

Türkiye’de Dövme Bakırcılık Sanatı

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Özet

El sanatları içerisinde hammaddesi metal olan bakırcılık sanatı geçmişte çok yoğun olarak yapılmıştır. Hızlı değişip gelişen sosyo-ekonomik yapı, bakır kapların günlük yaşamdaki yerini ve önemini azaltmıştır. Dövme tekniğiyle yapılan ağır ve güzel kaplar yerini makineyle yapılan ince ve hafif alüminyum, plastik, cam ve çelik gibi malzemelerden yapılmış kap-kacaklara bırakmıştır. Böylece bakır eşyaya olan talep azalmıştır. Bu yüzden geleneksel bakırcılık sanatı her geçen gün biraz daha gerilemiştir. Ancak, son yıllarda bakırdan yapılan kap-kacağın "turistik eşya" ve "hediyelik eşya" olarak önem kazanması ve geleneksel olan bakır sanatının yaşaması için bir ümit kaynağı olmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Dövme bakırcılık, el sanatları, turistik ve hediyelik eşya

Art of Wrought Copper in Turkey

Abstract

Among the handicraft, art of being a coppersmith has been occurred intensively in the past. The fast developing socio-economic structure diminished the value and the place of the copper vessels. Heavy and beautiful vessels made by beating left their places to thin, light aluminum, plastic, glass and steel vessels made by machinery. The demand for copper is diminished. Therefore being a coppersmith has become less and less important every day. However, in the last few years, copper vessels becoming a touristic souvenir became a source of hope for the traditional coppersmith art to live on.

Copperworking is applied in our country in some regions and there are people who live off it. Souvenirs, daily used vessels, and requirements of the rural areas are produced in centers such as İstanbul, Ankara, Tokat, Çorum, Erzincan, Diyarbakır, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Bursa, Kastamonu, Çankırı, Giresun and Trabzon.

The situation of being a coppersmith in Turkey is explained, examples are given from souvenir copper items produced in Ankara, and suggestions are made to keep this craft alive.

Key Words: Copper beating, handicraft, souvenirs

1. Introduction

Copper is a metal which has affected the human life since very early ages. In history, it has taken an important role in the transition from Stone Age to copper age. Today, even though copper is replaced with other alloys, it is hard to replicate and fulfill the abilities of copper with other metals and alloys.

In recent years, archaeological evidences retrieved from digs prove that mining started 10 thousand years ago in Anatolia in Çayönü. However, in Çatalhöyük, a center of the transition to productivity, it is understood that the first refining process took place in 7 thousand B.C. Copper ore, found abundantly in nature is the primary refined ore (<http://www.unutmussanatlar.com/2012/07/bakrclk.html>). According to the results of the digs, sources write that the heat treatment, in other words softening the ore to make it workable is first performed by Anatolian people. For example, in digs in Çayönü, Çatalhöyük and Suberde small appliances such as needles, prickers, hooks and some ornaments made by beating copper are obtained. These appliances, reflecting the oldest beating technique, are seen as beaten on stone anvils with handleless stone hammers. Moulding, the second mining art technique, follows the refining and heat treatment processes in 5 thousand B.C. The success of moulding molten ores in wooden, wax, stone and mostly clay moulds plays an important role as the heat treatment in the development of beating technique. In 4 thousand B.C., bronze is obtained by mixing tin with copper (http://www.gatetoturkey.com/turkey_a_z_made_in/01395/index.php?langsel=tr). In 2000 B.C. Assyrians are stated as managing Elazığ Ergani (new name Maden) copper deposits (Arlı 1984).

Copperworking, in roots, is a specific art to central and frontal Asia. It passed to the Europe by the Islam rushes to the west and crusades to the east. Its center in the east has been Iran, Iraq and Anatolia until 15th century. After that century, Anatolia left the other centers behind and started yielding pieces. At those times, copper ores around and in Ergani are melted, refined and made into plates to be distributed to the concerned artisans. It is stated that copper working in Anatolia is in a very high level and copper vessels produced in Tokat are sold abroad in that period (Çetin 1956).

