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## **THE CRAFT OF THE CIGARETTE HOLDER (Mouthpiece) IN THE SİVAS**

### **ABSTRACT**

In this study, it is aimed to analyze the cigarette holder which is an important handcraft in our country. Process steps in which cigarette holder turns from raw material into a product are examined in the study. Tools used in the process are introduced. Also, emergent works are introduced. In this research, it is dwelt on the problems of cigarette holder craft.

**Keywords:** Woodworking, Handicrafts, Cigarette Holder, Sivas, Cigarette Holder Types

### **SİVAS İLİ AĞIZLIK ZANAATI**

#### **ÖZ**

Bu çalışmada ülkemizin sahip olduğu önemli bir el sanatı olan ağızlıkçılık incelenmiştir. Çalışmada ağızlığın hammaddeden ürün haline dönüşünceye kadar geçirdiği işlem basamakları incelenmiştir. Bu işlemler gerçekleşirken kullanılan araç ve gereçler saptanmıştır. Ayrıca ortaya çıkan eserler tanıtılmış ve yapılan incelemede ağızlıkçılığın sorunları üzerinde de durulmuştur.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Ağaç İşçiliği, El Sanatları, Ağızlık, Sivas, Ağızlık Çeşitleri

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Handcraft products which are made in order to supply the daily demands of people and rather more made in purpose of ornamentation, decoration and providing advantage reveal the national art taste reflecting the characteristic of society within the creative ability of individual. Handcrafts are activities which are based on knowledge and environment of an individual. Generally natural raw materials are used and handcrafts are made without machine power except simple tools and by hand. They include culture custom, tradition and folkloric characteristics of the society, reflect the taste and skill of the producer and are intended for income-generating production (Silah, 2001:14). Anatolia is the gateway connecting Asia, Europe and Africa to each other and takes place in the trade routes and this enables that all types of handcrafts are learnt and implemented (Arlı, 1990:9).

Sivas in the position of intersection of important routes in Anatolia is a cultural centre. For this reason, Sivas having a long history has an important place in the world in terms of handcrafts. Rug business, tülüce, weaving of Gürün scarf, coppersmith, silverworking, sock knitting, jackknife and knife making are common in Sivas (Anonymous 2002:45). Sivas having a long history has an important place in the world in terms of handcrafts. The former of the handcrafts introducing this city is carpet business and latter is cigarette holder craft. (Paçacıoğlu, 1990:49-51). It is possible that the art of cigarette holder craft in Sivas dates from 1800. But it is given information about 100 or 120-year history of this art (Paçacıoğlu, 1990:49-51). The cigarette holder craft is improved highly in the period of Sultan Abdülaziz (1861-1876). In this time, cigarette holders are made out of trees like cherry, rose, jasmine; stones such as amber, meerschaum, Hacıbektaş stone; metals like silver and gold (Paçacıoğlu, 1990:49-51). Today in the cigarette holders of Sivas, a tree called as "germişek" which is provided from Sivas, Tokat, Erzurum, Erzincan, Kars, Ağrı.

## 2. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

In this study, one of the most important handicrafts in the cultural structure of Sivas Province, namely, mouthpiece crafting is discussed. There exists a necessity for this study due to the fact that mouthpiece crafting is considered a cultural heritage. With information gathered from master craftsmen who have kept the tradition until today, varieties of mouthpieces, raw materials and crafting techniques were examined in this specialist art. It is significant that, these craftsmen try to maintain a life by producing a variety of woodenware due to mouthpiece use having been decreased. Because these craftsmen are the last of their kind who continue this art, a study in the topic was conducted and research results were documented.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS (BULGULAR VE TARTIŞMALAR)

### 3.1. The Raw Material Used in the Production of Cigarette Holder in Sivas

In cigarette holders made in the center of Sivas, a tree called as germişek is used as a raw material.

**Germişek:** Nowadays the tree of germişek in the forests is cut by peasants and is sold to the craftsmen. Generally it is cut and brought in autumn months. This tree is not too big. It is as long as reed or a bit longer than reed. (Paçacıoğlu, Unpublished Study). The reason for germişek tree's usage for the production of cigarette holder is that

it is available to be manipulated from both sides (from internal and external).

### 3.2. Tools Used for the Production Of Cigarette Holder

#### 3.3. Corn and Claviceps Stalk

Corns and claviceps picked up without being cut down its stalks are separated from the ears; they are stored bunchily in a dry and cool place. They are cut in the middle, loosened, flattened and used for the ornemantation of the cigarette holder.

