

The Evaluation of Archery in Ottoman Empire

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Abstract: In this research, the historical development of archery and especially the importance of archery in Ottoman Empire is examined. Information about techniques of archery, legal rules, contests, ceremonies, processing of archeries tekkes and prize ceremonies are try to be given. The health about the arrow and archery which were said by our prophet is an effective reason to given importance to the archery in Ottoman Empire and also with conscious of padishah about this sport, archery become a part of our nation.

Key words: Archery, Ottoman Empire, evaluation, historical development

INTRODUCTION

Archery is a great activity that can help you relieve stress and let you enjoy the outdoors. It can even be a form of exercise! There are millions are archers all over the world and there's no reason why you can't join them and enjoy this fine sport. Human being deals with arrow and bow from existence. Arrow and bow started to use for providing food and the aim of defense. We can see activities about arrow and bow in Turks nation's epics before they being muslims. We can say that after we were defending. And Turkishness and are seeing as a whole. So the Son of Oguzhan names are Boz Arrows and Uç Arrow. Arrow and bow are very important in the history of Turkish states, but after started to use of firearms, they only used for sport and also education (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Busbecq, 2005; Duvernay and Duvernay, 2007; El Cahiz, 1967; Erkal *et al.*, 1998; Ertan *et al.*, 2003, 2004; Faris and Emler, 1945; Gumilov, 1999). After padishah Fatih, all of the padishah of Ottoman Empire deal with the sport. And for this a lot of status mad efor these archers whose place a good degree in the competitions which were take in drill fields. And this become a tradition. So, they become endlessness. In this study, we make a summary of literature of archery (Gumilov, 1999; Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1995; Kahraman, 1989; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztöpe, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999). This study was accomplished to investigate the archery sport in Otoman Empire.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The history of arrow: It isn't possible to say that how long human are being used arrow and bow. The drawings in caves, under the giccors and in archalological exisreence. We can find a lot of evidence about that arrow and bow used before the bronze revolution. It is certain that they used only for to battle and to hunt. We can absolutely said that because of Turkish nation is very old. They used archery so long before they were being muslims. We can see arrow and bow's drawingsand writing long before the birth of chirstionity and islamic. We can find such as drawings and writings in archceological excavating Sümer's Minova city and in Ancient Equpt the Nile Volley (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Busbecq, 2005; Duvernay and Duvernay, 2007).

The first prophet who understood of use fuinessof archery in wars and encouraged believers of him is uncertainly Hz. Muhammed. The our Prophet Muhammed said 24 hadith about archery. Some of them are; Learn shooting on arrow and not break off relations with it, because the distance between the two target bigger than the heaven's gardens. Teach your children shooting an arrow. The person who learn shooting an arrow and then forget it. He isn't someone from us. The person who walks between the target and the place of mark acquire merit in God's sight for every step and etc (Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1995; Kahraman, 1989; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002).

Archery which one is of the ancient weapon of world is considered very important by Turks. The archeological execavating in our country. We found a lot of arrow's drawings relating to DCVI century an we saw

