

At the Origins of Azerbaijani Scientific Library Activity (a Life Dedicated to Culture)

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Abstract

The "legacy" of the Soviet era has been the subject of many studies. Attention is also drawn to the efforts to create a common picture by summarizing our political, economic and cultural heritage in various fields. Creating an overall picture by identifying cultural trends against the backdrop of political processes, trends in applied and fine arts against the backdrop of an economic "utopia" does not mean an exhaustive picture.

When we "consider" the political, economic and cultural aspects of the heritage of the Soviet era, a picture emerges that our cultural heritage is considered more valuable and important. Cultural constructions of the Soviet period, common examples of cultural, literary, applied and fine arts can be assessed as values that bring people together and unite. In this regard, it is important to study and celebrate the work, role and merits of individuals who have played an important role in the creation and development of the cultural environment.

Alijdar Saidzade is a progressive intellectual who devoted his life to cultural construction, the popularization of books and reading, the expansion of library activities, and the expansion of literary ties in the difficult years of the Soviet era.

This article is devoted to the study and evaluation of his versatile cultural activities. An interesting life was lived by A. Saidzade, who, along with the creativity of his "state position" in the system, did not lose secular values while maintaining the national concept in the Soviet ideological system. Reading and worldview are reflected in his valuable works. In his actions and thoughts, the approach "Propaganda is not in all cases an ideology and propaganda must be progressive ..." is especially noteworthy.

A. Saidzade is one of the few people in the scientific and cultural environment of Azerbaijan, whose work was appreciated both at the level of the Soviet Union and within the national cultural framework. The scientific books, textbooks and methodological materials published by him, scientific articles retain their significance to this day. The candidate and doctoral dissertations defended by him, on which he worked, served the development of Azerbaijani literary thought.

Keywords: culture of Azerbaijan, well-known librarian, bibliographer and literary critic, librarian of Azerbaijan, library and culture

Біля витоків діяльності Азербайджанської наукової бібліотеки (життя, присвячене культурі)

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Анотація

«Спадщина» радянської доби стала предметом багатьох досліджень. Також звертається увага на зусилля створити спільну картину шляхом узагальнення нашої політичної, економічної та культурної спадщини в різних сферах. Створення загальної картини шляхом виявлення культурних тенденцій на тлі політичних процесів, тенденцій прикладного та образотворчого мистецтва на тлі економічної «утопії» не означає вичерпної картини.

Коли ми «розглядаємо» політичні, економічні та культурні аспекти спадщини радянської доби, то складається картина, що наша культурна спадщина вважається більш цінною та важливою. Культурні споруди радянського періоду, загальні зразки культурного, літературного, прикладного та образотворчого мистецтва можна оцінити як цінності, що зближують і об'єднують людей. У зв'язку з цим важливо вивчати та відзначати працю, роль і заслуги осіб, які відіграли важливу роль у створенні та розвитку культурного середовища.

Аліадар Сайдзаде – прогресивний інтелектуал, який у важкі роки радянської доби присвятив своє життя культурному будівництву, популяризації книги та читання, розширенню бібліотечної діяльності, розширенню літературних зв'язків.

Дослідженню та оцінці його різнобічної культурної діяльності присвячена дана стаття. Цікаве життя прожив А. Сайдзаде, який, поряд із креативністю своєї «державницької позиції» в системі, не втратив світських цінностей, зберігаючи національну концепцію в радянській ідеологічній системі. Начитаність і світогляд знайшли відображення в його цінних творах. У його діях і думках особливо виділяється підхід «Пропаганда не завжди є ідеологією, а пропаганда має бути прогресивною...».

А. Сайдзаде є одним із небагатьох людей у науковому та культурному середовищі Азербайджану, чия діяльність була оцінена як на рівні Радянського Союзу, так і в межах національної культури. Опубліковані ним наукові книги, підручники та методичні матеріали, наукові статті зберігають своє значення й досі. Захищені ним кандидатська та докторська дисертації, над якими він працював, послужили розвитку азербайджанської літературної думки.

