



Memorial House-Museum Dedicated To The Anniversary Of Abdulla Qodiriy's Birth

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ABSTRACT

This article provides detailed information about the life and literary heritage of Abdulla Kodiriy, the founder of Uzbek novel writing, as well as the history of the establishment, development, and exhibition system of the house-museum dedicated to his memory. It analyzes the historical stages of the museum's formation, the state decrees, and initiatives that contributed to its opening. The article also examines the exhibits preserved in the museum, their scientific and educational significance, and the role of the museum in promoting the spiritual legacy of the writer. Overall, the museum serves as an important institution in educating the younger generation in the spirit of respect for national literature and cultural values.

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After Uzbekistan gained independence, important reforms were implemented to restore, preserve, and widely promote national culture and literary heritage. In this process, special attention was paid to the establishment of house-museums in order to immortalize the memory of famous cultural figures of the country and to introduce their lives and works more closely to the younger generation. One of such important cultural sites is the Abdulla Kodiriy House-Museum, dedicated to one of the prominent representatives of 20th-century Uzbek literature.

This museum serves to study the writer's life and creative activity, preserve his rich literary legacy, and present it to the wider public. Through the museum's exhibitions, visitors can gain a complete understanding of the environment in which Kodiriy lived, his family life, creative process, and spiritual world.

Alongside these social changes and innovations in the country, a new stage began in the development of museums and house-museums in Uzbekistan. As of January 1, 2024, there are 140 museums operating in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The city of Tashkent has hosted many creative figures. Writers and artists lived and worked in the capital, and later the residences of these creators were transformed into house-museums. One such house-museum is dedicated to Abdulla Kodiriy, one of the great representatives of 20th-century Uzbek literature a writer, poet, translator, playwright, and the founder of the Uzbek novel. It is located in Tashkent city, Shaykhontohur district, Termiz Tor Street. The establishment of this house-museum required a long process.

The first initiative was made in 1989 when Ma'sud Kodiriy, the writer's son, at the 95th anniversary commemoration of his father, appealed to intellectuals gathered at the event to transform the house into a museum. However, this initiative did not yield results. According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 23, 1993, No. 306 "On holding the anniversary of Abdulla Kodiriy,"

the Ministry of Cultural Affairs issued Order No. 129 dated July 18, 1994 “On the establishment of the Abdulla Kodiriy memorial museum”. Through this order, the issue was raised again in 1994, but it remained unresolved due to the sensitive issue of relocating the descendants of the family currently living there.

However, in 2018, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoev, personally visited the writer’s house and familiarized himself with the situation. In accordance with the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan dated December 5, 2018, “On the wide celebration of the 125th anniversary of Abdulla Kodiriy’s birth,” it was decided to open a house-museum in the residence where the writer lived and worked in 2019.

In order to deeply study and widely promote the rich creative legacy of the great Uzbek writer Abdulla Kodiriy, and to further develop the literary environment among young people, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 28, 2019 No. 186 “On measures for the effective use of cultural facilities built in Tashkent city” was adopted. The Abdulla Kodiriy House-Museum, located at 35, 36, and 37 Termiz Tor Street, Shaykhontohur district, Tashkent city, was finally inaugurated on December 27, 2019. The opening ceremony was attended by the President’s advisor, writer Khayriddin Sultonov, Chairman of the Writers’ Union of Uzbekistan, poet Sirojiddin Sayyid, artist Alisher Mirzaev, Abdulla Kodiriy’s great-granddaughter Makhzuna Kodiriy, and others.

The Abdulla Kodiriy House-Museum building was constructed between 1928 and 1929. The doors, windows, and gate of the house were crafted by Ustakhuja, while the summer pavilion (shiypon) was made by master craftsmen Soat Maxdum, Abduzufar Imomov, and Hasan [5, 46]. The house, inherited from Abdulla Kodiriy’s father, was divided into two parts. In one section, his brothers Rakhimberdi and Kudratilla lived with their families, while in the other section Kodiriy lived with his own family. However, there was only one main entrance. The courtyard was also divided into three sections: the outer (guest area), the middle (family living area), and the inner (barn and storage for firewood) parts. In the center of the living courtyard, there were an apple tree and a pear tree [6, 68].

This sacred place covers an area of 70 sotix and includes a two-story house where the writer lived, consisting of four rooms, a separate summer pavilion, and an additional room on its first floor. In 2019, a library, conference hall, and exhibition halls were added to the museum complex. The library currently holds around 20,000 books. Administrative offices of the museum are located adjacent to the library. On both sides of the courtyard, there are now young vineyards. The courtyard is built in a traditional style with wattle (skeleton) walls, clay roofing, and no wooden flooring.

