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REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON BIDRIWARE

Dr. Nalini Waghmare

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune

Introduction: The art of Metal-craft in India is as old as its history in which inlaying of one metal upon another holds a distinguished position. Like painting and textiles, inlaid metal-craft presents a fascinating variety recalling mind the history and custom of different regions of this vast country. It tells the story of conquest and bloodshed, devotion and refinement blended with sublime emotion wrought in the language of hammer and chisel. A number of traditions of crafts based on metals alloys, gems and stones flourished in ancient India. Many of these traditions started in ancient India and continue vigorously even in Modern India. Once such craft is Bidriware. Bidriware became the specialty of Bidar from where it derives its name. Bidri articles are well-known for their artistic elegance and beauty in India and abroad.

This craft was introduced in Bidar during the rule of Bahamani. It is stated that king Ahmed Shah Wali brought some skilled workers from Iran for the construction of Rangin Mahal and some of them were experts in gold and silver work. Abdul bin Kaiser was proficient in inlaying silver and gold on zinc alloy and in making fine articles of artistic excellence. The then Sultan, taking keen interest in this handicraft, started a training centre in the Mahmud Gawan Madarsa located in Bidar. Enjoying royal patronage, this craft reached a high degree of excellence. In the course of the centuries, it was further developed in Bidar which became its most reputed centre. In recent years, some Bidri craftsmen of Bidar migrated to Hyderabad and Aurangabad after the reorganization of the States.

Here made an attempt to take a brief review of literature on Bidriware:

English Books:

- Sherwani H.K., *Mahmud Gawan, The Great Bahmani Wazir*, Kitabistan Allahabad, 1942. This book focuses on life sketch of Wazir Mahumad Gawan and his role in Bahamani Dynasty.
- S.A.Q.Husaini, "*Bahman Shah-The Founder of the Bahmani Kingdom*", Firma K.L.Mukhopadhaya, Calcutta, 1960. This book gives detail information about the life sketch of Hasan Gangu Bahman Shah, founder of the Bahmani dynasty and his achievements.
- Jamila Brij Bhushan, *Indian Metalware*, All India Handicrafts Board Ministry of Commerce and industry Government of India, Bombay, 1961. This book gives a bird's eye view of the Indian Metalware. It also gave brief information about Bidriware.
- S.K.Sinha, "*Medieval History of the Deccan, Vol.I, Bahamanis*", Hyderabad, 1964. This book focuses on history of Bahmany rulers and their achievement in a well manner.

- Ferishta Mohammed Kasim's *Tarikh-i-Ferishta*, translated from the original Persian by John Briggs under the title of "*History of the Rise of the Mohammedan Power in India till the year A.D.1612*" (4 Volumes), R.Cambay and Co.Culcutta, 1966. These books give information about the Muslim rule in India from the beginning to till 1612 in India. And also give information about Bahmany dynasty and Baridshahi rule in Deccan.
- T.N.Mukherji, "*Art Manufactures of India*", Navrang, New Delhi, 1974. This book focuses on a brief account of the most important art-manufactures of India; those arts history, place of manufacture, prices and Bidriware also involved in a brief manner.
- George ,C.M. Birdwood, "*The Industrial Arts of India*", Idarah-i-Adabiyat-i-Delhi, 1974. This book focuses on brief history of industrial Art in India like gold, silver, metal, brass, jewellery, arms, musical instruments, damascene work, household decorative, Bidriware etc arts mentioned with photos and their uses in a well manner.
- *The Gazetter of Bidar District*, published by Government of Karnataka 1977. It illustration of Bidar's general history, talukas, people , agriculture, industries , economic trends, revenue, education, culture and places of interest and few Mathas of Bidar district also mentioned in brief.
- Mark Zebrowski, *Bidri Metalware from Islamic Courts of India* (Art East No. 1, 1982) This book focuses on historical importance of Bidriware.
- K.R.Basavaraja , "*History and culture of Karnataka*" (Karnataka University, Dharwar, 1984). This book focuses on whole Karnataka history and its culture. Along with that it also gives information of independence movement in Karnataka, British rule and unification of Karnataka.
- Susan Stronge, "*Bidriware inlaid metal from India*" (Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 1985). It focuses on collected Bidriware articles in detail manner.
- Hasoon Khan Sherwani, *The Bahmanis of the Deccan*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Ltd, New Delhi, 1985. This book focuses on detail history of Bahmani dynasty and its historical importance.
- George Michell (ed), "*Islamic Heritage of the Deccan*", Marg publication. 1986. This book focuses of Islam rule in Deccan and Bidar and Bidriware mentioned in a historical perspective.
- Abdul Aziz, "*Development Programmes for Weaker Sections*", Printwell publishers, Jaipur, 1989. This book focuses on Bidriware as well as socio-economic conditions and government policies for Bidri artisans mentioned in a detail manner.
- Krishna Lal, *National Museum Collection Bidriware*. National Museum. New Delhi, 1990. It gave detail introduction to Bidriware, its origin, material, tools and implements, process of manufacture and detail information about Bidriware in the national museum collections.
- G.Yazdani's book "*Bidar its History and Monuments*"(Motilal Banarasidas, Delhi, 1995). It involved the Bidar's history, monuments, art.

architecture, drawings and photography and historical data collected in order to present the subject in correct perspective.

