

ИСТОРИЧЕСКОЕ ОРУЖИЕВЕДЕНИЕ

2015

Gorbunov V.

LONG BLADE WEAPON OF TURKIC CAVALRY¹

Abstract: *The article describes the long blade weapons for melee of Turkic horsemen – kilich, translated by linguists as a sword, but it is likely that it also meant the sabre because there is no separate term for this type of weapon in early Turkic written monuments. In the basis of the study is the analysis of Archaeological materials originating from the territory of Central and Middle Asia, where we studied the monuments of Turkic culture. Despite the fact that series of long blade weapons of the Turkish culture is small, it covers all stages of existence of the community. Its analysis makes it possible to outline the main trends in the development of this weapon of Turkic cavalry. During the formation of the Turkic ethnos (460-552 years) single-edged swords with the straight hilt and pommel hook, some of which supplied with rectangular cross-hair were used. During the existence of the first Turkic khaganate (552-657 years) single-edged and double-edged swords with a straight handle, without crosshair or with rhomboid-hexagonal cross-hairs were used. Emergence of the sabers came to the period of the second Eastern Turkic (682-744 years) and Turgesh khanates (699-756 years). The first samples had one-and-half-edged blade and a straight handle without the cross-hairs. After the settlement in the prairies of Central Asia the rule of the Uyghur khaganate (745-840.), the Turkic set of bladed weapons included one and half edged swords and sabers with rectangular cross hairs. In the period of great power of the Kyrgyz khaganate (840-950.) among the Turks there was a change of sabers due to the tilt*

¹ Work is made at financial support of RGNF within the research project "Ethno-cultural processes in the South of Western Siberia in the early middle ages", № 14-01-00463a.

of the handle, the appearance of the holder with pull tab at the base of the blade and cross-shaped crosshair. At the final stage of the existence of Turkic culture (950-1100 years) new changes in the long-bladed weapon were not observed. In general, the development of Turkic swords and sabers came to increasing the length of the blade (from 60 to 80 cm), the transition from a straight to an inclined handle and equipped with crosshairs, which also increased its length (from 6-7 to 10-11 cm). Its evolution was aimed at creating structures optimal for use in a cavalry battle. It resulted in the basic requirements for such weapons: not too heavy, a sufficient length and an emphasis on slashing strike for the sword and cut-and-slash strike for sabers. The thrusting function with all its importance remained additional for equestrian warrior.

Keywords: *sabre, sword, Turks, blade, handle, edge, Kaganat, cavalry*

Long blade weapons (swords and sabers) were an indispensable tool for close-in-action of Turkic horsemen. According to the Chinese dynastic Chronicles of *Zhōu-shu* and *Suīshū* [Liu Maocai, 2002: 19-20] it had been used among the Turkic panoply, along with bows and arrows, coats of mail and spears. Turkic sources – inscriptions of the famous generals of the second Eastern Turkic Khaganate (682-744 years) mentioned of the use of swords (sabers) in a cavalry battle. Thus, on the stele of the monument of Kul-Tegin there is the following sentence: "having sit on the white (horse) Azman, rushed to the attack, he put a knife into six men, in the crowd, he has pinned the seventh by the sword" [Malov, 1951: 42] or in another translation "having sit on the white [horse] Azman, he cried loud and went to attack and he struck six soldiers. The seventh warrior he smote with the sword in hand-to-hand fighting" [Tugusheva, 2008: 47].

Turkic word with the meaning «long blade weapons for melee» – *kilich*, translated by linguists as a sword [Ancient Turkic dictionary, 1969: 442-443], but it is likely that it also meant the sabre because there is no separate term for this type of weapon in early Turkic written monuments.

Archaeological materials originating from the territory of Central and Middle Asia, where we studied the monuments of Turkic culture, give the real idea of Turkic long blade weapons. We managed to gather information about 14 swords and 6

sabres. The first kind – the swords with a straight blade regardless of the number of edges and the position of the handle, the second type – the sabers, items with even slightly curved blade [Gorbunov, 2006: 57]. Most of the swords and sabers were found in the burial objects and only one item was found in funeral and ritual complexes.

Altai:

1. Kyzyl-Tash, fence № 2. In the pit, in the Western part of the fences, votive iron sword was found which is smaller model of the combat model [Soenov, Ebel, 1996: 117 (Fig. 3-1)]. Sword dimensions: blade length 7.3 cm, maximum width 0.9 cm, maximum thickness of 0.2 cm; handle length 3 cm, maximum width 0.5 cm; the cross – length of 0.8 cm, maximum width of 0.2 cm Blade is single edge. In cross section the blade has a triangular shape. Handle of sword is straight, with the pommel forging in the form of a hook. The sword is equipped with a cross-guard, description of which in the longitudinal direction is like a rectangle. Fiber of the tree, indicating the presence of a wooden sheath (Fig. 1, 1) has been on the blade. There was the votive spear and 10 full-sized armor plates together with the model of the sword in the pit fence № 2. According to the inventory, the object dates back to the 2nd half V – 1st half of VI A.D.

