



THE BONGARD-LEVIN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF THE CLASSICAL WORLD

# SCRIPTA ANTIQUA

Ancient History, Philology,  
Arts and Material Culture

The Almanac

*Volume Seven*

Sobranie  
Moscow 2019

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ИНСТИТУТ АНТИЧНОГО МИРА  
ИМЕНИ Г.М.БОНГАРД-ЛЕВИНА

# SCRIPTA ANTIQUA

Вопросы древней истории, филологии,  
искусства и материальной культуры

Альманах

*Том седьмой*

Собрание  
Москва 2019

УДК 94(3)+902/904+7.032  
ББК 63.3(0)3+63.442+63.443+63.2+80+85  
С 45

ISSN 2221-9560

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ISBN 978-5-9606-0175-7 (Т. 7)  
ISBN 978-5-9606-0113-9

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*H.Khorikyan*

## ON THE LOCATION OF THE HERODOTUS' UTII AND MYCI

Some important and wrinkled issues on the administrative policy and historical geography of Achaemenid Persia were examined in the article, the elucidation of which has an important meaning for studying the history of the Empire as well as obeying peoples. The Utians and Mycians of the XIV Satrapy are situated only in Kerman and Maka.

*Key words:* Utii, Myci, Hecataeus of Miletus, Herodotus, Great Armenia, Utik', Maka, Mughan, the Araxes river.

The location of the Utii and Myci has caused various speculations in historical science, whereas the available primary source data seemingly allows to localize the above-mentioned people more precisely. In this regard, undoubtedly, one should be careful not to artificially combine the asynchronous source data without substantive justification by making unfounded identifications and localizations leading far away. First of all, it refers to the information provided by Hecataeus of Miletus and Herodotus, which has become a subject of study, never touching upon the rest of the information of the ancient sources linked to the Utii and Myci<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, Greek historian Herodotus writes: “The fourteenth province was made up of the Sagartii, Sarangeis, Thamanaei, Utii, Myci, and the dwellers on those islands of the southern sea (The Red Sea. – *Kh.H.*) wherein the king plants the people said to be “removed”; these together paid a tribute of six hundred talents” (*Hdt.* III. 93)<sup>2</sup>. As we can see, the quoted information places the XIV satrapy far beyond Armenia and its borders between the Persian Gulf and Southern Afghanistan. However, some scholars believe Herodotus speaks about two different groups of the Utii – one in the inner

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*Hovhannes Khorikyan Georgi* – Leading Researcher of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Docent (National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia); e-mail: hovhkor78@mail.ru; 0019, Yerevan, Marshal Baghramyan Ave. 24/4, +374-94-11-13-23.

<sup>1</sup> Below several studies are highlighted as important: Hakobyan 2009: 401–420; Акопян 2015: 129–147; Акопян 1987: 74–84; Khorikyan 2012: 337–341.

<sup>2</sup> Ἐπὶ δὲ Σαγαρτίων καὶ Σαραγγέων καὶ Θαμαναίων καὶ Οὐτίων καὶ Μύκων καὶ τῶν ἐν τῆσι νήσοισι οἰκούντων [τῶν] ἐν τῇ Ἐρυθρῇ θαλάσῃ, ἐν τῆσι τοῖς ἀνασπάστοις καλεομένοις κατοικίξει βασιλεύς, ἀπὸ τούτων πάντων ἑξακόσια τάλαντα ἐγίνετο φόρος.

regions of Iran (III. 93. 2) and the other (*Hdt.* VII. 68) southwards from the Araxes in Iranian Azerbaijan<sup>3</sup>.

According to I.Diakonoff, the near-Araxes Utii formed part of the Scythian kingdom of Transcaucasia<sup>4</sup>. E.Grantovsky considers there was one tribe of the Utii located southwards from the Kur and westwards of the lower stream of the Araxes<sup>5</sup>, that is, virtually meaning the territory of Utik' province of Great Armenia.

The Utii are linked to the old Persian Yautiyā<sup>6</sup> and were probably the ancestors of the Juts of the Islamic period of Kerman who should not be confused with the Zutt 'gypsies'<sup>7</sup>. The Utii inhabited in Kerman. Following the localization of Yautiyā in Kerman R. Melikov groundlessly excludes<sup>8</sup> the identification of the Utii with Yautiyā of the Behistun Inscription<sup>9</sup>. It should be noted that in professional literature an attempt was made to link the toponym of Armenian province of Utik' (Ὠτηνή of the ancient greek authors) with the word "հովհուն-հովիտ" or "ովհուն-ովիտ" (Arm. "valley, field") which has no genealogical relationship with the tribal name of the Utii, and no source does not consider Utik' as the district of the Utii<sup>10</sup>. Participating in the Greek invasion of Xerxes, the Utii, Myci, Paricanii, according to Herodotus, were equipped like the Pactyes, in this the Utii and Myci are represented together while the Paricanii were presented separately (VII, 68). Therefore, the identification of the Utii, as well as the Myci with Utik' and Mughan is artificial and baseless.

