fig. 64, 5). The researcher noticed this feature in one of his last works, but only in relation to two zoomorphic vessels from Altıntobe and Konyrtobe in the Otrar oasis (*Smagulov* 2017: 145, Fig. 62, 1, 2, Fig. 63, 1), concentrating on the classification by the shape of the vessels. In our opinion, some other oil lamps can be safely ranked among the ceramics group in the focus of our interest. Among them are a jug-shaped vessel with a handle from Konyrtobe / Kuyuk-Mardan, a jug-shaped vessel from Zhuantobe on the Arys River, as well as a jug-shaped vessel without a handle, found near Shaushukumtobe in Chach, kept in the Shymkent Regional Museum. The latter was repeatedly published due to the presence of the tamga on it (*Smagulov, Yatsenko* 2010: 203, Fig. 6; *Smagulov* 2017: 147, Fig. 64, 2; *Arenova* 2018: 99, the image on top; *Yatsenko, Smagulov* 2019: 219, Fig. 2, Fig. 4, 2, col. ill. on page 140). Another jug-shaped ceramic oil lamp with a handle with a "Kangar" type pattern was found in the upper layer of the Dzhuantobe citadel, dated to the early 8th century. (*Baytanaev, Ergeshbaev, Suleimenova* 2013: 77, Fig. 2, 52).

So, despite the rather significant corpus of "Kangar" pottery obtained from excavations, and its expressive texture, interesting not only from the point of view of archaeological typology and chronology, but also in terms of art history, there are still no special studies devoted to this type of pottery of early medieval commercial art². At least, not that the author

¹ Several simpler decorated oil lamps of this kind were found during the excavations of Karshovultepa. A special work will be devoted to this category of items.

² We cannot fail to note one extremely daring interpretation of the "Kangar" pitcher from Kuyryktobe: by K. M. Baypakov and G. A. Ternovaya believed that this vessel depicts an Avestan deity - the goddess of justice Arshat (*Baypakov, Ternovaya* 2001: 227-228, Fig. 5). It seems to us too peremptory.



Ил. 4. Фрагмент горшка (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

knows. In many publications, it is reproduced mainly in the form of drawings that do not fully convey the items' appearance, which also reduces the possibilities of their identification, comparative analysis, and appreciation of its aesthetic value. Perhaps, it is for this reason, as it seems to us, that the "Kangar ceramics" have not received the due attention of the researchers so far. In order to somewhat supplement the idea of it, we are going to publish herein the finds from the settlement of Karshovultepa, located on the right bank of the Chirchik River in the Chinaz district of the Tashkent region, 40 km as the crow flies to the southwest of Tashkent. Its coordinates are: 40°58'25.10" N and 68°54'35.11" E.

The settlement was first investigated and checked by G. V. Grigoriev in 1934 - during his exploration work on the right bank of the Chirchik River (*Grigoriev* 1935: 47). In 1968, the Bozsui detachment of the Institute of History and Archeology (Ya. G. Gulyamov and G. Dadabaev), carried out the work, whose results, unfortunately, were not published (*Buryakov, Kasymov, Rostovtsev* 1973: 57). In 2008, small excavations were undertaken by archaeologist K. A. Sheiko.

