



## Legendary Women - Warriors

**Dilshod Arsenovich Ismailov**

Acting Associate Professor of the Department "Stage Movement and physical culture" State Institute arts and Culture of Uzbekistan.

### ABSTRACT

In this article, the author talks about the legendary women warriors, their martial arts, achievements and sword skills.

### ARTICLE INFO

**Received:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Accepted:** 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### KEY WORDS:

Tactics and style, fencing, ammunition, skill, career, achievements, fencing style, duel, opponent, sword, fitness, influence, heritage, weapon.

## Легендарные Женщины - Воины

**Дилшод Арсенович Исмаилов**

и. о. доцента кафедры "Сценическое движение и физическая культура" Государственный институт искусств и культуры Узбекистана.

**Аннотация:** В этой статье автор рассказывает о легендарных женщинах-воинах, их боевых искусствах, достижениях и навыках владения мечом.

**Ключевые слова:** Тактика и стиль, фехтование, боеприпасы, мастерство, карьера, достижения, стиль фехтования, дуэль, противник, меч, приспособленность, влияние, наследие, оружие.

## Afsonaviy Jangchi Ayollar Haqida

**Dilshod Arsenovich Ismailov**

O'zbekiston davlat san'at va madaniyat instituti  
"Sahna harakati va jismoniy madaniyat" kafedrasi  
dotsent v.b.

**Annotatsiya:** Muallif ushbu maqolasida afsonaviy jangchi ayollar, ularning jang san'ati, erishgan yutuqlari, qilichbozlik mahorati haqida so'z yuritadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Taktika va uslub, qilichbozlik mahorati, o'q-dorilar, jasorat, martaba, yutuqlar, qilichbozlik uslubi, duel, raqib, qilich, jismoniy tayyorgarlik, ta'sir, meros, qurollar.

In every era, the heroic struggle of women on the battlefield amazed people. Women warriors who achieved great victories and were famous for their skills in battle. In their hearts, the ideas of loyalty to the Motherland and fighting spirit shone to such an extent that they inspired them to go to battle, as in the days of Tomaris.

Instead, they gave up the comfort of sleep, comfort and the embrace of their children. During the battle, he had to travel to different countries and endure hardships. They showed courage in repelling enemy attacks, using various measures. They saw the uprisings of amirs and sipahis, and when the time came, they listened to rumors from them. However, those who patiently drew their swords and rushed to the battlefield remained in history. Below are some famous women warriors whose feats are comparable to legend.

Ella Hattan (Hattie Maxwell), known by her stage name "La Jaguarina," was a distinguished 19th-century swordswoman and markswoman who gained fame for her impressive skills with weapons. Her name is associated with an era when professional dueling and the mastery of bladed weapons were popular arts and sports.

Ella Hattan began her fencing career in the 1870s. She became famous as one of the few women of her time who was able to gain widespread recognition for her skills with a variety of weapons, including sabres, rapiers, and other bladed weapons.

She was a master of fencing with a sabre and bayonet, which at the time was considered a very specialized discipline, more popular among the military than among civilians. She skillfully used a combination of speed and precision, which allowed her to defeat even stronger opponents.

Ella Hattan participated in many tournaments and public duels, where she fought against famous fencers, often men. Her ability to defeat strong and experienced opponents earned her a reputation as one of the best duelists of her time. Her victories solidified her title and made her a real celebrity.

Ella Hattan - The only woman in the world who won championship titles by her mastery of all types of knightly weapons.

One of her famous opponents was the US military instructor Colonel Thomas Monstrey, whom she defeated in public duels. These duels became some of the highlights of her career.

La Jaguarina combined an aggressive style of fighting with skillful maneuvers that helped her avoid enemy attacks and then deliver accurate blows. Her nickname "Jaguarina" says that her movements in battle resembled the flexibility and speed of a jaguar.

The sabre was her favorite weapon. She became a master of defense and attack, using fast strikes and the ability to anticipate her opponent's moves. Her style was based on aggression, but with elements of patience - she always waited for the right moment to strike. To maintain a high level of skills, La Jaguarina trained daily, honing her strikes and defensive movements, as well as improving her endurance. Physical strength and speed played an important role in her success in the fighting arena.

