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BRIEF REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF NOMADIC HORSEBACK ARCHERS IN KAZAKHSTAN FROM BRONZE AGE TO 19TH CENTURY

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(The article is written after the book called Sadaqshiliq: The Art of Making and Shooting The Kazakh Horsebow by the same author, available on Amazon.com).

Abstract.

The nomadic warriors of Central Asia were always known for their famous and dreadful horseback archers. The names such as Scythians, Huns, Mongols, and etc, are well-known in the entire world and always associated with an image of a tough warrior on top of his hardy horse, holding a bent short bow and wearing a quiver full of arrows.

Not many people know that most of the Eurasian nomadic states and nations included the lands of modern Kazakhstan as big part of their territory. The Scythians, Sarmatians, Huns, Turkic Khanates, Pechenegs, Kuman/Kipchaks, Mongol Empire, Golden Horde, and Zunghar Empire are among those names. However, the history of the Kazakh Khanate, the direct predecessor of modern-day Republic of Kazakhstan is very little known in the West. Meanwhile, it was the last large descendant of the mighty Mongol Empire and the Golden Horde that existed up until 18th century and comprised most of the nomadic areals of the Eurasian nomads. Kazakhstan itself is the ninth biggest country in the world, and the single largest land-locked nation.

This article is a result of study of the horseback archery on the territory of Kazakhstan from the Bronze Age, Scythian (Saka) Age, to Turco-Mongol, Kazakh Khanate, and Qing Chinese (Manchu) archery.

Keywords: Kazakh, Kazakhstan, Kazakh Khanate, nomadic, horseback archery, Asiatic archery, horsebow, Mongols, Turks, Scythians, Zunghars, Manchu archery, horn bow, mounted archers, Genghiz-Khan, warriors.

I. Introduction

Not many Westerners ever heard of the Kazakhs, or even the country of

Kazakhstan. Yet, Kazakhstan is the 9th largest and the #1 largest landlocked country in the world. And, it was the last

large Central Asian nomadic state, the late descendant of the Golden Horde and the Great Mongol Empire. And, the Kazakhs were among the last peoples on Eurasian Continent who gave up their traditional favorite weapon: bows and arrows.

The Kazakh Khanate was a large, powerful semi-nomadic state that was formed in the 15th century and existed well into the 19th century, albeit its decline started at the end of the 17th century. Most of the territory of Kazakh Khanate was located on the plains of the Eurasia between Russia, China, Northern Central Asia, Iran, and Caspian Sea. Today the Republic of Kazakhstan occupies roughly the same area, minus the many northern cities that were lost to Uzbek Khanates and to what later became the Uzbekistan.

What's significant is that the Kazakhs were amongst the last nomadic peoples that kept their traditional economy and social order until the very end of the 19th century and in some places even in the first half of the 20th century. But, unlike many other smaller nomadic nations, the Kazakhs had a huge territory and were speaking the same language over the stretches of thousands of miles. Amazingly, even in the end of 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century the Kazakhs still utilized bows and arrows, but today this art is completely forgotten and the line of menacing Kazakh horseback archers is forever severed.

II. Methods

The main two methods used in this research were the working with literature and other sources and the historical reconstruction (or experimental reconstruction). The former consisted of meticulously studying the Kazakhstani and foreign literature, documentary films, websites, and magazines devoted to the

horseback archery. The later required the author to learn some handyman skills necessary to build the replicas of the Kazakh bows, arrows, and special horse archery thumbings, and testing them.

Kazakhstani literature. In the Soviet times there weren't enough researches made in the area of the historical Kazakh weaponry and traditional Kazakh martial arts. Fortunately, lately there are some new works on the subject in Kazakhstan. The very first Kazakh researcher was Sh. Valikhanov (Ch. Valikhanov) [36], who recorded most valuable information during his service as an Imperial Russian officer in Central Asia. In 20-21st centuries there were other Kazakh authors who studied nomadic military history, among them Kushkumbayev A.K., [2]. Kaliollah Akhmedzhan [1,3], Tuyakbayeva B. [8], and Baidaralin D. [35].

There are also surviving records of the rich and fairly understudied Kazakh oral folk literature, which contains wealth of information of Kazakh art of war. Epics like "Er-Qosai" and other folk poetry sources.

Russian literature. The Russian researchers always had the most developed Nomadic Studies, which is understandable considering that the Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union were the geographical descent of the Golden Horde and absorbed most of the nomadic and post-nomadic territories and nations. Today these studies continue with the support of the President of the Russian Federations. The Russian authors whose works were used in writing this article include Semenyk G.E [37], Bobrov L.A. [22-25], Khudyakov Y.S [28].