The only copper blister producer in Turkey, Karadeniz Bakır İşletmeleri has a capacity of 38.460 tones. Besides KBİ, there are other corporations producing copper and electrolyte copper products. Çayeli Bakır İşletmesi, Etibank, Küre Bakırlı Pirit İşletmeleri are among the other important copper producing corporations. In the year 2008, it is recorded that in the exports of the metals other than iron, there is an increase of 28.4 % in quantity and 30.1 % in value, there is an export of 152.1 thousand tones which is 1.19 billion dollars. These statistics made us take place in the 32nd row with 0.8% share among the exports of the world. Among the copper products, copper wires, copper knitted ropes and copper sticks and profiles stand out as the most important exports (http://www.turaas.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15&Itemid=3).

Copper, shown by the chemical symbol “Cu”, is a reddish colored metal which can be shaped as a thin wire or a sheet, which has a high heat and electricity conductivity, and has a wide range of use. Metallic copper is obtained from sulfide and oxidized ores by enrichment and smelting (melting metals to a liquid). Its widest areas of use are, respectively, in facilities concerned about electricity production and transmission, construction, and transportation machinery. In hardware such as lighting appliances, radio and TV devices, washing machines

and dishwashers, refrigerators and food processors in households also benefit from copper. Copper is also used in long-lasting roof covering as copper sheets and brass is used in furniture. Lathes, routers, drills, welding machines and transformers are among important manufacturing tools where copper is used. In such machines, copper serves in the consumption and internal transmission of electricity. Besides, copper is widely used in transportation vehicles' radiator and piping, for example automobiles, ships, trains, in chemistry sector, in ammunition industry, souvenir manufacturing and in cooling hardware (Arslan, 2006:<http://www.ito.org.tr/itoyayin/0016979.pdf>). Copper's superiority over other substances and one of its most important features enabling it to find areas of usage in daily lives is due to its ability to make alloys with other metals. Mixed with zinc, brass, bronze, and tin alloys are obtained (Çetin, 1956). Copper, in pure or alloy form, is used widely nowadays in fields, especially, electro-technical, electronics, aircraft, engine, ship, communication, power generating and transmission, household appliances, defense, chemical measuring tools, construction and manufacturing industry sections (Arlı, 1984).

It is said that, due to the fact that this craft's demand for much work and time, production being low despite the demand of work and time, industrial products being widely and cheaply available responding to same needs, thus sales becoming difficult, and leaving this craft to work in other areas rather than keeping the tradition alive are the reasons this craft regresses (Kaya, 1981).

Despite all that, in 1970's as a result of touristic demand for handicraft, copperworking came back to life and domestic demand increased. Copperware was used not to cook food but as ornaments. In other words, copperware used to cook 50 years ago started to decorate the lounges of homes. Copperware has a large potential as exports. Besides, copperware collectors grew in number domestically, and in large touristic hotels, food is being served in copper vessels. All these factors started a new sector and kept the copper working alive (<http://hatdergisi.com/HAT%20DERGİSİ/bakircilik.htm>).

From the written sources in the field of copper and copperworking, precious copperware displayed in museums or found in old households, it is understood that these metal and copperworking lost its old value and uses in the households of farmer and villager families and became ornaments and souvenirs, however, it kept its place in and use in few occasions in the lives of farmers and villagers. Copperware being made by natural materials, being cheaper than other tools, being easily transportable, carrying traditional properties of our country, and being able to be used in different purposes increases its sales opportunities domestically and globally.

Among the centers of art from ores, which were established during the dominance of Turks over Balkans and worked with various techniques, are Ustovo, Skopje, Pristina, Stip and Sarajevo (http://www.gatetoturkey.com/turkey_a_z_made_in/01395/index.php?langsel=tr).

