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THE SABER OF THE MONGOL TIME FROM AKMOLA REGIONAL HISTORICAL AND LOCAL MUSEUM

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Annotation. The article tells about a saber stored in the Akmola Regional Museum of Local History (Inv. No. GIK 2322/1, AOIKM, Kokshetau, the Republic of Kazakhstan). The weapon comes from a number of random finds from the territory of Northern Kazakhstan. The saber entered the collection in the 50-60s., XX century. More detailed information on the time and circumstances of its transfer to the museum is absent in the AOIKM documentation. The blade has a barely noticeable bend, which allows you to attribute the weapon to sabers, and not to broadswords. A holder with a long iron “tongue” is welded on to the heel of the blade. A rivet is inserted into the shank hole for attaching the “cheeks” of the handle. Garda has a characteristic elongated-rhombic shape. Based on a typological analysis, it was established that the saber under consideration differs from the traditional sabers of the Turkic nomads of Kazakhstan of the Kimak and Kipchak periods (X – XII centuries). The closest analogues of the saber from AOIKM come from the territory of South Siberia and date from the XIII – XIV centuries. It is most likely that the appearance of this saber on the territory of Northern Kazakhstan is associated with the events of the Mongol invasion of the XIII century and the incorporation of Eastern Dasht-i Kipchak into the Mongol Empire. Most likely, the saber was made by masters of the Yenisei Kirghiz and got to Northern Kazakhstan together with the troops of the Genghisids. At the same time, it is impossible to exclude the possibility of local production of weapons based on South Siberian models during the existence of the Mongol Empire. A small number of finds of long-barrelled weapons of the XIII-XIV centuries. The situation that is happening on the territory of Kazakhstan determines the high scientific value of the saber in question.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, Mongol conquests, Mongol Empire, Mongol weapons, long-barreled weapons, saber.

Thanks’: The study was conducted as part of the implementation of the state task of the Ministry of education and science.

Introduction. The military skills of the Mongol and Turkic nomads of the Great Conquests era of the 13th century are recognized by experts as the highest stage in the development of traditional military affairs of the medieval Central Asian population. The study of Genghis Khan’s and his political successors’ military and cultural heritage continues to be a topical area of modern scientific research in many countries all over the world. However, it should be noted that the core problems have been studied discretely. The military history of Genghis Khan and Genghisids, Mongolian weapons used for distant fights, as well as the Mongolian armour have been under research for a long time. Nevertheless, at the same time some other questions were studied to a much lesser extent. For instance, the issue of the evolution of the long-blade weapons of the Eastern Dasht-i Kipchak nomads of the XIII – XIV centuries remains unanswered fully. The publication of previously widely unknown materials makes it possible to clarify many issues related to the specifics of the development of the Central Asian peoples’ military affairs of the period indicated before.

The fond of Akmola Regional History and Local Lore Museum (ARHLLM, Kokshetau, The Republic of Kazakhstan) holds an iron saber (Inv. N GIK 2322/1), which provides a significant interest for weapon experts, archeologists and military historians. According to the ARHLLM staff dates, the given sample of long blade weapon entered the museum collection in 50-60s of XX century. The sable refers to ransoms finds from the territory of Northern Kazakhstan (supposedly, from the former Kokshetau Region of KazSSR). Unfortunately, the ARHLLM documentation doesn't have any information about the circumstances and the exact results of the weapon appearing in museum. The aim of this article is description of design and the saber design system from ARHLLM, also, clarify its dating and attribution.

The result of research and discussion Here and throughout East Dasht-i Kipchak (Eastern Kipchak steppe) is understood to mean the historical (predominantly steppe) region from the river Volga and the Caspian Sea in the west to the river. Irtysh and Lake Balkhash in the east. Currently, most of East Dasht-i Kipchak is located in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

Research results and discussion. Structurally considered saber consists of a blade with a shank, as well as an iron guard (Fig. 1, 1–4). The total length of the saber (from the end of the shank to the tip) is 90.5 cm. The total weight is ... g. According to the shape of the saber strip, the specimen under consideration can be attributed to blades with a weak bend, a triangular section and, presumably, an acute-angled point (without elmani). The length of the blade (from the base of the blade to the tip) is 82.2 cm. The width/thickness of the blade at the handle is 3.5/0.6 cm, in the central part - 3.4/0.5 cm, in the lower part - 3, 0/0.26 cm. The slopes of the blade are straight, the bend of the blade is slight. However, the fact of its presence allows us to attribute the considered weapon to sabers, not to broadswords. The blade of the sword (especially its lower third) has significant damages, including potholes and chips (Fig. 1, 1, 2). Some damage can be attributed as consequences of chopping blows on a hard surface. Unfortunately, the surface of the blade is highly corroded, which makes it difficult to study the features of its design and, the manufacturing technology (Fig. 2).

