

THE PECHENECS – SCRIPT

OVERVIEW

SCRIPT

What types of writing were in use among the Pechenegs and whether the Pechenegs left any inscriptions has not yet been fully determined. It is most likely that since the Pechenegs are closely related to the Cumans, Volga Bulgars and Khazars, who are known to have used a distinctive type of the Turkic runic script, that the Pechenegs also utilized a similar script.

Because the Pechenegs did not leave any written documents, the only available information about the Pecheneg language comes from proper names, toponyms, ethnonyms and a few artifacts.

THE PECHENECS:

A few Runic inscriptions have been found from Central Asia across to the Balkans indicating that the Pechenegs inhabited these areas at different times.

The article *Inscriptions on the vessels from Nagy-Szent-Miklos* written by I.N. Garkavets, stated that the runic inscriptions (10th century) on the gold vessels of the so-called “Attila's hoard” were determined to be Pecheneg ones.



L.I. Kyzlasov talked about the variants of the old Turkic scripts and classified the Pecheneg alphabet as belonging to the Eurasian group and claimed that the Pechenegs used the Tisza alphabet in the 8th and 10th centuries.

According to Golden, Németh and Ligeti, the Pechenegs were speakers of Common Turkic and like the Volga Bulgars and Khazars, they used a variant of the Turkic runic script.

Anna Comnena, in her *Alexiad*, repeatedly talks about the Cuman language and emphasizes its similarity to the Pecheneg language.

Discussion/Questions

1- Can we theorize what script the Pechenegs might have used based on the other Turkic groups they are related to?

Reading

- 1- Pritsak, O., *The Pechenegs, A Case of Social and Economic Transformation*, LISSE, THE PETER DE RIDDER PRESS, 1976.
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- 4- Кызласов, Л.И., *Рунические письменности евразийских степей*, Восточная литература, РАН, 1994.
- 5- Comnena, A., *The Alexiad*, Translated by E. R. A. Sewter, Penguin Books, 2003.

6- Golden, P., *An Introduction to the History of the Turkic Peoples Ethnogenesis and State-Formation in Medieval and Early Modern Eurasia and the Middle East*, Otto Harrassowitz, 1992.

7- Гаркавец, А.Н., “Надписи на сосудах из Надь-Сент-Миклоша”, *Э П И Г Р А Ф И К А В О С Т О К* А, X X X I V, 2019.

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