the drawings of man who shooting an arrow too distance, shooting all the targets and making this with a very good profiatency. And the arrows which were using in ancient be called as "Tatar Archery" (the arrows with main springs and Wheel) were invented by Turks. In every state of Turks archery was seem as a part of them. This history is seem more than 4000 years in thisway. We can see the importance of arrow and bow in Turks life in a lot of historical ramnont. In middle Asia Kapçal and minusinsk regions, Kuray and Caluman Rivers, some part of Europe. We can fin a lot of evidences. The arrow and bow of Turks have got a superiority than the other nations in every time. The technique of Turks capled by the of the countries. The "Whistling Arrows" which were discovered by Mete Han and they were described such as an ages map. This arrows were symbol of an extremely developing technology. And we formulate the word of "Oguz". We see "Ok+uz" (Arrow+Uz) and it's mean is arrows soldiers. The none of right tribe, which were become the son of; Oguz Han whose names were Gün, Ay and Yıldız, is Bozoklar (Boz+Arrow). And the loft old name which were become Gök, Dag and Deniz is "Uç Oklar (Uç Arrow). And on the Avor Empire's flag (565-800) and Seljuk Empire's flag. We can see the figure of arrows. So, we can understand the importance of archery in Turkish Empires. And the one of the padishah of Seljuk Empire whose names Tugrul Bey, used arrow and bow figure as a signature. The oaths which were taken an arrow and bows had got an importance. It was a sign punished with bowstring (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Busbecq, 2005; Duvernay and Duvernay, 2007; El Cahiz, 1967; Erkal *et al.*, 1998; Ertan *et al.*, 2004; Ertan *et al.*, 2003; Faris and Emler, 1945; Gumilov, 1999). One of reason of Turk armies victories was hitting the target with a sellfully way. In 1071, crowded Bizans army was crushingly defeated by the Sultan Alparslan thanks to arrows and bows. The years of establishing of Ottomon Empire, arrows were used in war and sport fields, but than 15. Century after discovering of firearm, arrow were used for only sport.

Kinds of arrow: Arrows part into 3 groups according to their shapes. These are "Tarz-ı has, kris endom and sem-endom". Mustafa Kani Efendi's book we can see these arrows. Asrev; this arrow is mostly used all the history. Because of it range arrow and it can go too far. This name was given from Persion language. These are made by the rattontrees firsly, but than they are made from the pine's trees. The length at it is 20 cublt. Yeksuvar; this arrow is also range's arrow. These arrow's front part is made by juniper's tree. These are less different to each other. Zengendon; this arrow is made by also juniper. It is used

for throwing range. The difference of this arrow is that the sign of maker of this arrow is made by golafiber. This word mean is Turkish is with golden throat. Karabatak; the difference than the pisrev is this arrow's throat and feather is more long. The feather is made by commorant's wings. So, this none is given these arrows. Haki, it is oldest one which one which was made by the tree. The making of these arrows similar with pisrev, but the feathers are longer than it. It was used firstly by Fatih Sultan Mehmet. I think the reason of giving "Haki" name to this arrow is the color of feather is earth's color. So, this name is given this arrow. Ermayis; it is made by a kind of pine tree. It has got two kind. One of than 2. 5-3. 5 dirhem and use in Salo's race. The other one is heavier than HAKI and its feathers are made by cormorant and the others birds wimgs. And it is used in training. Both of them lenght is 3. 125*65. 6 cm. the difference is equality of pine trees. Puta; Otoman Turks salata this arrow Puta or Siper. This arrow's feather is made by eagle's or swon's wingo. It is a weoden arrow. It has got two kind. One of them is Puta, the other one is hadle Putası. Hadde Puta's is lishter than Puta. And its feathers are short and arrow. Puta and Azmayıs have got same lenght (6. 250 cm). Because of hadde putas is eghter and shanter than Puta it drops basket or circular tray. When if it was neccessary, it used in wans. Although puta prefers in some competition hadde putas hits target more than puta (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994).

Ibris; Karabatak, haki, ezmayıs, puta and hadde puta's is trainings or competition's arrows. Because of some place is small, making training is dangerous and difficult. So, ibris arrow was mad efor training. Ibris's feathers are made by bomboos not birds wimgs. Bomboos are cut into places and sticks to natch in an arrow. So, this arrows go slowly. These are suitable for narrow prencs and drill fields. Because of it goes slowly it uses in closed places in winters. It hasn't a alagerous. It is made by pine tree and also it is made by old puta and haki arrows by attaching ibris's feather. Gez; it is made by pine tree and it hasn't got a feather. It has got a different shape. A part from the head of st is thick. Got horns are used. Thirty gez arrow are sold together and this name is bunch. It is sold bunch because all of them have got some height and thick ness effect outcomes of throwing. Gez arrow has got 3 kinds. These are "hava gezi, puta gezi and torba gezi". The lenght of "hava gezi" is 66 cm and some of them have got some special hollow in their side. This side causes whiotle sound and these are called as "Çavus" arrows.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The competitions of shooting arrow