The upper part of the blade (at the shank) is provided with a clip (width-3.6 cm) with a sharp-angled "tongue" (length-9.5 cm, width: 0.9-0.7 cm), covering part of the saber blade (Fig. 1, 3, 4). On the left side, the iron "tongue" is decorated with a semicircular cutout and a tooth (Fig. 1, 4). The clip with a "tongue" prevented damage to the mouth of the scabbard on the sharp edge of the saber blade, provided "... dense, without loosening, the stay of the blade in the scabbard" (Gorelik, 2004, p. 86) and also strengthened the heel (Ricasso) of the blade. In addition, a saber with a clip and a tongue on the blade allowed using a special grip of the weapon, in which the index finger of the warrior was placed on top of the guard rod (Gorelik, 2004, p. 86).

The saber band is equipped with pronounced sharp-angled "shoulders". Converging almost at right angles, they form a narrow shank elongated-trapezoid shape, bent to the side of THE SABER OF THE MONGOL TIME FROM AKMOLA REGIONAL shank is 8.3 cm, the width is 2.8 cm, and the thickness is 0.3 - 0.5 cm.

A rounded through hole is punched in the upper part of the shank, into which a rivet is inserted, consisting of a pin (length 1.8 cm, diameter about 0.3 cm) and a hat, which has been preserved fragmentarily (Fig. 3). It is most likely that the rivet was used for fastening paired "cheeks" of a saber handle made of bone, horn or wooden plates. The shank is highly corroded and thinned and has deep caverns, places where metal stratification is noticeable. The saber guard has an elongated rhombic shape with a massive rim along the perimeter (Fig. 1, 3, 4; 4). The length of the guard is 8.1 cm, the thickness in the central part is 3.3, along the side: from 3.5 cm (in the central part of the guard) to 2.2 cm (at the edges). Guards of this design are sometimes referred to in the Soviet and Russian historiography as "scaphoid", as they visually resemble an early medieval vessel with low sides (Khudyakov, 1980, p. 36). Garda served as an emphasis for

the brush and, at the same time, protected it from chopping blows of enemy weapons. In turn, the recess and the sides in the upper part of the guard were an additional fixator of the organic "cheeks" of the handle.

As noted above, the saber from the AOIKM collection comes from random findings. However, it can be dated and attributed based on typological analysis. Sabers with a slightly curved acute-angled blade equipped with a clasp with a "tongue" and an elongated rhombic guard of a "scaphoid" shape, in general, are not typical for long-blade weapons of the peoples of Central Asia of the Ancient era, the early and late Middle Ages, as well as the New Age (Khudyakov, 1986; Bobrov, Pronin, 2012, pp. 572–581). However, they are quite widely represented among materials dated to the period of the developed Middle Ages.

Numerous Kimak and Kipchak broadswords and sabers of the XX-XII centuries, found in archaeological sites of Kazakhstan and adjacent territories, have repeatedly attracted the attention of researchers (Khudyakov, 1986, p. 190-195; Gorbunov, 2016, p. 131-147). Long-blade weapon of the nomads of Kazakhstan of the XIII - XIV centuries studied to a much lesser extent. Some of the findings dated by this period have not been put into scientific circulation yet. In exceptional cases, the long-blade weapons of the Eastern Dasht-i-Kipchak of the Mongolian time are typical materials of the archaeological site of the Queen (Khudyakov, 1997, p. 114, 116, Fig. 75, 1). However, in our case, materials from the territory of Southern Siberia and Eastern Europe are used. (see below).