Regular excavations at Karshovultepa have been



Ил. 5. Фрагмент горшка (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

conducted since 2010 by the detachment of the Caravanserai of Culture of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan³ with the financial support of the Society for the Exploration of EurAsia (Hergiswil, Switzerland). The settlement is a sub-rectangular hill elongated from north-east to south-west, the southern part of which had been washed away by the river (Fig. 1). The surviving area has an area of about 6 hectares, the height from the foot of up to 12-15 m. Several excavations were undertaken on the site to study its internal layout and fortification (*Sheiko, Ivanov, Ilyasov* 2018: 266 - 269; *Sheiko, Ivanov, Ilyasov* 2019: 261-282). The excavation research has shown that the fortified town had been abandoned by the population no later than the 8th century AD. The buildings of the upper construction horizon were subjected to a devastating fire, as a result of which the burnt-out ceilings collapsed, and part of the walls were red-hot. Repairs were carried out on top of the resulting layer of conflagration, new floors were plastered and walls were added. These buildings, however, were also abandoned after a short time, and construction was not carried out there again. There are no finds of glazed ceramics on the site, which indicates that by the 9th century it was completely abandoned. We believe that the upper layers of Karshovultepa date from the late 7th - early 8th century. Numerous coin finds also correspond to this dating - on the flooring and in the filling material of the excavated premises, Chach coins were found belonging to several groups as distinguished by their corresponding tamgas. These are mainly coins with tamgas in the form of "deer horns" (group 5 according to the classification of V. D. Shagalov and

³ The leader of the detachment is K. A. Sheiko, members - G. P. Ivanov, Dzh. Ya. Ilyasov (project coordinator).



Ил. 6. Кувшин (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)



Ил. 7. Кувшин (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

According to the Tangshu Chronicle, the ruler of Shi / Chach was executed, and the cities and villages, presumably, were destroyed (Bartold 1963: 253; Bolshakov 1980: 132; Ibn al-Athir 2006: 21/V, 212). Apparently, it is with these events in the middle of the 8th century, that the complete abandonment of the town is connected.

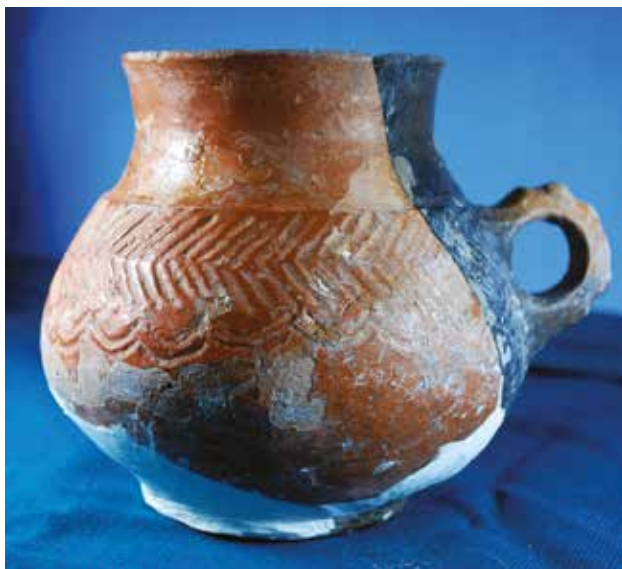
A set of dishes of the “Kangar” type was found mainly in the layer of conflagration, as well as in the super-layer of repair and final habitation, that is, among the layers of the last stage of existence of the town at the site of Karshovultepa. These finds make it possible to supplement the list of shapes identified for this group of ceramics by the previous researchers.

On Karshovultepa we have dining earthenware pots (Fig. 2, 3), pots (Fig. 4, 5), jugs (Fig. 6, 7), mugs (Fig. 8-10) and bowls (Fig. 11, 12).

We call dining earthenware pots the two vessels found in the conflagration layer in room 16 at dig P-3, in the building adjacent to the so-called platform from the north (Sheyko, Ivanov, Ilyasov 2019: Fig. 9, 3, 4). Let's describe them in more detail. These are large, but relatively thin-walled pots with a spherical body, a rim bent outward and four handles, two of which are attached to the rim and sloping shoulder of the vessel, and the other two are annular and located on the shoulder. The shoulder of one big earthenware pot is decorated with a net with diamond-shaped cells carved in wet clay. The net is limited from bottom by a double horizontal strip, which smoothly goes down, bypassing the place where the handles are attached. Below this strip, zigzags in one row are drawn with the same double line. The big earthenware pot is coated with red engobe outside and inside along the mouth, due to the uneven (campfire?) firing - some part of the pot has a dark gray color to it (Fig. 2). In the second big earthenware pot, the neck slightly stands out

A. V. Kuznetsov), with a fork-shaped tamga (group 6 according to the same classification), with a lyre-shaped tamga (group 7 according to their classification) and some others. All of them chronologically fit into the time period of the 7th - 8th centuries. (Rtveladze 2006: 54 - 55, 88, 95; Shagalov, Kuznetsov 2006: 187, 199, 269, 291 - 292).