Ella Hattan had a significant impact on the art of fencing, becoming one of the first women to show that women could be just as successful in the martial arts as men. Her achievements contributed to the expansion of opportunities for women in sports and professional dueling, and became an inspiration for future generations of women who aspired to participate in traditionally male sports and military disciplines. Although Hattan is a unique figure, history and legends throughout history still mention women warriors who also achieved great victories and were renowned for their skill in battle. Boudica (1st century CE) - Queen of the Iceni tribe in Britain, who led a revolt against the Roman invaders in 60-61 CE. She became a symbol of the struggle for freedom. In battle, she led troops with amazing courage and ruthlessness, defeating the Roman legions. Boudica, as the leader of the Iceni, was not a subtle swordsman, but was an excellent swordsman and battle-axe wielder. She relied more on her ferocity and strength.

Boudica's tactics were based on sudden and brutal attacks, she used the element of surprise and numerical superiority against the Roman troops. Her army practiced guerrilla attacks on camps and towns. The light equipment of the Celts was much less heavy than the Roman armor. It consisted of leather protective elements and a shield. Boudica used a long sword and a Celtic battle-axe. She could also fight with a spear or javelin, as was customary among her tribe.

Boudica's rebellion against Rome in 60-61 CE was a shining example of her military talent. She captured and burned the cities of Camulodunum (modern Colchester) and Londinium (modern London).

Artemisia I (5th century BC) - A ruler of Caria who fought in naval battles on the Persian side during the Greco-Persian Wars. Her tactics and leadership skills allowed her to successfully command a fleet and defeat more experienced Greek opponents. Artemisia was known more as a talented naval commander than as a master of arms. She led ships and tactical maneuvers, which ensured victories. Her tactics at sea were

exceptionally successful - she used cunning maneuvers to lure enemies into traps. At the Battle of Salamis, she made a feint that fooled the Athenian fleet. In naval battles, Artemisia wore light armor to be mobile and avoid overheating on the decks of ships.

Bows and javelins were used in naval battles. However, her main weapons were her ability to manage a fleet and her cunning. Her most famous feat was her participation in the Battle of Salamis (480 BC), where she, fighting on the side of the Persians, demonstrated her commanding abilities by deceiving the Greek fleet. Tomaris (6th century BC) - Tomaris, being the queen of the Massagetae (a nomadic Scythian tribe), was distinguished not so much by her fencing skills as by her ability to handle a spear and a bow. Her strength lay in horse riding and the use of long-range weapons, which is typical for the nomadic tribes of Central Asia. Tomaris used a strategy based on mobility and rapid attacks. The Massagetae were masters of guerrilla warfare and struck suddenly, using their speed and knowledge of the terrain. One of her best tactics was the feint, where she lured the enemy into a trap by creating the illusion of weakness.

Tomaris and her warriors wore light leather armor, which allowed them to remain mobile and move quickly on the battlefield. The lightness of the armor was compensated by their speed and maneuverability. Tomaris's main weapons were a bow, a spear, and a short sword, typical of nomadic peoples. The bow was used for attacks from a distance, and the spear and sword were used for close combat.

Tomaris's most famous feat was her victory over the Persian king Cyrus the Great in 530 BC. When Cyrus tried to seize her lands, Tomaris lured his army into a trap and completely destroyed it, and executed the king himself. This event became a symbol of her military skill and leadership qualities.

Lagertha (Viking warrior) - According to the Norse sagas, Lagertha was one of the wives of Ragnar Lothbrok and fought alongside the men in battle. Her warrior spirit and skill in battle allowed her to gain fame as one of the most fearsome warriors of her time.

