

## **An Analytical Research of Pottery Productions of Meshkin-Tepe or Moshkoviye Area Between the ٧th and ٨th Centuries Hegira**

### **Abstract**

One of the important cities of the Islamic era of Iran between the ٤th and ٧th centuries of Hegira was the city of Moshkoviye. According to historical documents, this city was located on the main route of the Silk Road and between the cities of Hamedan and Rey. According to historical documents, this city was the second major city of the Saveh and was located near the city of Rey city; thus, in this regard, the exact location of this great city of the Islamic era was identified during archeological studies and surveys. However, today, only ruins of the city remain namely known as Meshkin-Tepe, in the limits of Zarandiye city of the central province which have been severely destroyed by unauthorized diggers. Pottery production, particularly earthenware and ceramic manufacture, such as furnace welding, molten pottery, balls, etc., were identified in the area, which alone indicates the extensive production of the pottery industry in this area. For this reason, in the present research, pottery production in this area has been introduced and studied. it was found that the production of pottery in this area was mostly completed between ٧th and ٨th centuries AH and it includes various types of glazed pottery with pseudo-porcelain paste and molded unglazed pottery.

### **Research aims:**

١. Recognizing the coordinates of pottey vessels in Moshkoviye or Meshkin-Tepe area.
٢. Investigating the types of earthenware in Moshkoviye region.

### **Research questions:**

١. What are the coordinates of the pottery vessels found in the city of Moshkoviye or Meshkin-Tepe
٢. What types of earthenware were made in Moshkoviye region?

**Keywords:** Moshkoviye, Islamic era, Meshkin-Tepe, pottery industry

## Introduction

One of the large sites of the Central Province of Iran with an area of about ٦٣ hectares during the Islamic ages, is the Meshkin Tepe site. Today, this area is located approximately one and a half kilometers from the new city of Parandak, one of the functions of Zarandieh city. At the end of the south side of this area, a relatively large hill belonging to the Parthian period and at the end of the northern section, a settlement on the plain of the New Paleolithic period is located; such features emphasize the importance of this area for human settlements during different historical periods. At present, the surface of the area, in addition to many unauthorized digging pits, which were more than ١٥٠٠ in the statistics, are full of various pieces of glazed and unglazed pottery from different Islamic eras, many data related to the pottery production industry. In addition, there are other data such as pieces of stone and glass containers, which indicate the existence of a continuous settlement during several centuries of this era.

Due to the importance of the area during various Islamic eras, as well as a lot of data related to the pottery production industry, such as glued, deformed or fused pottery, balls, mud chine, and other items. In ٢٠١٧, a part of the surface of the Meshkin Tepe related to the pottery industry, was subjected to archaeological excavations by Mr. Nouri Shadmahani that yielded very valuable results.

Before the implementation of the archaeological excavations, the surface of the area was gridded by the authors into ٥٠ x ٥٠ meters' square houses and the various data of each grid were carefully sampled, counted and studied. In this study, all the networks were examined and in addition to recording the characteristics of each network or house, such as surface vegetation, the number of unauthorized drilling holes, etc., scattered surface data of houses, such as pottery, then, the data related to the pottery industry, stoneware, etc., are collected in small or large amounts according to their distribution and are classified, categorized and indexed in the same house and were scattered in that house itself. According to the data obtained from this survey, extensive works and evidences in the field of industrial production in this area, especially pottery production between the ٣th and ٧th centuries Hegira have been identified, which are discussed in the present study.

The review of the background of the current research indicates that so far no independent work with this title has been published in the field of writing, consequently, authors are determined

to investigate this issue in a descriptive and analytical way by relying on the data of library sources.

## Conclusion

One of the great archeological sites of the Islamic era is Meshkin Tepe, which was inhabited during different Islamic centuries. During extensive investigations in many historical texts, it was found that this area was known as Moshkoviye in the not-so-distant past. During the surface surveys of this area, extensive works and evidences related to industrial productions, especially in the field of pottery production were identified, which were mostly related to the Seljuk to the Khwarazmshahi period. During the studies, it was found that different types of unglazed and glazed pottery were produced in this area. Among the unglazed pottery produced in Meshkin Tepe, we can mention mold pottery, whose evidences such as clay molds have been found on the surface of the area. In addition to this, various types of glazed earthenware include white or milky, turquoise, azure, purple, and glazed earthenware with cobalt blue underglaze painting on a white background were also identified. All the glazed pottery produced in this area has a white paste made of ferrite or glass paste, which according to studies were produced only between the ٣th and ٧th centuries AH. According to these results, it has been determined that this area was one of the production centers of unglazed and glazed pottery between the Seljuk period and the Khwarazmshahi period, and due to the large volume of its production, it is likely to be exported to other places, particularly for the city of Rey.

