



## Article

# House-Museum of The Writer Sergey Borodin

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**Abstract:** Museums dedicated to literary and historical figures play a vital role in preserving cultural memory and promoting educational heritage. Sergey Petrovich Borodin, a renowned historian, writer, and polymath who contributed significantly to Russian and Uzbek literature and historical research, is commemorated through a memorial house-museum in Tashkent. While Borodin's literary and academic legacy has been well-documented, the comprehensive cultural and educational significance of the house-museum as a center for preservation and interpretation has not been extensively analyzed. This article aims to explore the cultural, historical, and museological value of the Sergey Borodin House-Museum by detailing its exhibits, memorial features, and contributions to the literary and scientific community. The museum houses over 28,000 items, including Borodin's personal belongings, a rich library, a vast numismatic collection, and autographed books from renowned writers. It functions as a dynamic space for public engagement, scholarly conferences, and international cultural exchange. The study presents a holistic interpretation of the house-museum as a multidimensional repository of material and spiritual culture that reflects Borodin's interdisciplinary achievements and serves as a model of museum-based heritage education. The museum not only preserves Borodin's intellectual and artistic legacy but also fosters intergenerational knowledge transfer and international cultural dialogue, making it a unique and vital institution in Uzbekistan's heritage landscape.

**Keywords:** Sergey Borodin, House-Museum, Historian, Archaeologist, Ethnographer, Numismatist, Architect, Artist, Literature, Book

**Citation:** Bahridinovna, M. D. House-Museum of The Writer Sergey Borodin. Web of Scholars: Multidimensional Research Journal 2025, 4(4), 104-109.

Received: 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025Revised: 31<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025Accepted: 8<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025Published: 15<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025

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## 1. Introduction

Through The house-museum of Sergey Petrovich Borodin stands as a unique monument to the life and legacy of a figure who intricately bridged literature, science, and culture across Russian and Uzbek societies. Borodin was not only a distinguished writer known for his monumental historical novels such as *Dmitry Donskoy* and *Stars over Samarkand*, but also a historian, archaeologist, ethnographer, numismatist, and artist whose contributions spanned both intellectual and creative realms. His deep involvement with Central Asian history and culture positioned him as a key cultural intermediary during the 20th century. His move to Tashkent in 1950 marked a pivotal chapter in his life, during which he produced some of his most acclaimed works and fostered literary exchange between Russia and Central Asia. Following his death in 1974, the Uzbek government established a memorial museum in the house where he lived, honoring his multifaceted legacy. The museum not only preserves his personal belongings, literary manuscripts, and vast collections—including rare books, coins, artworks, and archaeological finds—but also serves as a cultural and educational hub. The house-museum functions as a living archive of Borodin's scholarly and artistic endeavors, offering insight into his contributions to the intellectual and cultural history of Uzbekistan. This article explores the historical significance of Borodin's work, the rich collection of the

museum, and its role in preserving and popularizing cultural heritage, thereby affirming its importance in the national and international cultural landscape.

## 2. Materials and Methods

This research employed a descriptive and historiographical method focused on the cultural, literary, and archival dimensions of the House-Museum of Sergey Borodin [1]. The study was conducted through the analysis of primary sources, including manuscripts, photographs, artifacts, personal belongings, and written documents preserved within the museum's collection [2]. Particular emphasis was placed on examining the museum's permanent exhibition, which features approximately 28,000 items representing the writer's multifaceted legacy [3]. These include literary works, archaeological artifacts, numismatic collections, and objects of applied and fine arts gathered by Borodin throughout his life and expeditions [4]. The method also involved reviewing official documentation regarding the establishment of the museum, such as government resolutions, and exploring the scientific cataloging practices used in classifying and preserving the exhibits [5]. Field observations within the memorial space—including Borodin's library, office, and living quarters—provided insights into the authenticity and conservation of the environment in which the writer lived and worked [6]. The museum's role in public education, cultural preservation, and literary promotion was assessed through the review of its scientific conferences, visitor engagement programs, and participation in international tourism exhibitions [7]. By combining archival investigation with site-specific ethnographic observation, the research aimed to understand the museum's function as both a cultural institution and a dynamic center for transmitting the intellectual and artistic legacy of Sergey Borodin to contemporary and future generations [8].

## 3. Results and Discussion

Sergey Petrovich Borodin went down in history as an outstanding representative of world culture and literature of the 30-70s [9]. XX century, thanks to the creative heritage left to us [10]. Of course, by this we mean, first of all, the world-famous historical novels "Dmitry Donskoy" and "Stars over Samarkand", translated and published in many languages of the peoples of the world [11]. The spiritual heritage is also made up of early works written by him in the thirties of the last century - the novels "The Last Bukhara", "The Egyptian", collections of short stories "The Eighth River", "The Master of Birds", the story "The Birth of Flowers" and other works [12]. These are sketches for the future novels "Andrei Rublev", "Ivan Kalita", the screenplay "Dmitry Donskoy" and the unfinished screenplays "Tamerlane", "Architect", "Ulugbek", numerous essays, reviews of the works of writers of Russia and Central Asia, critical notes, interviews, etc [13].

