



THE UNIQUE TREASURE OF SAMARKAND

*"The best paper in the world is produced in Samarkand, and water for the paper mill comes from Konigil."
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ABSTRACT

The article discusses endangered forms of applied art. There is information about the paper and its origin. There are references to the origin of paper in Central Asia. The ideas of Zarif Mukhtorov, the restored author of the Samarkand newspaper, are presented. There is information on the current activities and development of KONIGIL-MEROS. The importance of this article is revealed to visual artists.

KEYWORDS: *paper production, KONIGIL-MEROS, Samarkand paper, Chinese paper, paper manufacturing techniques.*

DISCUSSION

It is impossible to imagine our lives today without paper. Paper is used for all material and spiritual things consumed. When and where did this paper appear? The paper we use has evolved over the centuries. We all know that in the beginning, people used rocks, tree bark, animal skins or silk and silk fabrics for writing.

In ancient Egypt, papyrus was used. Papyrus is a "high-grade" reed, and ancient Egypt had a paper-making technique as early as the third millennium BC. Archaeologists have found that manuscripts found in 19th-century Egypt were written on papyrus. According to the ancient Roman encyclopedic scientist Pliny, Egyptian papyri were created on the basis of special techniques. The core of the papyrus is separated by special needles, the width of a finger or palm is cross-shaped, placed on a damp surface and covered with a stone. When the items dried in the sun, they were glued to the length

and treated with an ivory tool. It is covered with a thin layer of glue. Orange papyrus was obtained from ripe reeds and light yellow papyrus from varietal reeds. [1]

In Central Asia, specifically in China, paper was made from bamboo in the 2nd century. Paper was also made in Korea and Japan in the 6th and 8th centuries. In the 11th and 12th centuries, parchment paper quickly replaced bamboo in Europe. Parchment is paper made from the raw hides of an animal. [2]

751 years. Summer. Chinese invaders are invading the borders of Central Asia. More precisely, the enemy will attack near Jambul (now Kyrgyzstan) near Taraz. Abu Muslim, who was the governor of Samarkand at that time, sent relief forces and Abu Muslim's warriors returned to Samarkand with victory and twenty thousand captives. Among the captives were talented craftsmen who were engaged in the art of making paper in their homeland. The captives told about the technique of making paper in



exchange for the survival of their lives. In the VIII century, paper was produced in Samarkand. This paper was popular in the East and the West.

However, some historical finds suggest that paper production in Samarkand existed before the Arab conquest of Central Asia. Evidence of this can be found in the documents of the Samarkand Ikhshid (Khans) found on Mount Mogtepa. The Arab scholar Ibn al-Nadim (X) in his work "Fahrest ul-Ulum" did not mention it anywhere until the Arabs arrived in Samarkand in 706. [Mirhamid Sobirov. Maziidan sado / journal 1 / 20202.16 page 3]

The Spanish ambassador to Samarkand, Louis Gonzalez De Claviho, said it was a dream for French artists to try Samagrand paper once. The great thinker Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur says in his book "Boburnoma": "The best paper is in Samarkand, water comes to the mill to make paper from Konigil. Konigil is located in the Black Water, this stream is also called Rahmat." [3]

Historian Maqdis says that in the 10th century Khorezm was incomparable with its bow, Shosh with its utensils, and Samarkand with its soft paper.

Thus, the production of paper in Samarkand was launched. In the ninth century, this craft became one of the most important aspects of urban crafts. In the Eastern world, Samarkand paper is as widely used as Egyptian paper. A clear example of this is the fact that in the IX century many ancient Arabic-Persian manuscripts were written on Samarkand paper. Various varieties of Samarkand paper became famous not only in Asia, but also in Egypt and Europe in the VIII-IX centuries.