Shooting to target: Two person on 2 team race against each other. Target is generally on a basket or board. Target is a circle which one is made by a white paint. Besides this, there is a rattle on the basket which one uses for target. The sound of target is a sing of shooting the target. The team or person who shoots the target much. He/they win the competition and prize is given them. If teams become to the prize overlooking up. If pains become to tie, the competition continues shoots once again the competition. These competitions have got different ways and some of them are very hard. For example in one of them shooting is made under string. These the target is 300 match in an arrow distance. It is very hard to shoot the target. To shoot the target easily, you should kneel down and look the target under the string. If the target is in high place, it is very hard to shoot it. To shoot the target, you should act skillfully (Gumilov, 1999; Inalcik, 1973; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000).

Making a hole in hard and thick targets: In this competition you should make a hole to iron or bronze targets. This target name in old sports era is "Mirror". Skillful marksman make holes in a lot of target at the same time. Skillful marksmen were in times by sending some gifts such as arrow, bow, sugar or comb. Special arrows and bow are used in this competition is made in padishah's wedding generally by condis (Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Ertan *et al.*, 2003; Faris and Emler, 1945).

Shooting range competitions: These are made in arrows' square. In Ottoman Empire almost a very big city had got arrows' square and in there a lot of competitions and education was made. However, there is only 38 visible square. After, conquered Bursa, Yıldırım Bayezid to make specific squares for competitions. The slaves which were grabbed in Nigbolu war, worked in there. This tradition which has been leading since 500 years, cause to raise skillful archer. This competition makes according to weather. When the shooting makes archer turn back the wing and shoot the way which the wing blows. To determine the wing's direction a silk handkerchief is thrown. And this method name is "Dökül". This competition is made in 4 parts. First Competition is for olds. The second competition is 900, third one is 1000 and the last one is 1100 (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Busbecq, 2005; Duvernay and Duvernay, 2007; El Cahiz, 1967; Erkal *et al.*, 1998).

Shooting an arrow to pumpkin: Archer shoots an arrow to pumpkin which one is at the top of a tree when riding a horse. And after hit the pumpkin, they should be stop. This is an oldest sports which Turks made. Turks teach every nations whom they meet. This sport aim is making a prepare for wars (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztöpcü, 2002; Pakalın, 1972). Archery is a great activity that can help you relieve stress and let you enjoy the outdoors. It can even be a form of exercise! There are millions are archers all over the world and there's no reason why you can't join them and enjoy this fine sport. But how should you go about getting started in archery? Are you worried that it will be too expensive? Maybe you think that it will be hard to learn? Don't fret, you can get started in archery for fairly little money and there are plenty of resources available to help you learn the craft. Archery is one of the most interesting of all sports and one of the most varied. The sport of archery means many things to many people. To the hunter, of course, the sport of archery means tracking the biggest buck through the thickest woods. To the Olympic archery expert, the sport of archery means matching skills with the best archers in the country and the world. No matter where your interests lie, the sport of archery has a lot to recommend it. A sport like archery can provide excellent exercise and it can help participants to develop the hand eye coordination that will come in handy in a myriad of other facets of life (Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938; Kunter, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997).

You should locate an archery shop in your area. Preferably a place that focuses only on archery, as opposed to general sporting goods stores, as they will have a deeper understanding of archery and will better be able to assist you. Talk to the staff and try to learn more about archery, so that you can best determine which areas of the sport you would like to pursue. Many archery shops even have indoor ranges, where you can test different types of archery equipment and get a feel for your own style of shooting (Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002). Archery is the practice of using a bow to shoot arrows. Archery has historically been used in hunting and combat and has become a precision sport. A person practicing archery is called an *archer* and one who is fond of or an expert at archery is sometimes called a *toxophile*. The bow seems to have been invented in the late Paleolithic or early Mesolithic. The oldest indication for its use in

Europe comes from the Stellmoor in the Ahrensburg valley north of Hamburg, Germany and date from the late Paleolithic Hamburgian culture (9000-8000 BC). The arrows were made of pine and consisted of a mainshaft and a 15-20 cm (6-8 inches) long foreshaft with a flint point. There are no known definite earlier bows; previous pointed shafts are known, but may have been launched by atlatls rather than bows (John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedrayar, 2002).

