handicrafts is the pottery of India," writes Sir Birdwood eulogistically on the perfection of Indian pottery. India, being a very ancient land of inventors, had the knowledge of pottery craft since the early dawn of human civilization. It is said that a millenium ago Indian potters had been making clay dolls and infusing life into them. Apart from the truth of the story, one can well conclude that clay craft existed in India at least 10,000 years ago. According to many western authors, it is also presumed that pottery art might have gone from India to Egypt, Mesopotamia, Babylon, etc. as there were many things found there which are similar to Indian samples. The latest excavations of Mohen-jo-daro and Harappa which date back to 3,000 B.C. give more than one sample of pottery as evidence to show that at that time fine pottery art was in existence. Some of the samples kept in Indian museums show that the potters of the Indus Valley civilization had achieved mastery over the art. The motifs and designs on pots are a proof of their high achievements in this craft. At that time, wheel-work was in vogue and had attained a high degree of perfection. The burnt bricks, small statues, storing pots and seals are a good evidence to indicate the perfection reached at that period.

Rigveda, the oldest of all Vedas, mentions the use of pottery wares which date back to 2,000 to 3,000 B.C. but the laws of Manu which are as old as the sixth and ninth century B.C. are more revealing. Nowhere in Indian hi[illegible] there any reference to either glazed or enamel wares.

J.S.P. Pe[illegible] T.N. Kent in their work "Ceramics" have mentioned that [illegible] China (A.D. 581 to 618) tried to reproduce glass are im[illegible]a. This clearly reveals that India knew something about [illegible] and glazing. But owing to absence of recorded evi[illegible] lost in wilderness India was invaded and ruled [illegible] since 1000 A.D. for a few centuries and along w[illegible]ght certain arts and crafts. Decorative pottery [illegible]8th century A.D. Muslim rulers had encoura[illegible] [illegible]elands to come and settle in India. Th[illegible] [illegible]ia, [illegible]ew how to superimpose bluish [illegible] [illegible]en [illegible] many such small mozaic tiles [illegible] [illegible] D[illegible] [illegible] seen. As a result of this [illegible] [illegible] their blu-ish decorati[illegible] [illegible]esi[illegible] [illegible]nts the traditional [illegible] [illegible]ar[illegible] [illegible]n near Jodhpur br[illegible] [illegible]our[illegible] [illegible]red a good lot of [illegible] Chunar in [illegible] Kurigiri in [illegible] [illegible]are well known even today