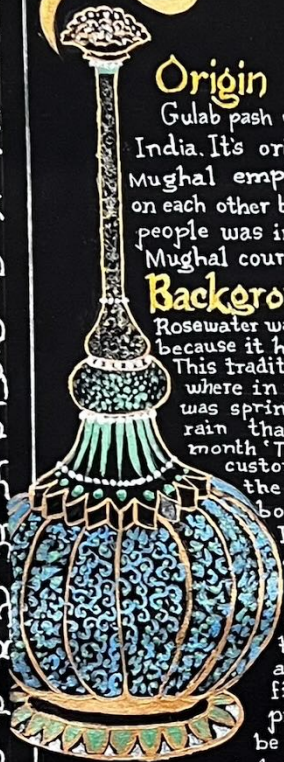


Gulab pash



Origin

Gulab pash was introduced in Mughal courts in middle India. Its origins trace back to the 16-17th century Mughal emperors. The custom of sprinkling rosewater on each other by the royal family members and other people was introduced by Emperor Akbar to the Mughal courts.

Background

Rosewater was traditionally sprinkled on guests in India because it has cooling and refreshing properties. This tradition came to Mughal India from Iran, where in the festival of Ab-i-Rashan, rosewater was sprinkled to invoke the memory of the rain that fell on the 13th day of the Persian month 'Tir' and put an end to the famine. The custom was gradually incorporated into the Rajput court, where it was used in both ceremonial as well as religious. It is now used in India to welcome arriving guests.

Gulab pash has a bulbous body, a long tapering spout with floral scrollwork and a blooming, floral-shaped, finial. The floral nozzle has 5 small piercings from which rosewater can be sprinkled. The body of gulab pash is decorated with floral designs set within a medallion of leaves.

Structure

Process



Types of work



Materials



Meenakari

Meenakari or enameling on gulab-pash was very popular in India. The Mughal karkhanas of Agra, Lahore, Delhi perfected the art of enameling which enhanced the beauty and rarity. Lucknow was a major enameling centre in the 18th century and produced gulab pash in blue or green translucent champlevé enamel decor.

The practice of sprinkling rosewater on guests was adopted by the elites of Hindu and Muslim courts and later by wealthy Europeans in India. During the 19th century, Hindu and Mughal monarchs promoted its silverware through diplomatic gifts and at International exhibitions in London, Paris and the United States. Apart from Lucknow, the major centres in India of gulab pash and mainly silverware were Bombay, Calcutta, Cutch, Kashmir and Madras.



References:

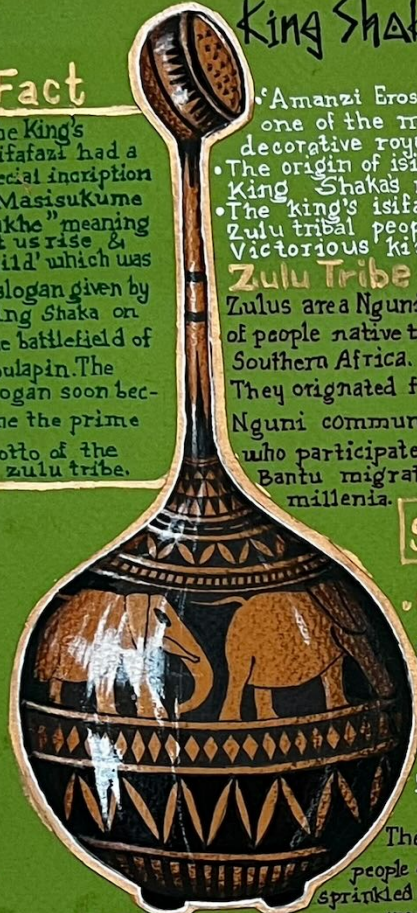
- Gulab pash- SatyaniGhos.academia.edu.
- artsandculture.google.com
- harvardartmuseums.dig/art/27294
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/781855>
- www.hemswell-antiques.com > gulab pash
- www.vam.ac.uk > The arts of the Mughal empire.

Amanzi Erose Isifafazi

King Shaka's Rosewater Sprinkler 18th century

Fact

The King's isifafazi had a special inscription "Masisukume sakhe" meaning 'let us rise & build' which was a slogan given by King Shaka on the battlefield of Zoulapin. The slogan soon became the prime motto of the zulu tribe.



'Amanzi Erose Isifafazi' meaning rosewater sprinkler was one of the most precious & prestigious object among the decorative royal vessels in the zulu kingdom.
 • The origin of isifafazi date back to the 18th century during King Shaka's rule.
 • The king's isifafazi hold's significant importance among the Zulu tribal people as it was first used to honour the Victorious King Shaka from the battle of Zoulapin in 1721.

Zulu Tribe

Zulus are a Nguni group of people native to the Southern Africa. They originated from Nguni communities who participated in the Bantu migrations over millenia.



Zulu people are the largest ethnic group with an estimated 10-12 million people located in the southern part of South Africa. The formation of the Zulu nation was successful under the rulership of the Zulu King Shaka.

South Africa

Who was Shaka?

King Shaka, also known as Shaka Zulu was the King of Zulu Kingdom from 1716-1728. Founder of the kingdom, he was the most influential monarchs of Zulu.

Origin

The tradition of sprinkling rosewater on people and guests originated when it was first sprinkled on King Shaka after the Battle of Zoulapin in the year 1719 to 1721. To celebrate his victory in the battle, his mother had arranged a grand festival in their palace with rose decorations, garlands and gifts. His throne was made of roses. At his arrival at the throne, all the royal members of the family rose & sprinkled rosewater on him in his honour and as respect.

