

## MUSEUMS - A MIRROR OF HISTORY

*Safarova Zilola Safarovna*

*Dotsent, Karshi engineering economic institute, Uzbekistan, PhD in Historical Sciences*

### Abstract:

This article analyzes the activities of museums in Uzbekistan during the Second World War, as well as the problems that arose in this area related to martial law.

**Keywords:** *World War II, Great Patriotic War, science, museums, exhibitions, scientific institutions, mobile museums, agitation and propaganda, contribution to the victory.*

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The activity of museums during the World War II is a tragic and vivid page in the history of the museum business. The state and local authorities made significant efforts to preserve cultural values, primarily the collections of the central art museums. But all these measures would not have been realized without the professional and truly heroic work of the country's museum workers.

Museums occupied a special place in the cultural and educational work among the population of the republic. In spite of the wartime difficulties, from the very first days of the war museums paid special attention to political and mass events promoting the enlightenment of the widest strata of the population. All museums of the republic organized exhibitions and departments on the war of liberation and the heroic struggle of the peoples of the country in the distant past. As a result of the mass work carried out by museums, the population's desire to study the history of their people and the events of the war with the Nazis grew.

Museums, being a mirror of history, have played an important role in carrying out essential work in mass political propaganda and cultural and educational work among the population. Museums store natural and historical monuments, monuments of material and spiritual culture important for cognition. These monuments testify to the past, to the talent and abilities of our ancestors, to all the world-famous achievements of our people, including the struggle against fascism in 1941-1945. The museums contain archaeological materials, ethnographic monuments, photographs and documents. Museums are systematically enriched with various collections and organize exhibitions.

During the war years, the work of museums developed under difficult conditions. From the first days of the war, museum staff, like everyone else, left for the active army or for production. Museum buildings were used for other purposes, and as a result a number of museums were temporarily closed, most of which were merged with other museums. As a result, from the very beginning of the war, museum staff faced great difficulties in carrying out social and political work. It should be noted that during these testing and difficult years of the war, the research work of

museums did not cease either. The study and identification of historical monuments has been significantly intensified in connection with the arrival in Uzbekistan of major scientists-archaeologists and historians who have shown great interest in the study of the country's monuments. Museums, as one of the main branches of cultural and educational institutions, are the main center of aesthetic education. During the war years, museums faced the task of preserving the spiritual heritage of the people, collecting new cultural monuments, organizing exhibitions of various subjects on the basis of existing exhibits, thus raising the political and spiritual level of the population.

In 1940, the total number of museums in the territory of Uzbekistan was 17, including 12 museums of local lore, 1 historical, 1 natural science, 1 art and 2 museums in other fields. Because of the war, the network of museums in the republic was sharply reduced [1; p.280]. Under the name of the Museum of History, Culture and Art of Uzbekistan, the Museum of Art, Literature and History of Uzbekistan were united, and the Museum of Local History with the Polytechnic Museum. During the initial period of the war, museum exhibitions were suspended and research activities were curtailed. During the war years, the Historical Museum at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan worked effectively. The museum organized an exhibition entitled "Uzbekistan during the war", which presented exhibits related to the war. The exhibition was visited by 23,464 people. Weapons, orders and medals, and banners taken as trophies from enemy troops during the war were exhibited.

In the Museum of History and Art of the Peoples of Uzbekistan opened an exhibition of trophies, on which were exhibited Hitlerite weapons - submachine guns, Austrian rifle "Manlicher", German rifle "Mauser 98k", German pistol "Mauser", Czechoslovak hand machine gun ZB-26 - "Bren", German hand machine gun "MG-34", French rifle "Swan" and other exhibits. Among the exhibits was a small wooden tag with the inscription "Konopatino #82", worn by fourteen-year-old Anastia Petrova from the village of Konopatino, Zubtsovsky district, Kaliningrad region [3; pp.185-186]. A section "Heroes of the Uzbek People" was organized at the exhibition, in which photographs of Uzbek fighters were presented. The ongoing mass works of cultural and educational institutions, such as museums and libraries, increased their visitors. For example, while before the war an average of 10,000 people visited libraries and museums per month, in the first years of the war the number grew to 13,000.

