

KARAKALPAKSTAN MUSEMS IN THE CHRONICLE OF THE INDEPENDENCE YEARS

Khuzhaniyazov U. E.

Head of the Department of "Law and Social Sciences and Humanities"
Karakalpak Academic Lyceum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the
Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract:

The problems pertaining to the attention drawn to culture and spirituality of the nation during the years of Independence in the Republic of Uzbekistan are considered in the article. Museums occupy a significant role in the development of culture and spirituality of the nation. The tendance from the state's side and the leadership of Uzbekistan in the development of museums during the years of independence is expounded. Special attention is drawn to conditions of the museums in Karakalpakstan that are considered as a significant part of Uzbekistan, and to the issues of how they are evaluated by international experts. Therein, thorough information about the Art Museum named after I.V. Savitsky and museum of Regional Studies, that are located in Nukus city, is given in the article.

Keywords: Art museum, independence, exhibit, the displays, exposition, types of museums, spirituality and culture, fund, collection, international experts.

Introduction

From the early years of independence Uzbekistan has chased the path of raising nations spirituality, developing national culture, in this way, formulating and moulding the idea of pride for its history, culture and spirituality in people's consciousness and spirit. In essence, not having completed those affairs yet, it was impossible to strengthen the sovereignty and Independence of people of Uzbekistan, to guarantee national development, to educate the generation and to bring the generation up who are loyal to the motherland, without implementing this historical mission. This idea is being especially stated by the scientists of history as well.

For instance, Abdukhalil Mavrulov states that "The history of Uzbekistan consists of the history of struggle for independence and the history of spirituality and Civilization" [1] For this reason, he stresses the development of both the independence, history and spirituality altogether. It is the main factor of guaranteeing the progress of Uzbekistan. Taking this factor into consideration, the leadership and State of Uzbekistan consider the intensive development of all spheres of culture and its role in educating the nation as the first task of the government, and this activity is constantly being implemented. In this field the so-called "the mirror of history" the role of museums is of great importance. In the years of Independence a great deal of Decrees, decisions have been adopted with the aim of better organization of museums, equipping them with rich and various exhibits, and widening their authority among population.

In particular, it was reflected in the Decree of our President on January 12, 1998, about “Radical improvement and Perfection of activities of museums, the Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on July 11, 2006, numbered 07/105282 about” Exploring the state of the museums, equipment on the base of national idea of independence and assisting them in this field.” In these Decrees and Decisions providing the museums with highly-skilled specialists who can meet modern requirements, strengthening their material and technical base to see the museums among the world’s best museums by utilizing the experience of world museums have been stressed.

Today over 1200 museums are in the territory of the country. They function in different institutions, enterprises, construction organizations and agricultural companies. These museums are of different trends and orientation. [2]

In the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan the museums are of three types: the 1st type comprises the museums leading scientific investigation and cultural-educational activities, the 2nd type includes special museums belonging only to one sphere of activity; the 3^d type of museums leading activity in the field of improving educational process.

In Karakalpakstan, that is considered as a remote land of Uzbekistan, the first type of museums carry on a large scale of activity. During the years of Independence the museums located in the land of Karakalpakstan turned into the place challenging to the realization of the nation itself to mould a true view about our country, to challenge the younger generation to be proud of their history, serving to spiritual-educational upbringing the youth, for spiritual conscience sake. All above mentioned notions can be illustrated in the instance of two museums in Karakalpakstan.

Undoubtedly, one of the largest and richest museums in Karakalpakstan is the Art Museum named after I.V. Savitsky. The organization and opening of the museum are the result of the activity done by I.V. Savitsky. [3]

He took part in the Khorezm Archaeological-Ethnographic Expedition under the leadership of S.P. Tolstov as an ordinary painter. Here I.V. Savitsky carried on activities not only as an artist but also took part in the expeditions arranged in Karakalpakstan villages, was engaged with collecting the subjects of folk applied art, the subjects of folk traditions, collecting exhibits concerning mentality. Later he moved to Nukus from Moscow with the aim to organize the museum reflecting the past of the nation. The period from 1957 to 1966 years was the very busy period in his activity with collecting the masterpieces of folk applied Art. As a result of these noble difficulties and selflessness, with the love to life and history of the nation, the Art museum was founded in Nukus on February 5, 1966. The museum is the real treasure of Karakalpak people, the history of folk culture, art, ethnographic equipments, instruments have been exposed from the 3^d century (BC) till the present time. At the early period the museum fund consisted of 3 thousand exhibits, but in 1991 the number of exhibits became over 70 thousand. Today there`re about 100 thousand exhibits.

