The Role of Collectors in the Establishment of Museums  
(In the Case of Tashkent City)

Dilnoza Nazarova  
Researcher at Tashkent State, Pedagogical University named after Nizami  
dilnoza.nazarova8080@gmail.com

Abstract: This article explores the role of collectors in the establishment of museums in Central Asia, under the patronage of the Russian Empire. Specifically, it provides information about archaeologist scholars who have been overlooked in the history of Uzbek archaeology during the latter half of the 20th century.

Keywords: collector, archaeologist, numismatics, exhibit, exhibition.

Introduction. Following the annexation of Central Asia by the Russian Empire, one of the primary objectives was to conduct an extensive investigation into the country's underground and surface resources to facilitate effective administration. The museum was viewed as the most suitable focal point for this undertaking, and the prospect of establishing a museum in the country was posed. For instance, A.P. Fedchenko asserted in his report to the Turkestan governor that "thoroughly familiarizing oneself with the region is paramount to its successful development, and the museum is the most effective instrument to accomplish this"[1].

In 1876, the initial museum was established in Central Asia [2], with notable private collectors playing a significant role in its establishment. One such collector was Akrim Askarov, a merchant from Tashkent and an archaeologist recognized for his collection practices and contributions to an investigation under the guidance of N.I. Veselovsky. Veselovsky commented on Askarov's remarkable expertise in collecting ancient coins, whereby he was able "to determine the precise time of their minting" [3]. After A. Askarov's passing, a significant portion of his collection, comprising 14,000 coins, was sent to St. Petersburg by the Governor-General of Turkestan, A.B. Vrevsky. This collection included 13,274 copper coins, 1,370 silver coins, and 17 gold coins, excluding rare Russian coins such as Emperor Alexander's coins[4]. Additionally, approximately 200 other items were also sent, and it all fell under the care of the Imperial Archaeological Commission[5]. In the second half of the twentieth century, prominent archaeologists and scholars, such as M.E. Masson, T. Mirgiyeyzov, L.I. Albaum, Yu.F. Buryakov, K. Alimov, O. Alimov, N. Akhunbabayeva, M.E. Vorones, B.A. Latinin, V.I. Sprishevskiy, K.A. Shakhurin, actively contributed to the development of Uzbekistan's archaeological history. These experts contributed to the archaeological fund of the State Museum of History of Uzbekistan by providing their expertise and research findings.

Materials and methods. This article uses methods such as historical-cultural continuity and consistency comparative historical analysis of the history of Tashkent museums from the second half of the 19th century to the present day.

Results and discussion. During the 20th century, the museum fund was enriched with the addition of ethnographic and archaeological objects. However, archaeologists did not consider the necessity of establishing a dedicated museum to showcase their discoveries, and thus, it was decided to transfer the findings to regional museums and the Center, owing to the prevailing political situation.
The head of the archeology department in the main museum, M. E. Masson, was instrumental in organizing the activities of the archeology section, as well as the formation and documentation of the archeological and numismatic collections. Through his scientific research, he oversaw extensive excavation and exploration activities in the Karamazar, Ohangaron (Uzbekistan), Sumbary (Turkmenistan), and Talas Valley (Kyrgyzstan).

The discovery and preservation of archaeological artifacts has significant historical importance in shaping the history of our country during the middle ages. Another noteworthy archeologist in the museum's history is Turdi Mirgizoyev, who carried out numerous activities related to the acquisition and safekeeping of archaeological specimens in museum collections. Alongside his position as an archeology expert, Mirgizoyev also held the role of a restorer. His contributions to the advancement of Uzbek archeology were matched by L.I. Albaum, who served as a senior scientific officer in the museum from 1975 to 1995. During his tenure, Albaum made great strides in advancing archaeological knowledge through the study of several archaeological monuments. Apart from that, archaeological artifacts commissioned by scholars are collected in several collections of the Archaeology Fund of the State History Museum of Uzbekistan. The collected archaeological material serves as an important source for studying the traditions and culture of the population of the Surkhandarya region during the ancient and middle ages. Among the notable archeologists who have worked in the field of archeology is Yuriy Feodorovich Buryakov. From 1956 to 1965, he served as a Senior Scientific Officer and Director of Scientific Affairs at Uzbekistan People's History Museum. Buryakov participated in the UNESCO-led project "The Great Silk Road - Path of Dialogue" in collaboration with the Museum.

Yahyo Gulyamov, a historian-archaeologist, was a distinguished scholar who established a unique international scientific school in Uzbekistan in the fields of history and archaeology. His research focused on Uzbekistan, including its Zarafshan and Fergana valleys as well as Tashkent city and its relics. He contributed significantly to the study of the material and cultural remains of the stone, copper, bronze, and early Iron age periods in Uzbekistan. His investigation into the history and antiquities of Tashkent was particularly noteworthy, where he conducted special archeological excavations through the Tashkent canal, in Tillakari, and at numerous other locations. Following the devastating 1966 earthquake in Tashkent, a large-scale project was initiated for collecting and studying Tashkent's antiques through a special archaeology expedition.

