

THE HISTORY OF THE GOLD INDUSTRY IN CENTRAL ASIA (XVI - XIX centuries.)

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Summary: This article is devoted to the study of the issue of processing precious metals - gold, silver on the territory of Uzbekistan in the XVI-XIX centuries. Gold was mined by washing sand gold, and was also mined in the form of ore. The historical location of gold was on the banks of the Amudarya, Syrdarya, Zarafshan, Chirchik, Yarkent and Khutan rivers. They were traded with foreign countries. At the end of the 19th century, in the beks of Darvaz, Kulyab, Baldzhuvan, Kurgantepa of the Bukhara Khanate, research was carried out on minerals and precious metals.

Keywords: Khiva Khanate, Bukhara Khanate, Kokand Khanate, jewelry, mines, craft, traditional mining, sand with gold, mountain, gold, silver, mining, minerals.

In the territory of Central Asia existed Khiva, Bukhara, and Kokand khanates in the 16th and 19th centuries. In the economy of these self-governed states, agriculture, cattle breeding and handicraft production played an important role. A prominent place in the economy of metal processing took several types of crafts. Handicraft production associated with metal processing that depended on mining. The main raw material as metal was mined from local mines. In the 16th century, the processing of minerals played an important role in the development of society, which was mainly of great importance in the manufacture of metal products, building materials, various ornaments, coins, etc. Under the earth mined various minerals: iron, copper, coal, oil, sulfur, precious and semi-precious stones.

Mining of gold is considered the main branch of mining. In Central Asia, the mining of gold was existed when it had attacked of the Arabs long before. It was evidenced by the manuscripts of ancient historians and Chinese travelers of the 5th-7th centuries. Arab geographers of the 9th-10th centuries noted several major areas where gold was mined. These were Vakhn, Fergana (near Akhsikent and in the valley of Sokh, Nakod), Mount Buttem (upper districts of Zarafshan) and Ilak. In the sources of the 9th and 10th centuries it was noted that gold mines were of two kinds. For example, in Vapkhan, gold was mined from sandy placers in river channels.[1] This represented the so-called placer gold. On the other hand, the existing archaeological material indicates that gold was previously mined in the form of ore.

Said Muhammad Tahir ibn Abul Qasim was written in the Ajoyib at-tabokat, in 1640, as the mountains of the Tashkent region of Ashir [Oshir] belong to the Turkestan region, and there are many mines of oil, turquoise, iron and gold. Khujand, Konibodom, Isfara were mentioned in the territories of the Fergana Valley. [2]

The territory of the Bukhara Khanate was rich in minerals. However, the domination of medieval industrial relations and the lack of specialists hampered the extraction and using of minerals. The envoy of Peter I Florio Beneveni, who was in Bukhara from 1721 to 1725, sent his valet Nikolay Minera to Balkh and from there to Badakhshan, where he explored the secrets of gold and silver mining on the Syrdarya River (Panj). In his letters to Peter I, Beneveni reported that "natural gold, anne ore" and mined it from sand, which "was washed in boilers, and then dried on the skin, beaten with bars, and so it means - gold between the sand, and blown out of the wind sand, but the purest gold remains, and although there is some small part of the sand, it burns out in the fusion, and takes the gold right up to Badaksan (Badakhshan)". Nikolay Miner also learned that gold is also mined in the cities of Kashgar, Margilan, Andijan and Tashkent along the same Syrdarya river. [4]

Gold was in other places of Central Asia. Having visited the Khiva Khanate, D. Gladyshev and I. Muravin (1740-1741) wrote that "there are mines of silver and gold in the mountains of Schedeld-tau (mountain Shaykh Dzhilil-ST). [5]

This information is confirmed by the merchant D. Rukavkin (1753), who writes that "In the Khiva possession, near the Aral Sea, there is a mountain in which, as it affects, there is rich gold ore, but it is not allowed to mine it. [6]" This information confirms the information relating to the 40 years of the XIX

century. According to him “there are mines of silver and gold in the spurs and foothills of the Shih-Jeri (Sheikh Jalil mountain). But the extraction of this wealth is prohibited by the local government. ”[7]

In 1795, a Tashkent person called Naurus Khasanov reported gold mining by flushing the sands of the Chirchik River, which, having started in the Alatau Mountains, flows through Tashkent ownership and connects with the Syr Darya in the Kirghiz-Kaistskaya steppe. The inhabitants made “this washing on woolen carpets, stretching their shaggy side upwards, installed in a framework with a certain slope. One person pours sand onto the carpet, another pours water, from which the sand is carried away with water, and gold remains on the carpet, and there are smaller leaves than in grains. After drying the carpet, shake gold. Four people wash out gold from 10 to 30 spools (zolotnik) [8] in 4 days. ” It is known that in small Bukhara, gold was mined under the river and that flows over Yarkand there washed blankets, carpets and cloth. At the time when the water arrived from the snow melting on the mountains, it was collected along the banks and gold was taken out of the sand. Information about the gold found in small Bukhara was confirmed by the information of Armenians Atanosovyh (1807). They testified that near the city of Khotan, which lies by the river of the same name, connected to Yarkand, on the bottom of the mountain, they extract not only native gold, but also precious stones.

