



THE ROLE OF S. KAMALOV IN THE HISTORY OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

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Abstract

Academician S.K. Kamalov rightfully holds a prominent place in the development of historical scholarship in Karakalpakstan. He is the founder of a scholarly school that laid a solid foundation for the systematic and rigorously grounded study of the history of the Karakalpak people. As a mentor and inspiration to an entire generation of researchers who stood at the origins of a truly scientific approach, he played a key role in shaping the professional historical community.

His multifaceted academic work and significant contribution to the study of key issues in the history of the Karakalpaks have received wide recognition and high praise among specialists. The works of S.K. Kamalov, based on thorough source analysis and an innovative approach, have become a foundation for subsequent research and have largely determined the directions of development in modern historiography. The examples discussed in the article convincingly demonstrate the scale of his scholarly legacy, which continues to retain its relevance and significance to this day.

Keywords: Academician S.K.Kamalov, history, historiography, karakalpak people, Central Asia, school, mentor, apprentice

РЕЗЮМЕ

Академик С.К. Камалов по праву занимает выдающееся место в развитии исторической науки Каракалпакстана. Он является основоположником научной школы, заложившей прочную основу для системного и глубоко аргументированного изучения истории каракалпакского народа. Как



наставник и вдохновитель целого поколения исследователей, стоявших у истоков подлинно научного подхода, он сыграл ключевую роль в формировании профессионального исторического сообщества.

Его многогранная научная деятельность и значительный вклад в разработку важнейших проблем истории каракалпаков получили широкое признание и высокую оценку среди специалистов. Труды С.К. Камалова, основанные на тщательном анализе источников и новаторском подходе, стали фундаментом для последующих исследований и во многом определили направления развития современной историографии. Рассматриваемые в статье примеры убедительно демонстрируют масштаб его научного наследия, сохраняющего актуальность и значимость по сей день.

Ключевые слова: Академик С.К.Камалов, история, историография, каракалпакский народ, Центральная Азия, школа, наставник, ученик

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of Karakalpak national intelligentsia, particularly the scientific community—including historians—was not a sudden phenomenon, but a reality shaped over many years. In 1937, the establishment of the Khorezm Archaeological Expedition under the leadership of Sergey Pavlovich Tolstov, with the participation of Academician Yahya Gulyamov of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, played a significant role in fostering the development of national scholars in the fields of history and ethnography in our country.

Prominent scholars of the first half of the 20th century—such as Sergey Pavlovich Tolstov, Pyotr Ivanov, Tatyana Zhdanko, Yahya Gulyamov, Alexander Samoylovich, and Lidiya Tolstova—made substantial contributions to the advancement of science in Karakalpakstan. As a result, within a relatively short period, the republic saw the emergence of distinguished scholars such as S. Kamalov, R. Kosbergenov, and Y. Dosumov, who laid the foundations of historical science.

The scientific achievements attained by the Karakalpak people today are the result of the dedicated efforts of many scholars. Through their selfless work, they have ensured the steady progress of science and elevated it to a new qualitative



level. Among such outstanding figures, a special place belongs to S.K.Kamalov—Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Historical Sciences, and laureate of the Berdakh State Prize—whose contribution to the development of virtually all branches of science in Karakalpakstan is widely recognized.

According to Professor B. Koshchanov, S.K. Kamalov possessed a refined sense of time—a quality of exceptional importance for a historian. In other words, the ability to perceive and interpret time is a hallmark of true historical mastery.

LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY

The main information about Sabir Kamalov's biography and scientific activities is contained in anniversary publications, collections of scientific works, and memoirs of colleagues, students, and contemporaries. The scholar, Doctor of Historical Sciences B.Koshchanov, evaluates that "Sabir Kamalovich's outstanding oratory qualities stemmed from his high general culture, the first sign of which was that he was well-versed in all fields of knowledge" [1:74]. Indeed, Academician S.K.Kamalova is rightfully considered a scholar whose work encompasses not only the study of history but also other humanities.

RESULTS

For 20th-century readers, the discovery of the history of Karakalpakstan is closely associated with the scholarly works of S. K. Kamalov. He succeeded in presenting the history of Karakalpakstan—from ancient times to the beginning of the 21st century—in a comprehensive, large-scale, insightful, and authentic manner. Readers gained profound historical knowledge from Sabir Kamalov, and younger generations continue to rediscover his works with admiration for their completeness, depth, and well-grounded accuracy.