#### 3.4. Nylon Silk Tape Thread

The nylon thread sold in the market is used. Generally the blue or red one is preferred (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Tape thread (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.4.1. Coloring Equipment

Pen ink or nitric acid is used to colourize the cigarette holders.

#### 3.4.2. Polish

Polish used in the production of cigarette holder is furniture polish. The quality of this polish is to protect wood from the external influences and to luster (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Polish (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.4.3. Lathe

It is an engine lathe, one side of which is mobile and the other side is fixed and germişek tree which is prepared 5-30 cm. Lenght is

attached to it. It is an electric vehicle through which barks are peeled and the main shape is given to the cigarette holder (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Lathe (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 4. Churn Drill (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.4.4. Churn Drill

It is a tool used for carving inside of the cigarette holder attaching long and sharp churn to the engine lathe acting as a wheel (Figure 4).

#### 3.4.5. Stake-knife

It is used in purpose of peelling the barks (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Stake-Knife (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.4.6. Cutter

It is knife used for cutting out the some parts of the cigarette holder attached to the wheel and designing (Figure 6 and Figure 7).



Figure 6. Cutter (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 7. Cutter (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.4.7. Leveler

It is determined that leveler is a tool made out of metal used for the straighten the curvature of the germişek tree after being hailed in consequence of the study (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Leveler (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.4.8. Chisel

They are thin metal ends which are used for embroidering on the cigarette holder by heating and cleaning the mid-cavity cigarette holder. They are of various thicknesses (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Chisel (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 10. Sandpaper (by Karaman 2010)

#### **3.4.9. Sandpaper**

Cigarette holder given shape on the wheel is a helpful tool used for removing roughness on the surface before being taken out from the wheel (Figure 10).

#### **3.4.10. Camping cylinder and its tray**

It is used for heating the woods in order to straighten the curvature of woods. In the past, it was heated on the braizer with the oak coal fire (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Camping cylinder and its tray (by Karaman 2010)

### **3.5. Steps of Cigarette Holder Production**

#### **3.5.1. Preparation of Wood**

Germişek tree, 1-5 cm. in diameter and 1-1.5 m. tall, is picked up by cutting in spring and summer months. 1.5 or 2 months later it is dried placing it on one side under the sun. Until the usage time, it is stored in a dry and cool place. Later according to size of the cigarette holder, wood is cut in 5-30 cm. long (Figure 12).



Figure 12. Germişek wood (by Karaman 2010)

### 3.5.2. Smoothing of material

Material is heated on the small cylinder (Figure 13). When it is heated, the curve parts of the soft wood are smoothed with the tool called as leveler (Figure 14). In the meanwhile, snagged parts of the wood are cut down with a knife.



Figure 13. Heating of wood (by Karaman2010)



Figure 14. Smoothened of wood (by Karaman 2010)

### 3.5.3. Designing

Wood trimmed with a leveler is put into wheel paying attention to its core to center. Barks turned on the wheel are sculped with a tool called as stake and the surface is turned into a flat shape (Figure 15).



Figure 15. Designing (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.5.4. Determining of General Terms and Sandpapering

The tip of the cigarette holder, the parts to be embroidered and to be written are marked and if available some circles are taken out (Figure 16). The sticks manipulated with the stake is sandpapered without removing from the wheel and its roughness is cleaned (Figure 17).



Figure 16. Determining of general terms (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 17. Sandpapering (by Karaman 2010)

#### 3.5.5. Pattern Design

The marked parts to be embroidered of cigarette holder removed from the wheel are manipulated being carved with the chisel. In the district, these works are done rather more by apprentices (Figure 18 and Figure 19).



Figure 18. Pattern design (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 19. Pattern design (by Karaman 2010)



### 3.5.6. Piercing of the Cigarette Holder

Cigarette holders designed are attached to the churn drill. Cigarette holder which is attached to the churn drill is pierced returning. Piercing process is made centering cigarette holder to the core of wood (Figure 20).



Figure 20. Piercing of the cigarette holder (by Karaman 2010)

### 3.5.7. Painting Process

In previous times, the painting process in the district is done using nitric acid which is prepared privately. This is nutty nitric acid acquired as a consequence of its melting with a metal. While this nitric acid is used, it is painted with the paint of yellow nitric acid which is made adding water in half-and-half (Figure 20). The first mixture encolours dark brown and the second encolours yellow (Figure 21). Cigarette holders kept in the nitric acid are burned on spirit stove to luster (Figure 22). In order to remove nitric acid remnants on the burned cigarette holders, they are rubbed. In our day, in this process pen inks are used instead of nitric acid. Here ink is applied to the completed cigarette holders with the help of a brush (Figure 23).



