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Article

The History of The Activities of Scholars Who Contributed to The Development of Historical Science in The Twentieth Century (Based on The Personal Record Fonds of The National Archive of Uzbekistan)

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Abstract: This article analyzes the scientific activities of scholars who made significant contributions to the development of historical science in the twentieth century—M.E. Masson, G.A. Pugachenkova, and Y.G. Gulyamov—based on documents preserved in the personal record fonds of the National Archive of Uzbekistan. The study examines the composition, content, and scholarly significance of archival fonds related to these researchers and reveals their contributions to archaeology, historiography, architecture, and the study of cultural heritage. Furthermore, the source-study value of these archival materials in historical research, their role in the formation of scholarly schools, and their importance in reconstructing historical truth are analyzed. The findings demonstrate that the collections of the National Archive of Uzbekistan serve as important scholarly sources for studying the stages of development of historical science.

Keywords: Personal fonds, M.E. Masson, G.A. Pugachenkova, Y.G. Gulyamov, historiography, archaeology, source studies, scholarly heritage, historical science.

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1. Introduction

Historical science plays a crucial role in studying the past of a nation, preserving historical memory, and strengthening national identity. In particular, the twentieth century witnessed significant developments in historical scholarship, during which many scholars made substantial contributions to the advancement of historical studies in Uzbekistan. Through their research, historians produced numerous scholarly works on the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the country, thereby contributing to the formation of the national historiographical school [1]. Their scientific legacy continues to serve as an important source for contemporary historical research. Archival documents occupy a special place in the study of twentieth-century historiography. The personal record fonds preserved in the National Archive of Uzbekistan

constitute valuable sources for investigating the lives, academic activities, and scholarly heritage of historians [2]. These fonds contain biographical records, research papers, official documents, correspondence, photographs, expedition reports, and other materials that provide insight into the development of historical science. Such archival materials are indispensable for reconstructing the stages of historiographical development and for understanding the intellectual contributions of leading scholars [3].

Since the independence of Uzbekistan, considerable attention has been paid to the objective study of national history, the development of historiography, and the preservation of the scientific heritage of prominent scholars. In this regard, examining the activities of historians who contributed to the development of historical science in the twentieth century through the documents preserved in the personal fonds of the National Archive of Uzbekistan provides an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the evolution of historical scholarship. Therefore, the study of these archival collections is significant not only from an academic perspective but also in terms of cultural and educational value [4].

2. Materials and Methods

The relevance of this topic is determined by the necessity of studying the scholarly heritage of historians who made significant contributions to the development of historical science in the twentieth century, identifying their role in the advancement of historiography, and analyzing their academic activities through archival sources. The documents preserved in the personal record fonds of the National Archive of Uzbekistan serve as reliable and authentic sources that reflect the lives, scientific achievements, and professional activities of these scholars.

The introduction of archival documents into scholarly circulation and the analysis of historiographical development on the basis of these materials constitute one of the important tasks of modern historical science. Furthermore, the growing interest in archival studies, source studies, and the preservation of scholarly heritage increases the significance of such research. Therefore, the study possesses both theoretical and practical importance for understanding the evolution of historical scholarship and preserving the intellectual legacy of outstanding historians.

3. Results and Discussion

The personal record fonds of M.E. Masson, G.A. Pugachenkova, and Y.G. Gulyamov preserved in the National Archive of Uzbekistan constitute important sources for studying the development of historical science in the twentieth century. These archival collections contain valuable documents related to the scholars' scientific activities, research projects, archaeological expeditions, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, and official records. Through these materials, researchers can gain comprehensive insights into the academic contributions of these prominent scholars and their influence on the development of historical studies in Uzbekistan and Central Asia [5].

The personal fonds of M.E. Masson and G.A. Pugachenkova are preserved under Fund R-2773. The documents contained in this collection cover the period from 1891 to 2000 and include scientific articles, field reports, expedition materials, correspondence, and photographs. These records reflect the scholars' extensive contributions to archaeology, architectural history, and cultural heritage studies. Likewise, the personal fonds of Y.G. Gulyamov, preserved under Fund R-2883, contain significant materials documenting his academic activities, archaeological investigations, and research on irrigation systems and agricultural history in Central Asia [6].

The structure and organization of these fonds demonstrate the systematic preservation of scientific heritage within the archival system. The documents provide valuable evidence regarding the formation of academic schools, the development of research methodologies, and the evolution of historical scholarship throughout the twentieth century. Moreover, the archival materials enable scholars to reconstruct historical events objectively and contribute significantly to source studies and historiographical research [7].

M.E. Masson and His Contribution to Historical Science

Mikhail Evgenievich Masson was one of the founders of the Central Asian archaeological school and a leading figure in twentieth-century historical scholarship. Born in St. Petersburg in 1897, he later grew up in Samarkand, where his interest in archaeology and history developed at an early age. His participation in the excavations of Afrasiab played a decisive role in shaping his scientific career [8].

