

CREATIVITY OF THE KAZAKH PEOPLE

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Nowadays there are geometric, zoomorphic, cosmogonic and floral ornaments based on the ancient archeological memorials in Kazakhstan, due to the wealth and diversity of ornamental art. Originally, Kazakh ornaments shared to two groups. The first one consists of the authentic Kazakh ornaments, while the second one are international ornaments, taken from other nations. There are more than 200 types and names of Kazakh national ornaments. They can be classified to different groups by their content [1].

1. Cosmogonic type relates to the illustrations of the Sun, The Moon and stars. It symbolizes the world space, cardinal direction and eternal movement. It includes different ornaments such as “Ай” (The Moon), “Айшык” (a Moon-shaped ornament), “Жұлдызша” (An

asterisk), “Күннұры” (a daylight), “Күнкөзі” (a Sun eye), “Күнсәулесі” (The Sunbeam), “Айгүл” (a Moon Flower), “Жұлдыз” (a star) [2].

2. The ornaments related to animals. Its main form is “Қошқар мүйіз” (a ram’s horn), “Ит құйрық” (a dog’s tail), «Өркеш» (a camel hump), «Түйе табан» (a camel trace), «Аша тұяқ» (a pair of hooves), «Түйе мойын» (a camelscrag), «Арқар мүйіз» (Argali’s horn).

3. The ornaments related to small animals and insects’ parts, such as «Алақұрт» (a motley spider), «Жылан» (a snake), «Жыланбас» (a snakehead), «Құмырсқа» (an ant), «Жыланбауыр» (a snake paunch), «Көбелек» (a butterfly), «Шыбын қанат» (the wings of a fly).

4. The ornaments related to the names of birds and their parts: «құсқанат» (the wings of a bird), «Қазтабан» (a crow’s feet), «Қазмойын» (a gooseneck), «Құсмойын» (a bird’s neck), «Құстұмсық» (a bird’s beak).

5. The floral ornaments include leaves, palmette, shamrocks, burgeon, blossoms, with specific names such as «Арпабас» (barley head), «үш, бес, алты, сегіз, он екі жапырақты гүлдер» (a three-, five-, six-, eight-, twelve- leaf flowers), «Қызгалдақ» (a tulip), «Раушан» (a rose), «Гүл» (a flower), «Жетігүл» (a seven-petal flower), etc. Their interweaving ornaments illustrate the unity, the coherence and the conditionality in a life on the Earth.

6. The ornaments related to the tools of life: «балта» (an ax), «өзгім-өзімек» (Braids), «шарбақ» (a scourge), «төрт таспа» (four ribbons), «түйме» (a button), «ожау» (a ladle), «қайнар» (a creek), «қос тұмарша» (two talismans), «балтақ» (a crutch), «сыңар өкше» (one heel), «ирек» (zig zag), «тарақ» (a shrewshake).

7. The ornaments related to geometric forms: a square, a rhombus, a rectangle, a Zig zag, a polyhedron. They all symbolizes magic signs of amulets to protect from evil spirits.

The popular book “Эхо... По следам золотой домбры” by Uzbekali Janibekov says about history and ethnography of Kazakh nation, shows us the most important Kazakh graphical ornaments. Nowadays we still use them in different interpretations [3].

