

# HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY, ARCHIVAL STUDIES

## Middle Bronze age pottery of Garakopektepa, Uzarliktepa, Chinartepa residences in Karabakh, Azerbaijan

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**Abstract.** Pottery in Azerbaijan - Karabakh has passed the stage of high development. The archaeological research conducted in Uzarliktepe, Garaköpktepe and Chinartape settlements, which are considered to be the primary urban centers in Karabakh, confirms this idea with facts. During the Middle Bronze Age, great successes were achieved in the art of pottery in these pottery centers. In addition to simple vessels, painted vessels were also found here. In Garaköpktepe, gray, black-polished, stamped and incised vessels were obtained from the Middle Bronze Age layer (thickness of 3 m). Monochrome pottery samples were also collected. The Bronze Age stratigraphy of Garaköpktepe was taken as the basis for the residences of the mentioned period in the Guruchay and Kondalanchay valleys. Among the materials obtained from Middle Bronze Age settlements, Uzarliktepe is of special importance. Among Uzarliktepe materials, different types of ceramic samples occupy a leading place. Pottery of the lower layer is divided into two groups according to technical characteristics, composition of clay, as well as color shades and use. Group I ceramics are made of light colored clay. Its wall is porous and contains small stones and sand grains. The surface is not smooth, it has been stroked by hand. This group includes berni-shaped glass intended for the kitchen, bowl, bowl, archaic river, etc. includes. Group II ceramic gray made of colored, well-kneaded, pure clay. The outer surface of the bowls is carefully caressed and polished. This type of ceramics is brown and brown, mostly black. Group II ceramics are mostly patterned, and even in unpatterned vessels, wide, horizontal, sunken lines occur on the edge of the rim. The pattern is rough and symmetrical. The main motif consists of zigzag arched, parallel and carnation lines, stamps, rhombus, etc. consists of. In some cases, the inside of the lines are filled with white matter. This characteristic characteristic of the Khojaly-Gadabey culture suggests that a newly formed culture develops within the previous culture and reveals its own characteristics. Thus, Uzarliktepe ceramics manifests itself in three characteristics: 1) rough kitchen utensils; 2) high quality, surface geometric, stepped zigzag, arched, etc. patterned dishes; 3) painted vessels decorated with red angoba and black paint. Most of the materials collected from the Chinartape settlement are examples of pottery of the Uzarliktepe type. They are divided into three types according to the preparation technique and the task of use. Roughly made, thick-walled kitchen and household utensils; 2) black, chestnut polished, thin wall, surface stamped, etc. bowls decorated with patterns; 3) painted vessels. According to the researchers, it is certain that Chinartape is a member and part of the same culture as Uzarliktepe, which is located 3 km away from it. Intertribal exchange undoubtedly united potters from near and far into one culture.

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B.C. at the end of the 3rd millennium and the beginning of the 2nd millennium, the ancient inhabitants of the Guruchay and Kondalanchay valleys passed to a new stage of development of the Bronze Age – the Middle Bronze Age. On the basis of economic development, there were fundamental changes in social relations. In this period, craftsmanship reached a high stage of development.

Researcher G.S. Ismayilov found interesting remains of material culture belonging to the Middle Bronze Age in the valleys of Guruchay and Kondalanchay in the monuments of Garaköpektepe, Guneshtepe, Khantepe, Uzuntepe, Meynatepe, Shomulutepe, Kultepe.

In Garakopaktepe, a 3 m thick layer belonging to the Middle Bronze Age was identified on top of the cultural layer belonging to the First Bronze Age. Many clay products were found from the Middle Bronze Age cultural layer. The main part of them consists of gray and black polished vessels, stamped or cut. A small part consists of samples of painted vessels. Such a situation was also observed in other monuments belonging to the Middle Bronze Age of Guruchay and Kondalanchay valleys. It is worth noting that, for the first time, it is possible to trace the stages of development of the bronze age in Garaköpektepe. The stratigraphy of Karaköpektepe at the beginning of the Bronze Age was used as the basis for all settlements of the mentioned period in the Guruchay and Kondalanchay valleys.

The black-polished and specially patterned vessels of Garaköpektepe are typical examples of vessels for the Middle Bronze Age of Azerbaijan. For the first time, such pottery samples were discovered in the Uzarliktepe settlement near Agdam in the late 1950s. Later, it was determined that these vessels were widespread in a number of monuments in the Mil-Karabakh plain. In addition to black and gray polished and patterned vessels, painted vessel fragments were also obtained from the Middle Bronze Age monuments in the Guruchay and Kondalanchay valleys. Patterns on such vessels are mainly geometric patterns, parallel, straight and wavy lines, angles and triangles, spirals, etc. consists of. Dark brown and black colors were used in the embroidery of the patterns. Patterns,

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as a rule, are drawn on the surface of the dishes, covered with red color and smoothed. Clean clay mixed with pomegranate sand was used for their smoothing. All of these thin-walled vessels are observed to be prepared with great effort and well cooked. A common feature of these clay products is that they are all patterned with the same monochrome paint. Researchers (O. Habibbulayev, V. Aliyev) observed that the production of painted vessels passed through four stages of development. According to them, the vessels of the first final are simplified in terms of their shapes and motifs and stand out from the painted vessels of recent times. These dishes have a monochrome pattern. They are covered with red angobe, the upper part of the body is very symmetrically patterned with dark black geometric motifs and thin lines. It seems that during this period the masters used a brush or another tool.