Presumably, the fire that destroyed the structures of the upper building horizon can be associated with the campaign of the Arab commander Qutayba ibn Muslim, who undertook a campaign against Chach / Shash and Fergana in 713-714. According to the brief data provided in “The History of the Prophets and Kings” by al-Tabari, “... Qutayba came to Kasan, a city in Fergana area. He was joined by the troops that he had sent to Shash, and they had already conquered it and burnt most of it down” (Tabari 1987: 143-144; Tabari, Hinds 1990: 206/1257; Bolshakov 2010: 111). After the defeat perpetrated by the Arabs, the surviving inhabitants of the town tried to restore its life, covering the layers of the conflagration with new flooring and building on the new walls, but in 749, at the call of the Ikhshid of Fergana, the army of the Tang Empire under the command of the commander of Korean origin Gao Xianzhi invaded Chach. Ac-



Ил. 8. Кружка (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

and the ring-shaped handles (only one has survived) are set higher. They had a jagged shape characteristic of the “Kangar” group. At the level of the handles on the shoulder there is a pattern in the form of a grid; the double line bounding the bottom of the grid is drawn horizontally without deviating downward. The zigzags from the double line, placed below, are made in two rows and form horizontally located rhombuses (Fig. 3). Both vessels are incompletely preserved; the mouth of the second of them is 29 cm in diameter.

At dig P-8, fragments of a closed pot were found, with grooves running above and below the rim. At the bottom, the pot is decorated with three rows of oblique notches, a net and a double-line “garland” bordering it from below. Still lower are images of a tree, stamped (?), and double lines with a curl at the end coming down from the garland (Fig. 4, 5). The pot was covered with a red engobe, but it turned dark gray as a result of overfiring or during use.

Several fragmented jugs from the group in question were found. We will describe two of them that have the best preservation. This is the upper part of a pitcher with a grooved neck, a toothed handle, and oblique lines and semicircles drawn along the body from dig P-3 (Fig. 6). The second fragment is a part of the body with oblique notches forming a horizontal strip of “herring bone” ornament, and zigzags, from dig P-4 (Fig. 7). In addition to the patterns, the jug has a tamga applied over wet clay (*Ilyasov in press*). Both vessels are covered with an orange-colored engobe and glazed.

Three mugs can be attributed to the group in question. Two of them have the typical ring-shaped toothed handle, are decorated with notches and “garlands”, covered with a red-orange engobe and



Ил. 9. Кружка (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

polished. On one mug, the notches form a horizontal strip of the herring bone pattern (Fig. 8)⁴, on the second one, which was found in room 15 at P-3 (*Sheyko, Ivanov, Ilyasov 2019: Fig. 9, 1, 2*), the bead at the base of the neck has crosswise notches (Fig. 9). The third mug coated with gray (due to overfiring, overbaking?) engobe, decorated with a net featuring diamond-shaped cells (Fig. 10). All the three vessels have a tamga applied to them under the handle before firing (*Ilyasov in press*).

Finally, plates (bowls) with a convex / rounded bottom, the inner surface of which is filled with a rosette, consisting of a central rounded projection or circle and two rows of “petals”, can be attributed to the “Kangar” group of pottery. Two such bowls were found (Fig. 11, 12), both at the bottom at the bottom are marked with tamgas applied before firing (*Ilyasov in press*).

