



SOME SUGGESTIONS ON KOKAND PAPER

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Abstract

The origins of Kokand paper, the migration of Samarkand paper workers to Kokand, paper manufacturing, paper variations, and the evolution of production are all discussed in this article.

Keywords: Bukhara khanate, Kokand khanate, Umarkhan, Muhammad Alikhon, A.P.Fedchenko, Muiy Muborak, Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur, A.A.Semyonov Obirahmat, abrishem, At-tasrif al Izzi, calligrapher Roji Hokandi.

Аннотация

Мақолада Қўқон қоғозининг пайдо бўлиши, Самарқандлик қоғозгар усталарни Қўқонга кўчиб келиши, қоғоз ишлаб чиқарилишининг ривожланиши ва қоғознинг навлари тўғрисида сўз юритилади.

Калит сўзлар: Қўқон хонлиги, Бухоро хонлиги, Умархон, Муҳаммад Алихон, А.П.Федченко, Мўйи Муборак, Заҳириддин Муҳаммад Бобур, А.А.Семёнов, Обираҳмат, абришем, Ат-тасриф ал Иззи, хаттот Рожий Хўқандий.

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Introduction

The Bukhara Khanate disintegrated in the 18th century as a result of political events in Central Asia, leaving the Kokand Khanate, whose principal area was the Fergana Valley. The Kokand khans were involved in research and education, helped to the development of industry, and funded the growth of many areas of the economy, all in keeping with Timurid traditions. The activity of the Kokand khans Umarkhan and Mukhammad Alikhan [1.56] is a noteworthy illustration of this.

The rulers of Kokand also contributed to the development of crafts. Many crafts, particularly paper, have long been practiced in Kokand, which is a rare handcraft sector in Central Asia [2].



Suggestions

The paper's origins, according to sources, are in China. Craftsmen created the method of creating paper from a mixture of fabric, bark, and bamboo here at the end of the first century BC, on the verge of the new era. Paper making originated in Central Asia and other Eastern countries in the third and fourth centuries AD. The beginnings of paper production in Kokand have a long and illustrious history. The cultural life of Central Asia and paper production, which comprised a substantial part of it, declined as a result of the political instability and recession of the Central Asian nations in the XVIII-XIX centuries. The fact that paper samples generated during the same period were not as qualitatively comparable as those produced earlier periods demonstrates this. There was not a single manuscript written on Samarqand paper among the manuscripts of the XVIII and XIX centuries, according to the catalogue of Oriental manuscripts at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. The majority of manuscripts and records from the second half of the nineteenth century were written on Kokand paper, according to research. It may be established that several wars, uprisings, and khanate conflicts were the primary causes of the discontinuation of paper manufacture in Samarkand. Paper masters began looking for quieter regions to reestablish their craft workshops and save their lives. The relocation of Samarkand craftsmen was linked to the growth of paper workshops in Kokand. As a result, paper production in Samarkand gradually ceased and migrated to Kokand, where paper mills began to supply paper across Central Asia, i.e., from the Aral Sea to the Chinese border. According to certain sources, the Kokand paper was also transported to Kashgar and northern Afghanistan. "Kokand paper has proven more popular than expected," says A.A. Semyonov. Because the control cars' spelling turned out to be quite lovely. It was simple to sign with a steel pen when penned with fantastic ink [4.137]. In the 1870s, Russian explorer A.P. Fedchenko visited Fergana Valley and commented extensively about Kokand's paper industry. The author discusses the paper villages of MoyiMuborak and Chorku in Kokand, as well as the characteristics of paper manufacture, architecture, well-known craftsmen, and the paper trade. During the khanate period, A.P. Fedchenko becomes acquainted with the work of the Moyi Mubarak paper workshop in and around Kokand, and writes: "I had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Chinese method of paper making



before, and I was amazed when I saw the production of paper by this method in Kokand”[3.231].

In his famous book "Boburnoma," the great poet and politician Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur remarked of Samarkand's paper production: "The best paper in the world originates from Samarkand." Жувози қоғозлар суйи тамон Конигулдин келадур. Конигул Сиёҳаб ёқасидадурки, бу қора сувни Обираҳмат ҳам дерлар”. By the sixteenth century, Samarkand, Bukhara, and eventually Kokand had established themselves as significant hubs of paper production. The majority of the previous paper mills were distributed and managed independently in Samarkand.

Kokand's workshops grew to become Central Asia's largest paper center a century later. Because paper manufacturing was centralized into a single district, and employees were assigned to be in charge of the paper's quality, quantity, and pricing. As a result, the circulation of Samarqand and Khorasan periodicals in Central Asia began to diminish quickly[5.91].

In terms of quality, durability, and elegance, Kokand paper can readily compete with Chinese paper. Because there is no such thing as a paper as translucent and lovely as Kokand paper. The elegance is that if text is written on it, it can be read easily from both sides. Parchment paper does not absorb water fast, nor does it rip when tugged. However, it does stretch. “Abrisham paper” is also made from discarded silk fabrics in Kokand. On this paper, Kokand calligraphers reproduced sacred books, textbooks of Arabic language, and works by great poets were usually penned. A general textbook of Arabic morphology, "At-tasrif al-izzi," was transcribed on black silk paper with black ink in Kokand in 1873[6.27].

Kokand paper was 58x50 cm in size, with a bundle of 24 sheets costing around 20-30 cents. In a water sprinkler, a stack of paper is worth 15 cents, and after adding starch, it is polished. The master at Muiy Mubarak, according to A.P. Fedchenko, was able to create 300 sheets of paper in a single day. [5.93]. Local historians claim that around this time, water grinder owners such as Yodgorboy, Madaminboy, and Mamadali became well-known throughout Central Asia for their paper manufacture. Since ancient Egypt, Kokand paper has been used. [5.70].

Among the Kokand papers are low-grade papers, which are: low grade, wrapped, rags, ordinary types of paper used to wrap items. Tappi (round dung) paper served as cardboard. Khattot Roji Khokandi's short poem, which he copied on black paper with white powder, confirms this idea. Kokand paper is produced in



different ways depending on the purpose of use. In particular, it is a proof of our opinion that high-grade, good-grade, low-grade types of paper were produced for the office. [3.217].

The Kokand khanate archives, as well as information in the literary heritage of the Kokand school of calligraphy [1.59], provide evidence of the evolution of record keeping in Kokand in the nineteenth century.

Conclusion

In short, Kokand paper replaced Samarkand paper, which was quite popular in ancient times but was radically different. Although Kokand paper lacked the softness and warmth of Samarkand paper, it did have some distinguishing characteristics. It should be emphasized that Kokand paper's quality was inferior to that of its forerunner, Samarkand paper. One explanation for this was that the paper's source material was primarily made up of various fabric wastes. Restoring Kokand paper production now would be beneficial to both the economy and the environment.

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