

## **OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GLORY MUSEUM: A MEMORY OF SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS**

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**Abstract:** This article highlights the history of the establishment of the Olympic and Paralympic Glory Museum, its core objectives, and its role in preserving sports heritage. It analyzes the essence of the museum's exhibitions, which promote national pride, patriotism, and a healthy lifestyle through the achievements of athletes. The museum's educational and moral significance, as well as its importance in preserving the history of sports and individual accomplishments in the public memory, are also considered key aspects of the study.

**Keywords:** sport, museology, national pride, achievements, olympic, history.

### **Introduction**

In recent years, sports have developed as an integral part of society's progress, with international achievements becoming a source of national pride and identity. Particularly noteworthy are the accomplishments of our athletes in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. To preserve, promote, and transmit such victories as a part of historical memory to future generations, the Olympic and Paralympic Glory Museum was established. This museum not only reflects the history of sports achievements but also plays a vital role in promoting a healthy lifestyle by showcasing the dedication, perseverance, and resilience of athletes. Through its exhibits including sports equipment, medals, photographs, and other rare materials the sports heritage is vividly presented. The museum serves to strengthen the spirit of sport, elevate national pride, and systematically preserve the history of sporting achievements.

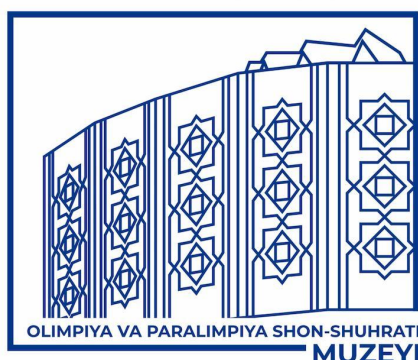
### **Main Part**

Nowadays, Olympic museums and sports history institutions have emerged as a new means of promoting Olympic values. The first Olympic Museum was established on June 23, 1993, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the initiative of Juan Antonio Samaranch. The Lausanne Olympic Museum is considered the main hub of Olympic movement history and serves as an effective informational and promotional center combining the past and present of the global Olympic movement [1, 116p]. Olympic museums have also been established in several other countries,

Thessaloniki Olympic Museum (Greece)
Lausanne Olympic Museum (Switzerland)
Barcelona Olympic-Sports Museum (Spain)
Seoul Olympic Museum (South Korea)
Lillehammer Olympic Museum (Norway)
Lake Placid Winter Olympics Museum (USA)
Murmansk Museum of Winter Olympics History (Russia)
Tashkent Olympic Glory Museum (Uzbekistan)

including:

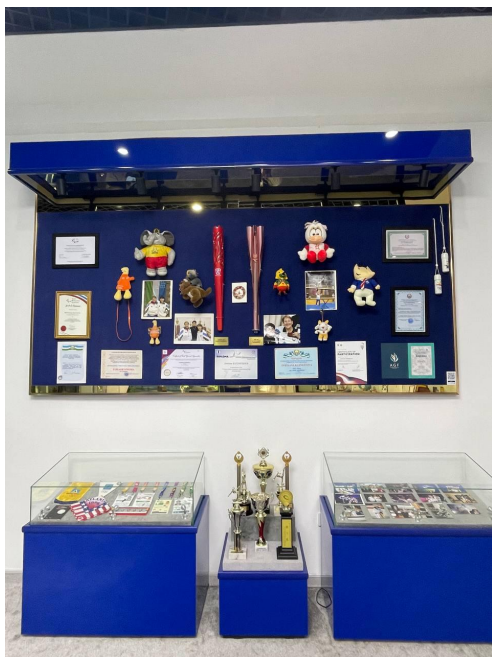
The Museum of Olympic Glory, which reflects the achievements of our country in the field of sports, was established by Resolution No. 284 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 14, 1996. Initially, it was named the Museum of Olympic Glory. Historically, the building of this museum had functioned as the “Museum of Friendship of the Peoples of the USSR.” Later, its purpose was redefined, and it was transformed into the Museum of Olympic Glory, featuring exhibitions dedicated to the legacy and accomplishments in sports. On September 1, 1996, the Museum of Olympic Glory was inaugurated in Tashkent. This museum holds the distinction of being the first Olympic museum established on the Asian continent. The opening ceremony was attended by the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Juan Antonio Samaranch. In his speech at the inauguration, Juan Antonio