## References

- Allan, J. (١٩٩١). *Islamic ceramics*, Oxford: Ashmolean museum.
- Astakhri (١٩٨٨). *Al-Masalek and Al-Mamalek*, Persian translation from the ٩th-١٣th century A.H., by Iraj Afshar, third edition, Tehran: Scientific and Cultural Publishing Company. [In Persian].
- Bahrami, M. (١٩٨٨). *Gurgan Faiences*, Mazda publisher.
- Bailey, A. G. (١٩٩٦). a, the stimulus: Chines Porcelain production and trade with Iran, in Tamerlans table ware: A new approach to Chinocere ceramics of the fifteenth and sixteenth century Iran, Ontario: Mazda publishers, No ٦, PP ٧-١٥.
- Bailey, A. G. (١٩٩٦b). Transformation of Chines motifs, In Tamerlans table ware: A new approach to Chinocere ceramics of the fifteenth and sixteenth century Iran, Ontario: Mazda publishers, No ٦, PP ٥٧-١٠٨.

Chobak, Hamida. (۱۹۹۷). "A Selection of Islamic Pottery from Poinik Castle" Archaeological Reports (۱), Tehran: Cultural Heritage Organization of the country (Research Institute). [In Persian].

Clais, Wolfram. (۲۰۰۶). The architecture of the Mongol building on the Sassanid wall by the river, Beeston: Explorations and researches of ۱۹۶۳-۷, by the efforts of Wolfram Clais and Peter Kalmayer, translated by Faramarz Najd Samii, Tehran: Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization. ۲۸۵-۲۳۲. [In Persian].

Cutley, Margarita and Hamby, Louis. (۲۰۰۵). Seljuk and Khwarazmi art, translated by: Yaqoub Azhand, third edition, Tehran: Molly Publishing. [In Persian].

Fehervari, Gaza. (۲۰۰۹). Pottery of the Islamic World in the Tariq Rajab Museum of Kuwait, translated by: Mahnaz Shayestehfar, Tehran: Institute of Islamic Art Studies. [In Persian].

Fehervari, G. (۱۹۷۳). Islamic pottery: A comprehensive study based on the Barlow collection, London: Faber and Faber limited.

Geographical culture of Iran. (۲۰۳۵). The first volume of Central Province, Tehran: Publications of the Geographical Organization of the country. [In Persian].

Gray, B. (۱۹۶۳). Persian influence on Chines art from the eight to the fifteenth centuries, Iran, Vol ۱, pp ۱۳ – ۱۸.

Grube, Ernest J. (۲۰۰۵). "Iranian Stone Paste Pottery of the Seljuk Period" Collection of Islamic Pottery, compiled by Nasser Khalili and Stefan Voronit, Tehran: Karang Publishing House, ۱۲۹-۱۳۶. [In Persian].

Grube, Ernest J. (۱۹۷۶). *Islamic pottery of the eight to the fifteenth century in the Keir collection*, London: Faber and Faber.

Kashani, Abulqasem Abdullah. (۱۹۶۶). Araish Al-Jawahir and Nafais Al-Atayeb, by the efforts of Iraj Afshar, Tehran: Publications of the National Art Association. [In Persian].

Karimi, Fatemeh and Kayani, Mohammad Yusuf. (۱۹۸۵). Pottery art of the Islamic period, Tehran: Iran Archeology Center. [In Persian].

Hasan, Ahmadyousef and Hill, Donald. (۱۹۹۶). An illustrated history of Islamic technology, translated by Nasser Moafaqian, Tehran: Scientific and Cultural Publishing Company. [In Persian].

Hosseinzadeh, Maitham. (۲۰۰۶). Ilkhani pottery of Takht Suleiman collection based on the third period of archaeological excavations (۱۳۸۰-۱۳۸۴), Master's thesis in archeology of Tehran University (unpublished), Tehran. [In Persian].

Ibn Hawqal (۱۹۶۶). Surah al-Arz, translated by Dr. Jafar Shaar, Tehran: Farhang Iran Foundation Publications. [In Persian].

Ibn Khurdazbah (۱۹۸۱). Al-Masalek and Al-Mamalek, translated by Hossein Qara-Chanlu, Tehran: Translator's Publishing House. [In Persian].

