

The Development of Handicraft Industry in Tang Dynasty and Its Reasons

Zhao Xihui

Department of History and Culture, Shaanxi Xueqian Normal University, Xi'an, 710100, China

Keywords: Handicraft industry; Development; Tang Dynasty

Abstract: The handicraft industry occupies an extremely important place in the ancient social economy and social life. It is the source of the ancient people's survival. It is a model based on agriculture and dominated by industry whether in ancient times or in modern society. Its productivity determines the nature of the production relationship, and the level of productivity development also directly reflects the level of economic development. Production tools are the carriers that directly reflect the economy. With the development of agricultural economy and the needs of society, the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty developed rapidly, and there were many manual production departments, showing an unprecedented prosperity. This paper takes the handicraft industry of the Tang Dynasty as a starting point and explores its development and reasons.

The technology in ancient China was underdeveloped, and the handicraft industry occupies main market for handicraft. In China, handicrafts are mainly divided into two types. One is the official handicraft industry, and the other is a private handicraft industry. In the Tang Dynasty, the official handicraft industry was not universal, and it mainly existed in the fields of casting money, arms, and shipbuilding. However, the official handicraft industry has gradually declined, and the private sector has risen.

1. The Development of Representative Industries of Handicraft Industry in Tang Dynasty

1.1 The development of handicraft textile industry in Tang Dynasty

Textile owners in Tang Dynasty mainly developed in Hebei, Henan and the Yangtze River valley. Wool, linen and silk spinning were representative textiles, and there were many kinds of silk spinning. The affirmation of the ruling class in the hand-woven textile technology of the Tang Dynasty greatly increased the confidence in the textile industry at that time, but the key point in improving the handicraft industry was technological innovation, so in the handicraft industry of Tang Dynasty, traditional technology was maintained, and some new operating techniques had also been developed. The market demand of the textile industry in Tang Dynasty is great. It is a weapon for the courtly ladies and fair ladies to compete with each other. For printing and dyeing in the textile industry, a new technology appeared in Tang Dynasty. It was recorded in "Tang Yulin. Yin Yuan" that "clever and intelligent, because it made the carving board a miscellaneous flower image, was a knot... After gradual emergence, it bloomed all over the world. The "knot" in this paper is a

new printing and dyeing technology, which has played a great role in promoting the development and improvement of the textile industry, and has also brought into full play the exquisite craftsmen technology, and promoted the continuous improvement of textile technology. With the confirmation of the rulers, the textile industry in Tang Dynasty developed smoothly and showed unprecedented prosperity with the new technology as the guarantee and the superior geographical location of the Yangtze River Basin.

1.2 The development of the handmade ceramic industry in Tang Dynasty

There has a long history for the development of porcelain in China which had reached a new peak in Tang Dynasty, forming many remarkable achievements that had not have before. The development of ceramics in Tang Dynasty was consistent with the prosperity of science and technology, culture and art. Its variety and form were rich and varied, and its fineness was far beyond the era before Tang Dynasty. It had formed two types of ceramics, namely, "South Celadon and North White." In the late Tang Dynasty, the quality of celadon had been greatly improved, and the glaze is even, moist and opaque. In the innovation of ceramic industry technology, the use of saggars in Tang Dynasty made a significant contribution to promote the new development of ceramics industry ^[1]. The appearance of "Colored Porcelain" revealed another great achievement in the Tang Dynasty. "Under glaze color" was a new breakthrough in the porcelain making technology in Tang Dynasty, which creates conditions for the development of underglaze color for future generations. The most famous achievement was the development of the most familiar "Tang Sancai", which also unveiled a new aspect of the ceramic industry. According to historical investigations, "Tang Sancai" was not only used for burial of tributes, but was for a large number of overseas sales. It was an important historical and cultural history of Chinese and foreign cultural exchanges. It was also the characteristic of the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty, which further witnesses the prosperity of the ceramic industry in Tang Dynasty ^[2].

