

**Iarlyk** (Mong. *jarligh*; Tartar *yarligh*), a decree or firman of a Mongol khan. It was one of three types of non-fundamental law (*jasagh* or *yasa*) pronouncements that had the effect of a regulation or ordinance, the other two being *debter* (a record of precedence cases for administration and judicial decisions) and *bilig* (maxims or sayings attributed to Chinghis Khan). The *jarlighs* provide important information for us about the running of the Mongol Empire.

From the middle of the thirteenth to the middle of the fifteenth centuries, all Rus' princes received *iarlyki* authorizing their rule. Initially, those *iarlyki* came from the qaghan in Karakorum, but after Batu established his khanate, they came from Sarai. None of these *iarlyki*, however, is extant. In the middle of the fifteenth century, Vasili II began forbidding other Rus' princes from receiving the *iarlyk* from Tatar khans, thus establishing the right of the Moscow grand prince to authorize local princely rule.

In the Rus' metropolitan archive are preserved six *iarlyki* (constituting the so-called Short Collection) considered to be translations into Russian of authentic patents issued from the Qipchaq Khanate: (1) from Khan Tiuliak (Tulunbek) of Mamai's Horde to Metropolitan Mikhail (Mitia) (1379); (2) from Khatun Taydula to the Rus' princes (1347); (3) from Khan Mengu-Temir to Metropolitan Peter (1308); (4) from Khatun Taydula to Metropolitan Feognost' (1343); (5) from Khan Berdibek to Metropolitan Aleksei (1357); (6) from Khatun Taydula to Metropolitan Aleksei (1354). A seventh *iarlyk*, which purports to be from Khan Özbek to Metropolitan Peter (found in the so-called "full collection") has been determined to be a sixteenth-century forgery. The *iarlyki* to the metropolitans affirm the freedom of the Church from taxes and tributes as well as declaring that the Church's property should be protected from expropriation or damage as long as Rus' churchmen pray for the well-being of the khan and his family.

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