

History continues

“MANGILIK EL” dedicates its pages to the opening of the National museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Today, Darkhan Mynbay who has been the head of the museum from the moment of its idea emergence till its establishment, became the interviewee of our magazine.

- The term National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan is virtually familiar to every Kazakhstan citizen. What does this fundamental construction mean for you as its supervisor?

- “Traditions and culture are a genetic code of nation”, that is what our President accentuated in his recent Message. Cultural focuses appearing in our country like museums, theatres, libraries, centres of children’s creative labour not only provide spiritual replenishment, but represent weighty matter of state.

In fact the museum is very important for me in a capacity of a director, but at the same time it is even more important for me in the capacity of a citizen of the independent state.

- How many architectural projects were offered, whose project was chosen and why?

National museum of Kazakhstan was built in accordance with the project of the “Bazis” company, it perfectly fell in with composition of the Square of Independence.

- There had already been several large museums in Kazakhstan, why, do you think, a decision about opening National museum in Astana was made?

- A decision about founding National museum was made on the highest level. On March 17, 1998 the Head of State told about necessity to found National museum in Astana which would help its visitors to learn the whole history of the State. Regain of independence, construction of a new capital, recognition by the world community led to creation of “memory storage”, which would recount our history in strict sequence. Naturally, there are several big museums in the Republic, but there is no a museum which could represent the whole march of our history, including achievements of the independence period. It is doubtless that National museum as one of the constituents of the state cultural standard should be located in capital, because other countries judge our State development and power by its capital.

- It is known that exhibition halls will have an area of 14 thousand square kilometers. Will there be any new displays which have not been shown till today?

-National museum should become the centre of concentration of historic and cultural values, found within the scope of “Cultural heritage” program. Concerning new displays, I can say that we are preparing to present museum object which hasn’t not been exhibited before. There is no doubt they will arouse genuine interest of visitors.

- It has been reported before that National museum will be divided into five theme halls. What subject each theme will reflect? Could you tell about them in detail?

Hall of ancient and medieval Kazakhstan history covers Lithic, Mesolithic,

Neolithic, Eneolithic, Bronze epochs, Iron age, and the Middle Ages. The period of Bronze epoch till Golden Horde is represented by golden artefacts in the Halls of Gold . The Hall of History will present to visitors event-trigger milestones of the Eastern Desht-i-Qipchaq, Zhetysu and Turkistan period. Ethnography hall demonstrates millennial original culture of Kazakhs. The Hall of independent Kazakhstan reflects modern history from 1991 till present time. Astana takes special place in a row of most notable achievements of our state; the display dedicated to our capital has highly innovative character. Halls of Contemporary Arts display works of artists of different generations. Alongside with permanent exposition there have been provided halls for temporary exhibitions.

-Majority of world museums also function as “training ground” for students, future historians. Will our students have a chance to undergo practical training in National museum?

The museum is built in accordance with world standards; it has research institutes and a library, a conference hall, and restoration workshops at its disposal. All these constituents will ensure educational process which will get scientists, students and schoolchildren involved in.

MgE.: It is necessary to note, that brainchild of modern Kazakhstan, National museum resulted from continuous and heavy work of its administration and staff.

By Darkhan Mynbay,

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