Ключові слова: культура Азербайджану, відомий бібліотекознавець, бібліограф і літературознавець, бібліотекар Азербайджану, бібліотека і культура

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Introduction.

Unlike Moscow and St. Petersburg, the romanticism of the state, established by the "dictatorship of the proletariat" after the October Revolution, "did not seem attractive" in the provinces. The provinces expressed themselves in religious and national groups, and in many areas the proletariat "carried incomprehensible significance."

In the public environment, the intelligentsia expressed their differences and positions based on different worldviews and upbringing, and acted from constructive, constructive, and sometimes destructive positions. The religious, social and ideological multipolarity of society gradually turned into a single, manageable, but complex socio-cultural environment in the early 1920s.

Pages from His Biography:

An analysis of the socio-cultural environment of the period shows that the number of intelligentsia who accepted the values of nationality and statehood as the main ones in social relations and chose to serve these two goals with their activities was considerable. In the 20s of the 20th century, the number of intellectuals who accepted nationalism and statehood as directions that did not negate each other was large. Especially in Azerbaijan, the intelligentsia was understood as supporters of national values, serving national education and culture, including those serving the state. Service to national-cultural development is understood as service to worldly values, and they evaluate this process as cultural integration, worldly. From this point of view, the library is a worldly value, the book is a world heritage, reading is a human value, social communication is a common development of human values, etc.

In 1921, when Aliajdar Saidzade's book "How Small Turkish Libraries Were Opened" was published, he was only 22 years old. This young man, who worked as a teacher between the ages of 19 and 21, realized the shortcomings of the process of education and upbringing. True, at the age of 15 he had the first experience of publishing a small collection of poems. However, in order to understand the social, cultural and philosophical essence of library activity, to correctly assess its role in the evolution of the nation and society, the steps taken by the 22-year-old boy should be recognized as very ambitious for this . time. He published the first scientific work in Azerbaijani academic thought dedicated to library activities. (State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan, A.A. Said-zadeh, D-304, p. 4).

In Azerbaijani public opinion, multicultural values have been considered important at all times. The intelligentsia played an exceptional role in the formation of a multilingual, multi-ethnic and tolerant environment in Azerbaijan. Public figures of Azerbaijan at all historical stages became trilingual, got acquainted with world literature and thinkers, translated and promoted their works. One of these intellectuals was A. Saidzade. (State Archive of the RF, F.1318, Op.21, D402, 1L, 325-

328, p. 326). In addition to the Azerbaijani language, he also knew Russian, Persian and Arabic, and thanks to his excellent command of these languages, he worked for a long time at the USSR Academy of Sciences.

It is worth noting that in 1921 he worked as an executive secretary for publications in Turkish of the RK(b)P in Moscow, since 1922 he worked as a lecturer at the Communist University of the Workers of the East (Moscow), since 1923 he was the director of the Azerbaijani sector of the Eastern Publishing House and as a publisher-polygrapher got acquainted with the possibilities of large publishers. Since 1929 he has been working as a teacher of the history of the Turkic peoples at the Leningrad State University and a researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies. (Kazimi, 2017, p. 246).

Later, in addition to the position of the head of the department "General Linguistics", pedagogical activity in the field of the history of the Turkic peoples, a teacher of the Persian language, an executive secretary in a publishing house, a party "lecturer" at the university, at the same time his work on historical and literary portraits of Nasimi, Mirza Shafi Vazekha, Mirza Fatali Akhundova, A. A. Bakikhanov showed the wide academic platform of A. Seidzade. (Kazimi, 2011, p.5). All this happened during the most brutal period of the Second World War.

In the case of a biography written in the Soviet years, information is given about his work at the Baku oil fields and his "incomplete" education. However, we do not find images and motifs of workers in his work, but the broad reading and philosophical-analytical abilities expressed in his work, familiarity with Eastern languages, and familiarity with literary materials from the original are obvious. This painting is the result of many years of painstaking work.

