

HEAVENLY HORSES OF TURKESTAN IN HISTORICAL SOURCES

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Annotation: *The article deals with the analysis of historical horse breeds in the territory of Turkestan, horse trade and use in the military field, as well as the scientific opinions of research scientists about the place of the horse in the Turan region.*

Key words: *Horses, Vera Varmut, Karabayir, Kyrgyz, Akhaltekin horses, "Turkistan Collection", Fergana Racing Society.*

If we look at the history of human society, animals have an inconspicuous, but incomparable role in the development of mankind, in the development of civilizations, among other material things. From a scientific point of view, many examples can be given. The domestication of the dog in the Mesolithic period and the horse in the Iron Age made a great contribution to the development of early human society. As evidenced by the fossils found in the ancient settlements excavated by archaeologists, horses were trained for the first time in the ancient Turan land. The well-known German scientist Vera Warmuth commented on this: "Ancient fossils have always indicated that horses were first domesticated in Central Asia."¹

We tried to make some comments about the role of horses in human society and its development based on the materials of the "Turkestan Collection". The "Turkestan Collection", which was created on the initiative of the first governor-general of Turkestan, Von Kaufman, contains a lot of information about the Ferghana Valley and Ferghana horses. Most of them contain interesting news and articles about the decline of thoroughbred horses in Ferghana and the need to preserve them, the reasons for the decline of thoroughbred horses, and the history of horse breeds. Special studies were also conducted on local horse breeds. In V. Firsov's work entitled "Turkistan and Turkestan horse breeds", after the local inhabitants of Turkestan state that their horses are unparalleled in the world, he states that the ancient Chinese have written information about the fact that the people of southwest Tibet had horses unmatched in the world.²

V. Firsov continues his thoughts, in the second part of the work, citing information about Dovan horses and their history, he concludes that "black" horses bred in the regions of Oratepa and Sangzor today were bred from Dovan horses. Also, among Ferghana

¹ Primova M. (2021) Tarix fanini o'rganishda qadimgi manbalarda o'tning o'rni. «SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS» Scientific Journal 1(3). 120-123 b.

² Фирсов. В. Туркестан и Туркестанские породы лошадей.//Туркестанский сборник Т. 478. – С. 112 - 221.

people, it was believed that by giving children the names of horses as nicknames, i.e. as second names, harm that could be caused by evil spirits would be avoided. He mentioned the existence of traditions related to the fact that the head of a horse is considered to have divine power, and that swearing with a horse's head is of great importance³. In fact, we can see in the dissertation of researcher N. Ikromov "Kaviy of the Ancient Bactrian" that the custom of adding a noun to a person's name has existed in Turon lands since ancient times. According to the evidence presented in the study, it is characteristic that the word "asp" is added to the name of kaviy in many cases. For example, Kaviy Arvatasp, Kaviy Vishtasp. Therefore, they considered the horse a deified animal. It is known that the horse is the most "deep" animal. On a bulla found in the Uzun area, it is not for nothing that the human legs depicted in the divine, space-flying central character are drawn as strong as the legs of a horse.⁴

The materials of the "Turkestan Collection" provide information not only about the horse breeds distributed in Turkestan, but also about the geography of their distribution. In the reports and articles related to the period of Tsarist occupation, it was noted that "Equestrianism developed well in Fergana, Samarkand, Yettisuv, Syrdarya, and Transcaspian regions of Turkestan, mainly three big breeds: Kyrgyz, Karabayir, Akhaltaka horse breeds are famous. In particular, the best Kyrgyz horses were mainly found in Andijan, Namangan, and Osh districts. These horses were physically strong and could easily cover a distance of 100 or more versts (an ancient Russian unit of measurement, the value of which is equal to 1 verst = 1.0668 km⁵) without stopping⁶. In addition, there is information about the transportation of Ferghana-bred horses to other regions for the purpose of breeding and improving the horse breed. In one of the articles in section 510 of the "Turkestan collection", it is noted that "Yetsiv region is one of the most horse-breeding regions in Russia. According to statistics, as of January 1906, there were 765,329 head of horses in the region. In the spring of 1905, it is noted that the number of horses decreased due to the "jute" disease. Also, the height of thoroughbred horses brought from Fergana for breeding and breeding purposes is 2 arshin (ancient length measurement unit; the average value is taken as 71.12 cm in many sources. In Turkestan, a khonarshin with a length of about 1 meter was also used⁷) 1 vershik (4.4 cm⁸) or 2 arshin 2 vershik⁹" - it is mentioned.

In the "Turkestan collection" it is emphasized that attempts to preserve horse breeds in Ferghana began during the Russian Empire, and interesting information about the establishment of various societies for this purpose is also given. About the racing society

³ Фирсов. В. Туркестан и Туркестанские породы лошадей.//Туркестанский сборник Т. 479. – С. 1 - 183.

⁴ Икромов Н.М. Қадимги Бактрия Кавийлиги. 23-бет.

⁵ О'зМЕ. Birinchi jild. "V" harfi. Toshkent. 132-bet.

⁶ Коневодство Туркистана. Т.510. – С. 116 - 120.

⁷ О'зМЕ. Birinchi jild. "A" harfi. Toshkent. 672-bet.

⁸ О'зМЕ. Birinchi jild. "V" harfi. Toshkent. 135-bet.

⁹ Базеливский. Коневодств въ Семереченской области и мъры къ развитию уличшению его. Т. 510. – С. 136 – 148.

established in Fergana, E.M. Yudin in the 431st part of "Turkestan Collection", "There is a possibility that Fergana was recognized as the homeland of horses since ancient times, it was the homeland of various breeds of horses, and horses had great importance in the economy. It is noted that now horses are used only for riding, because cotton and agriculture have started to produce a lot of crops, and as a result, the demand for horses is decreasing, and the "Fargona Racing Society" was formed in Fargona in order to prevent the disappearance of horse breeds. And the information is provided about the fact that more than 30 people signed up for the racing society, that the meeting of the racing society was held from May 12 to 26, that the army chief Yudin was the vice-president of the club, the board members were Yasovul Shebalin and Captain Gonov, the members were Captain Trusov, Second Lieutenant Poslovsky was the treasurer, and the secretary was Captain Ponkratev. According to the statute, the president is the military governor of the region, and the main goal of the society is to improve and breed local horse breeds¹⁰.

Historian, research scientist M.Z. Orziyev, about the place of the horse in history and its importance in the military field, a significant part of the articles, reports and scientific studies in the "Turkestan Collection" is devoted to Fergana horses and their history, fate during the Russian occupation. The use of local horses in cavalry, artillery, and border units of the army, the possibility of selling horses to foreign countries based on the capabilities of the country, and conducting research in a number of directions related to the prevention of the disappearance of local horse breeds is considered one of the urgent tasks of today.¹¹" - expresses important thoughts.

In conclusion, it can be said that horses have a special place both in ancient times and in modern times. According to scientists and according to the evidence, horses were trained for the first time in the land of Turan. Horses are sacred animals of many peoples. Since ancient times, naming children after horses and hanging horseshoes above their gates has a deep meaning. It is no exaggeration to say that the fact that the "heavenly horses" of Ferghana have been famous for centuries is proof of how important a role horses play in the development of human society.

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¹⁰ Юдин Э.М. "Ферганское скаковое общество" Т. 431. – С. 161 – 163.

¹¹ Orziyev M.Z. "Turkiston to'plamida" Farg'ona otlari tarixiga oid ayrim ma'lumotlar.

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