

Second International Research Conference on the History of Arms and Armor in Kyiv, Ukraine

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REPORT

Abstract

The present report provides a short description of a conference titled "Second International Research Conference on the History of Arms and Armor in Kyiv, Ukraine". It was the second scientific conference dedicated to the study of historical weapons in Ukraine. A number of international experts in the field of historical arms and armor were invited to the conference. Each researcher had been asked to provide a short and a long article on a specific research subject. The short articles had already been published in a peer-review booklet that was handed out before the start of the conference. The long articles will be published together as a large collection of paper in future.

Keywords: conference; history of arms and armor; swords; cannons; research.

Second International Research Conference on the History of Arms and Armor in Kyiv, Ukraine

Resumen

El presente informe realiza una breve descripción de la "Second International Research Conference on the History of Arms and Armor in Kyiv, Ukraine". Fue la segunda edición de este evento científico realizado en en Ucrania y dedicado al estudio de las armas y armaduras históricas. Participó un elevado número de expertos en este ámbito de conocimiento. Cada uno de ellos elaboró un artículo breve y otro extenso sobre un tema específico de investigación. Los artículos breves se distribuyeron previamente al comienzo de la conferencia, mientras que los artículos extensos se publicarán en un futuro libro.

Palabras clave: conferencia; historia de las armas y de las armaduras; espadas; cañones; investigación.

Second International Research Conference on the History of Arms and Armor in Kyiv, Ukraine

Resumo

O presente texto apresenta uma breve descrição sobre a "Second International Research Conference on the History of Arms and Armor in Kyiv, Ukraine". Foi a segunda edição deste evento científico realizado na Ucrânia e dedicado ao estudo das armas e armaduras históricas. Neste evento, participaram um elevado número de especialistas nesta área de conhecimento. Cada um deles elaborou dois breves artigos (um curto e outro extenso) sobre o tema específico de investigação. Os artigos foram distribuídos no início da conferência. Os artigos extensos serão publicados num livro.

Palavras-chave: conferência; armas históricas; espadas; canhões; investigação.

1. Introduction

The second international weaponology conference was held from May 16 to 18, 2016 in Kyiv, Ukraine (see the report for the first edition of the conference in Toichkin & Khorasani, 2014). The conference was organized by National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, National Military History Museum of Ukraine, Institute of History of Ukraine and supported by Feldman Family Museum (Ukraine), Lezo group (Ukraine), «Razmafzar» international research group and «Антиквар» [Antiquary] journal (Ukraine). The organizers of the conference were Dr. Denis Toichkin (Institute of History of Ukraine), Ms. Tetyana Sosnovska (Head of the National Museum of History of Ukraine), Mr. Vladislav Taranets (Head of the National Museum of Military History of Ukraine) and Mr. Valeriy Smolij (Head of the Institute of History of Ukraine). One should note that such an event took place in Ukraine for the second time. The conference had an international nature with many researchers from different countries, many of them visited the academic forum for the second time. Although the development of archaeological research and the history of weapon

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collecting in Ukraine have a venerable long history, the weaponology as an auxiliary historical discipline in Ukraine is relatively a new science. Nevertheless, a community of professional researchers engaged in studying the history of historical arms and armor established a center of research to organize an event in Ukraine. While the first conference was foundational, the second one turns this event into a continuing tradition.

