



## THE FIRST UZBEK TYPOGRAPHER

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**Abstract:** The issue of the printing press, publishing house and press system in Khorezm at the end of the 19th century - the first quarter of the 20th century, which is one of the current scientific directions today, is one of the not thoroughly studied, but promising topics. In particular, the history of the activity of Otajon Abdolov, the first Uzbek printer who worked in this field, has been poorly studied and, unfortunately, is known to us only as a simple reference. From this point of view, this article is dedicated to one of the current problems of the history of Khorezm.

**Key words:** Muhammad Rahimkhan I, "Podshahi Zaman typolytography", lithography, Otajon Abdolov, Abdulla Boltaev, printing, hattots, manuscript works.

**INTRODUCTION.** The history of Khiva printing, writing and calligraphy in the pre-printing period, the art of bookmaking, the ink and paper type needed for this industry, the style of writing letters are analyzed, the emergence of printing and its influence in the cultural environment of the Khanate are analyzed. The activity of printing houses was studied. In 1874, in the Khanate of Khiva, the opening of the first lithography on the scale of Central Asia was reflected in many sources and studies as a very important event. However, although a number of researches have been carried out on this lithography activity, the written sources and historiographical researches about the life and work of Otajon Abdolov, the master, artist and publisher, who worked in this lithography for many years, have not yet been fully analyzed, or these sources have not been fully analyzed. data were not critically analyzed.

**LITERATURE REVIEW.** Very little research has been conducted on the history of the first lithography - lithography, opened in Khiva Khanate in 1874, and Otajon Abdolov, who worked in it for many years. After all, in the studies of the Soviet era, this process and the people who participated in it were covered based on the Soviet ideology. The literature on the subject is interpreted one-sidedly. In particular, the works of local historians, who were direct witnesses of this event, have not been fully studied. In particular, the historian Abdulla Boltayev, who gave information about Otajon Abdolov, the first printer who grew up in the Khorezm oasis, is considered. Among his handwritten notebooks, notebook No. 10 mentions Otajon Abdolov.

In addition, in the works of Russian orientalists B.B. Bartol'd, G.N. Chabrov, Ye.K. Betger, Uzbek historians T. Ernazarov, R. Mahmudova, M. Rustamov, A. Bobokhanov, F. Ernazarov, who wrote about Khiva petrolyphs, Otajon is also mentioned. Information about Abdolov is displayed.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.** The article used scientific research methods such as systematization, historical-comparative analysis, generalization of historical data, principle of objectivity.

**ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.** According to A. Boltayev, Otajon Abdolov was born in 1858 in Beshariq village Nayman farm (now Bogot district, Beshariq village, Nayman neighborhood) in the family of Abdol grocer. He studied in old schools in Yangiariq (at that time Bogot district was part of it). At the age of 15 (1873), Otajon Abdolov studied at the Russian-Tuzem school in Petro-Alexandrovsk (Tortkol).

In the May 5 issue of 1924, the newspaper "Inqilob Sozna" reported about Otajon Abdalov, the first printer of Khorezm, but according to Abdulla Boltaev, who got acquainted with this article, there is not much in this article about the history of printing and its organizers. no information provided. Therefore, Abdulla Boltaev wrote this article in 1926, making it a little more complete and adding what he knew. Because he wrote in his manuscript notebook No. 10 that Otajon Abdalov was born in 1858, and he is now 68 years old, it follows that he copied this article in 1926. He writes about this in this notebook: "I copied from the material printed in newspaper number 16-400 on May 5, 1924, published in Khorezm, from the newspaper "Sun of Revolution" published in Khorezm... Father, you have been busy with printing work for a long time. they call him a printer. He was born in Besharik in 1858. He is now 68 years old...."<sup>1</sup>. This article was published in full under the title "Our first printer" in the newspaper "Khorazm Haqiqiti" on February 10, 1965.

At this point, it should be emphasized that A. Yazberdiyev, a famous scientist from Turkmenistan, a researcher in the field of printing in Central Asia, wrongly stated the origin of Otajon Abdolov as a child of the Turkmen nation. According to him, Otajon Abdolov was born in Tortkol, and since the middle of the 19th century, many Turkmens have immigrated to this city. However, his opinion is far from the truth, and the information given by A. Boltayev about the birth of Otajon Abdolov in the village of Beshariq is close to the truth. Because A. Boltayev was personally acquainted with Otajon Abdolov<sup>2</sup>.