The regional local history museums continued to work under very difficult conditions. The exhibitions they organized presented exhibits relating to different stages of the historical development of this or that country. The exhibits presented information about economic and cultural achievements and the work done in the regions. Through museum exhibits, special attention was paid to the propaganda of heroic and patriotic ideas. The Kashkadarya Regional Museum of Local Lore continued its activities during the war years, the number of visitors in 1942 increased 2.5 times compared to 1941, and the number of visitors to the Yangiyul Museum of Local Lore increased 3.8 times. In May 1944, a special exhibition on the theme "Kashkadarya during the Second World War" was organized on the basis of the regional museum. With the help of the museum staff, such exhibitions were organized in districts, educational institutions, schools, institutions and farms.

During the war years, G.N. Neunmen, an astronomer from Pulkovo, discovered one of the 2,000 minor planets in the solar system, "uzbekistania", numbered 1351. The planet is called "u", "u" is located at a distance of 3.2 astronomical units (A, B) from the Sun and revolves around it once every 5.71 years [3; p.326]. Materials about this discovery have found their place in the museum. The Department of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with brother scientists, has made a worthy contribution to the study of the history of the southern regions of the republic. On the basis of a thorough study of the ancient cultural monuments of the Uzbek people, a fundamental work entitled

"Aksaray - Ancient Monuments of World Culture" has been developed, which has collected a great deal of material for museums.

Museums were not only exhibitions of historical artifacts of objects, but also centers for lectures on various topics for the population, educational institutions, schools, collective and state farmers and employees of enterprises. For this purpose, lecturers regularly worked at the museums. For example, in 1942 the staff of the Republican Museum held 336 lectures and 67 exhibitions [4; p.46]. In Uzbekistan in 1943, 870080 rubles were allocated for the general expenses of museums, and in 1944 - 1616602 rubles.

During the war years, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the government of the republic found an opportunity to develop the museum business. Thus, in July 1943, the State Museum of History and Art of the UzSSR was divided into the State Museum of Fine Arts of the UzSSR and the State Museum of History of the Uzbek SSR. In November 1943, the Kokand Museum of Local Lore was opened, which was visited by 2,638 people by the end of the year. The Ferghana Museum of Local Lore was enriched with new exhibits. The department of the Great Patriotic War was significantly expanded. At the end of 1943, two republican museums - the Museum of History and the Museum of Nature - were transferred to the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, which contributed to the expansion of their research and cultural-educational work. During 1943, museum workers organized more than 60 exhibitions and delivered more than 150 lectures. In 1943 the museums of the republic were visited by 214320 people [6; p.160]. The number of visits in Samarkand, Termez, Yangiyul and other cities of the republic increased significantly.

One of the main directions of museums' work was its research activity. The main attention in museum research was paid to museum exhibits. All aspects of the exhibits were studied in the research. For example, its production period, place, raw materials and so on. The Surkhandarya Regional Museum had a well-organized chamber storage of exhibits from previous exhibitions, and expeditions to search for local materials were conducted here every year [5; p.221]. During the war years, the Samarkand Museum conducted research on the topics "History of Samarkand and its cultural monuments", "Ethnographic appearance of Samarkand region", "Aksaray as a monument of world culture".

The Uzbek State Museum of Nature conducted research to replenish its collections with new specimens of flora and fauna, studied and systematized scientific collections. In 1942, 73 out of 224 employees of the museum became researchers, and 315900 rubles were allocated for scientific research [5; p.221]. Thus, despite the significant difficulties of wartime, the activities of most museums of the republic were intensified. They daily carried out multifaceted propaganda, political, mass and cultural-educational work aimed at educating the workers of the republic in the spirit of patriotism, internationalism, humanism and mobilization of all forces to help the front.

It should be noted that Uzbekistan made a significant contribution to the victory over fascism in the Great Patriotic War. Hundreds of thousands of Uzbeks fought heroically on the battlefields, and millions of people - workers, collective farmers and intellectuals - selflessly labored in the rear, bringing victory closer. The desire to do everything possible for the front gave birth to labor heroism and heroism, fortitude and courage. Despite the harsh wartime conditions, food shortages, severe labor discipline imposed on all enterprises and institutions, people remained human beings in the highest sense of the word. Their behavior was characterized by such traits as honesty, integrity, humanism and internationalism, which were manifested in everyday life throughout the war. The main lesson that we should learn from that heroic and tragic, and at the same time great, era is to strive to be like the people of the heroic wartime generation, to form in ourselves and in our descendants the same high qualities that were inherent in our grandfathers and fathers, grandmothers and mothers, who bore all the hardships of wartime and ensured the Great Victory.

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