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THE HISTORY OF THE UVAYSIY HOUSE MUSEUM

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Abstract

This article provides detailed information about the house museum located in Margilan city, dedicated to the life and work of Jahon Otin Uvaysiy, a prominent representative of Uzbek classical literature and a renowned poetess. The study analyzes the establishment of the museum, its exhibits, manuscripts, and historical sources. It also highlights Uvaysiy's literary heritage and examines the influence of great poets such as Alisher Navoi and Fuzuli on the formation of her творчество. The article further explores the rare manuscript collections preserved in the museum фонд, their composition, and their scientific significance. This research serves as an important source for a deeper understanding of Uvaysiy's legacy and for passing it on to future generations.

Keywords: Uvaysiy, house museum, Margilan, classical literature, manuscript, divan, exhibit, historical heritage, Uzbek literature, poetess, cultural heritage, ghazal, mukhammas, musaddas.

Introduction

In the history of Uzbek classical literature, the role of female poets is invaluable, and among them Jakhon Otin Uvaysiy holds a special place. Her rich literary heritage has not lost its significance not only in her time but also in the present day. In order to study her life and work and to widely promote her творчество, a

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house museum was established in the city of Margilan. This museum not only preserves materials related to the poetess's life but also represents an important cultural site reflecting the environment of the 18th–19th centuries. This article examines the activities of the house museum, its exhibits, and the scholarly aspects of Uvaysiy's literary legacy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Starting from the 1960s, government resolutions were implemented to establish museums dedicated to political leaders and state figures. In addition, both memorial and house museums of certain political figures were created. For example, the resolution of the Government of Uzbekistan dated October 17, 1964, "On the establishment of the Yuldosh Okhunboboyev Memorial Museum in Margilan city" [1, p. 25], the resolution dated December 25, 1987, No. 533 "On the establishment of the Y. Okhunboboyev House Museum" [2, p. 257], the order of the Ministry of Culture of the Uzbek SSR dated January 14, 1988, No. 8 "On the establishment of the Y. Okhunboboyev House Museum" [3, p. 2], the resolution of June 17, 1971, No. 264 "On the establishment of the U. Yusupov Memorial Museum in Fergana region" [4, p. 9], the order of the Ministry of Culture dated March 10, 1992, No. 75 "On the U. Yusupov Museum in Yangiyul city" [5, p. 3], the decree of the governor of Jizzakh region "On the establishment of the Sharof Rashidov Memorial Museum in Jizzakh city" [6, p. 18], the resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1991 "On the establishment of the house museum of a wealthy merchant from Bukhara" [7, p. 32], and the resolution of President Shavkat Mirziyoev dated March 27, 2017, "On celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the prominent statesman and writer Sharof Rashidov." Within the framework of Resolution No. PD-2854, the Sharof Rashidov Scientific-Educational Memorial House Museum was established [8, p. 1]. In accordance with the Presidential Resolution No. PQ-2744 dated January 25, 2017, "On perpetuating the memory of the First President of

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the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov” , a scientific-educational memorial complex named after Islam Karimov was established [9].

The issue addressed in this article is analyzed on the basis of materials from the National Archive of Uzbekistan, including fonds R-2296, R-2487, R-837, M-7, and M-38. The research is based on the principle of historicism and employs comparative-logical analysis methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Museums are scientific and educational institutions that preserve, conserve, study, and present to the public examples of historical, material, and spiritual cultural heritage. Every visitor to a museum should leave with rich impressions. Museums are classified into various categories and directions. Each museum has its own specific function and plays an important role in the culture, history, spirituality, and upbringing of the younger generation in society.

House museums, in particular, hold special significance in this regard, as they are dedicated to illustrating the life and creative activity of a specific individual. Another distinctive feature of such museums is that they are established in the very house where the individual lived and created. This greatly enhances visitors' interest. Each house museum differs in its management system, collection, and internal regulations [10, p. 23]. For example, literary house museums primarily reflect the lives and activities of individuals engaged in literature. The exhibits in such museums, in terms of their arrangement and display, represent the literary environment. Visitors to these museums can gain not only knowledge about the life and творчество of the writer but also comprehensive information about the literature of a certain period, literary genres, and the activities of other writers of that era [11, p. 29].

