

Regional Museum of Local History in Aktobe

The Regional Museum of Local History in Aktobe is a large research, cultural and educational center for preservation and propaganda of the cultural legacy. The museum was formed in 1929 at the initiative of the local ethnographers.

The fund of the museum accounts for 95 thousand exhibits related to the history and spiritual culture of the people. There are mineralogy, paleontology, botany, archaeology, ethnography, applied art and jewelry, numismatics, rare books, original documents and collections of photo materials. Museum collections were exhibited in Moscow, Orenburg, Orsk, Ankara, Istanbul and other cities.

Scientific research allowed coming to conclusion that Sarmatian culture flourished in the area of present Aktobe in V-VI centuries BC. In the course of archaeological excavations of ancient kurgans – burial mounds Beskopa, Syntas and Nagornyi, some gold objects and household items crafted by some Sarmatian master in ‘animal style’ were found. There were inlaid bone spoons proving that culture was rather developed in that area as far back as 2500 years ago.

Archaeological finds from ‘Bolgarka’ and ‘Taldyk’ kurgans belonged to the Hun, Oguz and Kypchak period. The chalcedony beads made by some Hun craftsmen are priceless exhibits.

The monuments on the territory of Aktobe astonish with their variety. Different schools of traditional architecture formed there.

The art of traditional architecture and monumental glyptic can be seen in the groups of monuments – North Ustyurt, Zhem-Sagyzdyk, Kobda-Elektik, North Aral. The stone statues preserved to our days from the depths of time- they belong to the early and later ages (VI-VIII centuries). They were brought from places near the Taldyk River and from sands of Barkyn, Shet, Irghyz, Baiganin and Mugalzhar. In the vicinities of Kobda, there is a burial ground Abat Baitak and Abai baitak Mausoleum, that was built in XV century together with an ensemble of 250 tomb stones. A model of that mausoleum is presented in the Hall of Ethnography and Archaeology, where the priceless exhibits from Stone, Bronze and Iron ages are placed. In the exposition of the hall, visitors may see the necropolises from the Bronze Age. Jewelry, dishware, household item give us opportunity to learn about everyday life and culture of the ancient Huns, Oguz and Kipchaks. Materials about the legendary leader of the Huns – Edil are also

displayed there. The rarities of the ethnographic hall are women's velvet ichigs and men's clothing stitched with gold threads.

A collection of herbariums gathered by professor Ageleov in 1980s is especially valuable in the museum collection. The collection is composed of thousands of plant species from Aktobe area. The oldest exhibit is considered to be the tree that turned into fossil over the period of 100 million years.

There are also the documents about the political activity of Abulhair Khan (1693-1748) and Aiteke bi (1644-1700) on worthy place.

'The Great Batyrs of the Steppe' is the name of exposition about the leaders of national liberation movement – batyrs S.Datov, I.Taimanov, M.Utemisov, K.Kasymov, E.Kotibarov and A.Imanov.

All documents are placed in chronological order.

It has been almost 140 years since the founding of Aktobe. Its formation and development is shown in the exposition that contains valuable documents about the times of Russian tsarism with its colonial politics at the end of XIX – early XX century.

A new chapter in history is revealed by documents about the social activity of Russian Duma members in the early XIX century: A.Kalmenov and B.Karataev.

The establishment of the Soviet power in Aktobe in 1920 is also reflected on exposition, as well as the famine and repressions of 1930s, grievously known Mount Tuyetobe – a place of shooting executions and the authentic documents from those years. There are some interesting documents about life and work of such activists as T.Zhurgenov, U.Kulymbetov and T.Shonanov. In 1941-1945, over 129\0 thousand men from Aktyubinsk took part in the Great Patriotic War, 35 of them became the Heroes of the Soviet Union and 9 – the Cavaliers of the Order of Glory. The Hero of the Soviet Union Aliya Moldagulova (1925-1944) was from Aktyubinsk as well.

A special feature of the Museum is that it has a Hall of Astronautics. Cosmonauts V.I.Patsaev, Y.Lonchakov and T.Musabayev had graduated from flight school in Aktobe.

'May your way be light, Kazakhstan!' is the name of the hall dedicated to Kazakhstan's independence. The exposition has documents about the historical moments from the life of the country. One can learn about the life and work of the

prominent people of that region: scientists, writers, military men and public figures.