Let us acknowledge some analogies and parallels here. We failed to find earthenware pots with four handles in the publications, but at the Zhuantobe settlement in the Turkestan oasis, where the finds of “Kangar” ceramics are known in the upper layers, a so-called pot-shaped vessel was found, which by its shape is a variant of our pots, differing only in the absence of handles and less pronounced rim (*Arenova 2018: 112, top image*) as well. The second vessel from Zhuantobe - a two-handle pot - is also similar in shape to our pots (*Arenova 2018: 112, bottom image*). In the meantime, the ornamentation of the Zhuantobe finds is more similar to the decor of our mugs. The dating of these items in the album is to the 7th-

⁴ Dig P-8, room 4. This pot was broken during a pogrom, and it is clearly seen that part of it turned black during a fire (Fig. 8).

9th centuries, i.e. corresponds to the dating proposed for the “Kangar” pottery by K. M. Baypakov in 1986. Later in the album dedicated to the pottery of Otrar, K. M. Baipakov and L. B. Erzakovich dated it to the late 7th - early 9th centuries. (*Baypakov, Erzakovich* 1991: 44–45).

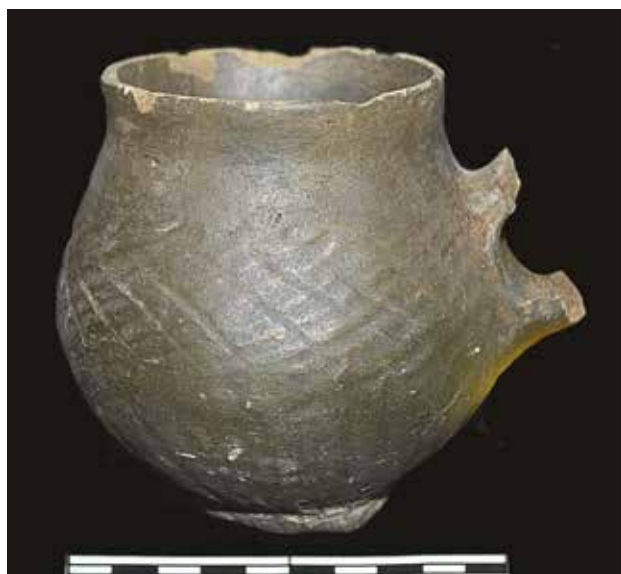
A pot similar to ours (Fig. 4, 5) in shape and decoration comes from the upper layer of Shaushukumtobe (Zhaushikum) in the Chardara/Shardara region (Chach territory) (*Levina* 1971: 147, Fig. 51, 88).

Kangar jugs or their handles were found at Aktepa Yunusabad site in Tashkent (*Ilyasova* 1997: Tab. 3, 9) and at the Shoytobe site, being identified as the city of Shavgar, - a settlement 5 km southeast of Yasy/Turkestan (*Smagulov* 2017: 174, Fig. 17, 4, Fig. 21, 22).

The mugs of Karshovul are close to those of Otrar, only in the latter ones the protrusions on the handles are sharper (*Baipakov, Erzakovich* 1991: 44).

Plates (bowls) with rosettes at the bottom are among the finds from Shaushukumtobe, they were found complete with the aforementioned oil censer in the form of a juglet without a handle (*Arenova* 2018: 99, the image on top; *Yatsenko, Smagulov* 2019: 225, Fig. 4, 5). It is hard to way whether it is possible, judging by the schematic drawing of a bowl from the Tashkent oasis, published by G. I. Bogomolov (*Bogomolov* 2011: 101, fig. 4, 4), to consider that it also belongs to the group under consideration. There is a bowl with a rosette among the materials from *Zhuan-tobe* (*Arenova* 2018: 104, top image) as well.

