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## STATESMEN, PUBLIC AND POLITICAL FIGURES

### ALIYEV HEYDAR (1923-2003)

The National Lider of Azerbaijan Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev was born on 10 May 1923 in the city of Nakhchivan of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1939, after graduating from the Nakhchivan Pedagogical School he studied at the architectural department of the Azerbaijan Industrial Institute (now the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy). The incipient war impeded to complete his education.

Since 1941, Heydar Aliyev heads the department at the People Commissariat of Internal Affairs of Nakhchivan ASSR and on 1944 was sent to work at the state security bodies. Heydar Aliyev, working since that time in the security bodies, since 1964 held the post of deputy chairman, and since 1967 – chairman of the Committee of State Security under the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic, and he was conferred the rank of lieutenant general. In these years, he received special higher education in Leningrad (now St Petersburg), and in 1957, he graduated from the history department of Azerbaijan State University.



Being elected at the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in July 1969 as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev heads the Republic. In December 1982, Heydar Aliyev has been elected as Alternate member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, and appointed at the post of the First Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR and became one of the leaders of the USSR. During twenty years, Heydar Aliyev was the Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and for five years was Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In October 1987, Heydar Aliyev, as a sign of protest against the policy pursued by Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and personally the Secretary General Michael Gorbachev, resigned from his post.

In bound with the tragedy, committed on 20 January 1990 in Baku by the soviet troops, appearing on the next day at the Azerbaijan Representation in Moscow with a statement, demanded to punish the organizers and executors of the crime, committed against the people of Azerbaijan. As a sign of protest against the hypocritical policy of leadership of the USSR, in connection with the critical conflict accrued in Nagorno Karabakh, in July 1991, he left the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

By return in July 1990 to Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev has lived at first in Baku, then in Nakhchivan, and on the same year he was elected as the Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan. In 1991-1993s, he held the post of Chairman of the Supreme Mejlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1992, at the constituent congress of the "Yeni Azerbaijan" Party in Nakhchivan, Heydar Aliyev, was elected as the Chairman of the Party.

In May-June 1993, when, as the result of extreme tension of the governmental crisis, the country was at the verge of civil war and loss of independence, the people of Azerbaijan demanded to bring to power Heydar Aliyev. The then leaders of Azerbaijan were obliged to officially invite Heydar Aliyev to Baku. On 15 June 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected as the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, and on 24 July - on resolution of the Milli Mejlis, he managed to fulfill powers of the President of Azerbaijan Republic.

On October 3, 1993, as the result of nationwide voting, Heydar Aliyev was elected as the President of Azerbaijan Republic. On October 11, 1998, having garnered at the elections, passed in high activeness of the population, 76,1 percent of the votes, he was re-elected as the President of Azerbaijan Republic. Heydar Aliyev, giving his consent to be nominated as a candidate at the 15 October 2003 presidential elections, Heydar Aliyev relinquished to run at the elections in connection with health problems.

On December 12, 2003, national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev passed away in Cleveland Hospital in the United States of America.

Heydar Aliyev was five times awarded the Lenin Order, Order of Red Star and numerous medals, twice conferred an honorary title "Hero of Socialistic Labour". He was also awarded the orders and

medals of many foreign countries, was conferred international awards and title of Honourable Doctor of the universities in many countries.

Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev's spouse Zarifa Aziz gizi Aliyeva (1923-1985) was an outstanding ophthalmologist, Doctor of Medicine, Professor, Honored Scientist, Academician of the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences. His son Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the years 2003, 2008 and 2013.

## ALIYEV ILHAM

Ilham Heydar oğlu Aliyev was born on December 24, 1961 in Baku.

He attended the secondary school in Baku from 1967 to 1977.

In 1977 he entered the Moscow State University of International Relations (MSUIR).

In 1982 on graduating from the university Mr. Aliyev had continued his education as the postgraduate student in MSUIR.

In 1985 he finalized his research works and received PhD in history.

During the years 1985-1990 he lectured at the Moscow State University of International Relations.

From 1991 to 1994 he led a group of private industrial-commercial enterprises.

In 1994-2003 he was the vice-president, and later the first vice-president of the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR). He has been actively involved in the implementation of Heydar Aliyev's oil strategy.

He is author of many research works on geopolitical aspects of oil strategy of sovereign Azerbaijan. He is the doctor of political sciences.

In 1995 and 2000 he was twice elected to the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In 2003 he stopped his activity as the Member of Parliament due to his appointment to the post of Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Since 1997 Mr. Ilham Aliyev has been the President of the National Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan. For his great contribution to the development of sports and Olympic movement Mr. Aliyev was awarded the highest order of International Olympic Committee and "Grand Cordon" Order of Merit of International Military Sport Council.

In political career, he has been elected deputy chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party in 1999, first deputy chairman in 2001 and chairman of the Party in 2005.

From 2001 to 2003 he was the head of the Azerbaijani Parliamentary delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE).

In January 2003 he was elected as Deputy-Chairman of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe and member of PACE bureau.

On August 4, 2003, following the approval of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) he was appointed the Prime minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On October 15, 2003 he was elected the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. More than 76% of voters supported Ilham Aliyev's candidacy during elections. He assumed his post on October 31, 2003.

Ilham Aliyev was elected to the second term of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after acquiring 88% of votes of electorate in the elections, held on October 15, 2008. He started to execute the Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 24, 2008.

Ilham Aliyev was elected to the third term of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan gaining 84.54% of votes in the elections held on October 9, 2013.

In the election held on April 11, 2018, Ilham Aliyev gained 86.02 percent of votes and has been re-elected as the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev is fluent in Azerbaijani, Russian, English, French, and Turkish languages.

He is married and has three children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Aliyev is fluent in English, Russian, French and Turkish.

Mr. Aliyev is married and has three children.

President Aliyevs' decorations and awards include: Heydar Aliyev Order (the Republic of Azerbaijan), Ihsan Dogramacı Prize for International Relations for Peace (Turkey), The Star of Romania Order (Romania), King Abdul Aziz Order (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Order of Honor (Georgia), Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor (France), SheikhuIslam Order (Republic of Azerbaijan), Prepodobniy Sergiy Rodonejskiy first degree Order of Russian Orthodox Church, Grand Cordon Order of Merit (International Military Sport Council), Honorary decoration of International Confederation of Sport Organizations of CIS countries, highest order of FILA Sport legend;



Honorary Doctor of Lincoln University (USA), Honorary Doctor of the Moscow State University of International Relations, Honorary Professor of L.N.Gumilev Eurasian National University (Kazakhstan), Honorary Doctor of Bilkent University (Turkey), Honorary Doctor of National Academy for Taxes (Ukraine), Honorary Doctor of Petroleum and Gas University of Ploesti (Romania), Honorary Professor of University of National and World Economy (Bulgaria), Honorary Doctor of Kyung Hee University (South Korea), Honorary Doctor of Jordan University (Jordan), Honorary Doctor in Social Sciences of the Corvinus University (Republic of Hungary), Honorary Professor of Moscow State University (Russian Federation), Honorary Doctor of the Kiev National University named after Taras Shevchenko (Ukraine), Honorary Professor of the Turkmenistan State University after Makhtumkuli (Turkmenistan), Honorary Doctor of the Baku State University (Azerbaijan), Honorary Professor of the Belarusian State University (Belarus), Honorary Doctor of the Ankara University (Turkey), Honorary Doctor of Cukurova University (Turkey).

## MEHRIBAN ALIYEVA

Mehriban Arif gizi Aliyeva was born in Baku in 1964.

In 1981, she graduated from the secondary school No. 23 in the city of Baku with distinction and entered Azerbaijan State Medical Institute named after Nariman Narimanov, Preventive-Treatment Faculty.

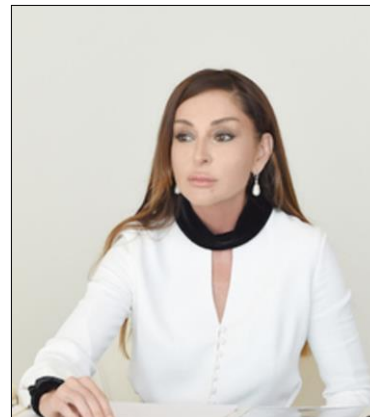
In 1988, she graduated from the First Moscow State Medical Institute named after M.Sechenov with distinction.

In 1988-1990, she passed clinical residency in Eye Diseases department at the First Moscow State Medical University named after I. M. Sechenov.

In 1988-1992, she worked at the Eye Diseases Scientific Research Institute in Moscow.

In 1995, Mehriban Aliyeva founded "Azerbaijani Culture Foundation", which she currently heads.

In 1996, Mehriban Aliyeva founded "Azerbaijan - Heritage" magazine, which is published in three languages (Azerbaijani, English and Russian) in order to widely promote the Azerbaijani culture.



In October 2002, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as President of Azerbaijan Gymnastics Federation.

Mehriban Aliyeva has headed the Heydar Aliyev Foundation since 2004, which was founded to study the rich political legacy and promote the national statehood ideas of national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev.

In August 2004, Mehriban Aliyeva was named Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO for her role in protection and development of Azerbaijan's intangible folk literature and national musical legacy.

In December 2004, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of NOC at the 4th General Assembly of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Mehriban Aliyeva has been a member of the New Azerbaijan Party's Political Council since 2004, and deputy chairman of the party since 2013.

In 2005, Mehriban Aliyeva received an academic degree of PhD in Philosophy.

In 2005, 2010 and 2015, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as a Member of Parliament at the third, fourth and fifth convocation of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In November 2006, Mehriban Aliyeva was named Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO for her outstanding contribution to humanitarian area, including the development of dialogue among civilizations and cultures, promotion of Islamic cultural legacy and for her tremendous role in addressing problems of children with special needs.

At the 4th Congress of the World Azerbaijanis held in Baku in June 2016, Mehriban Aliyeva was elected as a member of the World Azerbaijanis Coordination Board.

On February 21, 2017, Mehriban Aliyeva was appointed as First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This terminated her power as a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on March 6, 2017.

Mehriban Aliyeva is married, and has two daughters, a son and five grandchildren.



**ALIYEV AZIZ**  
**(1897-1962)**

Aziz Mammad Karim oglu Aliyev was an Azerbaijani, Dagestani and Soviet politician, scientist, and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He was the father-in-law of Heydar Aliyev and maternal grandfather of Azerbaijan's current President Ilham Aliyev.

Aziz Aliyev was born into an Azeri working-class family in the rural part of Irevan Governorate (then part of the Russian Empire, now mostly part of Armenia). While still an infant, he moved with his family to Irevan, where he soon started attending a Russian-Muslim primary school and later the Irevan gymnasium (secondary school in the Russian Imperial education system). Due to his high academic standing, he was exempt for paying for education, fortunately for his family which was in financial need. After graduating with honours, Aliyev was sponsored by philanthropist Zeynalabdin Taghiyev to enter the Russian Medical Military Academy in Saint Petersburg in 1917. Because of the October Revolution and civil unrest in the South Caucasus marked by political instability and ethnic cleansings, Aliyev had to return to Armenia in 1918 and fled with his family first to Shahtakhti (a town in Nakhchivan) and then to northern Iran. In the early 1920s he worked in aid posts in Irevan, Nakhchivan and on the southern bank of the Aras River. In 1923 he came to Baku to work in the administrative department of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers and finish his undergraduate degree in medical studies. In 1937 he earned a Ph.D. degree in medicine.



In 1928 Aziz Aliyev worked as head of the medical department of the Azerbaijan People's Commissariat (Ministry) of Health Care. In 1929 he was promoted to Deputy Minister of Health Care and director of the Azerbaijan State Clinical Institute. In 1934 he became head of the Baku Department of Health Care. In 1935 he was appointed head of the Azerbaijan Medical University. During these years he published a number of articles and textbooks, and was editor of the Azerbaijani Medical Journal. From January to May 1937 Aliyev was also rector of the Azerbaijan State University.

In 1938 Aziz Aliyev was elected secretary of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet. In 1939–1941 he served as Azerbaijan Minister of Health Care. In 1941, after the Soviet invasion in the Iranian Azerbaijan, Aliyev was deployed to Tabriz on a political mission.

On 16 September 1942 Joseph Stalin appointed Aliyev Secretary of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the highest authority in the Dagestan ASSR. During the six years that he served in this position, Aliyev managed to put an end to hostility expressed by the locals towards the central government. At the peak of the Great Patriotic War, desertion driven by mutual distrust between the Soviet authorities and the peoples of the Caucasus, was a huge issue (in 1944 it would lead to the deportation of over 600,000 residents of the North Caucasus into Central Asia that did not affect Dagestanis). In November of 1942 Aliyev held a meeting with the leaders aiming to reconcile them with the Communist government.

Aziz Aliyev's party leadership in Dagestan was marked by significant improvements in the medical, educational and cultural spheres. The Dagestan branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the Dagestan State Pedagogical University (founded as the Dagestani Women Teachers Institute), a number of theatres and professional medical schools of this autonomous republic were founded during Aliyev's term. He was twice awarded the Order of Lenin, the highest national order of the Soviet Union.

Concerned by rumours of being replaced by Aliyev, Baghirov managed to have him fired from the executive power of Dagestan and sent to Moscow to work as an inspector in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In 1950 Aliyev was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet. In 1951 he was fired from the government and became director of the Institute of Orthopaedy. In 1952 he was further demoted to physician at a hospital in a Baku suburb. The official reason behind this repression was the accusation that Aliyev never reported his parents' social origin; aggravated by the fact that his sister lived in Iran. After Stalin's death and Baghirov's arrest in 1953, Aliyev was reestablished as director of the Institute of Orthopedy and secretary of the Supreme Soviet, where he worked until his death in 1962.

**AKHUNDOV VALI**  
**(1916-1986)**

Vali Yusif oglu Akhundov was born on May 14, 1916 in Baku. He has been scientist of medicine, an academician of the Academy of science of Azerbaijani SSR (1969), doctor of medicine science (1964), professor (1966).

In 1941 he graduated from the State Medical Institute. He has been an assistant in Medical institute and then became scientific worker and principal in the institute of Virology, Mikrobiology and Hygiene. In 1946-1949 years he has been a chairman of Committee Trade Union of Medical Workers, deputy Minister of Public Health of Azerbaijani SSR (1949-1952), deputy chief department of the Central of Committee of Communist Party of Azerbaijani SSR (1953-1954), Minister for Public Health of Azerbaijani SSR (1954-1958), chairman of the Central of Committee of Communist Party of Azerbaijani SSR (1958), the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijani SSR (1958-1959), the first secretary of the Central of Committee of Communist Party of Azerbaijani SSR (1959-1969). In while 1969-1972 years he has been the vice-president of the Academy of Science of Azerbaijani SSR.

In 1972 he became a principal of the institute of Virology, Mikrobiology and Hygiene. He has been engaged in scientific work of sanitary-epidemiological inspection in oil region in the city of Baku and the other cities of Azerbaijan. He has been a deputy of the Supreme of the Soviet Union and also of the Supreme of Azerbaijani SSR. He has been decorated by orders and medals many times. He died in Baku in 1986.



**ELCHIBEY ABULFAZ**  
**(1938-2000)**

Abulfaz Gedirqulu oğlu Aliyev was born in 1938 in Kalaki village of Ordubad region. He graduated from the department of Oriental studies of the Azerbaijan State University. A. Elchibey was an orientalist, state and political figure, PhD in history.

He assumed the nickname of "Elchibey" (Azerbaijani for the "noble messenger") upon his leadership of the Azerbaijani Popular Front in 1990. Elchibey was the first elected non-communist President of Azerbaijan, serving from June 16, 1992 until his overthrow in a coup d'etat in June 1993.

The national presidential elections with 7 candidates were held on June 17, 1992, in which Elchibey was elected the President of Azerbaijan gaining 54% of votes and becoming Azerbaijan's first democratically-elected, non-communist president. During the summer of 1992, Abulfaz Elchibey secured the full withdrawal of the Russian army from Azerbaijan, yielding it the first and the only former Soviet republic, after the Baltic States, free of Russian military presence. At the same time, Elchibey's government established the national Caspian navy and managed to reach an agreement with Russia on receiving quarter of the Soviet Caspian navy based in Baku. In June 1992, Azerbaijani army started a counter offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh reoccupying about 50% of the disputed region from the Armenian troops by fall of 1992 and getting to within 7 kilometers of Shusha.



As rebellious troops were advancing onto Baku, President Elchibey fled the capital to his native village of Keleki in Nakhchivan. Prior to his departure, Elchibey invited the former Soviet Politburo member and then Head of Nakhchivan Heydar Aliyev to Baku on June 9, 1992. Heydar Aliyev quickly took control of the situation, becoming the Chairman of the Azerbaijani parliament on June 15, 1993. Nine days later, in the vacuum of power left by Elchibey's departure to Nakhchivan, Aliyev as a speaker of the parliament constitutionally assumed presidential powers. He signed the Bishkek protocol to cease the hostilities on the frontline, and further solidified his power by organizing impeachment hearings and holding a national referendum on August 29, 1993, which formally stripped Elchibey off presidency. In another national election, in October 3, 1993, Heydar Aliyev, was elected a president of Azerbaijan with 99% of the votes.

Elchibey died in August 2000 in a military hospital in Ankara, Turkey. He was buried in the Alley of Honor in Baku.

## **HUSEINGULU KHAN KADJAR** **(1742-1831)**

Huseingulu Khan Kadjar was born in 1742 in South Azerbaijan. He belonged to Kadjar's clan, Koyunlu-Kovanli. Depend on some historical source he is Gazvini. Because of this there is opinion that he was born in Gazvin. But maybe this opinion exists, because of Huseingulu Khan scored a victory near Gazvin in the battle with Sadik Khan Shagagi. Afterwards he became a ruler of Gazvin.

His father – Muhammad Khan Kadjar was a famous commander. The place of his birth is unknown.

For the first time, in historical documents, Huseingulu Khan mentioned like one of the court of the palace of Shiraz. When Fatali Shah came to power, he showed one's gratitude to Huseingulu Khan for his services. Huseingulu Khan became a member of the government of Khorasan and has been appointed on some highest positions. Fatali Shah married to Huseingulu Khan's sister and gave permission for marriage of his 29 year old daughter with Mahomet, Huseingulu Khan's son. Fatali Shah also has insisted on the marriage of heir Abbas Mirza to Huseingulu's daughter.

For defending of Irevan fortress during Russian-Iranian war (1804-1813), the brave and strong commander was needed. In 1807 Fatali Shah appointed Huseingulu Khan like Khan of Irevan and commander of Shah's quard. After one year the brother of Huseingulu-Hassan Khan, who because of his brevity had nick name "Sari Aslan", has visited in Irevan and stayed there.

For 20 years of his rule, Huseingulu Khan gained the big respect from people. He was one of the strong and rich rulers for that time.

The big part of exchequer he spent for army. Huseingulu Khan has been encouraging commerce and established good relationships with neighboring countries. He was a merciful, sincere, noble, correct ruler.

On September 1, 1827 Russian troops besieged the fortress Sardarabad. Huseingulu Khan decided to help to his nephew defending the fortress but Russians troops didn't give him this opportunity. He has been forced to move to Iranian-Russian border. The defense of Irevanian fortress left to Hassan Khan. In October 1 Russian troops took Irevan fortress. Hassan Khan has been captured and sent to Emperor Nikolai I. But because of some reasons the coach of Hassan Khan delayed in Ekaterinograd. After this there is no information about destiny of Hassan Khan. Some sources give us information, that general of Russian army Krasovski sent to emperor Nikolai I the sword of Hassan Khan like a present. This sword belonged to Tamerlane long time ago and has been left to inheritance Fatali Shah from Sefevids. Fatali Shah presented this sword to Hassan Khan for his brevity and courage.

Some Persian sources confirm that Huseingulu Khan died in Iran in 1831.



**IBRAHIM-KHALIL KHAN**  
**(1726-1806)**

Ibrahim-Khalil Khan was born in 1726 in Susha. His father-Panahali Khan was a famous commander, founder of Karabakh khanate. He belonged to Javansir's clan, very influential and rich clan of Karabakh. Since 1759 until 1806 he was a ruler of Karabakh khanate. The Karabakh khanate has been attacked very often by foreign troops, especially by Iranian Shah Aga Mohammad Gajar, at the second part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Gajar has demanded the duty and horsemen for conducting a war. Because of this situation Ibrahim Khan has been forced to seek a help from Russian Tsar. In 1783 he sent his special envoys in St. Petersburg. This scene has been described very well on the picture of G.Gagarin - "The arrival of special envoys from Karabakh to St. Petersburg". Ekaterina II has received them. They expressed the wish of Ibrahim Khan about joining of Karabakh to Russian Empire. In 1795 Shah Gajar sieged the fortress Shusha. The siege has been continuing 33 days, but on 34 day he took off the siege and turned his troops to the Georgia. In 1796 Russian troops under command of general Zubov have entered in northern part of Azerbaijan. The Vizier of Ibrahim Khan, minister of foreign affairs, very famous poet-Molla Panakh Vagif was sent to general with repeated petition about joining to the Russia. In 1797 Russian Tsar Pavel I recalled his troops from Azerbaijan. Iranian Shah Gajar made a profit on this situation and attacked Karabakh. But he has been killed. Ibrahim Khan returned to Karabakh. On May 14, 1805 Ibrahim Khan signed the historical document with general Sisianov – The Kurekchay peace treaty, about joining Karabakh to Russia. In 1806 Iranian troops reattempted to attack Karabakh. The superior of Russian garrison in Shusha, Major Lisanevich, suspected Ibrahim Khan in betrayal. He has executed him and his family in 1806.

Since 1813 Russians started to transfer Armenians to Karabakh from Iran and Turkey. In 1823 on Caucasus' census only 1559 families out of 18563 was Armenians in Karabakh. It is means 8, 4 per cent of total population of the area. In 1832 this figure increased to 34, 2 per cent...

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Azerbaijani population was totally displaced from their homeland Karabakh.

**KHOYSKI FATALI KHAN**  
**(1875-1920)**

Fatali Khan Isgender oglu Khoyski was an attorney, a member of the Second State Duma of the Russian Empire, and, later, the first Prime Minister of the independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Fatali Khan was born on December 7, 1875 in Shaki to the noble family of Isgender Khoyski, a lieutenant-general in the Russian Army. The distinguished ancestry of the Khoyski family goes back to the khans of Khoy, which also became the root for this family name.

After receiving his school education at Ganja gymnasium, Fatali Khan studied at the Law Faculty of the Moscow University, from which he graduated in 1901.

Fatali-khan Khoyski was assassinated by the Armenian terrorists in Tbilisi in September 1920. His burial procession was carried out by Iranian consulate in Tbilisi. His monument was established in Tbilisi.



**KHIABANI MOHAMMAD**  
**(1878-1920)**

Sheikh Mohammad Khiabani, also known as Sheikh Mohammad Khiabani Tabrizi, was an Iranian Azerbaijani cleric, political leader, and representative to the parliament.

He was born in Tabriz to Haji Abdol Hameed from Khameneh, a merchant.

He became active during the Persian Constitutional Revolution and was a prominent dissident against foreign colonialism, which subsequently led to his sending into exile by the Ottomans in 1918.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, Khiabani re-established the Democrat Party of Tabriz after being banned for five years, and published the Tajaddod newspaper, the official organ of the party. Later, in a protest to the 1919 Treaty between Persia and the United Kingdom, which exclusively transferred the rights of deciding about all military, financial, and customs affairs of Persia to the British, he revolted and took Tabriz and surrounding areas, calling it Azadistan (the land of liberty). Khiabani government established hospitals, schools and carried out a number of public events for improvement of the people's life in a short period of time.

In the last minutes of his martyrdom Khiabani said: I prefer to be killed than surrender, I do not kneel before the enemy, I am the offspring of the Constitutional Revolution; the revolution will never be muffled.





## MEHDIYEV RAMİZ

Ramiz Anvar oğlu Mehdiyev was born on April 17, 1938 in Baku. His father Anvar Huseyngulu oğlu Mehdiyev was from Garkhun village of Sharur region of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. He died in 1942, during the Crimea operations of World War II. Ramiz Mehdiyev had his primary education in Russian school No. 3, named after A. S. Pushkin, in Nakhchivan city.

After graduating from the Baku Marine Shipping School with honors in 1957, he worked as an operator of ships that belonged to the "Caspian Oil Fleet" Division of the "Caspian Oil Gas Industry" All-Union Production Unit. He was elected as the head of komsomol organization of the ship, later, followed by his appointment as the Komsomol deputy secretary of "Caspian Oil Fleet" in 1957.

In 1961, Ramiz Mehdiyev entered the faculty of history of the Azerbaijan State University, and was elected as the Komsomol deputy secretary of the faculty in the same year. Subsequently, he became the secretary in 1962. In 1963, he was promoted to the post of the deputy secretary of the Komsomol organization of the University.

In 1965, during his senior year at the University, he was appointed as an instructor of student department of the Central Committee of Azerbaijani Komsomol. In 1967-1968, he worked as the second secretary of the Nakhchivan Regional Komsomol Committee. In 1968, he was admitted to the faculty of philosophy for postgraduate studies at the Moscow State University named after Lomonosov. In May 1972, Ramiz Mehdiyev defended his thesis for attaining the degree of a candidate of philosophical sciences in front of the Scientific Council. Starting from 1972, he had lectured as a teacher, at the chair of scientific communism of the Azerbaijani State University, until his appointment as a senior teacher.

In May 1974, he was assigned as the lecturer of the propaganda and ideology department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, which a year later was followed by his appointment as the assistant secretary of the Central Committee on ideology issues. In June 1976, he was nominated as the deputy head of the scientific and educational department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. In October 1978, he was elected as the first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party's Regional Committee named after 26 Baku Commissars (currently, the Sabayil region of Baku city).

In June 1980, Ramiz Mehdiyev was promoted to the post of the head of the "scientific and educational department" governed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. From January 1981 on, he worked as the department chief of "the party building and organization department" of the Communist Party. In December 1983, he was elected as the ideology secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. In May 1988, due to the changes in senior leadership ranks, Ramiz Mehdiyev was dismissed from service, and, instead, nominated as the head of department at the Social Political Research and Information Institute of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. In December 1993, he defended his thesis entitled, "Relations between nations: theory and political problems" to attain his Ph.D. degree.

In February 1994, he was appointed as the head of department of the Executive Apparatus of the President by Heydar Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and soon after, the head of the Executive Apparatus (currently, the Presidential Administration) in February 1995.

In 1980-1990, he was a member of the Azerbaijani SSR Supreme Soviet, and later, in 1995-2000, the member of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was awarded with "Istiglal" Order (2008), Order of Honor (2013), Order of "Shohrat" (Order of Glory) (2018), the "Red Labor Banner" Order (two times - 1980 and 1986), Commemorative Medal of the Polish National Security Bureau (2011), "Drujba" (2008) and Order of Honor (2018) of the Russian Federation. In April 2001, Ramiz Mehdiyev was elected as a member to the New York Academy of Sciences, and in April 2007, he became a full member of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.





## NARIMANOV NARIMAN (1870-1925)

Nariman Najaf oglu Narimanov was an Azerbaijani writer, publicist, educationalist, state and public figure. In 1920, Narimanov headed the Soviet government of Azerbaijan, the Provisional Military-Revolutionary Committee (16 May 1920 - 19 May 1921), replacing Mirza Davud Huseynov, then he was the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars (May 1921 - 1922). In 1922, he was elected chairman of the Union Council of the Transcaucasian SFSR. He was also Party Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union from December 30, 1922, until the day of his death.

After graduating from the Transcaucasian Teachers Seminary, he received the position of teacher in a village of Gizel-Adjal, Tiflis Province, where he became closely acquainted with the hard life of the local peasantry. Later, Narimanov became a teacher in a private pro-gimnasia in Baku, where he founded the first public free-access library and reading hall. This became a cultural center of the entire Transcaucasia. In 1902, at the age of 32, Narimanov entered the Medical Department of Novorossiysk University. During the revolution of 1905-1907, Narimanov took an active part and led the student movement in Odessa. In 1905 he joined the RSDRP (Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party). Upon his return to Baku, Narimanov guided the Congress of Transcaucasian Turkic Teachers; under his influence, the Congress adopted a resolution on national self-determination of Transcaucasia. A little later, Narimanov became one of the organizers of the Persian Socialist Democratic Party Isheyun-Asheyun. Soon, Narimanov was exiled to Astrakhan for five years for his activities. After the October Revolution of 1917, Narimanov became the chairman of Azerbaijani social democratic organization Hummet (Endeavor).



In 1920, Narimanov was named the chairman of Azerbaijani Revolutionary Committee (Azrevkom) and, shortly thereafter, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars' (Sovnarkom) of the Azerbaijani Soviet Republic. In April and May 1922, took part in Genoese Conference as a member of the Soviet delegation. In 1922, was elected the chairman of the Union Council of Transcaucasian Federation. On December 30, 1922, the first session of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR elected Narimanov one of the four chairpersons of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR. In April 1923, Narimanov was elected a candidate to the members of Central Committee of RKP(b) (Russian Communist Party of Bolsheviks). He clashed with Stalin's close associate Sergo Ordzhonikidze, who led the Communist Party in Transcaucasia. As a result of this conflict, Ordzhonikidze had Narimanov transferred to posts in Moscow to remove him from the scene of action in the Caucasus region. Narimanov died in Moscow on March 19, 1925 under suspicious circumstances. He was officially declared to have died of a heart attack, but his remains were cremated. His ashes were buried in Kremlin Wall Necropolis. Narimanov was survived by his wife Gulsum and by his son Najaf. Najaf Narimanov studied in Moscow, joined the Army in 1938 and graduated from the Kiev Higher Military Radio-Technical Engineering School in 1940. He became a member of the Communist Party in 1942. During the Great Patriotic War he took part in the Battle of Stalingrad and in the Battle of the Dnieper. Najaf died in battle near Volnovakha in Ukraine.