Lagertha, according to the sagas, was a skilled Viking warrior, wielding a sword and shield, as well as a spear and battle axe. The Vikings used sudden and brutal attacks with heavy weapons. Lagertha led her troops in frontal assaults, demonstrating her bravery and leadership skills. She wore light chainmail or leather armor and used a large round shield, which was standard for Vikings. Lagertha wielded a sword and a battle axe, which were the main weapons of the Vikings. She could also use spears for throwing. Lagertha is most famous for, according to legend, leading an army to help Ragnar Lothbrok fight his enemies, and her intervention saved him. Tomoe Gozen (1157–1247) was a Japanese samurai who lived in the 12th century and fought in the Genpei War. She was a master of the bow and sword, and participated in numerous battles, where she was considered one of the best warriors. Tomoe Gozen is known for her skill on the battlefield and bravery, comparable to the best samurai of her time. Tomoe was a true master of the Japanese sword (katana) and bow. She was also a skilled horseman, which gave her an advantage on the battlefield. Tomoe Gozen used speed and mobility, especially when fighting on horseback. Her tactics were to attack quickly and deliver precise blows before the enemy could adequately react. She wore samurai armor, which included a helmet (kabuto), breastplate (do), hand protection (kote), and other elements. Japanese armor was lighter than European armor, which gave her greater mobility. Her main weapons were a katana (Japanese sword) and a bow. Samurai could also use spears (yari) or halberds (naginata), but Tomoe was famous for her mastery of the sword. One of her most famous exploits is the Battle of Awazu (1184), where Tomoe Gozen is said to have personally defeated several enemies and cut off the head of one of them, demonstrating her skill in combat.

Joan of Arc (1412–1431) - One of the most famous female warriors in history. A French peasant woman who led the French armies in the Hundred Years' War against England. Joan was distinguished not so much by her skill with weapons, but by her strategic and tactical talent. She inspired the soldiers and helped France win key victories. Although Joan was not an experienced fencer in the strict sense, she had basic sword skills. Her main strength was her strategic thinking and charisma, which inspired her troops. Joan of Arc used the tactics of surprise attacks, which helped her win battles despite her inferior army. Her courage on the front lines boosted the morale of her soldiers. Joan fought in the standard knightly armor of the time, which included full metal armor covering the body and head. Joan's main weapon was the knightly sword. She also used a banner under which she led her troops into battle. Joan's most famous exploit was the siege of Orleans in 1429. Thanks to her leadership and courage, the French forces won a decisive victory, changing the course of the Hundred Years' War.

Ching Shih (1775–1844) - Ching Shih was not known for her swordsmanship, but she was skilled in a variety of Chinese weapons, including the dao (Chinese sword) and spear. Her main skill was in commanding troops and naval forces.

She used naval warfare tactics, controlling sea lanes and setting ambushes. Ching Shih was a master of strategy and organization: her tactics relied on blockading and capturing merchant ships. She commanded a maritime pirate fleet of over 300 ships, effectively coordinating her forces. Her soldiers used light armor to maintain mobility on the ships, and Ching Shih herself wore traditional Chinese robes while commanding the fleet. In combat, her pirates used short swords, spears, and firearms (which was typical for the 18th century). Ching Shih was skilled in the use of both bladed weapons and firearms.

Ching Shih became one of the most successful female pirates in history, leading a pirate fleet in the South China Sea. She managed to make peace with the Chinese government and keep all of her wealth, ending her career undefeated.

Rani Lakshmi Bai (1828-1858) - Queen of Jhansi, known for her resistance to British colonial rule in India. She led a rebellion against the British Empire in 1857 and fought in battles, personally leading her army despite many difficulties.

Rani Lakshmi Bai was an experienced swordswoman with both swords and spears, and was particularly famous for her ability to fight on horseback. She used guerrilla warfare and surprise tactics, often organizing ambushes and quick attacks on British troops. Lakshmi Bai wore Indian battle armor, including head and body armor, to maintain mobility. Her weapons of choice were swords, which she used in both hands, as well as spears and bows.

Her greatest exploits were associated with the rebellion against the British in 1857. She organized and led the defense of Jhansi, fighting on the front lines.

Hua Mulan-Mulan is a heroine of ancient Chinese legends who disguised herself as a man to serve in the army in place of her father. She became a symbol of heroism, selflessness, and skill in battle. Although her story is more of a legend, she remains one of the most famous warriors in Chinese culture. Mulan, according to legend, was trained in the arts of war, including swordsmanship and archery. Mulan used tactics based on discipline and precision, typical of Chinese armies of the time. She relied on troop discipline and strategic thinking.