According to archaeologist V.V. Vyatkin, who lived in the early twentieth century and excavated the historical monuments of Uzbekistan, "Samarkand is famous for its unique paper, which supplies a large amount of paper to various countries around the world." [4] reefs.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, paper production reached its peak in Movarounnahr and Khorasan. The famous calligrapher Alisher Navoi, a contemporary of Sultan Ali Mashhadi, in his pamphlet Serat as Sutur (Writing Law) written in 1541, praised Samarkand paper and said: "No matter how hard you try, there is nothing better than Chinese paper. But Samarkand paper is priceless. If you are a smart person, don't give up on it, the writing on it will be fluent and beautiful, but it must be white and clean. Whether it's simple or "Sultan", try to get the best.

[Mirhamid Sobirov. Maziidan sado / journal 1 / 20202.16 page]

From the above information, we see that Samarkand paper has always been recognized as a unique product.

But if we look at the political process, we see that Central Asia has been a battleground. At such times, the activity of the paper industry sometimes flourishes, sometimes declines. By the end of the 19th century, due to the occupation of the Central Asian khanates by Tsarist Russia, paper began to be imported from Russia.

In 1995, the UNESCO International Conference on the Preservation of Historical Monuments in Kagan, Bukhara Province, focused on the development of the disappearing ancient arts and crafts. Zarif Mukhtorov from Samarkand, one of the artisans from different cities and regions, took part in the event with a project to re-establish the disappearance of Samarkand paper.

After many years of research from the library and ancient manuscript sources, Zarif Mukhtorov began to restore this type of applied art in his apartment. After the experiments conducted in 1995-2002, Zarif Mukhtorov mastered the secrets of creating Samarkand paper. established the KONIGIL-MEROS paper craft center. When foreign experts studied the structure of the paper under a microscope, they noted that the ancient Samarkand paper was completely restored.

The production of Samarkand paper is based on unique techniques and hard work. This paper is made from the bark of a variety of mulberry called "Blax mulberry", which is widely used in Central Asia.

Mulberry twigs are first soaked in water for a few days and then the bark is peeled off. The yolks are separated and boiled in a pot for 5-6 hours. It is then ground in a wooden oven for 7-8 hours until it becomes a fine fiber. They are then placed in a large bowl, mixed in Siab water, and passed through a rectangular strainer. The remaining mass on the filter is poured into a plane and pressed on the board for 8 hours. After drying, several such masses are stacked on top of each other and sanded over the marble with a shell or agate (a mineral stone belonging to the quartz group). There is no waste generated during this process. This is due to the fact that waste is used to make cardboard, fabrics and various types of paper. That is why the Samarkand lamb is a completely wasteless technology. [5]

In ancient times, the product was "Sultan paper" of high quality, while Samarkand silk paper was not inferior in quality, it was slightly yellow. The Mir Ibrahim variety has white spots on the surface of the paper, and the Nimkanop variety has a cinnamon



color mixed with mulberry bark and silk remnants. At present, the paper is made of natural colors (squeezed juice of tulips, tulips, pomegranate flowers and mixed with walnuts), dark blue and brown papers.

About 15 students of Zarif Mukhtorov and women of the mahalla are employed at the Konigil-Meros enterprise. Their activities have expanded today. The company produces colorful masks, national dolls (papé-mashé style), national costumes, women's bags, souvenirs. This place is always crowded with foreign and local guests.

What is the demand for this paper in today's age of technology, which is the result of so much hard work? This is especially true in times of paper shortage. Paper is cheaper now. Why and who needs this paper?

Because Samarkand paper is so durable, it can be stored for hundreds of years. This paper is necessary for the restoration of historical manuscripts, archival documents of the world and our country, and most importantly for calligraphers, painters and miniature artists. As mentioned above, the blue and brown, cinnamon and novvot colors of this paper help the works of miniature artists to appear more complete and natural, the work of art does not lose its quality. One of the main things is that the natural color does not dazzle the worker. When eaten by various insects and creatures, it dies indigestion. Storing food from low-grade varieties of this paper will help maintain their quality.

These technologies and products, which have reached us for thousands of years, will serve our generations for hundreds of years to come.

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