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# History of the State Museum of History and Culture of Fergana Region

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**Annotation:** This article describes the history of the Fergana Regional State Museum of History and Culture in Fergana, one of the oldest museums in Uzbekistan, museum activities, museum departments, the number of exhibits and the degree of its antiquity, its place in cultural life. detailed information about.

**Keywords:** museum, region, history, exhibit, spirituality, reform, museology, law, spirituality, value, people, tourism, history, industry.

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Today, there are more than a thousand museums in our country, which preserve the historical, scientific and cultural heritage and spiritual values of our people. These museums are a unique reflection of the history of our country's development, the achievements of our people in the socio-cultural sphere. As the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov said, "Given that the museum is a mirror of the history of the people, it should be able to inspire pride in the hearts of the children of this nation - the next generation. Our task is to pass on our great history to our generations through such educational institutions".[1]

Development of a program of reforms of spiritual and political significance in the activities of museums, as well as in all spheres of life due to independence, in particular, the Decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov "On radical improvement and revitalization of museums" along with paving the way for the development of the science of museology, he defined the main directions and tasks. The cultural, scientific and educational work carried out by the museums of the region in these areas and a number of events are of great importance among the population, especially among young people. On August 31, 1991, the Uzbek people achieved the long-awaited independence. Thanks to independence, the socio-cultural life of Uzbek museums has begun to change, and a new approach to exhibition work has emerged. Museums are tasked with creating their own exhibits that are expressive and impressive.

These goals are reflected in the main actions of our state. The Decree of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov "On radical improvement and enhancement of the activities of museums" Decree No. P D-1913 of January 12, 1998 was adopted, which played an important role in the life of museums and museum staff. The decree is aimed at further improving the system of museums in Uzbekistan, increasing the role of the people in the spiritual and moral development of the people, carefully preserving, studying and enriching the rich history of our people, reflecting the steps of our independence to go, to bring to the world and to propagate, to use them in the minds of our people to strengthen the sense of national pride, independence and devotion to the Fatherland, to provide museums with highly qualified specialists in line with modern requirements, material and technical The Uzbekmuseum Foundation has been established under the Ministry of Culture and Sports to support the museums. [2]

From the first days of its existence, the Uzbekmuseum Foundation has defined its main directions and tasks to be implemented in practice:

- 1) The need for museums of the republic to create expositions in the spirit of independence in accordance with the requirements of the times, accurately reflecting the rich cultural heritage of our people, its place in the stages of development.
- 2) To return to our Motherland our heritage, created over the centuries and gone abroad.
- 3) Turn museums into a center of spirituality and instill in the hearts of our people, especially our youth, a sense of pride and pride in the history of our statehood, the heritage of our ancient ancestors.
- 4) Facilitate the organization of inter-regional exhibitions, intensifying advocacy work to promote the rich exhibits and achievements of our museums to the world community.
- 5) Develop international tourism, attract foreign tourists to the museums of Uzbekistan and provide them with high cultural services.
- 6) Extensive use of modern technical means in compiling a single list of exhibits in the museum fund, as well as the publication of postcards, booklets, guides, catalogs with unique exhibits.
- 7) To higher education institutions in order to seriously consider the issue of staff training improving teaching methods by involving museum scholars. Conducting trainings in conjunction with practical training, training of museum staff in the leading museums of the country. [3]

Museums have a great significance in apprehending the history and passing it to the next generation. Therefore, a number of museums in Uzbekistan began their activity in different parts of the country from the 90s of the 20th century, some of them have been renovated, and others began to be reconstructed completely. [4]

