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T W O

HISTORICAL STUDY OF PRINTING PRESS

1. PRINTING PRESS IN INDIA
2. PRINTING PRESS IN BOMBAY  
(MAHARASHTRA)
3. PRINTING PRESS IN KOLHAPUR  
DISTRICT

## CHAPTER TWO

## HISTORICAL STUDY OF PRINTING PRESS

## 2.1 PRINTING PRESS IN INDIA :

The technique of printing has been known in India since ancient time. The technique of printing means reduplication of the matter. Five thousand years ago old picture of artistic seals found in the excavations of Mohenjo Daro. Signetrings (Mudras ) meaning a seal appears in the Arthasastra of Kautilya. The evolution of this idea into the actual technique of printing did not however take place in India.

The art of printing entered India for the first time on September 6, 1556. This happened eventually. It was first thought of European Countries to print the Christian Literature in the Eastern countries language. St. Francis Xavier expressed his desire of printing Christian Literature in Japanese in 1949. A letter of the Emperor of Abyssinia to D. Mausel the King of Portugal has been written to send some artisans " Skilled in preparing books. " On this correspondence it appears that some ships carrying a printing press and same technicians left for the East in 1556. On the way of Abbyssinia the patriarch with the printing press accordingly halted at Goa. Since this time the printing press is in existence in India.

The first types of an Indian script was prepared by Joas Gonsalves. He was an expert blacksmith. Malbar types were used for the printing of Dantring Christa in 1578. The types used were

prepared in Goa in 1577 by Gonsalves for first 8 lines and the types used in subsequent lines were prepared in Quilon in 1578 by Faria Gonsalves had actually started preparing types of the Devnagari script but on death of his brother the costing of Devnagari script stopped and in Goa the Kannada script was also in common use for writing Marathi printing in Devnagari character in Goa started only in the second half of the nineteenth century.

A literature printed in Goa in the 16th Century. Thereafter printing press have started in India. That is at Bombay 1674-75 at Trangebare ( Madras ) 1712 at Bengal 1778.

## 2.2 PRINTING PRESS IN BOMBAY ( MAHARASHTRA ) :

All India Liabrary Conference in Bombay 1942, in the fifth Session Shri K. M. Munshi made the following observation.

Shivaji Maharaj set up a printing press but as he could not get it worked he sold it in 1674 to Bhimji Parekh an enterprising Kapol Bania of Gujarat who not only set it up but called out a expert printer from England.

From the records unfortunately it appears doubtful whether the information given by Shri Munshi rests on fact in making the statement that Shivaji had set up a printing press it is probable that Shri Munshi relied not on his own researches but on the information contained in another paper contributed to the Conference.

Late V.K. Rajwade, Marathi Historian, in the course of a comparision between the cultures of Europe and Maharashtra had to

ensure the Marathas for their failure to learn an art of printing. He wrote, inspite of the fact that peoples from various European countries were standing at their very gates, the Marathas did not adopt the art of printing until the end of the Peshwa regims and even subsequently many Maratha Chiefs Ghorpade, Shinde, Bhonsle, the Chief of Kolhapur etc. did not pick the art of printing.

On the other hand there is evidence to indicate that Bhimji Parekh imported printing machine on his own initiative.

For the first time in 1674-75 the printing press was brought to the island of Bombay. Bhimji Parekh's intention to use this press for printing literature in Indian characters. He did not materialised but some English types had been brought with the press and used to print literature in English.

#### Block Printing in Maharashtra.

The late D. B. Parasnis has lightened facts which prove that in censuring the Marathas for their influence to the art of printing. He writes, Nana Phadanvis had started school of painting the Bhagavadgita by getting moulds of Marathi letters prepared by a coppersmith student who was trained at this school.

### 2.3 PRINTING PRESS IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT :

Printing press in Kolhapur District has started in 1875. Dadasaheb Mantri had brought printing machine and required type and started a paper called ' Dnyansagar '. With this origin of printing technique a slow progress was made and in first 50 years i.e. 1875 to 1925 only 50 presses were came in existence. Out of

those the well known presses are, Siddheshwar in 1910 Gurjar Printing Press 1917, Dynaneshwar Press in 1936 were established and progressed in printing.

The books written by Prof. N. S. Phadke, Bhausahab Khandekar has been printed in Kolhapur. The work of printing books, periodicals, panchang, cheques, share certificates, artistic printing and offset litho is done in Kolhapur.

In Kolhapur City there are 140 printing presses and in district there are 240 printing presses. The latest information of printing presses in Kolhapur District is as shown below in 1987-88. According to sector that is the Government Sector has only one printing press, co-operative sector has five and rest of the presses are coming under private sector that Company Limited, Partnership and Proprietorship.

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