Copper beating keeps living as a handicraft in many regions in Anatolia lead by, Ankara, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Mardin, Diyarbakır, Siirt, Malatya, Elazığ, Erzurum, Trabzon, Giresun, Ordu, Sivas, Tokat, Kayseri, Çankırı, Çorum, Amasya, Kastamonu, Erzincan, Gerede, Konya, Burdur, Denizli, Muğla, Kavaklıdere, Afyon, Kütahya, Balıkesir, Bursa, İstanbul and Edirne and wrought copper products are sold in domestic and foreign markets. These centers are among places where traditional copperworking shops reside which apply various techniques successfully. However, In Turkey, it is stated that there are 1047

shops working in copperware, tin ware, and soldering, and in January-August 2013 it was among the fastest depreciating jobs with -32 (<http://esnaf.gtb.gov.tr/esnaf-ve-sanatkârlar/sayisal-bilgiler>).

2. Techniques of Copper Goods Making and Ornament

Copperware making techniques can be classified into 4 groups; beating, molding, plastering and pressing (Kayaoğlu, 1984). Daily used copperwares and touristic souvenirs are produced by beating. Nowadays, products manufactured via other techniques are given figures by beating, making them more desirable.

Not all copperware are possible to be produced one piece; therefore joining techniques such as riveting, clamping, soldering and welding are used (Kayabaşı, 1997). On the produced copperware, decorating techniques such as etching, engraving, embossing, openwork (hemstitch, cutting), applique and painting are used. In decorations, generally plant patterns such as flowers, leaves, fruits, branches and trees, geometric patterns such as triangles circles, rings, quadrilaterals, rectangles, squares, stars, angled, pentagons, hexagons, written decorations in calligraphy or company, personal names, patterns with objects such as moon, water, vases, pitchers, kettles, figured patterns such as human, rooster, chicken, butterfly, fish, bird, lion, etc. architectural patterns such as historic and touristic structures, mosques, depictions of streets and main roads are used (Ozan Kaya, 2010).

3. Beating Technique Applications in Copperware

Beating is used in copperworking is applied in stages after obtaining the raw material, namely, drawing and cutting the produce on copper sheet, shaping main parts, heat treatment, joining and welding, polishing.

In traditional wrought copperworking, appliances used in rural households such as churns, kettles, buckets, basins and daily used kitchen appliances such as pans, pots, boilers, trays, dishes and plates are produced. Besides touristic items and souvenirs are produced by beating (Kayabaşı, 1998).

In copperworking, copper products made by various techniques are sold as both for use and for decoration. As manual labor is most intense in wrought copper, this kind is more valuable and preferable.

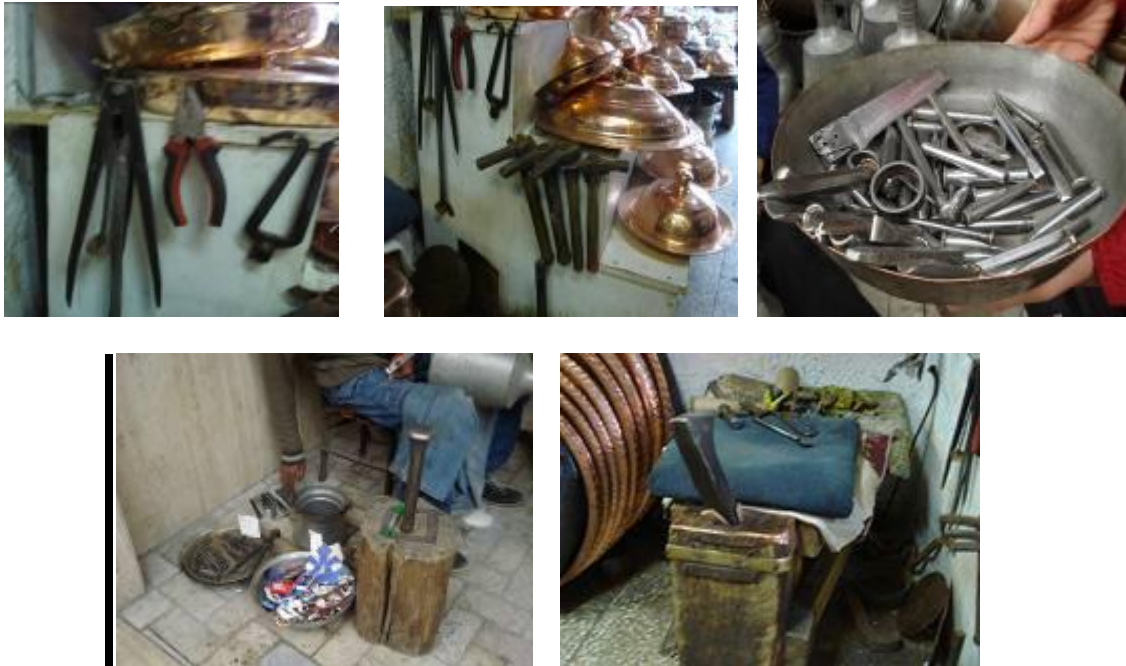
4. Copperware Produced in Ankara as Souvenirs, Touristic Items and for Use

