

Scythian-Saka Roots of the *Buta* Ornament

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(Summary)

The author of the article explores origins and later revival of *buta* – an almond-shaped ornament with a sharp-curved upper end. The ornament is broadly used in decorative arts of many peoples in the East and is esteemed as the most ancient national ornament of Azerbaijan. According to the author, the earliest samples of *buta* date back to 8th century B.C.E. and come from the cultures of Scythians and Sakas, where the ornament had sacred and symbolical meaning. The revival of the ornament *buta* began in 12th century, during the reign of the Turkic dynasty Eldegizids on the territory of Azerbaijan and in the course of time it spread on whole of Greater Persia. In 16th century *buta* was conveyed to India by the Mughals, and hence – to the Great Britain, where *buta* became known as “Paisley pattern” after the town of Paisley – the textile-manufacturing center in Scotland. The author’s conclusion, based on comparative analyses of a multitude of examples from applied arts and architecture in whose decoration or form *buta* is used, is that Persian, Indian and Western cultures have borrowed both the ornament and its name from the Turkic peoples.

Keywords: ornament *buta*/Paisley pattern; Scythians and Sakas’ culture; decorative arts of the Turkic peoples in Caucasus and Central Asia

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