

Perceptions of European Tourists about the Bukhara Treasure before the Russian Invasion

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Abstract— *In this article we will tell about the history of the treasures of the Bukhara Emirate, one of the most ancient settlements of our country, as well as the opinions of European tourists about these treasures.*

Keywords— Bukhara, European scholars, treasure, history.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Independence has straightened our legs and freed our minds from addiction. The revival of our identity, our thinking, and our spirituality has allowed us to understand the dark side of our history, to realize the reality that is doomed to secrecy.

Sotimjon Holboyev

In the XIX century in Central Asia there were three independent states: Bukhara Emirate, Khiva Khanate and Kokand Khanate. Although production, socio-economic relations, trade and other spheres were developed in these countries, their development was lower than that of advanced European countries. The capital of the emirate was one of the centers of Islam and was called "Bukhara Sharif", that is saying "Holy Bukhara". There were 27 principalities in the emirate.

In the Emirate of Bukhara, the supreme ruler was the Emir, whose power was passed down from generation to generation. ¹The last ruler of the emirate was Sayyid Alimkhan, the son of Amir Abdullah. He ruled the emirate from 1910 to 1920. According to the list compiled by the Prime Minister of the Emir of Bukhara Sayid Alimkhan, Mirzo Nasrullo: Bukhara gold - 1148380 pieces, Bukhara coin - 62834780 pieces, Bukhara copper coin - 13 tons, gold powder - 1 ton, large diamonds - 3483 carats, diamonds - 968 carats, precious stones - 8617 carats. In addition, the shares of Russian industrial banks in the hands of Amir Alimkhan amounted to 33 million soums. It is also said that he had 100 million rubles in the treasury of the Russian Empire.

The Emirate of Bukhara and its vast gold treasury were historically destroyed by the "revolution" organized by the Leninist Bolshevik Party. But on the other hand, this tragedy was directly connected with the Bukhara Jadids and Jadids, "said Sotimjon Holboyev in his historical work "The Golden Treasure of the Bukhara Emirate".

"Gold, in essence, is the most useless metal for a man because of its softness, but its demonic magic shakes the earth and causes a state of inability to describe it in people's heads," Levitsky said. The history of Bukhara was a clear example of this.

Now let's get acquainted with the opinions of several European scholars about the treasury of the Emirate of Bukhara.

As noted in OA Sukhareva's book "Bukhara XIX - early XX century", "jewelers and coppersmiths were highly cultured. They have created their new and unique shapes and flowers as a result of long and hard research using creative methods." The book contains information about "Kasimjon Mirakov, whose ancestors were jewelers, and the great jeweler Usto Alo, who lived in the second half of the XIX century." At the same time, it is emphasized that "they were famous artists of their time and made a great contribution to the enrichment of the spiritual property, culture and traditions of their people."

"According to some sources, Nikolai Kuchersky wrote that the Emir of Bukhara's gold reserves in 1920 were 250 tons."²

Much has been written about the treasury of the Emir of Bukhara, especially in recent years. In them, historians and experts in other fields expressed their views on the subject, the fate and size of the treasury. According to historian Kahramon Rajabov, the amount of gold and other valuables looted by the treasury in 1920 is no less than about \$ 80 billion at current prices. In those years, the wealth, according to the historian, was about 77 million gold is valued in rubles.

When it comes to our country's jewelers, another important event comes to mind. In 1972, the discovery of more than 36 kilograms of various ornaments, jewelry, gold bars and other jewelry (115 in total) in the town of Dalvarzintepa in Surkhandarya caused a stir in the world. Historians and archaeologists say, "The most valuable aspect of the Dalvarzintepa treasure is its important place among the art of the ancient world. At the beginning of the twentieth century, such powerful states and kingdoms

¹ Tillaboyev Soyibjon, Zamonov Akbar. History of Uzbekistan (second half of the XIX century - beginning of the XX century): textbook for 9th grade. - T.: "Sharq", 2014. - 160 pages.

² N. Kucherskiy, "Zoloto Kzylkumov", Tashkent-2002, page 25.

as Kushan, Khorezm, and Sughd passed, and they became famous all over the world with their large cities, majestic palaces, and palaces that flourished at that time. Therefore, in the ancient settlements of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent, Shakhrisabz, Termez, Kokand, located on the Great Silk Road, which passes through the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics and other crafts have flourished since ancient times. it will be clear. ”³

However, the Emir was unable to save his treasury from looting. The first task of the commanders of M. Frunze's troops, who occupied Bukhara in early September 1920, was not to take care of the population - the "oppressed people" - but to find the Amir's treasure in the Ark abandoned by Said Alimkhan. Thus, part of the treasure, which the invaders searched for, was immediately loaded on railway wagons (according to some sources - 14, according to others - 18 wagons) and immediately sent to the Center.

To conclude, we can say that a certain part of the above-mentioned treasury has been sent to the Center, and the rest has no account. Scientists have also provided detailed information about this in their works.

2. REFERENCES

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³ S.Tursunov, T.Pardaev and others. "History of material culture of Surkhandarya oasis". Tashkent-2013.

