

ST. PETERSBURG STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM'S
**GOLDEN HUN TREASURES
& BLESSED MEANINGS**

IRINA ZASETSKAYA / GÖZDE SAZAK



*To my virtuous great elders,
Şemsa Erbil and Nakiye Ertuğrul...*

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IRINA ZASETSKAYA / GÖZDE SAZAK

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ABBREVIATIONS*

AAH	: Acta Archaeologica Hungariae
op.cit	: The work/article mentioned
See	: See
trans.	: Translated
DLT.	: Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk
ESA	: Eurasia Septentrionalis Antiqua
Cat	: Catalog
MNE	: Ministry of National Education
B.C.E.	: Before the Common Era
C.E.	: After the Common Era
CNM	: Common National Memory
TWRF	: Turkish World Research Foundation
TLA	: Turkish Language Association
THS	: Turkish Historical Society
etc.	: and such that, and so on
pub.	: Publications
c.	: Century

* Abbreviations are given in three sections: Russian (Cyrillic) abbreviations, translation of Russian abbreviations, English abbreviations.

Список сокращений

АН	- Академия Наук СССР
АСГЭ	- Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа
ИАК	- Известия Археологической комиссии
ИГАИМК	- Известия Государственной Академии истории материальной культуры
ИИАЭ	- Труды Института истории, археологии и этнографии АН Казахской ССР
ИНВСИК	- Известия Нижневолжского саратовского института краеведения
КСИА	- Краткие сообщения о докладах и полевых исследованиях Института археологии АН СССР
МАИЭТ	- Материалы археологии, истории, этнографии Таврии
МАК	- Материалы по археологии Кавказа
ОАК	- Отчет Археологической комиссии
СА	- Советская археология
СГЭ	- Сообщения Государственного Эрмитажа
СК	- Латышев В.В. Известия древних писателей греческих и латинских о Скифии и Кавказе. Том 2, вып. 2. СПб. 1906
ТИИАЭ	- Труды института истории, антропологии, этнографии
УЗСГУ	- Ученые записки Саратовского Государственного Университета
ААН	- Acta Archaeologica Hungaricae
ESA	- Eurasia septentrionalis antiquae

ABBREVIATIONS (TRANSLATION)

AN	- Akademiya Nauk SSSR (The Academy of Sciences of the USSR)
ASGE	- Arheologicheskii sbornik Gosudarstvennogo Ermitaja (The Hermitage Archaeological Complex)
IAK	- Izvestiya Arheologicheskoy komissii (The Bulletin of the Archaeological Commission)
IGAIMK	- Izvestiya Gosudarstvennoy Akademii istorii material'noy kultury (The Material culture History Academy newsletter)
FNAC	- Trudic institute istorii, arheologii i etnografii AN Kazahskoy SSR, (The Academy of History, Archeology and Ethnography Institute Studies)
INVESTMENT	- Izvestiya Nijnevoljskogo Saratovskogo instituta krayevedeniya (The Nijnevoljskiy Saratov Local History Institute bulletin)
KSIA	- Kratkiye soobsheniya o dokladah i polevix issledovaniyah Instituta arheologii AN SSSR (In the field studies of the research of the Institute of Archeology of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR information in brief).
MAIET	- Materialy arheologii, istorii, etnografii Tavrii (Tavriya archeology, history and ethnography studies)
MAK	- Materialy po arheologii Kavkaza (Archeology of the Caucasus)
OAK	- Otchet Arheologicheskoy komissii (Archaeological commission reports)
SA	- Sovetskaya arheologiya (Soviet archeology)
SGE	- Soobsheniya Gosudarstvennogo Ermitaja (Hermitage news)
SK	- Latishev V.V. Izvestiya drevnih pisateley grecheskih i latinskih that Skifii i Kavkaze. Tom 2, vis.2. SPb 1906. (On the writings of the ancient Grecian and Latin writers of the Caucasus with the Scythians improvements).
FNA	- Trudi instituta istorii, antropologii, etnografii (Institute of history, anthropology and ethnography studies)
UZSGU	- Zapiski Saratovskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta (Saratov State University of Scientific Studies)



INTRODUCTION

“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I changed myself.”
(Hz. Mevlânâ/Rumi).

