

## Wood-plate making

Wooden plate making craft is one of the wide spread form of traditional craft among Tajik people that has been practiced throughout the centuries.

In old times wooden plates were produced in special workshops, which were situated by the brooks where water was used to move the carving machines – special turner where pieces of wood are attached and as it spins the master uses chisel to shape the wood. The wooden plate-making workshop operated in similar manner as a water mills just that these workshop dealt with wood.

The log from a chosen tree trunk is cut into 40 cm height with 40 or larger diameter. The primitive shape is given by using axe and chisel than it is put into a turner to polish the shape. Afterwards it is taken and the depth is cut

by special inverted axe. When working with the wood craftsmen use sheep tail fat or other ointment so that the wood does not crack.

Usually almost all Tajiks, and in particular the rural population in the family have wooden plates which are used in everyday life for the particular type of food specialties such as “Kurutob” or “Fatirshurbo” and «Shakarob». As we know from wooden dishes eat food hands instead of spoons and it has its own specific causes. Tajik wooden plates are elegance kitchen Tajiks and highly respected if it is used for the preparation of special dishes for guests. Wooden plates (*tabaki chubi*) in Tajikistan are often found in the kitchen of mountain residents of such areas as the Kulob, Khatlon, Hisar, Rasht, Badakhshan, etc. It is no secret that the wooden plate in ancient times there were also other





peoples of the world.

Tajik wooden plates create by hand from wood, particularly from walnut, plane (*chinor*), apricot and poplar tree timber. Thus the yellow plate is made of wood of walnut and red of *chinor*. In ancient times all dishes prepared by hand, but with the advent of electricity now they create in special machines. The wood that is used in the Tajik dishes selected by the criteria of resistance to it does not burst out of the dryness. Each type of wood has its own smell, weight and value.

In modern days masters use electric turners and more sophisticated tools that make the process of plate making faster and less time consuming.