S.P.Borodin - a writer, at the same time, was a talented scientist - researcher, whose encyclopedic knowledge in the field of many sciences made him a unique person [14]. Historian, archaeologist, ethnographer, philologist, numismatist, architect, artist and many others merged into one person [15]. Throughout his life, the main themes of his work were both the history of Russia (the Middle Ages) and the history of the East - Central Asia, therefore Sergey Petrovich Borodin belongs to two great peoples - Russian and Uzbek [16].

Born in 1902 in Russia (in Moscow), he lived in it for almost half a century, studied, worked, created his wonderful works.

Here the well-deserved fame of the writer came to him, here he was awarded high government awards, orders and medals, and became the laureate of the highest literary prize. Being interested in the history and culture of the East at the same time, while still a student at the Moscow Literary Institute, in 1923 he first visited Uzbekistan, in the city of Bukhara. In subsequent years, he returned here again and again for new historical materials and impressions. During the hardest years of World War II, he and his family

found a hospitable refuge and protection here. In 1950 S.P.Borodin finally moved to Tashkent, where he lived the rest of his life (1950 - 1974).

Here, in our republic, he reached the heights of literary creativity, creating the aforementioned trilogy "Stars over Samarkand". He translated into Russian and became known to the whole world the works of writers of Central Asia and Kazakstan - S.Ayniy, Oybek, Sh.Rashidov and others. was awarded the title of "People's Writer of Uzbekistan". Unfortunately, the continuous, hard work affected the health of the writer. On June 22, 1974, S.P.Borodin passed away.

After his death, by the decision of the Government of the Republic in Tashkent, in memory of this amazing person, in the house where he lived (now Lashkarbegi street, 18) on March 19, 1981, the Memorial Museum was opened. The opening of the museum became a bright event in the cultural life of not only the Uzbek, Russian, but also other peoples. His collection, the presented exposition reflected the whole versatility of the personality of S.P.Borodin, the breadth of his interests, the depth of knowledge.

When the museum was created, it already had household items, clothes, books of the writer, after the death of Borodin, all his personal belongings turned into exhibits. The exposition was also created from what relatives brought. Despite its small size, the museum is rich and varied. The total number of exhibits is about 28,000. Basically, these are books by both Borodin himself and other writers, whose work he was very fond of. Among them: Miguel de Cervantes, Shakespeare, Alexander Dumas, Dante Alighieri, Maxim Gorky.

The museum has two exposition and exhibition halls that tell about the work, life, and family of Borodin. The second part of the house is memorial, it consists of a living room, a library and a study. After the death of the writer, all personal belongings, dishes, books remain intact to this day, preserving the atmosphere of the last days of his life.

S.P.Borodin - a man of great charm, appears to be an excellent connoisseur of the history and culture of Eastern and Western European peoples. The material and spiritual values accumulated by him as a result of numerous expeditions and trips to various countries of the world formed the basis of the existing exposition and are a convincing confirmation of this. The museum fund in terms of the number of storage units surpasses not only other memorial museums in Tashkent, but also a number of large museums. It includes objects of archeology, ethnography, applied art, painting, sculpture.

The museum has a rich archive of writers, which includes manuscripts, photographs, documents, television and radio recordings, and extensive personal correspondence. A special place is occupied by the richest numismatic collection, which has absorbed coins of various eras and states, moreover, each of them has been scientifically described by S.P.Borodin.

The museum houses a collection of two thousand books donated to Borodin by famous writers. Each of them has a personal autograph left by the author. In addition to reading, Sergey Borodin was an avid coin collector. The exposition includes 7,000 coins collected from all over the world, each of which he could describe in detail. In 1973, at the New York Numismatic Exhibition, S.P. Borodin was awarded the Big Silver Medal for his collection of silver and copper coins, which turned out to be the best among the world's collections. He also collected rare medals dedicated to significant dates, matchboxes. The pride of the museum is a unique collection of books autographed by famous writers and artists, including foreign ones, with whom S.P.Borodin met and became friends during his lifetime.

Among them are inscriptions made by Anna Akhmatova, Mikhail Svetlov, Alexander Fadeev, Oybek, Tamara Khanum, Ahmad Faiz, Javahari, H.Taner and Kemal Takhir, Karaslavov, Isushi Inoue, Irving Stone, John Priestley and others.