Foreign literature. End of 20th and beginning of 21st century saw a great number of English-speaking researchers who added a tremendous input into studying the technologies and techniques

of the nomadic archery. Unlike the Russian and Kazakh researchers, who mostly work only with archival documents and artefacts, the English-speaking authors usually are practicing archers, weaponologists, and military historians, who study the historic archery through the prism of historical reconstruction: making bow replicas and shooting them, often off the horseback. These researchers include such authorities as Adam Karpowicz's [11], Thomas Duvernay [12], Stephen Shelby [15], Kay Koppedraye [16], Mike Loades [18,19], Scott M. Rodell [20], David Gray [21], Peter Dekker [33], and others.

Historical Reconstruction. The true understanding of any subject, especially if it is a craft or an art, cannot be reached by simply studying the sources. Hence the sub-disciplines of the historical research called historical reconstruction and experimental archeology. By building the replicas of the studied objects using the authentic materials, methods, and tools, one can re-live the experience and gain much deeper understanding.

In the case with the Kazakh horsebow, the author took effort in building the working replicas of the bows and arrows

and special thumbings, and shot countless amounts of shots in order to understand the intricate design and the mechanics of the horsebow. Thanks to this hands-on approach, the research received the amount of depth and understanding that otherwise would not be achievable.

III. Results of Analysis

The brief history of horseback archery in Kazakhstan

The first horseback archers in Kazakhstan were most likely the Botai, Andronovo, Afanasievo and akin peoples of the Bronze Age. Back then the Eurasian Steppes were populated by the Proto-Indo-European tribes that were semi-nomadic and lived everywhere from Siberia to Pontic Sea (Black Sea). It is largely accepted today by the leading world's leading scientists that the first horse domestication occurred on the territory of Kazakhstan, not too far away from its modern capital of Astana, in the ancient settlements known as Botai Culture.

Therefore, it is not too bold to suggest that this area might have been the first, or at least one of the first that adopted the horseback archery tactics, as well as (Figure 1).

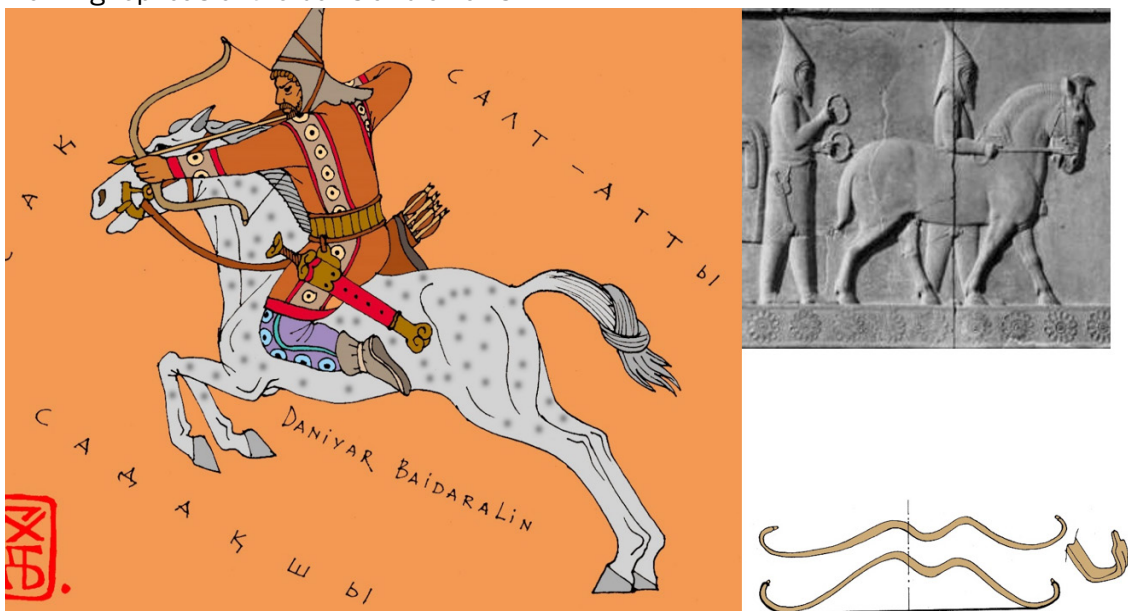


Figure 1. Saka (Eastern Scythian) warrior with Scythian-style horsebow. Reconstruction by author

the military chariot use. What we know for sure is that by the first millennium BC the Eurasian horseback archers were known to all civilized world as the Scythians, Parthians, Sarmatians, and Saka (Saca). These were the tribes that a few times conquered the Mediterranean region and went as far as the Egypt, and both fought against and participated in the Achaemenid Persian army. Alexander the Great fought with the Scythians too during his Eastern Campaign.

