

THE KINDS OF KOKAND PAPER AND ITS USAGE

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Abstract

The kinds of paper were changed in different periods in Central Asia. The masters used good raw material and invented new kinds of paper. Country's economical – cultural life influenced the invention of some kinds of paper. The investigators said that there were 3 kinds of paper in Samarkand. The superior paper was made from silk and it was very beautiful, smooth and light – yellow. This paper was very delicate and local people called it “silken paper”.

To the second kind of paper the stalk of the string and flax were added to the silk. It was thick and stable. It was enjoyable to read the written work on that kind of paper.

The third kind of paper was made from cotton. Its quality was lower, but people used it very often. Famous Kokand paperwork masters could make different kinds of paper. The Kokand paper was very famous with its quality. It was brought to Kashkar, Northern Afghanistan and Egypt. It was written in one Afghanistan's journal named “Farhangi mardum” that this paper was used as money in Bukhara emirates.

The quality of Kokand paper was as thin and durable as Chinese paper. Kokand paper was very transparent and thin. The paper was so thin if you wrote anything on it, you could read it from the back of the paper, too. Kokand paper didn't get wet fast and when it was pulled it got prolonged instead of being torn. When they made a rope from paper, it could lift a lot of luggage. It was also used to decorate skull – caps. Specialists emphasized that there were about 10 kinds of Kokand paper. The superior kinds of paper were called “abribahor, abrishem, hafrang” and they were made from different raw materials. For example, “abribahor” was made cotton of Egypt and mainly was used to make book – covers. An egg was also used to make it beautiful. There were book – cover makers' shops in the town and “abribahor” was the most expensive paper there. Calligrapher Rojiy Hukandiy was very skilful in making “abribahor” paper in different colors. The skilful calligrapher Mirzo Hayrullo Mirzo Hukandiy Mirzo Nosir ugli (poet, Askarali Charhiy's teacher in poetry) was the expert of making such papers. To make “hafrang” paper required special skill. The manuscripts which were written on “hafrang” paper glittered with different colors. The reader didn't get tired and enjoyed reading. Mirzo Bedil's selected ghazals, Furkat, Almaiy, Zavkiy and other poets' poems were written to such silk paper by Muhammad Tohir Hukandiy. This collection is kept in Fergana literature and art museum in Kokand. Though there are no facts that a silken paper was made in Kokand, the scientist A. A. Semyonov wrote about it: “Kokand masters know how to make a silken paper and showed it to the masters from Bukhara.” Master Yodgor also told that he bought a silken paper in Kokand. The orientalist scientist Ibrohim Odilov also confirmed this fact.

“Abrishem” kind of paper was made from waste silken material. Kokand manuscripts used such paper to copy out sacred books, manuals and famous poets' works. One of them “At – tasrif al Izzi”, the book about Arabic morphology, was written on silken paper with black ink in 1873.

The manual named “Al – kofiya” about Arabic grammar was written on such paper. It means that paperwork was not only a trade but was an art, too.

A silken paper was expensive so it wasn't in demand. It was made for the order of the rich men. The superior paper used for khan's notes, orders, letters and documents.

Young specialist miniature artist Shomahmud Muhammadjonov and decorator Maruf Salimov tried to make “abri” (silk) paper in 1980. To make such paper mulberry was used.

To make one manuscript book different masters such as book – covers, decorators, paperwork masters and others worked together. “Abri” is “cloud” in Persian and means the water of rain in spring. This art sample is as marble flowers and was used to decorate great works, letters and miniatures.

The first samples of abri belong to XVI century. The manuscript works, which were written on such paper, are kept in the fund of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Institute of Oriental studies.

Many manuscripts used to be decorated with “abri” paper in Central Asia. The last skilful masters in this field were poet and calligrapher, Mirza Hayrullo Huqandiy. there wasn't any master who knew the secret of making “abri” paper after his death (1942). Therefore this art is kept in Turkey and other East countries now.

We can find the total information about the technology of making “abri” paper, used raw materials, tools in some scientific books, in A.Y.Kaziev's works. Later the scientific worker of the institute of manuscripts of the Academy of science of Uzbekistan achieved certain success in this field. In his article named “About abri paper” he wrote about the producing methods.

“Abri” paper had different kinds such as “shogun abri”, “marble abri”, “nightingale abri” and etc.

There were low quality, waistband, rag, ordinary kinds of paper and they were used to pack up things. Calligrapher Rojiy Huqandiy wrote short poems on black paper with white powder. Kokand paper was produced for different usage. Particularly, high, good, low quality papers were produced for law – court.

Calligrapher Sarimsok Hukandiy's work “Chohar devoni Mir Alisher Navoi”, calligrapher Mirza Sharif Dabir's work “Devoni Fuzuliy” and poems collection “Devoni Lutfiy” were written on thick Kokand paper in “hastalik” handwriting in XIX century. The dough of Kokand paper was also used in jewellery and book – covering. It was confirmed in historical sources.

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