Narimanov was one of the first activists of young Turkic literature. He translated into Turkic Gogol's "Inspector" and wrote a large number of plays, stories, and novels; the most well-known among them are the novel "Bahadur and Sona" (1896) and a historical trilogy "Nadir-shah" (1899).

Narimanov was an ardent Marxist-Leninist but he was also a moderate Azeri nationalist and he always put the interests of the Azerbaijan SSR before everything else even at his own risk (he died in Moscow under suspicious circumstances). He is viewed in retrospect as a forerunner of "national communism." Narimanov was one of the most popular and charismatic leaders of his country; he was sometimes called "the Lenin of the East".

The district in Greater Baku, Azerbaijan Medical University and metro station in Baku are named after him. In the Lankaran region there is a town named Narimanabad in his honour. There are cities named after him also in Russia and Belarus.

N. Narimanov's monument was established in Baku in 1922.

**ORUJOV SABIT**  
**(1912-1981)**

Sabit Atayevich Orujov Azerbaijani Soviet politician, Deputy Prime-minister of Azerbaijan SSR (1957-1959), Deputy Minister of Oil Extracting Industry of USSR (1965-1972), Minister of Gas Industry of USSR (1972-1981) and member of Central Committee of Communist Party of Soviet Union (1981).



S. Orujov had put a lot of labour into oil production in the oil fields of the Caspian Sea. He rendered great services to the development of gas industry in the former USSR. In particular, he paid attention to the development of the gas industry in Siberia. He was elected a chairman of the USSR Oil Committee and vice chairman of the World Oil Congress. He is the author of the articles “Foundations of the large-block offshore oil wells”, “Oil industry of Iran”, “Gas industry on the road of development”.

He was a laureate of the USSR State Prize (twice: 1951 and 1959), Lenin Prize (1970), three Orders of Lenin, October Revolution order, four Red Labour Banner orders, Hero of Socialist Labour (1980).

Sabit Orujov died in 1981 in Moscow.

**PANAHALI KHAN**  
**(1693-1758)**

Panahali bek Sarijali Javanshir, the founder of Karabakh Khanate, very famous commander and statesman, was born in 1693 in famous and rich family of Javanshir's clan in Karabakh. He was very young, when joined the service of Iranian Shah Nadir Afshar. He was studying from him military strategy and tactics and basics of the government administration. Because of his courage and talent, he became one of the favorites of Shah Nadir. But soon, because of intrigues of some envious persons, he failed into disgrace and was forced to escape from anger of Shah to homelands. He gathered his relatives and allies and was hiding in Karabakh Mountains.

In 1747, after the murder of Nadir Shah, new several Khanates, like Ganja, Shirvan, Sheki, Guba, Baku and others, formed in Azerbaijan. In the Karabakh area Panah-Khan established Karabakh khanate, after sustained fight with local emirs. The Djevanshir's clan came to power in Karabakh.

The capital of Karabakh became the fortress Bayat. But Khan of Sheki Haji Chelebi, together with Khan of Shirvan besieged new capital. After one month of siege, they left. Hadji Chelebi Khan said: "Panakh Khan is really Khan. We came here, fought with him and we didn't conquer. We are leaving, but we accept him like a Shah." Later on, Panakh Khan established a new capital fortress in Shakhbulag, near the present city of Agdam and was continuing to expand the lands. The authority of Panah Khan was rising.

Panah Khan had the big plans, but for security and peace of his family, he decided to build new, absolutely strong, inaccessible capital fortress. In 1750 in the forest located on the top of forbidding mountain has been built fortress which at the beginning was named Panakhabad and then renamed to Shusha. He started to build palace, mosques, bath-houses, and the mint. Here has been engraving the coins of Khanate Panahabadi. In 1751 Iranian Khan Mohammed Hasan Kadjar has sent his troops in Karabakh. Around one month he has been preparing to attack of Shusha, but after he's got some bad news from Iran, has decided to leave. Panakh-Khan chased him, destroyed his troops and captured Azerbaijani town Ardabil.

After this, the ruler of Urmia Fatali-Khan Afshar, who was one of the famous commanders of Nadir Shah, decided to capture Shusha. But during the first attempt to attack the fortress all their troops was completely destroyed. Fatali-Khan wanted revenge and because of this, captured Ibragim Khalil - the son of Panakh-Khan. Panakh-Khan, together with Kerim-Khan Zend, destroyed the entire army of Fatali-Khan, and took him as prisoner. The authority of Panakh-Khan has been noticeably raised in all regions of Caucasus.

He died in 1758 and has been buried with big honors near present Agdam.

**RASULZADE MAMMAD AMIN**  
**(1884-1955)**

Mammad Amin Rasulzade prominent Azerbaijani statesman, public figure and one of the founding political leaders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920) was born on January 31, 1884, in Novkhany (near Baku). He received his primary education at the Russian-Muslim Secondary School and continued his studies at the Technical College in Baku. In his years of study he created "Muslim Youth Organisation Musavat", first secret organisation in Azerbaijan's contemporary history, and beginning from 1903 Rasulzade began writing articles in various opposition newspapers and magazines. At that time, his anti-monarchist platform and his demands for the national autonomy of Azerbaijan aligned him with Social Democrats and future Communists. In 1904 he founded the first Muslim social-democrat organisation "Hummet" and became editor-in-chief of its newspapers, "Tekamül"(1906-1907) and "Yoldaş"(1907). Rasulzade also published many articles in non-partisan newspapers such as "Hayat", "Irshad" and also "Fuyuzat" journal. His dramatic play entitled "The Lights in the Darkness" was staged in Baku in 1908.



In 1909, persecuted by Russian Administration, Rasulzade left for Persia to participate in the Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911. While in Persia, Rasulzade edited the newspaper "Iran-e-Azad". Rasulzade became one of the founders of the Democratic Party of Iran and began publishing its newspaper called "Iran-e Nou", which was the first modern-type newspaper in Iran's history. In 1911 he also published his book "Saadet-e bashar" (Happiness of mankind) in defense of revolution. After Russian troops entered Iran in 1911 and put an end to the Constitutional Revolution in a cooperation with the British and Royal Court of Iran, Rasulzade fled to Istanbul, where he founded the journal "Türk Yurdu" ("Land of Turks"), in which he published his famous article "Iranian Turks".

After the Amnesty Act of 1913, dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the Royal Romanov Dynasty, Rasulzade returned to Baku, left the Hummet party he was previously member of, and joined then the secret Musavat (Equality) party in 1913, established in 1911, which initially promoted pan-Islamist, pan-Turkist and Socialist ideas, or more precisely Pan-Islamism yet with affinity for greater cultural bonds with the Turkic world and which eventually became Azerbaijani nationalist party, and quickly became its chief. In 1915 he started to publish party's newspaper "Açıq Söz" (Open Word) which lasted till 1918. When February Revolution happened, Musavat together with other secret political parties in Russian Empire quickly legalized and became a leading party of Caucasian Muslims after it merged with Party of Turkic Federalists headed by Nasibbey Usubbeyli. October revolution in 1917 led to secession of Transcaucasia from Russia and Rasulzade became head of Muslim faction in the Seym, parliament of Transcaucasian Federation. After the dissolution of the Transcaucasian Federation Muslim faction re-organized into Azerbaijani National Council, whose head Rasulzade was unanimously elected in May 1918.

On May 28, 1918 the Azerbaijani National Council, headed by Rasulzade, declared an independent Azerbaijan Republic. And even though Rasulzade never held any governmental post in either of the Cabinets of Ministers, as an active member of the Parliament he remained a kind of ideological leader of the newly-formed state until its collapse in May 1920. Rasulzade also initiated the establishment of Baku State University together with Rashid Khan Kaplanov, minister of education with the funding of oil baron Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev in 1919. Rasulzade taught Ottoman literature at the University.

"The banner of liberty once hoisted will never be lowered again." This famous phrase by Rasulzade would later become one of the most popular Azerbaijani slogans during the demonstrations of the 1990s, said on the eve of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In August 1920, Rasulzade was arrested by the Soviets. It was only due to his earlier support of Joseph Stalin that Rasulzade was released and taken from Baku. For the next two years, Rasulzade worked as the press representative at the Commissioner on Nations in Moscow. He was seconded to Finland in 1922 and he never returned. For the rest of his life, Rasulzade lived as an exile in Poland (1938), Romania (1940) and finally, after WWII, in Ankara (Turkey) in 1947. He died on March 6, 1955.

In the more than 30 years spent in exile, Rasulzade published a number of serious political works dedicated to Azerbaijan. His literary legacy still calls for sound analysis and thorough evaluation.

## SATTAR KHAN (1868-1914)

Sattar Khan was born at Janali village of Garadagh province in 1868 in a merchant family. He had become a great general of the Mashruts movement, which took place in 1905-11. Sattar Khan, who was heading the rebels from Ayirsiz district of Tabriz city in 1907, had become favourite general of all his fighters because of his heroism and courage. After Board Assembly shooting incident, 40 000 armed forces of Shah attacked Tabriz city, the cradle of revolution. High Military Council was established under the leadership of Sattar Khan in June 1908. Sattar Khan was appointed the Commander in chief of High Council, Bagir Khan as his deputy, Ali Musyo, Haji Ali and Seyid Hashim Khan as members.



By April 1909, Tabriz rebels lost huge number of their fighters in driving out the armed forces of the enemy from Tabriz. Taking into account Sattar Khan and Bagir Khan's heroism at this fight, Sattar Khan was honoured by the title "Sardari-milli" (People's General) and Bagir Khan "Salari milli" (People's leader) by the order of the Assembly. Military council was assigned the task of defending Tabriz. This victory of rebels had greatly influenced other provinces of Azerbaijan and whole Iran.

Committees with the name "Sattar Khan" were established in Tehran, Rasht, Gazvin, Isfahan and other cities. The ruler of Tabriz described himself as substitute for Council of the Assembly. Most provinces of Azerbaijan were cleared from enemies by October 1908. Being afraid of the strengthening revolutionary movement in the country, Shah (the king) and regime forces gave permission to reopen Council of Assembly in Tehran.

II Council of Assembly held in December 1908. It issued order for making a plaque of honour on which Sattar Khan and Bagir Khan's photos would be carved with golden colours as a token of appreciation of their services and to hang them on the tribune during the next session of the Assembly. The strengthening of revolutionary power after Tabriz city's victory had frightened Iran regime forces, especially the Tsar of Russia and imperialist England.

To discredit Sattar Khan and his supporters, they tried to separate Sattar Khan and Bagir Khan from their supporters and from Tabriz. Telegram (dated 16.3.1910) sent by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of England, Mr. Edvard Kari to the Ambassador of England to Iran, Mr. George Birly, reads that Sattar Khan and Bagir Khan had to be sent away from Tabriz immediately. After that having interferred the matter, Iranian Premier, National Council Assembly have forced Sattar Khan and Bagir Khan to go Tehran. Sattar Khan and Bagir Khan went to Tehran with their 300 supporters on 6 March, 1910. Sattar Khan reached Tehran on 3 April 1910; Sheep were sacrificed, Tehran citizens received him as a saviour.

Sattar Khan, together with his supporters was accommodated in Atabey Park. Shah troops and police forces led by Yefrem Davidyans, Head of Tehran Police, a dashnak, suddenly, at night, attacked treacherously on August 7, 1910, at Atabey Park, surrounding and disarming Sattar's forces. At that night, Sattar Khan was injured in his leg. They could not leave Tehran and at last Sattar Khan died at the age of 48, on November 9, 1914 because of the injured leg and was buried in Shah Abdul Azim graveyard in Tehran.

Revolutionaries repaired his grave in 1924. In 1944, Sayeed Jafar Pishevari delivered a speech at the grave of Sattar Khan, where a meeting was organised by the newspaper "Azadlyg Jabhasi" (Liberty front), affiliated with 44 progressive newspapers. Azerbaijan National Government established in 1945 put his and Bagir Khan's monuments in Tabriz, streets were named after them. Many poems and verses have been written about Sattar Khan's heroism, and his devotion to people and revolution.

**TOPCHUBASHOV ALIMARDAN BEY**  
**(1862-1934)**

Alimardan Alakbar oglu Topchubashov was a prominent Azerbaijani politician, foreign minister and speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Alimardan bey Topchubashov descended from Ganja branch of famous Topchubashi family and was born in Tiflis (now Tbilisi) in May 4, 1862. After studying at Tiflis Gymnasium, he entered Saint Petersburg University and graduated from the law faculty in 1888. He was offered to remain at University and teach law if he would convert to Christianity, but he refused and returned to the Caucasus, where he worked at several small positions. He married Pari Malikova, daughter of Hasan bey Zardabi, founder of the first Azerbaijani newspaper, Akinchi.



In 1897 oil magnate Zeynalabdin Taghiyev bought Kaspi newspaper and invited Topchubashov to be its editor-in-chief. Starting from that time he was actively involved in politics and quickly became one of the prominent leaders of Turko-Tatar and Muslim people of Russian Empire. His main platform was the political equality of all subjects of Russian Crown and the end to discriminations of Turco-Tatar and Muslim people. At the brink of the First Russian Revolution Topchubashov was one of the initiators of famous meeting of Azerbaijani intelligentsia and bourgeoisie at Taghiyev's palace on March 15, 1905.

At the same time Topchubashov was one of the founders of Ittifaq al-Muslimin (first political party of Russian Muslims) and organized its three conferences. He headed party's third conference and became its bureau member and chief of its Law Commission. Later he became the leader of Party's Muslim faction at the Russian State Duma, the new Russian parliament (1906). But after the First Duma was dissolved by Tsar Topchubashov was arrested for three months, lost his right to be ever a parliament member, deprived of his place at Baku Municipality and "Kaspi" newspaper.

During this time Iran invited him to head one of the departments of Iranian Ministry of Justice and reform its judiciary system, but Topchubashov rejected this offer and remained in Russian Empire to continue his struggle for emancipation of Muslim population.

After the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was proclaimed on May 28, 1918 Topchubashov became its ambassador to Armenia, Georgia and the Ottoman Empire, and was sent to Istanbul. Then he was made minister of foreign affairs at the second cabinet and was elected the head of the Parliament in absentia on December 7, 1918, thus becoming second head of state of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, after Mammed Amin Rasulzade. Receiving to head Azerbaijani Delegation at Versailles Conference, he left Istanbul for Paris.

At the conference, he managed to meet US President Woodrow Wilson and achieved the de facto recognition of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in January 1920. But after the Bolshevik takeover of ADR he could not return and stayed in Paris, where he died on November 8, 1934.



## **KHATAI SHAH ISMAIL (1487-1524)**

Shah Ismail Khatai (July 17 1487 - may 23 1524) – was a shah of Azerbaijan and Persia, founder of Sefevid Dynasty, named by his ancestor sheik Sefi, who lived in Ardabil in period of Tamerlane’s government. His mother was a daughter of Uzun Hasan – the founder of the state Ak-koyunlu (1468-1478).

At the beginning of the 14th century Sheik Sefi, ancestor of shah Ismail founded Order of Sefevie in ancient Azerbaijani town Ardabil.

In 1495 his father Heydar died and seven years old boy has been forced to hide from his enemies. He moved in Ardabil and then to the Resht where he has been getting in the palace Karkiya of Mirza Ali in Gilan. There he has got an education under direction of famous scientists and emirs.

When he came of age, he left from Gilan, gathered the troops and attacked Shirvan - the ancient Azerbaijani land. In 1500 he has engaged in the battle with beyond one’s powers troops of Shirvanshah Farruh Yasar and scored a victory. This battle named Djabani’s battle, and it was the most important battle in career of the young commander.

In 1501 on the Sharur’s plain he destroyed troops of his enemy Mirza –Alvend Ak-Koyunlu – the ruler of Azerbaijan. He conquered the capital of Azerbaijan Tabriz. In Tabriz he declared himself as Shah, started coining and declared Shiism as official religion of the state. He took a title “shah-i shiyan” – king of Shiites. The new Azerbaijani state has been formed. The Azeri and the Persian have been declared to be official languages.

Ismail stopped an offensive of Uzbeks under the leadership of Han Sheibani and killed him during the battle near Merv in 1510. In the period between 1503 and 1510 Ismail unified all parts of Azerbaijan in one state, but during the Chaldiran’s battle with Osman’s Emperies he lost some territory. After the Chaldiran’s battle he gave up of attempts to attack of neighboring countries. He established diplomatic relations with European countries; Venice, Kingdom of Gabs burgs, Hungary. He dedicated the rest of his life to strengthening of Azerbaijani statehood.

Shah Ismail has passed away in 1524 in Ardabil, where he came to pay last tribute on the burial-vault of his father. He has been buried in burial-vault of Sefevids (Darul-Irshad) in Ardabil.

Shah Ismail was very colorful person. He was also well-known as very talented poet, who wrote under the pen-name of Khatai and was considered the classical author of Azerbaijani poetry. He was passionate of the horse-rising, hunting, drawing, had very beautiful voice and he was physically strong.

An ancient manuscript his poetry – “Divan” has been kept in Tashkent until now. Khatai was also a lyrical poet. His poem “Dehname” is considered the reader in Azerbaijani poetry.

His monument was established in Baku in 1993.



## MILITARY LEADERS AND HEROS

### ASLANOV HAZI (1910-1945)

Hazi Ahad oglu Aslanov was born in 1910 in Lankaran. He was Azerbaijani Major-General of the Soviet armoured troops during World War II. Aslanov was awarded twice Hero of the Soviet Union.

H. Aslanov graduated in the Transcaucasian Preparatory Military School in Baku, Leningrad Cavalry School and passed courses in the Military Academy of Armoured Troops. He began his Red Army service in 1929 and took part in the Soviet-Finnish War (1939-1940). In the beginning of the Soviet-German War (1941) Aslanov was in the 10th Soviet Tank Division and met his first battle in the town of Zlochev. Then he participated in the battles for Moscow and Stalingrad against Field Marshal Manstein. Tank brigade under his command run from Stalingrad through Borisovo, Vileyka, and Minsk to Vilnius and Riga and participated in battles of Rostov and Taganrog. The 35th Tank Brigade commanded by him liberated the town Pleshinitsy.



On January 24, 1945 he was killed in a battle in Latvia.

A subway station and a street in Baku were named after him.

Hazi Aslanov received his first star in 1943 for the heroism in Stalingrad. The second one was supposed to be given for the cross of Berezino River, under the recommendation of General of the Army Ivan Chernyakhovsky, but because of discriminatory treatment he got it posthumously, 46 years later, in 1991, after a special appeal by Azerbaijani intelligentsia to Gorbachev.



## **BABEK** **(795-838)**

One of the greatest Azerbaijani Heroes was born in Balalabad (Qaradagh) region of Azerbaijan close to the city of Ardabil. After his father's death in his early teen, he was given the responsibility of his 2 brothers and mother during a traditional Zartosht ceremony in Fire-temple, which used to involve a glass of Azari wine and wearing a purple ribbon around body. By the age of 18 Babek had established himself in the city of Tabriz and was engaged in the arms trade and industry.

Later on, this engagement gave him the opportunity to travel to different regions like Caucasia, Middle East and Eastern Europe and familiarised him with history, geography and language of countries and nations in these regions. During all these time, Azerbaijan was constantly invaded by the despotic Bani Abbas Arab dynasty (Khalifa).

Witnessing all these pressure being exerted to Iranian people, forced Babek to join the Khorramdin movement in "Ghaleh ye Babek" (Babek Castle), in the sensational mountains of Qaradagh. His skills in the latest battle tactics accompanied by the knowledge of history and geography strengthened his position as a most favorite commander during the early wars against Arabs.

Babek was a highly spiritual and educated person who respected the Zartosht identity of his nation. He made every possible effort to establish reasonable political and cultural relationships with the neighbouring countries around Azerbaijan and Tabarestan and also with leaders such as Afshin and Maziyar to form a united front against the Arab Khalife.

One of the most dramatic periods of Azerbaijan history was set under the Babek's leadership in 816-837 AD. During these most crucial years, Azerbaijan fought against the invasion of Islam and Arab culture.

Eventually Babek, his wife and his warriors were forced to leave their command post (Babek Castle) under very difficult situation after 23 years of sensational campaign. He was betrayed by Afshin and was handed over to the Bani Abbas Khalife.

During Babek's execution, khalifa's hangman first cut his legs and hands in order to convey the most devastating message to his followers. Legend says that our Babek bravely rinsed his face by the drained blood pouring out of his cuts, thus depriving the Khalife and the rest of the Arab army the sight of his paled face which was the result of heavy bleeding.



**KERIMOV KERIM**  
**(1917–2003)**

Kerim Eli oglu Kerimov was a Soviet rocket scientist, academician, one of the founders of the Soviet space industry, and for many years a central figure in the Soviet space program. Despite his prominent role, his identity was kept a secret from the public for most of his career. He was one of the lead architects behind the string of Soviet successes that stunned the world from the early 1960s – from the launch of the first human spaceflight, Yuri Gagarin's 108-minute trip around the globe aboard the Vostok 1, to the launch of the first space stations (Salyut and Mir series) from 1971 to 1991, and their precursors (Cosmos 186 and Cosmos 188) in 1967.

Kerim Kerimov was born on November 14, 1917 in a family of an engineer-technologist in Baku, Azerbaijan (then part of the Russian Empire). After graduation from the Azerbaijan Industrial Institute in 1942, Kerimov continued his education at Dzerzhinsky Artillery Academy, where he committed himself to design and development of rocket systems.

An expert in rocket technology, he worked during World War II on the inspection and acceptance of the famous Katyusha rocket launchers. His work was honoured with the Order of the Red Star. Kerim Kerimov has been involved in Soviet aeronautics from its inception. After World War II, Kerimov worked on the Soviet inter-continental ballistic missile program, rising by 1960 to head the Third Directorate of the Main Directorate of Missile Weapons (GURVO) of the USSR Ministry of Defense that oversaw secret test launches. Along with other rocketry experts, he was sent to Germany in 1946 to collect information on the German V-2 rocket.

In 1964 he became head of the newly formed Central Directorate of the Space Forces (TsUKOS) of the USSR Ministry of Defense. Following the death of Sergei Korolev in 1966, Kerimov was appointed Chairman of the State Commission on Piloted Flights and headed it for 25 years (1966 – 1991). He supervised every stage of development and operation of both manned space complexes as well as unmanned interplanetary stations for former Soviet Union. Kerimov was also the Head of Chief Directorate of the Ministry of General Machine Building in 1965-1974, which was engaged in creation of rocket systems.

As in the case of other Soviet space pioneers, the Soviet authorities for many years refused to disclose Kerimov's identity to the public. At televised space launchings, cameras always focused on the cosmonauts and not the person to whom they reported their readiness to carry out the mission. As Kerimov was a "secreted general", he was always hidden from the camera's view; only his voice was broadcast. His name remained a secret until era of "glasnost" in Soviet Union, when he was first mentioned in Pravda newspaper in 1987.

After his retirement in 1991, Kerimov was a Consultant to the Main Space Flights Control Centre of the Russian Federal Space Agency, and wrote *The Way to Space*, a history of the Soviet space program.

Kerim Kerimov was a Hero of Socialist Labour, laureate of Stalin, Lenin and State prizes of the Soviet Union, lieutenant-general of Soviet Army.

General Kerim Kerimov died on March 29, 2003 in Moscow, at the age of 85.



## NAKHCHIVANSKI HUSEYN KHAN (1863-1919)

Huseyn Nakhchivanski was a Russian Cavalry General of Azeri origin. He was the only Muslim to serve as General-Adjutant of the Russian Emperor.

He was born on July 28, 1863 in Nakhchivan City (now the capital of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in Azerbaijan). His paternal grandfather Ehsan Nakhchivanski was the last ruler of the Nakhchivan Khanate. Huseyn Nakhchivanski's parents were Kalbali Khan Nakhchivanski, a major-general in the Russian Army, and Khurshid Qajar-Iravani, member of the royal family of the Yerevan Khanate (abolished in 1828).

In 1874, Huseyn Nakhchivanski was admitted to the Page Corps and graduated with honours. He received the rank of cornet and was assigned to the elite Leib Guard cavalry regiment. Nakhchivanski served there for twenty years and ascended positions from cornet to Colonel of the Leib Guard.



When the Russo-Japanese War broke out in 1904, Huseyn Khan was seconded to Petrovsk-Port to form from volunteers the 2nd Dagestani cavalry regiment. During the war the regiment distinguished itself, and Khan Nakhchivanski himself received seven decorations. On January 27, 1907 he was decorated with a fourth-degree Order of Saint George for launching a successful cavalry onslaught to save an encircled Russian infantry unit. He was also awarded the golden Saint George sword.

Khan Nakhchivanski was the commander of the 44th Nizhegorodski Dragoon regiment from November 1905, and in 1906, he was made Fliegel-Adjutant and appointed the commander of Leib Guard cavalry regiment, where he started his military career. In 1907, he received the rank of major-general and joined His Imperial Majesty's Suite. In 1912, he was appointed the commander of 1st detached cavalry brigade, in 1914 he was conferred the rank of lieutenant-general and made the commander of 2nd cavalry division and in this position entered World War I. In August 1914, Khan Nakhchivanski was the head of the cavalry group on the right flank of 1st army. From October 19, 1914 he was commander of the 2nd cavalry corps and on October 22, 1914, he was decorated with the Order of Saint George of III degree, which was presented to him personally by Tsar Nikolai II. In June 1915, he was appointed General-Adjutant of His Imperial Majesty and became the first and only Muslim to hold that position. On November 25, 1915, Huseyn Khan was seconded to the chief commander of the Caucasian Army and on January 23, 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Cavalry General. He was the commander of Guard Cavalry Corps from April 9, 1916 and took part in Brusilov Offensive.

When in the winter of 1917 the February Revolution began in Petrograd (present-day Saint Petersburg), Nakhchivanski was one of the two Russian generals who supported the Czar and sent a telegram to the headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to offer Nicholai II the use of his corps for suppression of the revolt, but Nicholai II never received this telegram.

After the abdication of Nicholai II, Khan Nakhchivanski refused to serve the Russian Provisional Government, retired from the army and lived with his family in Petrograd. In July 1918, Nakhchivanski allocated money for Grand Duchess Elizabeth Fyodorovna's (executed sister of the Czarina of Russia) remains to be secretly transferred from Alapaevsk to their present burial place in Jerusalem. Nakhchivanski was one of the few Azeri figures who didn't support the newly formed Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, remaining a Russian tzarist loyalist and refusing to fight for his country independence. After the October revolution and the assassination of the head of Petrograd Cheka, Moisei Uritsky, Nakhchivanski together with some other prominent citizens of Petrograd was taken hostage by the Bolsheviks and executed in the Peter and Paul Fortress in January 1919. Details about Nakhchivanski's last days, including the exact date of his execution, had not been disclosed until the late 20th century, when French historian Jacques Ferrand published his book "Descendances naturelles des Souverains et Grands Ducs de Russie de 1762 à 1905", where he presented these facts as per Nakhchivanski's descendants.

**MEHMANDAROV SAMAD BEY**  
**(1855–1931)**

Samadbey Sadigbey oglu Mehmandarov was a General of the Artillery of the Russian tsarist army and Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Samadbey Mehmandarov was born on October 16, 1855 in Lankaran, town of Azerbaijan, in a noble family from Shusha. He graduated from the 2nd Constantine Military School in St. Petersburg in 1875, was conferred the rank of podporuchik (second lieutenant) and assigned to the 1st Turkestan artillery brigade. In the course of military service he was promoted in 1877 to poruchik (lieutenant) and seconded two years later to 2nd artillery brigade in St. Petersburg.

In 1885 senior captain Mehmandarov was assigned to the 38th artillery brigade in the Caucasus, where he served 9 years. In 1894, the 38th artillery brigade was transferred to Poland, where he became a member of the court martial. In 1898 captain Mehmandarov was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and appointed the commander of the 1st battery of the 3rd artillery battalion. The same year the Mehmandarov's battery was moved to Transbaikal region and took part in China Relief Expedition in 1901. For the services in battle Mehmandarov was conferred the rank of colonel. In 1903 he completed a course in Tsarskoye Selo Officer's Artillery College.

When the Russo-Japanese War broke out in 1904, Mehmandarov was appointed the commander of the 7th Eastern Siberia artillery battalion. During the siege of Port Arthur he was the commander of the Eastern Front Artillery. For the services in battle he was promoted to major general and decorated with the Order of Saint George of the IV degree. After the capitulation of the fortress the garrison was in Japanese captivity. When Japanese commanders allowed the captured Russian officers to return home in exchange to signing an obligation to not fight against Japan, Mehmandarov refused and preferred to stay with his soldiers.

Upon his return from captivity Mehmandarov was appointed the commander of the 7th East Siberian Artillery Brigade in 1906, and became the commander of the 3rd Siberian Army Corps artillery a year later. In 1908 he was conferred the rank of lieutenant-general. In 1910 he was appointed the commander of the 1st Caucasian Division; in 1913 he became the commander of the 21st Infantry Division and in this position entered World War I within the 3rd Caucasian Army Corps. Under Mehmandarov's command the division earned the reputation of one of the best in the Russian Army, and the 81st Apsheron and the 83rd Samur regiments especially distinguished themselves. He was decorated with the Order of Saint George of the III degree for the battles of September 27 – 29, 1914 and Saint George sword decorated with diamonds for the battle near Ivangorod on February 14, 1915. On December 11, 1914 Mehmandarov was appointed the commander of the 2nd Caucasian Army Corps. Mehmandarov's corps was engaged in the fiercest battles with German troops and during the whole war had not surrendered to the enemy a single piece of ordnance. On March 22, 1915 Samadbey Mehmandarov was promoted to the rank of the General of the Artillery. He was decorated with British, French and Romanian orders.

After the February Revolution in Russia Mehmandarov resigned and left to Baku. With the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 Samadbey Mehmandarov became the first Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan. He held this position until Red Army troops invaded Azerbaijan in 1920. After the fall of the national government and establishment of the Soviet rule in Azerbaijan Mehmandarov was arrested, but was released two months later. He taught in military schools and was an advisor to the Commissariat of Military and Naval Forces of Azerbaijan SSR until his retirement in 1928.

