



**TYPOLOGY OF OLD TERMIZ MERCURY BOWLS**

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**Annotation**

In this article, the typology and scientific explanation of Mercury Jugs, a rare pottery product of the Middle Ages, found in the territory of Old Termiz and currently kept in the Termiz Archeological Museum, is covered.

**Keywords:** pottery, narrow-necked and egg-shaped bowls, the size of silver jugs, zigzag pattern, printed decoration, Black Bura monument, Khosiyattepa monuments, pottery wheel, Ornament (decoration).

Like other cities of Central Asia, in the old city of Termiz, different fields of crafts developed in the Middle Ages. Pottery is one of the leading fields of craftsmanship, reflecting not only the material culture of this period, but also the spiritual life and worldview of the population.

Potters from Termiz were also famous for making silver jugs in the Middle Ages. The mercury glasses made by them were sold in many cities of Movarunnahr. As a result of archaeological excavations, along with pottery, many mercury jars were found. Today, more than 200 mercury jars are kept in the exhibition hall and main fund of the Termiz Archaeological Museum. They were found in different areas of Old Termiz. Among them there are the Kara Bura Monument, Old Termiz Castle, Kampirtepa, Muzrabot District, Khosiyattepa, Sherabad District.

Mercury jugs stored in the museum belong mainly to the 9th-15th centuries and were made by hand and on the pottery wheel. The wall thickness ranges from 6 mm to 2.5-3 cm. In addition to mercury jars preserved in archaeological complete condition, there are also a large number of broken ones. We have implemented the typology of mercury and explained it through the following tables.

1. Classification according to the capacity (volume) of mercury cells (Table 1)
2. The degree of similarity (similarity) of mercury cells (Table 2)
3. According to the ornaments.

1-table. Classification according to the capacity (volume) of mercury cells.

№	Classification according to the capacity (volume) of mercury cells.	The number of mercury cells
1	Glasses with a capacity of less than 100 ml	7 piece
2	Glasses with a capacity of 100 ml	39 piece
3	Capacity between 100-300 ml	97 piece
4	Capacity between 450-500 ml	2 piece



2. The degree of similarity (similarity) of mercury cells (Table 2)

Nº	The degree of variability of the mercury cells	The number of mercury cells
1	Similar capacity	59 piece
2	Similar shape	92 piece
3	Similar ornaments	71 piece

3. According to the ornaments

Nº	According to the ornaments (decoration)	The number of mercury cells
1	Zigzag decoration	2 piece
2	Straight lines decoration	51 piece
3	Printed decoration	24 piece
4	Flower, leaf, plant decoration	25 piece
5	Scratched decoration	8 piece

We have also provided a scientific description of some of the old Termiz mercury crucibles. This mercury jug with intricate geometric decoration is part number SV 32021. The base is 1.5 cm, the outer flange is 2.8 cm, the thickness is 1 cm, and the height of the container is 14 cm. The capacity of this jug is 260 ml. It has been preserved in an archaeologically intact state. It has a dark appearance. (Fig. 1)

TAM 36978/9 kirm digital mercury pitcher. The base is 4mm, the outer flange is 3-3.3mm. The height of the jug is 10.7 cm, the wall thickness is 8 mm, and the flange hole is up to 1 cm. The capacity of this jug is 220ml. The flange part of the mercury tank is broken. The surface is decorated with 4 rows of rings. Sphericoconical (Fig. 2)

SV 32248/123. Archaeologically preserved in a broken state. From the outside, the flange is 2.3 cm, the height is 13.6, the thickness is 8-1.2 cm. The capacity cannot be determined. The circumference of the flange is 6 mm. From the outside, along with the borders, it is decorated with small rectangular shapes. (Fig. 3)

TAM 36978/5 kirm number dish. This jar is different in shape from the previous ones. Because the base is not egg-shaped. It is 1.3 cm. The outer diameter of the flange is 2.4 cm, the height of the container is 11.5 cm, the wall thickness is 8 mm, the hole in the flange is 6-8 mm, the volume of the jar is 120 ml. Externally decorated, the top of the vessel has three rows of parallel lines. On the outer wall there is an image of a leaf in prints. The jar was preserved in an archaeologically intact state. The color is light green. (Fig. 4)

SVAM 4518. Sphericoconical vessel. The base -2 mm, flange 2.7 cm, height 10.3 cm, thickness 8 mm, mouth circumference 1 cm, capacity 140 ml. Decorated with borders on the outside. The outer wall has a 6-line border. There is a 3-line concave in between.



SVAM 1942. Has a complex structure. The base is broken. Flange 2.7 cm, height 12.5 cm, wall thickness 1 cm. The capacity of this beaker is 160 ml. The outside is decorated with dots.

Thus, the peoples of Termiz and Chaganiyan made progress in all aspects of socio-economic and cultural life during the 9th-12th centuries. A comprehensive study of these ceramic vessels found in Termiz shows that the Termiz potters who made them were skilled masters of their craft and achieved great success in this field. They were not only skilled potters, but also skilled painters and possessors of fine aesthetic taste. Found pottery is a clear proof of our idea. Vessels inform us of the highly developed material culture of the Thermists. Among the practical arts that existed in Termez in the Middle Ages, it is necessary to mention household items made of ceramics. Those made in the X-XI centuries are especially noteworthy. Among them, there are unglazed and glazed items. Among the unglazed ones there are vessels of various shapes, and among the glazed ones there are more bowls, plates, and jugs. As in some regions of Central Asia, syrcory pottery is common here. As in other regions of Central Asia, pottery products here are made with fine skill.

In conclusion, it can be said that the comprehensive study of these ceramic vessels found in Termiz shows that the Termiz potters who made them were skilled masters of their craft and achieved great success in this field. Those which were found pottery are a clear proof of our idea.

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Figure 1.TAM 36978/9

Figure 2.



Figure 3.TAM36978/5

Figure 4.