Although the Scythians/Saka people used a wide variety of military tactics, and had used the heavy armored cavalry called the Cataphracts, they are most known in history as the nation of the horseback archers armed with composite recurved bow, called the Scythian-type bow. This bow derived from the early composite bows found in Bronze Age graves of Central Asia and Siberia but the Scythians developed a shorter, more recurved, and asymmetric version of it, taking it even further from the initial self-bow design. Even though at this time the composite bows of various designs also became widespread all over the Middle East and Egypt, the nomadic

peoples of Eurasia were the ones who used this new high-tech style of bow mostly on the horseback, as opposed to chariots. This is why these types of the bow are often referred to as horse bows, or horsebows (Figure 2).

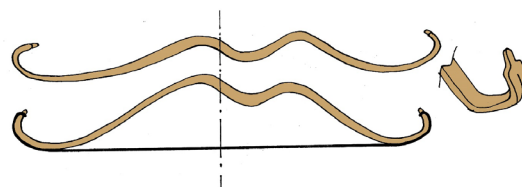


Figure 2. Saka (Eastern Scythian) or Scythian-style horsebow. Reconstruction by author

The Scythians, and their relatives Sarmatians and Parthians, were the first nomadic horseback archers that fought with the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Thanks to the Roman accounts we know of such things as the Parthian shot: when a horseback archer is pretending to flee from a chasing opponent then turns his torso 180 degrees backwards and shoots arrows in the face of the chaser, possibly killing or seriously wounding him. Of course the Parthians were not the only ones who utilized the Parthian shot technique, as it (Figure 3).

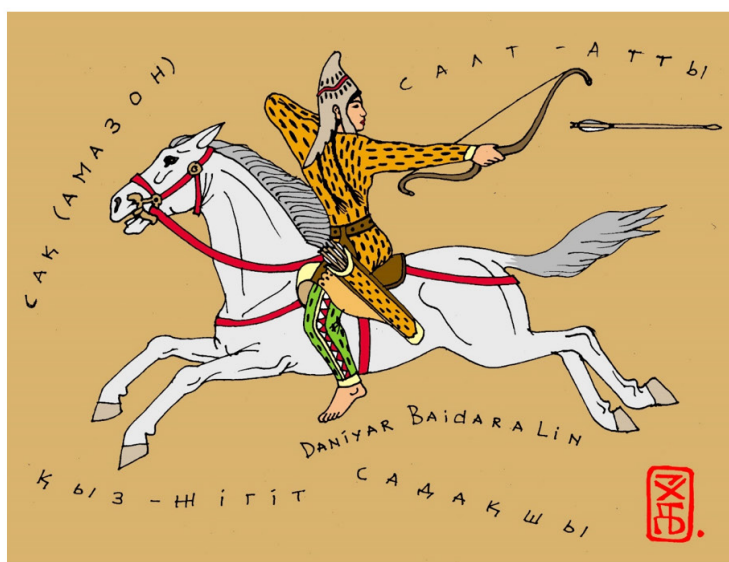


Figure 3. Historical Amazons: women of Scythians and Saka tribes. Reconstruction by author

was widely spread all over the Eurasian Steppes.

One other interesting aspect of the Scythian-Saka military power was the deployment of female warriors as auxiliary light cavalry and horseback archers. The girls were raised as warriors in the ever-dangerous Eurasian Steppes with endless tribal wars so that they could defend themselves and their families when the men were away fighting wars somewhere else. A widely known theory is that the mythical all-female nation of Amazons described by the Ancient Greek historians was based in reality on the all-female Scythian troops that were patrolling their lands.

The Scythian-Sarmatian-Saka tribes were pushed away from the Siberia and Central Asia during the Turkic Expansion that started in 4-5th century AD, a period also associated with the start of the Great Migration Period (Great Migration of Peoples) under the name of Huns from

East to West that eventually overwhelmed the Western Roman Empire, and led to a rise of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire) and foundation of European states. The Scythians have moved to India and Iran mixing with the local populations and greatly influencing their cultures and economies.

But the Central Asia and Siberia became mostly nomadic and semi-nomadic Turkic at this point, with some influx of the proto-Mongol tribes in its Eastern parts. One great Turkic empire replaced another for a few centuries in a row. The newcomers apparently used heavy armor more often, which required them to make further modifications to the Scythian-style horsebow. The so called Hun-style bow (Turkic bow) is a larger, heavier composite recurved bow, sometimes asymmetric, which often was enforced with bone plates in the high-pressure spots, such as the ends of the limbs (siyahs) and the handle (*Figure 4,5*).