Museums, as a scientific and educational institution for the collection, preservation, study and promotion of historical, natural, material and spiritual monuments, are developing in the conditions of independence. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On improving and enhancing the activities of museums (January 12, 1998)” , study and promotion, use of museums in the formation of national pride, devotion to the Fatherland, providing them with qualified specialists, strengthening the material and technical base. During the independence period, the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan was established in Tashkent, the State Museum of the Temurids, the Babur Memorial Complex in Andijan, the Bahauddin Nakshband Memorial Complex in Bukhara, the Imam al-Bukhari Memorial Complex in Chelak District, and the Shakhristan Historical and Architectural Complex in Kuva. Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Fergana state museum-reserves have been repaired. The Museum of Folk Applied Arts and the State Art Museum of Uzbekistan are being enriched. As a result of such work, the historical memory of our people is being restored, and our nation is realizing its identity. [5]

Today there are more than 1,200 museums in different cities of the country. There are also home museums of writers, poets, painters, scientists and famous artists. In particular, over the past 10 years, the number of state-owned museums has reached 140. There are 75 museums of history, 23 museums of local lore, 10 museums of arts, 20 memorials, 8 museums of literature, 4 museums of nature. In addition, more than 7,000 monuments, including 2,500 architectural monuments, more than 2,700 archeological monuments, [6] more than 1,800 monumental works of art under state protection. At present, they have more than 1.6 million exhibits. [7]

As each state moves forward, it is only natural that it should always look at history and strive to study and preserve existing customs, traditions and ancient monuments. In this regard, the role of museums is invaluable. Because they are an integrated system of cultural, enlightenment, natural monuments from the past, which are preserved and displayed in accordance with current procedures. The Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, including the State Program “Year of Active Entrepreneurship, Support of Innovative Ideas and Technologies” also identifies the main tasks for the development of tourism:

- Systematic development of domestic tourism by encouraging local people to travel around the country, creating a convenient infrastructure for tourists, promoting the tourism potential of the regions;
- Accelerated development of tourism by creating a wide range of conditions for foreign tourists, enriching their travel programs and expanding the range of services provided;
- Development of pilgrimage tourism as a promising direction of the industry through the formation of appropriate infrastructure in the objects of material and cultural heritage of the country and surrounding areas, the creation of appropriate conditions for religious ceremonies.[8]

It is known that the history of museums in our country dates back to a century and a half. At that time, along with the major cities of Uzbekistan - Tashkent (1876) and Samarkand (1896), Fergana was one of the first to establish a museum. The museum was founded in 1894, when the city was called New Margilan.

The museum was founded by Dr. A. Smirnov’s personal collection and the materials collected for this year’s Agricultural Exhibition. For Russian officials who have just entered the country, the lifestyle, customs, and other ethnographic artifacts of the local population seemed interesting. As a result, on November 2, 1895, at the request of several initiators, the order of the military governor of the Fergana region to establish a museum was adopted. In 1897, the museum’s charter was approved, and on May 26, 1899, the museum was inaugurated under the name “Fergana Popular Museum”. By this time, the museum has collected 2,223 items and books. The museum is usually open on weekends and holidays.

Although the museum is called “popular”, it was mainly a special opening for new Margilan intellectuals or distinguished guests in the region. It is noteworthy that the museum is maintained by private charities. A special club was established at the museum, and despite the fact that its members are of various professions (doctor, teacher, engineer, military officer, botanist, agronomist, etc.), they regularly find items in the museum’s reserves they were drinking. Among the members of the club, especially the head of the regional forestry, biologist G. Ottendorf, showed great diligence and donated to the museum rare items collected from different parts of the region.

He was also the organizer of events at the museum. Another such club was the famous Russian researcher A. Fedchenko and his wife O. Fedchenko. Herbariums and a collection of rare insects donated to the museum are still among the museum’s rare items. In 1920, as a result of changes in the political system in Fergana, the purpose and mission of the museum changed. Based on the museum's collection, its activities are divided into two. In the same year, the “Public Library” and the “Fergana City Scientific Museum” were reopened in the region. If the library remained in place, the museum would be relocated to one of the buildings on what is now Turon Street, where it operated until 1984.

