

# From The History Of The Formation Of Private Printing In Turkestan

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**Abstract:** This article attempts to provide a detailed account of the cooperative relations in the emergence, formation, and development of private printing in Turkestan. The research was conducted on the basis of archival documents, periodicals, local and international sources, as well as the analysis of existing literature. The article highlights the stages of the appearance of private printing houses, their organizational and economic mechanisms, and their contribution to the development of national culture.

**Keywords:** "Military People's Administration Printing House," Viktor Pastukhov, Esanboy Husaynboyogli, O. Porsev, A. L. Krisner, I. Vayner, Gulomiya.

**Introduction:** After the conquest of Turkestan by the Russian Empire in the 1860s–1870s, the region was turned into its raw material base, and this land's inexhaustible to plunder the inexhaustible wealth of this land, to spread Russian culture in the region, and to Russify the population of Turkestan, the Russian Empire established periodical press and printing as a powerful ideological weapon. Although printing in Turkestan emerged later than in other regions of Europe and Asia, it developed rapidly. At first, private printing houses were founded by Russian publishers, and later by local intellectuals. The emergence of printing was undoubtedly a great cultural achievement for the peoples of Turkestan. From the moment the Russian Empire established a printing house in Tashkent, the development of printing in Turkestan began.

This article investigates the history of private printing houses in Turkestan and the cooperative relations in their establishment. Private printing houses were, of course, opened with the aim of making profit. Russian publishers in particular established printing houses in Turkestan to gain income. However, for local intellectuals there was a higher purpose more important than profit. That higher purpose was to enlighten the population of Turkestan. In achieving this, the printing press played a major role. During the Soviet and independence periods, numerous scholarly

studies were conducted on the emergence of printing, and many articles and pamphlets were written. The emergence and development of printing were studied in detail. However, the cooperative relations in the establishment of printing have not yet been researched, and in this article an attempt is made to provide a detailed account of the cooperative relations in the founding of private printing houses.

## METHODS

This article is presented on the basis of the principles accepted in historical science: scientific rigor, historicism, impartiality, comparative-logical analysis, and sequence. The following works were used: Husayn Shams's "Matbaachilik tarixi", T. Ernazarov and A. Akbarov's "История печати Туркестана", A. Boboxonov's "O'zbek matbaasi tarixi asari", Z. Abdurashidov's "Tarjimon gazetasidagi Turkiston materiallarining izohli bibliografiyasi", M. P. Avsharova's "Русский периодическая печат в Туркестане", Ziyoy Said's "O'zbek vaqtli matbuoti tarixiga materiallar", and Chabrov's "Из истории полиграфии и издательства литературы на In the works "местных языках в дореволюционном Туркестане" (1868–1917), "У истоков узбекской полиграфии (хивинская придворная литография 1874–1910 гг.)", "К изучению среднеазиатского книжного переплета // Народы Азии и Африки", and "Книгопечатание в Средней Азии второй половины

XIX veka”, as well as in U. Dolimov’s “Is’hoqxon To’ra Ibrat”, N. Abduazizova’s “O’zbekiston matbuoti tarixi”, Alisher Isoqboev’s “Turkiston ijtimoiiy-siyosiy va madaniy hayotida tatar-boshqird ma’rifatparvarlarining faoliyati”, T. Ernazarov’s “Turkistonda vaqtli matbuot”, S. Agzamxo’jayev and Z. Ulug’bekova’s “Al-isloh jurnali – Turkistondagi islohotchilik harakatini o’rganish bo’yicha tarixiy manba”, Begali Qosimov’s “Milliy uyg’onish”, M. I. Rustamov’s “O’zbek kitobi”, Рожинская F. N.’s “Из истории развития книгоиздательского дела в Узбекистане”, A. Kattaboyev’s article “O’zbek kitob nashri tarixiga doir”, and L. S. Kholnazarova’s “История книжного дела и библиотековедения в Бухарском эмирате в XIX – начале XX в”, important information is provided about the emergence of printing in Turkestan.

## RESULTS

Due to its mass character, the press and printing have played an important role in human history. They are among the sharpest tools for rapidly spreading ideas and thoughts among the people and making them widespread. The transition from distributing information by handwriting to dissemination through printing was a great event in human history. With the emergence of new means of mass information such as radio, television, and the internet, book publishing has not lost its significance. Books preserve ideas and thoughts forever, transmitting them from generation to generation. They record and restore them as immutable documents.

It is well known that the years 1870–1917 occupied a place in our national history as the period of colonial rule by the Russian Empire. During this time, printing was established in Turkestan, and this was a novelty for the region. At the same time, the introduction of publishing and printing into Turkestan was undoubtedly a great achievement for the culture of the peoples of Turkestan. In the early years, the administrators of the Russian Empire The printing press was used by the Russian Empire to carry out its colonial objectives, to spread its ideas, and to pursue a policy of Russification of the population. The intellectuals of Turkestan, however, sought to use it in the opposite way—to rescue the local peoples from ignorance and oppression, to awaken them, and to make the nation enlightened.