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The black-polished and specially patterned vessels of Qarakopaktepe are typical examples of vessels for the Middle Bronze Age of Azerbaijan. For the first time, such pottery samples were discovered in the Uzarliktepe settlement near Agdam in the late 1950s. Later, it was determined that these vessels were widespread in a number of monuments in the Mil-Karabakh plain. In addition to black and gray polished and patterned vessels, painted vessel fragments were also obtained from the Middle Bronze Age monuments in the Guruchay and Kondalanchay valleys. Patterns on such vessels are mainly geometric patterns, parallel, straight and wavy lines, angles and triangles, spirals, etc. consists of. Dark brown and black colors were used in the embroidery of the patterns. Patterns, as a rule, are drawn on the surface of the dishes, covered with red color and smoothed. Clean clay mixed with pomegranate sand was used for their smoothing. All of these thin-walled vessels are observed to be prepared with great effort and well cooked. A common feature for these clay products is that they are all patterned with the same monochrome paint.

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Researchers (O. Habibbulayev, V. Aliyev) observed that the production of painted vessels passed through four stages of development. According to them, the vessels of the first stage were simplified in terms of their shapes and motifs and distinguished from the painted vessels of recent times. These dishes have a monochrome pattern. They are covered with red anqobe, the upper part of the body is very symmetrically patterned with dark black geometric motifs and thin lines. It seems that during this period the masters used a brush or another tool. They made a monochrome pattern for this stage. Monochrome patterned vessels belonging to this stage were obtained from Shortepe, I and II Kultepe, Aznaburd Mound, Karabaglar and adjacent Gulalitepe, Zurnabad earthen mound near Ganjachay, Uzerliktepe in Aghdam, Goytepe, Rasultepe, Balalartepe, Nargiztepe, Kopektepe in the Mil-Karabakh plain [1, 46-47]. On the basis of cultural development, which is clearly noticeable with archaeological evidence, craftsmanship and its separate fields had a unique place and importance. In this respect, pottery is particularly distinguished. In such a period, several independent centers of pottery production have already emerged in Azerbaijan. One of them operated in the valleys of Guruchay and Kondalanchay [4, 35].

Among the materials obtained from Middle Bronze Age settlements, Uzar-liktepe is of special importance. As a result of the archaeological research conducted by the "Orangala" expedition (1954-1956) in the ancient settlement of Uzarliktepe near Aghdam, along with plain and black polished vessels, fragments of monochrome patterned vessels from the Middle Bronze Age were discovered. During the research carried out in the Mil plain, fragments of painted vessels belonging to the Middle Bronze Age were obtained from Goytepe, Rasultepe, Nargiztepe and Babalartepe settlements [8, 9-19].

The materials of the upper layer of Uzerliktepe consisted of large red vessels, kitchen vessels, black polished miniature vessels, monochrome patterned vessels, material culture samples [7, 390-391].

Among Uzerliktepe materials, different types of ceramic samples occupy a leading place. Pottery of the lower layer is divided into two groups according to technical characteristics, composition of clay, as well as color shades and use. Group I ceramics are made of light-colored clay. Its wall is porous and contains small stones and large grains of

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sand. The surface was not smooth, it was stroked by hand. This group includes bar-shaped glass intended for the kitchen, bowl, bowl, archaic river, etc. includes [7, 81–83].

Group II ceramics are made of gray, well-kneaded, pure clay. The outer surface of the dishes is carefully caressed and polished. This type of ceramic is brown or brown, mostly black. According to the researchers, to darken the surface of the vessels, they were first smoked at a low temperature, and then covered with a layer of fat and polished. Group II ceramics are mostly patterned, even in non-patterned vessels, wide, horizontal, sunken lines are found on the edge of the mouth. The main place in the design is the surface of the vessel, the decoration created from a combination of scratched lines drawn with a sharp-edged tool occupies a special place. The pattern is rough, symmetrical. The main motif consists of zig-zag, arched, parallel and oval lines, stamps, rhombus, etc. consists of. In some cases, the interior of the lines is filled with white matter. Researcher H.F. Jafarov considered white inlaid ceramics to be archaic examples [1, 49]. Uzerlik-teppe ceramics are divided into 3 groups: 1) rough kitchen utensils; 2) high-quality, surface geometric, stepped zigzag, arched, etc. patterned, black polished dishes; 3) painted vessels with red angobe, patterned with black paint. Here, there is a large amount of highly polished black-glazed vessels, some of which are very large. Samples of vessels made with fine taste also existed, one group of these vessels has a heel.

