



ARCHIVES – A MIRROR OF HISTORY

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Received: 6 th October 2022	In this article, as we begin to educate today's youth in the spirit of patriotism and love for the values of the nation, we need to know the history of our ancestors in depth. For this, it is said that we need to know the fate of the nation we belong to, the amount of creativity and creativity carried out by our people in different periods, and most importantly, we need to know historical facts.
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Details of historical events with their roots in the modern or recent past, as well as real truths related to human life and society, are stored in archives. That is why, if we want to study the past or clarify an event or event, archives will give us the best help and responsiveness in this regard. Because the documents carefully stored in this treasure house are not the result of long years of research, continuous observations, analysis, or historical or scientific opinion based on various assumptions and hypotheses, but on the contrary, look at history based on real and unique documents that clearly reflect a part of life like in the palm of your hand. He will embody the glory in front of you. Therefore, in all periods, in all regimes, the work of the archive - archive has always been viewed with serious attention. It is necessary to admit that in our times, this attention has increased more than ever. After all, as the honorable President noted, "We need to teach our youth to learn from history, draw conclusions, arm them with historical knowledge and historical thinking." In this regard, of course, the state archives will gladly help us. In the Surkhan oasis, which has experienced various stages of progress and development, decline and prosperity over the centuries, archival work has been given special attention since ancient times. But really good works in this regard started to be done in our recent past. In this sense, if it is said that the beginning of full-fledged archival work in Surkhandarya actually began after the official establishment of the region, its territorial boundaries were clearly defined, it does not harm the historical truth. The reason why we emphasize this is that before the establishment of real state archives, all documents were stored in palaces, religious institutions and the homes of some individuals, and later in offices, for example, in the devanchant, libraries and madrasas (even in large mosques there were documents kept as genealogies - D.J.) compiled and saved. In a word, rare documents were stored in the offices of rulers, that is, khans and emirs. In order to deal with these things, in today's language, the

duties of business and document keepers - devonbegi, parvonachi, bookkeeper, mirza - were introduced[6]. However, the time and the system changed along with it, and when appropriate reforms were initiated in the field of archival work, a number of innovations began to be implemented. So, if we objectively and concisely sum up the above-mentioned opinions, the work of the state archive in Uzbekistan began to take shape as a special institution in which true experts of the field work by the end of the 19th century. Naturally, based on the spirit of the era and the spirit of the times, the implemented reforms gained importance in reorganizing and revitalizing archival works in Surkhandarya region. The reason why we emphasize this is that all the documents that have the right to be kept in the archives were in Arabic and Latin spelling, even in the pre-revolutionary and post-revolutionary periods, when the fate of peoples and the identity of nations were seriously affected[7]. Later, this work was carried out in Cyrillic script, in Russian. Only after Uzbekistan gained independence and our mother tongue was given the status of the state language, all organizations, enterprises and institutions began to conduct business and formalize documents in Uzbek. In this sense, specialists working in the state archives of our country began to control the conduct of business in Uzbek in all organizations. Meanwhile, a number of good works have been carried out, such as improving the conditions of document storage, expanding the possibilities of their use, and repairing archive buildings[8]. There was enough reason for this. That is, in the first years after the revolution, all the documents stored in various organizations and offices were transferred to the archives, and funds were started to be established based on these documents. Therefore, the scope of work is large, and the responsibility has increased several times. In this regard, it is appropriate to mention that the documents collected from the above-mentioned sources in the early years were later compiled (after several reforms, the name change of



the office dealing with archival work, and the adoption of decisions related to the field - D.J.) Uzbekistan is a state archived. In this way, documents related to different periods of our national history began to be collected in one place – archives[9].

For example, the National Archive of Uzbekistan, which stores archival documents from the 9th century to 1917, was established on November 20, 1958 due to the merger of the Central Archive of the October Revolution and the Central State Historical Archive. As a result of such painstaking organizational work, the fund of the National Archives of Uzbekistan was formed. Over the years, the number of collections has increased to nearly 1.8 million. These documents formed the documents of the National Archives Fund. It should be noted that more than 500,000 documents of special value are stored in these collections. We are not talking about funds for nothing. Because the National Archive Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan contains highly important historical and constantly updated archival documents related to the historical, scientific, social, economic, political and cultural life of our nation. It should also be noted that the National Archive Fund consists of two parts - state and non-state[10]. Thanks to the hard work carried out over the years, the devotees of the Uzbek National Archives managed to replenish and increase the fund. For example, as of January 1, 2019, more than 12.9 million documents are stored in state archives in Uzbekistan. Considering this, 8.4 of these documents are documents of the National Archive Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In addition, the archives contain 3.3 million personal content documents and 1.1 million temporary storage documents. It is noteworthy that state archives receive an average of 200,000 documents for storage in a year.

