



## DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UZBEKSITAN

Hoshimov Hikmatillo

doctor of philosophy (PhD), National Center of  
Archaeological the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan,

[hikmatbox@mail.ru](mailto:hikmatbox@mail.ru)

Kholmatov Azbiddin

doctor of philosophy (PhD), National Center of  
Archaeological the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan,  
[xolmatov.azbiddin@mail.ru](mailto:xolmatov.azbiddin@mail.ru)

Boliyev Bakhridin

Institute of Archaeological the Academy of  
Sciences of Sciences of Uzbekistan

### Abstract

The Cultural Heritage Act provides strong protection for cultural monuments, but this is not enough to give cultural monuments the protection they need. Monuments and sites are illegally damaged or destroyed both deliberately and accidentally.

Grants for expenses related to archaeological excavations in smaller, private development projects is considered to be an important tool for the preservation of archaeological heritage. Another important tool in this respect is up-to-date registers of various types of cultural monuments and sites. In Samarkand and the other region of Uzbekistan registers that contain information on the cultural heritage and the environment have been integrated into one database. It is also important to give everyone who comes into contact with archaeological monuments and sites sufficient information and make them aware of the valuable cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** archaeology, Central Asia, rock art, preservation, popularization, protection.





## Interventions at Archaeological Sites:

The Institute for archaeological research Uzbek Academy of Science an extensive collection of unpublished archaeological reports resulting from site surveys, excavations, research programmers and archaeological authorities. There are over 1700 volumes dating from the 1938s to the present in the collection.

Professional training and capacity building is one component of the educational process leading to better knowledge of World Heritage. World Heritage education embraces a series of methods to develop interest and involvement among young people regarding heritage issues in general and World Heritage issues in particular. In the Asia-Pacific region, the percentage of young people in the total population of a country is higher than the world average. Consequently, if integrated into school curricula and started at an early stage, the impact of World Heritage education on the long-term preservation of humankind's precious heritage could be substantial, and needs to be explored further.

The 'World Heritage in Young UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in the country. The national school curriculum foresees ten hours per week for cultural heritage lessons. Between 1997 and 2002, the Uzbek National Commission for UNESCO organized annual Central Asian Youth Camps for secondary school students and teachers from ASP net schools in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

The Uzbek people have a rich historical past, the pages of its history are inextricably linked with the history of Central Asia.

Today in Uzbekistan, is a vivid example of the consolidation of public, state and international organizations, as well as socially responsible business in the implementation of the initiatives of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the preservation, study and popularization of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan.



Since its ratification in 1993, Uzbekistan has been an active State Party to the World Heritage Convention, with four cultural World Heritage sites inscribed (, Samarkand (1607), Bukhara (829), Kashkadarya (1468), Khorezm 3456, Tashkent (828). The inscriptions were accompanied by promotional activities such as TV and radio programmes and the release of special coins and stamps.

The Institute for archaeological research registered more than 8 000 monuments and archeological sites.

The register of monuments and sites lists about 8208 archaeological monuments and objects at about 5 000 sites. However, there are large uncultivated and mountain areas that have not yet been investigated. Spot checks have shown that there may be as many as 500 unknown archaeological monuments or objects for every one that has been registered.

Some archaeological monuments and sites are easily visible, for example burial mounds, pitfall traps and drift fences, charcoal pits and hill forts. Others are more difficult to find because they are hidden under peat, earth and rock: for example, Stone Age dwelling sites, iron working sites and some rock art sites.

#### Agriculture is an important cause of damage

We are receiving more and more reports of a rise in the rate at which archaeological monuments and sites are being lost or destroyed. In general, agriculture is the most important cause of damage to and destruction of archaeological monuments and sites. Other activities with a major impact on land use, such as building and road construction, also damage and destroy cultural monuments and sites, as well as insufficient information and deliberate vandalism.

#### Strong legal protection is not enough



## Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in the World's Gatherings

The project is intended to make the artifacts and manuscripts that have been preserved to this day thanks to the selfless work of foreign scientists, museum workers and specialists into the property of researchers and the general public, provides for joint publications with references to museums, research institutes and the names of their employees.

For various reasons, a huge number of artifacts, material objects and works of culture of the Uzbek people turned out to be far from their homeland. On the one hand, this fact is sad from the point of view of loss, on the other hand, it is positive from the point of view of acquisition. The great culture of the Uzbek people has become widely known outside of Uzbekistan.