- A.Rahman (ed), "*History of Indian Science Technology and Culture A.D.1000-1800*", Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1999. This book focuses on development of science and technology in medieval period to modern era. It also involved Bidriware and its scientific analysis in a brief.
- George Michell and Mark Zebrowski, *The New Cambridge History of India*, Cambridge University Press, India, 2006. This book focuses on Deccan forts, palaces, mosques, tombs, architecture, miniature painting, textiles, stone objects, temples and metalware. It gave pictorial mid-seventeenth century Bidriware objects.
- A.R.Kulkarni, Dr.M.A.Nayeem, Dr.Radhika Seshan, "*History of Modern Deccan (1720/24-1948)-Volume 2, (socio-economic and cultural aspects)*", Abul Kalam Azad Oriental Research Institute, Hyderabad, 2009. This book gives us information about history of Deccan and its soci-economic and cultural study in a well manner. And industrial arts and crafts, Bidriware also involved in a brief manner.
- Jagdish Mittal, *Bidriware and Damascene work in Jagdish and Kamla Mittal Museum of Indian Art*, Jagdish and Kamla Mittal Museum of Indian Art, Hyderabad, 2011. It focuses on collected Fifty Bidriware articles in detail manner. This book provides an updated history of this Bidri craft in Bidar and Hyderabad.
- A.S.Bharathi, *The Antiquities and Architecture of Bidar*. This focuses on Bidar brief history and monuments of Bidar along with Bidar Fort and its architecture.

Kannada Books:

- M.K.Maitri, *Bidrikalegalu –Karnatakada Kalegalu* (Kannada Vishwakosh - 2), it gave brief introduction on Bidriware.
- Rajendra Yarnal, "*Vishwavigha Bidrikale*" (Prasaranga, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, 1996). This book focuses on Bidriware's history, process, techniques and importance in brief.
- V.M.Bagayat, *Bidrikale* (Karnataka Lalitkala Academy, Bangalore, 2004). This book explains the process of Bidriware and its pictures in a brief manner.
- Somanatha Yalavara and Prema Sirshe (ed), "*Bidar Zilla Darshana*"(Prasaranga Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, 2005). It discuss the Bidar districts history, monuments, art , culture, religion, education , political, inscriptions and Bidar's development in this 21st century mentioned.
- "*Bidar District –Kannada University, Epigraphical Series-VIII*". Prasaranga Kannada University, Hampi Vidyaranya, 2006. This book gives detail information on various inscriptions which focus on Bidar history.
- M.M.Boralkar , *Vishwa Prasiddha Bidrikale*, Kannadanadu Lekhakara Mattu Odugara Sahakara Sangha Niyamita, Gulbarga, 2011. (Kannada).

This book focuses on Bidriware its history, origin, techniques, marketing and few National and State Award Bidri Artisans names mentioned.

- P.K.Khandoba (ed), *Hyderabad Karnataka Samskritika Vishaya Kosha: Lalitakala Volume*, An cultural subject Encyclopedia of Hyderabad Karnataka on Folklore in Kannada. Institute of Kannada, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, 2012. It focuses on brief Bidriware Artisans information.
- Dr. Rehman Patel, "*Karnataka Bidri Kale Vandu Adhyana (Bidri Art of Karnataka – A Study)*", Indian Royal Academy of Art and Culture, Gulbarga, 2012. This book focus on detail history of Bidar and Bidriware, its techniques, designs, marketing in a well manner.