Figure 21. Painting process (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 22. Nitric acid is applied (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 23. Materials are burned (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 24. Currycomb (by Karaman 2010)

#### **3.5.8. End Carving and Currycomb**

In this process cigarette holder is attached to the bench again in order to carve an end. The end is carved binding the cigarette holder to a drill turned on the bench. While the part on which cigarette is attached, the stones in the cavity of the cigarette holder are cleaned through currycomb (Figure 24). This process is called as currycombing. The cigarette holders curried are polished with resin and varnish.

#### **3.5.9. Wrapping**

Wrapping is applied to the previously marked part on the cigarette holder. Here the silk thread and nylon tape are used. While only thread was used in the past, nylon tape is used in our day. Here corn stalks are prepared being preheated and halved. Over the part of cigarette holder to be wrapped, corn stalks are lined side by side. The thread is wrapped on these turning by hand. In the course of wrapping of silk, stalks are removed from the parts on which the letters will take place. For this process, chisel is used. Hence the parts on which letters are found enables the writings to stand out. The thread is knotted after the process of wrapping and residual stalk ends are cut. The wrapping process is carried out by women in homes. On condition that the material is supplied by the craftsman, writing normal name costs 10 *kurus* and Sivas is written to 70 *kurus* by women.

#### **3.5.10. Carving of the Embouchure**

Embouchure of the cigarette holder is carved by hand and this part is rubbed with glass (Figure 25). The carved part is cleaned with sandpaper.



Figure 25. Carving of the Embouchure by Karaman 2010)

### 3.5.11. Polish

Finally everywhere is polished except the wrapped parts of the cigarette holder to luster. It is polished two times being added paint powder into the polish (Figure 26).



Figure 26. Polish (by Karaman 2010)

### 3.6. Cigarette Holders Types

- Jasmine cigarette holder (small cigarette holder): The cigarette addicts could not smoke without cigarette holders since they are used to smoking with cigarette holder and they bought 4-5 pieces once a week (Figure 27).
- Small tanko (Figure 28)
- Uncut tanko (Figure 29)
- One-piece uncut (lüleli) (Figure 30)
- Two-piece uncut (lüleli) (Figure 31)
- Three-piece uncut (lüleli) (Figure 32)
- Ramadan cigarette holder (Figure 33)
- Intertangled cigarette holder (Figure 34 and Figure 35)
- Cigarette holder the colour of which changes and darkens in time (Figure 36)



Figure 27. Jasmine cigarette holder (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 28. Small tanko (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 29. Uncut tanko (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 30. One-piece uncut (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 31. Two-piece uncut (lüleli) (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 32. Three-piece uncut (lüleli) (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 33. Ramadan cigarette holder (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 34. Intertangled cigarette holder 4 Piece, 110-120cm



Figure 35. Intertangled cigarette holder (by Karaman 2010)



Figure 36. C.h. the colour of which changes and darkens in time



#### 4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS (SONUÇ VE ÖNERİLER)

The artistic activities in the social life are maintained going thorough various alteration phases in a historical development. This alteration leds various differentations in artistic activities. It leds alteration in production way, in functions and types of the products. This alteration affects handcrafts both in a positive and negative way. Handcrafts cannot compete with the technological products. Because they are producted very cheap and abundant. Handcrafts are crushed in the face of technology as many fields in which labour is so intense. In order to prevent this precautions are taken and handcrafts are come to a position in which they can compete with technology. Handcrafts which are made out of different raw materials in different districts in our country show variety. Even if the products are various, the problems of many handcrafts are common recently. Up to the present this art descending from father to son and being learnt in a master craftsman and apprentice relationship has problems such as lack of apprentice because of little income, limited market facilities and lack of government support. These problems are valid for the cigarette holder.

Cigarette holder master craftsmen make pen rake, name plate, flag staff, crochet hook stag, candlestick, maquette of minaret and different types of pen as well as cigarette holder. The reason is to increase the market facilities. In last years it is observed that expatriates coming to holiday raise the sale and especeially the expatriates bring away these to the foreign friends. This shows that this art will revive again provided that there is much more presentation and advertisement. A good market could be created if the advertisement of the cigarette holder is made in a good way both in domestic land and abroad. Handcrafts could be an alternative way of relaxing and therapy practise for people who get bored with workload and in this way this art could improve. It could be an effective way to yield for master craftsmen. In order to be revived, it needs to be supported by government and the development of andvirtesement and market facilities. On the other hand this handcraft tends to die out.

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