

## A Review on the Art of Pottery in Iran

### Abstract

The discoveries of archaeologists in the Jiroft area show that ۷۰۰۰ years ago, those who lived in such areas were familiar with the pottery industry and its decoration. With the appearance of the first potter's wheel in Ilam, it becomes clear that pottery, earthenware and weaving industry started from the plateau of Iran. The oldest example of glazed terracotta decorations found in Iran is attributed to the "Chagharzanbil Temple" and belongs to the Middle Elam period. The current research is written in descriptive and analytical method and based on the data of library sources. The findings of the research indicate that the oldest pottery found in Iran belongs to the same period. The obtained samples of the Elam civilization pottery from Susa region indicate that Susa pottery is not only related to Susa itself, but also pottery that came from Musyan hill, Baluchistan, Gyan hill, Hisar hill, Tepe, Silk, Sumer, Tal Halaf (Iraq), northwest of India, were obtained and are called part of Susa pottery class. When the pottery was made with the "potter's wheel", it became more refined. In the early period of Islam, pottery was unglazed and decorated in a pressure mold; also, vessels were made of blue or turquoise glaze. In the later era, during Ilkhanids, Timurids and Safavids, the pottery industry flourished and became popular and various magnificent artworks were made by potter artists.

### Research aims:

۱. Recognizing the stages of pottery evolution in Iran.
۲. Examining the various types of Iranian pottery.

### Research questions:

۱. What is the history of pottery in the geography of Iran?
۲. What types of pottery are more popular in Iran?

**Keywords:** pottery, Iran, Elam, Islamic period.

### Introduction

Pottery was one of the first practical arts in human societies. Meanwhile, Iranian society can be considered as one of the societies that behold this prolong history of this art. The works

obtained from the ancient regions of Iran show that the creation of the first pottery objects and containers belongs to Iranian peoples. In his book, "History of Civilization" Will Durant discusses the civilization of Elam: "It seems that the residents of Elam were occupied with desert life, hunting and fishing; nevertheless, concurrently, they used copper weapons and tools, cultivated the land, domesticated animals, were familiar with religious calligraphy and commercial documents, and had mirrors and jewelry; also, their trade continued from Egypt to India" (۱۹۹۷: ۱۳۹). Thus, they had smoothed flint tools that initiated the new Stone Age, and well-made round vases on which geometric patterns with beautiful images of animals and plants are depicted and many of such artworks are among the best made by human hands. Durant again explains that "It was here that not only the first potter's wheel is revealed, but also the first chariot wheel is realized; furthermore, the country of Susa existed for ۶۰۰۰ years and witnessed the peak of the greatness of Sumer, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome and under the name of Susa, it remained in full glory until the ۱۴th century AD. (Durant, ۱۹۹۷: ۱۴۲).

Professor Pope has also mentioned in his book of "Iranian Art Review", "recently obtained evidence strongly proves the hypotheses of the last few years that agriculture and perhaps related industries, such as pottery and weaving industry began in the Iranian plateau.". Since the beginning of the second half of the last century, archaeologists have unearthed a large number of pottery vessels and other objects in a region from eastern Iran to Iraq from the Caucasus to the Indus Valley. The prehistoric pottery found in this vast area is almost uniformly varied in style and remarkably advanced in technique. The present research aims to recognize and introduce the gradual course of the state of pottery and pottery in Iran by relying on the data of library sources.

## **Conclusion**

In this research, the history of the origin of pottery in ancient times has been discussed. According to the obtained pottery, it can be concluded that the art of pottery started from the plateau of Iran. The history of pottery making in Iran can be traced in areas such as Jiroft, Shush, Tepe Hesar and Silk Kashan. Excavated pottery from ancient places shows that in addition to pottery, it also took on a decorative aspect, and by painting and glazing them, beautiful and unique works of this art were created. During the Islamic era, great attention was

devoted to this ancient art of Iran and different various decorative vessels and objects were made by skilled potters.

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