HERITAGE
AND
CONSERVATION

Edited By

Mansor Ibrahim
Asiah Abdul Rahim
Ismawi Hj Zen
Mandana Barkeshli

KAED Universal Design Unit, KAED
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA

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Tel: +603-6188 1542 / 44 / 45 Fax: +603-6188 1543
EMAIL: iiumprrinting@yahoo.com
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CHAPTER 6

FROM TAMEZUKI TO SAMARGHANDI PAPER:
A NEW APPROACH TO RESTORATION TECHNIQUE OF
ISLAMIC PAPER MANUSCRIPTS

Mandana Barkeshii

ABSTRACT

The present study has carried out in two phases. In the first phase the author has investigated the trace of handmade paper making in Islamic civilization based on the techniques that is still in practice in Japan namely Nagashizuki and Tamezuki. In the second phase the research is done to introduce a new technique for restoration of historical manuscript using the match fiber handmade paper making technique. For restoring the lost areas of a paper manuscript, ready-made Japanese tissue papers are commonly used in the form of either pulp of patch. The tissue papers that are generally used to fill the lost area may behave differently than the original historical papers owing to environmental factors, especially in terms of shrinkage. A new approach to restoring the lost area of an Iranian Holy Quran belonging to thirteenth century as case study will be introduced. The scientific analysis was carried out by identifying the paper fibers from original sample known as Samarkandi paper and making handmade paper based on Tamezuki technique the same technique that the author believed it was used in Samarkand originally.

Keywords: Holy Quran, Samarkandi Paper, Handmade Paper, Paper-Making, Tamezuki, Nagashizuki, Lacunae, Filling, Patching, Paper Bank

INTRODUCTION

The 1992 Japanese Paper Conservation Course (JPC) in which the author participated was a very good experience that led to an unexpected experiment. After getting expose to the paper making in Nara and getting the chance to understand the paper making in details and the paper-making techniques that originally goes back to 2nd B.C. the author had an excellent chance to explore the possibilities of applying what had been learned during her journey in Japan. The present paper deals with the researches and studies that are done with relation to the trace of hand-made paper making in Islamic civilization and the new restoration techniques based on handmade paper making which are carried out in two phases.

In the first phase the two techniques used in Japan namely Nagashizuki and Tamezuki techniques were studied in details to trace the technique