Manchu - English archery terms

By Peter Dekker, July 27, 2013

Based on a list sent to me by my friend Philip Tom, connoisseur and restorer of antique arms and armour. It was in turn based on an early edition of Jerry Norman's Manchu-English lexicon. Abbreviated as "Norman" under source below, as I intend to add terms from other sources in the future.

TIP: If looking for a specific word, press CTRL-F (PC) or CMD-F (Apple) to open a search box and type the word you are looking for. It will highlight it.

Manchu script generated by anakv.com. A wonderful little website and a great help in my study of Manchu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Möllendorf</th>
<th>Manchu</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aigan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archery target</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldaku</td>
<td></td>
<td>The wall behind the archery target</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beri</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bow</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beri arambi  
Imperial bowyer's workshop  
Norman

Beri cambi  
To draw a bow  
Norman

Beri cira  
A taut bow  
Norman

Beri dobtn  
Bow case  
Norman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manchu Term</th>
<th>English Term</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beri faksi</td>
<td>Bow maker</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beri fitheku</td>
<td>Crossbow</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beri giru</td>
<td>Bow limb</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beri ja</td>
<td>A light draw-weight bow</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beri jafaku  Bow grip  Norman

Beri tabumbi  to draw a bow  Norman

Beri uhuken  A weak bow  Norman
Behingge cooha  Archers  Norman

Bokson  The bow ear  Norman

Buha uihe beri  A bow made with the horn of a wild buffalo  Norman

Cu niru  Fire arrow  Norman
Darašambi  To stretch a bow fully taut

Dashūwan  Bow case

Dashūwan i muheren  Ring on a bow case
**Dolbi niru**  
Arrow smaller than a *keifu*  
Norman

**Doroi yoro**  
A type of ceremonial arrow  
Norman

**Dulimba sele**  
Metal clasp in center of bow case  
Norman
Dzun hūwa majan  Long slender arrow  Norman

Fergetun  Archer's thumb ring  Norman

Fitheku beri  Crossbow  Norman

Fiyen  Fletching  Norman

Ganada  Arrow with a duckbill-shaped point  Norman
Garma
Arrow with four points for shooting small game
Norman

Goro aigan gebtara kaciban
Arrow for long range target shooting
Norman

Guye sele
Ornamental iron cover on quiver or bow case
Norman
**Halbaha**
Arrow with a duckbill-shaped point  
Norman

**Hente niru**
Arrow with forked head  
Norman

**Indan**
Headless arrow  
Norman

**Jan**
Whistling arrow with perforated bone head  
Norman

**Jangga niru**
Whistling arrow with perforated bone head  
Norman
Jebele  Quiver  Norman

Jekde moo  Pear-like tree with dark reddish brown bark used for decorative purposes.  Norman

Jeke beri  Bow on which the horn Imella does not reach to the string notches  Norman

Jeseri  Arrow with a bone head used for hunting birds  Norman

Jorho  A pointed arrowhead with holes on each side  Norman
**Jorho fodo** 
*Salix gracilistyla* - A type of willow from which arrow shafts were made

**Joro**
Horn-tipped arrow

**Kacilan**
Arrow used for target practice

**Kalbikū**
Slender arrow with a small head for flight shooting

**Karkalan**
Bark of wild peach tree, used where arrowhead is attached to the shaft
**Keifu**
Arrow for large game, especially tiger

**Kiyokan**
Small pointed knife used by arrowmaker

**Kuilelu**
Mold or last for maintaining the shape of quivers, boots, hats, etc.

**Kuyerhen**
Knot on a bowstring

**Luhu**
Stunning arrow with no head, or pestle-shaped head, for shooting birds

**Majan**
Long arrow with elongated head used in warfare
Meiren
Sides of the bow grip

Monggo yoro
(Mongol) arrow with square perforated birchwood head for shooting hare on rocky terrain

Muheliyen jan
Round-headed whistling arrow with three holes

Nama sirdan
Military arrow with spear-like head
Nimaha gban
šaka

Arrow with five-pronged head used for fishing

Niru

Large arrow for war and hunting

Niru belhere ba

Imperial arrow workshop
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manchu Term</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niru faski</td>
<td>Arrowmaker</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nisuri</td>
<td>Device attached to the grip of a bow for a smoother release</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niyamniyan</td>
<td>Arrow used in mounted archery</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nu beri</td>
<td>Crossbow</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchu Term</td>
<td>English Translation</td>
<td>Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oki yoro</td>
<td>Large wooden arrowhead</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okto niru</td>
<td>Poisoned arrow</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onco umiyesun</td>
<td>Leather belt from which the quiver is suspended</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orgi</td>
<td>Sharp edges of the arrowhead</td>
<td>Norman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Pokita**
Perforated bone arrowhead

**Sacikū sirdan**
Arrow with flat (chisel-like) head

**Sara**
Seven iron pieces affixed to the bow case or quiver

**Sele garma**
Arrow with iron head surrounded by four barbs, for shooting pheasant and hare

**Sikū**
Leather of felt arrow-spacers in a quiver
**Sirdan**  
Military arrow with double-edged point  
Norman

**Sisi jan**  
Arrow with hazelnut-shaped head of horn with three holes, for hunting  
Norman

**Sisi niru**  
Similar to preceding entry but iron-headed  
Norman

**Solon jan**  
Arrow with narrow steel head for warfare or thick-skinned game such as bear or boar  
Norman

Solon refers to the Solon tribe of Northern Manchuria
**Solon majan**  
Similar to preceding, but longer

**Soncoho**  
String bridges on a bow (Cf. tebke)

**Surbejen**  
Edge of arrowhead or knife

**Šajilan i sirdan**  
Birchwood arrow
Šulihun: Arrow with pentagonal bone or horn head with five holes

Tanggiku: Bamboo frame for preserving shape of relaxed bow

Tanggiku i bukdambi: To bend a bow using such a device

Tanggilakü: Crossbow
**Tasha gabtara niru**

Arrow with short iron head for shooting recumbent tigers

**Tasha gabtara selmin niru**

Crossbow bolt with long iron head

Norman
Tasha gabtara yoro: Arrow with four-holed birchwood head used for rousing snoozing tigers

Tatame niru: Arrow with short roundish head for hunting

Tebke: String bridges of a bow (Cf. soncoho)

Teksin jan: Whistling arrow with flat bone point
**Teksin niru**  
Whistling arrow with flat point

**Teksin yoro**  
As above, but with bone point

**Tehe uihe beri**  
Ibex horn bow
Temgetu niru
Signal arrow used by a commander

Tiyelin
Short, sharp-pointed arrow for hunting birds

Tunken i kemun
Round hole in the center of a target (tunken literally means "drum")
Tunken lakiyara kemun
Suspended target made of felt

Tunken yoro
Small bone-headed arrow used for target shooting

Uhūma niru
Hunting arrow with demilune head


**Uli**

Bowstring

**Wehe selmin**

Pellet crossbow

**Wen**

Nock on an arrow

**Yaki**

Case for a quiver

**Yoro**

Arrow tipped with bone, horn, or wood