The first printing house in Turkestan was established in 1868 under the headquarters of the military district staff. However, this printing house was mainly adapted for producing forms, orders, and chancery materials. Its technical capabilities for publishing newspapers or books were quite limited. Therefore, the necessity arose to establish a new printing house. This new

printing house was intended to have both Russian and Arabic typefaces.

The first Governor-General of Turkestan, Konstantin Petrovich von Kaufman, on August 20, 1870, issued a decree to open a new printing house under the office of the Governor-General of Turkestan, capable of publishing not only forms, orders, and chancery materials but also newspapers, journals, and books. This printing house was named the “Military People’s Administration Printing House.” To establish the new printing house, the Governor-General allocated 12,000 soms from the budget [1]. It was planned to bring the necessary printing equipment, typefaces, cash registers, specialists, and other required items in a short time from the central cities of Russia, and to set the printing house into operation. The task of implementing this was entrusted to Mr. Gomding, who in turn sent Staff Major Mikhailov to St. Petersburg and Moscow to procure the necessary equipment for the printing house.

The required Arabic typefaces for the printing house were ordered from the type casting factory in Kazan. Printing specialists familiar with the Arabic alphabet were also recruited from that city. In Mr. Gomding’s written report submitted to the Governor-General in 1871, it was noted that the equipment for the “Military People’s Administration Printing House” was being procured in an orderly manner [2].

Private printing houses in Turkestan began to be established in the 1870s. The first private printing house was founded in Tashkent on July 20, 1876 It was opened in the city, and this printing house was founded by Viktor Pastukhov [3]. In some studies, it is written that the first private printing house in Turkestan was founded by Bazilevskiy, while in other books it is stated that it was founded by Semyon Laxtin. However, recent research shows that this information is incorrect. The printing house founded by Viktor Pastukhov had one printing machine and one copper press. A year later, a lithographic press was installed. Later, Pastukhov moved the printing house to Laxtin’s house, and in 1879 to the courtyard of the Tashkent merchant Rahmatullaboy. In 1880, the printing house passed into the hands of Semyon Laxtin [4].

In the development of this printing house, the services of the Tashkent merchant Esanboy Husaynboyogli, who traded in iron, were very significant. This Tashkent merchant, who valued enlightenment, supported the publication of books in the Uzbek language. In 1882, Esanboy Husaynboyogli purchased lithographic machines from Russia. The lithographic equipment, brought on fifty camels, was installed in S. Laxtin’s printing house. With the participation of Esanboy

Husaynboyogli, the publication of books in Uzbek began. The first book in Uzbek printed on the presses of this printing house was So'fi Olloyor's "Sabot ul ojizin" [5]. According to archival documents, in 1889 local customers were permitted to publish the works "Chor kitob", "Qofiya", and "Layli va Majnun" at S. Laxtin's printing house [6].

It should be especially emphasized that S. Laxtin's printing house was the press that gave rise to the first Uzbek publishers. Based on the information in the sources, Esanboy Husaynboyogli can be called the first Uzbek publisher. Under his publishing activity, "Sabotul ojizin" and Alisher Navoi's *Devon* were published in large volumes. In 1893, this printing house passed into the hands of the trading company "Aka-uka Kamenskiylar."

During the ownership of the Kamenskiy brothers, lithographic books were published very rarely in the printing house. The press mainly focused on publishing typographic books. Nevertheless, Mulla Ahmad's "Aqoyidga sharh" and, under the publishing of Sirojiddin Maxdum ibn Domla Mirza Ahmad Oxund, a four-volume collection of Alisher Navoi's works were published here [7]. The type-lithography of the Kamenskiy brothers Since the Kamenskiy brothers' printing house did not bring as much profit as expected, in 1899 it was sold to the First Guild merchant Vasiliy Mefodiyevich Ilin.

At Vasiliy Ilin's printing house there were two needle-format printing machines, an "Amerikanka," a copying machine, and lithographic presses. All the equipment was operated manually. On July 24, 1897, Mefodiy Ilinov Ilin, a Second Guild merchant of the city of Prjevalsk, passed away. His son, Vasiliy Mefodiyevich Ilin, from January 1, 1898, received the title of Second Guild merchant of Tashkent [8].

