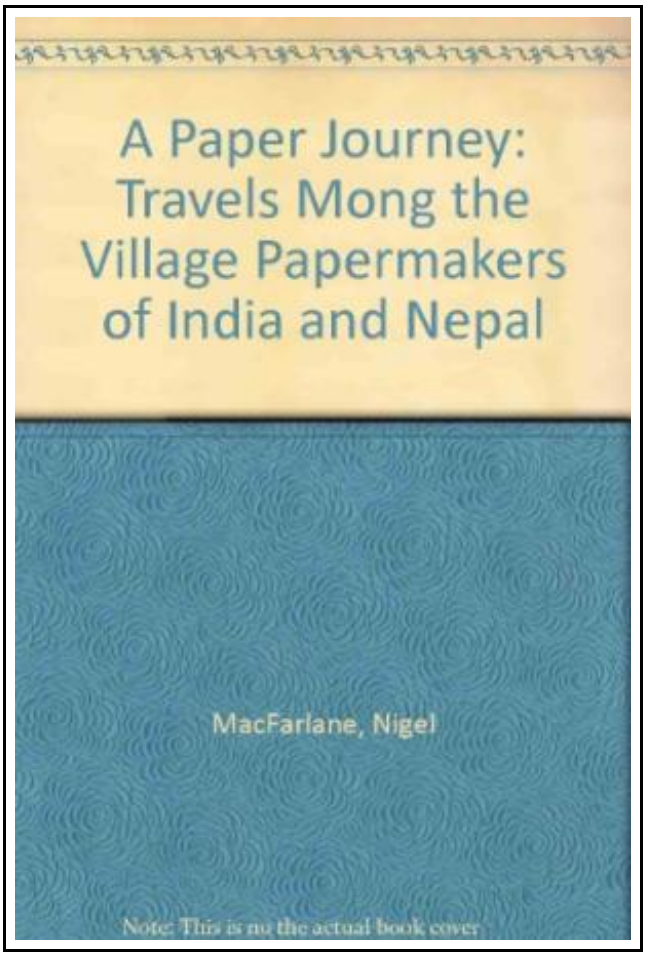
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Oak Knoll Press, New Castle, 1993. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 104 pages. Hardcover. New book. GRAPHIC ARTS. A fascinating and entertaining account of contemporary hand papermaking in India and Nepal. The reader is led on a journey from Rajasthan in the northwest of India to Pondicherry in the south, from the cotton growing country of Gujarat to the boulder-strewn plateau of the Deccan, from the Katmandu valley in Nepal to the foothills of the Himalayas. Hand papermaking in India and Nepal is steeped in history and interwoven with village life. Along this journey we learn many interesting details, not only of the techniques and methods of making paper, but also of everyday life in India and Nepal. We experience a ride in the second class carriage of an Indian train; an eight-hour car journey through the night in an Indian version of a 1950s Morris Oxford, with a retired army driver at the wheel; and a treacherous walk up the Nepalese mountains while being overtaken by barefoot porters carrying seventy-kilo loads! There are also, of course, detailed descriptions of the techniques used to make paper. In Sanganer, we learn the papermakers use a "mould" made of hollow grass stems called a chapri, and we experience the making of a chapri while sitting on a charpoy (a string bed) sipping tea. At the Kalam Kush paper mill, we watch rags being sorted, hollander beaters disintegrating fibre, and paper being made on European style moulds by papermakers who work from a standing position and pour the pulp onto the mould. It is an enjoyable way to learn about the different techniques used and the reasons why they were developed. Before commencing this journey, we are informed that a sheet of paper made by hand contains in the pattern of its fibers, in...

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