Ibn Rasteh, Ahmad bin Omar. (۱۹۸۶). A'alag Al-Nafisa, translated and edited by Dr. Hossein Qara Chanlu, Tehran: Amir Kabir Publishing. [In Persian].

Mason, R., Farquhar, Ronald. M. & Smith, Patrick. M. (۱۹۹۲). "Lead isotope analysis of Islamic glass: An exploratory study" *Muqarnas*, Vol ۹, pp ۶۷-۷۱.

Mason, Robert & Tite, M.S. (۱۹۹۴). "The beginnings of Islamic Stone paste Technology" *Archaeometry*, Vol ۳۶, pp ۷۷-۹۱.

Mason, R. (۲۰۰۴). *Shine like the sun: Luster painted and associated pottery from the medieval middle east*, Ontario: Mazda publishers.

Mofakham Payan, Lotfaloah. (۱۹۶۹). Culture of Iranian settlements, first part, Tehran: Amirkabir. [In Persian].

Moghdisi, Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Ahmad. (۱۹۸۲). *Ahsan al-Ta'asim fi Ma'rafa al-Aqalim*, translated by Dr. Alinqi Manzavi, ۲ volumes, Tehran: Authors and Translators Company of Iran. [In Persian].

Mokhtari Taleghani, Iskandar. (۱۹۹۷). "Statistical analysis of archeological surveys of Saveh region" *Susa Archeology Meeting Minutes*, Tehran: Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization, ۳۵۳-۳۹۳. [In Persian].

Mortezaei, Mohammad. (۲۰۰۴). Preliminary report of the first chapter of archaeological excavations in Jurjan site, *Archaeological Reports* (۳), Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization, Tehran, ۱۸۸-۱۵۵. [In Persian].

Nemati, Mohammad Reza. (۲۰۰۹). The speculative report for the purpose of determining the proposed area and boundaries of Meshkin Tepe Parandak, *Archives of Cultural Heritage Organization of Central Province*, has not been published. [In Persian].

Nouri Shadmahani, Reza. (۲۰۱۰). The report of the first chapter of the archaeological excavations of the Meshkin Tepe area of Zarandiyeh, the archive of the Central Province Cultural Heritage Organization, has not been published. [In Persian].

Pope, Arthur Upham. (۱۹۴۲). *A survey of Persian art*, Vol IV, Tehran: Soroush press.

Pope, Arthur Upham. (۱۹۹۹). "Pottery, calligraphy and inscriptions" from the collection of Siri in Iranian art from prehistoric times to today, translated by: Najaf Daryabandari and others, Tehran: Scientific and Cultural Publishing Company. [In Persian].

Rice, Prudence, M. (۱۹۸۷). *Pottery analysis a sourcebook*, Chicago and London: The university of Chicago press.

Sinopoli, Carla, M. (۱۹۹۱). *Approaches to archaeological ceramics*, New York and London, Plenum press.

Soustiel, J. (۱۹۸۵). *La ceramique Islamique*, Office du Liver.

Soustiel, Laure and Allan, J. (۱۹۹۵). "The problem of Seljuk monochrome wares" *Islamic art in the Ashmolean Museum*, part two, Berlin: Oxford university press, pp ۸۵-۱۱۶.

Treptow, T. (۲۰۰۷). *Daily life ornamented the mediaeval Persian city of Rey*, Chicago: The oriental institute museum of the University of Chicago.

Velde, Bruce & Druc, Isabelle, C. (۱۹۹۹). *Archaeological ceramic materials: Origin and utilization*, Springer – Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York.

Watson, O. (۱۹۸۷). Islamic pots in Chinese style, The Burlington magazine, Vol ۱۲۹, No ۱۰۱۰, pp ۳۰۴-۳۰۶.

Wilkinson, Charles, K. (۱۹۷۳). *Nishapur: Pottery of the early Islamic period*, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of art.

Rahimi, Afsun and Metin, Mehran. (۱۹۸۹). Fine Ceramics Technology, first volume, Tehran: Iran Chinese Clay Joint Stock Company. [In Persian].

Watson, Oliver. (۲۰۰۳). Zarinfam Iranian pottery, translated by Shokoh Zakiri, Tehran: Soroush Publications. [In Persian].

Yousefi, Hassan. (۲۰۰۶). Speculative report in the area of Morouj historical house, archeological research institute archive of the country (unpublished). [In Persian].

Siddiquian, Hossein and others. (۲۰۰۹). The study of Zolf Abad Farahan site based on speculative data and surface survey, Journal of Archaeological Research of Tarbiat Modares University, Volume ۳, Tarbiat Modares, Tehran, ۱۳۰-۱۴۲. [In Persian].