



ISSN : 2350-0743

www.ijramr.com



*International Journal of Recent Advances in Multidisciplinary Research*

*Vol. 07, Issue 01, pp. 5501-5505, January, 2020*

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### FROM THE HISTORY OF FORMATION OF PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN KARAKALPAKSTAN

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#### ARTICLE INFO

##### **Article History:**

Received 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

Received in revised form

29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Accepted 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Published online 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

##### **Keywords:**

Lithography, Publishing, Typesetting  
Machines, Arabian Graphics, Course  
Books, Preparing Personnels.

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#### ABSTRACT

The article deals with the issues on the history of formation of publishing houses in Karakalpakstan at the first half of the XX century. The first typographic equipment in the region appeared at the end of the 19th century. During the Soviet period publication policy became an important part of the Soviet policy. The government financed this branch totally and provided the edition of book production including the books in the karakalpak language. In the 1930s the system of publishing industry which is completely controlled by the Centre was created in Karakalpakstan.

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#### INTRODUCTION

As any industrial spheres the publishing sphere has its own history of development. In the presented article we'd like to write about the publishing industry in the example of Karakalpakstan. The appearance of publishing business began in the region with the coming of poligraphy and publication techniques, like offset printing. Offset printing was a German lithographic style which was implemented into the industry in the XIX century by Johann Zennefelder. Later it was used by many countries of the world and influenced on the development of this sphere.

**The history of publication:** The history of publication in Karakalpakstan began from the end of the XIX century, when in 1874 Khiva Khan Seyd Mukhammed Rakhim-khan II – Feruz brought the first printing machine to Central Asia. He appointed Atajan Abdalov responsible for the publishing, who with the help of his teacher Ibrakhim Sultan began to print the first books in lithographic way (Abduazizova, 2008: 12). They published mostly the historic works, and also the creations of Munis, Agakhiy, Bayoniy, Niyoziy and other poets-laureates of Khiva khanate. Unfortunately, this industry had to stop his activity for some time because of poor financing. In 1893 Atajan Abdalov reestablished the publishing house again after buying typographic machines for his own money (200 roubles). And his name was recognized in the region, on the right bank of the Amudarya as “Atajan typist”.

His books became popular among local people, parts of which were kept in the libraries of mosques and madrasahs of the region (Semenov, 1971). We consider that some of the books, printed by Atajan typist came to mosques and madrasahs of the Karakalpakstan too, as they had a rich fund of publications. The researchers say that most publication products came to the territory of Karakalpakstan from abroad by merchants, and typographic machines were bought from Russia and Iran (Nurjanov, 2015: 11). This kind of situation was typical in this sphere, as it was only in its organizational stage at that time. So, at the beginning of 1920 there established the State Publication Center in Moscow, and in May 1924 – the Central Publication House – the biggest publication house, which published books in all languages of the people in the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics. In order to improve the printing of books and apply printing houses with necessary materials there decided to unite the State Publication Center and some specialized offices. Centralization of organizations continued till the 1929. On December 28, 1928 the Central Committee of the All Union Communist Party adopted a decree “On Providing people with books”, where pointed that the literature for a mass should be a tool in the organization of a mass and in communistic enlightenment. This decision gave a great impulse to the improvement of publishing industry in the country and in Karakalpakstan. There given financial support to periphery printing houses to improve their financial situation, to prepare personnel, to involve qualified specialists, authors and editors. Several months before this decree, in autumn of 1928 the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Karakalpak Autonomous Republic had adopted a decision “On organization of the Publishing Industry in Karakalpakstan”. There stated that the only printing house was situated in Turtkul, which published only one newspaper