2. Ust-Biik-III, barrow №5. In the burial place of a man with a horse a piece of an iron sword had been found. It was located on the right side of the deceased warrior, under the quiver, along the ulna of the arm [Tishkin, Gorbunov, 2005: 62 (Fig.23)]. The fragment consisted of the lower part of the blade length 21 cm, with the greatest width 2.6 cm, with a maximum thickness of 0.8 cm. Blade is single edge, in cross section triangular in shape. The end of the blade, 5 cm from the tip, is slightly arched from the side of the back. This detail of the design is similar to the weapon bulan-koba culture of the Altai mountains [Gorbunov, 2006: 59 (Fig. 48-2)] , and, taking into account these similarities, we can assume that the sword from the barrow № 5 had other common features: the lack of cross guard and the hook pommel (Fig. 1, 2). In favor of this reconstruction discovery of the model of the sword mentioned above from early turkic fences makes evidence. The collection of weapons from the barrow №5, in addition to the sword, consisted of a composite bow and

quiver of arrows. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. V – 1st half. VI A.D.

3. Kudirge, barrow №9. In the burial of a man with a horse fragmented iron sword was found. The product was located some distance to the left of the warrior from shoulder to hip, point down [Gavrilova, 1965: 24 (table. XV.-A)] . Sword dimensions: blade length 69,5 cm, maximum width 4.8 cm, maximum thickness of 0.8 cm; handle – length 10 cm, maximum width 3.2 cm; the cross – length 7 cm, maximum width 1.8 cm. Blade is double-edged. In cross section the blade has the shape of lens. Handle is on one line with the blade (straight). In the middle part of the handle has a visible constriction, and in the upper has two holes, in which are inserted iron pins, used for fastening wooden plates on the handle. The sword is equipped with a crossguard, having in the longitudinal axe, a diamond shape with cut long endings, which makes it in the shape of hexagon. From the scabbard of the sword four iron bands covered with birch bark, evenly spaced along the length of the blade had survived. (Fig. 1, 3). The collection of weapons from the barrow №9, along with the sword included the composite bow, quiver of arrows and a dagger. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VI – 1st half. VII centuries AD

4. Kudirge, barrow №12. In the burial of a man with a horse a piece of an iron sword, which lay on the left, at some distance, from the skull of the warrior was found. From the scabbard of this sword the iron chape [Gavrilova, 1965: 25 (table. XX.-A)] was found. Part of a sword was a handle part with part of the blade. Dimensions: blade length 12 cm, maximum width 4 cm, maximum thickness of 0.8 cm; handle – length 10.8 cm, maximum width of 3.2 cm. Blade with a single edge. In cross section the blade is in triangular shape. Handle is straight with a noticeable narrowing to the top. There are the relics of a tree from the plates of the handle. The chape of the sheath is rectangular outline with the protrusion on the bottom edge (Fig. 1, 4). The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VI – 1st half. VII centuries A.D.

5. Ulandrick-I, barrow №10. In the burial of a man with two horses a fragment of iron sword, which lay to the left of the deceased along the femur was found. It was a blade fragment with a length of 16 cm relics of wooden scabbard [Kubarev,

2005: 366 (table. 2)]. The object itself is not published. The collection of weapons from the barrow №10, except for the sword, included the composite bow, quiver of arrows and a spear. The tomb dates 2nd half. VI – 1st half. VII centuries A.D. according to radiocarbon analysis

6. Kara-Koba I, barrow №85. In the burial of a man with two horses an iron sword was found. It was lying to the left of the warrior, from the elbow to the beginning of the tibia bone, point downward [Mogilnikov, 1997: 199 (Fig.2)]. Sword dimensions: blade length 66,5 cm, maximum width 4.5 cm, max thickness 1.2 cm; handle – length 10.5 cm, maximum width 4 cm; the cross – length 7.6 cm, maximum width 2 cm. Blade with a single edge. In cross section it has a pentagonal shape. Handle is straight with a pronounced narrowing towards the pommel. The sword has a crossguard. Its outline in a longitudinal plane is close to a rectangular shape. There are relics of wooden scabbard on the blade, the end of which is decorated with bouferolle. Its narrow part is wrapped with silver sheet and wide side with bound iron (Fig. 1, 5). The collection of weapons from the barrow №85, in addition to the sword, consisted of a composite bow and quiver of arrows. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VII – 1st half. VIII century A.D.

7. Shibe-2, Barrow №2 [Mamadakov, Tsyb, 1993: 203-205 (Fig. 1)]. In the burial of a man with a horse an iron sword, which was located on the left across from the skull of the deceased and came under the humerus was found. Sword dimensions: blade length 59,2 cm, maximum width of 3.4 cm, the maximum thickness of 1.1 cm, handle – length 8.8 cm, maximum width 2.5 cm. Blade has a single edge. The tip of it is broken. Handle of sword has a slight tilt to the side of the blade, its upper edge is also broken (Fig. 1, 6). The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VII – 1st half. VIII century A.D.

