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ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE VOLGA
AND PERMIAN
FINNO-UGRIC PEOPLES

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During a period of eight years (1955—1962) the author collected anthropological data on eighty territorial groups of peoples of the Middle Volga and the Urals foothill area, among them 8 groups of the Komi, 15 groups of Udmurts, 10 groups of the Mari and 30 groups of Mordvinians. In addition, 6 groups of Russian peoples and 12 groups of Turk peoples (the Chuvashes, the Bashkirs and the Tatars) were studied for comparison. Each group consisted of 100 adult men.

The central problem of the ethnogenesis of the Finno-Ugric population is the question of degree of relationship of the Finno-Ugric peoples to the other peoples of Europe and Siberia. It is necessary to point out that, according to all important features which serve to distinguish the great races from one another, the investigated groups occupy an intermediate place between the peoples of Europe and Siberia. The presence of the correlation between these characters is especially important. Our data allow to distinguish groups with more or less evident features of the Mongoloid great race. These features are more clearly expressed in the Mordvinians-Moksha in the north-west of the Mordovian A.S.S.R., in the Mari, Udmurts, Komi-Permiaks and in some groups of Komi-Zyrians populating the south of the Komi A.S.S.R. These groups are notable for a comparatively slight growth of beard, they have a narrower eye-slit, more frequently with an epicanthus, the disposition of the axis of eyes is often slanting, the face is flatter, cheek-bones are more prominent, the nasal root is lower, the procheilous form of the profile of the upper lip is more usual. In these features, these groups little differ from the Tatars of the Middle Volga and the north-western Bashkirs. In Chuvashes and especially in the eastern Bashkirs this complex of features is more pronounced.

The northern groups of Komi-Zyrians, some southern groups of Udmurts, the southern groups of the Mordvi-

nians-Moksha and especially the Mordvinians-Erza approach European peoples in the all the enumerated important features. However, these groups display a certain difference from western and southern Europeans, which proves that there is a certain admixture of the Mongoloid element in them. In this relation the abovementioned peoples are similar to Baltic Finns. The presence of the intergroup correlation of characters corroborates the conclusion that in this case we observe the result of crossing and not the preservation of an undifferentiated type.

The problem of pigmentation occupies a special position. The Komi-Zyrians and the Mordvinians-Erza are the most light-pigmented peoples of the investigated territory. Only the Baltic Finns have a somewhat lighter pigmentation. The most groups of the Mordvinians-Moksha as well as the neighbouring Russians differ from the Erza in the darker pigmentation of eyes. The Mari, Udmurts and Komi-Permiaks have a still darker colour of eyes and the Mari have, besides, darker hair. The Turk peoples — the Chuvashes, the Tatars and the Bashkirs, particularly the eastern Bashkirs, are the most dark-pigmented among the Middle-Volga and the Urals foothill population.

While stronger Mongoloid features in the Turk peoples are accompanied by darker pigmentation, the Finnic peoples do not display this correlation so strikingly. In the Baltic Finns it is even weaker. It is possible that the process of depigmentation in Eastern Europe had already been developing in mixed groups, partially including an insignificant Mongoloid element.

As a result, the Finnic peoples of Eastern Europe acquired rather stable combinations of features which received various denominations in anthropological publications.

The Lapps are considered typical representatives of the Lapponoid type, the Khants and Mansi — of the Ural type. The variations of the types which occupy an intermediate place are called the Sublapponoid and Subural types. When these types are distinguished, the head form is taken into consideration: more brachicephalic groups are attributed to the Sublapponoid type, less brachicephalic — to the Subural type. The Komi-Permiaks, southern Komi-Zyrians and Udmurts have more brachicephalic head, broader and lower face, which allows to attribute them to the Sublapponoid type. The Mordvinians-Moksha in north-western re-

gions of the Mordovian A.S.S.R. are more dolichocephalic and are considered representatives of the Subural type.

These variations must not be considered as too important for establishing the degree of relationship among different groups since the head form can be modified during comparatively short periods of time.

The question is what are the Europoid groups which took part in the formation of the physical type of the Finnic peoples and what was their real role in this process? Various groups of the Europoid race are clearly distinguished one from another by the colour of their hair and eyes. The division of the Europoid race into the northern and southern branches clearly reflects the nature of the relationship between the two.

The Mordvinians-Erza and the northern Komi-Zyrians have very light eyes and hair. They are also similar to northern Europeans in a comparatively higher stature.

The Komi-Zyrians and Mordvinians-Erza vary in the form of head. There are both mesocephalic groups and more brachicephalic groups among them. The same variability was observed in North-Europe, being used as a premise for distinguishing the Nordic and the East Baltic races. However, these variations should not be considered too important as is the case of the Ural-Lapponoid group.