At the museum entrance, images of the books “Bygone Days” and “Scorpion from the Altar”, originally illustrated by Ibrokhim Tullya (a “Mushtum” magazine artist) and reproduced by artist Ne’mat Khakimov, are displayed as covers of their first editions.

In the central part of the courtyard, a sculpture created by sculptor Bakhrom Norboev depicts the writer sitting with a book in his hand. The courtyard is surrounded by a long decorative wooden corridor with carved columns.

On the courtyard walls, quotations from Uzbek and world writers about Kodiriy are displayed, emphasizing that the writer is recognized not only nationally but also internationally.

The large hall is designed to accommodate up to 100 people for conferences, and it contains photographs of old Tashkent along with detailed information about the writer’s creative life.

In another room a small gallery paintings reflecting his life, creativity, and spiritual courage are displayed. His first published articles in newspapers and magazines, early books, and translations into other languages are also preserved here. Graphic portraits dedicated to Abdulla Kodiriy’s life and work were created by the People’s Artist of Uzbekistan, Alisher Mirzaev.

His earliest publications, journals, and translated editions are also collected in this section of the museum. On the left side of the museum, in one of the rooms where Abdulla Kodiriy once lived, the writer created his works and spent his life with his family, gathered around the dining table with his children. Kodiriy was a generous, loyal, kind, and noble-hearted person who loved receiving guests. Near these rooms stands the pavilion he once built, which used to be filled with conversations of friends; today, it is once again full of literature enthusiasts and admirers of Kodiriy [7, 24].

On the upper floor of the two-story building, there is a veranda, and inside are the writer's creative room, children's room, and the rooms of his father Kodirmukhammad and mother Josiyat bibi. In the center of Kodiriy's personal room there was a "tanch" (traditional heating place), where the family used to read together in the evenings. The room also contains a wardrobe and mirrors, preserved exactly as they were during Kodiriy's lifetime.

His writing room is a quiet, twelve-beamed space, whitewashed and facing the sun. The doors, windows, and niches are painted light blue. The shelves contain Chinese bowls, plates, samovars, teapots, and decorated trays. The bedding includes atlas quilts, blankets, and feather pillows stacked neatly in alcoves. A large patterned carpet is laid over a mat floor along the long wall [7, 69].

In Josiyat bibi's room, there is a wardrobe with clothes inside, a central tanch, and a samovar placed above it. Embroidered carpets (so'zana) hang on both sides of the walls, and household utensils are placed on the shelves.

On the upper floor of the house, the bedroom contains Kodiriy's bed, a writing desk, and a typewriter. Plates and dishes are arranged on the shelves.

In the adjacent room, objects such as a lantern used for lighting, a metal chest for documents, and a bridal dowry chest belonging to Kodiriy's wife Rakhbarniyo were preserved by the writer's descendants. A travel suitcase and umbrella, which the writer used during his journeys, are also stored here. Wardrobes and closets were presented to him by the Writers' Union. In the courtyard, a cart placed by Kodiriy's grandson Khondamir Kodiriy is also displayed, though its decoration is still in progress.

Next to the bedroom, there is another room where a lantern used for lighting the house is kept, along with a metal chest used for storing documents and a bridal dowry chest that belonged to Abdulla Kodiriy's wife, Rakhbarnisa, preserved by the writer's descendants.

In this room, a travel suitcase and an umbrella used by the writer during his journeys are also preserved. The wardrobes and closets were gifted to him by the Writers' Union. In the museum courtyard, a cart placed by Kodiriy's grandson, Khondamir Kodiriy, has been installed, although its decoration is still not fully completed.

The museum's exhibition has not yet been fully finalized, and its artifacts are still undergoing the process of inventory registration. Every visitor to the museum can clearly experience the atmosphere of the period in which Abdulla Kodiriy lived.

This sacred place, where the most meaningful years of the writer's life were spent, has now become a remarkable destination visited by writers, poets, literary enthusiasts, cultural and artistic figures, museum specialists, community members, the writer's relatives and descendants, students, school pupils, as well as local and foreign tourists.

The Abdulla Kodiriy House-Museum has been established as an important cultural and educational center for preserving and promoting the national literary heritage. The exhibits preserved in the museum not only reflect the writer's personal life and creative work but also represent the socio-cultural environment of his time.

Although the process of establishing and developing the museum took many years, today it has become a significant spiritual and cultural landmark. Visitors have the opportunity to deeply experience Abdulla Kodiriy's creative world, understand the importance of his works, and further strengthen their respect for national literature.

In general, the Abdulla Kodiriy House-Museum plays an important role in educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, spiritual maturity, and love for literature, while also serving to preserve and promote our national cultural heritage.

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