

Fig. 14.178. Document with the tugra of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. The tugra occupies almost the entire document, whose actual text is a mere line at the bottom of the page. Taken from [1206], page 55.

the Ottoman sultans. In the official documents of the XVII century issued by independent rulers from the Western Europe we always see complex strokes in the same place – different versions of the tугras. For instance, in fig. 14.182 we see a charter sent to Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich Romanov by Christian IV, King of Denmark, which is kept in the Russian National Archive of Ancient Documents ([855:1], page 246). We can clearly see a tugra at the top of the document. Another missive, of a later origin, sent by another Danish king to Czar Peter the Great in 1697, can be seen in fig. 14.183. It also has a distinctive tugra in the top left corner.

Thus, the Danish kings of the XVII century had used tугras to secure their documents from forgery, likewise the Ottoman sultans. Other European monarch did likewise. For instance, the missive of 1633 sent to Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich by the Swedish senators in order to inform him of the demise of Gustav-Adolph, King of Sweden, and the crowning of his

daughter Christina, also has a large and complex tugra, qv in fig. 14.184. Another tugra can be clearly seen in the missive sent by Friedrich-Ludwig, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein to Czar Peter the Great in 1697, qv in fig. 14.185. The missive sent to Peter the Great by the rulers of Hamburg, qv in fig. 14.186, also bears a tugra. Thus, even the rulers of Hamburg had used tугras to protect their documents. However, the Russian Great Princes of the pre-Romanovian epoch are said to have used nothing of the kind. At least, the “originals” of the documents written by the Great Princes of Russia demonstrated to us nowadays have no tугras upon them, qv in fig. 14.171-14.176.

In fig. 14.187 we see a missive sent to Czar Alexei Mikhailovich by Frederick-Wilhelm, Kurfürst of Brandenburg. Once again, we can clearly see a tugra at the top of the document. Let us point out that this document, as well as the ones we cited previously, dates from the epoch of the XVII century; these documents are authentic, unlike the ones that date from the epoch of the XV-XVI century, which either got destroyed after the dissolution of the Empire, or have been replaced by forgeries.

Our opponents might suggest that the Russians had never used tугras, being a backward nation with inexperienced government officials, and that the tугras were a Turkish, or Ottoman invention adopted by the Westerners, unlike the Russians, who had merely used seals. However, this is not true. Let us

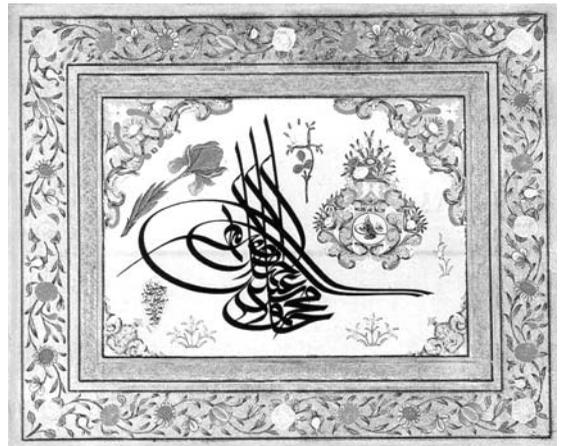


Fig. 14.179. A complex tugra used by Sultan Mahmud II as a signature. Taken from [1465], page 55.

turn to the documents of the first Romanovs, and we shall instantly see that all the royal documents of that epoch had a complex sigil in their top part – tugras, in other words, although their style differed from that of their Ottoman counterparts.

For instance, let us consider a bestowal certificate issued by Mikhail Romanov in 1624 kept in the museum of the Panfnoutievskiy Monastery in the town