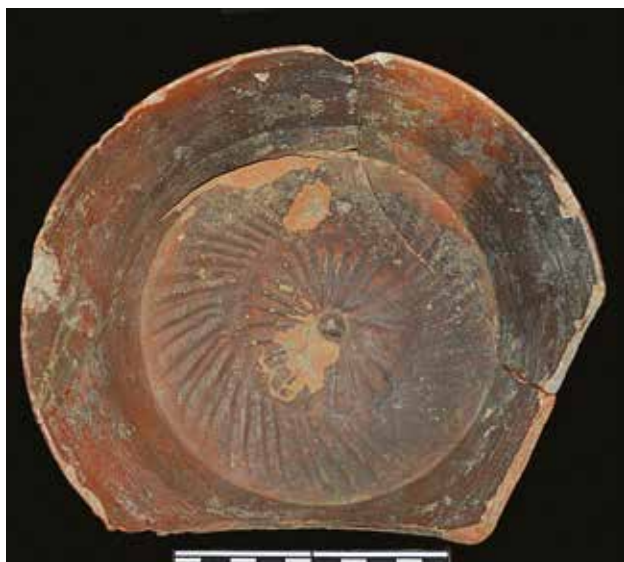
So, on Karshovultepa from the strata of the late 7th-early 8th centuries a group of pottery was obtained, which can be confidently attributed to the group named by K. M. Baypakov as the “Kangar” pottery⁵. It is typical for the monuments of the Otrar, Turkestan and Tashkent oases of this period, i.e. for the territories of the Middle Syrdarya River (TN: the middle reaches of the Jaxartes River), which in the past were part of the indigenous lands of Kangyuy. Although, L. M. Levina attributed this type of items to the stage of Kaunchi III, which she dated to the 6th - early 8th centuries (*Levina* 1971: 184, Fig. 59, 340, 346), still more convincing to us is the chronological scheme of Yu. F. Buryakov, whereby Kaunchi stage III falls on the late 4th - early 6th centuries, while from the middle of the 6th to the middle of the 8th centuries, according to the materials from Chach / Shash, the so-called Minguryuk archaeological complex is distinguished (*Buryakov* 1982: 80–86). Although Yu. F. Buryakov does not specifically mention the type of pottery under our consideration; its presence



Ил. 10. Кружка (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

among the finds at the Chach settlements is beyond doubt. And it refers, therefore, to the Turkic period of the history of the region, which began in the middle of the 6th century, when the territories of Kazakhstan and Central Asia became part of the First Turkic Khaganate (551-630). If starting from the mid-6th century gradual Turkization of the population of the Middle Syr Darya River region occurred, that is, the descendants of the Kangyuys who lived in the areas of the Otrar-Karatau and Kaunchi archaeological cultures, then, the middle of the 7th century is, perhaps, the time of formation of that kind of ceramics process, which K. M. Baypakov calls the Kangar type of pottery. He emphasized that this group, identified within the Otrar oasis, is also characteristic of the archaeological sites located along the middle reaches of the Arys River - the archaeological siet of Zhuantobe and the Borizharsky burial ground (*Baypakov* 2009: 125). However, the pottery of this group is also represented at the archaeological sites of Chach, which was demonstrated by the finds from Shaushukumtobe (*Ageeva* 1968: Tab. VI-VIII); and from Kanki (*Abdullaev* 1975: 148, Fig. 7, 124); and from Aktepa at Yunusabadsy (*Ilyasova* 1997: Tab. 3, 9), and by the artifacts published here from Karshovultepa (see also: *Sheyko, Ivanov, Ilyasov* 2019: Fig. 9, 1–4). This means that, if, in relying on the “Kangar” pottery notion, following in the steps of K. M. Baypakov, one should arrive at the conclusion that “the middle reaches of the Arys River with the settlements of Shortobe, Zhuantobe and Karaspan also have to be included in the possessions of the Kangu Tarban” (*Baypakov* 2009: 125 - 126), then it would like be sensible to include the territory of Chach in these possessions as well. The concept of Kangu Tarban, which is used by K. M. Baypakov, included, as was convincingly, in the

⁵ The periodization of the pottery of southern Kazakhstan by E. I. Ageyeva the 5th - 8th centuries were referred to as the Kengers period (*Levina* 1971: 219, 222).



