

DEVELOPMENT OF MUSEOLOGY IN UZBEKISTAN (1991– 2000)

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Annotation: *This article examines the development of museum activities in Uzbekistan during the early years of independence, their role in the spiritual life of society, and their importance in preserving and promoting historical and cultural heritage. It also analyzes the establishment of new museums, the reorganization of existing ones, and their modernization based on contemporary technologies.*

Keywords: *museum, independence, cultural heritage, spirituality, exhibition, national values, museology, historical monument, modern technologies, state policy.*

O‘ZBEKISTONDA MUZEYSHUNOSLIK TARAQQIYOTI (1991–2000-YILLAR)

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Annotatsiya: *Mazkur maqolada O‘zbekiston mustaqilligining dastlabki yillarida muzeylar faoliyatining rivojlanishi, ularning jamiyat ma’naviy hayotidagi o‘rni hamda tarixiy-madaniy merosni asrash va*

targʻib etishdagi ahamiyati yoritilgan. Shuningdek, yangi muzeylarning tashkil etilishi, mavjud muzeylarning qayta tashkil etilishi va ularning zamonaviy texnologiyalar asosida takomillashtirilishi tahlil qilingan.

***Kalit soʻzlar:** muzey, mustaqillik, madaniy meros, maʼnaviyat, ekspozitsiya, milliy qadriyatlar, muzeyshunoslik, tarixiy yodgorlik, zamonaviy texnologiyalar, davlat siyosati.*

РАЗВИТИЕ МУЗЕЕВЕДЕНИЯ В УЗБЕКИСТАНЕ (1991– 2000 ГОДЫ)

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***Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматривается развитие деятельности музеев в первые годы независимости Узбекистана, их роль в духовной жизни общества, а также значение в сохранении и популяризации историко-культурного наследия. Также анализируется создание новых музеев, реорганизация существующих музеев и их совершенствование на основе современных технологий.*

***Ключевые слова:** музей, независимость, культурное наследие, духовность, экспозиция, национальные ценности, музееведение, исторический памятник, современные технологии, государственная политика.*

The achievement of independence by the Republic of Uzbekistan marked a turning point in all spheres of the country's life. In particular, reforms implemented in the cultural and educational sectors played a

significant role in strengthening national identity, restoring historical memory, and preserving rich cultural heritage. Museums emerged as important social institutions in this process, serving as centers that reflect the historical development, spiritual values, and cultural achievements of the people. During the early years of independence, improving museum activities, developing them in accordance with modern requirements, and establishing new museums became one of the priority directions of state policy.

Museums are spiritual centers that narrate the long history of our people, echoing voices from the past. They continue to play a crucial role in developing national ideology and thinking, as well as fostering a sense of national pride and dignity among the younger generation [1; p. 91].

Along with the establishment of new museums, special attention has also been paid to fundamentally improving the activities of all existing museums and reorganizing them in the spirit of national independence. In particular, the reopening of the Museum of the History of Uzbekistan and the modernization of its exhibition halls based on new projects and plans serve as clear evidence of this process. Due to independence, attention to museums in the republic has significantly increased [2; p.].

Today, there are more than 1,200 museums across various cities of the republic. At the same time, house-museums of writers, poets, artists, scholars, and famous cultural figures are also actively functioning. Over the past decade, the number of state museums has reached 140.

Among them, there are 75 history museums, 23 local history museums, 10 art museums, 20 memorial institutions, 8 literature museums, and 4 nature museums. In addition, more than 7,000 monuments are under state protection, including 2,500 architectural monuments, over 2,700 archaeological sites [3; p. 386], and more than

1,800 works of monumental art. Currently, these museums house more than 1,600,000 exhibits [4; p. 19].

After Uzbekistan gained independence, many museums were established. For example, in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated April 21, 1992, the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan was reorganized. Today, the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan is considered one of the largest scientific and educational centers, and its collection includes nearly 250,000 exhibits. Among them are valuable collections related to numismatics, archaeology, coin studies, and ethnography.

In May 1992, the “Boborakhim Mashrab” Museum dedicated to the great Uzbek poet was established in Namangan [3; p. 387]. In September 1992, a unique “Performers of makom music” Museum named after Khojikhon Boltaboev, the famous performer of classical national music and founder of the Khorezm singers’ school, was established in the Khonqa district of the Khorezm region, as well as the “History and Applied Arts of Khorezm” Museum in the city of Urgench. The exhibitions of the “History and Applied Arts of Khorezm” Museum consist of around three thousand exhibits, including historical documents, household items used by ancient Khorezmians, weaving and carpet products, dishes, and labor tools [5; p. 6].