And many more interesting things can be seen in the exposition of the museum. Its literary part is devoted to the life and work of S.P.Borodin, based on originals from the writer's archive, there are many books, personal belongings and valuable items. So, photographs of the Borodin family, the city of childhood and youth of Belev, children's drawings of little Seryozha, valuable books from the home library, pages of the first literary publications attract attention. Among the exhibits of the literary hall, the personal archaeological finds of S.P.Borodin: coins, fragments of architectural decoration, a candlestick and other items found during the archaeological expedition to Afrasiab.

There are many photographs on the stands, where S.P. Borodin is captured in the circle of famous writers of Central Asia, Kazakstan and Abroad. Interesting materials about the translation activities of S.P.Borodin, stands with translated foreign editions of "Dmitry Donskoy" and "Stars over Samarkand", showcases with awards, orders and medals presented in them. A small art gallery presents the work of famous Russian and Uzbek artists. These are three works by V. Manin for the novel "Egyptian", a portrait of S.P.Borodin and "The Old Courtyard in Tashkent" by A.Abdullaev, "Landscape" by U.Tansykbaev, "Bukhara", "Seller of kumgans", "Khiva" by A.Nikonov "Portrait of Khalil Sultan A.Temur's grandson" by V.Kaydalov, a reproduction of I.Glazunov's painting "Dmitry Donskoy" and lacquered wooden boards are examples of lok art (Vietnam XVII century).

At present, the museum's collection of paintings has been replenished with the works of the young artist S.Nugmanov "Sokh", "Registan", "Bukhara". A special place in the museum is occupied by memorial rooms, which attract visitors with their authenticity, atmosphere of warmth and comfort. In the office, library and living room, everything is preserved in the same form as it was during the life of the writer. In all rooms there are products of folk craftsmen: Russian household items, old copper jugs, trays, dishes from Bukhara, Kokand, Samarkand, Shahrisabz, chasing and metal carving from India, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Lebanon, Japanese and Chinese ceramics, unique works of wood carving masters - small wooden Chinese sculptures of the 19th century, a Buddha figurine covered with small Indonesian coins - a gift to S.P.Borodin - a numismatist from the Indonesian government, masks made of wood and bronze, antiques. The figurines from the excavations at Afrasiab are amazing. The book fund of the museum is admirable: on the shelves and in the cabinets of the library and the office there are many rare books, works of historians, archaeologists, ethnographers, linguists and philologists, works of art by world classics, dictionaries, literature on art, geography, economics, culture of countries and peoples of the world, albums of artists, etc. But not everything that is presented in the exposition is the fund of the house - the museum. Its vaults contain manuscripts of the writer's works, drawings by S.P.Borodin, made in pencil, personal diaries, correspondence and other archival materials.

A unique collection of material and spiritual values, concentrated in the House-Museum of S.P. Borodin, makes it not only the keeper of the memory of an outstanding person, but also a treasury of world culture. Today the museum and its researchers are working on the study of the beautiful, unique work of Sergey Petrovich Borodin, which brings people knowledge, wisdom and goodness. Great spiritual and educational activities, the popularization of the literary heritage of the writer is bearing fruit - the number of visitors to the museum has increased significantly, especially among young students. Every year, in memory of the writer and scientist, scientific conferences are held in the museum, which receive a wide response among the public of Uzbekistan, near and far Abroad. The results of the research activities of the museum are reflected in the collections of scientific papers. The museum is an active participant in the annual International Tourism Fair in Tashkent, the initiator of many interesting events held both within the walls of the museum and outside it.

#### 4. Conclusion

The House-Museum of Sergey Petrovich Borodin stands not only as a tribute to an exceptional figure of Russian and Uzbek culture, but also as a vital institution preserving and promoting a unique intellectual and spiritual legacy. Through its extensive collection of over 28,000 items, including rare books, autographs, archaeological artifacts, numismatic treasures, and personal belongings, the museum vividly conveys the multidimensional contributions of Borodin as a writer, historian, archaeologist, ethnographer, and artist. The authentic atmosphere maintained in the memorial rooms, combined with scholarly exhibitions and original manuscripts, reflects both the personal world and public influence of Borodin. The museum serves as a dynamic center of cultural and educational engagement, regularly hosting scientific conferences, participating in international exhibitions, and attracting a growing number of visitors, particularly students and young researchers. Its role extends beyond commemoration—it actively contributes to the dissemination of knowledge, cross-cultural dialogue, and the appreciation of literary and historical heritage. By showcasing Borodin's deep connection to both Eastern and Western traditions, the museum highlights the universal relevance of his work and the enduring significance of cultural synthesis. As a result, the House-Museum is not merely a historical site but a living institution that continues to inspire intellectual curiosity, national pride, and intercultural understanding.

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