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“Independent karakalpak” and brochures and agitprop leaflets in small edition, but educational books were published in Tashkent and Moscow till the 1930s. The archival sources let us think that the first printing machines were brought to the right bank of the river, which was ruled by the Russians, at the beginning of the XX century. In Amydarya district there worked a private printing house, the owner of which was somebody by name Nozikov. But after the soviet union had established his power the printing industry was under the regulation of the government, as this sphere was considered the most important aspect. Nozikov’s publishing house in Amydarya region was taken by the government and other publishing houses in the left bank of the river were bankrupted (Syinov, 1964). A great number of books in kazakh were published in Karakalpakstan at that time. As the researcher O.Yusupov mentioned “during the twentieth years a lot of course books and literary books published in Orenburg, Kizilorda and Tashkent were spread in Karakalpakstan”. In 1925 there were published the first three course books “Alippe (ABC)”, “Reading book in the Karakalpak language”, “Educating Adults” in the Eastern part of Kazakh State Publication (Dosumov, 1960; Shalekenov, 1960; Syinov, 1962).

#### **The publishing industry in karakalpakstan in 1940-1950s:**

The time before the World War II in the history of Karakalpakstan was usually associated with repressions, the end of collectivization of agriculture, liquidation of ownership and antireligious propaganda. Looking at another side of the coin we could find facts which showed the social-economic and cultural development of the country at the mentioned period. While reading historical documents we faced with the notion “cultural revolution”, which might play a noticeable role in defining the period of 1930s in Karakalpakstan. Facts show that especially in 1937-1941 there was reached great success in realization of this notion (The History of Karakalpak ASSR. Volume. II. – Nukus, 1974. – P.215-216). The history showed that this period of time gave us enormous numbers of published books in karakalpak language on political, technical and economic issues, a great number of translations from Russian classical books, and also the creations of the karakalpak folklore.

There existed only one publishing house in Karakalpakstan at prewar time- “Karakalpak book and newspaper publishing house” (later it was renamed into the Karakalpak State Publishing House). Almost all the printed products were published at this place, not mentioning some copies, published in Moscow and in Tashkent. The local publishing house increased its activity gradually, by printing for example, course books on 8 subjects in 1933-1934, the number of which was increased to 54 in 1940 (Central State Archive ..., st.323, reg.1, f.7, p.13). And this was the fact concerning only to course books. Before the World War II there existed about 220 big publishing houses in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), among which the Karakalpak State Publishing House was considered to be little. In April 1939, the Union of People’s Committee of Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic and the Central Committee of Communist Party of Uzbekistan adopted a decree “On Enhancement of Publishing Industry in Uzbekistan”, where mentioned the increasing number of printed books, “especially translations of marxism-leninism classics”. The decree pointed some drawbacks in this sphere, aroused by the lack of central management. According to this decree all publishing houses in Uzbekistan were

reformed into 6 types of publishing houses: Publishing house of Uzbekistan Writers’ Union, “Uchpedgiz” (Educational-pedagogical publications), “Yndetizdat” (Youth and children’s publications), Publishing house for Scientific-Technical books, Publishing house of Agricultural books, Publishing house of Art, photo and music books. The condition of Karakalpakstan at that time did not allow to have all these types in the republic, as there wasn’t any net of publishing houses and bookstores there. There worked only 4 bookstores in the republic (in Turtkul, Chymbay, Khodjeyly, and Myunak) (Central State Archive ..., st.322, reg.1, f.478, p.27-28.). Till 1939 the “Uchpedgiz” was responsible for publishing course books in the karakalpak language, while as the Karakalpak State Publishing House printed only political, literary, agricultural and partly methodological books. There was the only one Publishing House in Turtkul named after S.Kirov, which could print brochures, books without illustrations, pictures and drawings and in small edition. After the decree of regional committee and the Union of People’s Committee of Karakalpakstan in 1939, the structure of the Publishing House was enlarged in the following way: there worked 16 people in editorial board, 12 people in manufacturing sector, but the professionals worked in different places; 7 people worked in Moscow busy with publishing course books, 5 people- in Tashkent, others –in Turtkul, preparing copies (Central State Archive ..., st.323, r.1, f.7, p.14.).