Taking these concise words into account, we can say that university education prepares a person for life; it is a journey that carries his mind to wisdom. Inter-university cooperation projects on an international scale are known to have gained greater importance with each passing day in the globalized world. The fact that this book has also been prepared within the scope of an international cooperation project is within Istanbul University’s goals for the future.

Since 1453, Istanbul University has been one of the most exceptional centers for education and training. Istanbul University is a member of Mevlânâ Exchange Program, which unlike other exchange programs embraces all higher education institutions in the world, without any preconceived notion of geographic regions. Hereby our university continues to rise on the shoulders of scholars it has trained. The Institute of Turkic Studies is a relatively new but valuable establishment in this half a thousand years old solid structure. Since the day it was founded on 12 November 1924 by order of Atatürk, it has been an institution focusing on numerous deep studies about our nation’s past.

Since the days of the founder of our institute Dist. Professor Dr. Fuat Köprülü, our community has been illuminated by the scientific studies of distinguished scholars such as, Dist. Professor Dr. Reşit Rahmeti Arat, Dist. Professor Dr. Zeki V. Togan, Professor Muharrem Ergin, Professor Dr. Oktay Arslanapa, Professor Dr. Ahmet Caferoğlu, and Professor Dr. Osman Turan. As one of the

representatives of the new generation of our community, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gözde Sazak has brought a new point of view to the research of Turkish history with her interdisciplinary work, rightly fitting this day and age.

This book has been realized in cooperation with the Russian Hermitage State Museum and as a product of our university's The International Cooperation Project, which is supported by Başakşehir Municipality. It serves as proof that the Hun Golden Treasures exhibited in the Golden Room of the Hermitage Museum belong to the Turkish civilization. It is known that there is an academic tendency by both western and eastern scholars to often mistakenly and sometimes intentionally categorize the works of pre-Islamic Turkish civilization outside of our circle of identity and separate them into micro-cultures without registering them as "Turkish". Against such tendencies and in line with its mission, our Institute of Turkic Studies has been trying to protect and make a claim to the relics of Turkish culture in every corner of the world. We can express that this work has rightfully fulfilled its duty in terms of contributing to these efforts.

Indeed, one of the works studied in this book, the ornamented sword hilt from the Hun period that was excavated from the Borovoye Kurgan of Kazakhstan, had another sample with the same ornaments, found during the archaeological excavations in South Korea. The similarities between the Turkish and Korean cultures that we observed during an official visit to South Korea, is a reflection of the resulting interaction of our eternal history. To be a scientific advocate for Turkish civilization, which has left cultural heritages throughout the vast regions that it spread, is possible with an international mentality that is essentially dominated by Turkish identity. Sazak has persuaded the Hermitage Museum, an institution with strict traditions, to collaborate with a foreign university, for the first time in its history, and in the framework of this study, she has succeeded in photographing the said gold works in the Treasury Department with special permission. Additionally, replicas of the selected eleven important works have been produced by Sazak in Turkey; with help from a jewelry master, utilizing the detailed photographs taken within the scope of Experimental Archaeology studies. This accomplishment is another feature that brands this book as an original piece.

The first part of the book belongs to one of the oldest and active members of the Hermitage Museum, the esteemed Ms. Zasetzkaya, who has been awarded the State Culture Honor Order in Russia. She has been serving as the keeper of Golden Hun Works in the Hermitage Museum since the Soviet period. Without doubt, Zasetzkaya is an academic personality who values traditions and is one of the world's leading experts in her field. The second part of the book is a continuation of Zasetzkaya's work, where the meanings of the Treasury are evaluated by Sazak. This joint work poses a good example in terms of two aspects. The first is, to cultivate these academic studies by passing them from hand to hand, as is in a relay race, and to ensure their continuity for future generations. The second is that this work is a successful precedent in terms of showing the contribution of international academic cooperation, results-oriented studies and implementation of practical solutions to scientific studies.

