

ALEKSANDR FAYNBERG: A RUSSIAN-BORN POET WITH AN UZBEK  
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Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot ishi taniqli shoir, tarjimon va ssenariy muallifi Aleksandr Faynbergning hayoti va adabiyotga qo'shgan hissasini o'rganadi. Rus millatiga mansub bo'lishiga qaramay, u butun umrini O'zbekiston adabiyoti va madaniyatiga bag'ishlagan. Uning asarlari O'zbekistonga bo'lgan chuqur muhabbatini aks ettirib, klassik she'riyat an'analari bilan vatanparvarlik, insonparvarlik va san'atga bo'lgan yuksak e'tiborni uyg'unlashtiradi. Tadqiqotda Faynbergning o'zbek adabiyotiga ta'siri, tarjima va madaniy merosni asrab-avaylashdagi roli hamda uning adabiy uslubi tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Aleksandr Faynberg, o'zbek adabiyoti, she'riyat, tarjima, madaniy meros, vatanparvarlik, adabiy ijod.

Аннотация: Данная исследовательская работа посвящена жизни и литературному вкладу Александра Файнберга – выдающегося поэта, переводчика и сценариста, который, несмотря на свое русское происхождение, посвятил свою жизнь узбекской литературе и культуре. Его произведения отражают глубокую любовь к Узбекистану, соединяя классические поэтические традиции с темами патриотизма, гуманизма и художественного самовыражения. В исследовании анализируется влияние Файнберга на узбекскую литературу, его

роль в переводе и сохранении культурного наследия, а также его литературный стиль, который нашел отклик у читателей разных поколений.

**Ключевые слова:** Александр Файнберг, узбекская литература, поэзия, перевод, культурное наследие, патриотизм, литературный вклад.

**Abstract:** This research paper explores the life and literary contributions of Aleksandr Faynberg, a distinguished poet, translator, and screenwriter who, despite being of Russian descent, devoted his life to Uzbek literature and culture. His works reflect a deep love for Uzbekistan, blending classical poetic traditions with themes of patriotism, humanism, and artistic expression. The study analyzes Faynberg's impact on Uzbek literature, his role in translating and preserving cultural heritage, and his literary style that resonated with readers across generations.

**Key words:** Aleksandr Faynberg, Uzbek literature, poetry, translation, cultural heritage, patriotism, literary contributions.

### Introduction

Literature serves as the heart of a nation, shaping its identity and cultural consciousness. In Uzbekistan, the poetic tradition has flourished through the works of many great writers, including the unique figure of Aleksandr Faynberg. Born into a Russian family but raised in Uzbekistan, Faynberg became an integral part of the country's literary landscape. He was not just a poet but also a translator, screenwriter, and literary figure whose contributions bridged cultures and languages. This paper examines Faynberg's life, literary achievements, and his enduring legacy in Uzbek literature.

Firstly, he possessed an exceptional poetic talent, and his literary works attained a high aesthetic standard. For decades, his poetry remained a benchmark of artistic excellence for Uzbek poets. His fourteen poetry collections, along with numerous performances on radio and television, influenced several generations of readers.

For Uzbekistan, Faynberg was deeply respected for his genuine patriotism towards the country he called home. His poetry, infused with the rich traditions of classical literature and a profound love for Uzbekistan, holds a special place in Uzbek literary history.

### Early Life and Literary Beginnings

Aleksandr Arkadyevich Faynberg was born in 1939 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, during the difficult years of World War II. Growing up in a multicultural society, he developed a deep appreciation for Uzbek traditions and literature. His early education at the Tashkent Topography College introduced him to the beauty of Uzbekistan's landscapes, which later became a recurring theme in his poetry. Faynberg's literary journey began with the publication of his first poetry collection, *Velosiped yo'lakchasi* (Bicycle Path), which marked his rise in the literary world. His works were celebrated for their vivid imagery, emotional depth, and ability to capture the essence of Uzbek culture.

### Faynberg's Literary Contributions

**Poetry and Themes:** Faynberg's poetry is characterized by its rich linguistic expression, lyrical beauty, and profound philosophical reflections. His major poetry collections include *Lahzalar* (Moments), *Uzoq ko'priklar* (Distant Bridges), and *Qisqa to'lqin* (Short Waves). These works explore themes of patriotism, love, nostalgia, and the beauty of nature. His deep emotional connection to Uzbekistan is evident in his verses:

"Mushfiq yurt. Shu yerda nasl-u nasabim –

O'zbekiston – hokim, turobim."