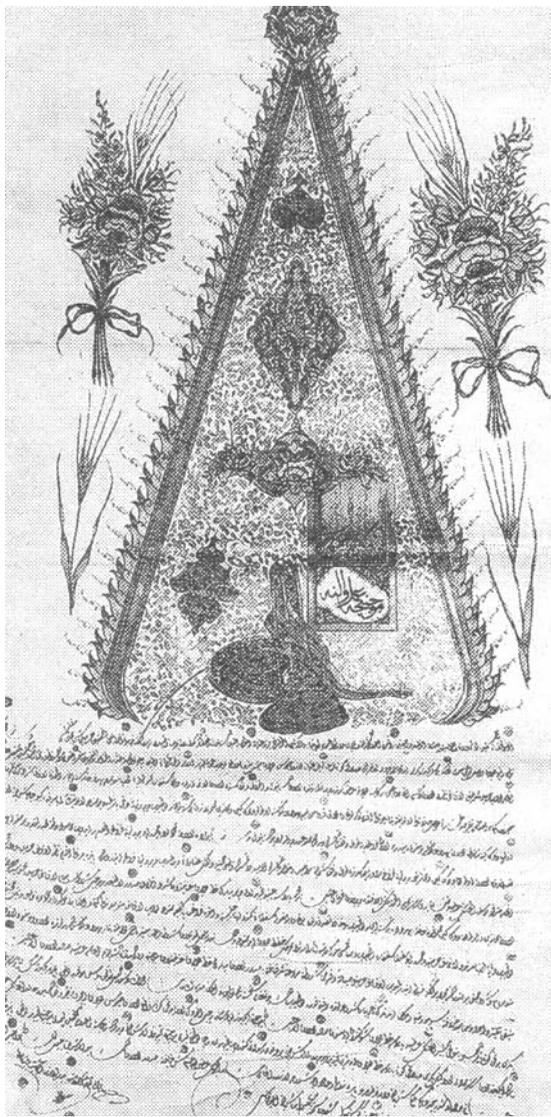


Fig. 14.180. A decree issued by Sultan Mahmoud II – complete with a tughra. Taken from [855:1], page 27.

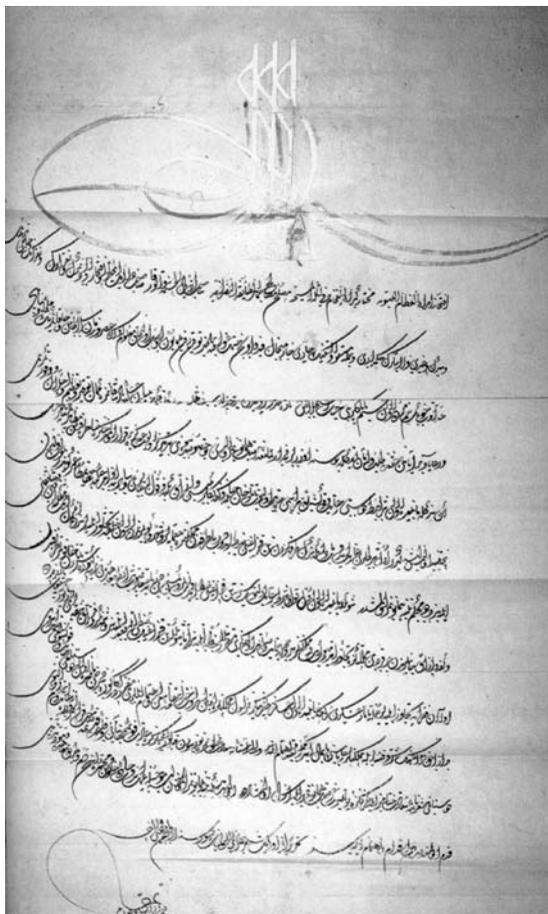


Fig. 14.181. Missive sent by Sultan Amourat IV to Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich in re the attack on Azov by the Cossacks of Don. We see a luxurious tughra. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Taken from [330:1], page 246.

of Borovsk near Moscow, qv in figs. 14.188 and 14.189. At the top of the document we see a huge tughra, complex and exquisite; it occupies a large part of the page.

Another document of Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich Romanov (a missive sent to Prince D. M. Pozharskiy) is kept in the National Archive of Ancient Documents in Moscow. It is reproduced in fig. 14.190. We see a complex tughra in the top part of the document. In fig. 14.191 we present another bestowal certificate sent to the Iversk Monastery of Valday by Czar Alexei Mikhailovich Romanov in 1657. It also bears a complex tughra, likewise a similar certificate sent by the same



Fig. 14.182. Missive sent by Christian IV, King of Denmark, to Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich Romanov in 1631 about the appointment of Maltupel as the envoy to Russia. Complex tugra. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Taken from [330:1], page 246.