Although the original nickname was "printer", in later times, due to political reasons, it was called Otajon Bosma. Because everyone knows what the term "printer" meant in Soviet times. A. Boltaev writes in his article in Khorazm Haqiqatii newspaper: "Since I was already familiar with Otajon Bosma (as the people called him because he worked in lithography), I decided to collect more information about his life and work from reliable sources. entered"<sup>3</sup>.

In 1874, he joined the first lithography factory opened in Khiva as an apprentice and worked there for 14 years. Since he knew Russian, he was initially engaged in printing only Russian state documents and charters. In 1888-1892, there were interruptions in his work for unknown reasons. According to A. Boltayev, Otajon Abdolov made a living by farming during these years<sup>4</sup>.

To this day, there are different opinions about the first product of the Khiva printing house. In many studies, the first product of the "Typography of the King's Age" created in the palace was the work on philosophy called "Nisab us - sibiyan" ("The fate of children") by Abu Nasr al-Farohi, who saw the world in 1876.<sup>5</sup> However, other sources claim that the earliest work published in this typeface was Munis's Devoni Munis in 1874.<sup>6</sup> In other studies, for example, Ye.K.Betger and G.N.Chabrov show that the first product of the Khiva printing house was Alisher Navoi's "Khamsa" published in 1880.<sup>7</sup> Yes, indeed, by order of Feruz, in 1880, the epic "Hayrat ul-Abror" from Alisher Navoi's "Khamsa" was published. This was a great event in the history of Central Asian culture. It is known that several articles about this incident were published in the newspaper of the Turkestan region<sup>8</sup>.

In 1892, his teacher Ibrahim Sultan left for Ashgabat, so his lithography activity stopped for another year. And finally, in 1893, Muhammad Rahim Khan II called him to work on lithography again. This year, he bought small lithographs from Tortkol for 200 soums and printed books.

In 1897, Muhammad Rahim Khan II completely handed over the lithography works to him.

<sup>1</sup> Boltaev A. № 10 daftar. O. Abdullaev shaxsiy kutubxonasida saqlanadi, Xiva shahri, qo'lyozma. – 48-varaq.

<sup>2</sup> Язбердиев А. Старопечатные туркменские книги (проблемы собрание, библиографирования и изучения). – М.: Ориент-Пресс, 2001. – 168 с.

<sup>3</sup> Болтаев А. Биринчи матбаачимиз // Хоразм ҳақиқати. 1965 йил, 10 феврал.

<sup>4</sup> Boltaev A. № 10 daftar. O. Abdullaev shaxsiy kutubxonasida saqlanadi, Xiva shahri, qo'lyozma. – 48-varaq.

<sup>5</sup> Давлатёр Раҳим., Шихназар Матрасул. Феруз шоҳ ва шоир қисмати. – Б.103.

<sup>6</sup> Собрание Восточных рукописей Академии наук Узбекской ССР. Т. V. Ташкент : Изда-тельство Академии наук Узбекской ССР, 1990. – С.123-124.

<sup>7</sup> Чабров Г. Н. У истоков узбекской полиграфии (хивинская придворная литография 1874–1910 гг.) // Книга: исследования и материалы : сб. Т. IV. Москва : Издательство всесоюзной книжной палаты, 1961. С. 317–329.

<sup>8</sup> Чабров Г. Н. У истоков узбекской полиграфии (хивинская придворная литография 1874–1910 гг.). – С.326.

As mentioned above, Otajon Abdolov studied lithography under the Iranian master Ibrahim Sultan. Ibrahim Sultan was also a good calligrapher in addition to being an expert in printing. In particular, the text of "Khazayin ul-Maani" was copied for lithography by Ibrahim Sultan.

The young master tried to learn many more secrets of lithography and was apprenticed to Alexey Salapov and Gustav Shneidel, experienced experts in this field. In a short time, Otajon learns all the secrets of the lithography method and manages to raise it to the level of art.<sup>9</sup>

Over the years, work at the Khiva printing house has developed again. Feruz - Muhammad Rahimkhan II sends Otajon Abdolov to Tashkent and then to Moscow in order to bring and introduce a lot of printing equipment. Wherever he goes, the master learns the secrets of newspaper and book printing and becomes a mature and knowledgeable person in this field. He trains many students and teaches them his work<sup>10</sup>.

Until 1920, although many books were printed in Khiva, no newspaper was published yet. After all, at this time, lithographic newspapers had already started to be published in other regions of Turkestan. Many new printing equipment, printing press equipment, electric motors and letters will be brought to Khiva this year.

