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JIF = 1.500	SJIF (Morocco) = 2.031	

SOI: [1.1/TAS](#) DOI: [10.15863/TAS](#)

## International Scientific Journal Theoretical & Applied Science

p-ISSN: 2308-4944 (print) e-ISSN: 2409-0085 (online)

Year: 2018 Issue: 02 Volume: 58

Published: 19.02.2018 <http://T-Science.org>

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### SECTION 15. Decorative and fine arts.

## TO THE PROBLEM OF LEARNING AND INVESTIGATING HISTORICAL MILITARY DRESSES OF UZBEKISTAN

**Abstract:** *The ancient civilization on the territory of Central Asia and before us the hearth of civilization are a vivid proof that the formation of Uzbek clothing with its roots go deep antiquities. With the help of the found monumental casting of painting in the archaeological sites of the 17th-18th centuries, the specific quality of each region and the military garments were examined by witnesses.*

**Key words:** *military dresses, history, national, customs, evolution, ritual, genesis, ethnic, style.*

**Language:** English

**Citation:** Mirzanazarova EY (2018) TO THE PROBLEM OF LEARNING AND INVESTIGATING HISTORICAL MILITARY DRESSES OF UZBEKISTAN. ISJ Theoretical & Applied Science, 02 (58): 70-73.

**Soi:** <http://s-o-i.org/1.1/TAS-02-58-17> **Doi:**  <https://dx.doi.org/10.15863/TAS.2018.02.58.17>

### Introduction

Artistic legacy of people of Uzbekistan has a rich and diverse history, which goes to the depth of many centuries. Material and spiritual culture's unique monuments of the past always attracted an interest all over the world. Imperishable creations of architects, artists and skilled craftsmen who were in different periods are supposed to be an invaluable contribution in treasure of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan, and also of world civilization.

Getting independence by Uzbekistan strengthens an interest relating to own national history, to national values, to traditional culture, to the learning and revival or regeneration which has a special meaning to the State, and they are considered to be one of the main and essential factors of modern culture development and a formation of a new social mentality and mind. "We must learn how to be carefully skeptical about cultural sources, which always give an opportunity to the widest layers, which supposed to be the best example of classical and modern culture". [4] The history of clothes from ancient times till nowadays is considered to be a mirror in which a history of humanity is reflected. Historical dress was formed and confirmed within many centuries and became an important sign in the process of evolution, based on which we can judge and think about habits, customs, rituals and life style of people in each period of life. Traditions which scale to the genesis of people are reflected in a dress, and also its ethnic history; it shows social

relationships in community on different stages; some elements of ideology- religious norms and ethnic requirements. At the same time, design, composition, colorful harmony, decoration of dress make it special and unique work of art, which has its distinctive principles of artistic composition from others, which are changed from time to time. The dress, which connected with a person more than other types of art, is supposed to be a realization of esthetic ideal and artistic passion, so that "Person is always considers himself as a artistic character based on a notice of one of the most popular investigators of dress history M.H.Mersalovoy-which is relevant to ethnic tastes and imaginations" [6]. Because of that the dress is on boundary between some of sciences: history, ethnography and history of artistic craft.

### Materials and Methods

Khorezm was an independent state, which kept its own independence within a long period of time and it is still remained a single region of Central Asia which is cannot be conquered by Greeks. It witnesses about existence of powerful, well equipped army. Undoubtedly, if a state has a powerful, well equipped army it will be reliable and secure from an onset of an enemy. Repeated incursion of nomadic tribes, Ahemenidov and the Hellenistic period empires lead to some changes and were the reason of that big attention started to be paid for military deals and forces and it affected on the development of Military Dresses and Arming.



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Based on historical sources, it is revealed that army of Khorezm was divided into two main parts, namely horse and foot. And it is confirmed by Gerodot and he says: "They fight on horses and who they on foot exactly know both methods of War fighting" [3]. Khorezm horsemen were popular everywhere. They were different from others with their power and heavy arming. Maybe that's why; an appearance of a horseman is considered to be a central appearance in Khorezm Art? It can be seen on coins, ceramic flasks, and also on ancient Khorezm cup, which is called Anikov dish [5].

Images show that horsemen were dressed in caftan which means males' clothes, which covers a top part of hips. Trousers are not wide, below knees which are on high heels. As on a high relief on the north wall in the "Hall of Soldiers" in Toprak-Kala. Over the caftan plate and scale's armor was wearied in order to cover the top part of caftan. Some imaginations about how well can look Khorezm's plate armors, gives us a notion about sculptural trunk of soldier in a coat of mail which consists of accommodation number 8 which is situated in Toprak-Kala and mentioned meal.

Apparently, this is a long leather dress with metal plates, which are embroidered on it, and at the same time it will be relevant to mention that the form of plates is vary constantly by saving monotony in armor of each soldier.