To present the latest scientific trends, it was important to invite well-known international and Ukrainian researchers. The speakers were: a) Ms. Iryna Forostyan (Metropolitan Museum of Art, Security Department, the Fund Research of Ancient Civilization; Museum of Trypillya, NY, USA), b) Dr. Manouchehr Moshtagh Khorasani (Razmafzar Organization and M. Khorasani Consulting, Frankfurt a. M. Germany), c) Mr. Andrea Lupo-Sinclair (Federazione Italiana Scherma Antica e Storica, Historical Fencing for the Italian Sport and Education Center, Milano, Italia), d) Mr. Andriy Paniv (Lviv Historical Museum, Lviv, Ukraine), e) Mr. Roman Prokhvatilo (Vasyl Krychevsky Poltava Local Historical Museum, Poltava, Ukraine), f) Prof. Iaroslav Lebedynsky (National Institute of Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Paris, France), g) Mr. Vitaly Kalinichenko (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine), h) Dr. Artem Papakin, (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine), i) Dr. Svyatoslav Tersky (Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine), j) Dr. Vyacheslav Grekov (Vasyl Karazin Kharkiv National University, Kharkiv, Ukraine), k) Dr. Anna Feuerbach (Hofstra University; Nassau Community College, NY, USA), l) Dr. Yury Bohan (Belarussian State Economic University, Minsk, Republic of Belarus), m) Dr. Vladimir Hutsul (Uzhhorod National University, Uzhhorod, Ukraine), n) Dr. Volodymyr Prokopenko (Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry and Petrochemistry of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine), o) Dr. Oleksij Sokyrko (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine), p) Dr. Olena Popelnytska (National Museum of History of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine), q) Mr. Svyatoslav Sychevskii (independent researcher, Kyiv, Ukraine), r) Dr. Dmytro Kolyadenko (Vinnitsa National Agrarian University, Vinnitsa, Ukraine), s) Mr. Roman Grigoriev (Oleksander Dovzhenko Glukhiv National Pedagogical University, Glukhiv, Ukraine), t) Dr. Olena Pohodyascha (National Museum of History of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine), u) Dr. Oleg Malchenko (Mykhailo Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archaeography and Source Studies, Kyiv, Ukraine), v) Ms. Mariana Verhoturova (Lviv Polytechnic National University, Lviv, Ukraine) w) Ms. Olena Shevchenko (National Museum of History of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine), and x) Dr. Oleksander Seredyuk (Independent researcher, instructor of Combat Hopak, Rokyni, Volynreg, Ukraine).

2. The Conference

The first speaker, Ms. Iryna Forostyan, sent greetings from the headquarters of Arms and Armor Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and All Cossack Historical Museum New Kuban to the organizers and participants of Conference. Ms. Forostyan emphasized the lack of large permanent exhibitions of Ukrainian collections worldwide. She also shared new contemporary methods of organizing US museum collections and ways of attracting new visitors and participants.

The report of the well-known researcher of Iranian arms and armor Dr. Manouchehr Moshtagh Khorasani was named "An Interpretation of Archery techniques in Persian Archery Manuals: a Practical Application". The goal of the following article of his speech was to analyze and compare the archery techniques described in five different Persian archery manuals of 16-18th centuries. The author described three parts of Persian archery manuals to establish a set of techniques for shooting with a Persian composite bow: a) grasping the bow grip, b) foot archery and horseback archery and c) drawing methods. Although some techniques such as sitting and standing positions are easier to follow, other techniques such as grasping the bow are sometimes harder to follow. Future research and findings in new Persian archery manuals will shed more light on this interesting subject.

Mr. Andrea Lupo-Sinclair presented a large topic titled "Historical Overview of the Progression of Fencing and Fighting Systems in Italy Compared to the Development of the Weapons and Social Context". By analyzing the development of cold steel in Italy and local manuscripts, the author concluded that by the end of the 16th century, the fencing was becoming an art in itself, focusing on the use of a single sword. The sword became longer and thinner and more thrust-

oriented by taking long attacking steps and lunges. The author detailed the foundations of a so-called “New School” of fencing beginning in the middle of the 17th century and its development.

In his report “Exhibiting Historical Weapons in the Lviv Historical Museum: Problems and Solutions” Mr. Andriy Paniv briefly examined the collection of historical weapons in Lviv Historical Museum and the prospects of updating the exhibition in the “Arsenal” Department.

Mr. Roman Prokhvatilo continued with his speech elaborating the museums tasks: “Arms and Armor Collection in the Vasyl Krychevsky Poltava Regional History Museum. History of the Creation and Perspectives of Development”. The author observed the history of Poltava Regional History Museum from its foundation until the present time, paid special attention to the formation of the great collection of historical weapon and presented the project of a new arms and armor exhibition.

In his presentation titled “From Sarmatia to Gaul: Three presumably Alan «notched blades» found in France”, Prof. Iaroslav Lebedynsky examined the unique archaeological finds. This study mainly expanded the known area of distribution of the notched blades in the past. The author also pointed out the possible ritual use of such swords and concluded that the three notched blades found in France could be attributed to the first-generation Barbarian immigrants in Gaul – corresponding to the finds from the France and most probably they could even be attributed to Alans. They are virtually identical to and contemporary with the examples from Central and Eastern Europe. Therefore, the author concluded that the notched blades had the same practical or ritual use. He added that future discoveries and the reconsideration of the available materials would provide additional information on the topic.