The throat and shoulder part of the black-polished jugs found with monochrome painted vessels from Uzerlik-teppe are decorated with horizontal stripes (dots), arched wavy lines and sharp-angled solid lines, wavy lines and sharp-angled broken lines. Jugs and jug fragments decorated with the same technique were found from Kul-tepe II and Goy-tepe (Mil düzü) together with monochrome painted vessels [3, 53].

A complex composition was applied in the design. Instead of the drawn lines on the first layer, "stepping" patterns were made, which were realized by stamping. Among the patterns, arched, semicircular or oval, zigzag decorations inside the horizontal lines are interesting. K.K. Kushnaryova suggested that such patterning should be done with a special stamp made of wood or bone, with teeth on the tip, when the clay of the pots is not dry.

Technological innovations such as the application of new methods in patterning and more complex compositions indicate

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the beginning of a new stage in the field of pottery. The obtained painted vessels are a minority compared to other ceramic samples. Their clay is clean, well baked, red in color [1, 50].

Iyessen used the lower layer of Uzarliktepe in B.C. to the beginning of the II millennium, the II layer - to the XVII-XV centuries, the III layer to B.C. XV - BC he attributed it to the 14th century [8, 18].

Zurnabad painted pots around Ganjachay are of great interest in this direction. Here, the patterning of the dishes - triangles with wavy lines drawn inside ends with small circles. Patterns are drawn on the red surfaces of the vessels. In addition to the patterns shown in the earrings, there are rectangles and rhombuses filled with wavy lines, triangles with mesh. These vessels do not have the neatness of drawing patterns that is found in Nakhchivan vessels. The painted vessels found in Uzarliktepe in Agdam can be attributed to this type. Here too, black patterns were drawn on the red painted surface of the vessels in the same way, but their motifs differ from the motifs of the Nakhchivan vessels [6, 86].

In Chinartape, which is one of the first settlements of the Middle Bronze Age of Karabakh, the art of pottery has passed a stage of high development. 0.5-1.4 m of this residence. In depth, fragments of Uzarliktepe type vessel samples were found. Most of the materials collected from the place of residence are divided into 3 types according to the technique of preparation and the purpose of use. The first rough-made, thick-walled kitchen and household utensils; second black, chestnut polished, thin walled, surface stamping, etc. dishes decorated with patterns; third painted vessels [1, 51].

The first type of vessels are yellow and gray, sometimes brown in color, rough and sloppy. The surface of these pots is smoothed, the composition of the clay is sandy and small stones. The surface of the bowls has several rows of concave, comb-shaped depressions. The second type of vessels consists of thin-walled samples made of high-quality clay with dark black, brown and partly gray polish. The lining of most of them is pink, sometimes gray. The outer surface of the dishes is brightly polished. Although the pattern of ceramics is different, uniformity is observed in their patterning technique. In the design, "stepping" zigzags were used mainly by stamping and rolling with gear wheels. Several variants of

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this pattern can be observed in Chinartape vessels. Patterns are drawn with a special tool made of a sharp piece of wood and bone. Geometric motifs consisting of one and two rows of dots attract attention. In some cases, views are located inside horizontal parallel lines [3, 52].

The third group consists of ceramic painted vessels. These vessels are made of high-quality pomegranate clay, red color, symmetrical structure, smoothed and polished surface. Sometimes the clay of the pots contains a mixture of golden particles. Patterns of painted vessels consist of parallel wide lines drawn with black paint on a red background. Most of the vessels have a pattern on the neck and shoulder. One of the containers consists of a small glass. The corner of his mouth is inward. The outer surface is painted in the form of a wide strip. According to researcher H.F. Jafarov, Chinar hill is 3 km from this monument. There is no doubt that it is a part of the same culture with the distant Uzarliktepe [1, 52].

According to the researcher V.H. Aliyev, there were two pottery kilns in Azerbaijan in the Middle Bronze Age, such as Nakhchivan and Mil-Karabagh. Mutual economic and cultural relations existed between these two cultural centers, and as a result, the characteristics of the Nakhchivan painted vessels culture were adopted by Mil-Karabagh artisans, and the colorful patterning method of Mil-Karabagh simple vessels spread in Nakhchivan [3, 5-6].

It can be concluded from the research that although each pottery kiln has its own unique local characteristics, economic and cultural relations create the basis for their unification in a single culture. The successes achieved by Uzerliktepe potters - black polished vessels, monochrome painted and white inlaid vessel samples confirm that Karabagh is one of the centers of pottery in Azerbaijan. This center B.C. It gives reason to say that the ancient urban culture developed in Azerbaijan-Karabakh in the first half of the second millennium [2, 76].

From the research, it can be concluded that the art of pottery in the three pottery centers of Karabakh, Karaköpktepe, Uzerliktep, and Chinartape, has passed the stage of high development, even there were economic and cultural relations between them, and urban culture was formed and developed in these centers.

In the Bronze Age, the formation and growth of agriculture, livestock - pottery, metalworking, which are the

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leading economic sectors of the economy, made it possible to expand the internal and external relations of the Karabakh tribes of Azerbaijan [5, 131]. Economic and cultural relations were even established with neighboring Caucasus, Front Asia and South-East Asian countries, and these traces were evident in the fields of art, especially pottery.

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