At the end of 1930 there appeared a new language policy where all languages in the USSR should adopt the Cyrillic alphabet. After the decision of the Central Committee of Communist Party and the Union of People’s Committee of the USSR all the languages in the USSR were transformed into the Cyrillic alphabet during 3 months. For this reason, at the beginning of 1940 the Karakalpak State Publishing House stopped printing books in Latin. In the same year the karakalpak linguists K.Ubaydullav, K.Ayimbetov, and N.Davkaraev developed the alphabet and spelling rules of the karakalpak language in the Cyrillic. This alphabet was implemented by the decree of the Presidium of Central Executive Committee of the Karakalpak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic on July 18, 1940. The executive director of the Karakalpak State Publishing House Sagitov wrote: “There was a huge work in front of editorial board in the form of learning a new alphabet and changing course books according to it”. (Central State Archive ..., st.323, reg.1, f.7, p.30.). The transition to Cyrillic alphabet made a great number of challenges for polygraphy people; books printed in 1941 had a lot of misprints, as the director of the Publishing House Sigbatullin mentioned most of them were connected with new spelling rules. “The followed spelling rules till the January of 1941 were clarified and implemented once more after that time” (Central State Archive ..., st.323, reg.1, f.7, p.32) The Union of People’s Committee of the Republic let the Karakalpak State Publishing House organize a course for learning a new alphabet: 2 hours a day editors, correctors, translators and typists learned the karakalpak alphabet in the Cyrillic. In the Turtkul Publishing House (in 1940 the Nukus Publishing House was being built and was not equipped at all) there existed only 7 printing machines, among which 2 “Pioners”, 1 “Iskra”, 2 “Auzburg” and 2 “Americans” and all of them were over used for 75-80% (Central State Archive of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, stock.173, register.1, file.9, paper.21.). Nevertheless, the publishing house printed books with 136 titles in 404550 copies; among which were course books, methodological handbooks, books on social –economic,

agricultural issues, belles-lettres and children's books. The last one had an important political value at that time, as since 1938 according to joined decree of the Union of People's Committee of the USSR and the Central Committee of Communistic Party all the learners of national schools in the republic and regions had been learning the Russian language compulsory. On August 1, 1938 the Central Committee of Communistic Party of Uzbekistan admitted the execution of the decree unsatisfactory and made the authorities to eliminate drawbacks, printing course books and other literature in Russian for non-russian schools, increasing the hours for learning Russian in national schools (Central State Archive ..., st.322, reg.1, f.473, p.60.).

There published great number of works of Russian classics, soviet writers and poets. In 1940 the Karakalpak State Publishing House began printing the creations of Russian classics, like A.S.Pushkin. M.Y.Lermontov. M.V.Gogol and others in translation. As the works of karakalpak folklore were still popular among the karakalpak people in 1940s there also published the books like "Examples of karakalpak oral folk creations", "Creations of the karakalpaks", "Maspatsha", "Koblan". "Karakalpak fairy tales", and collection of creations by J.Aymurzaev, N.Japakov, M.Daribaev, S.Nurumbetov and others. The beginning of the World War II influenced on the activity of publishing houses in Karakalpakstan greatly: the building of the Publishing House had been finished and the Karakalpak State Publishing House had already moved to Nukus by that time, but the military situation in the country made to decrease the number of personnel, there were problems with technical support, electricity as mentioned in the report of I.Sagitov on May, 1942. During 1941-1942 the House could manage to publish books with only 78 titles, there changed the sked of literature – more books on military and defense issues, which wrote about antiaerial and anti-gas defense of population, medical service, publications on political and patriotic issues (Yusupov O., Dosimbetov G. 75 years to Nukus Publishing House. Nukus, 1998. P. 42-44).

