



## BĀTMAN

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**BĀTMAN**, a measure of weight, the same as *mann* (q.v.) but more common in Central Asia, especially in modern times. The earliest information about *bātman* goes back to the 14th century; but most data are from the 17th-19th centuries. There was a great variety of *bātmans* in different regions of Central Asia. Beside the regional differences, separate varieties of *bātman* were apparently used for weighing different goods. All Central Asian *bātmans* were based on the *meṭqāl* (as distinct from Middle Eastern, including Iranian, *manns*, which were based on the *derham*). Theoretically the *bātman* consisted of 40 *sīr* (with smaller fractional units), but the most frequently used portions were *dūnīmsīr* = 1/16 of a *bātman*, *čāryak* = 1/4 of a *dūnīmsīr*, and *unsīr* 1/4 of a *bātman* (in K̄vārazm). An analysis of indigenous and European sources done by E. A. Davidovich allowed her to establish more than two dozen different Central Asian *bātmans* (or *manns*) differentiated by the names of the regions where they were in use, though some are identical in weight.

In Bukhara, two groups of *manns*, or *bātmans*, existed originally: (a) units of “small weight,” based on a *meṭqāl* of 4.8 g: *mann-e šarī* = 180 *meṭqāl* = 0.864 kg (recorded in the 14th and 18th centuries); *mann-e ṭāqī* = 5 *mann-e šarī* = 4.32 kg (close to it, the *bātman* of Karšī [18th century] = 10 Russian pounds = about 4.0 kg); and a *bātman* = 1375 *meṭqāl* = 6.6 kg (18th century); (b) units of “big weight” (*sang-e bozorg*), based on a *meṭqāl* of 5.0 g: a *bātman* = 5120 *meṭqāl* = 25.6 kg; also a *bātman* five times greater of 128 kg; and a *mann* of Samarkand = 4000 *meṭqāl* = 20 kg (16th century). Another group of *bātmans* was based on the Russian *pud* (1 *bātman* = 16 *pud* = 262.088 kg, and 1 *bātman* = 8 *pud* =



131.044 kg), but they were artificially calculated in *metqāl* of 4.8 g; they appeared in the 16th or 17th centuries due to the development of trade with Russia, but were widely used also in internal trade (in the 19th century the *bātman* of 8 *pud* was chiefly used). In other places in Transoxiana (Samarkand, Jīzak, Ura-Tübe) and in Farḡāna, the 16-*pud* and especially the 8-*pudbātmans* were also used in the 19th century.

Beside these, the following main *bātmans* were recorded in other regions of Central Asia:

1. K̄vārazm: 1 *bātman* = 4.095 kg (17th century), 3.788 kg and 7.371 kg (18th century). According to Mo'nes (*Ferdows al-eqbāl*, Institute of Oriental Studies, Leningrad, ms. C-571, fol. 122b), in the 1770s, 1 *bātman* of Khiva was 3 1/2 times heavier than those of Tabrīz, that is, 10.5 kg. In the 19th century, much heavier *bātmans*, mainly of two weights; 20kg (in Khiva, Hazārasp, and elsewhere, calculated at 4416 Khwarezrnian *metqāls* of 4.53 g) and 40 kg (in Urgeñč, Kānqāh, Qongrat, etc.).

2. Jīzak, Kojand, Awliā'-Atā (19th century): 1 *bātman* = 12 *pud* = 196.56 kg.

3. Farḡāna (19th century): beside the 8-*pud bātman*, also 1 *bātman* = 10 *pud* (163.8kg) and 10.5 *pud* (171.99 kg).

4. Tashkent and Chimkent (19th century): 1 *bātman* = 10.5 *pud* (171.99 kg).

In the mountainous regions of the khanate of Bukhara numerous different *bātmans* were noted.

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