The oldest bows known so far come from the Holmegård swamp in Denmark. In the 1940s, two bows were found there. They are made of elm and have flat arms and a D-shaped midsection. The center section is biconvex. The complete bow is 1.50 m (5 ft) long. Bows of Holmegaard-type were in use until the Bronze Age; the convexity of the midsection has decreased with time. Mesolithic pointed shafts have been found in England, Germany, Denmark and Sweden. They were often rather long (up to 120 cm [4 ft]) and made of hazel (*Corylus avellana*), wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*) and other small woody shoots. Some still have flint arrow-heads preserved; others have blunt wooden ends for hunting birds and small game. The ends show traces of fletching, which was fastened on with birch-tar. Bows and arrows have been present in Egyptian culture since its predynastic origins. The nine bows symbolize the various peoples that had been ruled over by the pharaoh since Egypt was united. In the Levant, artifacts which may be arrow-shaft straighteners are known from the Natufian culture, (ca. 12,800-10,300 BP) onwards. The Khiamian and PPN A shouldered Khiam-points may well be arrowheads. The bow was one of the earliest forms of artillery. Bows eventually replaced the atlatl as the predominant means for launching projectiles. Classical civilizations, notably the Persians, Macedonians, Nubians, Greeks, Koreans, Parthians, Indians, Japanese and Chinese fielded large numbers of archers in their armies. Arrows proved exceptionally destructive against massed formations and the use of archers often proved decisive. The Sanskrit term for archery, *dhanurveda*, came to refer to martial arts in general (John, 1985; Jung, 2004a; Jung, 2004b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedrayar, 2002; Kunter, 1938). Demonstrations of archery skill are sometimes featured as entertainment in circuses or wild west shows. Sometimes these acts feature a performer acting as a human "target" (strictly speaking they are not the target as the objective of the archer is to narrowly miss them, however they are frequently referred to as human targets). Archery in this context is sometimes known as one of the "impalement arts", a category which also includes knife throwing and sharpshooting

demonstrations. It is important to note the strict separation between archery practised as a competitive sport and archery as an impalement art. For example, organising bodies for competitive archery prohibit activity that involves deliberate shooting in the general direction of a human being. The separation between the worlds of competition archery and the impalement arts is more marked than that between, for example, knife throwing as a sport and as an entertainment. While some competition knife throwers have also performed circus acts and there are official organisations that embrace both worlds, there is little or no evidence of such crossover in archery (John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedrayar, 2002).

Archery was for centuries Turkey's traditional sport and also played a central role in Islamic culture. The use of the bow and arrow as a weapon by the Turkish horsemen of Central Asia goes back far into the mists of time. Only after the invention of firearms did the bow and arrow gradually lose its importance as a weapon, instead being practiced increasingly as a sport. Research suggests that archery among the Turks goes back to 5000 BC, but the first written rules for archery date from the Oguz Turks around the 7th century. After the conversion of the Oguz to Islam, archery developed still further, reaching its zenith under the Ottoman Empire. The importance of archery in early warfare is reflected in the Traditions of the Prophet Muhammad, who was himself an archer (archery in Islam). Among the references to archery in the Traditions are, 'Teach even the slave in your house to shoot arrows,' and 'Just as they are our rights, so it is the right of our children that we teach them to write and to shoot arrows and leave them their rightful inheritance. Although archery competitions were held under earlier Ottoman rulers, it was Sultan Mehmet II (1451-1481) who set up detailed rules for archery as a competitive sport and established special archery fields. Immediately after the conquest of Istanbul the Ok Meydani (Archery Field), of which only a small part remains today, was set up in the district of Kasimpasa on the north shore of the Golden Horn. Mehmet's successors enlarged this field and added new facilities, as well as establishing similar archery fields in other cities. Mehmet's son Sultan Bayezit II (1481-1512) granted special privileges to archers and to the artisans who produced archery equipment. He arranged for most of these craftsmen to settle in Istanbul and gave them workshops in the Archers Bazaar built behind Bayezit Mosque. In the 15th and 16th centuries there were an estimated 500 makers of bows and arrows in Istanbul and schools specifically for training archers. Most of the Ottoman sultans and grand vezirs were noted archers and grand vezir Kemankes Kara Mustafa Pasa (1592-1644) was