Samadbey Mehmandarov died on February 12, 1931 in Baku.



## SHIKHLINSKI ALI-AGHA (1865-1943)

Ali-Agha Ismail-Agha oğlu Shikhlinski was a lieutenant-general of the Russian tsarist army and Deputy Minister of Defense and General of the Artillery of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

Ali-Agha Shikhlinski was born on April 23, 1865 in the village of Kazakhly of Kazakh uyezdi. In August 1876 he entered Tiflis military school and graduated in 1883. He then finished Mikhaylovsky Artillery School in Sankt-Petersburg in 1886, received the rank of podporuchik and was assigned to the 39th artillery brigade, located in Alexandropol. In the course of military service he was promoted to poruchik, then shtabs-kapitan and appointed the commander of the training team. In 1900 captain Shikhlinski was transferred to Transbaikal artillery battalion. He took part in China Relief Expedition of the Russian army.



During the Russo-Japanese War Shikhlinski was the commander of an artillery battery. He especially distinguished himself during the siege of Port Arthur, when despite being severely wounded in his leg he personally aimed the guns which lost their guncrews and repulsed attacks of superior Japanese forces. For the services in battle on September 28, 1905 he was decorated with the Order of Saint George of the IV degree. He was also awarded a golden sword and conferred the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

In January, 1906 Shikhlinski was seconded to Tsarskoye Selo Officer's Artillery College, which he finished with honors in August of the same year and was appointed the instructor of the Artillery College. During his service as the instructor of the college Shikhlinski published a number of works on artillery, including a book titled "Use of Field Artillery in a Battle", and invented an original target-finding device, which was called "Shikhlinski triangle". In 1908 Shikhlinski was promoted to the rank of colonel, and in 1912 he was conferred the rank of major-general and assigned the deputy chief of Officer's Artillery College.

When the World War I started in 1914 Ali-Agha Shikhlinski was appointed the commander of St. Petersburg garrison artillery. In January 1915 Shikhlinski was seconded to the North-Western front to manage the training of heavy artillery guncrews. On May 23, 1915 he was appointed the general for errands at the commander-in-chief of North-Western front, and after division of the front into two held the same position at Western front. On October 31, 1915 he was appointed to the position of the general for errands at the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. He was charged with creation of heavy artillery battalions and brigades. From April 1916, Shikhlinski was the acting inspector of the Western Front artillery. He was in charge of the artillery aspects of operations of the Western Front. On April 2, 1917 Ali-Agha Shikhlinski was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general.

After the February Revolution in Russia, Ali-Agha Shikhlinski was appointed the commander of the 10th Russian army in September 1917. After the October revolution he resigned from his position and moved to Tiflis, where he was charged with formation of the Muslim (Azerbaijani) corps. The corps supported the Turkish Army of Islam in the battles for Baku with Bolshevik and British forces. In January 1919 the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic appointed Shikhlinski a deputy to the Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan Republic Samadbey Mehmandarov. On June 28, 1919 Ali-Agha Shikhlinski was promoted to the rank of General of the Artillery of the Azerbaijani army. After Red Army invasion to Azerbaijan and establishment of the Soviet rule in Azerbaijan in April 1920 Shikhlinski was arrested, but was released two months later.

In 1920 – 1921 he was seconded to Moscow, where he was an advisor to the artillery inspection department of RKKA and taught in Higher Artillery School. On July 18, 1921 he was transferred back to Baku, where he taught in a military school and became a deputy of the chairman of military science society of Baku garrison. In 1926, Shikhlinski published Russian-Azerbaijani Concise Military Dictionary. He resigned from military service in 1929 and wrote his memoirs, which were published in 1944.

Ali-Agha Shikhlinski died in Baku on August 18, 1943.



## THINKERS AND SCIENTISTS

### ABDULLAYEV HASAN (1918-1993)

Hasan Mamedbagir oglu Abdullayev was born on August 20, 1918 in village Yayji of Julfa district of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan.

He was a President of the Academy of Sciences in 1970 – 1983.

He was elected a Correspondent Member of the Academy in 1955 and an Active Member of the Academy in 1967.

In 1957-58 he worked as a Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Physics of the Academy of Sciences.

In 1968-1970 he was an Academician–Secretary of the Section of Mathematics, Physics and Technical Sciences of the Academy of Sciences.

In 1970 he became a Laureate of State Award in the field of Science and in 1974 he became an Honoured Scientist of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Hasan Abdullayev has achieved a number of remarkable results in research of the role of selenium in biological processes, physics of semi-conductor devices developed on the basis of selenium and tellurium.

A range of new complex semi-conductor based devices, including those with electrical memory for long-term data storage, working on new physical principles was created under his guidance. He had patents from USA and France for his new thermo-electrical semi-conductor based converters.

With his initiative a Department of Semi-conductor Physics at the Baku State University was founded in 1956. He created a scientific school on semi-conductor physics in Azerbaijan. He was a member of scientific board on “Physics and Chemistry of Semi-Conductors” of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and Chairman of Scientific Council on Problems of Physics of “Knowledge” Society of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Hasan Abdullayev represented Azerbaijan at numerous scientific forums and congresses. He lectured on physics of semi-conductors in USA in 1970 and Turkey in 1974. He was the author to a series of scientific publications on research and application of semi-conductor materials and devices. His monograph “Electronic semi-conductors and their application” was the first scientific publication on the physics of semi-conductors published in Azeri language.

He was an author of 13 monographs, tenth of text books and numerous scientific articles. He had 35 Certificates of Authorships received for new materials and devices he proposed and designed.

Hasan Abdullayev died in 1993 in Baku.



**ALIYEV MUSA**  
**(1908-1985)**

Musa Mirza oglu Aliyev was born on April 11, 1908 in the town of Shamakhy.

He was a President of the Academy of Sciences in the years 1950 - 1958.

He was elected an Active Member of the Academy in 1950 and 1957. M. Aliyev received his Doctor of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences degree in 1957.

In 1939-1941 he was a Rector of the Industrial Institute named after M. Azizbeyov (now Azerbaijan State Oil Academy).

He was the Head of Department of Palaeontology and Stratigraphy, Deputy Director, Head of Laboratory of Stratigraphic Research in Oil and Gas Provinces at the Institute of Geology and Combustible Fossils Exploration.

He was a well known specialist in the field of Cretaceous Fauna, taxonomy and bio-stratigraphy. He conducted stratigraphic research of oil and gas deposits in Caucasus, Central Asia and Western Siberia. He was also involved research of regional geology and oil bearing potential in Algerian Sahara and Atlas Mountains and Middle East. He was a founder of the Baku scientific school in Palaeontology and Stratigraphy on Age of Reptiles.

He was awarded an Order of Lenin, two Orders of Labour Red Banner, Order of Glory and a number of medals of USSR.

He was a tutor for 40 Doctors and Candidates of Science and was the author to 210 scientific publications, including 15 monographs.

Musa Mirza oglu Aliyev died in 1985.



**AKHUNDZADEH SAKINA**  
**(1865–1927)**

Sakina Mirza Heybat qizi Akhundzadeh was an Azerbaijani playwright. She is considered the first female playwright and dramatist in Azerbaijani literature.

Having received education in both her native Quba and Baku, Sakina Akhundzadeh became one of the first teachers at the Empress Alexandra Russian Muslim Boarding School for Girls, established in 1901 in Baku (present-day capital of Azerbaijan), where she taught Azeri and literature. This was an important appointment as the school was the first secular school for Muslim girls in the entire Russian Empire. It had opened only because the Azeri oil magnate Zeynalabdin Taghiyev had funded it, and it is said that the school was named after he had written a letter to Czarina Alexandra. The local theatre was also funded by Taghiyev.



She began her career as a playwright upon founding a drama club at that school and adapting her plays to stage performance by the students. Her first play entitled *Elmin manfaati* ("The Benefit of Science") was staged for the first time in 1904. Encouraged by the successful performance, Akhundzadeh went on to write more plays; among them, "Hagg soz aji olar" ("Truth Hurts") and "Galin va gayinana" ("Daughter-in-Law and Mother-in-Law"). This was a time of change. In 1901, Baku had seen the first female actresses appearing without veils. Following a more liberal approach by the Czarist government, freedoms such as the first magazine written by and for women was in seen in 1911. Sakina was to be acknowledged as the first feminist playwright.

In 1911, Huseyn Arablinski staged Akhundzadeh's remake of Namık Kemal's play *Zavallı çocuk* (*Bakhtsiz ushag* in Azeri, "The Unfortunate Kid"), which soon began being performed in amateur theatres outside the Caucasus. She continued to work with Arablinski until his death in 1919, as well as with Abbas Mirza Sharifzadeh in 1917–1922. Finally in 1917, Akhundzadeh's *Zulmun natijasi* ("The Consequence of Evil"; based on Léo Delibes's opera *Lakmé*) was staged at the Taghiyev Theatre in Baku (nowadays Azerbaijan State Theatre of Musical Comedy). The performance was a great success and brought fame to Akhundzadeh leading to her being recognized as the first female Azeri playwright in history.

Sakina Akhundzadeh was also known for writing fiction. In 1918, she published her novel "Shahzadeh Abulfaz va Rana khanim". The novel also contained poetic verses comprised of 260 hemistiches.



## ALI JAVAN

Ali Javan was born in 1926 in Tehran. He is an Azerbaijani inventor and physicist at MIT. He co-invented the gas laser in 1960, with William R. Bennett.

He graduated from Alborz High School, started his university studies at University of Tehran and continued at Columbia University after coming to the United States in 1948. He received his Ph.D. in physics in 1954. He joined Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an associate professor of physics in 1961 and has been a professor since 1964.



In 1975, Professor Ali Javan received from the Optical Society of America their most prestigious honor, the Fredric Ives Medal, with a citation that praised him for "producing an optical device (the Gas Laser) of unparalleled applicability to scientific research." In 1993, he received the Albert Einstein World Award of Science. He stood at 12th spot of the table of geniuses (2007).

On May 6, 2006, Professor Ali Javan was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, along with another MIT Professor, Robert Langer.

Stewart Ballentine Medal of the Franklin Institute (1964)

Fanny and John Hertz Foundation Medal (1966)

Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1966)

Fredric Ives Medal of the Optical Society of America (1975)

Humboldt Foundation Fellowship (1979 and 1995)

Albert Einstein World Award of Science of the World Cultural Council (1993)

Inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (2006)

**ASHURBEYLI SARA**  
**(1906-2001)**

Sara Balabek gizi Ashurbeyli, orientalist, historian and artist was born in January 27, 1906 in the family of oil magnate, proprietor of many manufactures and residences in the city of Baku at the beginning of the XX century. Her grandmother-Nabat Khanum (madam in Azerbaijani language) was very famous philanthropist. In 1912 on her own means has been built very big mosque in Baku –Taza Pir. Her father died in time of Stalin’s repression. She graduated from French college in Istanbul, then Art College in Baku. After this she entered in Oriental faculty of Azerbaijan State University and faculty of foreign languages of Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute. She knew 7 languages. She was one of the first teachers of foreign languages in Azerbaijan.



In 1956 she became the chief of Department in Museum of History of Academy of Science of Azerbaijan. She worked in Institute of Oriental studies. She learned about History of Middle Ages, History of Baku and History of Shirvan Khanate. Her works embodied in historical labour-the book “Indian merchants in middle-aged cities of Azerbaijan” (Bombay 1964).

She is also the author of well-known books - “Historical essays of middle-aged Baku”, “State of Shirvanshakh”, “Economical and historical relations of Azerbaijan and India in Middle Ages”, “History of Baku city”. Sara Khanum died in Baku in 2001.

## **BAHMANYAR**

(?-1066)

Abul Hassan Bahmanyar ibn Marzuban (some sources Daylami) 'Ajami Adarbayijani (died 1067) was a famous pupil of Avicenna.

His correspondence with Avicenna and his master's answers to his questions were compiled in the book Mubahathat (dialogues). His main work, the Ketab al-tahasil which summarizes Avicenna's logic, physics and metaphysics was written in Isfahan Between 1024 - 1037 and dedicated to his uncle, the Zoroastrian Abu Mansur b. Bahram b. Khurshid b. Yazdyar. Bayhaqi also writes that he wrote a book on logic and one on music and other works are attributed to him.



**ISMAYLOV RUSTAM**  
**(1909-1972)**

Rustam Hajiali oglu Ismaylov was born on June 01, 1909 in Baku.

He was elected as a President of the Academy of Sciences in 1967-1970.

He received his Doctor of Technical Sciences degree in 1961 and was elected as Active Member of the Academy in 1962.

His main areas of research were petroleum chemistry and oil processing technology. He obtained important results in the field of improvement of thermal cracking technology in oil refining industry. He was one of the initiators of development of industrial petrochemical synthesis in Azerbaijan, including development of petrochemical industry in the region of Sumgayit.

Under his direct guidance an important works on reconstruction and renovation of Baku Catalytic Cracking Plant, research on catalytic aromatisation of low octane benzene- naphtha compounds, improvement of technology of pyrolysis of crude oil were conducted.

The creation of the basis for production of feedstock for development of petrochemical industry in Azerbaijan is connected with his name and activity.

He was the author to 120 scientific publications, including 7 monographs.

Rustam Hajiali oglu Ismaylov died on June 01, 1972 in Baku.



### **GOLAM-REZA SABRI-TABRIZI**

Golam-Reza Sabri-Tabrizi was born in Tabriz, (IRAN), and graduated in Persian and English languages from Tabriz University in 1958. In 1969 he completed a Ph.D. on the work of William Blake at the University of Edinburgh, where he taught for 30 years. The author of the 'Heaven' and 'Hell' of William Blake, he is a popular and respected academic who has presented papers to international conferences in the USA, Russia, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Pakistan, Libya, Egypt, Switzerland, France, Italy, Taiwan, Malaysia and Germany. Since 1997 Professor Sabri-Tabrizi has been teaching English literature in the universities of Azerbaijan. He is elected as vice president of the Coordinating Committee of World Azerbaijanis in Baku. In his book: "Iran: A Child's Story, A Man's Experience", the child is holding history's hand and walking through the streets of Tabriz. This book is a remarkable autobiographical account of life in Iran from the 1930s to the Revolution of 1979, which the author witnessed in the streets of Tehran and Tabriz. Rich, colourful and as intricately woven as any Persian carpet, this book guides the reader through the social, cultural and political history of a nation in torment. Through the author's childhood memories and impressions the reader passes beyond the closed doors of ordinary Iranian family life to meet the women in their houses, in the bazaars, in the bath-houses and at their weddings. We see the children at their schools and at work in the carpet factories. We meet the men at prayer and at play. Through the writer's eyes we come to understand the country's political and religious tensions and their historical roots. The book "Iran: A Child's Story, A Man's Experience" is a highly unique and moving book which will both enlighten and intrigue.



The Azerbaijani reader got acquainted with Sabri-Tabrizi through such his books as; "Vətən Həsəti", "Fikir Dalğaları", "Mənim iki dünyam", "Sönməz ocag", "Ümid çirağı", "Secilmiş şeirlər".

He appeals to the themes of longing for motherland, the suffering on the foreign land, the suffering on the problems of the Azerbaijan divided into two parts, to the problem of Karabakh occupied by Armenia and to the socio-psychological problems of the society.

## LOTFI ZADEH

Professor Lotfi Zadeh was born on February 4, 1921 in Baku, Azerbaijan. He graduated as Electrical Engineer from Tehran University in Iran in 1944. In 1944-1959 he received his Masters and PhD degrees in Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Columbia University in USA and worked as a Professor at those Institutions. Since 1959 he was working as a Professor at the Berkley University and since 1963 he was heading a Chair of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at this University. Actually Professor Lotfi Zadeh has the life-time Professorship at the Berkley University and is the Director of Soft Computing Institute.

L.Zadeh has developed 5 fundamental scientific theories. He founded the Zadeh Institute for Information Technology - ZIFIT in Berkley, USA.

One of the theories of Zadeh known in science as z-transforms laid foundation for creation of discrete and digital control, information and communications systems.

The famous State Space, theories of control and tracking of dynamic systems developed by Zadeh constitute the basis of modern science of control. Based on these theories NASA designs, develops and implements various purpose control systems.

The most popular theory of Zadeh is the Fuzzy Logic Theory. This theory has extended the theory of binary sets that forms the foundation of mathematics through introduction of the concept of Fuzzy Sets. In science the introduction of fuzzy dimension has created an opportunity for more adequate reflection of uncertainty present in processes developing in nature and society.

Soft Computing theory of Zadeh constitutes the basis of new technologies through intellectual combination of methods of fuzzy logic, artificial neuron networks, genetic algorithms, theory of chaos and probabilistic inference paradigms.

In computers working on the basis of “Verbally operated computers” theory of Zadeh the words and phrases are used for granulation of information. Computers of this type are capable of making approximate logical inference and are the most adequate models of human brain, which process the information on the basis of representations.

The Theory of Representations of Zadeh offers methods that allow quick obtaining of complete information about surrounding world without performing of accurate measurements. The purpose of this theory is to develop principles and methods for creation of artificial knowledge representation systems similar to those of human being.

L.Zadeh is the Scientific Editor or Member of Editorial Board of 54 scientific journals in the fields of Soft Computing and Fuzzy Logic.

L.Zadeh is considered to be the most referenced scientific author in the world. Just in 1990-2000 there were more than 36000 references made with regard of his articles and monographs.

L.Zadeh is the member of a big number of foreign Academies of Sciences. He has received a big number of awards and medals from various honour societies. He is the Honoured Doctor of many foreign state and public organizations.

Lotfi Zadeh has been elected as an Honoured Member of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.



**MAHAMMAD HASAN SHAKAVI**  
**(1854–1932)**

Movlazadeh Mahammad Hasan Ismayil oglu Shakavi is considered a noble Azerbaijani religious leader, “alim” and scholar who was the first Sheikh Ul-Islam (Islamic Leader) of the Caucasus and the first scholar who translated Koran into Azerbaijani language and provided its detailed commentary and interpretation.

Mahammad Hasan was born in 1854. He received his first religious education at Shaki mollakhane, which he later continued at Ganja Madrasa. After graduation from madrasah he served for a few years as mullah (mosque leaders) of Ganja Jum’a mosque. He later decides to continue his education and for this purpose travels to Iraq where he advances his degree in religion studies.

In 1891 he returns to the Caucasus and publishes the first joint Hijri and Christian calendars in Farsi.

In 1893 Mahammad Hasan Movlazadeh starts teaching Islamic religious law (Shariat and Fiqh) at Tiflis Muslim Religious Scholl. He later serves as Ghazi of Jabrayil, Ganja, Tiflis and Kutaisi regions.

In 1908 Mahammad Hasan Movlazadeh had been elected as the First Sheikh ul-Islam of Muslims of the Caucasus.

In 1908 in Tiflis he publishes “Kitab əl-bəyan fi təfsir əl-Quran” - the two-volume edition of Koran’s translation and interpretation. This work has been re-published in Baku in 1990.

Movlazadeh Mahammad Hasan Ismayil oglu Shakavi died in 1932.



**MAMEDALIYEV YUSIF**  
**(1905-1961)**

Yusif Heydar oğlu Mamedaliyev was born in town of Ordubad of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan in 1905.

Y. Mamedaliyev was elected as a President of the Academy of Sciences in 1947-1951 and 1958-1961.

He graduated from the Azerbaijan Higher Pedagogical Institute in 1926.

He received his Doctor of Chemical Sciences degree and was awarded professorship in 1942. In 1945 he was elected as Academician of the Academy of Sciences. After foundation of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic of the USSR he was a Head of Petroleum Institute.

In 1951-1954 he was an Academician Secretary of the Section of Physics, Chemistry and Oil of the Academy of Sciences and in 1954-1958 he was a Rector of the Azerbaijan State University.



The catalytic processing of oil and oil gases was the main area of his research. He was a founder of petroleum chemistry in Azerbaijan. He proposed new methods of chlorination and brominating of various hydrocarbons with the use catalysts and showed the ways of obtaining coal-tetra-chloride, methyl chloride, methylene chloride and other valuable products with aid of chlorination of methane, first, with stationary catalyst and, then, on the hot layer. His research in the field of catalytic alkylation of aromatic, paraffin, cyclic paraffin hydrocarbons with aid of unsaturated hydrocarbons created an opportunity for synthesis on industrial scale of components of aviation fuel.

He obtained important results in the fields of catalytic aromatisation of benzene fraction of Baku oil, synthesis of detergents, silicon organic compounds, mass production of plastics from pyrolyzed products, studies of mechanisms of effect of Naftalan oil.

Yusif Mamedaliyev had great merit in preparation of highly qualified scientific cadre in Azerbaijan. He numerously represented Azerbaijan at scientific symposiums, congresses and forums hosted in USSR, USA, Italy, France, England, Poland, Mongolia and other countries.

The creation of Azerbaijan Astrophysical Observatory, Repository of Manuscripts, and Scientific Chemical Centre in Sumgayit are connected with his name.

The Azerbaijan Scientific Petrochemical School created by him is well known beyond the country.

He was awarded with Orders of Lenin, Labour Red Banner and Glory and a number of supreme medals of the Former Soviet Union. He was an author to more than 200 scientific publications, including 6 monographs.

Yusif Mamedaliyev died in 1961 in Baku.



**MAMEDOV KHUDU**  
**(1927-1988)**

Khudu Surkhay oglu Mamedov was born in 14.12.1927 in Marzili village, Agdam district.

He was a doctor of geology-mineralogy sciences (1970), crystallograf, professor (1973), coresspondent of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences (1976).

From 1957 he had headed the Structural Chemistry laboratory of non-organic and Physical chemistry institute of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

He has written scientific works on crystall chemistry. He has defined structure of several silicate combinations, found crystal chemical relationship between silicate combinations and borates carbonates, semi-conductor, studied molecule and crystal structure of over 50 organic complex combinations.

He used methods of electronography, X-ray spectral analysis and hydrothermal synthesis in his surveys. He has prepared highly professional scientific staff. He was conferred the order of the "Badge of Honour" and medals.

Khudu Mamedov has taken an active part in Azerbaijan National Movement.

He died on October 15, 1988 in Baku.



**MIRGASIMOV MIRASADULLA**  
**(1883-1958)**

Mirasadulla Miralesker oglu Mirgasimov was born on November 17, 1883 in Baku.

He was elected the first President of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences in 1945 and held that post through to 1947.

He graduated from the Medical Faculty of Novorossiyski University in Odessa, Ukraine, in 1913.

He was a founder of the modern medical education and science in Azerbaijan.

He received his Doctor of Medical Sciences degree in 1927 and was awarded professorship in 1929. He was elected as an Active Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic of USSR in 1945. He was one of the founders of the Academy and the Medical University. He was the first Azeri surgeon.



In 1929- 1958 he was a Professor and the Head of Department of Surgery at the Hospital.

His research activity was mainly concentrated on studies of aetiology of urolithiasis, purulent peritonitis, anaesthesiology, traumatology, urology and surgery. He was one of the authors of scientific publications and text books on general surgery written and published in Azeri language.

He was an Honoured Scientist of the Azerbaijan Republic. He was awarded Order of Lenin (the supreme decoration in Former Soviet Union) and had two Orders of Labour Red Banner and a number of other high rank medals of the Former Soviet Union. He was an author of six monographs and text books and fifty scientific publications.

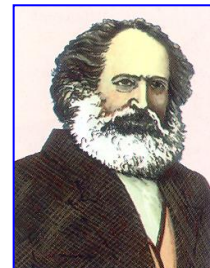
He was a founder of scientific school of medical surgery in Azerbaijan.

Mirasadulla Miralesker oglu Mirgasimov died on July 20, 1958 in Baku.

## MIRZA KAZIMBEK (1802-1870)

Mirza Kazimbek was a famous Russian orientalist, historian and philologist of Azeri origin. He was the grandfather of the Mladorossi founder Alexander Kazimbek.

Alexander Kazimbek's father, Muhammad Qasim Kazim-bey, was a prominent Azeri Muslim cleric and a native of the city of Derbent (then part of the Quba Khanate, later part of Russia), whose father (Alexander Kazimbek's paternal grandfather) Nazir Muhammad khan was paymaster general of the Derbent Khanate. On his way back from a religious pilgrimage to Mecca, Muhammad Qasim Kazim-bey visited Rasht (present-day Gilan province, Iran) and met a woman named Sharafnisa, daughter of the local governor Bagher-khan. The two married and settled in Rasht, where Kazimbek was born. In 1811, his father was appointed *cadi* in Derbent, and the family moved there. Kazimbek completed his studies in Islam and, already fluent in Azeri and Persian, also excelled in Russian, Turkish and Arabic. At the age of 17, he wrote his first book named *Topics in Grammar of the Arabic Language* (originally in Arabic). His father wanted him to become a Muslim scholar and was going to send him away to Persia and Arabia to master Islamic studies. However, in 1820, Muhammad Qasim Kazim-bey was charged with espionage on behalf of Persia, deprived of his religious title and exiled to Astrakhan along with his wife.



While residing in Derbent, young Kazimbek often met with Scottish Presbyterian missionaries. They would have long discussions during which he, then a devout Muslim, would try to "undeceive" his opponents. However, these discussions led to Kazimbek's frequent inquiries about the principles of Christianity. He started studying Hebrew and English in order to have access to more information on this subject. In 1821, Kazimbek visited his father in Astrakhan to arrange his own enrollment into foreign Islamic schools. There he once again came across missionaries and, after grave cogitation, he converted to Christianity. This resulted in conflict with his parents, who never came around to his decision. Despite this fact, Kazimbek was later one of the few European scholars who strongly disagreed with the view that Islam was an obstacle to social development - a stance which was common among Westerners in the 19th century.

Kazimbek was an author of several historical books. He wrote *Assab as-Sayyar* (Seven Planets) on the history of the Crimean khans from 1466 to 1737 (in Turkish) and *The Study of the Uyghur on Ancient Uyghurs* in 1841. He also translated Muhammad Avabi's *Darband-nameh* (17th century book on the history of Dagestan) into English and published it in 1850. His biggest historical work was *Báb and the Bábis: Religious and Political Unrest in Persia* in 1848-1852, which he published in 1865. His other works were mostly focused on Islamic studies: *Concordance of the Koran* (1859), *Muridism and Shamil* (1859), *History of Islam* (1860), etc.

Kazimbek started his career as a linguist by translating Christian books into Oriental languages. In addition to the languages he already knew, he learned French, German and Tatar. In 1825, he received an invitation to complete his bachelor's degree in London. However the Russian government refused to let him out of the country, fearing that Kazimbek would choose to stay and work in England upon graduation. Instead by Imperial decree he was appointed as a teacher of the Tatar language in Omsk, thus being held away from his academic instructors. He never made it to Omsk as, while staying in Kazan due to an illness, Kazimbek met historian Karl Fuchs and was invited by him to pass an academic test to determine Kazimbek's eligibility to teach Arabic and Persian at Kazan University. The test was passed and Kazimbek was hired as a senior teacher. In 1828, he was chosen to be a member of the Royal Asiatic Society and became head of the newly-established Faculty of Turkic languages at Kazan University. In 1831, he attained a master's degree after writing an academic essay called *Views on the History and Vocabulary of the Arabic Language* (in Persian). In 1835 he was admitted to the Russian Academy of Sciences as a Corresponding Member. In 1837, he earned a Ph.D. degree at Kazan University. In 1839, he wrote a detailed work called *Grammar of the Turco-Tatar language* (at that time, most Turkic languages were regarded as dialects of one single language unit often referred to as 'Tatar' or 'Turco-Tatar'), where he compared Ottoman Turkish, Azeri and various dialects of Tatar in terms of their phonology, morphology, and syntax and for which he received the Demidov Prize. The second edition of this book was published in 1846 and incorporated the author's latest research in the field. It became popular in

Western Europe, being the richest academic source on the Turkic languages at that time, and was used in universities as a primary reference book until 1921, when Jean Deny published his Grammar of the Turkish language (Ottoman dialect).

In 1849, Kazimbek was transferred to St. Petersburg University, which by his initiative was reorganized into the main Russian post-secondary institution for studying Oriental languages. In 1855, he became dean of the newly-formed faculty. In 1863, he secured the establishment of the Department of Oriental History. He organized internships for students who showed interest in field studies of Oriental cultures. In 1854, he published another linguistic work named Study Manual for Turkish Language Courses, which included several reading materials typed in various scripts, and a Russian-Turkish dictionary of 6,700 words (the richest one at the time). That same year, he also published The Explanation of the Russian Words Similar to Those in Oriental Languages, a major work on loanwords in the Russian language.

Mirza Kazimbek died in 1870 in St. Petersburg.

## NASIR AL-DIN AL-TUSI (1201-1274)

Nasir Al-Din Al-Tusi (Abu Jafar Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Ibn al-Hasan Nasir al-Din al-Tusi), was born in Tus (Khurasan) in 1201.

Educated first in Tus, where his father was a jurist in the Twelfth Imam school, the main sect of Shi'ite Muslims, al-Tusi finished his education in Neyshabur, about 75 kilometers (50 miles) to the west. This was no doubt a prudent move as Genghis Khan (d. 1227), having conquered Beijing in 1215, turned his attention to the Islamic world and reached the region around Tus by 1220. In about 1227 the Isma'ilite governor Nasir al-Din 'Abd al-Rahim offered al-Tusi sanctuary in his mountain fortresses in Khorasan. Al-Tusi in turn dedicated his most famous work, *Akhlaq-i nasiri* (1232; *Nasirean Ethics*), to the governor before being invited to stay in the capital at Alamut, where he espoused the Isma'ilite faith under the new imam, Alaaddin Muhammad (reigned 1227–1255). (This Isma'ilite state began in 1090 with the conquest of Alamut by Hasan-e Sabbah and ended with the fall of the city to the Mongols in 1256). During this period, al-Tusi wrote on Isma'ilite theology (*Tasawwurat*; “Notions”), logic (*Asas al-iqtibas*; “Foundations of Inference”), and mathematics (*Tahrir al-Majisti*; “Commentary on the *Almagest*”).



