

THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

From Revelation To Recitation & Beyond

*PRINTING AND PUBLISHING
OF THE HOLY QUR'AN*

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PRINTING AND PUBLISHING OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

The Qur'an is the most published book in the world. Centuries have passed since the appearance of the very first printed Qur'anic copies.

Before the advent of the printing press, all copies of the Qur'an were transcribed by hand. For this purpose, in every age there has been a large group of calligraphers whose sole purpose in life was to transcribe the Qur'an. The amount of hard work exerted by Muslims in writing the words of the Qur'an in ever better styles and the way they demonstrated their intense emotional involvement with the Great Book has a long and interesting history.

FIRST MODERN PRINT OF THE QUR'AN

The Qur'an was printed for the first time in Venice near the year 1530 CE, and some researchers mention that the Papal authorities ordered the destruction of this copy. It was next printed in Hamburg in the year 1694 CE under the supervision of the German orientalist Hinckelmann, and it was filled with typographical errors as well as other errors. There is a copy of it in the Egyptian National Library and in the King Sa'ud Library in Riyadh. A copy of the Qur'an was also printed in the Italian city of Padua in 1698 CE.

The era of the Ottomans witnessed a milestone in the history of the printing of the Qur'an, which was the advent of the printing press that Gutenberg invented in Germany in 1436 CE, and it was not long before the Ottomans brought it to Astana (modern-day Istanbul) after some significant fiqh-based reservations. Naturally, scholars held different positions as to whether it was permissible to print the Qur'an and other religious works, with a number of different interpretations.

Some argued against it based on the fear that it would distort the Qur'an and alter its letters. Others argued against it based on the fear that students of knowledge would rely on printed works and leave off memorisation. Others said that printing was a threat to groups such as scholars, judges, and the upper management of libraries who relied on copying books for their livelihood.

Nonetheless, upon the invention of the printing press, the Qur'an was first printed at Hamburg in 1113 AH, a copy of which is still present in Dar al-Kutub al-Misriyyah. Later, several orientalist arranged for

the publication of copies of the Qur'an but they were not received with much approval from the Muslim world. Mawlay 'Uthman was the first Muslim to have a manuscript of the Qur'an printed in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1787 AD.

Similarly, another manuscript was printed in Qazan. In 1828 AD, the Qur'an was printed by lithography on stone slabs in the Iranian city of Tehran. Afterwards, printed copies of the Qur'an became common throughout the world. (Tarikh al-Qur'anby Kurdi 186, 'Ulum al-Qur'anby Dr. Subhi Salih with Urdu translation by Ghulam Ahmad Hariri 142)

BIGGEST COMPLEX FOR PUBLISHING QUR'AN

Today, the King Fahd Complex for Printing the Qur'an is an Islamic publishing house located in a northwest neighbourhood on the outskirts of Madinah, Saudi Arabia. Most Qur'an copies in the world are printed there.

The King Fahd Complex is the largest Islamic publishing house in the world, with the capability to produce 30 million copies of the Qur'an each year in constant shifts.

Actual annual production is in single shifts, so it usually numbers 10 million copies. The publishing house employs nearly 2,000 staff members, and supplies Qur'an copies to all of the world's major mosques, including the Grand Mosque in Makkah Mukarramah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah Munawwarah.

They also supply the Qur'an in over 40 other language translations to embassies, universities, and schools around the world. All translations are verified by a team of scholars on-site and are often given away for free to help spread the message of Islam.

Most Qur'an copies printed by the complex are done in a script commonly called "Mus-haf Madinah" script, which is similar to naskh style of Arabic calligraphy. It was developed by famed Islamic calligrapher Uthman Taha, a Syrian calligrapher who worked at the complex for nearly two decades beginning in the 1980s.

Source: www.thoughtco.com

FIRST FULL AUDIO RECORDING

Recording the entire Qur'an and broadcasting it to the people was a major shift in the trajectory of the mushaf, and a shift of modality in the collection of the Qur'an. The Qur'an was first recorded in 1960 with the voice of the great reciter Mahmoud Khalil Al-Hussary. The idea of recording the entire Qur'an goes back to Professor Labib Al-Saeed, and he mentioned the circumstances surrounding the recording of the Qur'an and the stages involved in completing this great project in his book "The First Audio Collection of the Holy Qur'an".

www.tulayhah.wordpress.com/2021/02/20/a-history-of-the-printing-of-the-quran

Today, the Qur'an is available on freely downloadable applications that carry many features like translation, Tajweed marking, Tafseer, and audio applications all within one portal. The recitation of the entire Qur'an is also freely available on the internet and can be accessed very easily. The modern day applications and platforms are a testimony to the preservation of the great book and its recitation and memorisation more than 14 centuries after it was revealed.





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