Production

Rosewater sprinklers were mainly handcrafted by the Zulu people in their homes by POTTERY or CLAYWORK. Each vessel took around 7 days to be made with intricacy. Hand-printing on the isifafazi was very popular. Iqanda, Zulus capital was known for their colourful sprinklers and unique patterns.



Different Isifafazi prints

Izinkanyezi Print

The Izinkanyezi Print was a traditional print popular in the Zulu tribe for making vessels originated in the hayizo province in the 1600s. Colourful triangular patterns were typically used for pots, vessels and decorative objects. The tribal people use izinkanyezi printed sprinklers while occasions and gifting others.



Structure

The sprinkler has a long & tapering spout made of wood or clay. It generally has a thin frame and is sometimes carved.



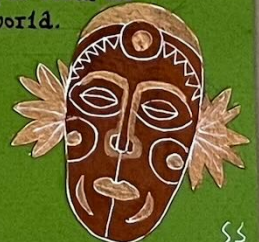
The blooming floral-shaped finial has 5 holes from which rose-water can be sprinkled. It can be in different sizes & shapes.

It has a bulbous body, typical of the Zulu tribe vessels. It holds the rose-water. The carving and shape provide a good grip.



Fact

King Shaka's sprinkler now is kept at the Metropolitan museum of art - MET, New York. The estimate of the king's sprinkler is approx. around \$18,000,00 which is the 3rd costliest artifact in the world. Being such a prestigious artifact, it is on top of the wanted list, with requests and auctions offers dropping in from all over the world.



• Gulab pash from the Mughal era → King Shaka's rosewater sprinkler from Zulu Kingdom.

The artifact rosewater sprinkler is of Mughal origins, used in the Mughal courts. It has been placed into the Zulu tribes in Southern Africa in the similar timelines as of the Mughals, the 16-18th century, as a subtle correlation. The artifacts evolve according to the location, geography and history of the tribe and ethnicity. The structure and materials too see relatable changes. The rosewater sprinkler evolves the way their tribe and tradition goes. People, practices, beliefs, traditions, resources, ancestral history, geography etc influence the artifacts of that location.



What is a rosewater bomb?

Rosewater bombs are crystallized form of rosewater with an outer covering of polyacrylamide. When one throws the bomb in the air, due to the friction, velocity and atmospheric temperature difference, the covers burst and turns into mist. The rosewater mist then condenses and fall around. Rosewater bombs come in different colours & sizes.

Background

Sprinkling rosewater on guests at their arrival has been a popular tradition which dates back to the 16th century and even today in the 22nd century is still carried out widely in every home. Earlier than rosewater was stored in vessels which had a bulbous body and a tapering spout, and was manually sprinkled onto guests as the tradition goes.

The concept of rosewater bomb originated from the traditional rosewater sprinklers from the 16th century. To make the centuries old design more contemporary and commercial, Prof Amit Gozwami from India created such scientific combinations which made the mechanism of the rosewater bomb possible.

Uses

Rosewater bombs can be used for home, parties, offices or are a perfect gifting option. Multiple uses!



Anatomy

The rosewater bombs have the dimensions of diameter 5cm and contains 25 ml of crystallized rosewater inside. The structure is volatile. The lamella (outer covering) is a polyacrylamide with a thin layer around the liquid, which eventually erupts and diffuses in the usage process. The rosewater bomb weighs around 25-30 grams.



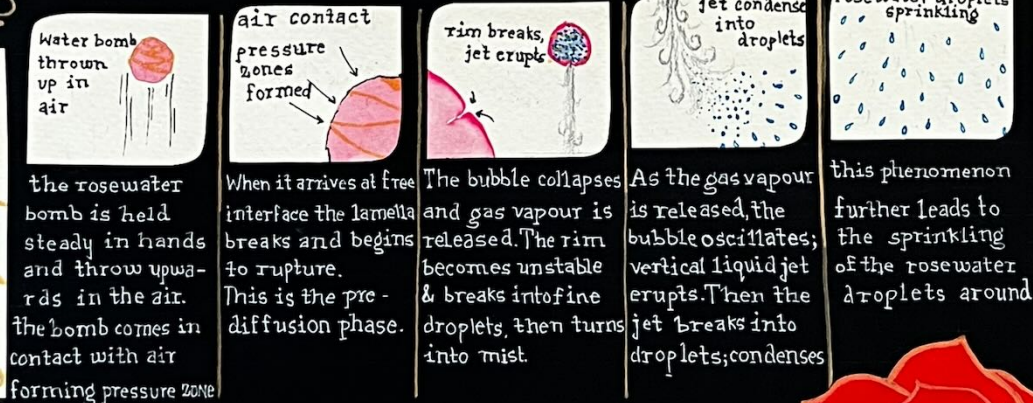
Rosewater Bombs

A PEEK INTO THE PAST



Gulabpash - The first rosewater sprinkler from 16th century

Scientific explanation



Rosewater bombs can now also be used in fish or plant ponds for fragrant smelling waters as these bombs are nature-friendly and non-toxic. Approx. 5 bombs give great results.



The rosewater sprinklers haven't evolved much since centuries but after a 100 years a redesign was really needed. Sprinklers shifted to rosewater bombs and has a scientific explanation to it. This redesign is modern and still along the lines of tradition. The one-time use bombs provide portability and affordability. They also are an perfect option for gifting purposes. Sprinkling rosewater on guests on their arrival or departure was a tradition followed from the 16th century & is still followed today and rosewater bombs are a perfect replacement for the traditional sprinklers.