8. Yabogan-I, barrow №1. In the burial of a man with a horse iron sword was found. It was on the left side of the warrior, from the level of the skull to the pelvis and it was held under the humerus, tip was up [Kocheev, Surazakov, 1994: 71-74 (Fig. 2)]. The total length of the sword 70 cm. Blade is single edge with relics of wooden scabbard. The object itself is not published. The collection of weapons from the barrow №1, except for the sword, included a composite bow and quiver of arrows. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VII – 1st half. VIII

century A.D.

9. Jolene-I, barrow №9. In the burial of a man with two horses an iron saber was found. It was located on the left side of the deceased, from the middle of the humerus to the beginning of tibia and fibula, partly under the elbow, point was down [Kubarev, 2005: 372 (tab. 59)]. The dimensions of the sabre: blade length 74.4 cm, the greatest width 2.6 cm, maximum thickness of 0.8 cm, the deflection of the backrest 0.6 cm; handle – length 6 cm, maximum width of 2.2 cm; the cross – length 6.4 cm, maximum width 0.8 cm. Blade is one and half edged. Most of it is provided with a single blade on the convex side, while the opposite side is forged in the form of the back. But the lower part of the blade, at a distance of 10 cm from the edge, divided in two edges. In the cross section of the blade single edge blade has the shape of a pentagon, and its two-edge part forms an asymmetrical diamond pattern. Handle is straight and narrow towards the pommel, the overall length of the handle was 12 cm. The crossguard is sub-rectangular in shape in the longitudinal axe. Underneath there is a narrow collarpiece on the base of the blade (Fig. 3, 2). On the blade there were the relics of sheaths from two wooden planks wrapped with birch bark, iron rings and brackets for hanging to the belt straps on the baldric. On the back of the blade of inlaid gold wire, a Sogdian inscription was made " This sword is Kathana's, (son?) [...]. And let no harm to him" [Kubarev, 2005: 100 (tab. 59)]. The collection of weapons from the barrow №9, in addition to swords, included the composite bow, quiver of arrows, a combat knife and an axe. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VIII – 1st half. IX centuries A.D.

10. Besh-Ozek, barrow. In destroyed embankment during the construction work, among the stones, an iron saber was found [Kocheev, Khudyakov, 1993: 239 (Fig. 1)]. Probably the object represented a ritual structure. Similar barrows without burials but with placed under a mound items of weapons and gear of riding horse known for a number of Turkic monuments of the Altai mountains [Ilyushin, 1990: 117-119 (Fig. 1); Mamadakov, Gorbunov, 1997: 117 (Fig. 6.-24–25)]. The dimensions of the saber: blade length 77.5 cm, maximum width 2.5 cm, maximum thickness of 1 cm, the deflection of the back 0.7 cm; handle – length 9 cm, maximum width 1.6 cm; the cross – length 11.5 cm, greatest width 1.6 cm. Blade is one and half edged . The lower part of the blade, at a distance of 15 cm from the tip, split in

two edges. In the cross section of the single-edge blade it is in triangular shape, and its double-edged part – asymmetrically-rhombic. The handle of the saber is tilted slightly in the direction of the main blade, with a noticeable narrowing to the top. In the central part it is provided with a pin for fastening the plates of the handle. The crossguard of the saber is feigned, in the longitudinal plane is of the cruciform shape. The basis shape is a rectangle with a diamond-shaped ledge in the middle and extended endings. Under it on the base of the blade there is hoop with a short reed from the blade (Fig. 3, 3). Based on typological characteristics of this instance of bladed weapons can be dated to the IX–XII centuries A.D, and in the framework of Turkic culture 2nd half IX – 1st half X centuries A.D. [Gorbunov, 2006: 71].

11. Baltargan, grave in the rocky grotto. In the burial of a man with a horse an iron saber [Hudiakov, Kocheev, Monosov, 1996: 46-47 (Fig. 1.-1)] was found. Its dimensions are: blade length 80,5 cm, maximum width 3.2 cm, maximum thickness of 1 cm, the deflection of the back 0.5 cm; handle – length 8.8 cm, maximum width 1.6 cm; the cross – length of 10.3 cm, maximum width 2 cm. Blade is one and half edged. The lower part of the blade, at the distance of 13.5 cm from the tip, is split on two blades. In the cross section of the single-edge blade is triangular, and its double-edged part – asymmetrically-rhombic. Handle is tilted in the direction of the main blade, and tapering to the finial. In the central part it is provided with a pin for fastening the plates of the handle. The crossguard is affected, sub-rectangular shape with slightly flared ends. Underneath on the base of the blade there is a narrow yoke (Fig. 3, 4). Collection of weapons from the graves, in addition to swords, included 20 iron arrowheads. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. X–XI centuries A.D.