Komil Adilovich Alimov was actively involved in archeological research focused on exploring ancient settlements in Central Asia throughout his career. In 1972, he and Utkir Alimov conducted a thorough investigation of an ancient dwelling in Kavardan (Tashkent region) and obtained a collection of 605 archaeological artifacts. From 1979 to 1980, Alimov collaborated with O. Alimov to conduct further excavations at the same site, resulting in the discovery of 153 additional artifacts that were added to the Museum of Archaeology's collection.

Maximilian Emmanulovich Voronets co-wrote "The History of the Uzbek People" and participated in excavations at the museum from 1944 to 1954. In 1939, Voronets identified over 300 archaeological sites in the Tashkent region and created a map of them. Konstantin Alexandrovich Shakhrin worked as a restoration specialist at the Uzbekistan State Museum of History from 1960 to 1965. During this time, he took part in explorations of various regions in Surkhandarya, including Karazitepa, Zangtepa, Karaultepa, and Dalvarzintepa. Shakhrin also studied Niyaztepa, which is located near the Chorvok water reservoir and dates back to the early and middle centuries.

During the years of independence, the establishment of personal wealth led to the formation of museums. In particular, Jalil Sultonov organized the museum of Japanese prisoners of war in 1998, based on his personal wealth. After the Second World War, Japanese prisoners who came to Uzbekistan brought with them information and materials related to their activities.

The 20th house on Yakka-Saroy Street in Tashkent holds significant historical value due to its association with Japan and the establishment of a museum. This particular residence houses a...
collection of documents and artifacts brought to Uzbekistan by Japanese prisoners of war after the conclusion of World War II. Jalil Sultonov, utilizing his personal funds, collected and preserved these materials, ultimately leading to the creation of the Museum of Japanese Prisoners of War in 1998. The museum stands as a testament to the historical ties between Japan and Uzbekistan, further strengthening diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Following the Second World War, the Soviet government exiled approximately 600,000 Japanese soldiers to various territories within the former Soviet Union. Of this number, 25,000 were sent to Uzbekistan, with 13,770 being located in Tashkent specifically[6].

During the Soviet period, Japanese soldiers were interned and subjected to forced labor in special camps in Uzbekistan. Father Jalil expresses a keen interest in investigating efforts to commemorate these soldiers and this period, which has become a part of Uzbekistan's history. However, he faces challenges in gaining access to archives and documents related to the internment. To provide his work with legal standing, Father Jalil established a multi-disciplinary firm called "Aya" in 1994. Despite initial difficulties, certain archive documents pertaining to the presence of Japanese soldiers in Uzbekistan during the Soviet era have since been declassified. These documents, previously inaccessible, are now available for study in the post-independence era.

In 1998, Jalil decided to consolidate all the information and evidence available about Japanese soldiers in one place, and used his own funds to establish a museum in his home. The Uzbeks had a very sympathetic attitude towards the Japanese who had come from a distant homeland. The Japanese, in turn, respected their hosts and expressed their gratitude to Uzbek families in various ways. The museum exhibits many items that were given to Uzbek families by the Japanese as tokens of their respect, including toys, handkerchiefs, teapots, musical instruments, portraits, and photographs. The Japanese were skilled in their professions, and one Japanese person, for example, created a teapot that he had been working on for a very long time, and over 55 years, the children and grandchildren of the family in whose home the teapot was kept grew up. Eventually, the owner of the teapot, Rahmatilla Mahkamov, donated it to the museum.

Among the museum exhibits, there are various photo documents reflecting the period of Japanese presence in Uzbekistan. Visitors have the opportunity to watch the documentary film "Hiirogi", produced by D. Sultonov, which tells the story of 25 thousand Japanese soldiers. All of them were unable to return to their homeland and 812 of them remain buried in the territory of Uzbekistan.

The presence of museums in Uzbekistan is not stagnant. In the near future, another series of museums are planned to be opened and existing ones will be modernized. In 2017, the State Program for 2017-2027 was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, which aims to strengthen the material and technical base of museums and organize the establishment of 8 new museums and the reorganization of 21 museums. In addition, 9 new museums will be constructed, 11 will be reconstructed, and 68 museums will be completely renovated based on modern requirements [7].

**Conclusion.** In summary, the establishment of new museums, particularly non-governmental museums, and supporting their activities, implementing the "Artistic Nation" project at the national level, opening art galleries within its scope, and organizing mobile exhibitions of exhibits from museum funds are aimed at.

**REFERENCES:**

1. The Uzbekistan National archives, fund-I-1, list-16, case-259, page-10.
3. Turkestonskie vedomosti № 45. 5 november 1891.
4. Turkestonskie vedomosti № 31. 4 august. 1891.
5. Turkestonskie vedomosti № 46. 14 december 1912.