

CRAFT OF JEWELRY IN CITY OF GJAKOVA

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Abstract

Gjakova's Old Bazar holds a special place due to its structure and organization. Despite this, Gjakova's Old Bazar, after the war of year 1999 in Kosovo, almost totally obliterated and afterwards restored in a very short time, still lost its function. Craftsmen's hammer percussions are now a rarity, crafts are endangered, not only due to the fact that the craftsmen are now at an old age, but also due to lack of government care. Nevertheless, because of its' architectonical structure comprised of characteristic alleys and stores, this part of town still remains attractive. This work contains a short description of development of craft of jewelry in Kosovo and its' relation with metal mining and extraction, which has been quite advanced in Kosovo. It is worth mentioning the mines of Trepçe and Novobërda, which have provided metals not only for Kosovo, but also for former Yugoslavia and more. Meanwhile, the Albanian people of Kosovo often used a saying "Trepca radi, Beograd se gradi" (Yugoslavian), which means "Trepçe works, Belgrade is being built." Later, this work will be expanded in more detail regarding the development of this craft in Gjakova, as a component of my doctoral work with thesis "Crafts of Gjakova." More precisely, elaborative answers will be provided for various questions that would normally arise, such as: How was this craft born in city of Gjakova; which were the groups who dealt with this craft; what is its' state in present day, the handcraft skills and techniques etc. The paper is done through interviews and through consultation with local and foreign literature. Since the town of Gjakova has an economical character, where even nowadays private small business prevails, this paper would set the focus on the economical and historical aspect of the town.

Keywords: *handycrafts, culture heritage, economy*