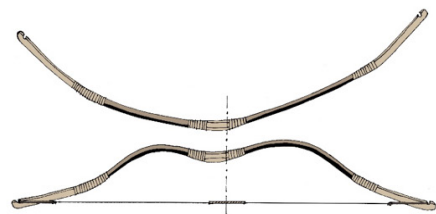


Figure 4. Ancient Turkic horseback archer. Reconstruction by author

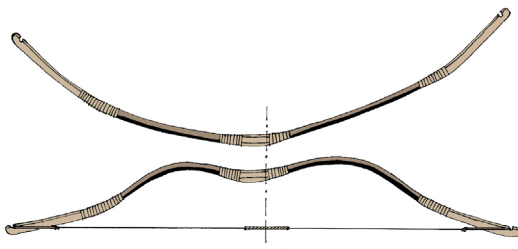


Figure 5. Asymmetric Turco-Mongol (Hun) horsebow Reconstruction by author

Turkic-style bows became widely spread during this period, and the Turkic warriors continued the military traditions of the Saka people. Relying on their horses they could raise huge armies consisting entirely from cavalry and horseback archers that would eliminate any foe in the open field. The neighboring nations could only survive by building large cities with high fortifications, but even that often failed to protect them from the new waves of invaders from the Steppes. The Turkic armies conquered China, Iran, India, Caucasus, and Eastern Europe, often mixing with the local populations and giving birth to the new mixed races, all of whom spoke Turkic language. There are more than two hundred millions of Turkic-speaking people in the world today

by some estimates, spread all over from Siberia, Russia and Central Asia to Turkey and Iran.

The Turkic hegemony in the region, however, in its turn was shaken by the arrival of the new tribes from the East: the Mongols. Led by one of the greatest conquerors in history, the Genghis Khan, the various Mongol and Turkic tribes swiftly submitted the now-fractured Turkic states in the 12-13th centuries AD, forming the enormous Turco-Mongol conglomerate known as the Mongol Empire, most of which initially consisted of the Turkic tribes with the Mongols being in the management positions.

One of the reasons for the military successes of the Mongols was the invention of the new type of bow, known as the Old-Mongol bow, or the Yuan bow. This bow was similar to the Turkic-Hun bow in many ways, particularly that it also was a non-contact bow, meaning that the string didn't touch the siyah's bend at the limb. But comparing to the predecessor it had wider limbs and improved design, apparently making it somewhat better at shooting and easier to make (Figure 6).

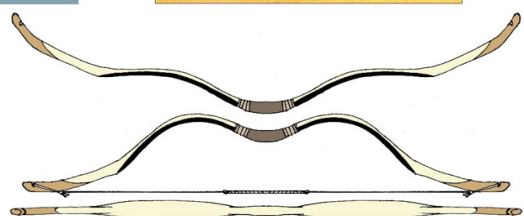
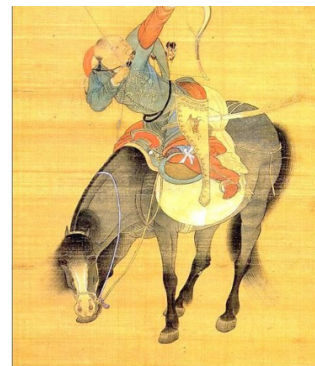
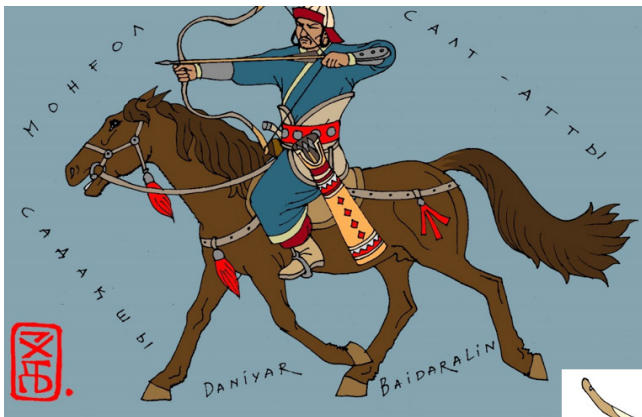


Figure 6. The Mongol horseback archer (Yuan Dynasty). Reconstruction by author

Later many other lands and peoples were added into the Mongol Empire, including the Chinese, the Iranians, and even the Russians. However, due to the vastness of the territories and the sheer amount of conquered population, the minority ruling Mongol element quickly dissolved within the majority of the subject populations everywhere except for maybe the territories of what today became Mongolia. On the territories of most of the Central Asia and entire Kazakhstan, which mostly belonged to the Golden Horde, the Mongols assimilated with the pre-Mongol Turkic population, forming the Turco-Mongol mix that spoke and wrote in Turkic language.