There was a programm to publish course books in the karakalpak language in Nukus Publishing House beginning with 1942-1943, but the shortage of paper and manufacturing tools, lack of personnel procrastinated the execution of this plan. Even after the war there existed problems with budgets and equipment which influenced on productivity of the House. Only in 1952 the Publishing House managed to establish its prewar position, as the needs to books, especially to course books became high day by day. People demanded more books on karakalpak folk tales, works of karakalpak national poets, belles lettres published in the Nukus and Tashkent Publishing Houses. The Nukus Publishing House could not manage to fulfill the arrangements, as there was a lack of qualified personnel, like typesetters, binders and others. Instead of literary books there published books on political, agricultural issues, as the thematic point should come to political and economic tendency of the time. In 1950 the manager of the Karakalpak State Publishing House Tadjimuratov addressed to the Regional Committee of the Party to petit before the Central Committee of Communistic Party to reprecinate the karakalpak section in "Uchpedgiz of Russia" (Central State Archive ... st.323, reg.1, f.7, p.87). On August 21, 1954 the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Central Committee of Communistic Party of Soviet Union adopted a decree according to which the Karakalpak State Publishing House interfered into a special regime of crediting and accounting,

because of poor manufacturing power (Central State Archive ..., st.R-173, reg.1, f.201, p.44). After this decree the activity of the Nukus Publishing House was enlivened, the House was supplied by trouble proof electricity, sufficient kinds of paper and other technical equipment. In 1955 the yearly circulation of republican and regional newspapers was increased for three times, magazines –for 1.6 times, books-20 times in comparing to 1945. But still there were problems with technical support, qualified personnel which prevented the House from answering the requirements of the time. Nevertheless, we had our own heroes in this publishing industry whose names we'd like to mention in this paper. They are: Ruzibaev, Markova, Ernazarov (linotype operators), Zaripova, Izenova, Saparova, Sadikov, Rispanov, Kim, Matchanov (typesetters), Durjanova, Ischanov, Amanturlieva, Sultanov (typists), Voynova, Ayshuakova, Tashimbetov (binders), Sagirbaev, Kurbaniyazov, Khamidullin (stereotypers) and many others. (Central State Archive ..., st.R-173, reg.1, f.201, p.137, 170.). By that time the Nukus Publishing House had managed with the systematic printing of all course books for karakalpak schools, the number of literary books had been increased sensitively. The majority of books were sold by special trade net "Uzkitob" (Uzbek books), the Republican Society of Consumers in Karakalpakstan via the office "Knigatorg" (Bookselling). Trading centers of the Republican Society of Consumers very seldom considered the published products as "best sellers", though they had priority to 25% discount from each book. Books were sold very slowly in country places, villages, most of the books were kept in storehouses for a long time. The karakalpak office "Knigatorg" had his own bookshops in 10 regions, but most of them were located in back stores or basements. Even the "exemplary" bookstore in Nukus had not its own building (Central St. Arc ..., st. R-173, reg.1, f.201, p.230.). The facts show, at the pointed period the publishing industry in Karakalpakstan had difficult times in its existence. Only the lively interest of people to knowledge, their motivation to reading made the government to pay more attention and put more effort into this sphere. Notwithstanding all the drawbacks like old manufacturing tools, weak mechanization of industry, the hard work and efforts of the staff of the Karakalpak State Publishing House let them satisfy the needs of the population

**The First Books:** After some time with great difficulties publishing houses began their activities. According to sources they printed only political literature, leaflets, small format newspapers (Yusupov, 1993: 15-16). But most of the books for local people were brought from other places and all of them were in kazakh. A famous karakalpak scholar K.Ayimbetov wrote "At previous times we were lack of books and even pencils". Then we afforded each student have their own coursebooks. Kazakh eposes "Kiz Jibek", "Alpamis", "Kobilandi" and many other literary books published by Abubakir Divaev were sold in Chimbay by tatar tradesmen. We bought these books and read them with great interest. These books made great influence on our enlightenment" (Ayimbetov, 2008: 71). It is worth mentioning that at that time in karakalpak schools most subjects were conducted in kazakh, Kazakh language and literature were taught as a special subject in every school. According to K.Ayimbetov a lot of teachers from Kazakhstan came to the region before 1924. One of them Hilal (Ilal) Baymuhanbetov, about whom there were written "Hilal (Ilal) Baymuhanbetov together with Janahmat Akmanbetov came to Chimbay from Kizilorda and taught us. In 1925 Janahmat Akmanbetov returned to Kizilorda and Hilal