The staff of V. M. Ilin's typolithography had an international character. In this printing house, alongside Russians such as G. M. Kabilkovskiy, L. K. Dimitriyev, I. I. Kostelov, and Andrey Bikov, and Jews such as Baxarev, and the Tatar printer Fozil Rahmatullin, local printers including Yusuf Musamuhamedov, Nizomiddin Xo'jayev, Olim Xo'jayev, Ziyovuddin Xo'jayev, and Rizamuhamedov also worked [9]. For a certain period, the poet G'ofur G'ulom also worked in this printing house. On the eve of the October Revolution of 1917, the number of workers in the printing house exceeded 50 [10]. In this printing house, the first Uzbek newspapers "Taraqqiy" and "Sadoyi Turkiston" were published, and later Abdulla Avloniy's newspaper "Turon" was also printed. The typolithography of the Porsev brothers was one of the successful private printing houses, established in

1888. This typolithography was founded in Tashkent by the merchant Osip Alekseyevich Porsev together with his brother, who was serving in the military. Russian typefaces for the printing house were brought from St. Petersburg, while Arabic typefaces were ordered from the type casting factory in Kazan [11].

Highly qualified workers were needed for the printing house. To solve this issue, experienced specialists from the central cities of Russia were invited to the printing house for high salaries. The necessary printing equipment, printing machines, cutting, ruling, and lithographic tools for the typolithography were partly brought from St. Petersburg and partly purchased from neighboring printing houses. In the printing and lithography departments mainly Russian specialists worked, while in the typesetting department B. A. Among those who worked there were Krekovskiy, M. Dimitriyev, the Gololobov brothers, S. N. Kharchev, P. D. Nemitinov, P. D. Feodiseyev, N. P. Vasilyev, M. G. Maslov, as well as Tatar specialists such as the Rahmatullin brothers, Shahingirey Bekqulov, and G. Hamidullinov. Training specialists in Arabic typefaces for the printing house was entrusted by O. A. Porsev to G. Hamidullinov [12].

"O. A. Porsev would select apprentices for his printing house only from orphaned boys (from Orenburg and nearby cities). After bringing the boys to the printing house and providing them with housing and food, he enforced strict discipline to accustom them to work. From 1910, the printing machines were converted into steam-powered polygraphic equipment, and the labor of printers became considerably easier."

In 1904, in the city of Tashkent, the Jewish merchant Abram Leybovich Krisner established a typolithography. In 1892, A. L. Krisner had opened a small bookshop in Tashkent. When this business did not succeed, he cooperated with the "Znaniye" firm. However, dissatisfied with this work as well, he purchased a printing machine and founded a printing house. In 1906, A. L. Krisner established the newspaper "Tashkentskiy kuryer", published weekly in 3,500 copies, and became its publisher and editor. When "Tashkentskiy kuryer" was closed by order of the governor, the newspaper "Turkestanskiy kuryer" was published in its place [13]. After organizing the newspaper business, A. L. Krisner sought to expand the printing house's equipment, and in April 1910 he ordered a polygraphic printing machine from the central polygraph firm [14]. With the improvement of the technical capabilities of the printing house, from 1910 the journal "O'rta Osiyo" began to be published [15]. The printing house had three printing machines, a copying device, and a sufficient stock of type for publishing newspapers and journals. From the presses

of this printing house were published Normuhammad Namongoniy's collection of ghazals "Tuhfatul obidin va anisul oshiqin" and Fuzuli's *Devon* [16].

In 1914, in the Boybo'ta neighborhood of the city of Kokand, a typolithography was established by I. Vayner. I. Vayner was a merchant of Jewish origin, and He founded the printing house with the aim of obtaining considerable profit. In this printing house, local workers such as Ortiqboy and Nazirjon worked as typesetters [17]. A. L. Vayner mainly employed these workers in the printing of books in Arabic script. From 1915, this printing house was transformed into a steam-powered typolithography. In this press were published Ibrohim Davron's "Madaniy jumboqlar" and "Ash'ori Nisvon", Mahmud Hakim Yayfaniy's geodesy work "G'aniyat al-masohat", Hamza Hakimzoda Niyoziy's novel "Saodat", and many other books [18]. The newspapers "Kengash" and "Hurriyat" were also printed in this typolithography.

During this period in Turkestan, numerous typolithographies operated, including "G'ulomiya", "Matbaai Is'hoqiya", "Demurov", "Poltoranov", "Abdusattorboyev", "Shimakov", "Bazilevskiy", "Geyer", "Kasnelson", "Edelman", "Petrov", "Groman", "Fridman", "Minakov", "Abduraupov", "Osiyo", "Maktab", "Ravnaq", "Vilner", "Ilhomjon Inog'omjonov", and the Jewish press "Yakov Samandar", as well as many others. In the first part of our article, we have provided information only about some of the private printing houses. In the subsequent parts of our research on private printing houses active in Turkestan, we will attempt to give detailed information about the activities of the presses listed above.

## CONCLUSION

It should be emphasized that in the emergence, formation, and development of private printing in Turkestan, the cooperative relations among merchants, intellectuals, and other social groups belonging to different nationalities played an important role. However, this issue has not yet been studied as a separate research subject. A deep study of this topic will make it possible to identify the stages of the emergence of private printing, their material and technical capabilities, and to reveal the less illuminated pages of the history of printing in Turkestan.

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