Light Chinese armor, which allowed for high mobility, consisted of a helmet, breastplate, and protective bracers. The sword and bow were her main weapons, but she could also use a spear or halberd, depending on the situation.

Mulan became famous for serving in the army under a male name, replacing her ailing father, and proved herself to be a brave and successful military leader over the years.

Nakano Takeko (1847-1868) - Nakano Takeko was a master of jojutsu, the art of wielding a naginata (a long Japanese weapon similar to a halberd). She was an experienced swordswoman, capable of fending off both infantry and cavalry attacks. In battle, Nakano Takeko relied on her speed and ability to keep her opponents at bay with her naginata. Her tactics involved maintaining distance from her opponents until she could deliver the finishing blow. She wore traditional Japanese battle armor, which was lightweight and flexible, allowing her to move freely but still providing protection from swords and arrows. Her primary weapon was a naginata, which Nakano used to dispatch enemies from a distance. This weapon gave her an advantage over infantry and horsemen. Nakano Takeko fought in the Battle of Aizu (1868), where she led a detachment of women warriors (onna-bugeisha) to defend her lands from the imperial troops. She died in this battle, but her bravery and all participants in the battle recognized skills.

Amazons of Dahomey (18th-19th centuries) - Women warriors from the Kingdom of Dahomey, known as Amazons, owned both cold and firearms. They trained with swords and spears, and were also experienced marksmen. The Dahomey Amazons used frontal attacks and mass battles. They were known for their discipline and endurance, which allowed them to defeat more numerous troops.

Amazons wore light leather armor or protective fabric elements, which allowed them to move quickly on the battlefield. Their main weapons were spears and machetes, as well as firearms imported from Europe. They used them in combination with surprise attacks on enemies. The Amazons became famous in wars with neighboring peoples and in the defense of their kingdom. One of their greatest feats was the resistance to

French colonization in the late 19th century, when they fought against European forces with unprecedented bravery.

These female warriors, despite the differences in eras, cultures and tactical approaches, are united by their determination, ability to adapt to combat conditions and mastery of weapons. Each of them left an indelible mark on history and became a symbol of courage and strength. They challenged social norms and showed that courage, skill and determination can overcome any obstacles on the path to glory. Each of them is unique, but they are united by one thing - the desire for freedom and the ability to fight for their ideals.

## References

1. Abraykulova, N. (2003). Methods of working with the dance team. *T.: Public Heritage named after A. Kadyri*.
2. Абрайкулова Н.Э. (2017). Хореографическая интерпретация общечеловеческих ценностей. *Молодой ученый*, (10), 462-464.
3. Исмоилов А.Ф. Саҳна қиличбозлиги.—Т.: Ворис нашриёти, 2007. - 95 б
4. Исмоилов Д. А. “Oriental Art and Culture” Scientific-Methodical Journal.2022.mart. B. 479-482
5. Исмоилов Д. А. International Multi-disciplinary Journal of Education. Amerika. 2024-yil, iyun. B.488-491. 3. Мамирова, Д. Т. (2019). Влияние Восточного наследия на формирование совершенствования личности. *Научный вестник Наманганского государственного университета*.
6. Мамирова, Д. Т. (2019). Социальные факторы и способы мотивации по привлечению студенческой молодежи к регулярным занятиям физической культурой и массовыми видами спорта. *Научный вестник НамГУ*, 462.
7. Мамирова, Д. Т. (2019). Взаимосвязь физической культуры и воспитания профессионального мастера в подготовке будущих специалистов актерского профиля. *Физическая культура: воспитание, образование, тренировка*, (2), 18-19.
8. Saitova, Y. E., & Abraykulova, N. (2015). Fundamentals of choreography and dance.
9. Tavakulovna, M. D. (2019). Osnovy organizatsii i upravleniya massovymi vidami sporta v sisteme nepreryvnogo obrazovaniya. *Uchenyye zapiski universiteta Lesgafta*, (7), 173.
10. Fazlieva, Z. K., & Abraykulova, N. E. Mirovaya nauka, 439-441 13 2018. *The Place Of The Maqom Genre In The Art Of Uzbek National Dance*.