2. Analysis of Reasons for the Development of Handicraft Industry in Tang Dynasty

2.1 Being rich in handicraft resources

For the textile industry, the industrial base is mainly concentrated in the Yangtze River basin region, whether it is upstream, middle or downstream, it is a large-scale silk fabric center. Regardless of the starting time of development, the upstream, middle and downstream was a prosperous scene, and was an important export place of famous silk and special fabrics at that time. In addition to the tribute, the products were also exported to various places. During the Tang Dynasty, the textile industry in the Yangtze River Basin entered a new stage. It is not difficult to find that the main characteristics of textiles in the Yangtze River Basin are high quality with many styles. First, there are about 68 kinds of designs and colors; second, the quality is good with local characteristics, and each place has its own unique silk fabrics, such as monofilament in Chengdu, towel in Changzhou, symphony in Pengzhou, and the silk fabrics were dedicated to the court as a tribute each period. The court was also the best witness of their quality ^[3]. The ceramics mainly distributed in the central and northern part of Hedong area, including white glazed porcelain, tricolor porcelain, and the famous "Tang Sancai". Coal and pottery were abundant in its vicinity, which provided abundant raw materials for firing ceramics. It was the preferred place for artisans and craftsmen to firing ceramics, and it was also one of the special production sites for Royal tributes.

Mining and metallurgical industry mainly distributed in Shandong Province which is rich in forest resources and water resources. And water transportation was convenient, providing

convenient conditions for the development of mining and metallurgical industry ^[4].

2.2 Continuous absorption and learning of foreign technology

One of the important reasons for the prosperity of handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty was to constantly absorb and learn foreign technology. During the Tang Dynasty, there appeared political stability in history, the country is prosperous and the people live in peace, and people are numerous and products are plentiful. They once stood on the world stage of history with the greatest pride, and were full of longing for the development of the country and the future. Even when the Tang Dynasty was in a strong state, it was not blindly arrogant. On the contrary, it was modest and open to the outside world, which laid the foundation for further strengthening the state power. It implemented the preferential treatment given by foreigners to local people, providing certain convenience for foreign businessmen and government protection for foreign businessmen to engage in handicraft trade, encouraging foreign craftsmen or businessmen to come to Tang to engage in handicraft industry, and promoting the development of foreign trade in Tang Dynasty. It also reflected the Supreme ruler's broad mind for Tang's open policy and confidence in the country's future development. Implementing the policy of opening to the outside world is to absorb new and advanced foreign technology to make a leap-forward improvement for China's handicraft industry, and to further strengthen technical cooperation between foreign handicraft workers and institutions represented by the government. Tang Dynasty carried out the policy of opening up to the outside world, attracting a large number of foreign businessmen, especially foreign craftsmen. The handicraft products of Tang Dynasty reached a point of perfection in many aspects by combining with traditional technology, which is still praised by later generations.

2.3 The improvement of multi-level management system

From the perspective of the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty, the official handicraft industry contained a variety of forms, which was rich in content and a relatively complete management system. On the whole, the central institutions of Tang Dynasty cooperated with the local governments to give full play to their respective advantages, complement each other, and present a multi-level management system for each of their duties. It was also a government guarantee for the development of the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty. For example, in Tang Dynasty, it was difficult to establish training mechanism for government craftsmen, and to determine the training time and content to inspect the type of work. For the handicraft industry directly operated by the government, the craftsman's preparation, production scale and product quality were the top products of the handicraft industry. It was the consumption point of the royal family and the gathering point of the royal family. In addition, it was the handicraft industry which was made from the luxury consumption. The management system of the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty was determined by many different types of handicrafts. Specifically, the central organization was managed jointly with the government or the private enterprise. They have not only the direct deployment of the highest Ministry of industry, but also the management of different types of handicraft industry by local governments, forming different levels of management system for handicraft industry. It was precisely because of the different levels of management system of the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty that the various types of work were mutually coordinated and clearly defined, which had brought the handicraft industry of Tang Dynasty into a new stage.

3. Conclusion

As for the handicraft industry in the feudal society of our country, the Tang Dynasty was one of

the most rapid and prosperous periods. Especially its representative textile industry, ceramics industry, mining and metallurgy industry had made a qualitative leap and entered a new stage of handicraft industry. Starting from the exploration of the handicraft industry in the Tang Dynasty, this paper explores the development status of various representative handicrafts in Tang Dynasty, and draws the grandeur of its development, and further analyzes the reasons for the prosperity of the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty. Therefore, it is concluded that the surrounding handicraft resources are abundant, which has created favorable conditions for handicraft manufacturing. In addition, it absorbs and learns external technology by combining tradition with innovation and strengthen the cooperation in handicraft technology. Moreover, the handicraft industry in Tang Dynasty reached a new stage with multi-level management system, mutual cooperation and clear division of labor.

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