Information about the minerals is available in “Dil-i Garaib” by Khudayberdi ibn Koshmuhammad and other writings of nineteenth-century authors. As he wrote in 1832 that the information about the minerals was existed in “Dil-i Garaib” by Khudayberdi ibn Koshmuhammad and other writings of nineteenth-century authors. As the author of “Dil-i Garaib” Khudayberdi ibn Koshmuhammad wrote in 1832, “in Khorezm there is a Gurlin neighborhood.[9] There was a river near this territory and there was a mountain in the north. Gold was mined in this mountain ...” Tashkent as historian Muhammad Solikhhodzha ibn Rahim (1830-1889) in the work “Tarihi jadidayi Toshkend” (New History of Tashkent) writes that “belonging to the places in the possession of Fergana, in the mountains of Kabutari Kumushot there are mines of salt, iron, lead, copper, sulfur , oil, gold, silver. [10]

From the results of the research it was revealed that the separation of the sand of gold was formed in Bukhara since ancient times, and in the past, such work was carried out on a wider scale. At the end of the 19th century, gold was washed over the river valleys of the eastern (mountain) Bukhara (the spurs and foothills of the Hessar and Darvaz ranges), which included Darvaz, Baldzhuvan and Kulyab beks. [11] An area was designated where there were sands of gold, with the subsequent transfer of gold to the state treasury. These are the territories: 1. The northeastern part of the Baldzhuvan Bekstvo, the coast of Mazar-su and Yakh-su, the upper reaches of the Talbar river, which flows into the Shungau river, Safet-dara, Pul-dara and other lands; 2) North-western part of the Kulyab Bekism, tributaries of the Sary-about river, the outskirts of Kilim and Agba, the land near the kishlak Sangry-dasht; 3) South-western part of the Darvaz Bekism, a tributary of the Chobsoy River Rognau and land near the village of Ravnau.

The conglomerate’s gold-containing mixture includes rounded clay mortar, pieces of gravel and granite, diabase, flint, stone compound with a green shade of 0.5 inches to 0.5 arshin, which can be clay-sandy or just clay. The color of the conglomerate was different like gray or red. According to the observations of the inhabitants, gold was found from the gray conglomerate mixture. They stirred this mixture, then washed and obtained flint. Gold was also found in the composition of stone formations.

Flushing of sandy gold was carried out in the spring on the bank of the river while the water was decreasing, and sand was left there, which was treated. These works were carried out in the spring, when the snow melted and on the sand you could see shiny golden grains of sand. In the village of Kalai Khoja, the extraction of conglomerates was carried out not only by the open road, but also by adits. Everywhere the washing of gold was the same and undeveloped. Only in some places in the washing of gold, they used wooden cups except the feline. Such an outdated way of mining gold was the cause of the loss of gold in large quantities. In the washing of gold, in which the mining engineer A.P. Mikhailov, out of 100 pounds of processed mud, an average of 32 gold was mined. According to the experience of the mining engineer Zhorovko-Pokarsky, who arrived in 1894 on behalf of private companies in these areas, 60-80 shares of gold were mined out of 100 pound processed mud.

Amazingly, mining gold from golden sands on a particular river belonged exclusively to the population who lived near the river. Residents joined in teamwork to mine gold from 3 to 9 people. Admission was requested to join with the consent of all its members. The gold produced was equally distributed among the workers regardless of the work being done. There was a tradition by virtue of which

no one had the right to hire a worker instead of himself. Everyone had to participate in the created teamwork with their own personal work.[12]

For the right to extract gold, taxes were levied on the population in different ways. From the population that lived near the Talbaru, Shungau and Safet rivers, 1 tills per year were collected from each yard, which was only 700 tills. The population who lived near the Niou River after the attack of tsarist Russia in the territory of Bukhara, prospecting and exploration of minerals and precious metals accelerated. This information confirms several documents of the Central Archive of Uzbekistan. In particular, it is a collection issued in Persian with a "Certificate of Permit", in which on February 24, 1896, the decree of the Governor-General of Turkestan "Gold Industry in the Bukhara Khanate" is mentioned.[13]

News of natural wealth has always been the focus of attention and was considered an important topic in the press. This is confirmed by another article that was published in the newspaper "Turkestan Gazette".

