

## 24. YĪLĪĠ (< ILĪĠ ~ ILĪK)

Yāqūt, the thirteenth century Arab author has a section of his work *Muʿjam al-Buldān* devoted to the Khazars.<sup>597</sup> Much of his material is taken directly from Ibn Faḍlān and Iṣṭaxrī.<sup>598</sup> Indeed, throughout the greater part of his account he quotes directly from Ibn Faḍlān. Yāqūt gives us the form under consideration here in that part of his notice which is most indebted to Iṣṭaxrī. A comparison of Iṣṭaxrī and Yāqūt clearly shows that either Yāqūt used Iṣṭaxrī's account and somewhat muddled it or he used the same source that formed the basis for Iṣṭaxrī's notice (Balxī) but put in some information Iṣṭaxrī omitted while at the same time leaving out elements preserved by Iṣṭaxrī.

Iṣṭaxrī (ed. de Goeje, p. 220) :

ويسمى الملك بلسانهم بك ويسمى أيضًا بك

Yāqūt (*Muʿjam*, ed. Wüstenfeld, II, p. 437) :

ويسمى الملك بلسانهم يلك ويسمى أيضًا بك

“...and the king is called in their language بك (\*bek Iṣṭaxrī)/يلك (*y. l. k* Yāqūt) and he is also called بك (\*bāk).”

The بك form found in al-Iṣṭaxrī, garbled in Ibn Ḥawqal and confused in Yāqūt is, in my view, a corruption of يلك. For a full argumentation, see my article “The Qʿazaro–Hungarian title/personal name يلك ~ 'Iélex'” *AEM Ae* I (1975).

The manuscripts of Yāqūt clearly confirm يلك.

### Sources

Yāqūt, *Muʿjam al-Buldān*

- MSS : 1. Oxford, Bodleian, Marsh 132, f. 47v, line 20 : بلك (Plate 85)  
2. London, British Museum 16,649, f. 384v, line 16 : بك (Plate 86)  
3. London, British Museum 23,371, f. 144r, line 33 : يلك (Plate 87)  
4. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale 2228, f. 105r, line 16 : يلك (Plate 88)  
5. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale 6601, f. 126r, line 14 : يلك (Plate 89)

<sup>597</sup> Yāqūt, *Muʿjam al-Buldān*, ed. Wüstenfeld, II, pp. 436–440.

<sup>598</sup> Dunlop, *op. cit.*, p. 100.

6. Berlin, Staatsbibliothek 6040, f. 75v, line 1 : بك (Plate 12)
7. Istanbul, Topkapı, III Ahmet Kütüphanesi, 2715, f 77r, line 5 :  
بك (Plate 90)
8. Istanbul, Köprülü, 1163, f. 69r, line 13 : بك (Plate 91)

In addition, al-Qazwīnī (and al-Bakūwī who copies him) follow another tradition [see al-Qazwīnī, *Kosmographie*, ed. von Wüstenfeld, II, p. 393 and 'Abdar-Rašid al-Bakūwī, *Kitāb Talḫīs al-Aḡār wa 'Adžā'ib al-Malik al-Kaxxār*, facs. ed. trans. Z. M. Buniatov (Moskva, 1971) f. 66b]: ملك عظم يسمى بك [the Khazars p.g.]

*Pronunciation:* بك is probably to be pronounced \*yilik ~ \*yilig or \*yelek ~ yeleş.

*Comments:* \*yilik/\*yilig is a variant of ilik/ālig (Radloff, I/1, p. 816) Uyğ. ايليك، "der Herrscher", "der Fürst". (See also Caferoğlu, *Uyg. sözl.*, pp. 71, 92 ālig, ilig "hükümdar", "kral".) Our form can be seen in the name (as reported by Constantinus Porphyrogenitus<sup>599</sup>) of the second son of Árpád 'Iélex (\*yeleş). Gombocz derives the placename Ūllö (in Pest county) from \*ilig, \*elīg. He considers it a Khazar loanword<sup>600</sup> coming from 'Iélex.

Ūllö, indeed, derives from an original ilig ~ elīg which is the more usual form of the title under consideration. Ūllö, however, cannot derive from بك ~ 'Iélex as the loss of initial y- cannot be explained. Ūllö may have been borrowed from a Khazar (or other Turkic language spoken in the Khazar state) dialect which had the form ilig ~ elīg. I have discussed this fully in my article cited above.

İlik is a popular element in Turkic personal names (cf. Uyğur: *İlig Xan, İlig Bay, Kün toğdı ālik*). The name should also be compared with that of a Sabir general \*Ilıyeq.<sup>601</sup> Németh mentions the son of Attila, *Ilek (Illac)* and connects this name with the Baškır personal name *Iläk* and the Uyğur *ilig*. The name was also prominent among the Qaraxanids.<sup>602</sup>

<sup>599</sup> Constantinus Porphyrogenitus, *DAI* (Bonn ed.), p. 175; Moravcsik-Jenkins, ed. p. 178.

<sup>600</sup> Z. Gombocz, „Árpádkori török személynveink” *MNy*, XI (1915), pp. 436-437.

<sup>601</sup> Moravcsik, *Byzantinoturcica*, II, p. 138.

<sup>602</sup> Németh, *HMK*, p. 134. For the Qaraxanids, see O. Pritsak, "Die Karachaniden" *Der Islam*, XXXI (1953-1954), p. 18.