As an evidence of existence of metal plate armor in Khorezm can be iron scales from coat of mail from accommodation number 89 in the same palace. The plate is rectangular with a round down end. The length of it is 5.9sm, the width is 2.8sm and the thickness is 0.3sm. in the middle of it there are two main small apertures for attachment. Almost the same plate of some small size was founded in Khorezm in a town known as Kunya-Uaz [8].

Scales dress, or coat of mail, were of two types: iron one (based on blue painting of soldiers' sculpture in royal palace Toprak-Kala), and with glass plates, which were put on bronze gilded plates, and after that the corners were attached by iron brackets on the leather. Glass and bronze plates which were founded those ancient times with iron brackets in one of the accommodations of Toprak-Kala confirm such kind of way for attaching plates. Metal plates are thin (1.5mm) they are square (3.5X3.5sm) plates. They are made from lists of bronze and were gilded. Glass plates with their form and size are close to bronze one. These findings are considered to be a witness about that Khorezm was a sign of glass production.

Moreover, other objects of head dress were decorated with such plates. For instance, belt. Waist-belt collections from clear glass must be look very effective on a gilded basis. They are considered to be as a specific decoration of Khorezm soldier, so that to find analogies for such kind of plates was impossible. In this relation, it is interesting to

remember that Gerodot and Strabon noticed gold belts of "Khorasmiyev" [3]. It is obvious that, these belt collections are related to them. Perhaps, these belts were a distinctive indication of Khorezm aristocracy. A good illustration of this is Anikov's dish on which you can see three horsemen who are illustrated with a glided belt, with a help of which it is possible to differentiate the leader and commander, but others without him.

Social differentiation is noticed by other objectives of soldier's uniform as well. For instance, head-dresses. Soldiers wore conical and more complicated form helmets, which had a triangle projection in the middle of that. But at the back-there are some objects from chain mail screen. It will be relevant to mention that, this head-dress plays a vital role in Khorezm's iconography. Perhaps, it can be seen on a leader from Anikov dish, but also on statuettes from Koykrilgan-Kala and Janbas-Kala. Thus, such kinds of helmet or hat are considered to be a characteristic feature of some suggested individuals. Analogical head-dress can be seen on statues of Soldiers' Hall from Toprak-Kala. Moreover, all of them are interconnected with each other by one special feature and detail: half-moon decorates everything. Perhaps, it meant a title, a name or may be a soldier in a hat with a half-moon which described a view of some divinity? Because a half-moon is a characteristic symbol of Soldiers' God in iconography of Near, Middle and Far East folk.

Round disks and also toothed diadem had many distinctive signs and features, which decorated many Khorezm head-dresses. Head-dresses of many soldiers were more simplified further. They introduced by themselves a low hat which was similar to Chugurma—which is Men's' hat of modern Khorezm. There is a supposition, that it was also decorated by some metal details. Anyway, a plate with a festoon edge, which has a form of rhomb, but also traces of design in the form of star, makes many people to think about it and it is saved on the sculpture of soldier.

Perhaps, only kings and leaders could decorate head-dresses, for instance, royal guards, whom we can see in "Hall of soldiers". Statues of horsemen or guardsmen are located between big sculptures in upper part of the wall which highlights small size and indicates more low social position. So, their dresses are more humble and modest: caftan is short and doesn't have a fur. But the most interesting thing is faces of those soldiers, undoubtedly, which illustrate Guards of Khorezm Kings. These faces of individuals have brown paint, big noses and highlighted lips which attract attention of each person. S.P. Tolstov, who notices this special type of individuals' faces, suggested that they are slaves who are known as foreigners: "It is, undoubtedly, a special type of Negro people, which is considered to be a document for investigation a question about the

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structure of Armed Forces, on which the power of Khorezm Kings relied on. It seems that, their guard is set form far strangers- or from East India, which had a connection from the side of Khorezm people, who supported this link from the period of Kushan. Or from the farthest East Africa” [1]. Evidently, it is revealed that it was beneficial for kings to find different sources of Armed forces, which are separated from the folk and which can resist in any situation to it, outside of the country and to fill an army with people, who are not connected with some local societies, which depend on a King [10].

Excessively, it is typical that Negro soldiers have a weapon in their hands: they hold spears and shields. Spears were very widespread type of weapon in ancient Khorezm. Image of horseman can be an evidence for that with spears on coins, ceramics flasks of that time. Based on a founded tip, in one of accommodations in Toprak-Kala, it was 4gr, but its length constituted 22sm. Such kind of spears can be founded on Anikov dish.

There are big round shields behind of soldiers from Toprak-Kala, and based on a style, they were weaved from the reed; sometimes on the shields there were illustrated palms- as a soldier on Anikov tower.

Totally unique complex are presented by bows. They are big, at around 160sm. Bows were of complex structure, slicked from different layers of trees, also they were with bone facing in middle part and also in the corners of it. The basis is a shaft of bow- was with wide sides.