From 1922 to 1927, the museum’s exhibits included departments of agriculture, handicrafts, numismatics, nature, history and ethnography. In 1928, a new department of archeology was

opened. The opening of this department was facilitated by a collection of expeditionary materials from researchers from the central cities of the Soviet Union. The first archeological expedition led by B. Latinin built a base in the Fergana Museum and conducted research. As a result, the museum's archeological artifacts have increased dramatically.

The expedition also included such leading archaeologists as A. Bernshtam, V. Ranov, B. Zhukov. In 1938, the museum was renamed the Regional Museum of Local Lore. By this time, the museum had an entrance, an exposition of nature, history, and socialist construction. The number of exhibits exceeded 15,000. During the construction of the Grand Fergana Canal, the Fergana Museum also played an important role as a scientific base.

An expedition led by archaeologists B. Zhukov and Yahyo Gulyamov made a significant contribution to the enrichment of the collections of the Fergana Museum. Or the Fergana Museum staff was at the research center in Kuva Shakhristan. The staff of the museum took an active part in the study of the Kuva Buddhist temple, identified by V. Bulatova, and made a great contribution to the depiction of pre-Islamic social life.

Unfortunately, most of the findings were taken to the central research institutes and museums of the country. However, the museum has a number of ancient and early medieval archeological artifacts. During these years, the study of the Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic monuments of the Fergana Valley began for the first time. The museum has several microlithic stone weapons found during these years. During World War II, the museum expanded its activities. Its staff enriched the funds with documents about the unparalleled courage of the people of Fergana on the front and selfless work behind the front.

During these years, the artist P. Nikiforov worked effectively in the museum, doing great work in creating museum expositions, enriching them with illustrations and creating images of attractions in Central Asia. The museum now houses more than a hundred of his watercolors, graphics, and oil paintings. In the early 1950s, the museum, in cooperation with the State Hermitage (Leningrad), began archeological excavations in the Fergana Valley.

The research was led by N. Garbunova and B. Hamburg, graduates of Leningrad State University, who conducted a comprehensive analysis of archeological sites in the valley. They were the first to create an archeological map of the valley. In parallel, archaeologist A. Bernshtam in the Pamir Alay mountain ranges, Y. Zadneprovsky, V. Ranov and B. Litvinsky conducted research in northwestern Fergana. In the research conducted in Central Fergana, their expedition worked together and achieved a number of results. At the heart of this research was the Fergana Museum.

All of the above-named archaeologists in the area have conducted research in museum collections and left their materials in scientific archives. At present, the scientific archives of the museum contain research reports from 1952-1955. By the end of the 1950s, the museum fund was enriched with more than three thousand archeological artifacts. However, when the museum opened, there were only two archeological artifacts. Museum staff also conducted effective research between 1960 and 1980, inventing dozens of new archeological sites and hundreds of objects.

Archaeological terms such as Kogai-Karabulak, Eilaton-Oktam, and the culture of the Late Eilaton period were new terms introduced by the staff of the Fergana Museum. At present, archaeologists use the same terms in the historical chronology of objects in the Fergana Valley. Over the years, the museum has amassed a rich and unique collection.

These include Bronze and Early Iron Age pottery, a set of Karakhanid bronze vessels, hand-painted ceramic pots, and more. Dozens of scientific and popular articles have been written about the collections of the Fergana Museum. G. Pugachenkova, R. Rempel, A. Khakimov

and others conducted research in the museum and did research on various topics. The museum's logo is also based on a bronze plate depicting the Karakhanid period, which depicts the divine image of the bird Humo.

By the 1980s, the museum's reserves contained more than 50,000 exhibits. Now it is necessary to build a new, modern museum for the museum. Although the design of the new building began in the 70 s, it was not until 1982 that construction began at the intersection of the current Coaches and Vatan Ravnaki streets. Construction was completed in 1985, and the museum moved into the building. The scientific and educational activities of the museum will be intensified. Now the museum has begun to conduct independent research.