12. Kalbak-Tash, barrow №2. In the burial of a man with a horse an iron sword was found, which was located along the right hand of the deceased under the availability and quiver, tip down [Kubarev, 2005: 380 (tab.115)]. Sword dimensions: blade length 76 cm, maximum width 4 cm; max thickness 1.2 cm; handle length 17 cm, maximum width 2.8 cm; the cross – length of 9.6 cm, greatest width 1.6 cm Blade is single edged, in cross-section is in triangular shape. The handle is tilted towards the blade. It is crowned by a bronze gold-plated cap. The cross-guard is probably in

rectangular shape. On the blade the relics of a wooden scabbard covered in handle pleated leather with a bronze clip at the mouth. The cross-guard and the middle of the scabbard gilded bronze plaques-brackets for hanging to the belt (Fig. 2, 5). The collection of weapons from the barrow №2, along with the sword included a composite bow and quiver of arrows. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. X–XI centuries A.D.

13. Katanda II, barrow №1. In the burial of a man with a horse an iron sword was found, which was lying with the left side of the deceased [Zakharov, 1926: 100)]. The object itself is not published. The collection of weapons from the barrow №1, except a sword, comprised of 17 iron arrowheads. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. X–XI centuries A.D.

14. Katanda II, big barrow. In the intake burial of a man with a horse (or many horses) an iron saber [Zakharov, 1926: 100)] was found. The object itself is not published. Probably, here along with the saber there were several iron arrowheads. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. X–XI centuries A.D.

Tuva:

15. Aymyrlyg-I, group V, barrow №5. In the plundered burial of a man with a horse fragments of an iron sword [Ovchinnikova, 1990a: 96-98 (Fig. 8.-7); Ovchinnikova, 1990b: 80 (Fig. 38.-15)] were recorded. Single edge blade and rounded pommel had been saved. Their dimensions are: blade length 11.6 cm, maximum width 3.2 cm; pommel – 5x4,5 cm. Blade in cross section is triangular (Fig. 2, 3). From the set of weapons in the burial barrow №5, in addition to the sword, pair of bony plates on the grip composite bow and the pieces of a birch bark quiver were found. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half. VII – 1st half. VIII century A.D.

16. Dag-Arazy (Aymyrlyg-3), group V, barrow №1. In the burial of a man with a horse an iron sword was discovered. It was located along the left hand under the warrior's quiver [Ovchinnikova, 1982: 80 (Fig. 15.-1)]. Sword dimensions: blade length 74 cm, maximum width 4cm; handle – length of 18.6 cm, maximum width 2.8 cm; the cross – length 8 cm, maximum width 2 cm. Blade of the sword is one and half edged with relics of wooden scabbard. The handle is slightly tilted in the direction of the main blade. It is crowned by a dedicated rounded pommel. The

cross-guard is probably affected, in rectangular shape in the longitudinal plane (Fig. 2, 4). The collection of weapons from the barrow №1, in addition to the sword, included the composite bow, quiver of arrows, symbolic of the armour of two steel plates and wooden panels. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the VIII – 1st half. IX century A.D.

The Minusinsk hollow:

17. Shestakovo, barrow №3, grave «A». In the intake burial of a man with a horse a fragmented iron sword with the dented end of the blade and broken handle was fixed. It was located along the left hand of the warrior [Hudyakov, 2004: 37 (Fig. 34.-1)]. Size of blade: length 78 cm, maximum width 4 cm. Blade is single edged (Fig. 2, 1). Collection of weapons from this burial, along with the sword, included composite bow, arrows and a combat knife. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half- IX – 1st X A.D.

18. Ibyrgys-Kiste, barrow №4. In the burial of a man with two horses an iron sword was found. It was lying on the right half of the skeleton, from the shoulder to the knee, pointing downwards [Hudyakov, 2004: 34-35 (Fig. 31)]. Sword dimensions: blade length 76 cm, maximum width 3.5 cm, maximum thickness 1 cm; handle length 16 cm, maximum width 3 cm; the cross – length 10.2 cm, greatest width 1.6 cm. Blade is a single edge sword. The handle is slightly tilted and rounded pommel ends more shifted toward the blade. Crossguard is rectangular outline in a longitudinal plane with slightly expanding ends. On the blade there are remains of the wooden scabbard and two iron clips with straps for hanging to the belt. The lower part of the scabbard had a coil of strips of birch bark (Fig. 2, 2). The collection of weapons from the barrow №4, in addition to the sword, included a quiver of arrows and a combat knife. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half X – 1st half XI A.D.

Tien-Shan:

19. Besh-Tash-Koroo-II, barrow №3. In the burial of a man with a horse an iron saber lying on the left side of the deceased [Tabaldiev, 1996: (Fig. 9-10); Hudyakov, Tabaldiev, 2009: 117] was found. Its dimensions are: blade length 73 cm, maximum width 4.5 cm, maximum thickness of 1.2 cm, the deflection of the back 1.8 cm; handle length 16 cm, maximum width of 3.2 cm. Blade is one and half edged.

The lower part of the blade, at a distance of 8.5 cm from the tip, is split in two edges. In the cross section of the single-edge blade is in triangular in outline, and its two-edge portion is lenticular. The hilt of the sword is straight and even has a wooden lining leather. The blade was placed in a wooden scabbard with steel chape and clip on mouth and leather loop for hanging to the belt (Fig. 3, 1). The collection of weapons from the barrow №3, along with the sword, included a composite bow and quiver of arrows. The inventory of the tomb dates back to the 2nd half VII – 1st half VIII century A.D.