The report of Mr. Vitaly Kalinichenko was titled “New Findings of Medieval Weapons in the Ruhotyn Hillfort (Korneshty, Ukraine)”. It was devoted to the analysis of the medieval weapons found during the research of Ruhotyn Hillfort (Korneshty tract near Ruhotyn village, Ukraine). These included weapons for close and distant combat and rider and horse outfit and equipment. Melee weapons comprised an axe, a collection of sabers including the pommel, and fragments of a pallas scabbard. The items of long-range weapons consisted of arrowheads and quivers details. The protective gear included fragments of a mail armor. The authors carried out a detailed analysis and classification of artifacts. The researched materials could provide crucial information on the military and political history of the medieval population in the Middle Dniester.

The question of the place of manufacture and trading of arms and armor that were found in the Old Russian archaeological sites is one of the traditional problems in archaeological and arms and armor studies. However, it continues to be relevant even today. In the report titled “The Helmets and Eastern contacts of Ruthenia and Poland (10th – early 11th centuries)” Dr. Artem Papakin studied the origins of the helmet type II (after A. Kirpichnikov)— the most common type in the 10th and early 11th centuries in Central-Eastern Europe. These helmets were discovered in Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Hungary, and are usually regarded to be manufactured in early mediaeval Ruthenia or Poland. The author suggested that the type II helmets derived from 8–9th centuries Khazar helmets. The first known specimen of this type was found in the Magyar burial of the 9th century. The author discussed the possible ways of the distribution of this type of helmet from the Khazar Khaganate through Eastern and Central Europe due to migrations, long-distance trade and warfare.

In his report titled “The Swords from Belz in the Collection of Lviv Historical Museum”, Dr. Svyatoslav Tersky revealed interesting information regarding the study of medieval swords found in Belz (Ukraine). The author examined two important swords from the Lviv Museum collection and delved into the provenance and history of distribution of such sword types in the Ukrainian lands. He compared their morphology and marks with the known samples from Western European museums. Through a comparative analysis, the author dated swords from the second half of the 14th and the early of 15th centuries respectively.

The report of Dr. Vyacheslav Grekov titled “The Ancient Icons as the Historical Sources for Study of Arms and Armor” dealt with important topics for the usage of the iconographical sources in the study of weapons complex of warriors of South-Western Rus. The author stressed that the strong orthodox art traditions forced artists to portray objects following strict rules and traditions.

That is why the depicted arms and armors on icons significantly differ from the real prototypes. Dr. Vyacheslav Grekov showed the samples of images of common Christians Saints, their weapons and found specific local features in the images of their arms and armor. For this purpose, the author analyzed thirteen icons with the early Saint character of Rus — Boris and Gleb.

Dr. Anna Feuerbach, a well-known specialist in the field of history of the technology, production and decoration of antique weapons gave a speech titled “Trade in Swords and Sabers between the Khazars, Rus / Vikings, and the Islamic World during the 9th -10th centuries”. Her presentation was devoted to the discovery of the so-called “Ulfberht” swords that were made of crucible steel, most likely imported from the Islamic lands to the south-east reinforcing the evidence found in historical documents. By combining artifactual and textual evidence, the author explored the trade of arms between these distinct cultural regions.

Among the most recent Ukrainian studies devoted to the history of military technologies, one should consider the speech of Dr. Volodymyr Hutsul titled “The Armament of Household Troops (Curiensis) of Jan Olbracht Jagiellon, King of Poland, based the Registry of 1500”. The author used written and iconographic sources to investigate the weapon and ammunition of elite noble troops, the so-called “curiensis” of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Another report of Dr. Yury Bohan “The Features of Armaments in Belarusian Lands of Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the End of 14-15th centuries” studied the development of arms and armor in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the period of the second half of 14-15th centuries. The author examined archaeological, pictorial and written sources and concluded that the Eastern military traditions were gradually replaced by Western European influences in that period. One of the largest distributor of weapons to the lands of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 14-15th centuries was Poland.