(Beloved homeland. Here is my lineage –

Uzbekistan – my ruler, my soil.)

His poetry was not just a celebration of Uzbek culture but also a bridge between Russian and Uzbek literary traditions. One of his most remarkable contributions was the ten-volume publication of Alisher Navoiy's works in Russian, as well as his translations of modern Uzbek poetry into Russian. At the same time, Faynberg's own poems were continuously translated into Uzbek, making him a beloved figure among Uzbek readers.

In his later years, he published the poetry collection "Chig'ir" (in Uzbek), which received significant attention from poetry enthusiasts. His immense contribution to Uzbek literature was officially recognized when he was awarded the titles of "Honored Cultural Worker of Uzbekistan" and "People's Poet of Uzbekistan."

Faynberg's poetry resonated with people of all backgrounds and ages. His verse "Sailing away, love, far away" captures the deep emotions of longing and departure:

Sailing away, love, far away,  
Smoke rises from the bonfires.  
A star takes a kiss from you,  
Today, I leave this shore.  
I cast my anchor ashore,  
The blue waters take control.  
The waves, rushing in groups,  
Feel the sorrow of parting.  
The mist hides the fires,  
Beyond the clouds—the shore.  
“Forgive me!”—but my words



Cannot fit into the sky.

### Translation Work and Cultural Bridging

One of Faynberg's most significant contributions was his translation of Uzbek literature into Russian. He played a crucial role in making Alisher Navoiy's classical works accessible to Russian readers, contributing to a ten-volume edition. Additionally, he translated contemporary Uzbek poets, ensuring that their voices reached a wider audience. Similarly, his efforts in translating Russian literature into Uzbek helped foster cultural exchange and mutual appreciation. His mastery of both languages allowed him to preserve the essence of poetic works while adapting them for different linguistic and cultural contexts.

### Screenwriting and Artistic Influence

Beyond poetry, Faynberg also made a mark in Uzbek cinema as a screenwriter. He authored scripts for several well-known films, including *Issiq quyosh ostidagi uy* (The House Under the Hot Sun) and *Osmondagi stadion* (The Stadium in the Sky). These films reflected his poetic vision, weaving elements of Uzbek culture, history, and human emotions into cinematic storytelling.

### Recognition and Legacy

Faynberg's literary excellence was recognized with numerous honors. He was awarded the title of "O'zbekiston xalq shoiri" (People's Poet of Uzbekistan) and "O'zbekiston Respublikasida xizmat ko'rsatgan madaniyat xodimi" (Honored Cultural Worker of Uzbekistan). His contributions to Uzbek literature have been celebrated through poetry nights, literary discussions, and academic research.

In 2009, Faynberg passed away in Tashkent, but his influence continues to resonate. His poetry collections are still widely read, and his legacy lives on in Uzbekistan's literary and cultural history. In recognition of his contributions, a

monument in his honor was erected in Adiblar xiyoboni (Writers' Alley), a symbolic gesture of gratitude from the Uzbek people.

### Conclusion

Aleksandr Faynberg remains a testament to the power of literature in transcending national and linguistic boundaries. Though he was born into a Russian family, his heart and soul belonged to Uzbekistan. His poetry, translations, and screenplays enriched Uzbek culture, leaving a lasting impact on future generations. As a poet with an "Uzbek heart," his legacy endures as an inspiration for those who seek to express love for their homeland through art.

#### Aleksandr Faynberg – A Poet with an Uzbek Heart

"Literature is the heart of a nation; it reflects the spiritual essence of the people. In today's complex world, we must use the powerful influence of literature to reach people's hearts and inspire them toward noble goals. We will create all the necessary conditions to study the heritage of our ancestors and produce great literature worthy of our great culture."

— President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev

The renowned Uzbek poet Abdulla Oripov once described Aleksandr Faynberg's work, stating:

"When it comes to Aleksandr Faynberg's poetry, no grand words can fully capture its essence. He was, in fact, a unique poet and translator—a world-class writer. No Russian-speaking writer could ever sing so sincerely about our sunny homeland."

Faynberg's poetry collections have been widely circulated, his lyrics turned into songs, and his scripts adapted into films. Even today, his works continue to be

translated into Uzbek, and his legacy is celebrated annually through poetry nights dedicated to his contributions.

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