As a result of these ambitions, in 1922 he published three books on library building, reading culture, and enlightenment. "What is a library and what are libraries in general", "What is the power and importance of a book", "How should books be written and classified in public libraries?" These three books were presented to the cultural environment of Azerbaijan, topics raised for the first time in the scientific and cultural environment of Azerbaijan, and were the first academic products in this field in the Azerbaijani language. (Kazimi, 2012, p. 321).

The phenomenon of Nariman Narimanov was still remembered in Azerbaijani public opinion. At the end of the 19th century, when he came to Baku after receiving a higher medical education, he could practice medicine. When there was a need for professional medical personnel in Azerbaijan, N. Narimanov opened a public library and began to serve public education. In those days, the problem of organizing mass popular readings and educating people was more important than the problem of health. From this point of view, the position of A. Saidzade attracted attention in the early 1920s.

A. Saidzade considered reading the main instrument of the evolution of knowledge. Libraries were presented

as the main collection center of society as an organizer of mass reading. The scientist presents the areas of library, public reading, poetry and philosophy as mutually dependent areas, and this process was clearly visible in his work. The researcher studied and propagated the heritage of such thinkers as Mirza Shafi Vaze, Mirza Fatali Akhundov, A. A. Bakikhanov, Bakuvi, promoted the classic cultural approach to the development of society. In essence, the scientist remains a culturologist in his scientific and journalistic heritage.

The scientist did not receive a special literary education. However, he was familiar with the dependence on literature characteristic of all Azerbaijani intellectuals, the desire to "seek keys to understanding the world" in literature, the search for answers to human questions, concepts of wisdom and methods. Therefore, at the first opportunity, he writes down his thoughts and analyzes the literary and intellectual cooperation between Azerbaijani and Russian thinkers.

In 1946, he devoted five publicistic works to the 600th anniversary of the famous Azerbaijani mystic poet Nasimi. Four of them were published in the Scientific News of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. "Materialism is the basis of Nasimi's philosophy", "Nasimi and Hafiz Shirazi", "Nasimi as a poet-thinker", "Nasimi in Western European languages: [to the 600th anniversary of the birth of the great Azerbaijani poet]", "The experience of periodization of Nasimi's work".

These works not only became a "major contribution" to the study of Nasimi's heritage, but also demonstrated the breadth of the research scale of the acquisition. The scientist studies Azerbaijani thinkers and presents them as a world cultural heritage, the comparison of national difference, "exclusivity" and "excellence in literature" is not a subject of discussion. Such approaches contradict the worldview of the scientist.

An interesting feature also confirms what has been said. A. Saidzade resolves the misunderstanding (case of plagiarism) between Mirza Shafi Vazeh and the German literary figure Bodenshtedt with high scientific and literary ethics. The article devoted to this topic demonstrates the norms of academic ethics in the world literary environment of the mid-twentieth century.

Aliajdar Saidzade had important merits in the development of the literary science of Azerbaijan in the 20th century. Although the main focus of his work is the study of the literary process, there are valuable works on both philosophical and librarianship, books and "bibliographic culture". Acquaintance with his works shows that he is one of the first authors of scientific thought in the field of book business, librarianship and "bibliography" in Azerbaijan.

During these years, the first "courses" in the field of librarianship were launched in Azerbaijan. It is important to make a choice at this historical stage, when library activities are moving from traditional to ideological thinking. The scientist makes his choice. In the concept

put forward by him, the organization of public readings and the activities of libraries are not the activities of the elite, but of the public mass, and propaganda is not in all cases an ideology, propaganda is progressive in nature, supporting development and evolution.