At this point, it is necessary to mention that the National Archive of Uzbekistan was established based on the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan announced on September 20, 2019. When talking about the history of archival works in our country, it is necessary to dwell on the National Archive of Cinema and Photographic Documents of Uzbekistan. In fact, this archive, which stores rare film and photo documents, was established in 19432. In 1959, it was reorganized as a department of the Central State Archive of the Uzbek SSR, which stores cinematographic documents. Since 1974, this department has been called the Central State Archive of cinematographic documents[11]. It is noteworthy that this archive stores photo, phono and film documents from the 1960s to our days. More than 0.3 million collections are stored here and they constitute

the document fund of the Central Archive Fund. 44,000 collections included in this fund are of special value. This National Archive of Cinematography and Photographic Documents of Uzbekistan was established on the basis of the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 20, 2019. The State Archive of Surkhondaryya Region, which is a part of the State National Archive of Uzbekistan, has also followed a unique historical path until it reached its present level. Thanks to the years of experience and the researches of oasis archivists, the funds collected in the treasury have been further improved and increased in number. In other words, the funds stored in the Surkhondaryya regional state archive show their identity as unique pages of the history of our people, covering various aspects of the life of the oasis[12]. The following example shows how consistently and competently the work of organizing the funds of the state archive of Surkhondaryya region was carried out. For example, it will be useful to pay attention to the document called "On the State Archive of Surkhondaryya Region"3 kept in the regional archive. This document consists of a total of 135 pages, and it provides reliable information about what kind of documents were stored in the funds in the region in the 50s of the last century. For example, in the reference document signed by Zilbergerts, who worked as the head of the state archive of Surkhondaryya region in those years (started on January 19, 1963 and finished in November 1963 - D.J.), it is said: "The number of funds containing documents from 1917-1957 is 460 ta; storage unit - 50,599... The State Archive of Surkhondaryya Region contains documents related to the Soviet era. There are interesting documents (referring to Surkhondaryya District Executive Committee, Fund 18, Termiz City Administration, Fund 148 - D.J.) reflecting the struggle of the workers to ensure the victory of the socialist revolution and establish the Soviet government under the leadership of the Communist Party[13]. These documents contain valuable information about the work carried out in the field of rural reconstruction, the development of the national economy, public education and health care. It is related to the activities of the Termiz city administration (at that time the local authority was called "uprava" - D.J.) in 1918, the works carried out by the Termiz city food committee in 1917-1921, the activities of the Sherabad revolutionary committee, the military-civil administration of the Republic of Turkestan. Documentary information about the works of the Termiz city department in the 1920s, as well as the works carried out in the districts, regions, cities and districts are very interesting." At



this point, it is necessary to cite another exemplary example. Surkhondarya regional state archive is mentioned on page 51 of the document stored in the above-mentioned fund No. 519. Zilbergets, who worked as the head of the Surkhondarya regional state archive in those years, signed A.A. In the reply letter sent to Mirzaboev (because the head of the department A.A. Mirzaboev sent a letter to the head of the Surkhondarya region archive on March 22, 1963 in the form of a questionnaire No. 206/2-25 - D.J.) there are the following lines: "1963 Information on the execution of the Decree No. 5-r dated January 3 on the transfer of archival materials belonging to the liquidated institutions in the districts to the state storage[14].

On January 8, 1963, the executive committee of the Council of People's Deputies of the Surkhondarya region issued Order No. 9, which charged the chairmen of the executive committees of the districts with the responsibility of keeping documents related to the liquidated institutions in the districts and transferring them to the inter-district state archives. 9 districts in the territory of Surkhondarya region were abolished, and it was decided to hand over the documents of the institutions in these districts to the relevant inter-district state archives. From this document, which we have briefly quoted, it is clear that, as in the whole of Uzbekistan, the archives in the Surkhondarya region have been viewed from the point of view of state policy. This is evidenced by the fact that it was ensured that all the documents related to institutions in the districts that were terminated (as a result of the annexation of Surkhondarya and Kashkadarya regions - D.J.) (related to the period before 1962 - D.J.) were transferred to the inter-district state archives. In addition, this simple example is a clear evidence of the procedures and requirements of organizing funds in archives in the formative years[15-26]. As life progressed, as in other fields, the organization of archival work and its management continued to take steps forward year after year. We can see this in the increase in the volume of documents of the Surkhondarya regional state archive fund in the years following the above-mentioned period, and in the fact that the types of documents accepted for storage are constantly increasing and being updated. In particular, after a number of decisions and reforms announced on the development of archival work in our country, new modern buildings with all the facilities and conditions for state archives were built and put into use, development in the field of archival work, an increase in the number of funds, an increase in the volume of documents, and a variety of

professions. it was clearly felt that the cases of For example, such quantitative and qualitative changes allowed the archives to receive not only documents related to state organizations, enterprises and institutions, but also documents of special value of non-state organizations[17]. Thus, the permanent and long-term documents of state administration bodies, court and prosecutor's office, educational, cultural and educational institutions, trade unions, public education and organizations from 1917 to 2015 are preserved in the Surkhondarya regional state archive. It should be noted with satisfaction that these documents embody the history, culture, construction, agriculture, local industry, public education, health care and other areas of the Surkhondarya region.

As of October 1, 2020, the state archive of the region has 1,265 collections, in which 163,845 permanent storage units, 16,606 personal storage units, and 24,549 depository storage documents are kept. In order to make a certain conclusion about our thoughts about funds, it can be said that during the years of independence, the republican state archive fund was transformed into the National Archive Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan[18]. This was also important in revitalizing archival work and increasing the volume of funds. In addition, as in other regions of our country, in Surkhondarya, with the honor of independence, the establishment of new funds, in addition to the existing ones, has been well established. When studying the funds of the state archive of the Surkhondarya region, it becomes clear that the main funds of the state archives, which were established earlier, mostly belong to the Soviet period. However, it is gratifying that the majority of funds established in the following years were formed under the conditions of independence. Because most of the funds kept today consist of documents related to the period of independence.

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