They are mainly engaged in the systematic study of fortresses, shahristans and other types of archeological sites in the territory of southern Fergana. The expedition, led by the museum's researcher G. Ivanov, informed science about such places as Kochkorchi, Kitkontepa, Kaktash, Oxna. filled the archeological map of the native valley with new monuments of bronze, antiquity and the early Middle Ages. During these years, the museum's fund of ethnographic, color, numismatic, photographic and negative, newspapers and documents was fully formed.

They consisted mainly of items collected since the late 19 th and early 20 th centuries. The collection of photographs and negatives, newspapers and documents of this period is especially important and has become a treasure of today's researchers. A document about the land written in the 15 th century as a rare example of the museum's collection of manuscripts and documents. From the Kokand khans we can list the labels issued by Madalikhan, Sheralikhan and Khudoyorkhan, Khudoyorkhan's Quran, Hafiz Sherozi, Abdurahmon Jami, Alisher Navoi, Fuzuli, Bedil and other manuscripts of local poets. Statistical commentary on the Fergana region in the late 19 th and early 20 th centuries is also important. It should be noted that many of the exhibits in the museum have been exhibited at international exhibitions over the years.

In 1952 and 1972 there were exhibitions of ancient collections of the Fergana Museum in Leningrad (St. Petersburg, Russia) and in 1978 in Kiev (Ukraine). Today, the museum has a rich collection of artifacts from different periods. In total, the number of museum exhibits is more than 90,000. They are divided into ten sections, and more than 700 exhibits are unique. These include Rishtan of the XVIII-XX centuries, Gurumsarai school of pottery, rare samples of pottery, Chinese porcelain, unique pottery made in Russia by F. Gardner, M. Kuznetsov and later "Dmitrievsky" factories, Timurids. It is possible to include metal products (mainly bronze and copper) from the period from the 19 th century to the present day.

Most of them are traditional copper items made in the XIX-XX centuries by representatives of local copper schools (Kokand, Margilan, Tashkent). The museum's woodwork collection includes many items made by 19 th and early 20 th century carpenters. For example, a number of wonderful items of Kokand masters decorated with Islamic patterns in various patterns, one of the first exhibits of the collection - wooden "khakkalkavush" handed over by the governor of Shahrikhan volost, wooden items from the collection of Dr. A. Smirnov, carpentry tools, children's o Toys, cradles, national musical instruments and many handicrafts are the basis of this collection.

The collection of fabrics is based on the national and traditional clothes of the XIX century. Also included are 19 th-century embroidery, silk patterns, or later modern garments made in the factory, silk fabrics woven at the Monument textile factory, clothing and items belonging to statesmen, celebrities, and other historical figures. The museum's collection of fine arts and sculpture is a masterpiece of the museum. These include works by well-known Fergana

artists, as well as works by artists who are now known for their work. By the 70 s of the last century, tapestries began to appear in this collection. Today, the collection houses more than a thousand works of fine art, sculpture and tapestry.

The museum is notable for its diverse collection of weapons. This collection includes knives made in the second half of the 19 th century and the 20 th century: swords, daggers, chisels, axes, hammers; It includes more than 150 firearms, including shotguns, revolvers, pistols, shotguns and assault rifles. During the years of independence, the role and function of museums has changed dramatically. The government has issued a number of decrees and decrees to support museums. Now museums are working to reveal the rich and true history of the Uzbek people. In 1996, the Fergana Museum was one of the first in the country to completely change its exposition. This exposition covers the period from ancient times to the early twentieth century, based on a deeply scientifically based concept in a historical sequence.