Fig. 14.183. Missive sent by Christian V, King of Denmark, to Czar Peter the Great with a promise of support to the Kurfürst of Saxony in his struggle for the Polish throne. 1697. Complex tugra. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Taken from [330:1], page 249.

Czar to the Novodevichiy Monastery, qv in fig. 14.192. A most complex multicolour tugra with golden details can be seen in a bestowal certificate issued by Peter the Great, qv in fig. 14.193.

Tugras were characteristic for all the missives and decrees written by the Czars. In figs. 14.194 and 14.195 we see a photograph of a royal edict dating from 1705 and issued in the name of Peter the Great, which is kept in the museum of the Alexandrovskaya Sloboda. In figs. 14.196 and 14.197 we see photographs of an-

other royal decree dating from 1718, also issued in the name of Peter the Great. Both decrees have complex tugras at their beginning.

And so, could it really be that the Russian royal documents hadn't used any system of protection from forgery before the XVII century and the epoch of the Romanovs? How could the Russian Czars and Khans have left their documents unprotected, especially seeing as how the XVI sultans of the Ottoman Empire had always used tugras in their documents? Apparently, the tugra was a distinctive characteristic of royal documents and nothing but; decrees issued by other parties did not use tugras, as G. V. Nosovskiy learnt in 1998 from the scientists working in the Ottoman chancellery document department of the Library of Kirill and Mefodiy in Sofia, Bulgaria. They report that only a chosen few janissary commanders had used a certain likeness of the tugra – however, their sigils were a great deal less complex; also, they weren't placed in the top part of a document, whereas the tugra of the sultan was always drawn at the very beginning of a decree, occupying a large part of a page or a scroll.

This oddity, namely, the absence of tugras or some similar protection system from the royal documents of the pre-Romanovian epoch, and the fact that they were “first introduced” under the Romanovs in the XVII century, is instantly explained by our reconstruction. It is most likely that such tugras had been mandatory and present in every official document issued in the mediaeval Russia, or the Horde. However, most of the authentic documents dating from that epoch were destroyed by the Romanovs and replaced by forgeries. However, it is all but impossible to reproduce a tugra in its complexity; therefore, the Romanovs decided to use a much simpler method, which is quite obvious. They made counterfeit “originals” of the ancient documents without any tugras whatsoever, using nothing but the seals, which were easy to manufacture, since the stamps, and, possibly, the actual seals as well, had been at their full disposal. However, the qualified calligraphists employed by the Khans had died during the Great Strife, and the tradition had ceased to exist. The Romanovian tugras appear to be a lot simpler than the ones used by the old dynasty.

Apparently, a few authentic pre-Romanovian tugras of the Great = Mongolian Empire have never-



Fig. 14.184. Missive sent by the Swedish senators to Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich in re the demise of Gustav-Adolph, King of Sweden, and his daughter Christine crowned queen. 1633. Complex tugra. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Taken from [330:1], page 251.



Fig. 14.186. Missive sent by the Elders of Hamburg to Czar Peter the Great. 1702-1705. We see a splendid tugra. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Taken from [330:1], page 252.



Fig. 14.185. Missive sent by Frederick-Ludwig, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein to Peter the Great with a request to be the godfather of his newborn child. 1697. Luxurious tugra. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Taken from [330:1], page 252.

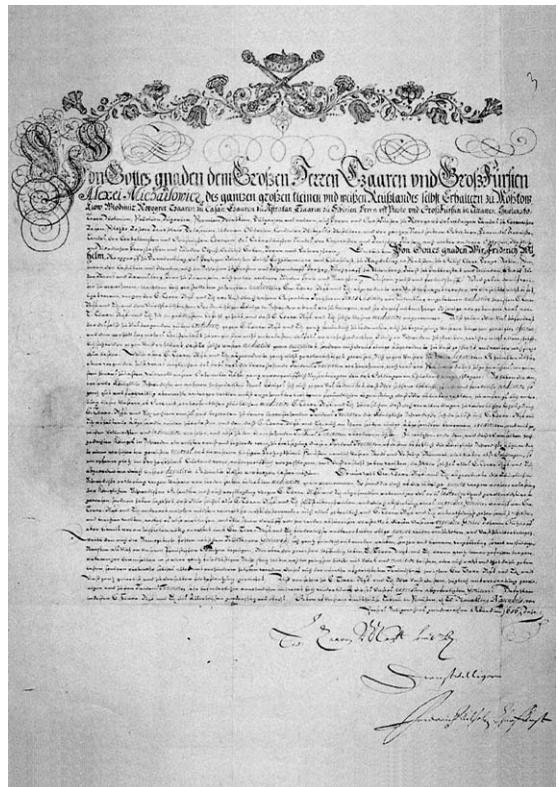


Fig. 14.187. Missive sent by Frederick-Wilhelm, Kurfürst of Brandenburg, to Czar Alexei Mikhailovich. 1656. State Archive of Ancient Acts. Complex tugra. Taken from [330:1], page 242.