Throughout his academic life, Masson led numerous archaeological expeditions and conducted extensive research on historical monuments in Termez, Samarkand, Nisa, and Ancient Merv. His studies significantly contributed to the understanding of the topography and history of ancient cities. In addition to archaeology, his research encompassed numismatics, epigraphy, mining history, irrigation systems, and the economic development of Central Asia [9].

Masson's scholarly output included nearly four hundred scientific publications, making him one of the most productive researchers of his time. As the head of the Department of Archaeology from 1939 onward, he established a strong academic school and supervised numerous young scholars who later became prominent researchers themselves. His scientific legacy continues to play an important role in archaeological and historical studies and remains highly relevant to contemporary scholarship [10].

G.A. Pugachenkova and the Study of Architectural Heritage

Galina Anatolyevna Pugachenkova was a distinguished scholar who made an exceptional contribution to the study of Central Asian architecture and art history. Born in Almaty in 1915, she developed a deep interest in history and culture from an early age. After completing her education, she devoted her academic career to researching the architectural and artistic heritage of Central Asia [11].

Pugachenkova introduced innovative approaches to the study of architectural monuments and conducted extensive investigations of historical sites in Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Termez. Her works became fundamental references for the study of architectural history and cultural development in the region. She actively participated in archaeological investigations of Khalchayan and Ayrtam, contributing significantly to the understanding of ancient artistic traditions [12].

As the author of more than seven hundred scientific works, Pugachenkova analyzed the evolution of historical and cultural processes across different periods. She also participated in numerous international conferences and delivered lectures in countries such as France, Italy, and India. Her research was widely recognized by international organizations, including UNESCO, and continues to influence contemporary studies of cultural heritage and architecture [13].

The scientific school established by Pugachenkova remains active today, and her contributions have had a lasting impact on the development of art history and architectural studies in Central Asia.

Y.G. Gulyamov and the Development of Archaeological Research

Yahya Gulyamovich Gulyamov occupies a prominent place in the history of Uzbek historical science and archaeology. Born in Tashkent in 1908, he devoted his scholarly career to the study of the history of Central Asia, particularly ancient irrigation systems, agricultural culture, and archaeological monuments.

One of his most influential works, The History of Irrigation in Khorezm, became a landmark study in the field of historical and archaeological research. Under his leadership, numerous archaeological expeditions were organized in the Khorezm oasis, the Zarafshan Valley, and the Kashkadarya region. These investigations yielded important discoveries that significantly enriched the understanding of the historical development of Central Asia [14].

Gulyamov paid particular attention to the study of ancient fortresses, settlements, and irrigation networks. His research was characterized by a rigorous methodological approach and careful analysis of historical sources. In addition to his scholarly achievements, he trained many specialists and established a scientific school that greatly influenced the development of Uzbek historiography [15].

The archival documents preserved in his personal fonds provide invaluable information about his academic activities, research methods, and contributions to historical science. His works continue to serve as essential references for contemporary historians and archaeologists. The scientific heritage of Y.G. Gulyamov remains an important component of Uzbekistan's intellectual and cultural legacy.

4. Conclusion

The development of historical science in Uzbekistan during the twentieth century was closely connected with the scientific activities of outstanding scholars whose research significantly contributed to the advancement of historiography, archaeology, and the study of cultural heritage. The personal record fonds of M.E. Masson, G.A. Pugachenkova, and Y.G. Gulyamov preserved in the National Archive of Uzbekistan represent valuable primary sources for investigating both the lives and scholarly achievements of these prominent researchers.

The analysis of archival documents demonstrates that M.E. Masson played a crucial role in the establishment and development of the Central Asian archaeological school. His extensive archaeological investigations, studies of ancient cities, and contributions to numismatics and epigraphy laid a strong foundation for future historical and archaeological research in the region. Likewise, G.A. Pugachenkova made an outstanding contribution to the study of Central Asian architecture, art history, and cultural heritage. Her innovative approaches to the investigation of historical monuments significantly enriched the understanding of the region's artistic and architectural traditions.

The research also reveals the important role of Y.G. Gulyamov in the development of historical and archaeological studies in Uzbekistan. His investigations of ancient irrigation systems, agricultural culture, and archaeological monuments expanded scholarly knowledge of the historical development of Central Asia and established methodological approaches that remain relevant today.

Furthermore, the personal fonds contain a wide range of documents, including scientific manuscripts, expedition reports, official records, correspondence, and biographical materials. These documents not only illuminate the academic activities of individual scholars but also provide valuable information about the evolution of historical science, the formation of scholarly schools, and the development of research methodologies throughout the twentieth century.

The findings of this study confirm that the National Archive of Uzbekistan serves as an essential repository of scientific heritage and an important source base for historiographical and source-study research. The introduction of archival materials into scholarly circulation contributes to a more objective understanding of historical processes and supports the preservation of the intellectual legacy of prominent historians and archaeologists. Therefore, the continued study of personal record fonds remains one of the important tasks of contemporary historical scholarship and archival studies.

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