It is probably not right to look for a close relationship of East-Finnic peoples with the northern Europoids only. The Mordvinians-Moksha in the south of the Mordovian A.S.S.R. and in the Penza region are notable for a comparatively dark pigmentation. However, the complex of Mongoloid features is not strongly expressed in them, this fact showing that there could be among Finnic peoples southern Europoids as well, or rather their variation, known as the North-Pontic type.

The available data on the physical type of ancient peoples of East Europe allow to establish the principal genetic relations and the formation of the existing anthropological types.

It is already among the ancient Finno-Ugric tribes of the neolithic age that we observe various anthropological elements. During the 3rd and 2nd millennium before our era, in the forest zone of East Europe, the cultures of the pit-comb ceramics were popular. Many Soviet archeologists

think that these cultures should be attributed to Finno-Ugric ancestors. Longheaded Europoids of the Protoeuropean type and mixed forms of the Ural-Lapponoid group, which can be called the Protolapponoid type, were dominating among them. It is possible that the latter were more closely connected with the remote ancestors of the Finno-Ugric tribes.

In the 2nd millennium before our era different tribes engaged in cattle-breeding began to migrate from southern steppe regions to the north. The representatives of the culture of battle-axes and corded ceramics came to the East Baltic territory, and their related representatives of the Fatyanovo culture — to the Volga—Oka interfluvial area. These tribes were probably ancestors of the Baltic tribes. The tribes of the timber construction culture, maybe with Iranian speech, populated the Middle Volga areas. All these migrations resulted in an increase of the Euro-poid element.

Since the end of the 1st millennium of our era the ethnic history of many Finnic tribes bears the marks of the mixing of these tribes with the Slavs and the peoples of the Volga region — also with the Kama Bulgars. The Slavs brought more gracile Europoid elements with them, and a certain part of them, being mixed with the depigmented Baltic-Finnic tribes and moving to the east, brought lighter elements with them as well. Under the influence of the Bulgars the dark-pigmented and more Mongoloid component among the Finnic peoples of the Middle Volga became probably stronger.

In more eastern territories of the forest zone of East Europe, where brachicephalic forms with a considerable Mongoloid admixture were dominating long ago, mixed types characteristic of the most Volga and Permian Finns were formed.

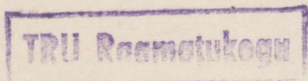
To the north and west the brachicephalic elements with Mongoloid admixture diminish gradually due to the increase of the deal of the dolichocephalic Europoids. As a result of the confusion of these components and in the process of depigmentation they were transformed into types of the so-called White-Sea-Baltic group, which nowadays possess only a slight Mongoloid admixture.

The majority of the Komi-Zyrians and almost all Baltic Finns can be attributed to these types.

As early as the beginning of the 1st millennium of our era the ancestors of the Komi populated the Middle and Lower Kama, being anthropologically similar to the Udmurts. In the middle of the 1st millennium of our era a part of them moved to the north, where they mixed with native tribes. The latter were probably linguistically and anthropologically close to the Veps people. As a result, now the majority of the Komi-Zyrians differ in their anthropological features from the Komi-Permiaks who continued to populate the homeland of their ancestors.

In Baltic regions the depigmented descendants of the tribes of the battle-axe culture became the representatives of the West Baltic type. It is possible that the dominance of a similar type among the Mordvinians-Erza reflects the same process.

Thus, the confusion of European and Siberian elements was an important, but not the only factor in the formation of the physical type of Finnic peoples. An important part was played by later processes of the brachicephalization, gracilization and depigmentation as well. Different degrees of the development of these processes resulted in various combinations of features, defined as anthropological types.



Марк Карин Юляусовна

АНТРОПОЛОГИЯ ВОЛЖСКИХ И ПЕРМСКИХ
ФИННО-УГОРСКИХ НАРОДОВ

Haapsalu Graafikatööstus

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Averages and frequency of the principal anthropological characters