Most of the rulers in this region were the descendants of Genghis Khan, often called Genghisids, which give them enough rights to constantly claim the rights to the lands and cities and killing each other and their people with a rapid speed. In 15th century there was an awkward state of the balance in Central Asia under the rule of one of the Genghisids, when the nomadic population of ever fracturing remnants of the Golden Horde and the Mongol Empire lived under

the same rule with the settled population of Central Asian cities (Figure 7).

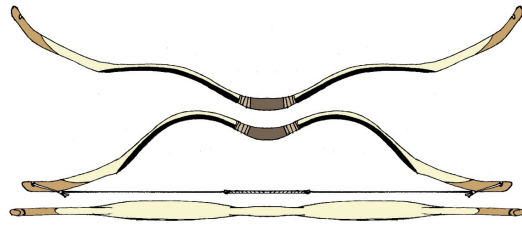


Figure 7. The Old-Mongol (Yuan) horsebow. Reconstruction by author

But this balance was shattered when the nomadic part of population decided to secede from the settled part. This split later led to a formation of two independent peoples, called the Uzbeks (settled part) and the Kazakhs (the nomads). In the following decades the Kazakhs were more successful and managed to take over many cities in Central Asia, forming a powerful state that had access to both the limitless supply of horses and horseback warriors with the cities with their developed manufactures and economies, and the military industry sector. This period is referred to as the foundation of the Kazakh Khanate in 15th century (Figure 8).

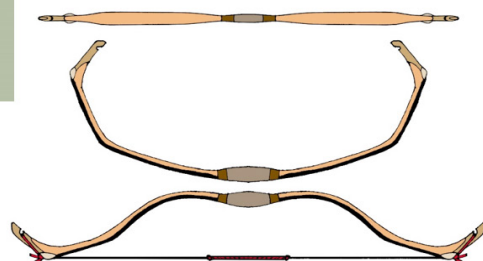


Figure 8. The Kazakh Khanate horseback archer of 15-16th centuries. Reconstruction by author

While the Kazakhs maintained control over their Central Asian cities with their military complex, the Kazakh Khanate was pretty much invincible. All of the neighbors had to respect the new state: the Russians, Chinese, Iranians, and Mongols. At this period the Kazakh army was very strong and well-armed, and relied mostly on the universal-style cavalry, well armored and armed with both bows and arrows and melee weapons that could fight well in all conditions, be it the open-field battles, defenses, or sieges (Figure 9).

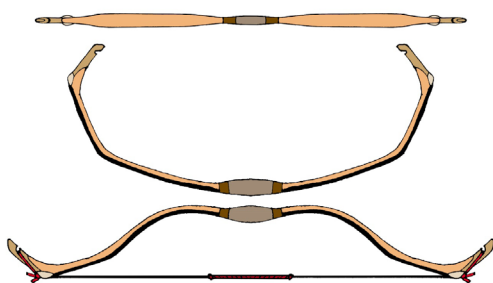


Figure 9. The Kazakh lesser horsebow (of Crimean-Tartar type). Reconstruction by author

At this point the heavy Old-Mongol bow was gradually replaced by the smaller and

speedier type of bow, which is similar to Turkish and Crimean-Tartar bow. It was shorter and lighter, but also had a larger recurve, giving it the same power as that of the Old-Mongol or Turkic bows'. It was also a contact bow, with the string snugly touching the siyah's bend in the strung position. Apparently at this period the use of the string bridge came about, preventing the slip of the string from the bend, as it is an awkward position for a bow to be in.

The next evolution of the horseback archery in Kazakhstan and Central Asia occurred not because of the changes in the bow design, but due to introduction of a completely new type of weapons: the firearms. Around 17th century the firearms gradually made their way into the region in the form of often crudely-made matchlock guns, imported to Kazakhs Khanate from Russia, China, Central Asia, and Iran. Interestingly enough though, unlike in Europe and Russia, in Central Asia and Kazakhstan the firearms did not replace the bows and arrows at all, instead the guns became supplementary weapons of the horseback archers (Figure 10).

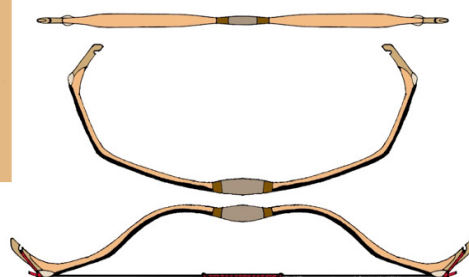


Figure 10. The Kazakh Khanate horseback archer of 17th century. Reconstruction by author

The typical Kazakh light cavalryman of this period would have all of the armor and weapons of the earlier horseback archer, but also would carry a large and awkward matchlock gun and all accompanying accessories, like powder and bullets. Such an archer could still pepper his enemies with arrows from a safe distance like those of the thousands of years before him, but in certain circumstances he could get off his horse, unfold the gun's long legs, put it on the ground, and make a shot using gunpowder and bullet. At this, he was armed with some type of melee weapon, such as a saber, battle axe, spear or lance, or mace. This universal warrior could perform a wide variety of tasks in times of war and effectively fight in an open field, trenches, and defend or siege the cities.