Copperware produced in various regions of Turkey is sold in souvenir shops in Ankara due to Ankara being the capital and in the center. Besides, there are production of copperware souvenirs and copperware for use, and there are shops that decorate old copperware with various decoration techniques.

In Ankara, in wrought copper producing, furnaces, bellows, anvils, hammers, tongs, scissors, channeling machines which are used to channel the necks or bodies of items, perforators and drill pieces for opening holes, various scissors for cutting, a pattern for rivet

heads, a tool called circumference which tests the regularity of the work, meters, compasses, and files are used. As supplies, various paints are used along with copper.

Tools such as plies, copper cutting scissors, teeth scissors, various hammers, various nails (pens), anvils etc. used in beating in wrought copperworking, are given in photographs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.



Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Tools such as plies, copper cutting scissors, teeth scissors, various hammers, various nails (pens), anvils

To copperware produced, holding parts such as handles and stems are soldered using welding. In photograph 6, handle joining to tray using oxygen tank and blowtorch is shown.



Photograph 6. Handle joining to tray using oxygen tank and blowtorch

Finished copperware products are decorated using various pre-prepared patterns or depending on the skill of the master, using nails (pen) (Photographs 7, 8, 9 and 10).



Photographs 7, 8, 9 and 10. Patterning proses with different nails (pen)

In Ankara, various lidded plates, wall ornament dishes with decorative writings or various patterns, pots, mirrors, trays, items for use and souvenirs are produced.





Photographs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Pans in decorative and usage



Photographs 17 and 18. Boilers



Photographs 19 and 20. Pots



Photographs 21 and 22. Trays



Photographs 23 and 24. Pitchers



Photographs 25 and 26. Egg pans



Photographs 27 and 28. Pitchers



Photographs 29 and 30. Watches



Photographs 31 and 32. Wall plates



Photographs 33, 34 and 35. Mirrors





Photographs 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41. Various decorative copper goods

5. Discussion and Result

Fast developing and changing socio-economic structure has diminished the copperware's place and importance in daily lives. Heavy and beautiful vessels left their places to machined, thin and light vessels are produced. These thin copper vessels are replaced with vessels made of aluminum, plastic, glass and steel and demand for copper vessels has diminished. Therefore, traditional copperworking art regressed every day. However, in recent years, copperware gaining status as souvenirs and touristic items became a hope for our craft to live. Dying and corruption of traditional copper craft can be prevented by nation-wide precautions. Making it easier to obtain raw materials, decorating copper with traditional motifs and patterns, manufacturing of products in different, easily transportable sizes and manufacturing products for the consumer will increase the sales of copper souvenirs in domestic and foreign markets. Credits can be given as incentives to wrought copper artisans within the means of the governments, to motivate the artisans. This way, number of artisans working with copper can be increased.

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