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# FROM THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST NEWSPAPER OF BUKHARA JEWS IN **HEBREW IN THE FERGANA VALLEY**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

In this article, based on the analysis of a wide range of sources, the history of publishing a newspaper in the language of Bukharian Jews in Ferghana is considered. On the initiative of Rakhimim Davidbaev, one of the wealthy Bukharian Jews, in May 1910 in the town of Skobelev in the Ferghana Valley, a newspaper called "Rakhimim" began to appear the first newspaper in the language of Bukharian Jews until July 1916, in which articles and poems, excerpts were published from Russian and Jerusalem Jewish newspapers, a chronicle of Turkestan life, internal Russian and foreign news, commercial information, feuilletons, congratulations, letters to the editor, references and announcements.

### **KEYWORDS**

Bukharian-Jewish newspaper, hebrew, "Turkestanskie Vedomosti", "Rakhimim", Rakhimim Davidbaev, periodicals, Skobelev.

#### INTRODUCTION

On a global scale, a lot of work is being done on issues of national printed publications, the role of the press (official and private) in the development of the national economy, the material and technical base of the press and personnel issues in it, the periodical press and its types, the formation of an authoritarian concept in the printing business, directions and financing of printing and publishing in independent states after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The study of the history of the publication of the first newspaper in the Bukharian - Jewish language in Ferghana is one of the topical issues of the study.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

On the history of the official and private newspapers in the Ferghana Valley during the period of colonialism, the scientific works of such scientists as S.B.

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Shadmanova, M. Avsharova, T.E. Ernazarov, R. Aminova, T. Dzhuraeva, Z.I. Yuldasheva, R. A. Safarova, A. Khakimova, A. I. Akbarova, A. Bobokhonova, G. N. Chabrova and others. In these works, the stages of development of periodicals in Turkestan in 1870-1925, the history of printing Uzbekistan in 1925-1977, as well as the formation and development of a private Hebrew written newspaper in Fergana, using new methodological approaches.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In the course of the research work, methods of comparative analysis, problem-chronological and quantitative analysis, as well as methods of system analysis and oral history were used.

Analysis and results. The study of archival sources and literature led to the realization that the first printing houses in the territory of Turkestan arose in the second half of the 19th century[1]. In 1868, a small printing house was brought from Russia to Tashkent, which began working this year. Initially equipped with primitive machines, the printing house printed mainly stationery and forms. The first book published in the printing house was the work of a famous traveler and one of the first explorers of Turkestan - N.A. Severtsov "Notes on a mountainous country near the peaks of Chu and Naryn and on the ways through it to Turkestan" [2].

In 1869, another printing house was brought to Tashkent, designed to issue the official newspaper Turkestanskiye Vedomosti, the first periodical in Central Asia. The printing house also received an Arabic script, which was used to print supplements to Turkestanskie Vedomosti in Uzbek and Kazakh. The first newspaper in Turkestan is Turkestanskiye Vedomosti. The first issue was published on April 28, 1870 and was the official body of the Turkestan Governor-General [3].

Official newspapers and magazines were supposed to become the printed political organs of the state, whose activities, naturally, were aimed at introducing state ideology through the dissemination of official information. It should be emphasized that the newspapers "Turkestanskive Vedomosti" "Turkiston Viloyatining Gazeti" [4], published in Turkestan in 1870-1917, unlike other newspapers, were published for a relatively long time[5].

Along with state-run newspapers, private newspapers in Russian began to be created in Turkestan in the 1890s. The funds of the National Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan contain documents of the office of the Turkestan Governor General, which shed light on the history of the creation of private newspapers and their activities. It should be noted that a large number of them were short-lived, due to political motives[6].

For example, the following newspapers: «На рубеже», «Кокандские известия» [7], «Фергана» [8], «Новая Фергана» [9], «Кокандский листок» [10], «Голос Ферганы» [11], «Ферганские отклики», «Ферганская жизнь» [12], «Утро Ферганы» [13], «Туркестанский край» [14], «Туркестанский голос» [15], «Туркестанское слово», «Русский «Ташкентский курьер», «Туркестанский курьер» [16] и «Андижанский листок» [17].

There were also newspapers and magazines planned for release, but did not receive permission from the government, such as «Кокандские известия» (1905 г.), «Наманган» (1913-1914 гг) [18], «Андижанский листок» (1914 г.) [19], the magazine «Ферганская неделя» (1915 г.), the magazine «Туркестанская неделя» (1915 г.).