However, this technological advancement was being adopted against the backdrop of the decline of the united Kazakh Khanate, which now was separated into few competing Kazakh Khanates, which could only unite for a short time during the mega-threats. This was partially related to the fact that the various Uzbek states and the Mongol tribes called Zunghars eventually took most of the Central Asian cities from the Kazakhs, thus effectively cutting them from the access to the urban-produced technologies and goods. Most of the Kazakh Khanate now became nomadic only, with the significant drop in the economic power of its tribes, which led to the feudal wars.

Two things happened to the Kazakh horseback archer during this period. First of all he completely lost his armor in most cases, because it became so rare that only the richest and most distinguished Kazakh nobleman and warriors could afford having it. This was a significant blow the defensive abilities of the Kazakhs, because their war-like neighbors continued to enjoy the

access to the Central Asian weapon- and armor-producing urban centers, and had well-armed and well-armored troops. The Kazakhs, on another hand, despite adopting firearms, were mostly under-armed and not armored, which seriously affected their fighting capacity(*Figure 11*).

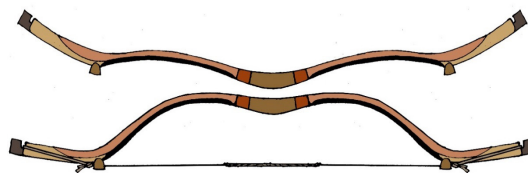


Figure 11. The extra-large Kazakh horsebow (Manchu type), or "Batyr's bow". Reconstruction by author

Nevertheless, the Kazakhs managed to adopt and even thrive in these conditions. Just as many generations before in the Kazakh Steppe, the nomadic warriors of this period once again started relying heavily on their bows and arrows, and the art of horseback archery relived its new renaissance. Unable to deter their better-equipped enemies face to face, the Kazakhs had to go back to the hit-and-run tactics of their ancestors. Bows and arrows did just as good a job as always, but the archers now were less likely to engage in melee battles, instead preferring to shower the enemies with arrows from afar, and attacking the enemies from ambushes or taking them by surprise.

Another trend not just in Kazakhstan, but in the entire region was introduced by the Zunghars, who in turn adopted it from the Qing Chinese army, which was introduced to it by the Manchu tribes who overthrew the Ming Dynasty and took over the China. The trend was the new type of bow, the last one in this long chain of evolutions and modifications: the Manchu-style bow. This type of bow was very different from all others, mainly because (*Figure 12*).

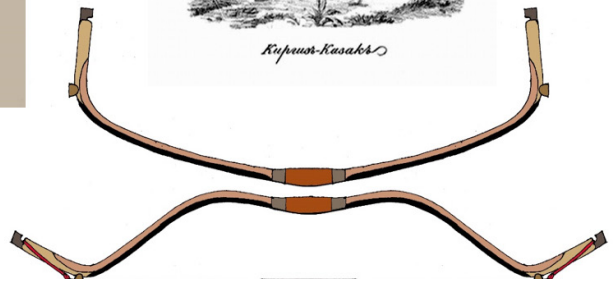


Figure 12. The Kazakh horseback archer of 18-19th century. Reconstruction by author

it's one of the most extreme contact bows in history. It was a much larger bow, with long heavy siyahs, and large string bridges. It was a much slower bow too, but it had a stronger initial speed of arrow within the first 100-150 feet, allowing the use of longer and heavier arrows that look more like small javelins. This type of bow suggested close shooting distances, but apparently was also more devastating at this. It became very popular in 18-19th centuries, as the Zunghars were introduced to it during the Qing-Zunghar Wars. From the Zunghars it spread out to the remaining Mongols, Kazakhs, and Central Asia (Figure 13).

and close combat weapons forced the Kazakhs to become more lean and resourceful in their warfare, and more creative. The Zunghars were the main enemies of the Kazakhs, because they too were nomads and had large reserves or horses that they used to make long, deep raids into the territory of the Kazakh tribes that suffered from disunity. The Kazakh-Zunghar Wars lasted for almost two centuries. The new type of warrior emerged in the fire of these battles: light and agile, and deadly. So popular this new type of cavalry became in the region that most of the neighbors adopted it, including the Russian Cossacks, Bashkirs, Kalmyks, Karakalpaks, and Turkmens (Figure 14).