The investigated groups	Characters																			
	Horizontal facial profile (average point, 1-3)	Prominence of cheekbones (average point, 1-3)	Width of eye-slit (average point, 1-3)	Eye slant (average point, 1-3)	Epicanthus, %	Nasal root height (average point, 1-3)	Horizontal profile of nasal bridge (average point, 1-3)	Upper lip profile (average point, 1-3)	Eye colour (average point, 0-2)	Hair colour (average point, 0-4)	Stature	Head length	Head breadth	Cephalic index	Bizygomatic breadth	Morphological facial height	Morphological facial index	Nasal index	Nasal bridge profile (concave, %)	
The Komi-Zyrians																				
in the north of the Komi A.S.S.R.																				
1. Izhma	2.64	1.45	2.08	2.49	2.0	2.60	2.68	2.22	0.65	3.09	162.2	189.4	152.6	80.6	140.6	125.3	89.1	60.6	16.8	
2. Troitsko-Pechorsk	2.57	1.36	1.96	2.15	1.3	2.64	2.53	2.05	0.71	3.04	163.0	189.3	152.0	80.3	139.4	127.1	91.2	63.4	26.7	
in the south of the Komi A.S.S.R.																				
3. Ust-Kulom	2.59	1.50	1.91	2.09	3.0	2.47	2.39	1.98	0.86	3.12	163.9	187.0	153.7	82.2	139.9	126.9	90.7	65.0	24.0	
4. Sysola	2.55	1.47	1.77	2.24	5.9	2.57	2.62	2.16	0.64	2.94	164.2	188.5	155.4	82.4	142.4	125.9	88.4	63.8	21.8	
5. Letka	2.43	1.67	1.56	2.15	5.0	2.47	2.48	1.97	0.37	2.96	164.2	187.4	153.2	81.8	141.0	125.7	89.1	65.9	23.0	
The Komi-Permiaks																				
in the Perm region																				
6. Kosa	2.55	1.69	1.76	2.19	2.2	2.48	2.45	1.76	0.87	3.26	162.8	186.6	151.3	81.1	139.6	124.6	89.3	65.2	24.2	
7. Kochevo	2.57	1.76	1.68	2.22	4.0	2.19	2.31	2.07	0.82	3.30	162.1	186.8	152.7	81.7	140.7	125.9	89.5	63.8	16.0	
8. Kudymkar	2.57	1.56	1.85	2.30	2.0	2.57	2.57	2.01	0.63	3.05	163.5	187.7	151.6	80.8	139.2	126.3	90.7	63.5	21.2	
The Udmurts																				
in the north of the Udmurt A.S.S.R.																				
9. Glazov	2.54	1.68	1.75	2.38	6.3	2.53	2.58	1.89	0.94	3.46	162.4	188.2	149.3	79.3	138.9	127.6	91.9	61.0	14.7	
10. Balezino	2.75	1.48	2.00	2.26	15.1	2.72	2.42	1.83	0.93	3.07	163.3	190.4	152.5	80.1	141.4	125.7	88.9	65.9	23.2	
11. Kez	2.48	1.63	1.73	2.36	9.2	2.75	2.66	2.01	0.85	3.05	163.0	187.6	149.9	79.9	139.1	123.9	89.1	64.6	8.2	
12. Debessy	2.49	1.82	1.77	2.31	6.3	2.72	2.72	1.89	0.83	2.90	163.3	187.8	150.5	80.1	139.5	125.9	90.2	65.7	13.8	
13. Igra	2.51	1.57	1.78	2.29	5.3	2.48	2.52	2.01	0.86	3.31	162.8	186.8	150.1	80.4	139.8	125.0	89.4	64.2	12.9	
in the west of the Udmurt A.S.S.R.																				
14. Selty	2.37	1.77	1.98	2.40	12.4	2.68	2.62	1.90	1.06	3.33	161.6	183.6	151.5	82.5	139.7	124.3	89.0	63.0	10.5	
15. Uva	2.26	1.83	2.02	2.27	12.2	2.79	2.85	1.94	0.94	3.28	161.4	183.8	151.2	82.3	139.5	125.5	90.0	63.1	8.9	
in the east of the Udmurt A.S.S.R.																				
16. Yakshur-Bodya	2.39	1.81	1.54	2.51	1.0	2.40	2.62	1.99	0.97	3.34	161.8	186.4	151.6	81.3	140.8	126.3	89.7	64.1	15.5	
17. Sharkan	2.20	1.81	1.71	2.32	5.9	2.39	2.49	1.85	0.89	3.32	162.3	188.0	151.7	80.7	141.3	126.0	89.2	64.7	13.7	
18. Zavyalovo	2.52	1.43	1.71	2.42	9.0	2.42	2.26	1.65	0.99	3.17	163.6	188.4	152.5	80.9	141.8	126.4	89.1	66.9	30.0	
in the south of the Udmurt A.S.S.R.																				
19. Malaya Purga	2.56	1.79	2.03	2.16	5.7	2.74	2.78	1.91	0.87	3.25	162.2	187.6	151.6	80.8	141.5	127.2	89.9	63.8	10.2	
20. Mozhga	2.54	1.74	1.91	2.19	19.0	2.83	2.72	2.00	0.97	3.29	162.6	186.6	151.7	81.3	139.4	124.6	89.4	64.6	16.0	
21. Alnashi	2.34	1.94	1.83	2.35	10.0	2.42	2.48	2.08	1.21	3.55	162.2	188.8	151.4	80.2	140.1	128.1	91.4	64.4	21.0	
in the north-west of the Bashkir A.S.S.R.																				
22. Kaltasy	2.39	1.86	1.74	2.42	7.0	2.32	2.52	1.88	1.14	3.28	162.5	187.9	150.5	80.1	140.4	126.0	89.7	64.1	10.0	

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