became the head of Tortkul pedagogical college and taught Kazakh language and literature. At that time the native language was taught in Kazakh. Hilal Baymuhanbetov was 22 when he taught us, but his nature, character and teacher presence had a great influence on my becoming a person” (Ayimbetov, 2008: 108). In 1924 the Karakalpak Autonomous Region became in the Kazakh ASSR A.Dosnazarov paid great attention to publishing industry. In 1924-1925 he wrote letters to Kazakh soviet party organisations about the necessity of development and improvement of books and publication process (Nurjanov, 2015: 11). Kazakhstan government took his applications into account and asked the authorities in Moscow to budgeting the publishing industry of Karakalpak Autonomous Region. As a result the Center financial loan to the reestablishment of printing industry in Tortkul and in 1925-1926 the professional typist Atajan Abdalov led the work. (Synov, 1964). For some time the printing house had some challenges because of qualified personnel, lack of paper, paints and over use of printing types. Later all karakalpak and Kazakh intelligent people did all their best to the development of printing newspapers and books. We can mention their names as Kasim Auezov, Abu Kudabaev, Seyfulgabit Majitov, Seyitkali Agaydarov, Murtaza Baymenschin, Kenje Nazaralin, Tamendar Safiev and others.

The development of Karakalpak publishing industry was in close relation to the work of P.Varlamov who was appointed by Kazakh regional committee the secretary of local communistic party in 1927. Up to that time he worked as head of department on agitation and propaganda in Kazakh regional committee. At this time Kazakh government paid attention to the publishing houses and there given financial support to these houses. In 1928 on December 28 a Legislation act of Central Committee of Communistic Party “On servicing the public with books” was adopted. This legislation pointed the importance of folk literature as a tool for enlightening the people and uniting the society (<http://coolreferat.com/>). A bit earlier, especially in autumn of 1928 according to the decision of the Presidium of the Karakalpak Autonomous Region “the organization of Publishing process in Karakalpakstan” was discussed and there mentioned the slow development of the industry because of limited funding. The only Publishing house was in Tortkul at that time and it only published leaflets and brochures. Most of political books, brochures, business blanks were brought from publishing houses of other cities. Later local intelligence like Seyfulgabit Majitov and Kasim Awezov wrote books which were published in Moscow and Tashkent till 1930<sup>th</sup>. In 1930 a huge polygraph enterprise – Union of printing books and magazines was organized in Moscow. This was the first step to centralize the publishing industry, as there were involved 30 different publishing houses, a number of great printing stores, specialized educational and scientific establishments, and there organized a special department on bookselling.

**Government Policy:** On August 15, 1931 the Central Committee of the Communistic Party adopted a decree “On Publication Affairs ” according to which several Publishing houses were separated from the Union of State Publications; and publishing houses in all the republics of the Soviet Union were given a function to print books in the languages of nations in the USSR. After entering the poligraphy sphere of the Russian Federal Soviet Socialist Republic, the karakalpak poligrapy began to develop; there organized the Karakalpak Publishing house of books and magazines, the local printing

houses were reequipped, qualified personnel were involved into the work and new types in Latin graphics were bought. The main polygraph machines factory was in Leningrad, factory named after Max Heltz, which constructed the interlinear machines –linotypes. In 1933 the factory sent printing machines «Linotype» и «Sinkografiya» and in 1934 two more printing equipment “Pioneer” to Karakalpakstan (Qzil Qaraqalpaqstan, 1935). So, from 1930s there began the formation and the development of publishing industry in Karakalpakstan. Together with the improvement of the financial and technical condition of the Karakalpak Publishing House, there also involved young personnel like translators, proofreaders, editors into the sphere. As a result, there published 47 kinds of books on the 212,75 printed sheet in 83,5thousand copies in 1935, and in 1940 there published 100 kinds of books on 608 sheet in 513 thousand copies. In 1933-1934 there published 8 course books in the karakalpak language, but till 1939 all the course books in the karakalpak language were published in the printing houses of the Russian Federation People’s Enlightenment Commissariat “Uchpedgiz”. The reason of it lied not only in shortage of qualified personnel and weak poligraphic base, but in state policy of centralizing the system of education and enlightenment. That’s why the Karakalpak Publishing House printed only political, literary, agricultural, and methodological books (Central St. Ar ..., s.323, r.1, f.7, p.13). But in 1940 the Karakalpak State Publishing House printed only course books in 54 titles and in 1941 all the course books in the karakalpak language were published here in the Cyrillic alphabet.