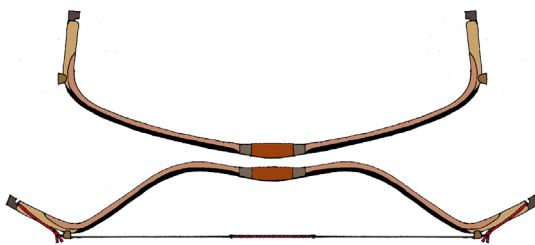


Figure 13. The large Kazakh horsebow (of Manchu type). Reconstruction by author

At this, the Kazakh horseback archers continued using the matchlock guns and melee weapons. The lack of armor

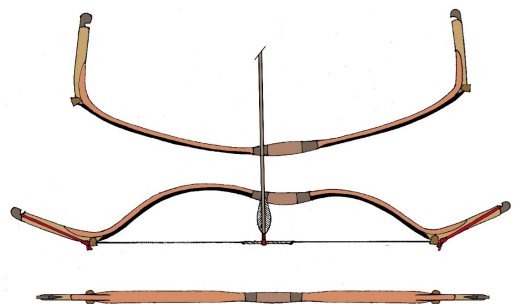


Figure 14. The large Kazakh horsebow (of Manchu type) of asymmetric design. Reconstruction by author

Another phenomenon of this period was the revival of the nomadic Amazons, this time Kazakh. The Kazakh-Zunghar Wars took a heavy toll on the Kazakh male population, with many capable men perishing in endless battles. This forced Kazakh women, wives, daughter, and mothers, to pick up weapons and join the war. Just like the original Amazons' of the Bronze and Early Iron Age, their weapon of choice was bow and arrows. Being trained to ride horses and shoot arrows from childhood, many Kazakh women had to stand next to their man in order to keep the Zunghar thread at a bay (Figure 15).



Figure 15. The Kazakh horseback archeress.
Reconstruction by author

The art of horseback archery came to a sharp, abrupt decline and nearly disappeared in the end of 19th century and beginning of the 20th century. By this time the united Kazakh Khanate all but ceased to exist, and all smaller Kazakh states turned under the Imperial Russian rule. The Russian influence brought about many fruits and technologies of the Western civilization, but it also took away the Kazakhs' independency and introduced the corruption of the state. Part of the Kazakhs often revolted against it, and tried to fight back for independency, but to no avail. The outdated and poor Kazakh economy

was not match for the growing Russian industrial and technological prowess, and all of the uprising were suppressed in a harsh manner (Figure 16).



Figure 16. The Kazakh horseback archer.
Reconstruction by author

The last elected Kazakh Khan fought for decades to restore the Kazakh Khanate and change the nature of the Russian-Kazakh relationships back to the moderate Kazakh dependency of the early stages. He fought really well, using the mixed Kazakh cavalry type. He tried to establish firearm manufactures to arm his troops, but the good old grandfather's bow must have still played a significant role in his wars against the Russian regular army and other neighbors.

But he couldn't turn the tide and stop the wheels of history and eventually was overwhelmed by the imperial Russian military machine. Finally he was murdered and beheaded during the feud wars with the kin Kirgiz tribe, whose members presented his head to the Russian officials as a token of good will. The Khan was considered a rebel and a criminal by the Russian side, and the gift was gladly accepted. The head is still considered one of the most sacred relics among the Kazakhs, many of whom want to bring it

back home to be buried with the body, but it's been missing for decades and there is no end of the debates of its whereabouts.

The art of horseback archery, as well as the making of the composite horsebows was also completely lost during the Soviet rule. The last known archer died in 1950-es, without passing his skills onto the new generations, who were too busy trying to adjust to modern life after the WW2.

IV. Conclusion

The horseback archery is undergoing the dynamic revival in many countries of the world in 21st century. Even in the United States there is a considerable movement, represented by well-known persons like Lukas Novotny, Kay Kopperdrayer, and others. There is the Mounted Archery Association of Americas.

In Japan and Korea the tradition of horseback archery can be proud of the fact that there are still bowmakers and archers who represent uninterrupted lineages that started in medieval times. In Turkey and Iran there are museums full of surviving bows and arrows, and a few detailed manuscripts describing the making and shooting of the horsebow. Turkey annually holds some of the largest horseback archery festivals in the world. Russian museums have the largest collections of the Central Asian nomadic traditional weaponry and armor in the world, dwarfing that of the Kazakhstan. In China and Mongolia the noble art of archery has been also suppressed for decades, but is now undergoing speedy recovery.