Tree which is called Zelkova was a tree from which a majority of bows were produced and this tree is from ulmaceae family. Timber of it is excessively tight, it is always was appreciated for making fakes, especially which were easily susceptible to the impact of drought and humidity, so that it wasn't fragile and didn't give any cracks. It occupies the first place with its strength, and even dominated the oak-tree.

Bone blunders were made from antler, which inhabited in Central Asia those times. The right side of blunders was constantly grinded, and backside always saved its natural roughness for the best splice with a wood basis.

For splicing different parts of bow one specific and very effective glue was used. Scientists of HAEE, who investigated these findings, consider that it was glue which was produced by inhabitants of different regions and it was made from inwards of fish, and this information was based on a report of Klavdiy Elian.

In general, the bow of complex structure can be considered as a characteristic type of weapon for Khorezm. Already founded bows in one of the accommodations of Toprak-Kala confirm these data.

Naturally, it is obviously seen that people wore bows on the left side and the quiver which had a

trapezium form on the right side. Horsemen and Soldiers of Khorezm had such type of quiver which can be seen from Anikov dish on a silver cup number 46 from the collection of Y.I.Smirnov [2]. Based on these monuments and statues it is possible to create its appearance. But it is difficult to say about what kind of quiver it was made, because among all remnants which were investigated and founded by archaeologists on the territory of Khorezm, only down side of quiver was kept. It consisted of wood whetstone with round ends which had a length of 17.7sm, width of 4.3sm, thickness of 2.7sm. A bottom was covered by bark which was on 5sm.

Existence of lid is a specific feature of Khorezm quiver. Perhaps, it is connected with that Khorezm people wore quiver with arrows to the upper side. Initially the arrows were without any lean and help, which was a reason for the development of down side of quiver.

The most essential part of whole Khorezm soldier complex was represented by arrows. It is justified by multiple findings of arrows on the territory of Khorezm. Based on these findings it will be relevant to mention that these arrows consisted of tip and shaft. Tips of arrows can be divided into two groups, namely big and small one. The first ones' length was 3.6sm; the width of a head part was 1.2sm. The length is 0.5sm. The length is 1.6sm, and diameter is 0.4sm.

Big ends have the length from 7.6sm to 8.1sm with a length of a head main part from 4.8sm to 5.5sm and width from 1.4 to 2sm, the length of arrow head ends is from 2.3sm to 3sm. The main part of a head part has a triangle form with a length of 0.2-0.4sm [8].

Shafts of arrows were made from rush, which had two slicked wooden plants from poplar wood. Connection of wooden and rush parts linked together had a winding, which adjusted a plumage, which contained two feathers. And for winding mostly tendons were used [8].

In Toprak-Kala were founded arrows and bows which had red and black paintings. May be it is a marking sign?

Actually, it is difficult to speak about the length because of not totally saving it. Scientists of HAEE, who conducted excavations in Toprak -Kala, consider that the length of arrows was about 1m by taking into consideration the length of tip and arrow head and plumage of it.

Also Khorezm Soldiers were armed with long straight swords which had a crossed sword-hilt with round and figure make up for swords. Such kind of swords can be found and observed on Anikov dish.

Moreover, one of the most widespread types of weapon was gilts or in other words cannon-balls. They had round and cubic form, which was made from clay and stone. Diameter of gilts was from 4.5sm to 7.2sm, weight about 238gr. Mostly these

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giltas can be observed on many monuments of ancient Khorezm and other districts of Central Asia. In addition, about usage of this kind of weapon in Central Asia not only archaeological, but also written information was kept .

All weapons Khorezm people created themselves. Findings from Toprak-Kala support this information, because only this place is supposed to be a territory where the masterly of bows, arrows, spears .giltas was found. Khorezm was very popular or the production of bows. "Bows, which can be used by the strongest powerful people, are produced in Khorezm"- Makdasi wrote it [9].

Swords and other craft were made from copper. It is supported not only by archaeological findings, but also by information from the text of Gerodot: "They (horasmi) fight with bows and giltas, armed very simply. Everything which is necessary for the production of all craft is made from copper" [3, 7].

### Conclusion

Copper was also used for chest coat of mail for horses, as it can be seen on Anikov dish. Due to this an army had only minimal losses in war. Such strong group of soldiers dressed in coat of mail blouses with

horses was very confident in getting a victory in different fighting's. If even an enemy reached Khorezm soldiers they were very resistant and reliable and overcome all barriers on their way those times.

Thus, Khorezm military dress represents unique complex, which gives information about historical and military-political position of ancient Khorezm. It was very powerful and independent state. And could save its independence owing to a powerful and reliable army, which was divided into horse and foot one.

An arming in Khorezm played an important role and occupied an essential position those times. Military dress was very comfortable, which enabled to move without any difficulty and restraint and was different with its social indications and type of army.

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