The memory of Jakhon Otin Uvaysiy, one of the prominent representatives of Uzbek classical literature and a famous poetess, is honored in the city of Margilan, where her house museum has been established. At the entrance of the

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museum, there is a mulberry tree that is nearly 200 years old. This museum was founded in 2007 in the house where the poetess was born and raised, on the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The museum is built in a national style and consists of a one-story building decorated with wood carving and ganch ornamentation.

The museum houses men's and women's clothing from the 18th–19th centuries, household items, national musical instruments, as well as manuscript works of classical poets such as Bedil and Fuzuli. In addition, archival documents, journals and newspapers, photographs, fabrics, suzani embroidery, and other historical artifacts are preserved. Today, the museum фонд contains more than 400 exhibits [12, p. 372].

Currently, there are two places in Margilan associated with Uvaysiy. One is the burial site attributed to Jahon Otin, with a monument erected in her honor opposite it, a street named after the poetess, and a location at the intersection of “Uzbekistan Streets,” which is currently in a neglected condition.

The second site is the house museum located among residential buildings and neighborhoods, which, in contrast, is well-maintained and orderly. The house museum was thoroughly renovated and opened to the public on the eve of the celebration of the 2000th anniversary of Margilan.

The museum preserves portraits of Uvaysiy and her husband Khojikhon, her creative works, manuscripts, writings, favorite musical instruments, and clothing. Additionally, behind the building, there are mausoleums of Uvaysiy's descendants. While visiting the house museum, it is also possible to pay respects at the poetess's grave.

In the central part of the exposition, more than ten types of musical instruments such as the soz, tanbur, dutor, and gijjak are displayed. Clothing reflecting the historical environment in which the poetess lived is also exhibited. Unlike many other poetesses, Uvaysiy devoted her entire life to literature and poetry and is recognized as a “Sokhib-i Devon” poet. Her creative development was greatly

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influenced by classical literature, particularly the poetry of Alisher Navoi and Fuzuli. The works of progressive poets of her time, such as Makhmur and Gulkhaniy, also served as an ideological and artistic foundation for her formation as a major poetess [13, p. 2].

Although the literary legacy of Jahon Otin Uvaysiy consists of 269 ghazals, 29 mukhammas, 55 musaddas, 1 murabba, 1 riddle (chiston), 3 epics, and one unfinished poetic work, her name is remembered by modern generations primarily in connection with that chiston.

The manuscript of Uvaysiy's divan, preserved in the house museum collection under inventory number 138, stands out from other existing copies due to its larger volume. This manuscript consists of 210 folios (420 pages), written on Kokand paper and bound. Each page contains 11-12 or more couplets, featuring poems of various genres. The manuscript bears the date Hijri 1311 (1893 CE). It was copied in nasta'liq script by Uvaysiy's great-granddaughter, the poetess Kholjonbibi, who used the pen name Mag'ziy and lived in the Marhamat district of Andijan region. The manuscript is marked with the code TR.Q. (Turkic manuscript) No. 06. The total volume of poems in this divan amounts to 5,628 couplets (11,256 lines). The manuscript under inventory number 138 contains samples of various poetic genres, including ghazal, mukhammas, musaddas, musamman, mustahzod, qit'a, masnavi, rubai, tuyuk, chiston, fard, and tuyuk-chiston.

This article presents new and reliable information based on the life and creative activity of Uvaysiy preserved in her house museum, as well as on her works and certain historical sources. A comparative study of the manuscript divans of the poetess, known to date and preserved in the museum, has been carried out.

The museum фонд is mainly composed of Uvaysiy's personal belongings and samples of her literary heritage. Archival materials cover documents reflecting the development of her творчество as well as her life and creative activity. The exposition is organized across five halls. The final section contains the memorial

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part of the museum, where manuscript copies of Uvaysiy's works are preserved. In the guest room of the house, a literary circle has also been arranged. This hall hosts literary and memorial evenings dedicated to Uvaysiy, as well as conferences, meetings, thematic events, and exhibitions.

In conclusion, the Uvaysiy house museum in Margilan serves as an important scientific and cultural center for studying the history of Uzbek classical literature. The manuscripts, historical artifacts, and exhibits preserved in the museum provide an opportunity for an in-depth study of the poetess's life and work. In particular, the presence of manuscript divans demonstrates the richness and diversity of Uvaysiy's literary legacy. This institution is significant not only for academic research but also for educating the younger generation in the spirit of respect for national values. Therefore, preserving and widely promoting the Uvaysiy house museum remains an urgent task.

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