One of S.K. Kamalov's defining personal qualities was his strong sense of honor and responsibility, which made him regard avoiding difficulties as a matter of shame. For example, during the medical examinations of young men for mobilization in World War II, when some sought to evade being sent to the front, he was among the first to fulfill his civic duty. He believed that when true patriots



were being solemnly sent off to the war by their families, it would be dishonorable to be declared unfit and remain behind.

In 1944, when he was returned to his homeland severely wounded, he felt a deep sense of dissatisfaction, as victory was near, and he was distressed to have come back before its achievement. Academician Sabir Kamalov was endowed by nature with qualities such as determination, a spirit of inquiry, diligence, generosity, patience, and resilience. At the same time, he experienced the many hardships and challenges of life, gaining rich experience through a difficult.

In this case, for example, we can mention the articles by the authors J.Berdiyev [2:20], S.Nurjanov [3:116], A.Kudiyarov [4:77], B.Opaev [5:122]. A.Saparniyazov acquainted the wide range of readers of the republic with the main stages of S.Kamalov's life and his unforgettable legacy in the study of the history of Central Asia in general and Karakalpakstan in particular. Describing S. Kamalov's enormous contribution to the scientific illumination of our people's history, A. Saparniyazov writes: "From an artistic point of view, S. Kamalov is a remarkable storyteller. He is an amazing master and artist of words. With inexhaustible eloquence, and sometimes with dramatic force, he narrates individual events, abundantly drawing material from folklore. In writing, he used folklore as the primary source. Folklore in his works rises to the level of science and gives it a high assessment" [6:48]. In the article "The Scientific Activities of Academician S. Kamalov," the life, work, and main stages of scientific activity are discussed, linking them together in the general canvas of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. The author attempts to show S.Kamalov's place in Karakalpak, Central Asian, and foreign historiography. The work objectively defines the range of S.Kamalov's scientific interests [7:40].

S.Kamalov's student from Turkey, Salih Yelmaz, described the scholar's broad soul, modesty S. K. Kamalov is also recognized as the author of a number of scholarly articles in encyclopedias. His works are devoted to the history of the peoples of Central Asia and are imbued with a strong spirit of patriotism. The main objective of his research can be defined as ensuring that the great deeds of historical figures are not erased over time, and that the important and remarkable achievements of the Karakalpak people are properly recorded and preserved. His



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scholarly contributions extended beyond the boundaries of regional history and acquired an international character.

The study also shows that whenever scholars or writers compose articles about Academician S.K. Kamalov, they first and foremost emphasize his personal qualities, highlighting the aspects of his character that serve as an example for younger generations. Naturally, they then turn to his most significant academic works as illustrations of his scholarly legacy. The recollections and assessments of his colleagues and students—those who worked and labored alongside him—are presented with sincerity and authenticity.

For example, in their writings, the distinguished historians Q. Saribaev and Q. Naimov describe Academician Sabir Kamalov as a guiding and shining star in the training of young specialists, who represent the future of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

During the course of our research, we observed that S. K. Kamalov was an excellent speaker and a gifted storyteller. As his wife, the renowned writer of our republic G. Yesemuratova, noted: “He spoke beautifully and explained things calmly and clearly; he never added falsehoods or spoke incompletely, and not a single word of his sounded unconvincing. One could find no grounds for doubt or objection.”

Sabir Kamalov possessed a remarkable ability to explain, interpret, and persuade. For this reason, conversations with him were exceptionally meaningful and beneficial for his students. He would reflect in detail and from multiple perspectives on every topic that sparked professional interest. Moreover, he was knowledgeable not only in his own field but also about many fascinating events far beyond his primary specialization, and he willingly shared all of this with his listeners.

Indeed, with his distinctive narrative skill, the scholar had a unique ability to engage and captivate his interlocutors.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Academician Sabir Kamalov fought throughout his life against being labeled a pseudo-historian and against plagiarism. He was firmly opposed



to any form of fabrication, speculation, or unfounded theorizing. The scholar was convinced that a historian must always rely on solid, rigorously proven evidence.

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