The museum is engaged in collecting art works, popularizing them, publishing catalogues and arranging exhibitions. The most characteristic feature of the museum is in the compact placement of the exhibits and thorough arrangement of the expositions. The success of the museum lies in placement of exhibits as well as works of high level in a special order.

Thanks to the Independence the present Art museum became famous in the world and today it is a real temple of spirituality and culture of the nation. The new building of the museum was erected in 2002 and it was possible to expose about 90 thousand exhibits and to keep them in the required condition. Today two more new buildings of the museum have been constructed. The President I.A. Karimov visited here and having seen the new buildings and exhibits said the following: "Karakalpak people can immensely be proud of this wonderful museum of unique beauty". [4]

There is a constant exhibition under the title "Masterpieces of World Art" in the museum. The exhibits were coined in the workshop attached to Louvre museum in Paris and they are real original copies of art pearls in the Louvre;. These masterpieces belong to the French artist Fernand Leger. After his death his wife Nadejda Leger presents a part of the exhibits to Russia. In 1975 I.V. Savitsky was invited to Moscow and there he could manage to possess 79 exhibits. [5] Even today these exhibits are displayed and decorate the museum halls.

The museum expositions start from Sumer monuments belonging to the IV-III centuries (BC). There are also displayed the monuments of Sphinx and Aphrodite and other exhibits of the ancient time. Of Egypt period, in addition, one can see exhibitions belonging to the middle centuries.

At the present time the museum occupies the second place in the World after the Russian museum in Saint Petersburg (Russia) for the collection of Russian avant-garde fine art and for its size. This museum is famous in the world for its name "Louvre in the Desert"

The collection of works of the representatives of Russian avant-garde art trends pursued during former system is kept with a special care and respect. The works by L. Popova, A. Shevchenko, R. Falk, V. Pestel, M. Le-Dantu, R. Mazel and others are kept as precious treasure in the museum. Other Museums don't possess these collections. Besides, among the exhibits in the museum one can see works by the founders of Uzbek fine arts as A. Volkov, U. Tansiquboev, P. Benkov, M. Kurzina, N. Karakhan, E. Korovoy. A special hall is decorated here with the works which are considered to be the proud of karakalpak national art, by Q. Saipov, A. Erimbetov, J. Izentayev, J. Quttimuratov, D. Torenliyazov. Karakalpak national Outaw (Yurt) is presented in the museum as a special exhibit. Its each component and their role, purpose of activity, what they are made of, are thoroughly explained by museum workers. Moreover, patterns of karakalpak national handicraft, jewelry wares, textile goods, carpet-making, embroidery, blacksmith's work, house building, wood working and other wares are carefully kept in the museum. Karakalpak national suit and dresses, women's and men's smart clothes are displayed here from the historical and modern viewpoints they are kept as exhibits.

Leading art critics of the west Ch. Douglas, John Bowl, A. Flaker were amazed at seeing museum exhibits and appreciated them as to be the base for studying again the history of artistic art. The museum is considered to be the main object making contribution to the development of tourism in the Aral sea region. Two web-sites in Russian and English are functioning to popularize it. All the hotels throughout the country acquire advertisements about the museum.

Its international ties are growing year by year. The advantage of the Independence lies in that it is only in the independence years karakalpak art and culture, cultural monuments became known to the world. The following fact can serve as an illustrative example of the above said view. In 1997 David and Susan Richardsons, husband and wife from England, came to Karakalpakstan and during ten years they had visited all the territory of the Republic, because they got very interested in national customs, cultural heritage, traditions. Though they were over 70 years old, they set up a web-site in the internet about the history of karakalpak people and culture and it became famous in the world. [6]

A historian from Germany Ollaf Hunter carried on a research work on traditions of karakalpak people, he got acquainted with the traditions of karakalpak people, published scientific articles in close collaboration with museum workers and made a great contribution to acquaint it to foreign countries. [7]

Today the museum worker is a member to the International Committee of Museums (ICOM). The museum arranged its exposition in France in 1998. There were exhibited about 300 exhibits. Besides, it participated in the Exhibitions in the USA, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia.