Representatives of various ethnic groups, from Oriental scholars to ordinary visitors to museums, touched Uzbek art, began to study it, imbued with respect and warmth for the bearers and successors of the traditions of this culture in the face of the modern Uzbek people.

During the implementation of the Project, not only the collection of information about the Uzbek collections in various museums is carried out. In a record short time, a network was created that unites first-class scientists and museum specialists from different countries involved in the process of studying the history and culture of Uzbekistan, which allows you to share experiences and exchange knowledge and opinions, strengthen intercultural, interstate dialogue. Its most active participants - curators of albums - became members of the World Society for the Preservation, Study and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan, which was officially registered in Paris in August 2019. History has never known such a large-scale phenomenon when scientists from all over the world united around the cultural heritage of one country. Moreover, this international attention is supported by a kind of historical parallel: the territory of Uzbekistan has always been a meeting place for various peoples and cultures.





## Research, Preservation and Popularization

The project is currently being implemented in the following areas:

-Publishing of a series of books-albums "cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in the collections of the world", as well as the creation of documentary films of the same name. Together with foreign colleagues, filming of educational films is organized, telling about rare and amazing cultural artifacts of Uzbekistan, customs and traditions of the country and dedicated to objects of material and artistic culture originating from the territory of Uzbekistan.

-Publishing "Masterpieces of the written monuments of the East" - facsimile copies of priceless ancient manuscripts stored in foreign collections. Copies will be deposited with the government and people of Uzbekistan.

-Within the framework of the direction "Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan", the use of advanced scientific technologies in the preservation of historical exhibits and manuscripts, assistance in the exchange of experience on the implementation of the latest technologies for the study and preservation of artifacts in Uzbekistan.

World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan

In the process of work, the project managed to unite around the idea of studying, preserving and popularizing the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan more than 300 orientalist scientists who have devoted many years of their scientific research to the study of the culture and science of Uzbekistan around the world.

The purpose of the society is to promote international cooperation of state and public organizations, researchers, experts, representatives of science, the media sphere and other interested public in the field of preservation, study and popularization of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan in the context of preserving the world cultural heritage.



The idea of creating a World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan was put forward during the first International Scientific and Cultural Congress "Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan - the Path to Dialogue between Peoples and Countries", which took place in May 2017 in Tashkent and Samarkand.

In 2018, on the initiative of 300 prominent world scientists and experts, the World Society was created and its charter was approved within the framework of the Second International Congress.

In August 2019, at the third International Congress, the official registration in Paris of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan was announced.

On 13-21 September 2021 in several cities of Uzbekistan - Tashkent, Khiva and Nukus, a number of bright cultural events of the Week of Cultural Heritage will be held, which has already become a traditional event. Within the framework of the Week, the V Congress of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan "Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan - the Foundation of a New Renaissance" will be held. Uzbekistan hosted the 5th Anniversary Congress of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan, as part of Uzbekistan's Cultural Heritage Week.

The event was held in three cities of the Republic – Tashkent, Khiva and Nukus.

The Congress, one of the most important events in the nation's Cultural Heritage Week, was held in conjunction with the international forum "Central Asia at the Crossroads of Civilizations", convened at the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, with support from UNESCO.

The Congress is the largest cultural event of its kind in the world, highlighting the World Society's five-year mission compiling literature and other artifacts of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan from museums, libraries and universities around the world.



Thus far, it has published 50 volumes containing facsimiles of ancient documents, as well as over 1,000 articles and speeches. It has established relationships with over 200 museums from 35 nations. Some 350 international scientists are members.

The cultural and spiritual heritage is a priceless treasure of the people, which is necessary for the education and development of the young generation, the formation of a new statehood. The cultural and spiritual heritage must be treated very carefully, preserved and fruitfully used for the development of the national spirituality of independent Uzbekistan.

Cultural heritage ensures intergenerational continuity in both cultural and social development. Thanks to him, we have, although not complete, but a certain idea about our distant past, about the dreams and thoughts of contemporaries of Ulugbek and Navoi, about their deeds, morals, customs, worldview, household items, etc.

Cultural heritage, being a powerful tool in the formation of national identity, national pride, ultimately is also a universal spiritual basis for strengthening independence. It concentrates morality, law, customs, traditions, literature, art, and history lessons - everything that constitutes the unshakable values of a modern person, a citizen of sovereign Uzbekistan.

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