20. Besh-Tash-Koroo-II, plundered barrow. Here a fragment of iron blade sabre was found. It is reported that the cross section and shape of the preserved part it is similar to the sword from barrow №3 [Hudyakov, Tabaldiev, 2009: 117]. The object itself is not published. This object is apparently also refers to the 2nd half VII – 1st half VIII century A.D.

In the all monuments of Turkic culture mentioned above can be noted the following co-occurrence of swords and sabers with other weapons:

- 1) With bow and arrows- 6 times.
- 2) With arrows -3 times.
- 3) With bow, arrows, dagger or combat knife – 2 times.
- 4) With armor, shield, bow and arrows – 1 time.
- 5) With bow, arrows, a combat knife and an ax – 1 times.
- 6) With a bow, arrows and spear – 1 time.
- 7) With the armour and spear – 1 time.
- 8) With arrows and a combat knife – 1 time.
- 9) Without other types of weapons – 4 times.

The number of Turkic objects with swords and sabers comes short of the graves, where only arms [Gorbunov, 2007: 86] were found, but it is quite equal to the objects in which the spear (16) [Gorbunov, 2012: 120] and armor (26) [Gorbunov, 2013: 22-24] were found.

Despite the fact that series of long blade weapons of the Turkish culture is small, it covers all stages of existence of the community. In this case, it is possible to outline the main trends in the development of this weapon Turkic cavalry.

During the formation of the Turkic ethnos (460-552 years) single edge swords with the straight hilt and pommel hook, some of which supplied with rectangular cross-guard were used (Fig. 1, 1-2). They were the legacy of the previous period of the "great migration" and practically copied the samples of the characteristic of swords of southern Siberia II–V centuries A.D. [Gorbunov, 2006: 64].

During the existence of the first Turkic khaganate (552-657 years) single-edged and double-edged swords with a straight handle, without crossguard or with rhomboid-hexagonal crossguard (Fig. 1, 3-4) were used.

Emergence of the sabers came to the period of the second Eastern Turkic (682-744 years) and Turgesh khaganates (699-756 years). The first samples had one and half edged blade and a straight handle without the crossguard (Fig. 3, 1). Swords were single edged at this time. Transition from a straight to an inclined handle and an emergence of selected pommel for the best hold in your hand was noted. Part of the sword is provided with a rectangular crossguard, but still there are swords without crossguard (Fig. 1, 5-6; 2, 3).

After the settlement in the prairies of Central Asia the rule of the Uyghur khaganate (745-840.), the Turkic set of bladed weapons included one and half edged swords and sabers with rectangular crossguard. The second short edge, probably, came to the swords from the sabers. The sabers still had a straight handle, but it had received a narrow collarpiece on the base of the blade, and the swords were supplied with inclined handle with a noticeable pommel (Fig. 2, 4; 3, 2).

In the period of great power of the Kyrgyz khaganate (840-950.) among the Turks there was a change of sabers due to the tilt of the handle, the appearance of the holder with pull tab at the base of the blade and cross-shaped cross-guard (Fig. 3, 3). Swords are single-edged, but the lack of well preserved items does not allow pointing out others their peculiarities (Fig. 2, 1).

At the final stage of the existence of Turkic culture (950-1100 years) new changes in the long-bladed weapon was not observed. Single edge swords and one and the half sabers were observed. They have a slanted handle and a rectangular crossguard (Fig. 2, 2, 5; 3, 4).

In general, the development of Turkic swords and sabers came to increasing the length of the blade (from 60 to 80 cm), the transition from a straight to an inclined

handle and equipped with crossguard, which also increased its length (from 6-7 to 10-11 cm). Its evolution had been aimed at creating structures optimal for use in a cavalry battle. It resulted in the basic requirements for such weapons: not too heavy, a sufficient length and an emphasis on cutting strike for the sword and cut-and-slash strike for sabers. The thrusting function with all its importance remained additional for equestrian warrior.

Turkic swords and sabers were everyday weapons of the prairie rider indispensable in a fast-moving horse fights related to attacks and raids. In proper battle, where the main role was played by lance [Gorbunov, 2012: 123], swords and sabers were used at the last final stage of the battle. They were ineffective against plate armor and were meant mainly to break up the parts of the armour and hitting the unprotected areas.

Despite the small number of finds, for the Turks it is possible to ascertain the wide spread of long blade weapons, according to his frequent presence on stone sculptures. Only from the territory of the Russian part of the Altai 49 such images [Kubarev, 1984: (Table. I-L); Kubarev, Kocheev, 1988: (Table. IV)] were published, and with the other regions this figure will be several times more.² This suggests that swords and sabers had a considerable part of ordinary soldiers.