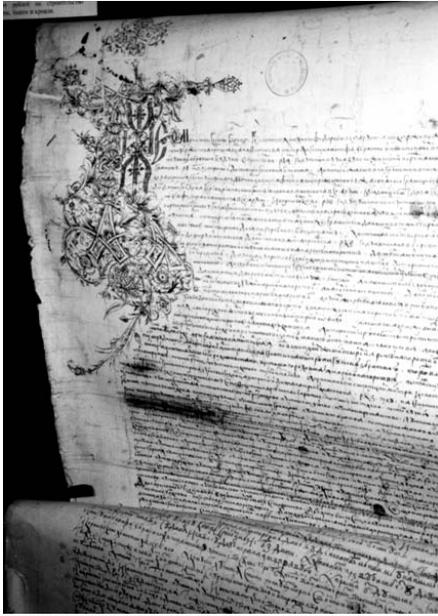


Fig. 14.188. A very complex and elaborate tugra at the beginning of a document issued by Czar Mikhail Romanov. Kept in the museum of Pafnoutievskiy Monastery, Borovsk, near Moscow. The museum plaque reports it to be a “Land ownership certificate sent by Czar Mikhail Fyodorovich to the Pafnoutiev Monastery in replacement of the papers that perished in the blaze of 1610. 1624.” Photograph taken by T. N. Fomenko and A. T. Fomenko in May 1999.



Fig. 14.189. Close-in of a fragment of the document issued by Mikhail Romanov in 1624. We can clearly see a very elaborate tugra. The complexity of this “signature” secured the document from forgery. Photograph taken at the Pafnoutievskiy Monastery in May 1999. Such tugras were usually drawn on authentic documents issued by the Russian Czars and the Ottoman Sultans in the XVI-XVII century. The Turks have kept this tradition for longer. On the other hand, we see no tugras on the XVII-XVIII century forgeries presented to us as authentic documents issued by the Russian Czars in the XVII-XVIII century. It was too complex a task to copy such a pattern. The hoaxers contented themselves with the falsification of seals, which required less skill and effort from their part – all they needed was a print of the real seal.

theless survived until our day. For instance, there are two odd scrolls exhibited in the Gutenberg Museum (Mainz, Germany). A. T. Fomenko and T. N. Fomenko noticed them when they visited the museum in 1998. The entire space of both scrolls is occupied by a gigantic letter J or I, qv in figs. 14.198 and 14.199. The remaining parts of the scrolls are missing. The lavish artwork is very similar to the tugras of the sultans; the fact that both sigils are shaped as the letter I (or J) lead us to the presumption that it might be the first letter of the name Ivan, or John. Could the symbol in question really be the Russian tugra of Czar Ivan the Terrible? The dating of the tugra (1597, as provided by the museum staff) pertains to the epoch when the Great = “Mongolian” Empire had still existed as a single entity; therefore, royal decrees with tugras may still have reached the Western Europe in those days. The actual text of the decrees was naturally destroyed

during the Reformation mutiny of the XVII century; however, the tugras were preserved due to the beauty of the artwork. The art of making them must have already been forgotten.

This artwork strikes us as the ideal candidate for the role of the tugra. If we are to assume the letters in question to be mere works of calligraphic art, it is unclear just why one would draw a single letter to occupy the whole scroll. Quite naturally, first lines of chapters would often be started with a calligraphic letter; however, this drawing obviously means something else. Let us also pay attention to the fact that the letter J is drawn upon a scroll; this leads us to the thought that it had once been an important state document. Back in the XVI century, the Khan’s documents in the Horde had still looked like scrolls.

We are getting an altogether new concept of the “original” old decrees of the pre-Romanovian epoch