International experts had expressed positive opinions about the museum. Here are some of their opinions: "No doubt that Nukus museum funds are famous and various and diverse collections of the XXth century art. (USA. John Bowl-prof. of The South California University)", "I consider Savitsky collections to be the most significant ones of the world art in 1920-1940 years. There is no doubt that the collections which are becoming famous day by day would certainly be the base for researching the history of art" (Charlotte Douglas: head of the chair. New-York University)," Your collections may certainly surprise a person even after Louvre, British museum, Tate Gallery, Hermitage, many American museums and Russian museum" (A. Verdi Farmanfarmayan from Rutger University), "Arranging exhibition of only one part of Savitsky's collections may cause great sensation. It gives possibilities for the art lovers to see for the first time typical reserve, reminding about art panorama of classic vanguard size" (Dr. Aare A. Hansen-Leve, Germany, prof. Munhen University). [4] If "Guardian", newspaper was issued in England, called our museum "one of the wonderful museums of the world", The "New-York Times" fixes 29 museums in the world deserving to visit. Our museum occupies 7th place in the list. To visit the museum 17 pairs (husbands and wives) arrived in Nukus and this fact causes the feeling of pride.[8]

In 1984 the museum was given the name of I.V. Savitsky after his death and he was awarded the Order "Buyuk Khizmatlari uchun" (For the Great Services) in 2002

according to the President's decree. It was the greatest appraisal given for his service and selfless labour for the nation.

The Role of museum of Regional Studies organized in Turtkui in 1929 is incomparable in propagating and keeping national art. Museum expositions express the history of the region, people's art, creative work of the people, archaeology, ethnography, flora and fauna, the Aral Sea disaster. Moreover, the expositions give fine expression of the state of fine arts typical to karakalpak nation from ancient times till current days, as well as the great success in this field during the years of independence. The museum fund contains about 60 thousand exhibits. It consists of three departments: 1. "Nature", 2. "Archaeology-ethnography", 3. "New History". The Department "Nature" is mainly intended for school children and there the exhibits cover the topics as "Ustyurt", "Quizilkum", "The Aral Sea", "Swimming animals and insects", "Forest". These exhibits say about the life of the region in lively pictures. Besides, museum exhibits express rich underground and overland fossils, flora and fauna.

It's well-known that there are over 200 hundred archaeological excavations in the territory of the republic. There is a special department giving information about these ancient excavations in the museum and in this department one can see diminished models of the so-called fortresses (Kala): Koy-Krylgan Kala, Jonbash Kala, Tuproqqaala and other Kalas erected in the VIth century (BC). These diminished models reflect the process of changing people's mode of living and construction of towns (Kalas).

Great contribution has been made to formation of the museum by the following scientists: N.A. Baskakov, I.V. Torchinskaya, Qu. Ayimbetov. The museum fund became richer and richer with the exhibits found in the process of archaeological-ethnographic expeditions under the guidance of scientists Y. Ghulomov, S. P. Tolstov, T.A. Zhdanko, A.L. Melkov, A.S. Morozova.

In the department "New History" of the museum one can get a great deal of information about constructive and creative labour in the years of independence. The department is getting richer and richer with the exhibits reflecting new success year by year.

The museum has been taking part in the various festivals on Uzbekistan scale with its exhibits and is becoming prize-winner. In particular, in 2006 the museum was awarded the 1st degree Diploma in the 1st International museum festival held in Karshi and this appraisal expressed its significance.

Besides, the museum succeeded in winning prize in the exhibitions held in Tashkent and Marghilan.

These museums in Karakalpakstan land have been serving people as cultural-educational establishments challenging to prosperous future by learning its history. Such exemplary cultural centres in our independent country have been making a great contribution to the matter of education of younger generation and people in the spirit of love and devotion to the motherland and cherish the treasures of independence.

References:

1. Mavrulov N. Conformity of Independence history and spirituality. :Marifat” august 20, 2014.
2. Habibullayev N. The Future of Uzbekistan museums. The Echo from the pfst. 1999, #1-2, p.2
3. Babanazarova M. State Art museum of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Named abter I.V. Savitsky.
4. I. Novitsky. Nukus collection through the eyes of experts. Vesti Karakalpakstane February 21, 2012.
5. I. Novitsky. Luvr treasures in Nukus. Vesti Karakalpakstan. February 7, 2012.
6. V. Nasrullayev. Advocators of karakalpak cultural heritage. Vesti Karakalpakstana. January 4, 2010, #2.
7. S. Nurabullayeva. Museum is a mirrov of our history. “San’at”. 2009. #3-4.
8. B.A. Stolyarov. Museum pedagogics. History, theory, practice. M., “Visshaya shkola”. 2005. p.5.