Two more reports dealt with a very topical problem of studying of “*Kord*” — the type of the long-bladed, one edged-weapon, popular in the 15-16th centuries in the Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkan states, even in England and Scandinavia. The speech of Dr. Dmytro Kolyadenko was titled “*Kords*, their Distribution and Significance in Ruthenian Lands in 15–16th centuries”. The author suggested that the design features of *kords* suggested that they were made in knife workshops by the guilds of knifemakers. This design should be taken into consideration while determining and classifying *kords* as large combat knives. The report of Mr. Svyatoslav Sychevskii “The *Kords*: Late Medieval Cold Weapons from the New Acquisitions of the National Museum of History of Ukraine” was dedicated to the study of three *kords* found in Ternopil and Chernivtsi regions (Ukraine). The *kords* are unique findings that deepen our knowledge about the weapon complex in Ukrainian lands of the Late Medieval and Early Modern Time periods.

A collection of two armor sets examined by Dr. Olena Popelnytska was presented in her report “Armor of Francesco de Medici of the Second Half of the 16th century and Armor of Italian Rider of Early 17th century in the Collection of the National Museum of History of Ukraine”. Both armor suits were made in Italy in the second half of the 16th - early 17th centuries. They came from the collection of the Bohdan Khanenko, who bought them in 1890 in Rome. Both armors were designed for riders and have many common design features. They belong to the «Classic» type – the next phase of evolution «Maximilian» and «Milan» armor-plating, include helmets, armet, protection for the shoulders, hands, hips and feet. Both armors are richly decorated with engraving, gilding etc.

The two speeches of Dr. Volodymyr Prokopenko were devoted to different types of the saber scabbard mounts of 13th-14th and 15th-18th centuries respectively. First report was titled “Scabbard Mounts with «Shoulders» – One of the Types Saber Scabbard Mounts of 13 – 14th centuries”. Two main types of the scabbard mount can be distinguished: with long, narrow shoulders and wide leaf-shaped shoulders. The last one probably developed into the scabbard mounts with «wings» in the late 14th– early 15th centuries. This was the topic of the next report, titled “Scabbard Mounts with «Wings» – One of the Types Saber Scabbard Mounts of 15th – 18th centuries”. Since the 15th century this type of scabbard mount started to spread in the Middle East, North Caucasus and Eastern Europe. The author distinguished two main types of this scabbard mount: the early iron mounts of 15th-16th centuries and the later copper mounts of the so-called

«Chechuga» sabers of 17th–18th centuries. Scabbard mounts with “wings” consist of four obligatory elements: 1) Clamp which is a thin plate flexed in the scabbard form, 2) “wings” which have a complicated form and are placed on top of the scabbard, 3) the rivet with loop which binds the clamp and wings and 4) the ringbelt hanger which is inserted into the loop.

A number of important reports of the conference were devoted to the history of cannons. The first one was dedicated to the study of the technical capacity of the Cossack Hetmanate artillery park of the first half to the middle of the 18th century which was conducted by Dr. Oleksij Sokyrko and titled “Cannon Park of the Left Bank Ukrainian Hetman of the First Half –Middle of the 18th centuries”. The author studied the documents of General Military Chancellery and other sources. The total number of all cannons of the artillery park of the Cossack Hetmanate in the first half of the 18 century was about 300-400 units. Over the years the number of cannons in the park of the General Artillery remained stable. In 1729, there were 8 cannons and 10 mortars and in 1738, there were 12 guns and 10 mortars. In 1760, 35 cannons and 23 mortars were counted. According to a revision of 1737–1738, the artillery park included 274 cannons, and in 1760, there were 358 cannons.

In his presentation, titled “Two Captured Cannons from the Starodub Regiment Illustrated in P. J. Thelott’s Album, the Beginning of the 18th century”, Dr. Oleh Malchenko focused on the attribution of two guns of Starodub Regiment depicted in the album of the Swedish trophy artillery (autor P. J. Thelott). The author described the morphology of barrels and discovered their physical parameters. Dr. Oleh Malchenko paid attention to the epigraphy and heraldic elements of the owners of guns: Starodub Colonels P. Roslavets and M. Myklashevski, identity of cannon manufacture and the ornamental decoration of barrels as well. The researcher stressed the importance of studying artistic decorations on guns, especially the inventory figures for historical research of cannons.