With the fall in 1256 of Alamut to Hülegü Khan (c. 1217–1265), grandson of Genghis Khan, al-Tusi immediately accepted a position with the Mongols as a scientific adviser. (The alacrity with which he went to work for them fueled accusations that his conversion to the Isma'ilite faith was feigned, as well as rumours that he betrayed the city's defenses.) Al-Tusi married a Mongol and was then put in charge of the ministry of religious bequests. The topic of whether al-Tusi accompanied the Mongol capture of Baghdad in 1258 remains controversial, although he certainly visited nearby Shi'ite centres soon afterward. Profiting from Hülegü's belief in astrology, al-Tusi obtained support in 1259 to build a fine observatory (completed in 1262) adjacent to Hülegü's capital in Maragheh (now in Azerbaijan). More than an observatory, Hülegü obtained a first-rate library and staffed his institution with notable Islamic and Chinese scholars. Funded by an endowment, research continued at the institution for at least 25 years after al-Tusi's death, and some of its astronomical instruments inspired later designs in Samarkand (now in Uzbekistan).

Al-Tusi was a man of exceptionally wide erudition. He wrote approximately 150 books in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish and edited the definitive Arabic versions of the works of Euclid, Archimedes, Ptolemy, Autolycus, and Theodosius. He also made original contributions to mathematics and astronomy. His *Zij-i Ilkhani* (1271; “*Ilkhan Tables*”), based on research at the Maragheh observatory, is a splendidly accurate table of planetary movements. Al-Tusi's most influential book in the West may have been *Tadhkirah fi 'ilm al-hay'a* (“*Treasury of astronomy*”), which describes a geometric construction, now known as the al-Tusi couple, for producing rectilinear motion from a point on one circle rolling inside another. By means of this construction, al-Tusi succeeded in reforming the Ptolemaic planetary models, producing a system in which all orbits are described by uniform circular motion. Most historians of Islamic astronomy believe that the planetary models developed at Maragheh found their way to Europe (perhaps via Byzantium) and provided Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543) with inspiration for his astronomical models.

Today al-Tusi's *Tajrid* (“*Catharsis*”) is a highly esteemed treatise on Shi'ite theology. He made important contributions to many branches of Islamic learning, and under his direction Maragheh sparked a revival of Islamic mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, and theology. In the East, al-Tusi is an example par excellence of the hakim, or wise man.

**SALMANOV FARMAN**  
**(1931-2007)**

Farman Gurban oglu Salmanov was an Azerbaijani geologist famous for discovering great oil fields in Western Siberia in Tyumen Oblast in 1961.

Farman Salmanov was born in the village of Morul, Shamkhir region of the Azerbaijan SSR in the family of farmers. After graduating from school with honors, he entered the Azerbaijan Industrial Institute and upon graduation was sent to explore oil in Kuzbass. He soon realized that there was no oil in Kuzbass, and decided to move with volunteers from his exploration team to Surgut in Siberia without the consent of the Soviet authorities. According to the doctrine prevailing at the time in the Soviet geological science Siberia was not considered an oil-bearing region. The authorities tried to initiate criminal prosecution of Salmanov, but had to give a post factum approval of his mission when his team threatened they would go on strike.



Salmanov struck oil on March 21, 1961 in the Megion field. He sent all his opponents similar telegrams: "Dear comrade, an oil fountain is gushing from the depth of 2,180 meters in Megion. Is it clear?" His opponents in the Soviet Ministry of Geology said that it was a natural anomaly and that the oil fountain would soon exhaust. When Salmanov struck the second oil reserve in Ust-Balyk, he sent a telegram to the 22nd Communist Party Congress to the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev: "I found oil. That's it." The Soviet leaders realized the importance of Salmanov's discoveries, and Siberian oil soon became the main driving force of Soviet economy and a primary source of hard currency for the Soviet budget.

Farman Salmanov dedicated fifty years of his life to the oil-and-gas industry of the Soviet Union and Russia, and discovered or participated in the discovery of over one hundred fields, including such huge oil and gas reserves as Mamontovskoye, Megionskoye, Pravdinskoye, Ust-Balykskoye, Surgutskoye, Urengoyenskoye, Yamburgskoye, etc. He was awarded the title of the Hero of Socialist Labor in 1966 and the Lenin Prize in 1970. From 1978 to 1987 Salmanov headed the Glavtyumengeology, an organization in charge of oil and gas exploration in Tyumen Oblast. In 1987–1991 he was the first deputy to the Minister of Geology of the USSR. Until his death, Salmanov was an adviser to the president of Russian Itera Gas Company. Farman Salmanov was doctor of geological-mineralogical sciences, a Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the author of over 160 monographs and scientific works. He was an honorary citizen of Khanty-Mansi and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrugs, the city of Surgut, and the state of Texas. A number of feature and documentary films were dedicated to Salmanov's story.

**SHAMS TABRIZI**  
**(1185 -1248)**

Shams-e-Tabriz, origin Azeri, was an Iranian Sufi mystic born in the city of Tabriz in Iranian Azerbaijan. He introduced Mawlana Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi, usually known as Rumi in the West, into Islamic mysticism, for which he was immortalized by Rumi's poetry collection *Diwan-e Shams-e Tabriz-i* ("The Works of Shams of Tabriz"). Shams lived together with Rumi in Konya, in present-day Turkey, for several years, and is also known to have traveled to Damascus in present-day Syria.

According to tradition, there was a famous incident in which Rumi was reading and he had a huge pile of books in front of him. Shams Tabriz was passing by and asked Rumi, "What are you doing?" Rumi scoffingly replied, "Something you cannot understand." On hearing this, Shams threw all of Rumi's books in water. Rumi hastily took the books out of the water, but to his surprise, they were all dry. Rumi then asked Shams, "What is this?" To which he replied, "Rumi, this is what you cannot understand."

There is another incident according to tradition similar to the one above, possibly a variant of the same tale. Rumi was asked about his books by Shams one day, whom Rumi regarded as an uneducated-looking stranger, and he snapped back at Shams's inquiry dismissively by stating, "They are something that you do not understand!" At that moment, the books suddenly caught fire, and Rumi asked Shams to explain what had happened. His reply was, "Something you do not understand."

After several years with Rumi, Shams left him quite suddenly and traveled to Khoy and settled there. Shams Tabrizi died in Khoy and is buried there. His tomb has been nominated as a World Cultural Heritage Center in UNESCO.

As the years passed, Rumi attributed more and more of his own poetry to Shams as a sign of love for his departed friend and master. Indeed, it quickly becomes clear in reading Rumi that Shams was elevated to a symbol of God's love for mankind, and that Shams was a sun ("Shams" is Arabic for "sun") shining the Light of God on Rumi.



**KHALILOV ZAHID**  
**(1911-1974)**

Zahid Ismayil oğlu Khalilov was born on January 14, 1911 in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

He was a President of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic in the years 1962-1967.

Over the period of 1944-1974 he held the positions of: the Head of the Department of Theoretical Mechanics at the Baku State University in 1944 – 1960; Academician-Secretary of the Section of Physics, Mathematics and Technical Sciences of the Academy of Sciences in 1957- 1959; Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences in 1967-1974.



His main area of research was the functional analysis and its application to solution of integral and differential equations, mechanics of continua, mathematical theory of systems of automatic control and other fields of mathematics.

Being one of the first Azeri scientists-mathematicians, Z. Khalilov was a founder of scientific school of the functional analysis in Azerbaijan. He found solution to general boundary (-value) problem for poly-harmonic systems of equations, obtained analogue to Fourier method for resolution of mixed problems with indivisible variables and developed the net method for resolution of model equation of the mixed type. He created a theory of abstract singular operators and found solution to the array of problems of subterranean hydromechanics applied in development of oil and gas deposits. He also researched a spectrum of non self-conjugate operators in banach space.

He had great merits in training of highly qualified scientific cadre in Azerbaijan and was elected the President of the Azerbaijan Mathematical Society.

Zahid Khalilov died on February 04, 1974 in Baku.

**ZEYNALABDIN SHIRVANI**  
**(1780-1838)**

Zeynalabdin Shirvani, also known as Tamkin, was an Azerbaijani geographer, philosopher and poet.

Shirvani was born to a family of a Muslim cleric Isgandar Shirvani in Shamakhy (then the capital of the Shirvan Khanate, now a city in Azerbaijan). In 1785 the family moved to Karbala (present-day Iraq) where Zeynalabdin Shirvani was admitted to a religious school and studied mostly Islamic subjects as well as Persian, Arabic and Turkic languages (Azeri, Turkish and Turkmen). In 1796, he moved to Baghdad where he spent a year studying geography, literature, philosophy, medicine, astronomy, and mathematics. At the age of 17, he went on his first journey. By the end of his life he will have travelled over 60,000 kilometres within 37 years.

Zeynalabdin Shirvani had been interested in exploring Asia and almost never visited Europe. He was attached to his homeland and turned down many offers of local lords who were fascinated by his erudition and wanted him to settle on their lands (in Egypt, Turkey, etc.).

During his first journey, Shirvani visited what are now Azerbaijan, Iraq, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh.

His second journey included Iran, Oman, Yemen, Ethiopia, Sudan (he is considered the last Eurasian to visit the independent Kingdom of Darfur in 1820), Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the Levant, and Turkey.

Finally, on his third journey he travelled to Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Iraq.

In between those journeys, Shirvani also went on several small trips within Iran and Azerbaijan. He wrote reflections on all of his travellings in four books (all of them in Persian):

Riyadh as-Sayahat (The Flower Garden of Journeys) - it consists of two volumes written in 1822 and 1827 respectively. Parts of the book are now kept at the British Museum and the St Petersburg branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Volume I contains brief historical overview of Iran (including a complete list of ancient and medieval royal dynasties, and biographies of Mazdak, Babak and of over 60 poets), as well as detailed geographic material on Iranian Azerbaijan, Armenia, Shirvan, Talysh, Mughan, Khorasan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Gilan, Kurdistan, and Fars. Volume II (thought to have been lost but rediscovered in mid-20th century) contains similar information on Central Asia, Turkey, Arabia and India.

Hadaiq as-Sayahat (The Gardens of Journeys) is an alphabetised list of geographic localities (including states, cities and rivers) in the Middle East, and their detailed description. Shirvani worked on this book for 30 years. The copies of Hadaiq as-Sayahat are kept at the British Museum, the Bibliothèque nationale de France and a private library in Iran.

Bustan as-Sayahat (The Flower Bed of Journeys) - this book was written in 1832 but was first published 65 years later. In the first three chapters of the book, the author talks about prominent Middle Eastern scholars, literati and clergy. The fourth chapter contains geographic, cultural and ethnographic information on virtually all regions visited by Shirvani. In Bustan as-Sayahat, he also mentioned countries he did not visit (mainly Russia, France, Austria and the United States) but has done research based on written sources of the time, as well as on his discussions with the scholars. At the end of the book, Shirvani introduces an educational program aimed at encouraging wealthy classes to sponsor education for talented youths who came from poor families and proposed ways of facilitating living conditions for lower classes. The copies of this book are kept in the United Kingdom, Russia, Georgia, and Iran.

Kashf ul-Maarif (The Discovery of Enlightenment) represents a rather philosophical piece of writing. It consists of Shirvani's biography in the preface, his meetings with famous scholars, and their beliefs and theories. The only copy of the book was discovered by Azerbaijani historian Agamir Guliyev in Kabul in 1973. The book was never published and the manuscript remained at Guliyev's private library.

It is important to note that Shirvani accepted the possibility of making inaccurate statements, as he was often persecuted by Islamic feudals (who regarded his books as a "threat to the religion"), and a work



on which he had worked for 25 years was stolen from him and burned by Muhammad Qasim of Gumsha. It took Shirvani a long time to partially restore the lost data.

Shirvani got married in Shiraz in the early 1820s. He had two sons one of whom died early and the other, Husamaddin Ali, followed his father's footsteps and also became a geographer.

In 1838, Shirvani planned a pilgrimage to Mecca but died of an unknown disease on a ship near Jeddah (present-day Saudi Arabia), where he was buried.

## POETS AND WRITERS

### ABDULLA SHAIG (1881-1959)

Abdulla Shaig, Azerbaijani poet, was born in Marneuli. His father Mustafa Talibzadeh was an akhoond at the Caucasus Muslim Clerical Board, who taught Islamic law, Persian and Arabic at a secondary school in Tiflis (then Tbilisi). In 1883, due to a strained relationship with her husband, Shaig's mother Mehri Bayramli moved with her two sons and a daughter to Khorasan (Iran), where Abdulla Shaig later attended a school. As a teenager, he wrote ghazals and translated a number of pieces from the Russian literature into Persian. In 1901, at the age of 20, he permanently settled in Baku and passed an examination at the First Alexandrian Gymnasium becoming a certified teacher. He worked in the field of public education for the next 33 years.



Shaig was a romanticist and a children's author. His plays and folklore-oriented tales first started being published in local newspapers and magazines in 1906. Later he was also known for writing short stories that illustrated bitter consequences of poverty and economic ordeals faced by the working class in pre-Soviet Russia. This made Shaig's works particularly popular in the Soviet Union. His celebration of internationalism and pacifism earned him great success as a writer. Despite his academic work aimed at promoting Azeri culture and somewhat open anti-Stalinist views, he is not believed to have been persecuted by the state.

Shaig managed literature with his teaching career. He was the author of many language and literature textbooks, published from 1909 through 1920. During the brief independence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918–1920 he showed strong ideological support for the ruling party of Musavat.

He also translated numerous works by Shakespeare, Defoe, Pushkin, Lermontov, Krylov, Gorky, Nekrasov, Nizami, and Firdowski into Azerbaijani.

## ABDULLAYEV CHINGIZ

Chingiz Akif oğlu Abdullayev was born on April 7, 1959 in Baku. He is an Azerbaijani writer, current Secretary of the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan.

Unlike many other Azerbaijani writers who studied philology, Abdullayev obtained his Doctorate in Law from Baku State University (1991).

Abdullayev graduated from the faculty of law of Baku State University and began working for the Soviet Defense Ministry in 1981. He was wounded twice in the line of duty. Abdullayev was decorated by the Soviet government with the Order of the Red Banner, Order of the Red Star and medals. His decision to make writing a full-time career became clear to him after his friend, a fellow Soviet spy was double-crossed and killed by a shotgun blast to the back on an Angolan street in 1983.



Abdullayev wrote his first novel in 1985. It was barred from publication because of the secrets it revealed, but by 1988 the Soviet censorship was relaxed, and his book was published. His writing became an almost overnight success and he quit the intelligence service a year later.

He is known mostly for his detective novels, which became extremely popular throughout the former Soviet Union and continue to attract readers not only in the CIS but also throughout the world.

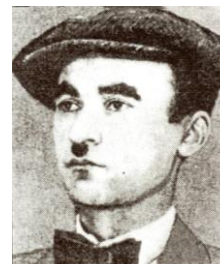
Abdullayev has been published more than any other Azerbaijani writer. His books sold more than 20 million copies - mostly in the genre of detective novels and short stories in the Russian language.

He has authored more than 86 works, including novels and short stories, which have been published in 17 languages in 23 countries throughout the world.

## ALMAS ILDYRYM (1907-1952)

Almas Ildyrym was born on 25 March 1907 in Baku. He was an Azerbaijani poet. After the Bolsheviks established their power in Azerbaijan in 1920, the fact that Ildyrym had been born into a wealthy merchant family plagued him for the rest of his life. Though he was accepted to the faculty of Oriental Literature at Azerbaijan State University, it wasn't long before they dismissed him because of his family origins.

In 1926, Almas co-authored a book of poems, *Dün bugün* ("Yesterday is Today") with Suleyman Rustam. Soon he was exiled to Dagestan for the nationalist ideas in his poems. While in exile, he wrote *Dağlardan xatirələr* ("Memories from the Mountains"), *Ləzgi elləri* ("Lezgi Lands"), *Krımда axşamlar* ("Evenings in Crimea"), *Səlimxan*, and *Günah kimdədir?* ("Whose Fault is It?"). Two years later, he returned to Baku and published a collection of poems entitled, *Dağlar Səslənərkən* ("When Mountains Make a Sound", 1930). However, the distribution of this book was prohibited and the author was banned from the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan



Again, he was exiled, this time to Turkmenistan where he worked as a school director. But because he was constantly repressed, he decided to escape to Iran with his family. However, while crossing the border into Iran, he was caught and made to stay in water up to his chest for hours.[2] Upon being released, he decided to leave for Eastern Anatolia in Turkey.

Many of his works describe the longing he had for his native land. He published his poems about his love and longing for his country in the magazines *Qurtuluş* ("Salvation") in Germany, *Çinar altı* in Kars, as well as *Kok Boru*, *Organ*, *Ozlayish* and in the Van newspaper in Turkey. He published the poems that he had written up until 1936 in the book *Undying Poem*. Other books are Azerbaijani songs and Azerbaijani bayatis.

**AKHUNDOV MIRZA FATALI**  
**(1812-1878)**

The great Azerbaijani prose writer, dramatist, philosopher, enlightener and the founder of the modern realist school and literary criticism M.F. Akhundov opened a new stage in the literary history of Azerbaijan.

Akhundov was born in 1812 in Shaki (named under Russian rule Nukha) in the family of Mammadtaghi, who was originally from Southern Azerbaijan. His parents, and especially his uncle Haji Alaskar, who was Fatali's first teacher prepared young Fatali for a career in priesthood, but the young man was attracted to the literature. Akhundov's encounter in Ganja in 1832 with Mirza Shafi Vazeh, a famous Azerbaijani lyric and philosopher, who won world-wide fame yet in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with his works translated into almost all European languages, was an event of paramount importance, which is considered to have influenced the further whole fate of the writer. In Akhundov's words it was Vazeh, who inspired him with "enlightened ideas, removing from [his] eyes the veil of ignorance". Later in 1834 he moved to Tiflis (present-day Tbilisi, Georgia), where he worked as a translator of Oriental languages. In Tiflis his acquaintance and friendship with the exiled Russian Decembrists A. Bestuzhev-Marlinsky, A. Odoyevsky, poet J A. Polonsky and others played a large part in formation of Akhundov's views.



Akhundov's first published work was the "Oriental Poem" (1837) written on the death of the Great Russian poet A.S. Pushkin. But the rise of Akhundov's literary activity comes to 50s of XIX c. In the first half of the 50s Akhundov wrote six comedies – the first comedies in the Azerbaijani literature as well as the first samples of the national dramaturgy. The comedies by Akhundov are unique in their critical pathos, mercilessness of the analysis of the Azerbaijani reality of the first half of XIX c. These comedies found numerous responses in the Russian, German, French and other foreign periodical press. The German "Magazine of Foreign Literature" called Akhundov "dramatic genius", "an Azerbaijani Moliere". Akhundov's sharp pen is directed against everything that hindered the way of progress, freedom and enlightenment, and in the same time his comedies are imbued with the feeling of faith in the bright future of the Azerbaijani people.

In 1859 Akhundov, with difficulties, published his short but famous novel "The Deceived Stars". By this novel he laid the foundation of realistic prose, giving the models of a new genre in Azerbaijani literature. By his comedies and dramas Akhundov established realism as the leading trend in Azerbaijani literature.



**AKHUNDOV SULEYMAN SANI**  
**(1875-1939)**

Suleyman Sani Akhundov was an Azerbaijani playwright, journalist, children's author, and teacher. He chose the name Sani (Arabic for "the second") to avoid confusion with his namesake, Mirza Fatali Akhundov.

Akhundov was born to a bey (lord) family in Shusha and graduated from the Transcaucasian Teachers Seminary (in present-day Gori, Georgia) in 1894. He was involved in teaching and journalism for the rest of his life. He was the co-author of the Azeri language textbook "İkinji il" published in 1906. After Sovietization he served as Minister of Education of Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast for a short period of time. His first fictional piece called Tamahkar ("The Greedy One") was written in 1899. Between 1912 and 1913 he wrote a pentalogy entitled Gorkhulu naghillar ("Scary Stories"), which dealt with the theme of poverty and social inequality and therefore became one of the most popular children books later in the Soviet epoch. In his works written after 1920 he continues with the criticism of patriarchal norms, social backwardness, and despotism of the ruling class, and describes the expectations of people from the newly-established political system.



## **BAKIKHANOV ABBASGULU** **(1794-1847)**

According to other sources, Bakikhanov was born on 10 June 1794. His childhood contemporized with a defining epoch in the history of the Caucasus—the era of battles between Russia and Persia over political domination in the region. Bakikhanov was the son of the 9<sup>th</sup> Khan of Baku, Mirza Muhammed II. He began his academic studies at the age of 7 and soon excelled in Persian. In 1813, seven years after the abolition of the khanate's sovereignty, the family moved to Quba, where Bakikhanov studied social and life sciences, humanities, and languages. Within the next ten years, he learned Arabic, Turkish, and Russian, followed later by French and Polish. In 1818, he established the first Azeri literary society Golestan-i Iram. His poetry at this early phase displayed Bakikhanov's deep moral and philosophical involvement in Islam. In 1820, he enlisted in the Russian army as an interpreter and got a commission for taking part in suppressing the rebellious Kazikumukh Khanate (present-day southern Dagestan).



Bakikhanov actively participated in political life of the Caucasus. He was a member of the Russian diplomatic mission that was in charge of negotiating border issues between Russia and Persia in the 1820s. In 1823, he assisted in gathering ethnographic information for the Description of the Province of Karabakh. In 1828, he was among the Russian military command under General Paskevich that took part in peace negotiations with Persia, which resulted in signing the Treaty of Turkmenchay. He managed to convince Khan Ehsan of Nakhichevan, as well as a number of Kurdish leaders of Persia to ally with Russia. The year after Bakikhanov was awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Medal of St. Vladimir for participating in the siege of Kars in the Russo-Turkish War of 1828-1829. For a while he served at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in St. Petersburg, and had travelled to Kaunas, Riga, and Warsaw before he retired in 1835 and returned to the village of Amsar near Quba.

Bakikhanov's religious views were generally liberal due to major European influences. He criticized fanaticism among the religious masses and the Obscurantism of the clergy. He promoted the Islamic culture in the region and in Russia as a whole. His ultimate goal was to establish a Muslim college in Baku and an Oriental languages school in Tiflis. In 1832, he came up with a project for establishing a major educational institution for Muslims, where subjects would be taught in Russian, Persian, and Azeri. He went further, and wrote a number of textbooks through which students were expected to study. The project was sent to the governor of the Caucasus for approval but unfortunately was disregarded and never looked into. Bakikhanov also translated several fables by Ivan Krylov into Azeri — however, only one has been preserved till nowadays. His greatest accomplishment in the field of education was writing Qanun-i Qudsi, the first Persian grammar manual published in history. Riyadh al-Quds (The Holy Garden). Bakikhanov's wrote his first book (in Azerbaijani) under religious influence from the Muslim communities of Quba.

Golestan-i Iram (The Blooming Flower Garden) is one of his major works (written in Persian) and dedicated to the history of the East Caucasus from Ancient Times to 1813. Kitab-i Asgariyya (The Book of Asgar) was Bakikhanov's first fiction book: a love story of two young people, persecuted by the fanatic society they lived in. The book was written in the Persian language. Qanun-i Qudsi (The Holy Law) was the first book in history entirely dedicated to grammar of the Persian language. Originally written in Persian in 1831, it was translated into Russian in 1841 and became one of the bases for the development of iranistics in Russia.

The book Mishkat al-Anwar (The Cresset Niche) is an almanach of fables, parables, as well as some quotes from the Qur'an and references to Sufi mysticism overall aimed at preserving social values and morals within society. The book was written in Persian. Kashf al-Qaraib (The Discovery of the Caribbean) was one of the school books written by Bakikhanov in the early 1830s in Persian, where he describes the discovery of the Americas.

In 1845, Bakikhanov went on a hajj. On his way to the holy Islamic sights, he was warmly received by the Shah of Persia and was awarded a Shir-e Khorshid, the highest ranking Persian medal. There he also visited Isfahan, Yazd, Shiraz, and Kermanshah. In Constantinople, Bakikhanov had an audience with the Sultan, who showed interest in some of his academic writings, particularly in Asrar al-Malakut, of which he was presented a copy. From there, Bakikhanov went to visit Mecca and Medina. On his way

from Medina back to Damascus he caught cholera and died in the small town of Wadi Fatima in Hejaz (present-day Saudi Arabia) in 1847.

**BANINE**  
**(1905-1992)**

Umm El-Banu Asadullayeva was a French writer of Azeri descent - a grand-daughter of two famous Azeri millionaires: Shamsi Asadullayev and Musa Nagiyev. She wrote under the penname of Banine.

Banine had emigrated to France in 1923, following her father who was a minister in the government of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. She moved to Istanbul where she abandoned her husband whom she had been forced to marry at the age of fifteen and then fled to Paris. There, after many years, literary acquaintances, including Montherlant, Kazantzakis, and Malraux urged her to publish. Banine dedicated her later life to introducing the history and culture of Azerbaijan to France and Europe. Her most famous writings are "Caucasian days" and "Parisian days". Banine, who was the friend of the German writer Ernst Junger and Russian Ivan Bunin, tells about her conversion to Catholicism in her books.



She died in October 1992. Her obituary in the newspaper Le Figaro called her “one of those personages of La vie romanesque who traverse a century, attracting like a lodestone all the singular figures of their times”.

**CHAMANZAMINLI YUSIF VAZIR  
(1887-1943)**

Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli, sometimes spelled Chemenzemini, born Yusif Mirbaba oglu Vazirov was an Azerbaijani writer and political figure.



Chamanzaminli was born into a well-to-do family of Mirbaba and Aziza Vazirov in the city of Shusha. His father was a mugham teacher and a connoisseur of Islamic literature, who spoke Persian and Turkish fluently and had travelled a lot throughout the region.

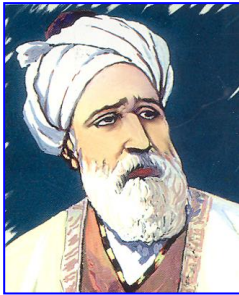
After graduating from the primary school of Kor Khalifa in 1895, Chamanzaminli pursued his studies at the Realschule of Shusha and later at that of Baku. He published his first work in the local Azeri-language periodicals Sada and Molla Nasraddin. In 1909 Chamanzaminli left for Saint Petersburg to get into a program at the Institute for Civil Engineers but having realized that he would not pass the placement test in mathematics, with which he had always had difficulties with, Chamanzaminli cancelled his application. While in Saint Petersburg, Chamanzaminli wrote his novel Jannatin gabzi ("A Pass to Heaven").

In 1910 Chamanzaminli was admitted to the Saint Vladimir University in Kiev to study law. When World War I broke out, the students and staff of the university were transferred to Saratov (Volga region of Russia), where Chamanzaminli graduated in 1915. For a while he worked at the judiciary chamber of Saratov and later travelled to Galicia (Central Europe). There, reflecting on the February Revolution in Russia, he wrote Talabalar ("The Students") and 1917-ji ilda ("In the year 1917"). In late 1917 he returned to Kiev to establish an Azeri cultural association. In 1918 he was chosen to represent the newly-established Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in the Ukrainian People's Republic. As a result of the Civil War, he moved to Simferopol, Crimea where he worked as a judiciary advisor. There he published his research work Lithuanian Tatars dedicated to the history and culture of Lipka Tatars. Alongside he popularized Azeri culture by publishing related articles in the local newspapers. Then until the fall of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1920 he served as an Azerbaijani ambassador to Turkey and continued to write and publish books and articles on the history, geography, economy and culture of Azerbaijan. After Sovietization, Chamanzaminli left for France where his younger brother Mir Abdulla was studying at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris.

Unable to find a job in his field, Chamanzaminli worked at automobile and locomotive plants in Clichy, Hauts-de-Seine. He also wrote for a local magazine, in a corner entitled Les lettres orientales ("Eastern Letters"). After Mir Abdulla's sudden death, Chamanzaminli applied for a permission to return to Azerbaijan, now part of the Soviet Union, and was granted it in 1926. Upon his return, he taught languages at Azerbaijani colleges and translated works of Russian writers into Azeri. He took part in the compiling of the 1934 edition of the Russian-Azeri Dictionary. In 1937 he was laid off for unclear reasons and arrested in 1940. Condemned on fabricated charges, he was exiled to the prisoners camp in the Sukhobezvodnaya station, Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, Russia, where he died three years later.

**FUZULI**  
**(1498-1556)**

Muhammed Fuzuli is one of the greatest Azeri-Turkish poets. His real name is Muhammed Suleiman oglu (poet's name and patronymic). We know almost nothing of the childhood and early youth of Fuzuli. It is generally considered that he was born app. in 1498 in Kerbela (in the area presently known as Iraq). Fuzuli belonged to the Turkic tribe of Bayat, one of the Turkoman tribes that was scattered in all over the Middle East, Anatolia and the Caucasus from X-XI cc. Although Fuzuli's ancestors were of nomadic origin, Fuzuli's family had long been town-dwellers. At that time the area where Fuzuli lived was a part of the Azerbaijani Safavid State headed by the leader of the Turkoman Shiites Shah Ismayil Safavi. When young Fuzuli devoted a poem to Shah Ismayil named Bang-u-Badeh, where he praised his reigning.



Fuzuli was a versatile and learned man, and was both ambitious to possess these qualities, and proud in possessing them. He wrote: "...I am master of all the arts in discussing beauty of expression and in disputing agreeableness of style with those who are masters of one art only. Well, all this demonstrates the total "presumption" ("fuzuli" in Arabic), but also the perfection of Fuzuli". Thus, the poet explains his nom de plume, which literally means presumptuous, but which also brings to mind fuzul, the plural of fazl meaning "virtue". He chose this pseudonym in order not to be confused with others and be "unique". He was sure that because of its unpleasant meaning nobody else would adopt it.