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Here, it is necessary to mention separately the publication of a newspaper in the language of Bukharian Jews (Hebrew) in Fergana[20]. On the initiative of Rakhimim Davidbaev, one of the wealthy Bukharian Jews, in May 1910 in the town of Skobelev in the Fergana Valley, a newspaper called "Rakhimim" began to appear - the first newspaper in the language of Bukharian Jews until July 1916, which published articles and poems, excerpts from Russian and Jerusalem Jewish newspapers, a chronicle of Turkestan life, internal Russian and foreign news, commercial information, feuilletons, congratulations, letters to the editor, references and announcements. It should be especially noted that the idea of creating the first Bukharian-Jewish newspaper arose from Kokand entrepreneurs [21] at the end of the first decade of the 20th century.

Thus, the history of the formation of this newspaper is as follows: in 1890, the repatriates founded a separate quarter outside the walls of the Old City in Jerusalem -Rehovor (Bukhara Quarter). Very quickly it turns into a cultural and spiritual center of the community and the main source of publications of Bukharian Jews in their language. Maybe under the influence of the Ashkenazim who settled in Turkestan, in 1910 in the town of Skobelev in the Fergana Valley, a newspaper called Rahamim or Rahimim (Mercy) began to appear the first newspaper in the language of Bukharian Jews[22]. This newspaper was printed in Hebrew letters and published on the initiative of R. Davidbaev, who brought from Lublin all the equipment necessary for the publication of the newspaper.

In July 1910, Rakhmin Davidbaev turned to the military governor of the Fergana region with a request to allow, under his personal responsibility, to publish the news and articles of his own correspondents, as well as excerpts on commercial issues from the newspaper Voice of Fergana, but he himself soon withdrew his petition. Probably, Davidbaev had reason to fear that he would be denied this, and therefore decided to publish such materials without attracting the attention of the administration. Over time, the newspaper also began to publish excerpts from Russian and Jerusalem Jewish newspapers, a chronicle of Turkestan life, internal Russian and foreign news, commercial information, feuilletons, congratulations, letters to the editor, references and announcements.

Basically, the newspaper published news from all over the world, translated from Russian newspapers, however, there were also materials on Jewish topics of both general and local significance. The newspaper was published once a week until 1916[23]. And what attracts attention, being a private newspaper, was printed in the official printing house "Fergana Regional Vedomosti" and, unlike other private newspapers, was published for a long time, although the path of publication was not easy. In March 1912, the military governor allowed the editor to open a printing house in the house of his mother, Esther Davidbayeva, in the city of Skobelev, where it was supposed to type the newspaper, and printing was still to be done in the printing house of the Fergana regional government. Azaria Yusupov (Cohen), Rafael Galibov, Rafail Khakhamov and Nisim Tazher also helped Davidbaev publish the newspaper. But due to financial difficulties, R. Davidbaev could not publish the newspaper from January to mid-June 1913. During this time, he took a number of measures that made it possible to resume its publication. So, at the very end of 1912, he moved the printing house from Skobelev to Kokand, to the house of his uncle, Rafail Poteliahov.

At the beginning of 1913, he obtained permission from the military governor of the region to transfer the publication of the newspaper there. Having resolved

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the issue with the premises, the publishing house in June 1913 slightly increased the retail price of the newspaper. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the income covered all the expenses of the newspaper, which amounted to about 2 thousand rubles a year. After moving to Kokand, Davidbaev continued to experience problems with the premises. In June 1914, with the permission of the military governor of the region, he was forced to transfer the printing house and the publication of the newspaper "Rahamim" to the house of Aron Khaitov. On July 18, 1916, martial law was introduced in the region, and the local administration took measures to limit social activities. As a result, many public organizations and press organs that were not connected with the administration were closed, including the first newspaper of Bukharian Jews, Rahamim. Rakhimim Davidbaev himself was shot by the Bolsheviks in 1918[24].

### **CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion, it should be noted that the periodical press in Turkestan has its own history. She has come a long way, accumulating a very rich experience in this area. Most importantly, the periodical press of the Fergana Valley has become an important reality in the socio-cultural life of the population. The beginning of this process in the country was caused by the sociopolitical, economic, cultural necessity for the government of the Russian Empire, and the creation of a national press in the republic was especially difficult. And the first ever private newspaper in the language of Bukharian Jews played its role: for the Bukharian Jews scattered throughout the cities of Central Asia and who did not have a single community-religious institutions or structures during the period of Russian rule, Rahamim became an important unifying body.

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