This article provides information about the gold-bearing territories in Khojent district and Fergana, the eastern part of the Bukhara Khanate. The geologist Kraft mined gold in Boldjuvan bekstvo in 1896. Gold has been mined in this territory by the Jews for many centuries. And in this case, the inhabitants, some officials and immigrants participated actively from Afghanistan.

According to the studies of the same Kraft, in 1894, 1604 groups of craftsmen with 8,000 workers were engaged in gold mining, their mining was 10 pounds of gold for about 200,000 rubles.

As Kraft reported, the first attempts of Russian businessmen to engage in gold mining in Bukhara were made in the 90s of the XIX century. Rumors of gold raised the interest of Russian gold producers who were engaged in gold mining in the territories of Siberia and the Urals, they arrived from the Urals in Chardzhui with the necessary funds.[14]

As the demand for precious metal increases, the number of people involved in this industry has increased every year. Many people have issued evidence of the search for precious and semi-precious metals. The Central State Archive of Uzbekistan has the following documents: "On the permission of a retired corps of mining engineers to lieutenant-colonel K. Kuliban in the search and development of gold, ore and other precious stones in the Turkestan region in 1865"[15], "On the resolution of the hereditary nobleman Plater-Plochtsky in search of gold placers and other metal-containing ores in the Turkestan Territory from November 27, 1865 to March 16, 1866 [16]. "About issuing a certificate of search for a hereditary citizen of the Omsk guild to merchant Vladimir Kuznetsov May place in the Turkestan region in May 1866 (appeal to MA Kryzhnovsky and answers, permission) "[17], "At the request of the Tashkent merchant of the 1st guild Mikhail Fyodorov about the discovery of gold placers in the Namangan district of 1877 on May 20). "[18]

In the summer of 1902, the French mining engineer, scientist and expedition leader, who was attracted to study the territories of Bukhara, the mountains from the Amu Darya to Kulyab M. Levant, published the article "In the mountainous Bukhara" in the pages of the newspaper "Turkestan Gazette" in 1902-1903. [19] On June 7, the French expedition reached the Mazar-Suy belt of gold-bearing conglomerates and studied it. These conglomerates occupied the entire upper part of the Ob-sang-Hergai valley and were located along the tributary of the Kizil-su river. After passing this coast, the expedition concluded that these conglomerates are quite different from the conglomerates of Sarypul and Tolbar.

According to analyzes of the French scientist E. Levant, the Obi conglomerate contained no sanghergai limestone and crushed stone. Then the expedition visited the Yakh-su river coast and climbed along the Sarypool and Tolbar rivers. In ancient times, the river Yah-su was called Tolbar. The scientist checked the works of local gold producers and underground drainage channels were enchanted him, called "Muryas".

In one of the articles of the newspaper "Turkestan Gazette", the author draws the attention of Russian investors to the fact that "one should pay serious attention to the gold industry in Bukhara and not introduce foreign capital into Turkestan. If Russian investors are indifferent to this, then perhaps the road will soon open to foreigners, on whom "taboos" are now imposed.[20]

In conclusion, we note that in ancient times, on the territory of the Khiva, Bukhara, and Kokad khanates, gold was mined by washing out sand gold, and was also mined as ore. The historical location of gold was located on the banks of the Amudarya, Syrdarya, Zarafshan, Chirchik, Yarkent and Khotan rivers. Gold producers worked in small groups. The forbidden policy of the rulers, the lack of specialists and modern technology hampered the extraction and use of minerals. Gold was mined by a primitive method. In

Central Asia, until the end of the 19th century, there were no railways, and the main difficulty was in the transportation of goods. Gradually, foreign capital was invested in the development of mining, and there had been a positive effect on the development of this field in Turkestan.

Conclusion

This article is devoted to the study of the processing of precious metals - gold, silver in the territory of Uzbekistan in the XVI-XIX centuries. Gold was mined by washing the sand gold, and also mined in the form of ore. The historical location of gold was located on the banks of the rivers Amu Darya, Syr Darya, Zarafshan, Chirchik, Yarkent and Khutan. Trade with them was conducted with foreign countries. At the end of the 19th century, minerals and precious metals were studied in the beats of Darvaz, Kulyab, Baldzhuvan, Kurgantep of the Bukhara Khanate.

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