Turkic swords and sabers were worn and stored in a wooden scabbard, covered with leather or birch bark strips. The body of the sheath could additionally be certified by iron, or less frequently by bronze bands, in the amount of from 1 to 4 pieces (figure. 1, 3; 2, 2, 5; 3, 1). The lower part of the scabbard could also have metal parts. Body with silver leaf, finished in bouterolle was found (Fig. 1, 5) or there is an evidence of the use of iron chapes and the segment of rectangular shape (Fig. 1, 4; 3, 1).

Hanging the scabbard to the baldric belt was made by belt, fixed to the scabbard by means of bands, staples, rings and loops. Method of hanging the scabbard on 2 baldric strap was noted. In the end of the scabbard in two places, closer to the mouth and to the middle, iron or bronze clamps were attached (Fig. 2, 2, 5). A pair of brackets of segmented form depicted in many of the scabbard on Turkic stone

² The subject of accounting and analysis of images of weapons on Turkic statues requires a separate research work.

sculptures, as well as the hanging swords and sabers to the belt of 2 baldric belts in an inclined position, arm up and forward (Fig. 4). In the vast majority of statues swords and sabers the warriors were on the left side. The same was in funerary monuments. In 11 considered graves swords and sabers were on the left side of a person, and in 3 graves we observed right position of this weapon.³ The last exception is probably related to the fact that the warriors were left-handed.

Among real rare finds of swords and sabers in the Turkic monuments and their frequent images on stone sculptures there is a significant disparity. This can be explained by the fact that it was not obligatory to place in burial of soldiers the main types of melee weapons among the Turks. Apparently swords and sabers were thought only in special cases, for example in the absence of heirs, in case a personalized gift or to soldiers who made a feat on the battlefield.

³ This information is not available for 4 graves. They are either ravaged or not professionally excavated.

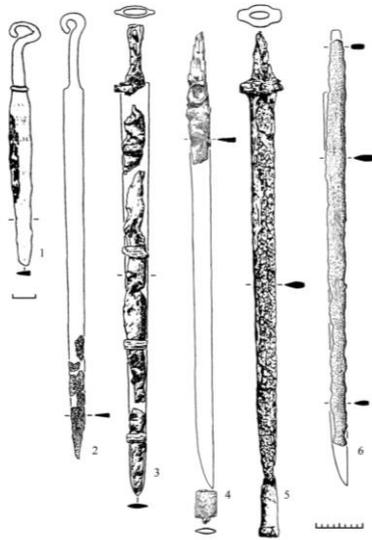


Fig. 1. Swords of Turkic monuments of Altai: 1 - Kyzyl-Tash, 2 - Ust-Biik-III, 3-4 - Kudirge, 5 - Kara-Koba-I, 6 - Shibe-2

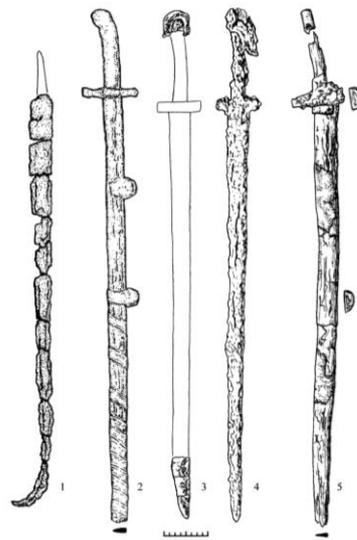


Fig. 2. Swords of Turkic monuments of the Minusinsk hollow (1-2), Tuva (3-4) and Altai (5): 1 - Shestakovo, 2 - Ibyrgys-Kiste, 3 - Aymyrlyg -I, 4 - Dag-Arazy -V, 5 - Kalbak-Tash.

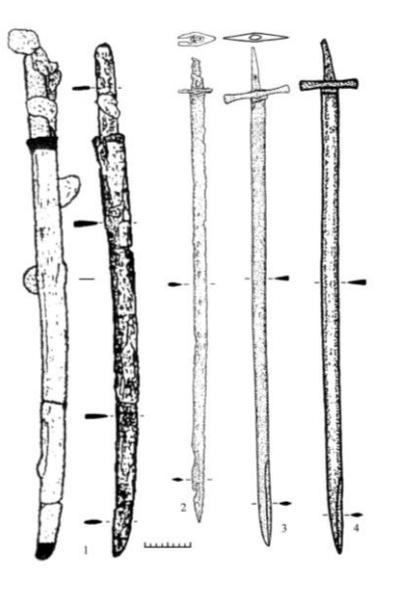


Fig. 3. Sabres of Turkic monuments of Tien-Shan (1) and Altai (2-4): 1 - Besh-Tash-Koroo -II, 2 - Jolene -I, 3 - Besh-Ozek, 4 - Baltargan.