Articles published in Books

- Heyne Benjamin, *An Account of the Bidder (Vidri) ware in India* (Asiatic Journal, No.III, March, 1817). It focuses on a short note on the industry at Bidar.
- K.V.N.Gowd, "*Bidriware*" Census of India 1961 Vol II Part VII-A (3) Selected Crafts of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, 1967. It focuses on Bidriware and its importance.pp.3-4.
- Nagvi Shahir M., "*Bidriware with special reference to its collection in the State Museum, Lucknow*", Journal of Indian Museums, Vol.XXVII, 1980, New Delhi. It expressed the collection of Bidriware.pp.5-8.
- Lethi Andre, *Islamic Arms and Armour from private collections*(Copenhagen, 1982). It focuses on Bidriware used in the time of war.
- Jagadish Mittal, *Indo-Islamic Metal and Glassware in an age of splendor Islamic Art in India* (Marg publications, Bombay, 1983). It gives information on Bidri plates.
- S.La.Niece and G.Martin *The Technical examination of Bidriware*, studies in conservation, 1987. It focuses on Bidriware process and how a Bidriware converting in a black mentioned in a scientific.
- Mahmud Syed Jafar, *Metal Technology in Medieval India*,(Daya publishing House, New Delhi, 1988). It expressed the Bidri metallurgy.
- S.Safrani, *Bidriware from Hyderabad and Bidar in the Los Angeles country Museum of Art in Golconda and Hyderabad*.(Marg publication, 1992). This focuses on Bidri plates and other design as well as pictures in detail.
- Savitri Chaudary, *Bidar, Bahamani*, Magazine, October, 2002. It expressed the Bahamani rulers interest on beauty and artistic. And Bahamani rulers patronage the Bidriware.
- Rehman Patel, *Bidri Art: Inland Metal Gift from Bahamani Sultanate*,Bidar Utsav. District Council of Culture, Bidar, 2009. It expressed the brief information on Bidriware its origin to 18th century.pp.70-77.
- Deahamsha Hudagi and Hamshakavi, *ChintanaChandra (Chandrappa Hebbalkar Abhinandana Granthi)*, Dharinadu Kannada Sangha, Hendra Samithi, Bidar, 2011. (Kannada). It focuses on origin of Bidri, its

development, manufacture, tools, techniques and uses of Bidriware. pp.28-38.

- K.M.Maitri, *Bidrikalegalu*, Karakushaia Kalegalu, Karnataka University, Encyclopedia part-II. It focus on Bidriware its tools and techniques. pp. 127-134.

Catalogues:

- Choudhary Anil Roy, *Bidriware* (Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, 1961). It focuses on Bidriware's history, process and collections.
- Sujit Narayan Sen, *Catalogue on Damascene And Bidri Art in the Indian Museum* (Indian Museum Kolkata, 1983). The author introduced the Bidri Art with picture in a beautiful manner.
- G.N.Pant, *Catalogue of Edged Arms and Armour in Salar Jung Museum* (Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, 1989). It gives information on Bidriware history and its uses in army and their making process mentioned.
- *Bidri Art Ancient Art* (Bidar Jilla Udyama Kendra). It involves very few pictures on Bidriware and in brief manner.
- *Handicrafts Bidriware of Bidar Karnataka*, (The office of the development commissioner, Ministry of Textiles. Government of India, New Delhi). It focuses on Bidriware shapes and varieties, old and new with a picture in beautiful manner.

News Papers: Kannada and English :

- The Hindu (06.07.2004) Karnataka Rishikesh Bahadur Desai: *Finding a foothold for a hourly art*. It focuses on today's Bidri Artisans pictures.
- Deccan Herald (08.02.2005), Kamala Vasudevan, "*Lose your heart to the dying art*". It focuses on Bidri Art and today's Bidri Artisans life mentioned.
- Samyukta Karnataka (26.11.2005) (Kannada News paper). "*Bidri Kalavidharige Rashtra Prasastiya Gari*". It focuses on National Awardee Bidri Artisan Mohd. Abdul Raouf life sketch in brief.
- Taranga (12.10.2005) (Kannada Weekly), Arunkumar's article entitled "*Avasana Anchinali Aparupada Bidrikale*". It focuses on History of Bidriware. Its importance and National and State Awardee Bidri Artisan Shah Rashid Quadri life sketch in brief mentioned.
- The Hindu (01.11.2006) Reshikesh Bahadur Desai's article on "*Life of Bidriware Artisans Looking up*". It expressed the brief history of Bidriware and artisans.
- Deccan Herald (17. 04.2007). R.Krishna's article on "*Black is Beautiful*". It focuses on State Awardee Bidri Artisan Rajkumar's brief life sketch and Bidriware pictures mentioned.
- The Hindu (29.09.2009) "*Lightweight Bidriware*". In this article the National Awardee Mohammad Rauf brief life sketch mentioned and he stated that foreigners carry the lightweight Bidriware and presently it is popular in western countries.

- The Hindu (24.01.2012) Dr. Rehaman Patel's article on "*Tracing the history of Bidriware*". It focuses on to find out the background of Bidriware in a historical perspective.
- The Hindu (26.04.2012) ,Karnataka "*Thinks are looking up for Bidri Artisans*" this article focus on the other agencies come forward to give training to Bidri artisans to improve their conditions. And lot of opportunities to them. EXIM bank, VITC and KSHDCL came front and helping the artisans.

Websites:

www.bidrihandicraft.com,www.bidriware.com,www.cauverycrafts.com.

Conclusion: Bidriware is a beautiful creation and an ancient craft of India. The Bidriware involves a lot of hard work and time; but gets very less monetary returns. Thus, the artisans' live in a terrible life full of hardships. So in order to give a good life to these artisans, the government along with people must try to encourage and motivate them. This article helps the researchers, marketing agencies, historians and artists.



Bidri Artisan



Bidri Articles