Analysis of the long-bladed weapons of the nomads of Kazakhstan of the Kimak and Kipchak periods showed that this is a genetically close saber considered. So, in particular, many Kimak and Kipchak sabers from the territory of Kazakhstan have slightly curved acute-angled blades elongated towards the tail blade, equipped with the same spell accordion, as well as elongated rhombic guards (Khudyakov, 1986, p. 192–195; Gorbunov, 2016, p. 131–147). However, significant differences are also recorded. So KIMAK sabers aren't characterized by the presence of wide clips on the blade with long pronounced "tongues".

Of considerable interest are the results of a comparative analysis of a saber from the ARMLH found in Northern Kazakhstan with samples of long-bladed weapons from neighboring territories, the Mountainous and forest-Steppe Altai of the developed middle Ages.

From the mound of the Besh-Ozek mound destroyed by construction works (Gorny Altai), which did not contain a burial, there is a slightly bent saber with an elongated rhombic guard with blade-shaped cross bars, a single rivet on the shank, a narrow clip and a miniature "tongue" on the blade. According to V. Gorbunov: "On the typological characteristics of this instance of bladed weapons can be dated to the IX – XII centuries, and in the framework of Turkic culture from the second half of IX – first half of X centuries ad" (Gorbunov, 2006, p. 68, 122, 185, Fig. 50, 6; Gorbunov, 2014, pp. 390, 391, Fig. 2, 3, p. 392). The size of the clip and tongue suggest that this sample of long-bladed weapons is much older than the considered saber from the ARMLH.

From the territory of the forest-steppe Altai there is a slightly bent saber with an elongated rhombic guard, a single rivet on the shank bent to the blade, a clip and a fairly long elongated-rectangular "tongue" on the blade (Gorbunov, 2006, p. 67, 203, Fig. 58, 4). The saber is attributed by the authors of the publication to the weapon of the Srostkin culture, that is, the X–XII centuries (ibid., p. 70). Without rejecting this possibility in principle, at the same time, we note that the specified saber comes from a number of random finds and is not tied to someone specific reliably dated archaeological monument. At the same time, all other well-known sabers, as well as swords and broadswords of the Srostkin culture do not have clips with "tongues" (ibid., pp. 197-203, 208). This suggests that the saber from the forest-steppe Altai can be dated to a somewhat later historical period.

The closest analogs of the saber from ARMLH are slight-curved sabers or broadswords from the territory of the Minusinsk hollow, accruing from the 1 mound of monument Samokhval II, 1 mound of the monument Soyan-see, 12 mounds of the Chernovo burial ground (Khudyakov, 1997, p. 16, 17, 22, 23; Gorelik, 2004, p. 98, fig. 3, 4-6). Blade-holders with long tabs of elongated triangular shape are welded onto their blades. Shanks are supplied with single rivet holes. Elongated rhombic guards have a characteristic "navicular" design. All three samples of long-bladed weapons from the Minusinsk hollow date from the 13th – 14th centuries (Khudyakov, 1997, p. 16, 17, 22, 23; Gorelik, 2004, p. 98, fig. 3, 4-6). From the territory of the south of the Krasnoyarsk region, Khakassia, the Kuznetsk Basin, and Tyva, a whole series of similar in design weakly curved sabers and broadswords from among random finds, also dating mainly to the Mongolian time, occurs (Khudyakov, 1980, p. 37, tab. V, fig. 2, p. 41, tab. VII, fig. 1; Soloviev, 2003, p. 166, fig. 18; Skobelev, Ryumshin, 2010, p. 146, 148-150).

M. V. Gorelik, who studied the design features and design systems of sabers of the population of Eastern Europe, the North Caucasus, Siberia, Central and Eastern Asia, came to the conclusion that the clips with tongues first appeared in Central Asia and by the IX century and were borrowed by the Khazars. After the fall of the Khazar Khaganate, this structural element, according to M. V. Gorelik, quickly disappears from the blade weapons of the Western part of Eurasia. Its reappearance and spread on sabres and broadswords of the region was associated with the Mongol conquest of the XIII century. At the same time, in southern Siberia, as well as in continental East Asia, the tradition of making clips with "tongues" was not interrupted. So, in particular, they are present on long-link weapons of the song and Jin eras, as well as sabers and broadswords of nomads of southern Siberia (Gorelik, 2002, p. 63, 64; Gorelik, 2004, p. 86-101; Gorelik, 2008, p. 161). It is very likely that sabres with a slightly curved blade with wide clips and "tongues", "elongated-rhombic" "navicular" guards were formed on the territory of southern Siberia and Central Asia before the Mongol era. However, their spread across Eurasia in the XIII–XIV centuries is largely due to the Genghis military expansion.