a bow maker by trade, as the cognomen Kemankes indicates. When he became grand vezir he issued an imperial edict (ferman) on the subject of archery, which is the first known law concerning a sport. This document has been preserved, and is in the archive of Topkapi Palace Museum. Historical documents record the names of many famous archers, such as “Tozkoparan Ismail and Bursali Süca”. Traditional Turkish bows were crossbows of the type known as composite, made of layers of horn, sinew and wood, which enabled them to shoot arrows extraordinary distances. Even today, authorities on archery around the world are astonished by the distances shot using the old Turkish bows, whose records of 800-900 m are still beyond the reach of modern crossbows (Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b).

Turkish traditional archery's roots go back to the first millennium B.C. to Scythian, Hun and other early Asian archery tradition. The horseback archers of Central Asian steppes have used very similar archery tackle and fighting strategies throughout entire history and the nomadic life style avoids making a clear, distinctive categorization of the tribes and nations. These nations have lived on the same geography, shared many values and influenced each other's religion, language, tradition and undoubtedly genetic code. In the complex ethnic genetic pool of Central Asia the historians try to find their ways in chasing different linguistic tracks which however is not a reliable argument neither. There is a common culture consisting of social life, religious beliefs, accommodation, art as well as hunting and fighting techniques. Numerous civilizations appeared and disappeared from the history scene throughout centuries and left this common culture and archery school (Kunter, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztöpcü, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

Compromising with the official historiography, the word “Turk” was first used in Chinese sources in early 6th century for a Turkish nation called “Blue Turk Empire” (Kökturks). Recently a new term, “Turkic” appeared to describe Turk-related tribes or pieces of the Central Asian culture. Although it's not easy to follow the specific tracks back to Blue Turks, Ottoman archery is very well documented. The high level it reached, especially in flight shooting is the reason that western world knows and admires the Turkish archery. Turkish traditional archery can be examined in three time intervals:

- Archery of pre-Islamic Turkish and Turkic tribes.
- Archery of Turks of Early Islamic era.
- Turkish Archery in the Islamic time frame.

The best documented stage of Turkish archery however, is the Ottoman Archery. This empire that was supposedly founded in 1299 by an insignificant tribal leader, Osman Bey, has ended the Roman Empire and ruled on three continents.

In Ottomans, archery was practised with its various disciplines at an institutional level. The prevails of this institutionalization were the “Okmeidan” (literally means “Place of Arrow”) and the “tekke” where archery as a sport has been taught and practised since the beginning of 15th century. Despite the Anglo-Saxon literature claiming that the sports archery begun with the foundation of “The Guild of Saint George” with the order of Henry VIII, Ottoman archery is supposed to be the first sportive archery in the history and had its institutions a hundred year before. The first Okmeidan was established in Edirne, the second capital city of the empire prior to Istanbul. It's followed by numerous others and the most famous one was the Istanbul Okmeidan, founded by Sultan Mehmed II, just after he conquered the city. The property was bought by the Sultan himself from the owners in a price that was twice of its cost. The Sultan gifted this place to archers, made them build the “tekye-i rumât” (“tekke of shooters”) on it. The expanses of this archery resort was being reimbursed by foundations. The tekke was respected as a holy place and protected by law (Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938).