It includes pottery and bracelets of the ancient Sak tribes, artifacts from the Chust culture, the tombs of Aktam and Koktash, ancient jewelry, medieval pottery and glassware, blacksmithing and coppersmithing, labor and weapons. Hundreds of exhibits are on display. In the same year, a special exhibition dedicated to the achievements of the Fergana region during the years of independence was opened. The services of the museum staff in the social life of our country have become more prominent. Thanks to their direct services, we are able to celebrate not only our country, but also the whole world. These include the 1200 th anniversary of our great compatriot Ahmad Fergani and the 900th anniversary of Burhaniddin Margilani. The above anniversaries were celebrated in exchange for public and scientific speeches of the museum staff.

Researchers of the museum G. Ivanov's "City of Kuva in the time of Ahmad Fergani", N. Abdulhatov and B. Hoshimov's "Ahmad Fergani" and "Burhaniddin Marginoni's period and his pamphlets" is an example of this. Dozens of popular articles on the subject have also been published. The hypothesis that Ahmad Fergani was born around the city of Kuva was first put into the scientific community by these officials. The phrase soon became popular. In addition, every year the scientific and scientific articles of the museum staff are published in foreign and national scientific journals. Books such as "Ancient Cities of the Fergana Valley" and "Blessed Oil" are among the works that have attracted public attention.

If these are works on the history of the Fergana Valley, then the publications directly related to the methodological activities of the museum are of great interest. Collection of scientific articles "Fergana Regional Museum of Local Lore" published in 1996, B. Hoshimov's color album-catalog "Fergana Regional Museum of Local Lore" published in 2005 or published under the same name The working catalog is recorded as a unique artistic and methodological publication in museology. Now the range of cooperation of museums has expanded.

The Fergana Museum participates in 4 international expeditions in cooperation with research centers of Japan, Italy and Ukraine. In particular, G. Ivanov, a researcher at the Uzbek-Ukrainian expedition, took part in a joint Uzbek-Ukrainian-Italian expedition to Sulaymontepa in Urgut district of Samarkand region and Uchkulak in Bukhara region. went. He also took part in the excavation of ancient monuments in Besharik district (Novkat and Gala-sak). Museum staff have worked with Kyoto University in Japan on "History of Judicial Documents in the Fergana Valley", and the University of Tokyo on "Muslim Monuments in Fergana", and have made significant new discoveries. Independent research has also been carried out in the last twenty years in Kuva Shahrستان, Fergana region, Zuraykmomo in Altyaryk district, Oktepa and Sohobi Hidoya in Rishtan district, and Sari in Uchkuprik district.

Museum staff from Kurgan, Pigeon and Nor-Tepa settlements of Fergana district were surveyed. It also received some news and caused a stir. For example, the discovery of masters of the X-XI centuries in the city of Kuva, the fact that its cultural strata date back to the VI-VII centuries BC was an important scientific innovation. Or, the discovery of a farming settlement from Zuraykmomo at the beginning of the AD era was also sensational news. The discovery of a collection of bronze vessels of the X-XI centuries from the owner Hidoya was a unique event. He is also working hard to create an exhibition. In addition to the permanent exposition of the museum, the creation of a fundamental exposition "Fergana region during the years of independence" was also noted as an important event. An average of 100,000 people visit the exhibition each year. In addition to the news, they are trying to organize special events to make the events at the museum more interesting and to attract visitors. [9]

It covers all spheres of socio-economic, cultural and educational life of the region, and today it provides detailed information about Fergana. During the years of independence, the number of local branches of the Fergana Museum has also increased. If in 2007 the City History Museum and the Uvaysi House-Museum were established in Margilan, in 2016 the Erkin Vahidov House-Museum was established in Oltiariq district, providing exemplary services to the residents and guests of the region.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 975 of December 11, 2017, the Fergana Museum was renamed the State Museum of History and Culture of Fergana region. Today, the State Museum of History and Culture of Fergana region is equipped with all kinds of modern equipment, which greatly contributes to research. In short, the museum conducts conversations, meetings, lectures, exhibitions, traveling exhibitions and events on various topics by the staff inside and outside the museum. Visitors are provided with themed and general excursion services by the staff.

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