Fuzuli had left us writings in Azeri (Turkish), Persian and Arabic. This trilingualism was not rare among the Turkic writers of the medieval period and is explainable by their cultural formulation, which was based, in fact, on Arabic religious and scientific tradition and on Persian literary tradition. In Fuzuli's case the use of the three languages was conditioned also by his particular environment, because all three tongues were in use in Iraq, which as known from history was in XVI c. first a part of the Safavid State and later in 1534 became a part of the Ottoman Empire. The ability to write in more than one language was one of the things of which Fuzuli was most proud and one of his favorite habits was to use two or three languages alternately in some of his poetry or prose. Fuzuli wrote in Azeri Turkish not only by the fact that it was his mother tongue but also by political circumstances. Shah Ismayil Safavi, who conquered Baghdad in 1508, has left us a divan in Azeri Turkish. After the Ottoman conquest of Baghdad Turkish literature acquired even greater importance in this region. Fuzuli expressed Turkish prestige in words, which at that time was not exaggerated, "the high ranking of Turks constitute a large part of world order and a numerous category of the human species...". However, Fuzuli's fame rests mainly on his work in Azeri-Turkish and his masterpiece world-wide famous poem "Leili and Mejnun" is written in Azeri-Turkish too.

Fuzuli lived in constant need, which we know from his numerous poetic complaints. The great poet died of cholera in Kerbela in 1556.

**ZAKIR GASIM BEY**  
**(1784-1857)**

Gasim bey Zakir (Azerbaijani: Qasım bəy Zakir) was Azerbaijani poet of 19th century and one of the founders of the critical realism and satirical genre in Azerbaijani literature.

Zakir was born in 1784 in a noble family in Shusha, the capital of Karabakh khanate. His family belonged to the Javanshir ruling clan of Karabakh. Zakir's grandfather Kazim-aga was the brother of Panah Ali Khan, the founder of Karabakh khanate and of Shusha.

Zakir's childhood and youth comes to the period of upheavals in Azerbaijan, which turned into a battlefield between czarist Russia and Qajar Iran. When Karabakh finally became part of the Russian Empire, Zakir served in the Caucasian Muslim cavalry and distinguished himself in warfare, and was rewarded for his courage by the Czar.



From the 1830's Zakir, who spent his life mostly in the battlefields, settled down and began to run his household. For his straightforward and generous nature he was highly esteemed among the people. However, Zakir had many enemies too, whom he earned mainly because of his satirical verses. In his satirical poetry and fables Zakir lashed out at the vices then rampant in society, at the hypocrisy and bigotry of the clergy, at the venality of the Tsarist officials, the greed of merchants and the cruelty of the landowners. Zakir had been constantly persecuted for his satire. In 1849, under pretext that Zakir gave refuge to his relative who was in odds with the Russian government, he was exiled from Karabakh to Baku, his son and nephew being exiled to the inner parts of Russia and family being left alone in Shusha. Only after several months did Zakir with help of his friends, writer M.F. Akhundov, Georgian kniaz I. Orbeliani, and the governor of Baku M. Golyubyakin manage to return back home, whereas his son and nephew lived in exile for three years. Zakir lived in need and under the police surveillance till his last days. Only in 1857 the authorities decided to allocate a pension for him "for his deserts before the Russian State". But when this pension reached Shusha, the great poet has already departed.

Today Zakir's literary legacy has been preserved in verses ranging from sharply critical satire to the tender lyrics praising pure and passionate love.



**GATRAN TABRIZI**  
**(1009-1072)**

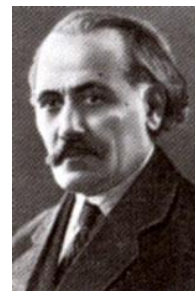
Gatran Tabrizi was a poet of whom his contemporaries wrote: "All poets are drops in the ocean, and Gatran is the ocean". He lived at the end of the X and beginning of the XI centuries. Details of his life story are not known. All information we have is that he was born in Shadiabad near Tabriz, that as a young man he went to Ganje, where he earned fame at the palace of the Shaddadies and then returned home and died there.

As a literary tradition in the medieval Islamic Orient, Tabrizi wrote in Persian, although his contemporaries insist that there were also works in Azeri-Turkish. Nasir-i-Khosrov, a well-known Persian poet, and contemporary of Gatran Tabrizi write about him in his Safar-nameh: "In Tabriz I met a poet named Gatran. He wrote good poetry, but did not know Persian well. He came to me bringing the Divans of Manjik and Daqiqi (Persian medieval poets), which he read with me questioning me about every passage in which he found difficulty. Then I explained and he write down the explanation. He also recited to me some of his own poems". Other contemporaries of Gatran Tabrizi also consecrate separate notices to Gatran but are meager in biographical details as well. Gatran's another contemporary, eminent medieval poet Rashiduddin Watwat used to say: "I consider Gatran as incontestably the master of poetry in our time, and regard the other poets as being so rather by natural genius than by artistic training". And it is certainly true, that with Gatran Tabrizi, poetry becomes infinitely more sophisticated than with most of his predecessors. He cultivated the more difficult verse forms, such as murabba (foursome), mukhammas (fivesome) and double-rhyme (dhu'l-qafiyatayn). In this latter device Gatran was especially skillful and though imitated by some later poets, is surpassed by few. Double rhyme artifice is very difficult to imitate in other languages' translation and it is the special characteristic of all his verse. That's why, for full evaluation of his merit his verses must be left to those who can read them in original.

We have inherited Gatran Tabrizi's Persian language legacy, the most noteworthy of which are his historical poems about the wars fought in the XI c., his poetry describing the earthquake in Tabriz and his love and philosophical ghazals. His great lyrical divan numbers more than 18.000 distiches. Its importance is due partly due to its poetical value and partly to the elucidatory evidence it provides concerning contemporary events, persons and customs. That's why Gatran's works has aroused the interest of historians for in many cases he has perpetuated the names of members of regional dynasties of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus that would have otherwise fallen into oblivion.

## HAGVERDIYEV ABDURRAHIM BEY (1870-1933)

Abdurrahim bey Asad bey oğlu Hagverdiyev was born in a Shusha suburb (then part of the Russian Empire, now in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan) to court reporter Asad bey Hagverdiyev and his wife Husnujahan. After losing his father, he lived with his uncle's family, and later back with his mother who had married a local official. He studied at a two-year Russian-Muslim school, then perfected his Russian at Malik-Hagnazarov's School and in 1884 enrolled in a seven-year Shusha Realschule. In his final year he was transferred to the Realschule in Tiflis. At age 14, he got acquainted with theatre for the first time by watching the adaptation of Mirza Fatali Akhundov's play *Khirs guldurban*. Upon graduating he was admitted to the Saint Petersburg Institute of Transportation Engineering and attended lectures in Oriental Studies at the Saint Petersburg University as a visiting student. During the 8-year period spent in Saint Petersburg, Hagverdiyev also excelled in French, which helped him to get to know traditions of the Western European drama.



In 1892, Hagverdiyev wrote his first dramatical piece, a comedy entitled “*Yeyarsan gaz atini, gorarsan lazzatini*”. The book was almost immediately published thanks to benevolent Muslim societies of the Russian capital. While in Saint Petersburg, Hagverdiyev wrote the first epic tragedy in the Azeri language, *Daghilan tifag* (“*The Breaking of Unity*”, 1896). In 1899 he returned to Shusha and got involved in theatre directing. Alongside he continued to write plays, namely *Bakhtsiz javan* (“*The Unlucky Young Man*”, 1900) and *Pari Jadu* (“*Nymph Magic*”, 1901). In 1907 he finished his historical tragedy “*Agha Mohammad Shah Qajar*”, which brought him great fame. Beginning in 1906 Hagverdiyev wrote for the satirical magazine *Molla Nasraddin*. In 1908 he directed Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov's opera *Leyli and Majnun*. In 1911–1916 he lived in Agdam having dedicated himself mostly to writing fiction. In the next two years he lived and worked in Tiflis as a reporter for the local Russian-language newspaper.

In 1905 Hagverdiyev was appointed to Shusha's municipal government. In 1906 he was elected to the State Duma of the Russian Empire (Russian Imperial legislative assembly) as a representative of the Elisabethpol Governorate and went off to Saint Petersburg. After its dissolution, Hagverdiyev came back to work in the insurance industry and later in a waterway transportation company. In these years, he often travelled to Iran and Central Asia.

In 1918, Hagverdiyev, who lived in Tiflis at the time and worked as a court officer, was appointed representative of Georgia's Azeri community in the Parliament of the newly-formed Democratic Republic of Georgia. At the same time he taught at an Azeri-language secondary school in Tiflis. In 1919 he accepted the invitation by the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic to serve as the Azerbaijani consul in Dagestan, and later in Armenia.

After Azerbaijan's Sovietization in 1920 Hagverdiyev was appointed head of the department for theatres in the People's Commissariat for Enlightening (early Soviet analogy of the Ministry of Education). In 1921–1931 he worked in the Oriental Studies department of the Azerbaijan State University. In 1923–1935 he was head of the Azerbaijan Society for Scientific Research, of which he was a co-founder. In 1924 he was elected Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1929 he received the title of an Honoured art worker of Azerbaijan. In 1930–1932 Hagverdiyev was Chair of the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan.[1]

Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's 40-year old productive career in literature was a successful continuation to the dramaturgic traditions initiated by Mirza Fatali Akhundov in the early to mid-1800s. In his works and articles he communicated themes like the necessity of mass education and the respect for human rights and liberties. His tragedies were true depictions of contemporary problems. Due to his education, knowledge of Western and Eastern cultures and his refined manners Hagverdiyev was widely-known and loved by Azerbaijanis, setting an example to the young generation of writers.

## HUSEYN JAVID (1880-1944)

Huseyn Abdulla oglu Rasizadeh was born in 1880 to a family of a theologian in Nakhchivan in the Irevan Governorate. After completing his elementary education at a religious school in 1898, Javid pursued his mid-school education in the Maktab-i Tarbiya of Mashadi Taghi Sidgi. In 1899–1903, Huseyn Javid studied in the Talibiyya Madrasah in Tabriz. After obtaining a degree in literature at the Istanbul University in 1909, Javid worked as a teacher in Nakhchivan, Ganja and Tiflis, and starting from 1915 in Baku.

Huseyn Javid's first book of lyrical poems titled *Kechmish gunlar* ("The Past Days") was published in 1913. However Javid was known more as a playwright. His philosophical and epic tragedies, and family dramas introduce a new line of development in Azerbaijani literature. In his literary tragedy *Sheikh Sanan* (1914), Huseyn Javid philosophized about the idea of a universal religion to lift inter-religious barrier between humans. His most famous creation, *Iblis* ("The Satan") published in 1918, exposed all oppressive forces as the supporters of "humans are wolves to each other" philosophy and "the 20th century cultural savages", and summarized them in the character of Satan. In his works, Javid criticized any form of colonialism and oppression.



During the 1920s and 1930s, Huseyn Javid authored a number of historical epics, such as *Peyghambar* ("The Prophet") in 1922, *Topal Teymur* ("Timur") in 1925, *Sayavush* ("Siyâvash") in 1933 and *Khayyam* ("Khayyâm") in 1935.

Huseyn Javid wrote during the difficult time of Collectivization and Stalin purges in the Soviet Azerbaijan. In the worst times of totalitarianism, he refused to serve as propagandist of "revolutionary socialist achievements". Javid was arrested in 1937 on trumped up charges of being a "founding member of a counter-revolutionary group that was plotting an overthrow of the Soviet power". His arrest was a part of the nation-wide campaign of purge against intelligentsia. The Soviet government exiled Huseyn Javid to the Far East, where he died on 5 December 1941 in the city of Magadan. Huseyn Javid was officially exonerated in 1956. His repatriation came only on Javid's 100th birthday in 1982, when his remains were moved from Magadan back to his homeland of Nakhchivan and reburied in a mausoleum built in Javid's honor.

**JAFAR JABBARLY**  
**(1899-1934)**

Jafar Gafar oğlu Jabbarly was born in Khizi (a small village near Baku) in 1899. After his father's death in 1902, Jabbarly's mother moved to Baku with her four children. In 1915, Jabbarly graduated from high school and studied electromechanics at Baku Polytechnicum for the next 5 years. In 1920 he was admitted to Azerbaijan State University to study applied medicine but due to his lack of interest soon switched to Oriental studies. In 1923, he started attending lectures at a local theatre to fulfill his interest in drama.

Jafar Jabbarly started writing poems in his early teenage years and was reported to have had his first poems published in the Azeri newspaper Hagigat-i Afkar in 1911. In the following years, he wrote more than 20 plays, as well as poems, essays, short stories, and articles. His works were very much influenced by the 1920s propaganda of Communist glory and celebrated appropriate themes such as equality, labour, education, cosmopolitanism, emancipation of women, cultural shifts, etc. Jabbarly's major accomplishment in introducing European plays to average Azerbaijanis was translating William Shakespeare's Hamlet into Azeri in 1925 and directing it at the Azerbaijan State Drama Theatre a year later.

Jafar Jabbarly is considered the founder of screenwriting in Azerbaijan. Two of his plays, Sevil and Almaz, were made into films in 1929 and 1936 respectively. Both focused on the theme of the role of women, their oppression, struggle, and ultimately, victory over dated patriarchal traditions.

Jafar Jabbarly died at the age of 35 of heart failure. The national film studio, Azerbaijanfilm, a street and a subway station in Baku are named after him.



**JALIL MAMMADGULUZADEH**  
**(1866-1932)**

Jalil Huseyngulu oğlu Mammadguluzadeh was an Azerbaijani satirist and writer, he was born on 22 February 1866 in Nakhchivan. In 1887, he graduated from the Gori Pedagogical Seminary and for the next 10 years was involved in teaching at rural schools in Bash-Norashen, Ulukhanli, Nehram and other towns and villages of the Irevan Governorate. Mammadguluzadeh was a strong activist of the language unification movement. He condemned many of his contemporaries for corrupting the Azeri language replacing its genuine vocabulary with the newly-introduced Russian, Persian and Ottoman Turkish loanwords, often alien and confusing to many readers. Later he became deeply involved in the process of romanization of the Azeri alphabet. In 1898, he moved to Irevan and in 1903, – to Tiflis where he became a columnist for the local Sharqi-Rus newspaper published in the Azeri language. In 1906, he founded the Molla Nasraddin satirical magazine. Frequent military conflicts and overall political instability in the Caucasus forced him to move to Tabriz, Iran, where he continued his career as a chief-editor and columnist for Molla Nasraddin. He eventually settled in Baku in 1921.



In 1907, the twice-widowed Jalil Mammadguluzadeh married Azerbaijani philanthropist and activist Hamida Javanshir. He died in Baku, in 1932. A drama theatre in Nakhchivan, a street in Baku, the city of Jalilabad (former Astrakhan-Bazaar) and the town of Jalilkand (former Bash-Norashen) were named after him.

**KHALIL RZA ULUTURK**  
**(1932-1994)**

Khalil Rza Uluturk was born in 1932 in Salyan.

In 1954, he graduated from the Department of Journalism at Azerbaijan State University (currently Baku State University). He attended courses for two years studying Literature for Writers and Poets at the Institute of Literature named after Maxim Gorky. Upon graduation, he worked at “Azerbaijani Woman” magazine. Khalil Rza obtained his Doctor of Philology Sciences in 1985. From 1969 until his death, he worked at the Institute of Literature in Baku.

In January 1990, Khalil Rza was arrested as a leader of Azerbaijani National Movement against the Soviet Union and was imprisoned for 22 months in the notorious Lefortovo prison in Moscow . During Nagorno-Karabakh War, his son Tabriz was killed in fighting on the frontline.

Khalil Rza published about 35 books (about 20 during his lifetime, and the remainder when his wife collected his writings and published them). His most well-known books include:

*Məhəbbət dastanı* (Poem of Love, 1961)

*Ucalıq* (Prestige, 1973)

*Hara gedir bu dünya?* (Where is this World Going? 1983)

*Davam edir '37* (1937 Still Lives On, 1991)

*Ayla günəş arasında* (Between the Sun and Moon, 1992)

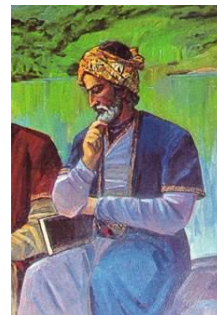
*Mən şərqəm* (I am the East, 1994)

In 1992, Khalil Rza was named National Poet of Azerbaijan and in 1995, he was posthumously awarded the Independence Order (İltisgal Ordeni). Khalil Rza died in Baku and is buried in the Cemetery of the Honored Ones (Fakhri Khiyaban).



## **KHAQANI** **(1120–1190)**

Khaghani (real name, Afzaladdin Ibrahim ibn Ali Nadjar), a great Azerbaijani poet and a master of panegyric qasida was born in the family of a carpenter in Melgem, a village near Shamakhy. Khaghani lost his father at an early age and was brought up by his uncle Qafi-eddin, a doctor and astronomer at the Shirvanshah's court, who for seven years (till his death) acted "both as nurse and tutor" to Khaghani. Khaghani's mother was a Christian of Georgian origin.



In his youth, Khaghani wrote under the pen-name Haqiqi. After he had been invited to the court of the Khaghan Shirvanshah he assumed the pen-name of Khaghani ("regal"). The life of a court poet palled on him, and he "fled from the iron cage where he felt like a bird with a broken wing" and set off a journey about the Middle East. His travels gave him material for his famous poem *Tohfat-ul Iraqain* (in Persian meaning A Gift from the Two Iraqs), the two Iraqs being 'Persian Iraq' (western Iran) and 'Arabic Iraq' (Mesopotamia). This book supplies us with a good deal of material for his biography and in which he described his impressions of the Middle East. He also wrote his famous qasida "The Arch of Madain" beautifully painting his sorrow and impression of the remains of Sassanid's Palace near the Ctesiphon.

On return home, Khaghani broke off with the court of the Shirvanshah's, and Shah Akhsitan gave order for his imprisonment. It was in prison that Khaghani wrote one of his most powerful anti-feudal poems called *Habsiyye* (Prison Poem). Upon release he moved with his family to Tabriz where fate dealt with him one tragic blow after another: first his young son died, then his daughter and then his wife. Khaghani was left all alone, and he soon too died in Tabriz. He was buried at the Poet's Cemetery in Surkhab Neighbourhood of Tabriz.

Khaghani left a remarkable Persian-language heritage which includes some magnificent odes-distiches of as many as three hundred lines with the same rhyme, melodious ghazals, dramatic poems protesting against oppression and glorifying reason and toil, and elegies lamenting the death of his children, his wife and his relatives.



## MAHSATI

(?)

Mahsati Ganjevi was a contemporary of Nizami and an outstanding XII c. Azerbaijani poetess – a rare phenomenon in the medieval Moslem Orient. No details about her life are known except that she was born in Ganje and was highly esteemed at the court of sultan Sanjar of the Seljuk dynasty. She is said to have attracted the notice and gained the favor of Sanjar by the following verse, which she extemporized one evening when the King, on going out from his audience-hall to mount his horse, found that a sudden fall of snow had covered the ground.

For thee hath Heaven saddled Fortune's steed,  
O, King, and chosen thee from all who lead,  
Now o'er the Earth it spreads a silver sheet  
To guard from mud thy gold-shod charger's feet\*



It is also known that Mahsati-khanum (khanum-a form of address in Azerbaijan applied for women) was persecuted for her courageous poetry condemning religious obscurantism, fanaticism and dogmas. Her only works that have come down to us are philosophical and love quatrains (rubaiyat), glorifying the joy of living and the fullness of love.

**MIKAYIL MUSHFIG**  
**(1908-1939)**

Mikayil Mushfig was an Azerbaijani poet of the 1930s. During the Stalinist purges in the USSR, Mikayil Mushfig was arrested and executed by the Soviet authorities at the age of 30.

Mikayil Mushfig was born in the city of Baku Governorate in 1908. He got his elementary education at Russian-Tatar School in Baku. After the establishment of the Soviet regime in Azerbaijan in 1920, he studied at Baku Teacher's School and in 1931, he graduated from the Department of Language and Literature of the Baku State University.

Mikayil started his professional career as a school teacher. While being involved in teaching he started writing poems. His first poem *Bir Gün* ("The Day") was published in the "Ganj fahla" newspaper in Baku in 1926. At about this time, he adopted the pen name Mushfig (Arabic for "tender-hearted"). Along with Samad Vurgun and Rasul Rza, Mikayil Mushfig became one of the founders of new Azerbaijani Soviet poetic style in 1930s. He translated a number of poems from Russian as well.



In his poetry, Mushfig glorified the work of industrial workers and peasants and lauded the construction of industrial enterprises in Baku and other cities. According to Mushfig's wife, Dilbar Akhundzadeh, Mikayil welcomed the transition from the Arabic script to the Roman script that took place in Azerbaijan in 1927. His excitement was expressed in the following verse

During the Stalinist purges of 1930s, resisting the state attempts to ban the "tar", Azerbaijani national instrument, Mushfig wrote a poem titled "Sing Tar, Sing".

For his attempts to protect the Azerbaijani culture from being demolished by the Soviet authorities, Mikayil Mushfig came under the barrage of criticism in the Azerbaijani Writers' Union. Some of the literary figures, serving the interests of Stalin's regime in the USSR branded Mushfig as "chauvinist" and a "petit-bourgeois poet". He was arrested in 1937, charged with treason as "the enemy of the state", and executed in 1939 in the Bayil prison near Baku. He was later officially exonerated.

**MIR JALAL PASHAYEV**  
**(1908-1978)**

Mir Jalal Ali oghlu Pashayev, known by his literary pen-name Mir Jalal, was born on April 26, 1908 in the village of Andabil, not far from Tabriz. During the First World War the family of Mir Jalal moved to Baku. His father was one of nearly half million people who in the search of work and better life left Iran to work in the oil fields of Baku in the early decades of the century. Some years later the family decided to return to Iran and at this time Mir Jalal was studying at a gymnasium in Ganjah. Being an extremely bright student, the school principal asked Mir Jalal's father to leave him there to continue his studies. Thus Mir Jalal was separated from his family for decades to come. He graduated from a Teaching Training College at the age of twenty and soon after became the principal of a school in the remote region of Gadabey.



Mir Jalal, who had received his degree in education in 1928 in Ganjah, two years later, went to Ghazan University in Tatarstan. Later on Mir Jalal went to the Institute of Higher Education of Baku. While studying he was doing research and writing for various newspapers. Among them the most notable was “Genj Ishchi” (Young Worker) for which many outstanding literary men of Azerbaijan contributed early in their lives. In 1933 he was working as researcher of Azerbaijani literary history at the State University of Azerbaijan. After writing a book on the Poetry of Fuzuli, the famous fifteenth century Azeri poet, as his Masters thesis, in 1947 he completed his doctoral dissertation on Literary Schools in Azerbaijan with special emphasis on the famous satirical journal “Mulla Nasereddin” (1906-1932) and its writers. It was in the same year that he became a professor at the State University of Baku and devoted his life to teaching and writing. Mir Jalal's most famous novel is “The Manifest of a Youth”, which was published in 1938 and has been translated into many languages, second novel was “Achiq Kitab” (The Open Book, 1941). Mir Jalal has written more than a dozen novels and nearly one thousand short stories, which are collected in volumes such as “The Thief in the Garden” (1937), “Congradulations!” (Gozun Ayden, 1939), “Stories of My Country” (1942), “Life Stories” (1945), ”New town”(1950), and “Simple Stories” (1955). As an artist Mir Jalal should be remembered for his originality, for the depth of his vision, humanity, for his pungent sense of humor and memorable characters that he created.

Mir Jalal died in Baku on September 28, 1978. He has been buried on the second Honorary Avenue. The one of the streets of Baku named in honour of Mir Jalal Pashayev. By the decision of the UNESCO in this year will be celebrated 100-aniversary since birthday of Mir Jalal Pashayev.

**MIRZA SHAFI VAZEH**  
**(1794-1852)**

Mirza Shafi Vazeh known as the "sage from Ganja", was one of the best-known Azerbaijani poets, who worthily continued the classical traditions of the Azerbaijani poetry of the 14th century. His verses have been translated into nearly all European languages yet at his life and played a great role in popularization of the Azerbaijani and Oriental literary thought in the West.

Vazeh was born in 1794 in Ganja. His grandfather Muhammed Shafi was one of the well-known noblemen of Ganja, and his father Kerbelayi Sadykh was a prominent architect in the palace of Javad-khan of Ganja. Young Shafi got his primary education at a madrasah, where he made a brilliant success of his studies of Arabic and Persian. Soon Vazeh had to interrupt his studies and leave the madrasah, because he was left all alone after the death of his parents and his brother and also because of his daring verses against the ignorance and fanaticism of the mullahs. He began to work first as a book copier, for which he had an excellent talent due to his beautiful handwriting skills, and then, he worked as a secretary and housekeeper in the estate of Pusta-khanum, the daughter of Javad-khan, the last ruler of Ganje. Simultaneously, Vazeh deeply enlarged his knowledge by self-education.



In 1840 Vazeh moved to Tiflis where, with help of his past student M.F. Akhundov, he secured the post of a teacher at a boy's school. In Tiflis Vazeh became engaged in literary activity more than before. In 1844 he established a literary society "Divani-Hikmet" which gathered many prominent Azeri, Russian and foreign intellectuals living in Tiflis.

Among the members of Vazeh-established "Divani-Hikmet" literary society was Friedrich Martin von Bodenstedt, a German poet and traveler, with whom Vazeh made friends and taught him the Azeri and Persian languages and literature. Vazeh rarely put his verses into written form and his friends wrote down most of his works during their gatherings. So did Bodenstedt too. Upon his return to Germany, Bodenstedt translated Vazeh's poetry into German and published it in 1851 under the name of "The songs of Mirza Shafi". The book created a stir: it was republished again and again, and translated into other European languages. However, after Vazeh's death in 1852 F. Bodenstedt denied Vazeh's authorship claiming that it was his own verses and he presented them as belonging to Vazeh in order to add some exotics to the book and thus facilitate its popularization.

Vazeh's verses, which were translated and published in all over Europe in XIX c., gained due attention in his motherland very late, only in the beginning of XX c. The Azerbaijani literary scientists S. Mumtaz and H. Hamidzade have played an important role in collecting and publishing Vazeh's original verses that have been preserved to date. In his poetry, Vazeh glorifies the joys of life, and the wisdom and goodness of Man.

## NASIMI (1370-1417)

Seyyid Ali Imadaddin Nasimi was Azerbaijani Hurufi poet in 14th-century. He was known mostly by his pen-name (or takhallus) of Nasimi. He composed one Divan in Azerbaijani Turkic, one in Persian, and a number of poems in Arabic. He is considered one of the greatest Turkic mystical poets of the late 14th and early 15th centuries and one of the most prominent early Divan masters in Turkic literary history. Some consider him as the father of the classic Turkish literature.

Stamp of the USSR devoted to Imadaddin Nasimi, 1973 (Michel 4161, Scott 4118). It's evident that Nasimi was an adherent of the Sufi Hurufi movement, which was founded by Nasimi's teacher Fazlullah Naimi of Astarabad, who was condemned for heresy and executed in Alinja near Nakhchivan. The center of Fazlullah Naimi's influence was Baku and most of his followers came from Shirvan.



Nasimi was, in fact, to become one of the most influential advocates of Hurufi doctrine, and the movement's ideas were spread to a large extent through his poetry. While Fazlullah believed that he himself was the manifestation of God, for Nasimi at the center of Creation there was God, who bestowed His Light on man. Through sacrifice and self perfection, man can become one with God. Some time around the year 1417 (or possibly 1404), as a direct result of his beliefs – which were considered blasphemous by the contemporary ulema, or religious authorities – Nasimi was seized and, according to most accounts, skinned alive in Aleppo.

A number of legends later grew up around his execution, such as the story that he mocked his executioners with improvised verse and, after the execution, draped his flayed skin around his shoulders and departed. A rare historical account of the event – the Tarih-i Heleb of Akhmad ibn Ibrahim al-Halabi – relates that the court, which was of the Maliki school of religious law, was unwilling to convict Nasimi of apostasy, and that the order of execution instead came from the secular power of the emir of Aleppo, who was hoping to avoid open rebellion.

Nasimi's tomb in Aleppo remains an important place of pilgrimage to this day.

Nasimi's collected poems, or divan, number about 300, and include ghazals, qasidas “lyrics”, and rubâ'is -“quatrains”, in Azerbaijani Turkic, Persian, and Arabic. His Turkish Divan is considered his most important work, contains 250–300 ghazals and more than 150 rubâ'is. A large body of Bektashi and Alevi poetry is also attributed to Nasimi, largely as a result of Hurufi ideas' influence upon those two groups. Shah Ismail I, the founder of Safavid dynasty in Iran, who himself composed a divan in Azerbaijani Turkic under the pen name of Khatai, praised Nesimi in his poems.

The poem serves as an excellent example of Nesîmî's poetic brand of Hurufism in its mystical form. There is a contrast made between the physical and the spiritual worlds, which are seen to be ultimately united in the human being. As such, the human being is seen to partake of the same spiritual essence as God: the phrase “lâ-mekân”, or “the placeless”, in the second line is a Sufi term used for God. The same term, however, can be taken literally as meaning “without a place”, and so Nesîmî is also using the term to refer to human physicality.[26] In his poem, Nesîmî stresses that understanding God is ultimately not possible in this world, though it is nonetheless the duty of human beings to strive for such an understanding. Moreover, as the poem's constant play with the ideas of the physical and the spiritual underlines, Nasimi calls for this search for understanding to be carried out by people within their own selves.