Another argument in favor of Dating the saber from the ARMLH to Mongol time is the presence of a semicircular cutout on the "tongue" of the clip in combination with a sharp-angled tooth. Such a decorative element is very typical for long-link weapons of the peoples of the great steppe and neighboring territories of the XIII–XIV centuries (Gorelik, 2004, p. 98, Fig. 3, 1, 3; The Arts..., 2008, p. 38, 39; Rivkin, 2017, p. 74, 76, 77, 84, 86).

Conclusion. Thus, the typological analysis allows us to date the saber from the ARMLH to the Mongol time, that is, the XIII–XIV centuries. Given that the vast majority of it is analogues come from the territory of southern Siberia, we can assume that the saber is an imported product. Most likely, it was made by the masters of the Yenisei Kirghiz or their neighbors. The appearance of the saber on the territory of Northern Kazakhstan could be associated with the inclusion of Eastern Dasht - I Kipchak in the Mongol Empire. At the same time, it is impossible to completely exclude the possibility of making a saber by local craftsmen on the popular model of long-barreled weapons of South Siberian production. Judging by the state and degree of preservation of the guard and blade, the saber could have been used for a long historical period.

The high scientific value of weapons from the ARMLH is also due to the fact that the finds of sabers of the XIII–XIV centuries on the territory of Kazakhstan are extremely small. The introduction of new samples into scientific circulation makes it possible to clarify important issues related to the formation of the weapons complex of the nomads of the region in the era of the great Mongol conquests.

САБЛЯ МОНГОЛЬСКОГО ВРЕМЕНИ ИЗ АКМОЛИНСКОГО ОБЛАСТНОГО ИСТОРИКО-КРАЕВЕДЧЕСКОГО МУЗЕЯ

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Аннотация. В статье рассмотрена сабля, хранящаяся в Акмолинском областном историко-краеведческом музее (Инв. № ГИК 2322/1, АОИМК, г. Кокшетау, Республика Казахстан). Оружие происходит из числа случайных находок с территории Северного Казахстана. Сабля поступила в собрание в 50–60-х гг. XX в. Более подробная информация о времени и обстоятельствах ее передачи в музей в документации АОИМК отсутствует. Клинок имеет едва заметный изгиб, что позволяет отнести оружие к саблям, а не к палахам. На пяту клинка наварена обоймица с длинным железным «язычком». В отверстие хвостовика вставлена заклепка для крепления «щечек» рукояти. Гарда имеет характерную удлинненно-ромбическую форму. На основании типологического анализа установлено, что рассматриваемая сабля отличается от традиционных сабель тюркских кочевников Казахстана Кимакского и Кипчакского периода (X–XII вв.). Ближайшие аналоги сабли из АОИМК происходят с территории Южной Сибири и датируются XIII–XIV вв. Наиболее вероятно, что появление данной сабли на территории Северного Казахстана связано с событиями Монгольского нашествия XIII в. и включения Восточного Дашт-и Кипчак в состав Монгольской империи. Скорее всего, сабля была изготовлена мастерами енисейских кыргызов, и попала в Северный Казахстан вместе с отрядами Чингизидов. В то же время не стоит исключать и возможность местного производства оружия по южносибирским образцам в период существования Монгольской империи. Малочисленность находок длинноклинкового оружия XIII–XIV вв. происходящих с территории Казахстана обуславливает высокую научную ценность рассматриваемой сабли.

Ключевые слова: Казахстан, Монгольские завоевания, Монгольская империя, оружие монголов, длинноклинковое оружие, сабля.

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List of abbreviations

Akmola regional Museum of local history - ARMLH

Military history Museum of artillery, engineering and communications troops - MHMAECT

State Museum of Oriental art, Moscow -SMOAM

Kabardino-Balkar scientific center – KBSC

Kabardino-Balkar Republic – KBR

Novosibirsk state University – NSU

Penza state pedagogical University – PSPU

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