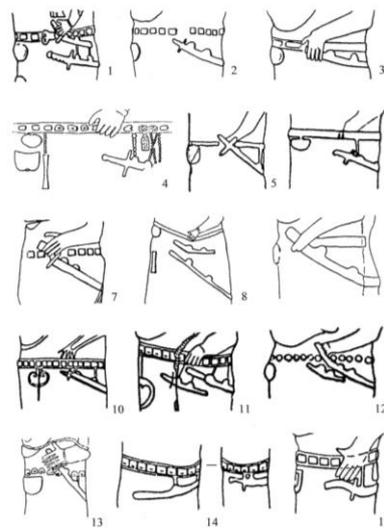


Fig. 4. Images of swords (1-13) и sabres (14-15) on the Turcuk stone statue of Altai. 1 - Ak-Tovurak, 2 - Aktru, 3 - Ardun-Tebe, 4 - Beliy Anuy, 5 - Besh-Ozek, 6 - Elo, 7 - Kaman-Ton, 8-9 - Kipchil, 10 - Makazhan, 11 - Torgon, 12 - Taya, 13 - Maltalu, 14 - Toto, 15 - Sogonolu.

Reference:

1. Ancient Turkic dictionary, 1969 - Древнетюркский словарь. Л., 1969 (Ancient Turkic dictionary. L., 1969)
2. Gavrilova, 1965 - Гаврилова А.А. Могильник Кудыргэ как источник по истории алтайских племен. М., Л., 1965 (Gavrilova A. A. the Burial ground of Kudirge as a source for the history of the Altaic tribes. M., L., 1965)
3. Gorbunov, 2006 - Горбунов В.В. Военное дело населения Алтая в III–XIV вв. Часть II: Наступательное вооружение (оружие). Барнаул, 2006 (Gorbunov V. V. Military population of Altai during the III–XIV centuries Part II: Offensive armament (weapons). Barnaul, 2006)
4. Gorbunov, 2007 - Горбунов В.В. Военное искусство алтайских тюрков в раннем средневековье // Вооружение и военное дело кочевников Сибири и Центральной Азии. Новосибирск, 2007 (Gorbunov V. V. Military art of the Turks of the Altai in the early middle ages // Armament and military science of nomads of Siberia and Central Asia. Novosibirsk, 2007)
5. Gorbunov, 2012 - Горбунов В.В. Оружие таранного удара тюркской конницы // История и культура средневековых народов степной Евразии: материалы II Международного конгресса средневековой археологии Евразийских степей. Барнаул, 2012 (Gorbunov V. V. Weapons of the ramming attack of the Turkish cavalry // the History and culture of medieval peoples of prairies of Eurasia: materials of the II International Congress of medieval archaeology of the Eurasian prairies. Barnaul, 2012)
6. Gorbunov, 2013 - Горбунов В.В. Пластины тюркского ламеллярного доспеха // Военное дело средневековых народов Южной Сибири и Центральной Азии. Новосибирск, 2013 (Gorbunov V. V. Turkic lamellar plate armor // Military medieval peoples of southern Siberia and Central Asia. Novosibirsk, 2013)
7. Hudyakov, 2004 - Худяков Ю.С. Древние тюрки на Енисее. Новосибирск, 2004 (Hudyakov Y. S. Ancient Turks on the Yenisei river. Novosibirsk, 2004)

8. Hudiakov, Kocheev, Monosov, 1996 - Худяков Ю.С., Кочеев В.А., Моносов В.М. Балтарганские находки // Гуманитарные науки в Сибири. Серия: Археология и этнография. 1996. №3 (Hudiakov Y. S., Kocheev V. A., Monosov M. V. Altargana finds // Humanitarian science in Siberia. Series: Archaeology and Ethnography. 1996. №3)
9. Hudyakov, Tabaldiev, 2009 - Худяков Ю.С., Табалдиев К.Ш. Древние тюрки на Тянь-Шане. Новосибирск, 2009 (Hudyakov, Y. S., Tabaldiev K.S. Ancient Turkic people in the Tien Shan. Novosibirsk, 2009)
10. Pyushin, 1990 - Илюшин А.М. Хронология и периодизация ритуальных курганов Горного Алтая // Охрана и использование археологических памятников Алтая. Барнаул, 1990 (Pyushin M. A. Chronology and periodization of ritual burial mounds of the Mountainous Altai // preservation and utilization of archaeological monuments of Altai. Barnaul, 1990)
11. Kocheev, Khudyakov, 1993 - Кочеев В.А., Худяков Ю.С. Палаш из Беш-Озек // Охрана и изучение культурного наследия Алтая. Барнаул, 1993. Ч. II (Kocheev V. A., Khudyakov Y.S. Backsword from Besh-Ozek // Protection and study of cultural heritage of Altai. Barnaul, 1993. Part II)
12. Kocheev, Surazakov, 1994 - Кочеев В.А., Суразаков А.С. Курганы могильников Ябоган-I и II // Археологические и фольклорные источники по истории Алтая. Горно-Алтайск, 1994 (Kocheev V. A., Surazakov A.S. Mounds tombs of Yabogan-I and II // Archaeological and folklore sources on the history of Altai. Gorno-Altai, 1994)
13. Kubarev, 1984 - Кубарев В.Д. Древнетюркские изваяния Алтая. Новосибирск, 1984 (Kubarev, V. D. Ancient Turkic statues of the Altai. Novosibirsk, 1984)
14. Kubarev, 2005 - Кубарев Г.В. Культура древних тюрок Алтая (по материалам погребальных памятников). Новосибирск, 2005 (Kubarev G. V. Culture of ancient Turks of the Altai (on materials of burial monuments). Novosibirsk, Russia, 2005)
15. Kubarev, Kocheev, 1988 - Кубарев В.Д., Кочеев В.А. Новая серия каменных изваяний Алтая // Археология Горного Алтая. Горно-