On May 14, 1942, he defended his thesis on the topic "Mirza Shafi Sadiq oglu Vazeh" and for many years he worked on his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Khurufate Nasimi Shirvani" which he did not sew up. According to what is written about A. Saidzade in encyclopedic sources, he is an Azerbaijani Soviet literary critic and bibliographer, the author of about 100 scientific works, as well as valuable educational books, such as "Organization of Library Work", "Public Libraries", "Classification and description of books in public libraries", "Classification and description of books in public libraries", author of methodological materials. He is the author of bibliographic reviews of the Azerbaijani press and a number of articles on the history of book publishing.

In 1914-1969, 11 works of A. Saidzade were published in the form of books in the Azerbaijani language. These are: Mahabbati-madarana [1914], How small Turkish libraries were opened [1921], What is a library and what are libraries in general [1922], What is the strength and importance of a book [1922], How to write and classify books in the libraries of the regions [1922], The structure of club workers: (Head of training courses for club workers and political workers) [1924], Mirza Shafi Vazeh: (Experience of studying on the basis of archival materials of the life and work of Mirza Shafi Vazeh) [1929], Ganja great thinker and poet Mirza Shafi "Vazeh": (life and creativity) [1929], From the history of cultural relations between Azerbaijan and India in the Middle Ages: lecture transcript [1958], Invented miracles [1966], Mirza Shafi Sadig oglu Vazeh [1969].

The books of the outstanding scientist in Russian have been published since 1929. The great thinker and poet Ganji Mirza Shafi Vazeh [1929], Mirza Shafi or Bodenshtedt?: (on the question of the origin, volume and nature of Fr. Bodenshtedt's plagiarism) [1940], Muhammad - Ali Bakuvi - an outstanding Azerbaijani poet and philosopher of the 11th century [1960], Mirza-Shafi Sadyk-ogly Vazekh / [Preface by E. Bertels] [1969].

In 1922-1971, Aliajdar Saidzade worked tirelessly in the pages of the Azerbaijani and foreign press. His first work is called "Transcaucasian Turkish Press" and was published in 1922 by the publishing house "Kyzyl Shark".

As an example of translations, one can cite the story of D. Chungadze "The Castle of Surism": (fragment). This translated work was published in the 8th issue of the Revolution and Culture magazine in 1928.

The attitude of the leading intelligentsia of Azerbaijan towards the work of Pushkin and Lermantov, mutual literary ties, the humaneness of poetic material were the focus of the researcher's attention in the 40s and 50s. His articles on these topics are relevant today.

In 1929, Amin A. about the life and work of prominent figures, "regarding the unjustified attack on Mirza Fatali", in 1940. A valuable book: [about the book "Mirza Shafi or Bodenstedt" by A. Seidzade], in 1969 Bunyadov Z. An interesting research work: [About the work of A. A. Seidzade "Mirza Shafi Vazeh", published in Russian], in 1970 Shukurov S. The result of valuable searches: [About Ali Ajdar Seidzade's book "Mirza Shafi Vazeh"], 2015 "classification systems used in Azerbaijan: [the section also mentions A.A. Saidzade's methodological guide "How to write and classify books in public libraries"] - we can show published works in different directions.

Conclusions.

Aliajdar Saidzade is a progressive intellectual who devoted his life to cultural construction, the popularization of books and reading, the expansion of library activities, and the expansion of literary ties in the difficult years of the Soviet era.

This article is devoted to the study and evaluation of his versatile cultural activities. An interesting life was lived by A. Saidzade, who, along with the creativity of his "state position" in the system, did not lose secular values while maintaining the national concept in the Soviet ideological system. Reading and worldview are reflected in his valuable works. In his actions and thoughts, the approach "Propaganda is not in all cases an ideology and propaganda must be progressive ..." is especially noteworthy. (Kazimi, 2021, p. 847).

Some of his works were published in the scientific works of the Academy of Sciences, republican and "former Soviet" publications. An analysis of articles published in the press and scientific journals shows that all topics on the agenda are relevant, from advanced intellectual positions, go beyond nomenclature thinking. That is why his scientific heritage was not subjected to various attacks either during the years of repressions or after the repressions. The scientist successfully passed the most difficult test of maintaining his scientific, cultural and public reputation.

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