

the early man came to know about the quality of clay. It happened to see the **footprints** of his legs **imprinted in wet soil** during the rains which retained the same shape when it dried up. This curious incident made him to realise that clay, if given shape in wet condition, retains the same even after it was dried.

For a long time **the early man** used clay for preparing shallow things to store water. As has been **observed** earlier, **cavities of barks of trees** and **hides of animals** were used to keep water. **In the beginning**, pots were prepared just by pressing clay into hollow pieces. But soon bamboo baskets were used as reinforcement to retain the shape and size of the ware. These wares with bamboo support were then dried in the sun and used for storage purposes, though only for a short time. So it was not a permanent solution. For a long period, he did not know the use of fire and baking, although fire was known and used for other purposes.

Again accidentally, the use of **fire** for baking pottery articles was found out. Huts in those days were thatched ones and some day one of them might have caught fire accidentally and all things in the hut got burnt, including the un-baked pottery articles kept in it and to his surprise after the fire was over, man found that the pots had been **burnt well** and gained strength. The bamboo reinforcement inside the wares got completely burnt, leaving its marks on the wares. Following this accidental discovery, **people of early civilization** must have got the idea of baking pottery wares. These baked pieces with marks of bamboo structures could be seen in the museums even to this day. They furnish us with sufficient historical evidence of the existence of pottery in our early civilization.

For many centuries, the potter produced wares by hand only. A typical sample of



But the pottery which we see in the museums of Egypt, the birth-place of ancient pottery, was well thriving, with burnt bricks, vases and statues.

Origins of Indian Pottery

True to nature in the directness and simplicity of its forms and their adoption to use and **purest** art of all its homely and sumptuary