



ĀĠKAND

ĀĠKAND, a special kind of pottery, so designated because of a village in southeast Azarbaijan of the same name, where most of it was said to have been found in the 1930s. So-called Āġkand-ware belongs to the class of lead-glazed earthenware with designs engraved through a white slip in bold, linear outlines, colored with golden brown, yellow, a clear, fluctuating green, and sometimes manganese purple. Globular bowls with sharp-edged rims of metallic character are the predominant shape. The decoration consists of ornamental designs and of stumpy scrolls often enlivened with animals and seldom with representations of human beings ([Plate XXXI](#)). Although the attribution of this ware to Āġkand is not based on any archeological or historical evidence, Azarbaijan is confirmed as its country of origin by new excavations. Similar ceramics were found in Taġt-e Solaymān, in Baṣṭām, and above all in Oren-Kala in Russian Azarbaijan, where some pieces with signatures of potters came to light. Two bowls in Paris and Chicago have the signature Bū Ṭāleb, and other names have been found at Oren-Kala. Compared with other archeological finds of medieval Azarbaijan, pottery of the Āġkand type strikes us as a product full of strength and artistic skill. It was made by local workshops in the time of the Eldigūzids (545-617/1150-1220). Pieces which were reputedly found at Ray show that the ware was exported to a limited extent. Nothing indicates that the production survived the Mongol invasions of Azarbaijan (618/1221), though similar pottery continued to be produced in the 7th/13th century in east Anatolia and north Syria.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

M. Pézard, *La céramique archaïque de l'Islam et ses origines*, Paris, 1920. *Survey of Persian Art* II, pp. 1526ff.

A. Lane, *Early Islamic Pottery*, New York, 1947, pp. 25f.

Oren-Kala: *Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR* 67, 1959, pp. 254-70, 335ff.

Baštām: *AMI* N.S. 5, 1972, pl. II, 22, 6.

Taqt-e Solaymān: *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 1975, p. 193