The speech of Ms. Mariana Verhoturova was titled “Mortar’s Collection in the Lviv Historical Museum”. The author presented detailed descriptions and drawings of the 17th-century cast-iron mortar collection in Lviv Historical Museum, made comparative analysis of these military museum highlights with the similar ones in European museums and considered historiography of studying this topic in Ukraine. Ms. Mariana Verhoturova finished her report with an examination of the origin of this mortar type in Eastern Europe and an estimation of museum exhibits preservation.

Dr. Olena Pohodyascha continued with her speech “The Portrayal of Cold Steel on the Vishnevetsky and Zbarazhsky Prince Family Portraits from the Vishnevetskiy Castle”. There are 14 man portraits from the Vishnevetsky castle (Volhynian Governorate, Ukraine) in the National Museum of History of Ukraine’s art collection. The author studied the images of cold steel on the portraits of nobles of Vishnevetsky and Zbarazhsky family, explaining their features, different opinions regarding authenticity, as well as the potential of portraits as a historical source.

The speech of Mr. Roman Grigoriev titled “Weapon as the Main Part of the World Faleristic Heritage” was devoted to the topic of special historical subject related to the history of weapon. The author analysed the images of historical weapon on the medals of the world.

In her speech titled “The Prize *Shashka* in the Collection of the National Museum of History of Ukraine”, Ms. Olena Shevchenko presented a special *shashka* which was a prize weapon for the officer of Russian Imperial army captain Tunegov, who won fencing competitions, using two or three different types of weapons: swords and bayonets. The author analyzed the toponymic inscriptions on the blade, identified the inscription «Shaaf Söhne / St. Petersburg» engraved on the blade, and attributed it to the well-known Russian weapon manufactures– the Shaaf family of royal armourers.

A separate part of the conference consisted of two workshops. The first one devoted to the traditional Persian martial arts was conducted by Dr. Manouchehr Mostagh Khorasani, a well-known historian of weapons and the author of the most compelling to date research on the history of antique weapons from Iran. The second seminar was dedicated to the Renaissance art of rapier and dagger. It was headed by Mr. Andrea Lupo-Sinclair, the founder and technical director of FISAS, (Federazione Italiana Scherma Antica e Storica), National Didactical Director for Historical Fencing for the Italian Sport and Education Center.

Organizers offered a special free leisure and educational program for the participants and presented them the largest state and private collections of arms and armor in Ukraine. The participants had the guided tours on the rich collections of National Museum of History of Ukraine, National Museum of Military History of Ukraine, a private collection «The History of Sword» in Kyiv, Chernihiv Regional Historical Museum and the great exhibition of the private Feldman Family Museum in Chernihiv city, Lviv Historical Museum in the city of Lviv.

3.- Conclusión

Demonstrating a high level of international scientific cooperation and integration, the Conference in Kyiv has significantly spread its geographic coverage. Overall, the goals of the conference were reached. This event will surely set the foundation for cooperation among researchers of the history of arms and armor in private and state museums, including those inside the country and abroad. The second event showed that the conference has already become a regular event, and greatly increased the quality level by the help of the best national and international experts. Although the conference remained Ukrainian in origin and the venue, it has already gained an international significance and continues to develop. In the near future, the organizers of the conference are planning to publish a book including all scientific papers introduced in the conference.

Referencias

Toichkin, D., & Khorasani, M. (2014). First International Research Conference on Weaponology in Kyiv, Ukraine: A ground-breaking start. *Revista de Artes Marciales Asiáticas*, 9(1), 54-60.

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Author's biographical data

Dr. **Denis Toichkin (Ukraine)** is the author of two books on the history of Cossack cold steel, 46 printed articles (including 5 encyclopedic) and has been recognized as a specialist in the late medieval and early modern history of Eastern European arms and armor. He is known as an expert in Auxiliary Historical Subjects also. The graduate of the Kiev National University (1995). Since 1998 works in the Institute of History of Ukraine, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Department of Auxiliary Historical Subjects and Electronic Information Resources). The main works are: "Cossack Sabre in XVII-XVIII centuries: historical study of weapon"; "Bladed weapon of Cossack Nobles of the 16 – the first half of the 19th cc. Problems of attribution and classification". E-mail: denisvt@yandex.ua