

**ANTHROPOMORPHIC AND ZOOMORPHIC IMAGES IN
THE GLAZED CERAMICS OF GABALA XI-XIII CENTURIES
(BASED ON ARCHEOLOGICAL MATERIALS OF THE CASTLE)**

The article studies the glazed pottery found in the territory of the ancient city of Gabala, which dates back to the XI-XIII centuries and depicts people and animals. Archaeological excavations have uncovered a large number of glazed pottery samples from this period. The study of these specimens is important from the point of view of the study of glazed pottery of the advanced medieval period.

Keywords: archeological excavations, glazed ceramics, human and animal images

Medieval pottery is divided into two groups according to the technique of preparation, glazed and unglazed. During archeological excavations carried out in different years in the Gala and Salbir areas of the ancient city of Gabala, a large number of samples of glazed pottery were discovered and studied. During the study of glazed vessels, it was found that the vessels differ from each other due to the characteristics of glazing, as well as anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, floral, geometric images are given on the vessels.

In general, zoomorphic artifacts found during archeological excavations can be grouped into two groups:

1. Items depicting pets.
2. Descriptions of wild animals.

There were two important aspects to both types of descriptions. In other words, in the depictions of both domestic and wild animals, along with real images, there are also stylized figures. According to the researcher RM Vahidov, observations on animal figures clearly show that they became an ancient religion and later a means of entertainment [1, p. 9].

Archaeological excavations conducted in the Gala part of the ancient city of Gabala under the leadership of archaeologist Gafar Jabiyev revealed a large number of glazed ceramic samples. As a result of the study of glazed ceramics, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic vessels of the XI-XIII centuries was identified.

Archaeologist GJ Jabiyev notes that in the XII-XIII centuries, the method of engraving was widely used to artistically enrich multi-colored patterned vessels, and among the materials of this period, there are few examples without engraving. It is noted in the materials of the XII-XIII centuries that images of humans and various animals are often encountered. This, in turn, is a sign that the dogmatic rules of Islam, which forbid the creation of a copy of a living being, have been weakened [2, p.102,111].

The fragment of a glazed bowl depicting a man in picture 1 is a clear example of this. This fragment belongs to the XI-XII centuries [3, p. 254]. The human figure is on the inside of the bowl and is stuck in the middle of the seat.



Picture 1

In the XII-XIII centuries in Azerbaijan, as well as in Georgia and Central Asia, it was determined that pottery was decorated with images of birds. The bird images of that period are vivid and clear.

The widespread use of bird images in material and cultural monuments from the Early Bronze Age to the Middle Ages allows us to see that this is a special tradition of the Azerbaijani people in this area, and that this theme has a special place in spiritual culture [1, p.32].

During the XI-XIII centuries, bird images were found on the glazed vessels found in the territory of the Castle. The presence of animal images on the dishes probably meant the expression of any spell, totem (picture 2-3).



Picture 2



Picture 3

Both fragments date back to the 12th century and were identified during excavations in the Gala area of the ancient city of Gabala in 2011-2012 [3, p.264]. One of them (Picture 2) is a fragment of a glazed plate, and the other (Picture 3) is a fragment of a glazed vessel with a picture of a bird on it, although it is not possible to determine the type of vessel. As can be seen, the inner surface of both bowls depicts a bird on the seat and in the center, and the perimeter of the image is painted in different colors. During archeological excavations in the Gala area of the city in 2013, along with other examples of glazed pottery, glazed pottery with a zoomorphic image was also found. The glazed plate fragment depicting a bird in picture 4 dates back to the 11th century. The diameter of the mouth of the container is 9 cm [4, p. 256].



Picture 4

The part of the bowl with the image of a bull found in Gabala and belonging to the XII-XIII centuries is also of great interest. This object found in the well is almost analogous to the bull image known from Beylagan. Both figures are brought together by their manufacturing technology. The image of a bull's head found in Gabala also has a gradually narrowing tubular tube. V.M. According to Masson, the center of the spread of such objects is Mesopotamia [1, p.33].

The discovery of glazed pottery and other specimens from the XI-XIII centuries in the area of the castle, depicting people and animals, gives grounds to say that craftsmen already specialize in this field and there is a renaissance in the production of glazed pottery.

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**АНТРОПОМОРФНЫЕ И ЗООМОРФНЫЕ ИЗОБРАЖЕНИЯ
В ГЛАЗУРОВАННОЙ КЕРАМИКЕ ГАБАЛЫ XI-XIII ВВ.
(ПО АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИМ МАТЕРИАЛАМ ЗАМКА)**

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Резюме: В статье рассматривается глазурованная керамика, найденная в районе Гала древнего города Габала, датируемая XI-XIII веками и изображающая людей и животных. Археологические раскопки обнаружили большое количество образцов глазурованной керамики этого периода. Изучение этих образцов важно с точки зрения изучения глиняной посуды позднего средневековья.

Ключевые слова: *археологические раскопки, глазурованная керамика, изображения людей и животных*