

That first specimen of a printing-press (for Arabic script) reached Isfahan not later than December 1628–January 1629. The 'Instructions' of 1638 to the Visitor General, Fr. Charles of Jesus Mary (O.C.D. 284 g) mention that the information was desired in Rome of

“what has been done with the Arabic and Persian printing-type, sent from Rome to Isfahan—what is to be hoped from it—is any use made of it?”

It is too much, no doubt, to hope that it still survives in some corner of Persia with its old-fashioned script, worthy for the national museum. But the fact remains—the Carmelites were the introducers of the printing of oriental script—or any kind of script—into Iran.

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