The horn ornament used to be very popular in the life of people as an ancestor of Kazakh traditional ornaments. For instance, some zoomorphic ornaments: қошқар мүйіз – ram horns, қос мүйіз – pair of horns, сыңар мүйіз – one horn, қарға тұяқ – crow’s foot, аша тұяқ – split hoof, құсмұрын – a bird’s beak, құсқанат – a bird’s wing. They all related to the ancient period of Saka, basing on numerous plots of bright art of “animal style”. One of the most ancient type of ornaments is cosmogonic type. The pieces of art with solar signs used to be amulets in the past. There were different solar and geometric illustrations such as “шаршы” – a rombus, “тұмарша” – triangle amulets, “балдақ” – a scrutch, “ирек”, сүөрнек– a zig zag, “сүйір” – a spike, “шынжыр” – a chain. We can recognize traces of the primitive art in multifaceted and intersecting lines. The Sun and the Sky symbolize “дөңгелек”- circle, cardinal direction – “төртқұлақ” – cross, “шұғыла” – sunbeam, “айгүл” – a moonflower, “айшықгүл” – crescent. A moonflower ornament is one of the most ancient. We can see it with triangle pyramids on the monuments of Huns, on the woman breastplate from Pazyryk mound. There was a special meaning in every symbol. Қошқармүйіз (ram horns) and ашатұяқ (a split hoof) mean wealth of a cattleman. Clothes decorations with by түйетабан (a camel track) ornament meant that this exact clothes were made for a far road. Different types of ornament on the clothes had a special meaning: құсмұрын and құсқанат (a bird’s beak and a bird’s wing) – freedom, independence, happiness. (Women still wear «құсмұрынжузік», «бесбілезік» double bracelets with these symbols). It is hard to explain all the names of ornaments created by people, because they are all special. The master of ornamental art was a very respectable person in the society. Each nomad had known from the childhood all ornamental meanings, could understand it and express his own view of life.

For example, the ornament of stylized plants meant a steppe, zoomorphic ornaments – animals, geometric ones – Yurts. Duplex circles and squares showed the idea of friendship, power, fidelity and tirelessness, wavy lines – water. The ornament situated above the door of the yurt, blessed: “There will be endless fireplace in this house”. The nomads believed that the details of decoration for horses blessed the rider for luck, power and rapidity.

The materials used for ornamental accessories also had a meaning: gold and amber – wealth and holiness, a red coral – happiness, pearls and silver – honesty and truth, turquoise – fidelity and eternity, transparent topaz – purity. In the past colors also had a symbolical meaning, expressed some concepts and representations. Each of three main spectral colors (blue, yellow, red) and two achromatic (white and black) meant its own symbol of wishes and feelings. For instance, blue color – the Sky, Tengri, red color – the fire, the Sun, white color – The Truth, Happiness, Purity, yellow color – mind, green color – the spring, the youth. So, the color and the ornament had their special ritual meaning [4].

The knowledge of ornamental art was the main criterion for a successful work for each master. They had to follow some rules:

1. Ornament has to suit to the form and the size of a product.
2. Ornamental composition has to suit to the color of a base.
3. Ornaments have to be symmetrical in a composition.
4. The center and framing of a composition have to stand out by different colors.

Nowadays the ornaments meaning is lost. In the past, Kazakh people and nomads appreciated it by using during the whole life, but modern society do not do it today, only use it as accessories. The ornamental art is only developing today by finding folk masters, it gets a new meaning, transforms to the new genres.

Variations of natural motives by V.M. Gryanikova and A.D. Raiymkulova

Rectilinear simple symbols used in creation of complicated compositions. Nowadays they used in painting on different subjects and textile. It is a part of cultural heritage.

For instance,

«Балдак», Baldak. This ornament looks like an inverted crutch handle, used for felt painting (see Fig. 1).



Figure 1 – «Балта», Balta. This symbol looks like «Г» letter and an axe.
 «Мор», Mor. It's a equilateral Kazakh ornament symbolizes cardinal direction.
 «Канка», Kanka. It reminds of an animal spine, used to decorate knitted things.

There are many different ornaments. In the past Kazakh people used a lot of things for inspiration, but their meanings lost today. Watching the nature, totem animals, and the Night Sky people created hundreds of ornaments, they expressed mysterious power. For example:

Zoomorphic is a result of watching animals' life, camels, horses and eagles resisted in ornaments. People also used some parts of animals: wings, horns, and heads. Every ornament has its own meaning. Floral motives are the most beautiful, because they symbolized the life. They are easy, used in painting tools. Cosmogonic ornaments mostly explains the great meaning of stars and The Moon and The Sky as God. Perfect geometric motives attracted people. They saved it until nowadays, still used in interior, accessories and clothes. Basing on geometrics people create more complicated schemes for decoration [5].

Kazakh national ornaments protected people from evil power, brought a luck in life. Nowadays ornaments used in clothes, interior and accessories design. During the ritual ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, exc. everything is decorated with ornaments. This part of Kazakh nation is very important. Even after centuries, ornaments will be something special for people, because it shows cultural spirit of a nation.

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