- Алтайск, 1988 (Kubarev, V. D., Kocheev V.A. New series of stone sculptures of the Altai // Archaeology of the Altai mountains. Gorno-Altai, 1988)
16. Liu Maocai, 2002 - Лю Маоцай Сведения о древних тюрках в средневековых китайских источниках // Бюллетень Общества востоковедов. М, 2002. Прил. 1 (Information about ancient reign of Turks in medieval Chinese sources // Bulletin of the society of Orientalists. M, 2002. app. 1)
17. Malov, 1951 - Малов С.Е. Памятники древнетюркской письменности. М.; Л., 1951 (Malov S. E. Monuments of ancient Turkic writing. M.; L., 1951)
18. Mamadakov, Gorbunov, 1997 - Мамадаков Ю.Т., Горбунов В.В. Древнетюркские курганы могильника Катанда-3 // Известия лаборатории археологии. Горно-Алтайск, 1997. Вып. 2 (Mamadakov Y. T., Gorbunov V. V. Ancient Turkic burial mounds of Katanda-3 // proceedings of the laboratory of archaeology. Gorno-Altai, 1997. Vol. 2.)
19. Mamadakov, Tsyb, 1993 - Мамадаков Ю.Т., Цыб С.В. Аварийные археологические раскопки у с. Шибе // Охрана и изучение культурного наследия Алтая. Барнаул, 1993. Ч. II (Mamadakov Y. T., Tsyb S. V. Emergency archaeological excavations at Shibe // Protection and study of cultural heritage of Altai. Barnaul, 1993. Part II)
20. Mogilnikov, 1997 - Могильников В.А. Курган 85 Кара-Кобы-I и некоторые итоги изучения древнетюркских памятников Алтая в связи с исследованиями в Кара-Кобе // Источники по истории Республики Алтай. Горно-Алтайск, 1997 (Mogilnikov V. A., Barrow 85 Kara-Koba I and some results of the study of ancient monuments of Altai in the context of research in the Kara-Kobe // sources on the history of the Altai Republic. Gorno-Altai, 1997)
21. Ovchinnikova, 1982 - Овчинникова Б.Б. Погребение древнетюркского воина в Центральной Туве // Советская археология. 1982. №3 (Ovchinnikova, B. B. Burial of the ancient Turkic warrior in Central Tuva // Soviet archeology. 1982. №3)

22. Ovchinnikova, 1990a - Овчинникова Б.Б. Древнетюркские памятники могильного поля Аймырлыг // Древности Востока. М., 2004 (Ovchinnikova, B. B. Ancient Turkic monuments sepulchral fields of Aymyrlyg // the Antiquities of the East. M., 2004)
23. Ovchinnikova, 1990b - Тюркские древности Саяно-Алтая в VI–X веках. Свердловск, 1990 (Ovchinnikova, B. B. Turkish antic Sayano-Altai in VI–X centuries. Sverdlovsk, 1990)
24. Soenov, Ebel, 1996 - Соенов В.И., Эбель А.В. Новые материалы из алтайских оградок // Гуманитарные науки в Сибири. Серия: Археология и этнография. Новосибирск, 1996. №3 (Soenov V. I., Ebel A. V. New materials from the Altai fences // Humanities in Siberia. Series: Archaeology and Ethnography. Novosibirsk, 1996. №3)
25. Tabaldiev, 1996 - Табалдиев К.Ш. Курганы средневековых кочевых племен Тянь-Шаня. Бишкек, 1996 (Tabaldiev K. S. Barrows medieval nomadic tribes of the Tien Shan. Bishkek, 1996)
26. Tishkin, Gorbunov, 2005 - Тишкин А.А., Горбунов В.В. Комплекс археологических памятников в долине р. Бийке (Горный Алтай). Барнаул, 2005 (Tishkin A. A., Gorbunov V. V. Complex of archaeological monuments in the valley of Biik (Gorny Altai). Barnaul, 2005)
27. Tugusheva, 2008 - Тугушева Л.Ю. Тюркские рунические письменные памятники из Монголии. М., 2008 (Tugusheva L.Y. Turkic runic written monuments from Mongolia. M., 2008)
28. Zakharov, 1926 - Захаров А.А. Материалы по археологии Сибири. Раскопки акад. В.В. Радлова в 1865 г. // Труды ГИМ. М., 1926 (Zakharov A. A. Materials on the archeology of Siberia. Excavations by acad. V. V. Radlov in 1865 // Proceedings of the state historical Museum. M., 1926).