The Film about Nasimi in 1973 was dedicated to the 600th anniversary of Nasimi's birthday. Nasimi's work represents an important stage in the development of poetry not only in the Azerbaijani language vernacular, but also in the Ottoman Divan poetry tradition. After his death, Nasimi's work continued to exercise a great influence on many Turkic language poets, and authors such as Fuzûlî (1483?-1556), Khata'i (1487–1524), and Pir Sultan Abdal (1480 - 1550) can be counted among his followers.

Nasimi is venerated in the modern Republic of Azerbaijan, and one of the districts of the capital city, Baku, bears his name. There is also a monument to him in the city, sculpted by T. Mamedov and I. Zeynalov. Furthermore, the Institute of Linguistics at the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan is named

after him, and there was also a 1973 Azerbaijani film, Nasimi (the Azerbaijani language spelling of his name), made about him. The 600th anniversary of Nasimi's birthday was celebrated worldwide in 1973 by the decision of UNESCO, and representatives from many countries took part in the celebrations held both in Azerbaijan and in Moscow, Russia.

## NATAVAN (1832-1897)

Khurshudbanu Natavan was born on August 15, 1832 in Shusha, a town in present-day Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Being the only child in the family and descending from Panah Ali Khan, she was the only heir of the Karabakh khan, known to general public as khan gizi ("daughter of the khan").

After her father's death she was closely engaged in philanthropy, in promoting the social and cultural development of Karabakh.

Among Natavan's most famous deeds was a water pipe that she first laid down to Shusha in 1883, thus solving the water problem of the townsfolk. The local Russian "Kavkaz" newspaper wrote at the time: "...Khurshud Banu-Begum left an eternal mark in the memories of the Shushavians and her glory will pass on from generation to generation". The springs built by Natavan from famous Shusha white stones were called by the townsfolks "Natavan springs" and were also considered historical monuments under protection.



Natavan also did a lot for the development and popularization of the famous breed of Karabakh horses. Karabakh horses from Natavan's stud were known as the best in Azerbaijan. In an international show in Paris in 1867 a Karabakh horse named Khan from Natavan's stud received silver medal. In second All-Russian exhibition in 1869 the Karabakh horse named Meymun won a silver medal, another stallion Tokmak won bronze medal and while the third Alyetmez received a certificate and was made a producer stallion in Russian Imperial stud.

Natavan also founded and sponsored the first literary societies in Shusha and in the whole of Azerbaijan. One of them called Majlis-i Uns ("Society of Friends") became especially popular and concentrated major poetic-intellectual forces of Karabakh of that time.

Humanism, kindness, friendship and love were the main themes of Natavan's poems-ghazels. These sentimental-romantic poems express the feelings and sufferings of a woman who was not happy in her family life and who lost her son. Many of these poems are used in folk songs nowadays.

Natavan died in 1897 in Shusha. When she departed people, as a sign of respect, carried her coffin on their shoulders all the way from Shusha to Agdam, some 30 km north-east, where she was buried in a family vault.

During the Nagorno-Karabakh War in 1992, Natavan's residence in Shusha, similar to other historical monuments in the conflict zone, was damaged.

The monuments to Natavan and to other famous Karabakh Azeris including Hajibekov and Bul Bul in Shusha were severely damaged. These monuments, which once decorated the central streets of Shusha were dismantled by Armenian militants and intended to be sold as a scrap metal in Georgia. Polad Bulbuloghlu, then the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan rescued the bronze busts and transported them to Baku.

British journalist and writer Thomas de Waal who had witnessed the destructed monuments, wrote:

"I saw the three bronze heads, forlorn and pocked with bullets, lying in the courtyard of the headquarters of the Red Cross in the center of Baku: the poet Natevan, an earnest girl in a head scarf reading a book, missing a thumb; the composer Hajibekov, a bullet-ridden gentleman in double-breasted suit and broken spectacles; and Bul Bul, a famous singer with a serious domed bronze forehead"

Nowadays these monuments are kept in the yard of the Azerbaijani Museum of Arts in Baku. Pocked by bullet holes, they stand as another mute witness to the casualties that have resulted in the war over Nagorno-Karabakh.



**NIZAMI**  
**(1141-1203)**

Abu Muhammad Ilyas ibn Yusuf ibn Zaki Muayyad, known by his pen-name of, was born around 1141 in Ganja, the capital of Arran in Transcaucasian Azerbaijan, where he remained until his death in about 1209. His father, who had migrated to Ganja from Qom in north central Iran, may have been a civil servant; his mother was a daughter of a Kurdish chieftain; having lost both parents early in his life, Nizami was brought up by an uncle. He was married three times, and in his poems laments the death of each of his wives, as well as proffering advice to his son Muhammad. He lived in an age of both political instability and intense intellectual activity, which his poems reflect; but little is known about his life, his relations with his patrons, or the precise dates of his works, as the accounts of later biographers are colored by the many legends built up around the poet. Although he left a small corpus of lyric poetry, Nizami is best known for his five long narrative poems. Often referred to by the honorific Hakim, 'the sage', Nizami is both a learned poet and master of a lyrical and sensuous style.



Ganja, the capital of Arran (region of Transcaucasian Azerbaijan), described by the geographers as one of the most beautiful cities in Western Asia, was an important and well-fortified border town and flourishing centre of silk manufacture and trade; from the 1150s onwards it was ruled by Eldiguzids, under whom it became a major centre of literary and scholarly activity. Among the many poets Ganja produced, Nizami stands out as a towering figure.

Although the chief source of support for poets was court patronage, which would both provide a poet's livelihood and ensure his work's copying and diffusion, and although Nizami's poems are dedicated to various local princes and contain appeals to his patrons' generosity, the poet seems to have avoided court life. It's often held that he did so in order to preserve his artistic independence and integrity; yet his frequent complaints of "imprisonment" in Ganja and of the envy of rivals and detractors suggest that his isolation may not have been by choice. Despite attempts to reconstruct Nizami's biography from statements in his poems, the details of his life seem destined to remain obscure. As with all medieval poets, complaints of poverty and old age, pleas for generosity and favour, and inveighing against envious rivals are well-established poetic topoi. Nor can the poet's precise relations with his patrons, or the exact dates of composition of his poems, be accurately determined; the extant manuscripts are all considerably later than his own time, and undoubtedly contain many errors, alterations, and interpolations.

About Nizami's prodigious learning there is no doubt. Poets were expected to be well versed in many subjects; but Nizami seems to have been exceptionally so. His poems show that not only was he fully acquainted literature and with oral and written popular and local traditions, but was also familiar with such diverse fields as mathematics, geometry, astronomy and astrology, alchemy, medicine, Koranic exegesis, Islamic theology and law, history, ethnics, philosophy and esoteric thought, music and the visual arts.

The information provided above is from the introduction to English translation of "Haft Paykar" ("Seven Beauties") by Dr. Julie S. Meisami of Oxford University. This material is posted with a permission from the author.

**ORDUBADI MAMMAD SAID**  
**(1872-1950)**

Mammad Said Ordubadi was born in Ordubad in 1872. He was an Azerbaijani writer, poet, playwright and journalist.

He was initially educated at religious school, madrasa, and later studied at Mahammad Sidgi's secular school "Əxtər" (Star). Mahammad Sidgi was well-known intellectual for his enlightenment activity in Russian Azerbaijan and the rest of Caucasus in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mammad Said lost his father at early age and had to work in a textile factory.

He started writing in the 1890s. His first writing was published in Tbilisi (then Tiflis) in a newspaper "Shargi-Rus" (Oriental Russia) in 1903. In his early publications Ordubadi criticised ignorance, backwardness and religious fanaticism. In 1906 he published his poetry book "Qəflət" (Ignorance) and in 1907 "Vətən və hürriyyət" (Fatherland and Freedom) in Tbilisi. He wrote for several Azerbaijani publications, including "Molla Nasraddin", "İrşad", "Sada" and others. Ordubadi covered various political, social and educational issues. He firmly stood for the necessity of the enlightenment of the Azerbaijani society under the Russian rule. In 1911, Ordubadi published a book "Qanlı sənələr" (Bloody years) - collection of first hand accounts of the Armenian-Tatar massacres in 1905-1906. In the 1910s Ordubadi published several plays, stories and novels. In 1915 Russian authorities arrested him and exiled to Tsaritsin (Volgograd). In 1918 he joined the Communist Party and returned to Baku in May 1920, after the Bolshevik conquest of Azerbaijan.

Ordubadi became the editor-in-chief of "Əxbar", "Yeni yol", "Molla Nasraddin".

During the Soviet time Ordubadi wrote extensively novels, satiric stories, plays, librettos (to operas - "Koroğlu", "Nərgiz", "Nizami"). His famous works include "Dumanlı Təbriz" (Misty Tebriz) (1933-1948) and "Qılınc və qələm" (Sword and Quill) (1946-1948). He wrote novels about poets and writers - Nizami Ganjavi, Fizuli, Molla Panah Vagif, Mirza Alakbar Sabir and other literary figures of Azerbaijan.



**SABIR**  
**(1862-1911)**

If the artistic thought of the Azerbaijani people found its fullest epic completeness and perfection in Nizami's verses and Fuzuli's works have been the exemplars of lyric to this day, the satirical trend in Azerbaijani literature and, especially, in poetry is inseparable from the name of Sabir – the true symbol of Azeri realistic poetry. Sabir was a poet-innovator; he set up inspiring attitude to classical traditions, rejecting well-trodden ways in poetry. Never before did the people's attitude to the world, the voice of Azeri people find so splendid and complete embodiment, devoid of stylization, as in Sabir's writings.

Mirza Alekber Sabir (real name Alakbar Tahirzade) was born on May 30, 1862 in Shamakhy. The future poet was brought up in religious atmosphere. But when he was twelve years old, young Alakbar managed to enter school of Seyid Azim Shirvani, a brilliant poet and teacher. Personal contacts with this man greatly influenced formation of Sabir as a poet.



Throughout all his life poverty was Sabir's curse. He was bound to take care of his family's well-being, hardly earning a living himself and his household. No time was left for literary activity, the more so as the spectre of poverty took more and more distinct shape. Sabir tried to become a merchant, but the poet's spirit badly suited for this job and he did not succeed. Instead, he traveled a lot about the Central Asia and the Middle East and it seems that his traveling about the Muslim East had strengthened his desire to write satirical works, since he saw the appalling situation of people, their backwardness and stagnant life.

The Russian Revolution of 1905 had a powerful effect on Sabir's writing, infusing it with a revolutionary spirit. This revolution, which was followed by spreading of the democratic trends throughout the Russian Empire, marked the beginning of a new era in Sabir's literary activity. The waves of upheaval brought about a host of satirical publications. The most prominent of them was the journal "Molla Nasreddin", which was popular in all over the Caucasus, Middle East and Central Asia, its publisher being a great enlightener of Azerbaijan Jalil Mammadgulizade. It was this journal that Sabir's best, most creative mature years are associated. His pen did not miss a single political event, a single problem typical for still the feudal-patriarchal Azerbaijani society and he embodied his ideas in stirring, thought-provoking images. Sabir's verses were merciless. He wrote about the arbitrariness of Tsarist officials, landowners and beys ignorant to their people, backwardness of the clergy, the down-trodden status of women and the social situation of the working people. Sabir's poetry won him people's respect tremendous popularity, at the same time, placing him in a very risky and dangerous position. He was exposed to persecution, attacks and insults of the officials, mullahs and qochus (bouncers), who threatened him with reprisals. That's why Sabir (this pen-name of the poet mean patience) had more than fifty pen-names, but even this could not help him to escape from persecution.

Poverty, overstrain, endless caress of his large family and persecution, which wore out the poet's nerves had not passed without leaving a trace in his health. He boiled soap for living and was often ill. In 1910 the Sabir's disease of livers took a serious turn that later on was found irreversible. Even when ill, Sabir continued to write. Not long before his death he said to his friends who stood at his bed-side: "I laid my flesh down for my people. But if God would give me more time, I would lay my bones down too"...

**SAHAND**  
**(1926-1979)**

Sahand was born into a poor family in spring of 1926 in Maragha, (Iran). He had got his primary education in Maragha and then continued his study in Tabriz.

In 1945 he was a member of youth organization of Azerbaijani Democratic Party. When the Iranian government suppressed the activity of that organization, Sahand together with all his friends was put under the arrest. Being discharged in 1947 he immediately continued his political activities for freedom of Azerbaijan and became the member of one of the underground organizations at the end of 40ies. In those very years he began his literary activities and wrote first part of his first work titled “Khatira” (“Recollection”).



In 1951 Sahand was arrested again and later together with other political prisoners he was sent into exile to Tehran prison. There he wrote poem called “Aras” in which described his dream about the freedom of motherland. In 1953 he was discharged and during the unsuccessful subsequent years was trying to find a job. Finally he managed to find some job in one of the repair shops of weaving looms. He was working as a labourer all days long and reading at nights. Also in 1953 he managed to publish his first works – “Khatira” and “Aras”. He composed poems on a great Azerbaijani epos “Kitabi Dede Gorgud” and read them in literal meetings. By such poems he tried to show the deepness and breadth of the Azerbaijani culture, literature, history and language.

It should be noted that everything that concerned Azerbaijanis, their culture, language, history and traditions was cruelly suppressed by Persian chauvinism. Persian government was holding and still holds such a chauvinistic policy in order to suppress the liberty movement of Azerbaijanis. Azerbaijanis have no right to speak their native language, read their native literature, to study in their own language and etc. Till present days they are humiliated by such slogans as “Azeris have no culture”, “Azeris are not nation”, “Azeris never had history”. Not only through his political activities, but also through his poems Sahand openly showed the ridiculous policy of Iran towards the part of Azerbaijan that Iran had captured in the beginning of XIX century. Naturally since that time Southern Azerbaijan never stopped fighting for its liberty. Sahand devoted many works to the subdivision of his motherland.

In 1965 he managed to publish the first volume of his work called “Sazimin sozu”. The expression “sazimin sozu” means “the word of my saz” (saz – national Azerbaijani musical instrument). This volume was published illegally. “Sazimin Sozu” was also written on the basis of “Dede Gorgud” epos. In 1971 Sahand although illegally managed to publish the second volume of “Sazimin sozu” which was titled “Dedemin kitabi” (“The book of my father”). It is interesting to note that he did not satisfied with the simple versification of all the Dede Gorgud’s legends – at the end and in the beginning of each work he added his own “Introduction” and “Conclusion”. He linked these introductions and conclusions with the socio – political life of his motherland and his own feelings, dreams and purposes concerning the future and freedom of his nation. For all his life Sahand was struggling for liberty of Southern Azerbaijan and its reunification with Northern Azerbaijan.

In 1967 he wrote his famous poem “Armaghan” (“A Present”) and sent it to Baku. In 1968 he wrote his “Ikinchi Armaghan” (“The Second Present”) and after that he began to maintain close relationships with men of letter from Northern Azerbaijan. In the same years he wrote “Uchunju Armaghan”(“The Third Present”). As there was no opportunity for him to visit Northern Azerbaijan he could only send and receive letters from there and nothing else. Even nowadays it is very difficult and most of the times impossible for Azerbaijani from Southern Azerbaijan to visit Northern Azerbaijan. So it is natural that such a violent separation is unbearable for Azerbaijanis.

In 1969 for the first and last time Sahand managed to visit Baku. After ten years on April of 1979 Sahand died as a result of heart disease. He devoted all his life to the struggling for Azerbaijani liberty and was one of the most outstanding poets not only in Azerbaijani literature, but also in Turkey.

**SAMAD BEHRANGI**  
**(1939-1967)**

Samad Behrangi was an Azerbaijani socialist and writer. He is famous for his book for children, “The Little Black Fish”.

Born in Tabriz, Behrangi started teaching in village schools in Iranian Azerbaijan in 1957 which he continued for eleven years.

Behrangi also has stories in the Azerbaijani language and a few Azerbaijani translations from Persian poems by Ahmad Shamlou, Forough Farrokhzad, and Mehdi Akhavan-Sales.

Apart from children's stories, he wrote many pedagogical essays and collected and published several samples of oral Azerbaijani literature. His folklore studies have usually been done with the help of his colleague Behrooz Dehghani, who helped publish some of Behrangi's works after his early death.

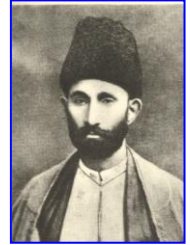
Behrangi's works for children and teens contain social themes of poverty and injustice, often with vague socialist or communist undertones, and are considered among the prominent works written for children in the Persian language in terms of structure and emotional impact. Some have criticised his alleged attempts to bias opinions of children towards socialist or communist ideas.

Behrangi drowned in the Aras River. For years, due to propaganda from the Iranian Left especially author Jalal Al-e Ahmad, his death was blamed on the Pahlavi regime. In 2003, former leftist activist and writer Faraj Sarkouhi officially announced that the story of Behrangi's assassination was forged in a smear campaign against the Shah [citation needed].



**SEYID AZIM SHIRVANI**  
**(1835-1888)**

Seyid Azim Shirvani was an Azerbaijani poet. He was born in 1835 in Shamakhi. He got his elementary education in his native city, but soon was sent to Baghdad and then to Egypt to receive religious education. After returning to Shamakhi, Shirvani started paying attention to secular sciences and the problems of education. He started learning Russian, Persian and Arabic along with studying European and Russian literature. Being concerned with the progress the spiritual emancipation Azerbaijani's, in 1869 Shirvani established an Azerbaijani-Russian school where special attention was paid to secular sciences.



**SHAHRIAR**  
**(1906-1988)**

Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Behjat-Tabrizi chiefly known by his pen name as Shahriar, was an Iranian Azeri poet, writing in Persian and Azerbaijani.

Born in Tabriz, Shahriar came to Tehran in 1921 and continued his studies in the Dar ol-Fonoun high school and started studying medicine after graduation from Dar ol-Fonoun in 1924. But he fell in love, left his studies about a year before receiving his M.D. degree, and went to Khorasan. He returned to Tehran in 1935 and started working in the Agricultural Bank of Iran.

Shahriar published his first book of poems in 1929, with prefaces by Mohammad Taghi Bahar, Saeed Nafisi, and Pezhman Bakhtiari. His poems are mainly influenced by Hafez. His most famous poem "Heydar-Babaya Salam", in Azerbaijani, is considered to be among the best modern poems in the language and has been turned into a few plays.

His most famous Azari work Heydar Babaya Salam, Published in 1954, won the immense affection of Azerbaijani people.

Shahriar was a supporter of the Islamic Republic government of Iran until his death, and his day of death is named the "national day of poem" in Iran. A television series about his life was directed by Kamal Tabrizi. It is expected to be aired on Iranian television in late 2007.

Currently a movie based on Shariyar's life is performing on IRIB channel 2.





**VAGIF**  
**(1717-1797)**

Molla Panah Vagif occupies a prominent place in the history of Azerbaijan due to his literary and political activities. He was a great poet, the founder of new realism genre in the Azerbaijani poetry and also a prominent statesman and diplomat, eshikagasi - the minister of foreign affairs in the Karabakh khanate.

Vagif was born in 1717 in the village of Salahly in the Kazakh district of Azerbaijan. When an approximately forty years old he had to move to Shusha because of disorders in Kazakh at that time. Soon after coming to Shusha Vagif became popular and beloved among the people due to his knowledge and talents. There was even a saying: "Not every literate person can be Vagif".

When being the eshikagasi, Vagif did a lot for the prosperity and political growth of the Karabakh khanate. Also, he had outstanding deserts in organizing the heroic defense of Shusha during the invasion of Shah Qajar of Persia in 1795 and 1797.



Vagif died during the disorders, which followed Qajar's invasion of Shusha in 1797. At the time of his death his house was plundered and many of his verses were lost. However, interest to his poetry was not. Already in 1856 for the first time Vagif's verses were collected and published by Mirza Yousif Nersesov. Soon afterwards, with assistance of M.F. Akhundov, his verses have been published by Adolph Berge in Leipzig in 1867. Thus, his heritage has been preserved.

Vagif began a new era in the Azeri poetry. In his poems he praised and gave priority to the mundane feelings and desires, rather than the abstract divine ones. This was the main characteristic that distinguished Vagif from his predecessors and made him the founder of the realism genre in the Azeri poetry. The language of the Vagif poems was qualitatively innovative as well: vivid, simple, and closely approaching to the popular speech. Vagif's poems – koshma have had a great influence on the Azeri folklore and many of them repeatedly used in the folk music of ashuks.

**VAZIROV NAJAF BEY**  
**(1854-1926)**

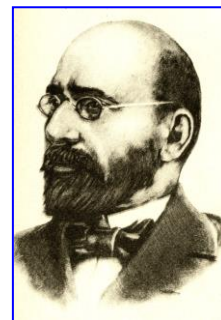
Najaf bey Fatali oglu Vazirov was an Azerbaijani playwright and journalist.

Vazirov was born in Shusha where he also received his primary education. Upon graduating from a gymnasium (secondary school) in Baku, Vazirov got admitted to the Petrovsko-Razumovskaya Academy of Agriculture and Forestry in Moscow. After finishing his post-secondary studies in the 1870s, Vazirov obtained the position of a forest warden in Dilijan (present-day Armenia) but was soon laid off due to the mistrust of the authorities towards the Petrovsko-Razumovskaya Academy alumni many of whom were known for their revolutionary views. He then settled in Baku and passed a law course which enabled him to serve as a lawyer at the city court. He also started publishing articles and essays for the newly-founded Azeri newspaper "Akinchi".

By that time Vazirov had already written several dramatic pieces, mostly comedies reflecting the everyday life of contemporary students and families. Starting from the 1890s Vazirov's liberal views on politics start influencing his works. Vazirov continues the tradition initiated by Mirza Fatali Akhundov characterised by bringing in realist ideas into the Azerbaijani literature. In his first tragedy entitled "Musibat-i Fakhraddin" ("Fakhraddin's Grief", 1896) touches upon the theme of fanaticism suppressing young educated minds who struggle against reactionism and ignorance. This work is considered the first example of the realistic tragedy genre in the Azerbaijani literature. In his future works such as "Pahlivan-i Zamana" ("Heroes of Our Time", 1900) he criticised the corrupt nature of the government institutions and remnants of the patriarchal social system. His latest work called "Taza asrin ibtidasi" ("The Beginning of the New Century", 1924) was written after Azerbaijan became part of the Soviet Union and was dedicated to women's emancipation.

Vazirov's works significantly enriched the repertoire of the then young Azerbaijani theatre and decisively established realistic genre as the dominant one in the Azerbaijani drama.

The Lankaran State Drama Theatre is named after Najaf bey Vazirov.



## VAHABZADEH BAKHTIYAR

Bakhtiyar Vahabzadeh was born on August 16, 1925 in Sheki. He migrated to Baku in 1934 and studied philology at Azerbaijan State University (1947). He became an assistant at the same department and completed his doctorate with his thesis on the famous Azerbaijani poet Samed Vurgun. He still works at the same university as a professor of “Contemporary Azerbaijani Literature” and as a deputy of the parliament of Azerbaijan.

He was recognized in Turkey with his article titled “Yel Kaya'dan Ne Aparır?” (What Does the Wind Steal from the Stone?), which was published in “Varlık” and which was an answer to the critics of the poet Fuzuli. His articles and poems also appeared in the review “Türk Edebiyatı” for years. Besides poetry, Vahabzade also wrote long verses or stories in verse (poems), plays and made translations. Among his long verses, there is the “Yollar-Oğullar” (Roads-Sons) which was dedicated to the Algerian Independence Movement, and the Mugam, which was dedicated to the composer Uzeyir Hacıbeyli. He wrote numerous lyrics, most of which were set to music and wrote plays such as “İkinci Ses” (The Second Sound), “Yağışdan Sonra” (After the Rain), “Artıĝ Adam” (Waste Man) and “Vicdan” (Conscience). He translated the work titled “Abidon Felini” by Lord Byron into Azerbaijani Turkish. His poems have been translated into many languages in the Soviet Union as well as into many dialects of Turkish and into German, French and Persian. He received the Commodore Medal of the Romania Ministry of Culture in 2002 with his poetry book titled “Benim Garibim” (My Poor). He has been regarded as the second greatest contemporary poet of Azerbaijan, after Samed Vurgun.

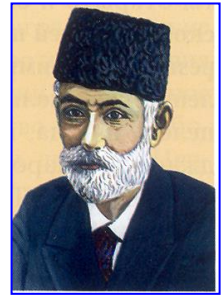


## ZARDABI HASAN BEY (1842-1907)

Hasan bey Zardabi was born in Zardab, then a small village on the Kura River to the west of Baku. He had studied in the Russian school in the city of Shamakhi and later (after receiving a government scholarship) in Tiflis before being admitted to the department of mathematics and physics at Moscow University in the 1860s. Upon graduating he was appointed administrator in the Land Survey Administration in Tiflis and afterwards in the judiciary in Guba. He quit that position to become a science teacher at a secondary school in Baku, where he established a benevolent society to help raise money to make it possible for Muslim children to receive modern education at Russo-Muslim schools.

Throughout his life, Zardabi fought for the enlightenment of Muslims in the Caucasus. Zardabi was proponent of secularism and education among Muslim population in the South Caucasus.

Initially he supported the Russian rule but later re-evaluated his estimation of Russia and the benefits of imperial rule. The emerging Azeri intelligentsia regarded Russia as channel to the European Enlightenment, criticized Islamic practices, and promoted the use of Azeri as a vehicle of local cultural expression. In their struggle for change and transformation, as Audrey Altstadt explains, the Azerbaijani intelligentsia grew to understand that it need not, indeed could not, reject its own cultural heritage. Zardabi came to such a conclusion as a result of his long years in exile in the small village of Zardab.



In 1873 Zardabi with another intelligentsia activist Najaf bey Vazirov staged the first Azerbaijani theatrical production based on the play by Mirza Fatali Akhundov, "The Adventure of a Miser".

In 1875 he founded "Akinchi", the first independent newspaper to appear in Azerbaijani language in the Russian Empire. Naming itself as "Akinchi" (ploughman), this paper addressed itself primarily to the peasant reader in accordance with Zardabi's Narodnik (Populist) ideas, that was dominant in universities of Russia in that era. The circle of its contributors consisted mainly of Sunnis like Zardabi, whose innuendos that Persia was a backward and inhuman country provoked widespread indignation. This newspaper was shut down several times by the Russian authorities as "harmful and politically unreliable". "In Azerbaijan in the fall of 1877 the police were busy arresting a large number of educated "Tatars" (Russian administration referred to Azeris as "Tatars") for such activities as forming circles and distributing anti-government propaganda." After the closure of "Akinchi" in 1877 Zardabi was exiled to his native village.

In 1905, however, he resumed his cultural activities by becoming a reporter for the progressive "Hayat" newspaper. In his articles, he called upon cultural unification of Muslims in Russia and the establishment of a unified Turkic language that will ensure progress and social development by helping Muslims move away from the tradition of writing in Persian and Arabic which, in Zardabi's view, were used by the power-hungry Muslim clergy to spread reactionism and conservatism.

## ART FIGURES

### ALAKBAROVA SHOVKAT (1922–1993)

Shovkat Feyzulla qizi Alakbarova was an Azerbaijani singer.

Shovkat Alakbarova was born in 1922 in Baku to Azeri parents - Feyzulla and Hokuma Alakbarov and was the third of the family's four children. Her mother was a professional tar player and her father, a labourer, was a folk music lover. Both parents passed similar interests on to their children. As a child, Shovkat took up kamancha lessons. In 1937, she became one of the finalists at a contest held among amateur singers and judged by prominent Azerbaijani composers and musicians, such as Uzeyir Hajibeyov and Bulbul. She performed "Qarabagh shikastasi" at the Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theatre in Baku (which was her first stage performance) and was chosen by Hajibeyov to join the newly formed Azerbaijan State Choir, where Alakbarova started her professional career as a singer. As a teenager, she was vocally trained by mugham instructor Aghalar Aliverdibeyov and opera singer Huseyngulu Sarabski. At the early stage of her career, she mostly performed folk songs.



Alakbarova singing "Ağ çiçəyim" during the Second World War while giving concerts to soldiers in hospitals, train stations, military units, Alakbarova first sang patriotic war songs composed by Hajibeyov. She would make up to 50 performances a day, including those in distant places such as Stalingrad and Ukraine. Beginning in 1945, she worked with the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Society. By the 1950s, she was recognized as the most popular Azerbaijani singer of both folk and composed songs. Most of Alakbarova's songs were in Azeri, however she also sang in Persian, Arabic, and Turkish. She toured over 20 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Three years before her death, in 1990, she went to Germany to receive medical treatment and at the same time to perform for the Azeri emigrants.

In 1955, Alakbarova married film director and actor Latif Safarov, and later gave birth to two children: daughter Natella and son Bashir. Natella's death in 1992 severely affected 70 year-old Alakbarova's unstable health condition. She died a year after, at the age of 71.

## ALI-ZADEH FIRANGHIZ

Firanghiz Ali-Zadeh was born in Baku (28.05.1947), Azerbaijan. She studied the piano and composition at the Baku Conservatory, from which she graduated as a pianist in 1970 and as a composer in 1972. From 1973-1976 she was Kara Karaev's research assistant, and in 1989 completed her doctoral thesis, "Orchestration in Works by Azerbaijani Composers". In 1976 she began to teach musicology at the Baku Conservatory, where she has been Professor of Contemporary Music and the History of Orchestral Styles since 1990. From 1993 to 1996 she conducted the choir of the opera house in Mersin, Turkey, and subsequently taught the piano and music theory for two years at the Mersin Conservatory. In 1998/99 Ali-Zadeh worked again in Baku. Since then she has lived primarily in Germany.

In 1980 Ali-Zadeh received the annual award of the Azerbaijani Composers' Union, and in 1990 was accorded the title of "Outstanding Artist" by the Azerbaijan SSR. In 1989 she became a member of the Friends of the Arnold Schoenberg Institute in Los Angeles, and in November 2000 she received the honorary title "People's Artist of the Republic of Azerbaijan".