In 1795, a Turkish consulate in England named Mahmud Efendi have shot three flight arrows when he was hosted by the members of Toxophilite Society. The distances were carefully measured and the longest one was surprisingly found to be around 440 m which was ca. 100 m further than the maximum range ever reached with an English longbow. Besides, Mahmud Efendi told that he was not in good condition, neither was his bow and after all he was just an amateur¹¹. He really meant it as it will be seen later in this article (Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztöpcü, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000). Secondly, the book *Telhis-i Resail-ü'r Rumât* written by Mustafa Kani Efendi in 19th century has been translated to German by Joachim Hein and published. Dr. Paul E. Klopsteg wrote his famous book “Turkish Archery and the Composite Bow” in 1930's that was based on this translation. *Telhis-i Resail-ü'r Rumât* was written by Mustafa Kani bin Mehmed with the order of Sultan Mahmud II who was also an excellent archer. The book was introduced to the sultan as a handwritten text and published a few years later, in 1847 in Istanbul. This book consists of detailed information and even illustrations about archery, bowery and arrow

making (Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztopçu, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

If we'd have a look at some specifications of Turkish archery which differ it from other styles and traditions, we would see a "Top 7 list (Güven, 1992; Inalcik, 1973; Iscan, 1998; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000).

The first sportive and recreational archery known in the history. Many Okmeidan were founded in the early 15th century: The first Okmeidans were founded in the early 15th century in Edirne and Bursa. The Okmeidan of Istanbul was a foundation of Sultan (Fatih) Mehmed II in 1453 just after the city was conquered.

The institutions called "tekke" served as a place where systematic archery education has been provided. The acceptance and graduation of the student was being conducted by rules under a ceremonial format: "Tekke" literally means the institution where dervishes live and are educated according to sufist (Islam mysticism) knowledge. Another meaning is the place/institution where sports like wrestling or archery are being taught and trained. They were very similar to today's sports clubs.

There were moral and mystic aspects of the education: Okmeidan and tekke were accepted to be holy places and were highly respected. The Islamic personal cleaning ritual called "abdest" which is a must prior to daily praying was performed before entering the Okmeidan as if this place was a temple. Although there was obvious discrimination among the social layers of Ottoman Empire, in Okmeidan all archers were accepted to be equilateral in any temple. Even viziers and sultans were competing under the same circumstances and rules (McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztopçu, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000).

Another example for the mystic aspects of the education and application was the "Ya Hakk!" shouting of flight shooters which means "Hey God!". This seems to be similar to the so-called "kiai" in Japanese martial arts and it makes sense to believe that they both have the same purpose. The interesting symbolism in bow morphology is another point in the archery-related mysticism. The upper limb was symbolising the "good" or

"holy" while the lower limb stands for "evil". The grip-qabza-was accepted to bind these two polar tendencies of the universe and of the man himself. The middle of the grip where a small piece of ivory or bone plate (chelik) is inserted was the symbol of the so-called "vahdet-i vücûd", a sufist term meaning the common identity of all universe and creatures; a projection of God (Iscan, 1998; John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztopçu, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

Turks developed the "ultimate bow" of Central Asian school: Ottoman bows are reflex and recurved composite bows like the other bows of Central Asian origin. Made of wood (mainly of acer species), sinew, horn and glue this bow is the shortest one among its relatives and is measured only 41-44 inches. With this length it can only be compared with the Korean bow. Its efficiency is high with both heavy and light arrows¹⁶ which gives the Ottoman flight bow the greatest cast ever known. Making such a bow requires high skill and patience. Because of the long time required for the organic materials to dry it took 1-3 years to make a bow (John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztopçu, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

Pure sportive disciplines like flight shooting did exist and was performed long before the firearms gained prominence and made bow and arrow become sports tackle: The archery-related civil institutions like Okmeidan and tekke were established in the beginning of 15th century. Other than the training facilities tekke used to offer many social opportunities like dormitory, food court, library and meeting room. With these opportunities it had an identity similar to that of a modern sports club. Flight archery which is the less war-related discipline has always been very popular while bow and arrow were still in use on battlefields. "Kemankes" or graduated archers used to train hard and regularly like the elite professional athletes of modern times. It's known that the best ones have been reimbursed or sponsored by the Palace (John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedraye, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztopçu, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