Samaranch stated: “In the Republic of Uzbekistan, great attention is being paid to the role of sports in society. That is why sport is developing rapidly in your country. I am confident that this museum will be filled with medals won by Uzbek athletes at international competitions.” While exploring the exhibits, Samaranch also remarked, “This museum is in no way inferior to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, which is part of the International Olympic Committee.” The Museum of Olympic Glory has a partnership agreement with the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. The opening of this unique museum in Central Asia is a clear reflection of the strong support and attention being given to the development of sports, particularly those included in the Olympic program. In essence, it symbolizes international recognition of the strength, determination, and achievements of our athletes on the world stage.[3].

Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, special attention is being given to the development of sports in our country, particularly to comprehensive support for participants of the Olympic and Paralympic movements. In accordance with Presidential Decree No. PQ-79 dated January 12, 2023, the museum was renamed the “Museum of Olympic and Paralympic Glory.” The Museum of Olympic Glory in Uzbekistan showcases the history of national sports, the Olympic movement, and the achievements of Uzbek athletes[4,153p].

The museum holds over 11,000 exhibits, including various items, artifacts, photographs, labels, as well as trophies, medals, and badges awarded to competition winners. Many of these were brought from countries such as the United States, Spain, Switzerland, and others.



On the first floor of the museum, rare and unique exhibits are on display. Among them are gifts presented to President Islam Karimov, including the Olympic Gold Order awarded by the President of the International Olympic Committee for his contribution to the development of global sports, and the Asian Olympic Council's Olympic Gold Order. Additionally, the museum houses the "Golden Pearl" award from the International Federation of Amateur Wrestling, the gold championship belt, wreath, and medals of A. Grigoryan, a 16-time world champion in professional boxing, as well as various medals and badges produced for the Olympic Games.

In 2024, a special exhibition was organized on the first floor of the Museum of Olympic and Paralympic Glory to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Svetlana Mikhaylovna Kuznetsova, an Honored Coach of Uzbekistan, highlighting her coaching career.



**1976. Boxing gloves of Rufat Rizziyev, Olympic silver medalist in boxing at the XXI Olympic Games in Montreal.**



**In 1947, Uzbek athlete Baum Arzumanova's trophy for winning first place in the sport of shooting.**

On the second floor of the museum, a chronological display highlights the years when the Olympic Games were held. Visitors can explore the clothing, equipment, photographs, and awards of Uzbek athletes who participated in these events. The exhibits primarily focus on the achievements of our athletes during the years of independence—victories in world and European championships, Asian and Central Asian Games, as well as various international tournaments held in Tashkent and abroad. The current displays are regularly updated with new items. The museum also holds video recordings of the most exciting competitions on cassette tapes. In addition, significant sports events are frequently organized at the museum.

The main functions of the Museum of Olympic and Paralympic Glory include:

Studying the history of physical culture, sports, and the Olympic Games, as well as the contributions of Uzbek athletes to the modern Olympic movement; collecting historical materials, medals, Olympic-themed pins, postage stamps, sportswear, and personal belongings of famous athletes;

Gathering and researching historical artifacts related to traditional sports and folk games, and organizing both permanent and temporary exhibitions that reflect the history of physical culture and sports among the Uzbek people;

Developing prospective thematic and exhibition plans;

Creating exhibits that highlight the contributions of athletes, coaches, referees, sports scientists, and members of the Uzbek sports community to the international sports movement;

Conducting guided tours and organizing meetings between visitors and prominent athletes, coaches, scholars, and sports professionals.

### **Conclusion**

The Museum of Olympic and Paralympic Glory is a significant cultural institution that preserves and showcases Uzbekistan's major sports achievements, reflecting the hard work and victories of our athletes. Its exhibitions, built around historical milestones, achievements, and medals, play a vital role in preserving sports heritage and promoting it to the public. Moreover, the museum serves as a source of inspiration for young people, encouraging healthy lifestyles and interest in sports. With its unique role in preserving historical memory, the museum is of great importance for future generations.



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5. Resolution No. 284 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 14, 1996.
6. Decree No. PQ-79 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 12, 2023.