As a pianist Ali-Zadeh has performed numerous works by contemporary composers from the former Soviet Union, and has given the Baku first performances of music by the Second Viennese School, and of works by composers such as Olivier Messiaen, John Cage, and George Crumb.

In 1976 Franghiz Ali-Zadeh first introduced one of her pieces, the Piano Sonata in Memoriam Alban Berg (1970), to a western audience at the Pesaro music festival. Thereafter her music was played at the Swedish Spring festival in Stockholm (1982), the Warsaw Autumn festival (1983), the Berlin Festival Weeks (1986), the Almeida Festival in London (1987), the International Festival for New Music in Heidelberg (1989), the Holland Festival in Amsterdam (1989), at concerts in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Buffalo (1989), at the International Forum for Contemporary Music in Mexico (1989), and at the 1989 Frankfurt Festival. It was also heard in Zurich, Cologne, Berlin, Bonn, at the Hamburg Women's Festival (1990), and at the Prokofiev Festival in Duisburg (1991) and at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival (1993). Since then there have been numerous performances, composer portrait concerts, broadcasts and CD recordings in the U.S., Switzerland, the UK, Germany, Holland, Portugal, Denmark, France, Italy, Australia, Spain, Israel, Estonia, and Turkey. Numerous works of Ali-Zadeh have served as ballet music (in Helsinki, New York and Berlin).

In August 1999 she was the first woman-composer in residence to be invited to the Internationale Musikwochen in Lucerne. In 1999/2000 she received a fellowship from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and has been working in Berlin for a year. During this time she was honoured with a composer portrait concert from the Berlin broadcasting station SFB and a workshop and concert took place at the Hanns Eisler Musikhochschule. In February 2000 a composer portrait concert with the Ensemble "Continuum" took place in New York and in April 2000 the Seattle Chamber Players invited her to Seattle for concerts, workshops and interviews. Franghiz Ali-Zadeh also participates in Yo Yo Ma's "Silk Road Project" with her composition "Dervish". The Kronos Quartet (San Francisco) is currently producing a CD devoted exclusively to Ali-Zadeh's works on which the composer participates as pianist. During the autumn 2000 she has been a guest at the Künstlerhaus of Schloss Wiepersdorf in Brandenburg. In 2002 she received a stipend in order to work in the artist's colony Schreyahn (Lower Saxony).

Ali-Zadeh wrote a Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra commissioned by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation; it was given its world premiere in June 2002 in Lisbon by Ivan Monighetti (violoncello) and the Gulbenkian Orchestra conducted by Muhai Tang. On the same day in Stuttgart, the Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra was launched by the soloist Tsuey-Jing Tai and the Bartholdy Ensemble Rheinfelden under the direction of Christian Sikorski. For the 2002 Lucerne Festival (under the motto of "Sheherazade - Oriental Night"), where Ali-Zadeh was a guest during the month of August, she composed "Nadjillar" for large orchestra (premiered in August 2002 by the Orchestre Philharmonique Suisse under the direction of Susanna Mälkki). In October 2002 the twelve cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic celebrated their thirtieth jubilee with a grand cello festival at the Berlin Philharmonie. On this occasion, Ali-Zadeh wrote the commissioned work "Schüschtar" (Metamorphoses for 12 Violoncelli).

In March 2003 AleKhander Ivashkin performed the British premiere of "Aþk havasý" for violoncello solo at the Royal Festival Hall in London. The version of the same composition for flute and prepared piano was first performed by Rose-Marie Soncini (flute) and Esther Flückiger (piano) in April of the same year at the Korean Music Festival in Seoul. In May 2003 a concert took place at the Philharmonie in Baku in honour of the



composer, where her Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra, "Crossing II" and "Journey to Immortality" were performed by Ivan Monighetti, the Philharmonic Orchestra and Philharmonic Choir of Baku under the direction of Rauf Abdulayev. The composition commissioned by Cho-Liang Lin, "Sabah" for violin, violoncello, pipa and prepared piano, was premiered at the Aspen Festival in June 2003 by the work's commissioner (violin), Felix Fan (violoncello), Wu Man (pipa) and Aleck Karis (piano). Ivan Monighetti and his ensemble "Celli Monighetti" initiated a version for 8 violoncelli of the work "Schüschtar," which was played at the International Music Days "Vivo Cello" in Liestal, Switzerland in August 2003. Elsbeth Moser (bayan) and Nicolas Altstaedt (violoncello) premiered "Counteractions" (Yanar dag) at the Riffelalp Festival in Zermatt in September. A portrait dedicated to Ali-Zadeh took place at the "Jeunesse Festival Orient-Occident" in Vienna in October 2003 with the Austrian Ensemble for New Music and the composer at the piano. Another performance of her Violoncello Concerto at the Beethovenhalle in Bonn with the orchestra in residence there and Ivan Monighetti under the direction of Leos Swarovsky rounded up the artistic activities of the year 2003.

On the occasion of the re-opening of the Philharmonie in Baku, Mstislav Rostropovich conducted the orchestral work "Hommage", written especially for this occasion, in January 2004; the performers were the Baku Philharmonic Orchestra. In June 2004 there took place three world premieres. The Camerata Bern performed the version for chamber orchestra of "Schüschtar," commissioned by them, in Muri, Switzerland, the Atlas Ensemble played "Zikr," an ensemble piece for 30 musicians, half of whom perform on European instruments and the other half on non-European instruments, at the Holland Festival in Amsterdam and the Altenberg Trio Vienna performed the premiere of the piano trio "Impromptus" in Bantry (Ireland); this work was commissioned by the Trio together with the West Cork Chamber Music Festival. In November 2004 the Festival "Klanghorizonte" in Augsburg organised a composer-portrait in the form of several concerts and a workshop held by the composer together with students at the Music Academy there.

The Kronos Quartet was on a worldwide tour in January and February 2005; among the works they performed in numerous places was "Oasis" for string quartet and tape. Besides this composition, "Apsheron Quintet," "Music for Piano" and "Mugam Sayagi" appears on a CD recently issued by Nonesuch, recorded by the Kronos Quartet together with the composer at the piano. From 2-10 April Ali-Zadeh will lead three master courses as composer-in-residence at "Present Music" in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and will be represented by several portrait concerts there. On 19 May a new String Quartet will be premiered by the Minguet Quartet at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and a work for wind quintet and cello will receive its first performance on 19 June by members of the Bavarian State Orchestra in Munich.



**AMIROV FIKRET**  
**(1922-1984)**

Fikret Mashadi Jamil oghlu Amirov was born in 1922 in Ganja. He was a prominent Azerbaijani composer of the Soviet period.

Fikret Amirov grew up in an atmosphere of Azerbaijani folk music. His father, Mashadi Jamil Amirov, was a famous mugam singer ("Khanəndə") from Shusha, who composed and played tar.

During his childhood and early adolescence, Fikret began composing pieces for the piano. Upon his graduation from the Ganja Music College, Amirov entered the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire, now known as the Baku Music Academy, where he was a student of Boris Zeidman and Uzeyir Hajibeyov.

In 1941, when Nazi Germany attacked the USSR, Amirov, 19 at the time, was drafted to the Soviet army. He was wounded near Voronezh, hospitalized and demobilized from the military service, returning to Baku to continue his studies at the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire.

Amirov's music was strongly influenced by Azeri folk melodies. He created a new genre called symphonic mugam. Amirov's symphonic mugams were based on the classical folk pieces and were performed by many renowned symphony orchestras throughout the world, such as Houston Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski.

Amirov was a prolific composer. His most famous pieces include symphonic works such as "Shur" (1946), "Kurd Afshari" (1949), "Azerbaijan Capriccio" (1961), "Gulustan Bayati-Shiraz" (1968), "The Legend of Nasimi" (1977), "To the Memory of the Heroes of the Great National War" (1944), "Double Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra" (1948) etc.

His ballets include "Nizami" (1947) and "1,001 Nights," (sometimes referred to as "The Arabian Nights") which premiered in 1979. Amirov wrote the opera "Sevil" in 1953.

He also wrote a number of pieces for the piano including "Ballad," "Ashug's Song," "Nocturne," "Humoreska," "Lyrical Dance," "Waltz," "Lullaby" and "Toccata." He also wrote numerous film scores.

Michelle Kwan, World Champion Ice Skater from the U.S. used Fikret Amirov's symphonic piece "Taj Mahal" from "Gulustan Bayati-Shiraz" in her skating program in 1997.

Amirov was honored as People's Artist of the USSR (1965) and awarded the USSR State Prize (1949, 1980).



**BAHLULZADEH SATTAR**  
**(1909-1974)**

Sattar Bahlul oglu Bahlulzadeh was born in 1909 in Amirjan village of Baku. He was a famous Azerbaijani painter. In 1964 Bahlulzadeh was awarded the title of People's Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR. He was twice awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour and a few other medals.

Bahlulzadeh described his own works as paintings of big lyrical landscapes and pictures with the singing of the nature of native edge.

He studied art at the Moscow Art Institute from 1933 to 1940 with Vladimir Favorsky and Grigory Shegal.

Most of his work is published in museums all over Azerbaijan, particularly in cities Baku, Ganja and Nakhchivan. Some of his most brilliant works are:

“Valley Gudyalchay” (1953)

“Evening above Caspian Sea” (1959)

“Spring of my Native Land” (1967)



**BEHBUDOV RASHID**  
**(1915-1988)**

Rashid Behbudov was an Azerbaijani singer and actor. He sang in Azerbaijani, Russian, Persian, Turkish, Armenian, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali among other languages.

He was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, worked in Yerevan's Philharmonia and Opera House from 1938 to 1944. He moved to Azerbaijan SSR after Tofiq Guliyev's invitation in 1945. He became popular when he played the lead role of Askar, the wealthy peddler, in a movie Arshin Mal Alan ("The Cloth Peddler") which was based on a 1913 musical comedy by Uzeyir Hajibeyov.

Rashid's father, Majid Behbudlu was a well-known singer too.

He toured and performed concerts in several countries including: the United Kingdom, Finland, Iran, Turkey, China, Albania, Bulgaria, Belgium, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Chile, Argentina.

In Azerbaijan, the name Rashid Behbudov is automatically linked to the history of Azeri popular music. His vocal masterpieces range from proud hymns devoted to the beauty of the Motherland to tender, lyrical confessions of love.

He is especially remembered for his portrayal of Askar, the rich, merchant in search of love in the 1945 movie version of Uzeyir Hajibeyov's music comedy, "Arshin Mal Alan." Rashid Behbudov's rare talent did not develop overnight. However, once he was discovered, his fame spread like wild fire, and he toured tirelessly, giving concerts one after another all over the world. Even though travel for those who lived behind the "Iron Curtain" was generally restricted, exceptions were made for Rashid.

In 1966 he created the State Song Theater and became its soloist and Artistic Manager.



**BULBUL**  
**(1897-1961)**

Bulbul, born Murtuza Rza oglu Mammadov, was a famous Azerbaijani opera (tenor) and folk music performer and one of the founders of vocal arts and national musical theatre in Azerbaijan.

Bulbul was born in 1897 in the village of Khanbaghi, located near Shusha. He was known for his musical talent since his childhood, which is why people nicknamed him Bulbul ("nightingale" in Azeri). He chose it as a stage name, when he became involved in professional music. While still a young khananda, he was invited to Baku in 1920 to act out the role of Karam in Uzeyir Hajibeyov's opera "Asli and Karam". There he was first introduced to a European-style opera and decided to excel in this genre. He later studied music and vocal arts in the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire (now known as the Baku Academy of Music), where he was admitted in 1921, as well as in the La Scala Theatre in Milan, Italy.



In his songs, Bulbul was able to blend national manners of performance with traditions of Italian vocal school. He was also first to play the lead role of Koroglu in Uzeyir Hajibeyov's opera of the same name in 1938. Throughout his life, Bulbul was the vocal performer and the co-author of a number of songs and romances.

Bulbul was also known for his music-related publications and teaching vocal arts at his alma mater, the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire between 1932 and 1961. He acquired a Ph.D. degree in music in 1940. His monographs nowadays serve as an important source for those studying Azeri music. Bulbul was the first musician to publish study guides and manuals used in teaching students how to play the tar, kamancheh and balaban, the traditional musical instruments of Azerbaijan.

Bulbul was awarded the highest order of the Soviet Union – the USSR State Prize, as well as La stella di Garibaldi order in Italy.

Several years ago Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan purchased the once erected in Shusha bronze busts of Bulbul and several other famous Karabakh Azeris at a black market in Georgia. Following the Armenian occupation of Shusha in 1992, these monuments were machine-gunned, removed from their original place and intended to be sold as scrap metal. Nowadays these monuments are preserved in the courtyard of the Azerbaijani Museum of Arts in Baku.

## **BULBULJAN** **(1841-1927)**

Bulbuljan, born Abdulbagi Ali oglu Zulalov, was an Azerbaijani singer of folk music and mugam (an original improvisational genre of classical folk music in Azerbaijan). He was also famous for his performance of Azeri mugams in other regional languages, such as Georgian, Armenian, Lezgi, Kumyk, Persian, and Russian.

Abdulbagi Zulalov, later known as Bulbuljan, was born in 1841 in Shusha (then part of the Russian Empire, nowadays in Azerbaijan). In his younger years he travelled a lot throughout the Caucasus and Iran. During one of his visits in Iran Mozzafar al-Din Shah Qajar (the ruler of Iran) liked his performance so much that he awarded Zulalov the Shir-o Khorshid order, the highest Iranian order at the time.

In 1875 Zulalov moved to Tbilisi, the regional cultural capital at the time, where he would live until 1905. He gave concerts together with his fellow-countryman, a great tar player Sadigjan. Due to his wonderful voice, attractive appearance and high artistic performance, he quickly became famous throughout the Caucasus. Having learned Georgian language and began to perform Azeri mugams in Georgian would bring the Georgian listeners into rapture. This was the time when he began to be called Bulbuljan, which literally means "[our] dear nightingale" in the Azeri language.

After returning to Shusha in 1905, he dedicated himself to raising his orphaned nephews. In the early 1920s he moved to Baku to teach at the newly-opened post-secondary musical institutions.

Bulbuljan significantly influenced many prominent Azerbaijani mugam and folk singers. Masters of mugham such as Jabbar Garyaghdyoglu, Musa Shushinski, Mashadi Mammad Farzaliyev, Shakili Alasgar, Seyid Shushinski and many others considered him their artistic master. Today the Zulalov family is known in Azerbaijan as a family of musical talents. Bulbuljan's daughter, granddaughter and nephews continued his traditions of mugam arts.



## GARAYEV GARA (1918-1982)

Gara Abulfaz oghlu Garayev was a prominent Azerbaijani composer of the Soviet period. Garayev composed nearly 110 musical pieces, including ballets, operas, symphonic and chamber pieces, solos for piano, cantatas, songs and marches, and rose to prominence not only in Azerbaijan SSR but also in the rest of the Soviet Union and worldwide.

Garayev was born in 1918 to a pediatrician father, who was famous in Baku, and a musician mother. His mother, Sona-khanym, was among the first graduates of the Baku-based school of the Russian Music Society. Garayev's younger brother, Mursal, became a surgeon, but died at an early age.

In 1926, at the age of eight, Gara Garayev first entered the junior music school at the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire, currently known as the Baku Music Academy. Due to his musical talents, in 1933 Garayev was allowed to enroll simultaneously in two faculties at the conservatoire. Among his teachers were Georgi Sharoyev, Leonid Rudolf, and the prominent Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov. In 1937, Garayev joined the Union of Composers of Azerbaijan SSR.

In 1938, at the age of twenty, Garayev composed his first musical piece, a cantata "The Song of the Heart" to the poem by Rasul Rza. Garayev conducted his cantata during its premiere the "Decade of Azerbaijani Art" festival in the Bolshoi Theater, an event also attended by Joseph Stalin. In the same year, Garayev moved to Moscow State Conservatoire, where he became a student and a good friend of Dmitri Shostakovich.

In 1945, Garayev and Jovdat Hajiyev wrote the "Motherland" (*Vətən*) opera, for which they were awarded a prestigious Stalin prize. In 1948, at the age of 30, Garayev was again awarded this prize for his symphonic poem "Leyli and Majnun", based on the same-titled famous work of Nizami.

In 1952, under the direction of the choreograph P. A. Gusev, Garayev's "Seven Beauties" (*Yeddi Gözəl*) ballet was staged at the Azerbaijani Theater of Opera and Ballet. Based on Nizami's famous poem, "Seven Beauties" became the first Azerbaijani ballet and opened a new chapter in the history of classical music of Azerbaijan. Garayev's only other ballet, "Path of Thunder" (*İldırımlı yollarla*), staged in 1958, and was dedicated to racial conflicts in South Africa.

In the same year, Garayev also wrote the soundtrack for the documentary film "A Story About the Oil Workers of the Caspian Sea", directed by Roman Karmen and set at the Oil Rocks, world's first off-shore drilling town built in 1949 on rigs in the Caspian Sea.

Upon the death of Uzeyir Hajibeyov in 1948, Garayev became the Chair of the Union of Composers of Azerbaijan SSR and the rector of Azerbaijan State Conservatoire. In the latter position, Garayev retained Hajibeyov's traditional emphasis on Azerbaijani folk music in teaching, and also promoted the contemporary genres, such as jazz, in Azerbaijani music.

During his teaching career at the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire, Garayev prepared a number of prominent Azerbaijani musicians and composers, including Niyazi, Arif Malikov, Khayyam Mirzazade and Ismayil Hajibeyov among others. Garayev's own son, Faraj (born 1943) was also his student, who went on to compose single-act ballets such as "Shadows of Qobustan" (*Qobustanın kölgələri*) and Kaleidoscope, and later led the musical avant-garde movement in Azerbaijan. In June 1961, amidst the Cold War, Garayev and Tikhon Khrennikov were the only two Soviet composers who attended the First International Los Shadows of Qobustan" (*Qobustanın kölgələri*) and "Kaleidoscope", and later led the musical avantgarde movement Angeles Music Festival held at UCLA. Fifteen composers from seven nations presented their works, including Arnold Schoenberg and Igor Stravinsky. On June 11, Franz Waxman conducted the Festival Symphony Orchestra with a suite from Garayev's ballet "Path of Thunder".

Garayev composing behind a piano Garayev suffered from heart disease, which prevented him from attending his own 60th jubilee celebration held in Moscow, where he was awarded the title of the Hero of Socialist Labor, a highest recognition award of the Soviet government. Garayev spent the last 5 years of his life in Moscow, away from public, although his love for Baku remained strong and was reflected in his writing:

Garayev died on May 13, 1982 at the age of 64 in Moscow. His body was brought to Baku and buried at the "Alley of Honor" (*Fəxri Xiyaban*).



**GULIYEV TOFIG**  
**(1917-2000)**

Tofiq Guliyev was an Azerbaijani composer. Despite early-appeared music talent, he started to study music relatively late, when he was 12. Being a student of musical college, he wrote his first composition in 1931. It was a song "About Schoolboy" (text of Azerbaijan classic Mirza Alakbar Sabir). He entered Azerbaijan State Conservatoire in 1934, at two faculties at the same time. His conductor's activity started in 1935. He worked in Azerbaijan State Drama Theater. Starting from 1938, Tofiq Guliyev was involved in collection of folk music. He recorded folk songs, dances, mugams, and it was very valuable contribution in Azerbaijan study of folklore. Uzeir Hajibeyov initiated to send him to learn in Moscow State Conservatoire. In Moscow, in addition to classical music he was keen of pop music, in particular, of jazz. He created first State Pops Orchestra in 1939, and so became one of the founders of Azerbaijan jazz. He continued to study in Moscow Conservatoire in 1948, because the World War II interrupted his study. That time he entered both: composition and conducting faculties, and then post-graduate studies. The latter was successfully completed in 1954. All these years he performed as conductor, and wrote a number of symphonic and chamber compositions. He creates bright and memorizing music for theater and especially for movies. Song genre is a leading one in his creative life. His songs are very popular not only in Azerbaijan, but also worldwide. His music style is very specific. It composes national folk basis and traditions of European professional school, as well as American jazz. He started his teaching activity in 1954. He led opera and orchestra classes at Azerbaijan State Conservatoire. From 1958 to 1961 he was Director of Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Society. In addition to his creative works, he was widely involved in public activity. He participated in arranging relations with foreign countries. According to his great deserts, he was frequently awarded by the highest governmental awards. Tofiq Guliyev headed Azerbaijan Composers' Union from 1969 till 1979 as First Secretary. He was elected the Chairman of the board in 1990 and held this occupation till the end of his life - on October 4, 2000.





## HAJIBEYOV UZEYIR (1885-1948)

Uzeyir Hajibeyov was an Azerbaijani composer, conductor, scientist, publicist, playwright, teacher, translator and social figure. He is recognized as the father of Azerbaijani classical music and opera. Uzeyir Hajibeyov composed music for the national anthem of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (also the anthem of the modern Republic of Azerbaijan) as well as the state anthem of Azerbaijan SSR.

Uzeyir Hajibeyov was born in Shusha. His father, Abdul Huseyn Hajibeyov, was the secretary to Khurshidbanu Natavan for many years, and his mother, Shirin, grew up in the Natavan household. Growing up, Hajibeyov was strongly influenced by Natavan's work.

Shusha, often dubbed as the cradle of Azerbaijani music and culture, had a reputation for its musical heritage. The town was also referred to as "the Music Conservatory of the Caucasus" because of its many talented musicians and singers. And the fact that Hajibeyov grew up in Shusha explains how at 22, in 1908, with very little formal musical education, he was capable of writing a full-length opera.

Hajibeyov received his early education in a religious school (madrasah), where he perfected his Arabic and Persian. Later he studied at a two-year Russian-Azerbaijani school. Here, with the help of his favourite teacher Mirza Mehdi Hasanzadeh, he familiarized himself with the heritage of the famous classic writers of the East and the West. The richness of the musical performance tradition of Shusha greatly influenced the musical education of Uzeyir Hajibeyov. He would later reflect on his experiences: "The first musical education I got as a child in Shusha came from best singers and saz-players. At that time I sang mughams and tasnifs. The singers liked my voice. They would make me sing and taught me at the same time." Uzeyir Hajibeyov's first teacher was his uncle Agalar Aliverdibeyov, an excellent connoisseur of Azeri folk music. In 1897–1898, when Azerbaijani playwright Abdurrahim Hagverdiyev and singer Jabbar Garyagdyoglu staged the episode Majnun on Leyli's grave from Leyli and Majnun, 13-year old Uzeyir sang in the choir.

From 1899 to 1904 Uzeyir Hajibeyov studied at the Gori Pedagogical Seminary. There, along with general education, he also acquired music. In this school Hajibeyov learned to play the violin, the violoncello and the brass instrument. After his graduation from the Pedagogical Seminary, Uzeyir Hajibeyov was appointed a teacher to the village of Hadrut in Upper Karabakh. Having worked there for a year, Hajibeyov permanently settled in Baku, where he carried on his career in teaching mathematics, geography, history, Azeri and Russian languages, and music. He wrote the Turkic-Russian and Russian-Turkic Dictionary of Political, Legal, Economic and Military Terms, Used in Press in 1907 and the textbook Arithmetic Problems in 1908, and had them published by the Orujov Brothers Publishing House in Baku.

Hajibeyov was no stranger to the tragic chaos of war; he lived through the Revolutions of 1905 and 1917, the fall of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in 1920, and both World Wars. The political repercussions of these military conquests often manifested in other forms of chaos. For example between 1920 and 1940, the alphabet systems for writing Azeri were changed three times — from Arabic to Latin, and from Latin to Cyrillic — a process which greatly hindered and interrupted the educational and cultural process and may well have been one of the factors influencing Uzeyir Hajibeyov to present his ideas verbally on the musical stage.

Throughout all the tumultuous change in Azerbaijan that took place between 1900 and 1940, one characteristic consistently reflects the character of Uzeyir Hajibeyov. He always searched for ways to merge and integrate the past with the present rather than to discard either form. Rather curiously, even files at the Gori Pedagogical Seminary have shown his persistence in holding on to his own roots even under pressure. On December 3, 1900, when he was 15, it is noted that "the student, Uzeyir Hajibeyov, was rebuked because he was talking in his native language." Conversely, when Russian-influenced musicians tried to ban traditional Azerbaijani instruments like the tar, zurna and kamancha, Hajibeyov and his colleagues pushed to incorporate them into the Western orchestra, thereby, giving them an even higher status and ultimately a chance to survive.

In 1908, Hajibeyov wrote his first opera Leyli and Majnun based on the tragic love story by the 15th century poet Fuzuli. This would be the first of 7 operas and 3 musical comedies that Hajibeyov would compose throughout his life. In Leyli and Majnun, the uniqueness of the traditional modal music of mugham was incorporated into a Western genre with the use of instruments indigenous to both traditions.

Hajibeyov's second opera Sheikh Sanan was written in 1909 in a form that was entirely opposite to the first. This time Hajibeyov employed a purely European style. "Sheikh Sanan" received raves as a musical composition, but the content was too progressive for the period. In this opera, Hajibeyov advocated that marriage should not be bound by nationality or religion - in essence it was another form of integration. But this



time, it backfired. The story line follows a religious sheikh on his way to Mecca who meets a very beautiful Georgian lady. To his horror, the lovely creature's father turns out to be a swineherd, caring for what, to him, was a forbidden animal. In the end, the sheikh denounces his religion to win the woman. It is said that when the opera was performed, many people were offended and walked out, leaving Hajibeyov with the realization that he had outpaced his generation too much this time. As a result, he made a drastic decision and burned the score. When asked by Ramazan Khalilov, his assistant, how he could do that, Hajibeyov replied: "I didn't destroy my opera. It's my own creation so it's always in my head." Khalilov said that Hajibeyov went on to use this same magnificent music 27 years later to create, "Koroghlu", an opera that many acclaim to be his finest.

In contrast to "Sheikh Sanan", Hajibeyov's operas "Rustam and Sohrab" (1910), "Asli and Karam" (1912), "Shah Abbas and Khurshudbanu" (1912), and "Harun and Leyli" (1915) were entirely based on Azeri folk music elements, primarily mugham.

In October 2006, the musical comedy "Arshin Mal Alan" ("The Cloth Peddler") by Uzeyir Hajibeyov, written in 1913, was announced to be performed on western stages for the first time.

One of Hajibeyov's greatest legacies was bringing forward the idea of establishing a professional music school. Hence the Baku Academy of Music (known then as the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire), was founded in 1920 and named after Hajibeyov after his death. The school has trained Azerbaijan's finest composers such as Gara Garayev, Fikrat Amirov, Jovdat Hajiyev, Soltan Hajibeyov, Tofiq Guliyev, and Vagif Mustafazade. His statue "sits" in front of this grand building that is still devoted to the synthesizing Eastern and Western musical traditions.

In 1931, Hajibeyov helped in establishing the Azeri Folk Instruments Orchestra affiliated with the Radio Committee. This orchestra performed European classical pieces, such as those by Mikhail Glinka, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert, Georges Bizet and others. Hajibeyov thus was the first musician to adapt the note system to traditional Azeri musical instruments.

In 1936, Hajibeyov assisted in founding of the Azerbaijani State Choir within the Azerbaijan Philharmonic Society. One of the most serious problems he faced was the mono-voiced repertoire of Azeri folk songs, which allowed harmonization distort style of the song and, on occasion, even alter the melody line when it changed modes. Hajibeyov resolved this problem by using contrapuntal polyphony and unison-doubling rather than four-part singing in the problematic sections.

Hajibeyov devoted much energy to the idea of integrating woman's role and status into the male-dominated world. The concept of women's emancipation runs through many of his works often in the form of comedy or satirization as in the case when he makes fun of the process of selecting marriage partners, a process hindered by the fact that women were still wearing veils until the 1920s when the Soviet regime prohibited them.

From 1919 to 1920 Hajibeyov served as editor-in-chief for the newspaper Azerbaijan, the main governmental media body of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan.

In 1927, Hajibeyov published Collection of Azerbaijani Folk Songs along with composer Muslim Magomayev. For the first time, more than 300 pieces of Azeri folk music were documented by notation. In 1945, he published the book entitled The Basis of Folk Music in Azerbaijan, which has been translated into several languages including English.

Hajibeyov was the creator of the first operas and operettas in the Orient. In 1938, he was awarded with the title of People's Artist of the USSR. During the entire Soviet history, only three or four Azerbaijani musicians ever attained this level. He was also honored with the Order of Lenin and the State Stalin Prize which he won twice, once in 1941 for the opera "Koroghlu" (1936), and the other time in 1946 for the 1945 film based on his opera "Arshin Mal Alan".

Hajibeyov was a professor at the Baku Academy of Music (of which he was also head in 1928–1929 and 1939–1948) and Active Member of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. For the last 10 years of his life, he was Chairman of the Union of Azerbaijani Composers.

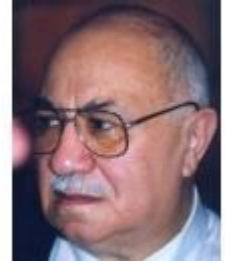
Twice Uzeyir Hajibeyov's was deputy in the Supreme Soviet, the highest legislative institution in the Soviet Union.

Hajibeyov died of diabetes at the age of 63. He is buried in Fakhri Khiyaban (Cemetery of the Honoured) in Baku.

## IBRAHIMBEYOV MAGSUD

Magsud Mammad oglu Ibrahimbeyov, also spelled Ibragimbekov is an Azerbaijani writer and member of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan.

Ibrahimbeyov was born in 1935 in Baku, Azerbaijan to Mammad Ibrahimbeyov and Fatima Meshadibeyova. He is the older brother of Rustam Ibragimbekov, a prominent Russian screenwriter. In 1960, he received a B.A. in Industrial and Civil Construction from Baku Politechnical Institute. He later worked at the Azerbaijan SSR Ministry of Construction and tried himself as a reporter representing Azerbaijan at the All-Union Radio and Television. At this stage he began focusing on literary studies and attended courses for advanced screenwriting and directing in Moscow in 1960–1964. Since then he has become known as a Russophone Azerbaijani writer. Some of his plays were later acted out in theatres through the USSR. He has also written screenplays for 12 feature-length movies and 11 documentary films.