Distances of over 800 m have been reached in flight archery:

The flight records are very well-documented. According to Islamic rules the record was only valid when the shot had been witnessed by a minimum of four persons. Each shooting range or “menzil” was indicated by two stones, one “foot stone” erected at the spot where the archer stands and a “main stone” for indicating the direction of the shot. In any attempt these witnesses who were employees of the Okmeidan had to be present. The distances achieved were not only recorded to Tekke’s Registration Book but monumental stones were also erected for the remembrance and declaration of them (John, 1985; Jung, 2004a, b; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedrayar, 2002; Kunter, 1938, 1978; McKinney and McKinney, 1997; Michael, 1982; Nishizono *et al.*, 1987; Owen, 2002; Öztöpcü, 2002; Pakalın, 1972; Schmiede, 2000; Selby, 2000; Shaw, 1994; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

- Tozkoparan Iskender 1281. 5 gez (845, 79 m).
- Mîr-i Alem Ahmed Aga 1271, 5 gez (839, 18 m).
- Bursalı Sûca 1243, 5 gez (820, 71 m).
- Tozkoparan Iskender 1279 gez (844, 14 m).
- Parpol Hüseyin Efendi 1207 gez (796, 62 m).
- Çullu Ferruh 1223 gez (807, 18 m).
- Lenduha Cafer 1209, 5 gez (798, 27 m).
- Sultan II. Mahmud 1228 gez (810, 48 m), 1225 gez (808, 5 m), 1219 gez (804, 54 m).

Box: Some 800+ m shots achieved by Turkish kemankes. Monumental Stones, each being a documentation and a piece of art have been erected as the remembrance and declaration of these records:

The monumental stones were called menzil stones (pronounced. men-zeel). Each of these stones had a carved poetic text which contained the archer’s name, the distance achieved and the date of the record. The date was recorded in a specific manner by using “ebced”. Therefore these texts have been exceptional examples of Turkish calligraphy and poetry. Unfortunately Turkish archery tradition has somehow come to an end. It probably started with the social, cultural and financial recession of the Ottoman Empire within the last 200 years. In 1914 the Empire got into the I. World War and the army converted the Okmeidan to a military base although any kind of invasion had always been forbidden by sultan’s orders for centuries. In 1925 all the sufist activity was stopped by law. All the tekkes including the ones with the sports club character have been closed. Ataturk, the founder of the new Turkish republic engaged a few men descending from kemankes families to re-establish the modern Turkish archery. Okspor, the first archery club of Republic era has been

founded in 1937 but closed in 1939, just one year after the death of Ataturk. Modern Turkish archery that is based on FITA regulations and modern tackle was established in 1950’s. This school of archery came up to these days. In the recent years our traditional archery started to breath again. The re-birth of the Turkish traditional archery has started with the personal attempts of a few men. Thanks to the old treatises and limited number of enthusiasts around the world, the ancient technique and tackle have been recovered within a short time. Nowadays the number of enthusiasts and practitioners increase rapidly. It won’t be a surprise to see Turkish archers in the near future with their composite bows and thumb rings, competing in traditional archery events (Adedeji, 1979; Anonym, 1974; Atay, 1997; Duvernay and Duvernay, 2007; El Cahiz, 1967; Ertan *et al.*, 2003, 2004; Gumilov, 1999; Iscan, 1998; Kahraman, 1989, 1995; Keating, 2007; Koppedrayar, 2002; Kunter, 1938; Yıldırım, 1986; Yücel, 1999).

CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, we can clearly understand that Ottoman Empire consider archery very much. To make attractive this sport, Ottoman Empire open alot of tekkes. This tekkes got a lot of rules and they put into practice in orderly way. And they also used the scientific informations to develop the archery. Ottoman Empire aworded copetitions with prizes and encouraged all the sportsman. And they made of a lotof statue for famous archery sports.

After start to using firearms, archery lost its importance and couldn’t develop then. So, we don’t show enough interest this sport. And although we are the children of big a famous rcher, we don’t have enough and efficient know ledge about it and it is very upsetting.

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