Thus, if some scholars artificially affiliate the Utii with the province of Utik' of Great Armenia, then the Myci should be with the same principle searched in neighborhood of the Utii, for which the similar pronunciation of the valley of Mughan was considered enough.

The Myci are divided in two groups by the researchers; the first one is localized in the inner regions of Iran and the second one-at the Araxes river<sup>11</sup>. R.Melikov excludes the identification of the Myci with the land of Maka of old Persian inscriptions and localizes them in Mughan<sup>12</sup>. R.Frye

<sup>3</sup> Marquart 1905: 172; Алиев 1960: 103, n. 5; Меликов 2003: 117.

<sup>4</sup> Дьяконов 1956: 280.

<sup>5</sup> Грантовский 1962: 239.

<sup>6</sup> Laird 1921: 310.

<sup>7</sup> Фрай 1972: 79. See also: Herzfeld 1968: 300. E.Herzfeld also links the Utii with Yautiyā and the Myci with Maka (Herzfeld 1968: 196, 300).

<sup>8</sup> Меликов 2003: 115.

<sup>9</sup> Kent 1953: 125; Murray, Moreno 2007: 490; Jacobs 1994: 198–199.

<sup>10</sup> Арутюнян 2005: 144–146. Cf.: Karagyozyan 1998: 185.

<sup>11</sup> Marquart 1905: 174; Алиев 1960: 103, n. 5; 104, n. 6.

<sup>12</sup> Меликов 2003: 122.

considers the Myci a single tribe and identifies with Maka-Makran<sup>13</sup>. E. Grantovsky speaks about a group of Myci and localizes it at the region of lower stream of the Araxes river, that is, in the territory of Mughan<sup>14</sup>. But the identification of Mughan and the Myci is excluded as the more ancient name of Mughan is Movakan, Movkan, Movkanq preserved in Georgian sources<sup>15</sup>, thus, in this case the linguistic connection of the name Myci with Mughan has no ground.

We consider that the toponym of Mughan is largely connected with the magi, than the Myci as I. Aliev finds so<sup>16</sup>. In this regard, it is necessary to pay attention to the district names of the province of Paytakaran of Great Armenia, the affiliation of the latter with the Zoroastrian worship and the beliefs is quite possible. For instance, the district name of Ormizdperož is connected with Ahura-Mazda and means “a place of Ormizd’s (Hormizd’s) victory”<sup>17</sup>. Hrak’otperož district of Paytakaran province<sup>18</sup>, which is localized at the valley of Movakan, is linked to the meaning of Iranian \*Frāhat-pērōž>\*Frādat-pērōž “a place of promoting the successfulness of victory”. Spandaranperož district is affiliated with Esfandiyār-Sepandiār, an Iranian epic hero, as \*Spandađātān pērōz/ž “the victory of Spandadat, victory of Spandadat and his companions-in-arms”<sup>19</sup>.

The reason for these disagreements is the following information of Hecataeus of Miletus: “...from the Myci up to the Araxes river”<sup>20</sup>. This information merely shows the border of Asia from the south, that is from the Myci dwelling on the coast of the Red Sea up to the north-Araxes river, which could be either the Amu-Darya or Indus. Therefore, the identification of the Araxes of the given information with Armenian Yeraskh is excluded, as Herodotus’ Araxes corresponds to the Sefīd-Rūd, Danube, Amu-Darya, but never to the Yeraskh<sup>21</sup>.

Thus, we can insist that the Utii and Myci of the XIV satrapy neither geographically nor ethnically are absolutely connected with Utik’ and Movakan-Mughan.

<sup>13</sup> Фрай 1972: 79. See also: Bailey 1982: 10–13; Jacobs 1994: 262–265.

<sup>14</sup> Грантовский 1962: 236.

<sup>15</sup> Melikset-Bek 1934: 143–144, 147, 165–166, 168.

<sup>16</sup> Алиев 1987: 63.

<sup>17</sup> Хуршудян 2003: 228, n. 332–333.

<sup>18</sup> Накобуян 2013: 140.

<sup>19</sup> Амбарцумян 2016: 8.

<sup>20</sup> Müller 1841: 11–12, fr. 170, 183.

<sup>21</sup> On the identifications of the Araxes see: Акопян 1987: 76; Khorikyan 2007: 27; Khorikyan 2008: 229.

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