Magsud Ibrahimbeyov has been in politics since 1985. He was elected to the National Assembly of Azerbaijan twice: in 2000 and in 2004. Even though during the elections he ran as an independent candidate, he has been known for his extreme loyalty to the ruling New Azerbaijan Party.

**KHAN SHUSHINSKI**  
**(1901-1979)**

Khan Shushinski, born Isfandiyar Aslan oglu Javanshirov (20 August 1901, Shusha – 18 March 1979, Baku), was an Azerbaijani khananda (singer).

Despite Shushinski's relation to the khans of Karabakh, his stage names derives from an episode in his adolescence. In 1918, he and his mugham teacher Islam Abdullayev attended a wedding in the village of Novruzlu (presently in the Agdam rayon of Azerbaijan), where guests were listened to a gramophone record of the Iranian singer Abul Hasan Khan performing the Kurd Shahnaz variety of mugham. After the song, young Isfandiyar was emphatically asked to resing that song live. Despite the complicated nature of Kurd Shahnaz, his performance impressed the guests to the point of them comparing Isfandiyar to Abul Hasan Khan and saying: "Now, here's the real Khan."



Shushinski made his first appearance in Baku in 1923, at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Hall. He spent the next two decades touring cities of the South Caucasus, gaining huge popularity for his incredible voice and being often mentioned in the local media, as well as in the poem Azerbaijan by Samad Vurgun. In 1944, a year after he became People's Artist of Azerbaijan, he visited Tehran (along with four other cities in Iran) and was invited to perform at a banquet organized by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Khan Shushinski became known as a talented composer after writing a number of songs, the most famous of them being "Shushanin daghlari" ("The Mountains of Shusha"), dedicated to his native city. He later taught vocal arts at A. Zeynally College of Music in Baku.

In 1943 he was conferred the title of People's Artist of Azerbaijan.

Khan Shushinski passed away on March 18, 1979.

## MAGOMAYEV MUSLIM (1942-2008)

Muslim Mahammad oglu Magomayev was born on 17 August 1942 in Baku. He is an Azerbaijani baritone operatic and pop singer who was active during the 1960s and 1970s in the Soviet Union.

Muslim Magomayev represents one of the most respected artistic dynasties in Azerbaijan. His grandfather Muslim Magomayev (1885-1937), a friend and contemporary of the prominent Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov, was one of the founders of Azerbaijani-composed music. Magomayev's father, Mahammad Magomayev, who died during World War II, was a gifted painter, and his mother was an actress.



Muslim learned to play a piano as a child, and began to take lessons from teachers of voice at the age of 14. He finished the piano and composition class of the musical school at Baku Conservatoire, and then graduated from the vocal class of Baku conservatoire. As a teenager he became interested in Italian songs, American jazz and other styles of popular music.

In 1962, at the age of 20, Magomayev first appeared in Moscow where he performed within the frameworks of the Days of Azerbaijani Culture. He sang two musical pieces in a gala-concert on the USSR's main stage, the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, and became a celebrity on a spur of the moment. A year later he gave his first solo concert in the Moscow Tchaikovsky Concert Hall to a full house and became a soloist of the Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre. Muslim earned fame in the USSR as an opera singer with Rossini's "Barber of Seville". He also became known for his arias from Puccini's "Tosca", Hajibeyov's "Koroghlu" and "Shah Ismayil", which was composed by his grandfather.

In 1964 – 1965 Muslim was on probation in the La Scala theatre in Milan, but turned down the invitation to sing in the Moscow Bolshoi Theater upon his return. Instead, the singer turned to popular music, becoming a pop idol for several generations of music lovers in the Soviet Union. Muslim Magomayev's popularity in the USSR was overwhelming. He quickly became a cult figure and gave three concerts a day filling out huge arenas all across the Soviet Union, while his albums sold millions.

In 1966 and 1969 Magomayev performed in Paris Olympia with great success. The director of Olympia Bruno Coquatrix offered him a contract, and Magomayev was seriously considering an opportunity to pursue international career, but Ekaterina Furtseva refused to grant the Ministry of Culture's permission, claiming that it needed Magomayev to perform at governmental concerts. In 1969 he received MIDEM Gold Disc Award in Cannes for the album sales of over 4,5 million units. In 1973, at the very young age of 31, Muslim was awarded the Soviet Union's highest artistic title: People's Artist of the USSR.

Magomayev is also known as a composer, he wrote songs and film soundtracks. In addition, Magomayev played in films and acted as a host in television and radio broadcasts devoted to prominent musicians of the 20th century.

Magomayev has been living and working in Moscow since the early 1970s. In 1997, in recognition of Magomayev's professional successes, a Russian astronomical society named two planetoids of the solar system in honor of him and his wife, Tamara Sinyavskaya, a prominent Russian opera singer who was also awarded People's Artist of the USSR and worked as a soloist at the Bolshoi Theater.

Muslim Magomayev was awarded many order and medals. He passed away in Moscow in 2008. His body was brought to Baku and buried in the Alley of Honor.

**MAMMADOVA SHOVKAT**  
**(1897-1981)**

Shovkat Hasan qizi Mammadova was an Azerbaijani opera singer (lyric coloratura soprano) and music instructor.

Mammadova was born in 1897 in Tiflis (present-day Tbilisi, Georgia) to a poor Azeri family. Her father, a shoemaker, noticed her incredible musical talent when Shovkat was 6. In 1910, he managed to find a sponsor, who agreed to promote her talent at a banquet organized by the vice-regent of the Caucasus, Count Illarion Vorontsov-Dashkov. In 1911, she went off to Milan, Italy to pursue a musical degree at the Milan Conservatory with the financial help of an Azeri multimillionaire, Zeynalabdin Taghiyev and his wife Sona. However in 1912, their sponsorship was discontinued for undisclosed reasons, and Mammadova had to return home. That same year she enrolled in a program at a music school in Tiflis. At the age of 15, she made her first stage appearance at the Taghiyev Theatre in Baku, performing a piece from Uzeyir Hajibeyov's *Husband and Wife*. In 1915, she got admitted to a post-secondary program at the Kiev Conservatory (presently known as the Kiev Academy of Music), where she met Reinhold Gliere, a Russian composer. Gliere showed keen interest in Azeri folk music and Mammadova's acquaintanceship resulted in his visit to the Karabakh region, where he got to meet with a number of professional mugham performers. Later in 1934, he would compose his famous *Shakh-Senem* based on his impressions and experiences from this trip, and dedicate it to Mammadova. By that time, she would already be widely known as a talented opera singer. Beginning in 1921, Mammadova toured Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Paris, Milan, Tabriz, and Tbilisi performing arias from *La Traviata*, *Barber of Seville*, *Rigoletto*, *Les Huguenots*, etc. She also managed to complete her studies in Milan in 1927–1930 and head back to Azerbaijan to go on with her career at the State Opera and Ballet Theatre in Baku.



In 1923, Shovkat Mammadova founded the Musical Notes Publishing House as well as the Baku Theatrical College (nowadays known as the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts). She was later appointed the Chair of the Vocal Department at the Azerbaijan State Conservatory, where she professionally trained young vocalists until her death in 1981.

In 1915, while studying at the Kiev Conservatory, Mammadova married Jacob Lubarsky, an engineer, whom she had met in Milan three years earlier.

**MURADOVA RUBABA**  
**(1930-1983)**

Rubaba Khalil qizi Muradova, born in Ardabil (Iran), was an Azerbaijani opera (mezzo soprano) and folk singer.

Rubaba Muradova was born to a family of a cleric in the Iranian city of Ardabil. In 1943, she moved to the Soviet Azerbaijan, and settled in the city of Ali Bayramli. Since age 17, she acted in various roles at the local theatres. In 1950, a troupe from Baku was touring the region. During the tour, an actress for one of the main roles got sick, and the head trouper agreed to replace her by Rubaba Muradova for one night. Despite poor performance (according to Muradova herself), she was successful mostly due to her vocal improvisation of the role. She then was invited to move to Baku to pursue a degree in professional singing.



In 1953, she graduated from the Zeynalli College of Music in Baku, where she was taught by prominent khananda Seyid Shushinski. She started working at the Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theatre in 1954. Her most famous role was that of Leyli in Uzeyir Hajibeyov's *Leyli and Majnun* (1908). Muradova's lyric improvisations are remembered for their emotionality that would often bring people in the audience into tears. Her colleagues explained this such emotional singing by the difficulties Muradova experienced in her personal life, particularly her being homesick for Arbadil and not being able to visit it because of the closed Soviet-Iranian border.

In 1971, Rubaba Muradova became the People's Artist of Azerbaijan.



**MUSTAFAZADEH VAGIF**  
**(1940-1979)**

Vagif Eziz oglu Mustafazadeh was a Soviet Azeri jazz pianist and composer, famous for fusing jazz and traditional Azeri folk music known as mugam. (His daughter Aziza Mustafa Zadeh now follows in his footsteps as a pianist, composer and singer in the jazz-mugam style.) He was born March 16, 1940 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan SSR and died of a heart-attack after a concert on December 16, 1979 in Tashkent, shortly before the birthdays of his wife Eliza (December 17) and daughter (December 19).



Azerbaijan fell under control of the Soviets in 1920, 20 years before Vagif was born. Five years after his birth and after World War II, Stalin said that jazz was "the music of capitalists" and had it banned throughout the entire Soviet Union. (Adolf Hitler had done the same in Germany in 1933, stating that it was "the music of the blacks".) Even music played on the saxophone was outlawed. The young Vagif, however, apparently cared little for the Soviets and their bans. As a child, he would listen to jazz on BBC broadcasts and sing Meykhana rhythmic poetry, which had also been banned, with friends. After listening on the radio, he and his friend Vagif Samadoglu would attempt to recreate the music on the piano.

After Stalin's death in 1953, the ban on Jazz was gradually lifted. Gradually, however, is a key word. Even in 1957, Vagif was unable to play jazz compositions in concert. As such, he resorted to playing privately for friends or in clubs. He had an intense passion for improvisational jazz, but found something lacking. Eventually, he began to fuse jazz with traditional Azeri music: Mugam.

By the early 1960s, people were finally becoming more comfortable with jazz and Vagif had started to gain a reputation even outside of Azerbaijan as a great jazz musician. In 1966, Willis Conover, conductor of the "Jazz Time" radio program, even went as far as to say, "Vagif Mustafazadeh is an extraordinary pianist. It is impossible to identify his equal. He is the most lyrical pianist I have ever known."

Vagif attended Baku State Musical Technical School, from which he graduated in 1963, ten years after the Soviet ban on jazz was lifted, after having been in effect for almost a decade. He won first prize at the 8th International Competition of Jazz Composers for his composition "Waiting for Aziza" in Monaco in 1978, but died the next year.

## MUSTAFAZADEH AZIZA

Aziza Mustafazadeh also known as The Princess of Jazz was born in Baku on December 19, 1969. She is an Azerbaijani singer, pianist and composer who play a fusion of jazz and mugam (a traditional improvisational style of Azerbaijan) with classical and Avant-garde influences. Reviewers have said that her style also shows some influence from Keith Jarrett. She currently resides in Mainz, Germany with her mother, Eliza Mustafazadeh, who is also her manager. Her two favorite leisure activities, she says, are painting and sleeping. She is a vegetarian.

Aziza was born to musical parents Vagif and Eliza Mustafazadeh. Vagif was a pianist and composer, famous for creating mugam-jazz fusion in which his daughter now plays. Eliza is a classically trained singer and Georgia native.

They first noticed their daughter's sensitivity to music when she was eight months old. As Aziza recalls the story her mother tells: "Once, my father was improvising at the piano playing in the mugam mode known as "Shur," which creates a mood that evokes very deep, sad emotions. As my father was playing, I started to cry. Everyone wondered what was happening to me. Why was I crying? And then mother realized the correlation between my feelings and the music. "Vagif, please" she told my father, "change the scale. Go to Rast. Play Rast". And he did. Now "Rast" is characterized by its joyfulness and optimism. And sure enough, with tears still running down my cheeks, I started to make dance-like movements. And Mom pointed out, 'Look, look what she's doing! Change back to Shur!' And when he did, I started crying again louder than before. At least, that's what they tell me. Back to Rast, and I began dancing again."

Aziza enjoyed all forms of art, especially dancing, painting and singing. At the age of three, she made her stage debut with her father, improvising vocals. She began studying classical piano at an early age, showing special interest in the works of famous composers Johann Sebastian Bach and Frederic Chopin. Soon thereafter, she showed a growing talent for improvisation.

On December 16, 1979, Aziza's father died of a severe heart attack in Tashkent at the age of 39, three days away from Aziza's tenth birthday. (The chronology of important family dates here is very strange. Aziza's birthday is the 19th, her mother's is the 17th. Vagif died on the 16th and was buried on the 18th. Aziza says, "So all those dates-16, 17, 18, and 19-are such a mixture of joy and sadness for us and such a philosophical paradox-life and death juxtaposed upon each other like that.") In order to help her daughter cope with this blow, Aziza's mother gave up her career as a singer to help nurture her daughter's own musical talents.

At the age of 17, Aziza's mugam-influenced style helped her win the Thelonious Monk piano competition in Washington, D.C. It was around this time that she moved to Germany with her mother.

Aziza released her debut album, Aziza Mustafazadeh, in 1991. Her second album, "Always", won her the Phono Academy Prize, a prestigious German music award, and the Echo Prize from Sony. She has since performed in many countries with many jazz and traditional luminaries and released several more albums, the most recent being "Contrasts", released in 2006.



**NARIMANBEYOV TOGRUL**  
(1930-2013)

Narimanbeyov Togrul – Azerbaijani artist born on August 7, 1930 in Baku and educated at Azerbaijan State Art School after A. Azimzadeh in Baku (1950) and Vilnius Art Institute, Lithuania (1955). He is National Artist of Azerbaijan (1967), USSR State Prizewinner (1980) and Azerbaijan State Prizewinner (1974). He is best known for his portraits, landscapes and still lives but actually he is quite successful in different genres including monumental painting, book illustration and theatre design. Among his early works are “Fishermen of the Baltic” (1955), “Dawn at the Caspian” (1957), “For Better Future” (1959), “Stronger than a Storm” (1960), “Happiness” (1961) which are in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, “Polish Girl” (1961), “Sattar Bahlulzadeh” (1965), “Still Life”, “Pomegranates” (1957), “Pomegranates” (1959), “Pomegranates and Pears” (1961) that are part of the Moscow Oriental Art Museum collection.



Narimanbeyov uses realistic images and color contrast with domination of conventionality and decorative elements. Not the minor field of his activity is monumental paintings among which such works as hall panel in Baku Puppet Theatre (1974) and murals in Moscow Hotel in Baku (1978) are to be mentioned. Among the notable examples of Narimanbeyov's successful work in theatre design are staging of several outstanding performances including Fikret Amirov's “Nasimi Dastani” (Nasimi Saga), 1973 and “Min Bir Geja” (Arabic Nights) ballets and “Gobustan Kolgalari” (Shadows of Gobustan) ballet by Gara Garaev, 1978. Narimanbeyov was awarded with number of order and medals.

Togrul Narimanbeyov passed away on June 2, 2013 in Paris. He was buried in Passy cemetery located in the centre of Paris.

**NIYAZI**  
**(1912-1984)**

Niyazi Zulfigar ogli Tagizade Hajibeyov was a prominent Soviet Azerbaijani musical conductor, composer, author of the famous "Rast" symphonic mugam.

Niyazi was born in Tbilisi in a family of prominent Shusha musicians. His father was the composer Zulfigar Hajibeyov, brother of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, the founder of the Azeri classical music.

Niyazi conducted the symphonic orchestras in Prague, Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, New York, Paris, Istanbul, London, Tehran, Beijing and Ulan-Bator and played an important role in making the Azeri classical music known to the world.

Niyazi was also a talented composer. Building upon the traditions of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, he splendidly synthesized the traditional Azeri folk songs and mugam with the classical symphonic music. Niyazi's most significant works include opera "Khosrov and Shirin" (1942), ballet "Chitra" (1960). His symphonic mugham "Rast" achieved world-wide popularity and was included to the repertoire of many symphonic orchestras around the world.

Niyazi also headed the Azerbaijan symphonic orchestra for 46 years, from 1938 to the end of his life.

Niyazi was honored as People's Artist of the USSR (1959) and awarded the USSR State Prize (1951, 1952) and highest title of the USSR, the Hero of Labor (1982).



## QASIMOV ALIM

Alim Qasimov, born in 1957 in Shamakha, is an Azerbaijani musician and is the foremost Mugham singer in Azerbaijan. Alim has recorded nine albums and lately has been featured quite frequently in Azerbaijani newspapers and TV programs. Alim and his 21 year old daughter Fargana Gasimova have recorded three albums of Mugham music together. He has performed in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Brazil, Iran and the United States.

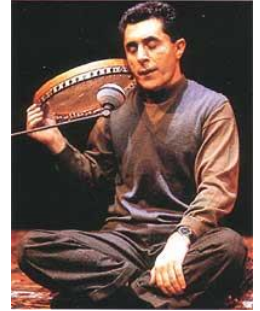
Alim is known for his work in traditional Azerbaijani music. He is widely appreciated and popular for his renderings of Mugham, which is the most complex musical style in Azerbaijan. It's the classical music of the Caucasus and of the Turkish-speaking peoples in Central Asia.

The notion of Mugham also applies to the performers: the singer, and the ensemble. Within the latter you'll always find three instruments; tar (lute), the standing kamanche (violin) and the daf (percussion).

French paper "Le Monde" described Alim Qasimov as a blessed man with a "Magic Voice", and if one would take time and listen to his music and sounds, one can only agree. "Folk Roots Magazine" called Alim Qasimov "one of the 20th century's greatest singers".

Alim is attracting many new fans to Mugham. Russian-educated Azerbaijanis and young people in general don't usually care much for the Mugham genre. Many prefer listening to Western pop music. But surprisingly, they have been going to Alim's concerts and buying his CD's.

In 1999, Alim Qasimov won the prestigious UNESCO Music Prize, one of the highest international accolades that a musician can hope for. Previous laureates have included Dmitri Shostakovich, Leonard Bernstein, Ravi Shankar and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.



## SALAHOV TAHIR

Tahir Teymur oğlu Salahov was born in 1928 in Baku. He is an Azerbaijani painter and draughtsman.

He studied at the Azimzade Art College in Baku in 1945–1950 and the Surikov Moscow Art Institute in 1951–1957. Salahov won an early recognition: his diploma work “The Shift is Over”, appeared in 1957 at the Moscow All-Union Art Exhibition and received public and critical acclaim. He became one of the leading representatives of the so-called "severe style" (Russian: "суровый стиль"), a trend in Soviet art of the 1960s that aimed to set off a hard, publicist, realist view against the ceremonial "polished reality" of the Stalin era. His father Teymur Salahov had been a victim of Stalin's repression, having been arrested in 1937 and executed shortly after. His mother Sona was left to bring up four children on her own but the family didn't learn of their father's death until 1956 after Stalin's death. Salahov's compositions on the life and work of the Baku oil-workers (e.g. "Repair Men", 1961, Mustafayev Azerbaijan State Art Museum, Baku) and portraits, e.g. of Azerbaijani composer Kara Karayev (1960, Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow), and Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1976, Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow), are characterized by a forcefulness and lack of idealization. Salahov chose a sparing palette of contrasting red, black, light- and dark-grey tones and gave colored plains a decorative function.



His later works like “Portrait of composer Kara Karayev” are more peaceful and lyrically contemplative, and Eastern influences are more apparent, as in “Portrait of Grandson Dan” (1983, Mustafayev Azerbaijan State Art Museum), in which the composition and colouring are subordinate to the flowing rhythms of Eastern medieval miniatures. His lines became smoother and more melodious, his palette more sophisticated. Many of his most successful works are associated with his impressions of foreign countries (e.g. “Mexican Corrida”; 1969, Mustafayev Azerbaijan State Art Museum). He also produced expressive drawings and stage designs.

Today Salahov lives in Moscow, where he is a professor and has a studio at the Moscow Art Institute. He has received numerous honors, including People's Artist of USSR, Russia and Azerbaijan, Hero of Socialist Labour, USSR State Prize (1968), First Secretary of the Union of Artists of the USSR (1973 – 1992), Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Arts, member of over 20 academies and other creative organizations throughout the world, including academies of art of France, Spain, Germany, Austria etc.

## SAMI YUSUF

Sami Yusuf is a British singer-songwriter of Azeri origin described as the Islamic Bono. He was born in Tehran, to Azerbaijani parents in July 1980 and raised in the United Kingdom.

Signed to the Awakening label his first album, “Al-Mu'allim”, was released in July 2003 and attained huge success. His second album, “My Ummah”, which was released in 2005, comes in two versions, a musical version and one with just percussion. Yusuf's music comprises mostly of songs to do with Islam and being a Muslim in today's world. He also deals with many social and humanitarian issues in his music. At present he is fast becoming a very popular figure in the Islamic world, and has made several videos of his songs. A third album is planned for release during Ramadan or in (Sept-Oct) of this year. Sami showed off two of his songs from his yet-to-be released album in Wembley concert and USA tour concerts organized by Islamic Relief.



Nevertheless, he has also sparked controversy due to the nature of his shows which critics claim have more in common with western pop concerts than Islamic spiritual values he claims to espouse. However he has published a rebuttal to these claims on his website.

His international status has taken a clear enhancement on the second album with the participation of the trio of Outlandish on the track "Try Not to Cry".

Sami learned to play several instruments at a very young age and gradually began to show a keen interest in singing and composing. He studied under several composers who had graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London.

As Sami mentions in his interviews, at the age of sixteen, he was spiritually awakened. He wanted to leave Music and do something for Islam. He even thought about joining Law School instead, but his best friend Bara Kherigi persuaded him otherwise. In 2003 he started working on “Al Mu`alim” (The Teacher), his first album. Sami and his friends started their company or foundation by the name of “Awakening” which produces musical products all over the world. Sami can speak fluent English, Persian and Azeri, Sami has also performed many songs in Arabic and Turkish.

Sami Yusuf has performed in the UK, Middle East, United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Azerbaijan, Sudan, Germany, France, Holland, Turkey, Belgium, Morocco, Algeria, Austria and some other countries. He has released six music clips.



**ZEYNALOVA NASIBA**  
**(1916-2004)**

Nasiba Jahangir qizi Zeynalova was an Azerbaijani actress and People's Artist of Azerbaijan. She was famous mostly for her comedy roles.

Nasiba Zeynalova was born in Baku (In the past part of the Russian Empire, now the capital of Azerbaijan Republic) into the family of a merchant and stage actor Jahangir Zeynalov. The family fled to Iran just before the Azeri massacre of March 1918 committed by Armenians separatists and Bolshevik military units in Baku. Zeynalova's father died during their trip back home in September 1918.

While in secondary school she attended dance courses. In 1932 she joined Rza Tahmasib's drama club. In 1937 she joined a vagrant theatre troupe and toured several Azerbaijani towns. In 1938 she started working at the Azerbaijan State Theatre of Musical Comedy. Along side, she was earning a degree at the Baku School of Theatre.

In the following years Nasiba Zeynalova acted in 22 films and around 70 plays, as well as in numerous television sketches. She is most remembered for the roles of Fatmanisa in "Ogey ana" ("Stepmother", 1958), Sughra in "Bizim Jabish muallim" ("Our Teacher Jabish", 1969), Jannat in "Gayinana" ("Mother-in-law", 1978) and Auntie Asli in "Beyin ogurlanmasi" ("The Kidnapping of the Groom", 1985). In 1967 Nasiba Zeynalova became People's Artist of Azerbaijan.



## **MAGNATES AND PHILANTHROPISTS**

### **SHAMSI ASSADULLAYEV (1841-1913)**

Shamsi Asadullayev was born in 1841 in Amirjan village of Baku in a very poor family of porter. In the early years he collected the harvest in Surakhani (settlement near Baku), and transferred cargo from Baku in Tiflis. In the late 60s and early 70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he gathered a little capital and rented from the government one part of salt-mines. In 1874 he bought small oil-fields and soon became one of the leading industrialists in Baku.

The firm of "Sh. Assadullayev" was one of the 12 leading oil firms which gave 60 % oil in Baku. He created his oil-fleet, consisted from a lot of sea and river tankers. He opened his offices in Russia, Turkestan, Iran, and in Finland. He has been elected in City Duma of Baku. Shamsi Asadullayev also has been occupied of philanthropic activity.

His name mentioned very often in archive documents like one of the philanthropies men. He made the donations for the city and for some charitable societies. His son Mirza Asadullayev continued the commercial affair of his father and also he was a deputy of Ministry of Trade and Industrial in III cabinet of government of ADR.

Shamsi Asadullayev's first wife was Mekhranise Amir-Aslan gizi. They had together two sons-Mirza and Ali and three daughters-Sara, Khadidja and Agabadji.

In 1907 Sh. Asadullayev has been married in the second time to Maria Petrovna Lebedeva. She was the Evangelical-Lutheran confession, petit bourgeois from Russian town Tver.

After the death of Sh. Asadullayev his son Ali lodged a complaint about recognition ineffective the marriage of his father with M.P.Lebedeva. His complaint was satisfied (because Sh. Asadullayev has been married with Lebedeva in 1907 but divorced with first wife in 1909).

Shamsi Asadullayev died in 1913 at the age of 72.

**MUKHTAROV MURTUZA**  
**(1865 – 1920)**

Murtuza Mukhtarov was an Azerbaijani Oil industrialist and millionaire.

Mukhtarov was born into a poor family in a village of Amirjan near Baku. Mukhtarov managed to become one of the most reputable drilling experts in Baku through his ability and many years of experience. He set up his own drilling company in 1890 and then diversified into oil production. The company specialized in manufacturing machinery for derricks and in drilling oil wells. He was the author of several patents on drilling equipment - unique feat amongst oil industrialists of the time.

Business and enterprising millionaire built for himself magnificent mansion, which is now Wedding Palace in Baku. Another interesting fact from his life: With his wife they adopted one orphan girl, Azeri origin, who danced gipsy dances and song on the streets. Later on Fatima Mukhtarova became a star of Baku opera stage.

Mukhtarov sponsored schools and build mosques in Baku and surrounding areas. His residence build for his wife Liza Mukhtarova by Architect Joseph Ploshko in 1911-1912 is celebrated example of Baku Pseudo Gothic architecture.

Mukhtarov committed suicide when he defended his own residence from soldiers of Red Army in April 1920. He killed several of them and then put the end of his own life.



**NAGIYEV MUSA**  
**(1849-1919)**

Musa Nagiyev was an Azerbaijani industrial oil magnate in late 19th - early 20th century.

He was born into a very poor family near Baku and started his career as a cargo carrier (hambal), but thanks to his natural wit and business abilities led him to accumulate an unimaginable wealth. Musa Naghiyev was richest oil industrialists in Baku, excluding Nobel brothers - his assets were worth 300 million rubles. Later, he began investing in real estate so as to guarantee himself a source of regular income and became the largest rental property owner in Baku owning more than 200 buildings.

He was known in Azerbaijan as the most stingy, tight-fisted millionaire. However despite all these stories, it was Agha Musa Naghiyev who built one of the most wonderful palaces in the entire city and offered it as a gift to the Muslim Charity Society. This palace, modeled on Doge's Palace in Venice now houses Presidium of Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.

Another gift from Nagiyev to the city was the city's largest hospital which was built in 1912 and still functions today in this capacity. The building is designed in the shape of an "H" (Cyrillic "N") for Naghiyev's name.

Naghiyev was the main sponsor and trustee of one of the largest technical colleges, "Real College", the building now houses the State Economic University.



**TAGHIYEV ZEYNALABDIN**  
**(1838-1924)**

Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev was an Azeri national industrial magnate and philanthropist.

Zeynalabdin Taghiyev was born into a poor family of a shoemaker in Old Town of Baku and started learning masonry at an early age. By mid 1860s he had become a successful builder and real estate owner. In the first Baku oil boom in 1873 Taghiyev with three associates purchased a piece of land, where he struck oil after long drilling campaign in 1877, instantly becoming a millionaire.

Taghiyev invested his fortune not only in oil business, but also in many other projects such the textile factory and industrial fisheries. He sold his oil business interest to Anglo-Russian Oil Company for 5 million rubles. In two and a half years, they had earned more than 7.5 million rubles in net profit.

It should be mentioned that Taghiyev sold his oil companies in order to diversify into other industries of the Caucasian economy. Meanwhile, he amassed shares in the Oleum Company established on the basis of these enterprises to the amount of 16 million rubles. This allowed him to continue accumulating capital created in the oil sector. During this period, Taghiyev invested significant sums into the textile, food, construction and shipbuilding industries, as well as in fishery. Later, in 1890, Taghiyev bought the Caspian Steamship Company, renovated it, and then created a fleet of 10 steamboats.

He sponsored construction of the first Azeri national theatre in 1883, built the first Muslim boarding school for girls in the Middle East in 1896 and paid all tuition fees for students, sponsored the first technical school in the Baku Governorate in 1911 and school of agriculture in Mardakyan. Taghiyev also helped to maintain many city institutions and charities, and contributed to the adornment of Baku town.

He helped to solve the water crisis in the city by helping to finance the Shollar water pipeline, which channeled water 100 miles away in the Caucasus Mountains, via a ceramic pipeline. The water pipeline was completed by 1916.

In 1920, Taghiyev's palace was confiscated by Soviet Government and he was exiled to his summer house, where he died on September 1, 1924. Despite of many years of Soviet attempts to suppress memories of Taghiyev, he is still widely recognized in Azerbaijan as an example of generosity and philanthropy.

He was married two times, the second time in 1896 to Sona, the youngest daughter of General Balakishi Arablinski. He had two sons by his first marriage and two sons and three daughters by second marriage.



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