Kazakhstan in this parade of 21st century horseback archery traditions is holding the last place. Which is ironic, because it was one of the very few places in Central Asia where the tradition have survived so long and by far the largest area where bow and arrows were still used

militarily in the Modern Era.

Nevertheless, today a small amount of horseback archery enthusiasts in Kazakhstan is busy reviving this forgotten martial art of their ancestors, and the interest to Kazakh horseback archery is steadily growing both inside and outside the country. The world already aware of the Mongol and increasingly of the Manchu archery, but pretty much completely unaware of that of the Kazakhs. Hopefully, this situation will change soon enough, and the Kazakh horseback archers will take their place in the hall of fame of this beautiful ancient tradition (*Figure 17*).



Figure 17. Author in the traditional costume of the Kazakh horseback archer pulling his horsebow. Photo by Arman Nurmakhanbetov

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ҚОЛА ДӘУІРІНЕН 19-ШІ ҒАСЫРҒА ДЕЙІН ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ КӨШПЕЛІ АТТЫ САДАҚШЫЛАРТАРИХЫНЫҢ ҚЫСҚАША ШОЛУЫ

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Аңдатпа.

Орта Азиялық жауынгерлер барлық замандарда өз аңыз және айбарлы атты садақшылар үшін атақты болған. Скифтер, ғұндар, монғолдар, және т.б. сияқты сөздері бүкіл әлемде танымал және де аттың үстінде отырған, қолында қысқа майысқан садақ ұстаған және белінде оқтарға толық қорамсақ байлаған мықты жауынгер бейнемен ассоциациялайды.

Бірақ өте аз адамдар бүгінгі Қазақстанның аумағы өткен замандағы көпшілік Еуразиялық көшелі мемлекеттердің территориясына жатқанды білетін. Сол мемлекеттердің ішінде скифтер, сарматтар, ғұндар, Көне түрк қағанатар, печенег, қыпшақ, Монғол империя, Алтын орда, Жонғар хандығы, т.б. Бірақ,

бүгінгі Қазақстан республикасының негізін құрушысы - Қазақ хандығы туралы шетелде сирек танылды. Алайда, Қазақ хандығы деген ұлы Монғол империя және Алтын орданың ең соңғы ірі ұрпағы болған, сол мемлекет 18-ші ғасырға дейін тұрған да және оның территориясы көпшілік Еуразиялық көшпелі аумақтарда құрастырылған еді. Қазақстан Республикасының өзіәлемдегі тоғызыншы үлкен елі, әрі әлемнің ең ірі құрлықтағы ел болып табылады.

Бұл мақала Қазақстан территориясындағы Қола дәуіріннен бастап сак, түрк-монғол, Қазақ хандығы, және ЦиньҚытай (манжұр) атты садақшылардың зерттеуінің нәтижесі.

Трек сөздер: қазақ, Қазақстан, Қазақ хандығы, көшпелі, атты садақшылық, азиялық садақ, атты садақ, монғол, түрк, скиф, сак, жонғар, манжұр, мүйіз садақ, Шынғыс-хан, жауынгерлік.

КРАТКИЙ ОБЗОР ИСТОРИИ КОЧЕВЫХ КОННЫХ ЛУЧНИКОВ КАЗАХСТАНА С БРОНЗОВОГО ВЕКА ДО XX ВЕКА

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Аннотация

Кочевые воины Средней Азии всегда славились своими знаменитыми и грозными конными лучниками. Такие слова, как скифы, гунны, монголы, и пр. хорошо известны в мире и всегда ассоциируются с образом сильных воинов верхом на крепких лошадях, сжимающих короткие изогнутые луки и носящих колчаны, полные стрел.

При этом не многие знают, что большинство евразийских кочевых государств и наций включали в себя значительную территорию современного Казахстана. Среди скифы, гунны, печенеги, куманы, половцы, Монгольская империя, Золотая Орда, Тюркские каганаты и Джунгарская империя. Тем не менее, история прямого предшественника современной Республики Казахстан – Казахского ханства – практически неизвестна за рубежом. Однако, это было последнее крупное государство – наследник Монгольской империи и Золотой Орды, которое существовало до XVIII века и включало в себя большинство территорий евразийских кочевых народов. Сам по себе Казахстан является девятой по величине страной мира и самой крупной сухопутной страной.

В данной статье приведены результаты исследований конных лучников на территории Казахстана периодов бронзового века, сакского, тюрко-монгольского периодов, Казахского ханства и лучников циньского Китая (манчжуров).

Ключевые слова: казахи, Казахстан, Казахское ханство, кочевники, конные лучники, азиатская стрельба из лука, монголы, тюрки, скифы, джунгары, манчжурские лучники, роговой лук, Чингисхан, воины.

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