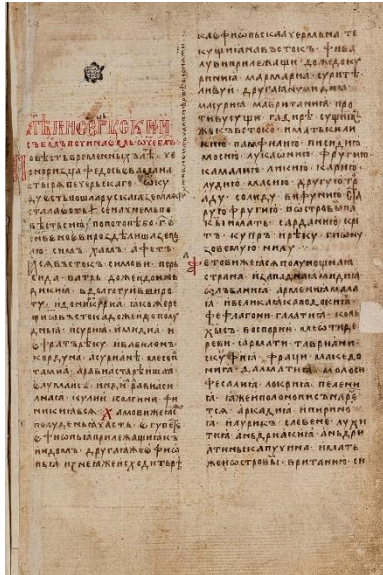


THE CUMANS– TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW

Archaeological findings, and the Kievan Rus' chronicles reveal that the Cumans introduced a new technology in weaponry and this technique was used during their military activities with the Rus'.



TECHNOLOGY

The Rus' chronicle *Ipatyevskaya letopis* (Ipatyev chronicle), which contains very important information for the beginning of Russian history, provides information on the Cumans' material culture that was used in their military activities.

Ipatyev Chronicle folio 3

The Chronicle multiple times mentions that the Cumans used a special bow and hand-held flamethrower during their fighting with the Rus':

"The Polovcians (Cumans), upon taking the city, destroyed it by fire, divided the inhabitants, and led them away among their tents to their relatives and kin."

"Then the Polovcians advanced to the attack with their bowmen in the van. When our men took position between the ramparts they set up their standards, and the bowmen advanced outside the rampart."

In another section of the Chronicle, there is information on military techniques that were used by the Cumans:

"Godless and cursed Konchak invaded Rus' with a great number of Cumans. He boasted with [his strength] and wanted to capture Rus' strongholds and burn them with living fire."

In a fresco this bow was depicted in the Cuman warriors bag.

Fresco depicting the king of Hungary, Saint Ladislaus' battle against the Cuman warrior, Dârjiu, Romania



Discussion/Questions

1-What is the significance of the Muslim mentioned in the Russian Chronicle who was with the Cuman?

Readings

- 1- Golden, P., "The peoples of the south Russian steppes", in *The Cambridge History of Early Inner Asia*, Edited by Denis Sinor, Cambridge University Press, 1990.
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- 3- Полное собрание русских летописей. Том II. Ипатьевская летопись, Языки русской культуры, 2, 1998, Ин-т рос. истории РАН , Клосс Б. М.
- 4- *The Russian Primary Chronicle, Laurentian Text*, Translated and edited by Samuel Hazzard Cross and Olgerd P. Sherbowitz-Wetzor, The Mediaeval Academy oAmerica, Cambridge, 1953.
- 5- Pict. Fresco depicting the king of Hungary, Saint Ladislaus' battle against the Cuman warrior, Dârjiu, Romania, <https://kazarbazar.com/saint-ladislaus-silk>