In the 1930s the policy of developing the people’s habit of reading was realized in the form of “culture campaign”, which aimed to implement the idea of enlightening and educating everybody, in correlation to other social and political campaigns like liquidation of illiteracy, women movement, antireligious struggle and others. The publication of books was also ruled in the frame of this policy, paying more attention to the theme of books, enlarging the number of publications in the karakalpak language, printing more republican and regional newspapers, involving more and more young poets and writers, active national intelligentsia. We can name the karakalpak state and social activists in this sphere like K. Avezov, S. Majitov, I. Fazilov, T.Safiev, O.Kojurov, P. Seytmuratov, M. Yakubov, K. Ayimbetov and others. All the printed works served for agitation and propaganda of the Communist Party’s work, and also answered the needs of karakalpak society in utility knowledge. As we mentioned above, the Karakalpak State Publishing House printed only political, literary, agricultural, and methodological books in limited copies, and the most part of the publications consisted of books in Russian, uzbek and Kazakh languages. The Personnel of the Publishing House in 1939 consisted of 19 people, 9 of which were engaged into translations of political and agitation and propaganda texts from the Russian language and publication of them. The course books in the karakalpak language were still published in Moscow and Tashkent Publishing Houses. There worked a staff consisted of the karakalpak educated people, (In Moscow- 7 people, in Tashkent - 5) (Central St. Arc ..., s.323, reg.1, f.7, p.13-14).

**Motivating To Learn:** In 1930s not only the publication process, but also the system of distributing the printed products began to improve; various books, brochures, newspapers and magazines were produced, different kind of republican and regional conferences, meetings, trips and other

cultural events were held. There appeared small houses-reading rooms and libraries, though most of them were situated in inconvenient places and did not work regularly. Though the publication business was considered by the Communist Party as one of the main sphere of “ideological front” and as a tool for agitation and propaganda work, in the condition of Karakalpakstan it was impossible, as the mass did not buy them. As an example we can give the fact that the newspaper “The Karakalpak Communist” was only subscribed by the members of the Party and some intelligentsia. Most of the writers and poets did their best in developing population’s motivation to read. For example, a famous poet-enlightener S.Majitov in his poem invited everybody to learn, to be a knowledgeable person.

"Hey guys, aren't we,  
Let's go and read,  
Read and read all the bimini  
Have fun.”(S.Majitov, 1975: 96)  
The poet Khojahmet Axmetov poem (1931) also mentions the value of knowledge, that everything depends on the science and learning:  
Look, read and dance  
The unread person is loyal.  
Gulnan is reading,  
Read, read - livestock ... (Kh.Akhmetov, 1975: 77)

One more peculiar features of that time was the high censorship, or paying more attention to the ideology of the printed materials. There was a special department, the department on literature and publication under the People’s Commissariat of Enlightenment (“Glavlit”), which was responsible for political-ideological content of publications. The authorized people of the above mentioned department worked in local publishing houses, editorial offices and printing places. (Nurjanov, 2016: 38)

## Conclusion

In whole, the publication sphere in Karakalpakstan was just being organized in 1930s: they were strengthening the financial and technical base of the sphere and at the same time supplying the branch with qualified specialists and personnel. But still there was the process of centralizing the sphere, as the political, economic, industrial and staff policy was ruled by the Center, they followed the planning of the Center. The government took all the responsibility of financing this sphere, directed the process of publication, delivering and selling the printed products, organizing the unique system of the management. The following system let the ideological points of the soviet union root in the minds of karakalpak people and helped the totalitarian system to rule the society.

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