In November 1992, the first blacksmithing museum in Uzbekistan was opened in Bukhara. In December 1992, the House-Museum of the folk bard Islom Shoir Nazar ugli in the city of Oktosh, Samarkand region, welcomed its first visitors. On September 1, 1993, the first Polytechnic Museum in Uzbekistan was opened at the Tashkent State Technical University. On September 3, 1993, the museum of Khadicha Sulaymonova, the first female Uzbek legal scholar and academician, was

opened in Tashkent [3; p. 389]. On September 10, 1993, the museum of Uzbek dancer Mukarrama Turgunboeva was opened in Tashkent, and on September 21, in the Tomdi district of the Navoi region, a museum dedicated to the life and work of the famous shepherd, twice Hero of Labor, honorary academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan Jaboy Balimanov began its activity. In November of the same year, the Museum of the History of Public Education of Uzbekistan was opened in Tashkent.

In May 1994, the Museum of the Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry was opened in Tashkent, and in October of the same year, an exhibition museum of the Uzbek People's Artist Usta Mukhiddin Rakhimov and his son Akbar Rahimov was established [6; p. 9]. On September 1, 1996, the "Olympic Glory" Museum, unique and the only one of its kind in Asia, was opened in Tashkent. The museum not only serves as a place for displaying the achievements and medals of Uzbek athletes in various international competitions, but also functions as a center for the development of sports in the country.

On October 18, 1996, the State Museum of the History of the Timurids opened in Tashkent, becoming a major historical and cultural monument and a center of scientific thought in the field of educational and spiritual work in Uzbekistan [7; p. 20]. The museum exhibits have great historical value and reflect the spirit of the Timurid era. Gold artifacts, weapons, clothing of commanders and ordinary soldiers, musical instruments, period-specific items, manuscripts of Amir Temur and Babur, astronomical instruments of Ulugh Beg, and other cultural treasures are among its collections [8; p. 37].

In May 1996, the Museum of the Hydrometeorological Service of Uzbekistan was opened in Tashkent. On November 30 of the same year,

visitors to the Museum of the History of the Securities Market in Tashkent had the opportunity to travel through different historical periods for the first time.

In October 1997, the museum of the famous Bukhara master coin-maker Salim Khamidov was opened in Bukhara [1; p. 9].

Today, more than 510 museums operate in the cities and districts of the republic, presenting the rich historical and cultural heritage of the people. Museums play an important role in the moral and spiritual development of society and in educating the broader population, especially the younger generation.

At present, the term “museum” has several interpretations, which reflects the complexity of this phenomenon. The 20th century introduced a new type of museum to humanity. It became clear that it was no longer sufficient to simply preserve and exhibit objects; it was also necessary to present their surrounding environment, scenes of various historical and cultural processes, and types of human activity. Open-air museums emerged, based not on traditional collections of objects but on architectural monuments displayed in their natural environment, reflecting the lifestyle of the people. In addition, museums began to appear that display not original objects but their replicas [1; p. 9].

As the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I. Karimov, emphasized: “Historical memory, the restoration of an objective and truthful history of the people, the homeland, and the territory of our state plays a vitally important role in the process of strengthening national identity and, so to speak, reviving and developing national pride” [9; p. 25].

Museums hold a unique place in social life. They can be described as mirrors of both the past and present, serving as educational, cultural,

scientific, and recreational centers for people [10; p. 6]. In recent years, modern technologies have been rapidly introduced into all spheres of life, positively influencing their development in line with contemporary demands. The use of modern technologies in museum activities has played a significant role in the development of museums.

The introduction of scientific and technological progress into museum work, as in other fields, is not only a natural process but also a necessity of life. In particular, the widespread use of computers in the 1990s expanded opportunities for forming information systems in museums and ensuring the comprehensive delivery of information. Museum specialists' mastery of computer programs and the creation of unified networks significantly facilitated the documentation of museum collections. For example, images of exhibits are now being directly entered into computers using digital cameras. Their analysis and additional information are attached, and when necessary, experts can make corrections and additions. This has significantly improved the quality of continuously updated catalogs and card indexes in museum work.

In conclusion, during the early years of independence, museum activities in Uzbekistan rose to a qualitatively new level. The museum system expanded, new museums were established, and existing ones were modernized in accordance with contemporary requirements. As a result, museums have become not only institutions preserving historical artifacts but also important centers contributing to the spiritual and educational development of society. The introduction of modern technologies has further increased the efficiency of museum work and contributed to their recognition at the international level.

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