It is known from history that on February 2, 1920, the last Khan of Khiva, Said Abdullah Khan, was overthrown from the throne, and a new Republic of Khorezm People's Councils was formed. This newly formed government made good use of the lithography service to distribute its notices and announcements to the people.<sup>11</sup> At the initiative of Otajon Abdalov, on March 8, 1920, the newspaper "Sun of the Revolution" was published for the first time. This printing house took the leading place in the printing of banknotes of the new republic. During this period, Otajon Abdalov made a great contribution to the development of lithography printing in Khorezm. Father brought up students like Miskinov. He was also a good chemist. He prepared special color and ink mixtures for lithographic printing of newspapers, magazines, books and made color prints.<sup>12</sup>

Perpetuating the name of the first Uzbek printer Otajon Abdalov, holding scientific theoretical conferences in the places where he was born and raised, where he served, and giving the name of Otajon Abdalov to the typography of the newspaper "Khorazm Haqiqat" published in the region are examples of the respect shown to the first printer.<sup>13</sup>

The first published books were presented as a gift to Khiva Khan's library without being put on sale, and were distributed to the famous scholars of their time, ahuns, fuzalos and madrasas. There were more than forty titles of thousands of lithographic books published in printing houses, and they were literary, artistic, and religious in content.<sup>14</sup>

While the creation of lithographic works was developing, the work of writing manuscripts did not stop. Calligraphers continued to copy many bayaz, divan and translated works in beautiful husnikhat by order of the khan. That is, during this period the work of calligraphers continued along with lithography. Along with Otajon Abdalov, Muhammad and Khudaibergan Kharrot, Khudaibergan Muhrkan, Ismail Devan, Kamil Devan, Madrahim Saidashev and others worked in the Khiva printing house.

The difference between the Khiva petroglyphs and other petroglyphs in Central Asia is that the petroglyph was opened near the palace of Muhammad Rahimkhan II Feruz, who was engaged in reproduction of manuscripts, which are a unique cultural heritage of the people, which has been preserved for centuries. poisoned. Books are mostly published in the Uzbek language. The main task of lithography was to increase the number of copies of manuscripts, and to publish works and translations copied by calligraphers in a

<sup>9</sup> Болтаев А. Биринчи матбаачимиз // Хоразм ҳақиқати. 1965 йил, 10 феврал.

<sup>10</sup> Язбердиев А. Старопечатные туркменские книги (проблемы собрание, библиографирования и изучения). – М.: Ориент-Пресс, 2001. – 168 с.

<sup>11</sup> Boltaev A. № 10 daftar. O. Abdullaev shaxsiy kutubxonasida saqlanadi, Xiva shahri, qo'lyozma. – 48-varaq.

<sup>12</sup> Чабров Г. Н. У истоков узбекской полиграфии (хивинская придворная литография 1874–1910 гг.) // Книга: исследования и материалы : сб. Т. IV. Москва : Издательство всесоюзной книжной палаты, 1961. С. 317–329.

<sup>13</sup> Болтаев А. Биринчи матбаачимиз // Хоразм ҳақиқати. 1965 йил, 10 феврал.

<sup>14</sup> Маҳмудова Р. Хива литографик матбаасида босилган асарлар // Ўзбекистонда ижтимоий фанлар. № 5. – Тошкент, 1967. – Б.44-45.

short period of time and attract the public. Khan of Khiva, Muhammad Rahim Khan II Feruz, regularly familiarized himself with the activities of this printing house, and took the initiative to publish the works of poets, historians, translators, such as Munis, Ogahi, Tabibi, Bayani, who played an important role in the literary history of the Khanate. Feruz, who was a leader of culture, highly valued the scholars of his time<sup>15</sup>. Perhaps that is why his work was published later than the works of other thinkers.

### **(CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS)**

The establishment of Khiva lithography did not end the copying of manuscripts. During this period, Khiva calligraphers copied rare manuscripts, historical works, translations, bayoz and divans. This priceless cultural heritage was appreciated by the creative people and the public and carefully passed on to the next generation. It is permissible to recognize the significant role and contribution of Muhammad Rahim Khan II Feruz in the increase of manuscripts and lithographs created in the Khiva Khanate during the years under review.

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<sup>15</sup> Давлатёр Раҳим., Шихназар Матрасул. Феруз шоҳ ва шоир қисмати. – Б.103.