

FROM THE HISTORY OF PAPERMAKING AND ITS SPREAD IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Abstract

This article analyzes the views of scholars on the issue of the term paper and the stages of development of papermaking technology. It also provides information on the use of paper and its spread in the Central Asian region.

Keywords

Paper, workshop, Gurbun, manufacture, silk fiber, cotton wool, "paper nimbreshim", Chorku,

Introduction

Human development ensures the improvement of various objects necessary for the development of society. From time immemorial, human activity and its achievements have been reflected in manuscripts and books, which are considered examples of spiritual heritage to this day. Of course, writing and writing instruments play a significant role in the creation and preservation of these sources. Among them, writing paper, its preparation, and the improvement of this direction are directly related to the development of human civilization.

Historians and bibliographers have their own views on paper. This word is explained in the study of Sh.S. Kamoliddinov as follows - The origin of the word "paper" or "paper" in Arabic, Persian, and Turkic languages has not yet been determined. The scientist believes that this word is found in the Sogdian language in the form of "kayib", but its origin is not related to the Sogdian language. In ancient Turkic inscriptions and Uyghur texts, in addition to the word "paper", the words "kagiz" are also found: kibiz - "sholcha", "palos", "kagiz" - "kilam", "kepez" - "cotton" and "kiyiz" - "kigiz". The basis of these words is the concept of "felt". Because the culture of felt production is very ancient. In our opinion, the origin of the word "kayib" ("paper") is also associated with felt. From the Turkic language, this word passed into the Sogdian language, and then into Arabic and Persian[1]. E.A. Akhunzhanov in his research emphasizes that this word comes from the Sogdian word - kagsiak (paper). The scientist notes that this word was used in the 9th century in the New Persian and Tajik languages and was accepted as an archaic version of the Persian word "kaqoz" [2].

As is known, the technology of papermaking appeared in ancient China. As a result of various historical processes and political, economic and social relations between peoples, papermaking methods also passed from one region to another, which led to the improvement of this industry. As a result, the method of making paper by straining a special plant fiber through a sieve, developed in China in the 2nd century, spread to Japan in the 6th century, and to the Asian region in the 6th-8th centuries[3]. Paper production in Central Asia developed, especially in Samarkand. In the late 8th century and early 9th centuries, paper production was established in Damascus and Baghdad, which were considered centers of the Eastern Renaissance, in the 10th century in Yemen, and in the mid-10th century in Egypt.[4]

The method of making paper was perfected in Spain in the 11th century, in Italy in the 11th-13th centuries, in France and Germany in the 14th century, in Poland in the 16th century, in

Holland in the 17th century, and in Russia in the 18th century [5]. If in the 2nd century paper was made by hand in small workshops in China, by the late 19th century and early 20th centuries, paper was mainly produced in large mechanized factories and factories.

Papermaking was mainly carried out in water mills near cities. In particular, paper was produced in workshops in the countries of the East, especially in the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Kokand, Tashkent, Herat in Central Asia, Davlatabad in India, Tabriz in Iran, Cairo in Egypt, Damascus, Homs in Syria, and Baghdad in Iraq.

In Europe, paper mills and manufactories were established in Spanish cities such as Valencia, Toledo, and Shativ, in Italian cities such as Fabriano, Toscano, Piedmont, and Venice, in French cities such as Troyes, La Rochelle, Limoges, Rouen, Lyon, and Paris, in German cities such as Robbensburg, Nuremberg, Augsburg, and Schweidnis, in Polish cities such as Gazdova, Swenczys, Novina, and Andank, in Dutch cities such as Amsterdam, and in Russian cities such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl, and Kaluga[6].

It should also be noted that the history of the Bukhara Emirate of the 19th-20th centuries is recorded in various types and grades of paper produced mainly in Russian factories, along with papers produced in the local cities of Samarkand, Kokand, and Tashkent. Over the centuries, the technology of papermaking in workshops and manufactories has improved. We can observe this in the specifics of the raw materials used in papermaking, the processes of obtaining paper, drying it, and turning it into a finished product. If in Central Asia and the countries of the East the products necessary for paper were made from cotton and silk fiber, cotton wool, waste yarn, gray clothes, cloth, half-hemp fibers, and a mixture of silk, cotton, and hemp, then in Europe old clothes, yarn and woolen fabrics collected from cities and villages, as well as poplar, pine bark They made paper from grasses, hemp, and nettles[7].

It is important to note that the papers produced in the East were named and divided into types depending on where and what they were made from. For example, the famous Samarkand paper, which is famous throughout the East, was called "silk paper", "nimbreshim paper", as well as "haririy", "nimi haririy" depending on what it was made from. There were also such types of paper as "sultaniy", "nuhar", and "khatma". The papers called "silk paper", "naqi paper" or "haririy" were made from silk fiber, while "nimbreshim paper", "nim haririy" or "nimi katon" were made from a mixture of silk, cotton, and hemp. The paper made from cotton fiber and cotton lint was called "khatma". At the same time, for the needs of the population and other aspects of economic life, Samarkand paper of lower quality was also used. This paper was obtained mainly by making paper pulp from old gray clothes and cotton fabrics and pouring it into a special container[8].

The second center of papermaking in Central Asia was considered to be Bukhara. It is not entirely clear when paper production began in this city. There is only some information that the first silk papers were made in Bukhara in 1252-1253. The guzar called "Juvazi Qagoz" near the Samarkand gate in the city and the "Juvazi Qagoz" canal in the Kamot (Vobkent) district once again prove this. However, papermaking in this region ceased as a result of the political situation that arose at the end of the Ashtarkhanid period and the beginning of the Mangid dynasty. At the beginning of the 20th century, papermaking was re-established in the Gurbun guzar in Bukhara[9]. We can see that the production of paper in Bukhara led to the formation of terms related to this industry in the toponymy of the territories where paper mills were located.

After the cessation of paper production in Samarkand in the 18th-19th centuries, paper production in Central Asia moved to the city of Kokand. These papers began to be produced at paper mills (Ob Zhuvoz) in the villages of Chorku and Qagazgar near the city's Muiy Mubarak Gate[10]. At the beginning of the 20th century, papermaking was also established in Tashkent, the center of the Turkestan Governorate[11].

Based on the above considerations, it is appropriate to state the following.

In Eastern countries, such as Central Asia, papers were also named after the city in which they were produced. We can see this in the names of cities such as "Damascus Paper", "Baghdad Paper", "Dawlatabad Paper", "Tabriz Paper", "Alexandria Paper" that have been used for centuries, as well as in the papers bearing the names of state and public figures such as Sulaymani (Sulayman ibn Rashid, treasurer of Harud al-Rashid), Al-Ja'fari (Ja'far bin Khalid bin Barkhni, minister of Harun al-Rashid), Al-Talhi (Talha ibn Tahir, representative of the Tahirid dynasty (822-826 AD), An-Nuhi (Noah ibn Nasr, representative of the Samanid dynasty in Khorasan (942-954 AD)), and Al-Firawi. In European countries that have achieved certain achievements in papermaking, this product was mainly not named after the city where the paper was made, as in Asia, but rather by the name of the country. That is, they were Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Holland, and Russia were called manufactured and factory papers. These papers were imported from one country to another and sold. For example, Italian and French papers were sold in England, while French, German, and Dutch papers were imported to the Russian markets.

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