Ил. 11. Миска (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)



Ил. 12. Миска (фото: Дж. Я. Ильясов)

author's opinion, demonstrated by S. G. Klyashtorny, a more extensive region: "... it is definitely confirmed that the residence of the Shash Ruler in the second decade of the 8th century was Tarband, and Shash itself was not limited to the Tashkent oasis; Isfidzhab and Otrar also made part of these possessions, that is, the entire region along the middle reaches of the Syr Darya River" (Klyashtorny 2003: 208)⁶.

We do not know yet whether the "Kangar" pottery was produced in one center, or in the several towns where its finds are known to the researchers. There is not enough data for this as yet. Of course, it can be assumed that it was brought to Chach from the Otrar or Turkestan oases. But, most likely, this interesting variety of pottery was produced locally and is yet another expression of the commonality of the ancient cultures that developed in the Middle reaches of the Syrdarya River (TN: the Jaxartes River) in the Kangui era and lasted for centuries, despite the change of the ethnopolitical situation. Examples of this are demonstrated, for example, by the Karakhanid time artifacts from Ilak (Ilyasova 2020: 134–136).

The "Kangar" pottery belongs to the tableware category and, taking into account the oil lamps, - to the ritual category, as well. Although it could sometimes be used as a kitchenware - at the Zhuantobe site, a pot with a corresponding ornament was found

standing on coals, filled with the remains of boiled rice (Zheleznyakov 2011: 92).

We believe that the dating of the "Kangar" pottery requires further specification. It is generally dated to the 7th - 8th centuries; at Zhuantobe and Karshovultepa archaeological sites, it was unearthed from the top strata having traces of conflagration. K. M. Baypakov believed, relying on the materials of the stratigraphic dig at the Otrar site, that it survived until the middle of the 9th century. However, it is possible that the "Kangar" pottery found in the layers of the 9th century was redeposited during the digging of holes and other earthwork operations, especially given that the pots often remained practically intact in the layer of conflagrations and could be reused after enemy attacks. Thus, in a book on the Otrar pottery, a "Kangar" mug was published, dated to the 9th - 10th centuries. (Baypakov, Erzakovich 1991: 90). But it is almost identical to a mug from the excavations of Kuyuk-Mardan, found in the middle construction horizon, with the widely accepted dating to the 6th - 8th centuries. (Avizova 2014: 445, 448-449, 452; Avizova 2016: 34-35, Fig. 13). We are not confident that the decor style in question could be used from the middle of the 7th to the middle of the 9th century without any change whatsoever, for a good two hundred years, that is. Apparently, based on the objective data, it is preferable to date the "Kangar" pottery within somewhat narrower limits, i.e. the second half of the 7th - first half of the 8th centuries, which corresponds to the later (the second) stage of the Minguryuk archaeological complex for the Chach sites (Buryakov 1982: 86). Presumably, further finds in the stratified layers of the archaeological sites of the Tashkent, Turkestan and Otrar oases would be able to provide further clarification.

⁶ In this regard, the system of two headquarters or residences of the Kangyu rulers - the winter one in Bityan and the summer one in Fan'nei, mentioned in the Han shu can be recalled (Hulsewe, Loewe 1979: 124-126). Probably, the Turkic rulers of Chach - the tuduns - adhered to a similar custom in this region, therefore, the seat of the Chach ruler, depending on the season and other circumstances, could be both in Tarband/Otrar and in Chach/Minguryuk.

If we consider the Kangars/the Kengeres as the Turkic descendants of the Kangyuys, who later became part of the Pechenegs (*Klyashturny* 2003: 209 - 215, 226 - 228), then the pottery attributed to them can be considered as the common heritage of Kangyui and the new rulers of the Middle Syrdarya River (TN: the Jaxartes River) basin - the Turkic tribes. In other words, its emergence is one of the first

results of the ethnocultural symbiosis, which became a dominant trend throughout the medieval history of Transoxiana, associated with the arrival of new waves of the Turkic population. The result, embodied here is the craft and commercial art of manufacture of the household and art pottery that occupied the most important place in the daily life of the people.

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