



## From The History of Craft Formation in The Ancient World

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### ABSTRACT

The article describes in detail the emergence of handicrafts in the ancient world, the origin of this term, the formation of specific types of handicrafts in the countries of the Ancient World and their becoming an integral part of the economy

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The word "Kreft" is derived from the English word "Craft" (power or skill), which means "the skill of planning, making, carrying out" and by extension, "a profession requiring skill or craft" and craft, meaning the objects produced by the application of that skill (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Every civilization has developed its own craft, and the term can be applied to many aspects of each. This article within the framework, the term is used only for handicrafts, including pottery and metalwork, but it should be understood that the term applies equally to other forms of writing and expression.<sup>1</sup>

Crafts in the ancient world, their purpose and how they were made, were as varied as the cultures that created them. In ancient Mesopotamia, crafts were produced both by state order and privately. By 6500 BC, linen was used in the region known as Tepe Sabz (now Iran) and was woven by both private and public workers before the introduction of wool. From Ur we have a Sumerian war standard and a peace standard, both commissioned by the state and designed by what are known today as government officials.<sup>2</sup>

At the same time, many private artists created more of their own works (also dating back to 6500 BC, when pottery has been found since that time), such as the Ram Pacing Statue from Ur. 2800 BC, shell, lapis lazuli and gold, depicting a ram (or goat) struggling to escape from a bush. Sumerian finds are utilitarian works that tell the story of culture in times of peace or war, but works such as the ram statue often depict scenes from everyday life or symbolic images of the gods, as the ram statue symbolizes. The male energy principle of the god Tammuz is captured in the "thickness" of the female goddess "Inanna" Ishtar. "Inanna" Ishtar is depicted as a difficult heroine who regularly entangles her lovers in webs of trouble.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Wilson, Miko Flohr, "Urban craftsmen and traders in the Roman world" Oxford university press

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldhistory.org>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ancientcrafts.org>

By 6200 BC, copper was being smelted in Anatolia, south of the Mesopotamian region, and its importance was increasing. It would eventually become an increasingly valuable commodity both in trade and for domestic use. From 6500 BC, linen textiles were woven by private or state workers, as mentioned in the name of Tepe Sabz (modern Iran).

In ancient Egypt, the most important craftsmen were metalsmiths who produced bowls, vases, bowls, statues and figurines, even swords and daggers, which can be seen in museums around the world today. Metallurgists worked mainly on copper mined from the Sinai Peninsula. By the Middle Kingdom (2040-1782 BC) bronze (a mixture of copper and tin), tin came from the hills of Elam southeast of Babylon.

Undoubtedly, the most widely used metal in ancient Egypt was gold, which was mined in large quantities from the quartzite rocks of the eastern desert and south of Egypt in Nubia and Sudan. The famous tomb of Tutankhamun, discovered by Howard Carter in the early 1920s AD, is the best evidence of the multipurpose use of gold by metalworkers, who made everything from ornate death masks to coffins to bowls to bracelets. And jewelry was found in the grave. According to the historian Herodotus, Egyptian metalworkers were known as the most skilled craftsmen in the world, and their surviving works testify to the truth of Herodotus' claim.<sup>4</sup>

In ancient Greece, craftsmanship reached its peak in pottery (from the Greek *ceramos* "wet clay"), one of the main branches of the Greek state industry, and privately produced work by individual artists. Around 2500 BC, Greek ceramics began to be produced in the island kingdom of Crete, as evidenced by archaeological finds at Knossos and Gortyn. The most popular style of pottery is made to tell a story in linear form, with black figures painted on a clay-red background (or vice versa in the red-painting style).

These stories could range from mythological tales to personal family stories. The most famous English poet, John Keats, admired it in his "Poem on a Grecian Jug", in which he extols the virtues of "still silence's bride" and longs for eternal youth. and beauty is depicted in the jar. Other pottery is the amphora, mainly used for wine, which was found in abundance in the Phoenician shipwrecks of Tanit and Elyssa, discovered by Bob Ballard in 1999. Hydria (mainly used for water) and krater were two other types of ceramic products. The krater was a wide-rimmed ceramic supported by a short cylinder at the base; both forms are used today as vases and mixers.<sup>5</sup>

The Romans used earlier cultures to produce crafts (as they did in other aspects of their culture) to create beautiful works of art, but due to their pragmatic nature, they excelled at crafts that were more utilitarian than crafts. aesthetic. The greatest craftsmen of ancient Rome were the plumbers (Latin *plumium* - lead) who made the great pipes that carried water in and out of the city of Rome and nearby Ostia, and the masons who made the stones to create roads, buildings and temples. From Galicia, Spain to Trier, across Germany and all the way to Egypt, the craftsmanship of Roman builders can be seen in the roads and aqueducts that stretch across Europe that are still usable today.

In the first millennium BC, the Phoenicians sent their ships across the Atlantic to the British Isles, loading large quantities of tin to mix with the abundant copper of the Mediterranean to make bronze. It is not known why the Phoenicians did not mine from the hills of Elam, as the Egyptians did. Around 200 BC, iron production in the Celtic world, which began around what is now Cornwall, experienced significant development, and the Iron Age changed all aspects of life for those who lived in Celtic lands and beyond.<sup>6</sup>

Crafts were an integral part of the life of the peoples who created and used them. Most importantly, they were an expression of the culture and life of people in a certain period. Archaeologists regularly report that they prefer ceramics over gold, silver, or other valuable treasures in their finds because inscriptions on ceramic surfaces tell the most accurate and honest story of everyday life. The people of the past, like the people of today, did not always lead lives of great adventure or excitement, but still had stories to tell of great passion and constant wonder. These stories were told through the crafts they created, and today, many thousands of years later, these stories can still be read and the creations of the early artists can be admired.

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<sup>4</sup> Andrew Wilson, Miko Flohr, "Urban craftsmen and traders in the Roman world" Oxford university press

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.worldhistory.org>

<sup>6</sup> Nafisa Sodiqova "O'zbek milliy kiyimlari XIX-XX asrlar", Sharq nashriyoti, Toshkent 2003

In general, crafts were an integral part of the life of ancient peoples. It appeared on the basis of daily needs, served to ease people's burdens, and at the same time branched out into various types of economy.<sup>7</sup> Initially, handicrafts were divided into several areas, the main of which are:

1. home crafts;
2. crafts that make products to order
3. crafts that prepare products for the market<sup>8</sup>

Later, on the basis of these industries, new types of crafts appeared and became an integral part of the national economy. Blacksmithing, pottery, textiles, carpentry, architecture, and jewelry have always served as the basis for all crafts. These types of crafts have preserved their importance in any period of history.

**References:**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://uz.wikipedia.org>

<sup>8</sup> <https://hunar.uz>