

# COPPER CAULDRON WITH A LID

AZERBAIJAN, LAHIJ VILLAGE (NEAR SHAMAKHI)

19TH CENTURY

COPPER, COINAGE

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN, THE ETHNOGRAPHY FUND





One of the oldest crafts the Azerbaijani people are famous for is the manufacture of hammered copper items. The works of coppersmiths from Baku, Nakhchivan, Lankaran, Shamakhi, Shaki and Guba were known far beyond the borders of Azerbaijan. The village of Lahij, located in the mountains near Shamakhi, was considered the center for the manufacture of ornamented copper products in the entire Caucasus. It was no coincidence that there were 180 copper-smith workshops in the village prior to the establishment of Soviet power. Although the number of workshops subsequently decreased, the

tradition of making copper products in the village still exists.

The cauldron with a lid is distinguished for its smooth forms, usefulness and the unique ornament. The basis of the ornament is formed by narrative scenes, "A meeting of lovers" and "A predator captures a doe", with different variations. The scenes alternate with a floral ornament and bands with Arabic inscriptions, which impart further beauty to the whole item. The exhibit is a testament to the artistic taste, rich spiritual world and high professionalism of the master. ❁

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