Gözde Sazak, whose work I have known and followed since her Ph.D., with this book she has taken another step on the long journey that will carry her to wisdom in her field, by developing herself a little more. Under the circumstances of our time, where it is very difficult to know and renew yourself, it is a "blessed" effort to work in the interest of revealing the roots of "our national identity" in history. I wish the continuation of Sazak's efforts and success.

Professor Dr. Mahmut AK

Rector of Istanbul University



FOREWORD

The State Hermitage Museum of St. Petersburg houses the Golden Treasures of the Huns. This book is a product of meticulous work that began in October 2014. Russia's most important and the world's third largest museum houses works of pre-Islamic Turkish history. Starting with my dissertation and then again with this book I was fortunate to work with this rich archive. For this reason, I consider this academic archive to be like a "grand palace". One of the most important academic royalty of this palace is Dr. Irina P. Zasedskaya, the Archaeological Museum of Eastern Europe and Siberia's Head of the Department of Artifacts and the Golden Treasure Chamber. Decorated by the rarely bestowed Russian Medal of Cultural Honor, Zasedskaya is a scholar who is in love with her profession. All of her most important work that contributed to world literature regarding the Huns, Sarmatians and Alans from Russian geography was something I was able to benefit from for my PHD Thesis.

Especially 1975's, "Золотые украшения гуннской эпохи / Zolotiye ukraşeniya gunnskoj epohi" (The Golden Treasures of the European Huns in the State Hermitage Museum), published in Leningrad and translated into three languages as a catalog in black and white was an academic important resource that was unreachable for me at the time. That is why after my dissertation, to both present this catalog, which is very important for the Turkish scientific world, and to work with this precious scholar I went once again to the Hermitage Museum.

Zasedskaya first read my PHD Thesis, that was translated into Russian and published by St. Petersburg University 2014, "ТЮРКСКИЕ МОТИВЫ И СИМВОЛЫ В ПОВСЕДНЕВНОЙ ЖИЗНИ: TURKISH SYMBOLS" И ИСКУССТВЕ ГУННОВ" and afterwards accepted to work with me. This was such a tremendous honor for me. In the Russian 'successor-predecessor' tradition, that is, working together with the most important teacher of the subject, she proposed for us to perform the tradition of publishing a book together with her as my predecessor. I am eternally grateful to Zasedskaya. The book titled, 'St. Petersburg's State Hermitage Museum 'Golden Hun Treasures and Blessed Meanings' is the product of this union. This book is of great importance due to Zasedskaya's no longer in print book of 'The Hun Period Golden Ornamental Items'. This book being printed in this new and only edition as well as the added features of cognitive psychology and anthropology being included.

This project, which started in October 2014, was continued in April 2015 with the opening of the Treasury Room for the first time in history to a Turkish academician. For the first time, The Hermitage has given permission and signed over this material to be published in Turkey. I was the director of Istanbul University and Hermitage State Museum International Cooperation Project (20186), which was supported by Başakşehir Municipality as a public institution.

I am forever grateful to my precious Rector, Professor Dr. Mahmut Ak who since my first student years in 2010 has taught me history and both supported and helped me in all of my work. Special thanks goes to the previous Mayor of Başakşehir, Mevlüt Uysal who supported the project by publication of this book in Turkish. Thanks also go to my academic mentor, Prof. Dr. Mim Kemal Öke and precious Turkologist Prof. Dr. Osman Mert who read every line of this book and shared their valuable ideas with me. Also, my thanks to Maya L. Johnson, Gülcan İnalçık, and Ayşe Nilgün Sazak for their work on translation. And of course, my dear husband and children who are always with me in all my work.

Assoc. Prof., Dr. Güzde Sazak

August 2019, Istanbul

