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## THE MAIN LITERARY FORCES OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC PERIOD

### ГЛАВНЫЕ ЛИТЕРАТУРНЫЕ СИЛЫ ПЕРИОДА АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the literary societies «Green Pen» and «Red Pen», which emerged during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918 – 1920). The author examines the role of prominent representatives of Azerbaijani literature of the early 20th century, such as Muhammad Hadi, Ahmed Javad, Jafar Jabbarli and Emin Abid, in the activities of these societies.

**Аннотация.** Статья посвящена литературным объединениям «Зелёное перо» и «Красное перо», существовавшим в период Азербайджанской Демократической Республики (1918 – 1920). Раскрывается роль в деятельности этих объединений таких видных представителей азербайджанской литературы начала XX века, как Мухаммед Хади, Ахмед Джавад, Джафар Джаббарлы и Эмин Абид.

**Keywords:** Azerbaijani literature, poetry, history of Azerbaijan.

**Ключевые слова:** азербайджанская литература, поэзия, история Азербайджана.

In every period, the main literary forces form in intellectual centres and poetry assemblies, and undergoes stages of organization and development, and eventually becomes a leading and influential power by introducing a new spirit into the socio-cultural environment of the society. In the XIX century, literary assemblies such as «Majlisi-Uns» (1864 – 1872), «Majlisi-Faramushan» (1872 – 1910), «Baytus-Safa» and «Majmaush-Shuara» in the cities of Shusha, Shamakhi, and Baku, being cultural centres of the country, were poetic universities where the poets were gatherings and classical and folk literature works were being discussed.

Before the Democratic Republic period, the literary assemblies transferred their functions and authority to newspapers and magazines in which the writers had published their works. Publications such as «*Molla Nasraddin*», «*Fuyuzat*», «*Achig*

*Soz*», «*Mekteb*», and others were literary schools where writers frequently gathered and held poetry discussions. The first society of writers and editors was established in January 1917 under the leadership of M. A. Rasulzada at the editorial office of the newspaper «*Achig soz*». Outstanding poets and writers of the time participated in the meetings and events of the society.

During the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the main literary forces gathered around two poetic societies that emphasized symbols of pens and colours in their names, according to their socio-political views and ideological leanings. One of them was the «Green Pen» and the other one was «Red Pen» society.

In the issue 263 of the «Azerbaijan» newspaper, dated 1919, an article titled «Green Pen» states: *«On August 26, in the Reading Hall of the Parliament building, the first founding meeting of the literary and scientific «Green Pen» society organized with the participation of writers and editors took place. About 35 writers and editors were participating in the meeting...»* [8].

The prominent writer and editor Seyid Huseyn Sadig succeeded in uniting the major literary forces of the time around the «Green Pen» society, many of the participants at the founding meeting became members of this newly established creative society. In the page 4 of the issue 54 of the «Azerbaijan» newspaper dated 1920, in the article titled «Green Pen» we can see the list of society members. Among the writers and editors Mahammad Amin Rasulzada, Shafi bey Rustambeyli, Omar Faig Nemanzada, Huseyn Sadig, Uzeyir bey Hajibeyli, Shafiga khanum Afandizada, Khalil Ibrahim, Mirza Bala Mammadzada, Abdul Vahab Mammadzada, Mahammad Ali Rasulzada, Haji Ibrahim Gasimov, Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev, Gafur Rashad Mirzazada, and others were mentioned. Among the poets, Huseyn Javid, Abdulla Shaig, Mirza Abdulkhalig Jannati, Samad Mansur, Jafar Jabbarzada, Javad Akhundzada, Aliabbas Muznib, Seyid Zargar, Isa bey Ashurbeyli Haggi, Abdul Rahman Dai, Ali Shovgi, Ali Razi, Ali Mahzun, Ali Pasha Huseynzada, Nemat Basir, Ibrahim Tahir Musazada, Mashadi Azar, Mirza Ibrahim Fana, Hashim bey Sagib and others were active members of «Green Pen» society.

When we closely consider the direction of its activities, it is shown that the «Green Pen» society was a continuation and a more developed, modern model of the «Society of Writers and Editors» established by M. A. Rasulzada in 1917. Even, it is clear that the members of the «Society of Writers and Editors» society later fully joined the «Green Pen» association and aligned their creative according to the mission statement of this creativity union.

On September 28, 1919, under the leadership of Aliheydar Garayev, the leader of the Socialist Party, «Red Pen» society, an alternative and perhaps opposing organization for to the «Green Pen». Although the «Red Pen» society was less organized, it was firmly rooted in ideological principles, acted as the «corps» of Russian communists in Azerbaijan and promoting the ideals of the Social Democratic Party. About the founding meeting of the new society, the «Fugara Sadasi» newspaper wrote in its issue dated September 28, 1919: *«In the room of the Workers' Club, at 7 p.m., under the chairmanship of Mir Jafar Javadzada, and secretariat of Agha Mohammad Ali and participation of Jafar Jabbarzada, the meeting of the «Red Pen» society began»* [6]. The grate artist of his time and a prominent representative of the romantic literary movement in Azerbaijani literature, Mahammad Hadi, published his poem «*The Song of the Turk*» in the first issue of the Ganja edition of the newspaper *Azerbaijan* under the signature «Abdulsalimzada Mahammad Hadi»:

*Can the blood spilled of the Turk be in vain?  
Think carefully, could all this blood be for nothing?  
These many lives given over four years would not be in vain,  
Blood shed on the path of an ideal is never in vain.  
The precious blood of martyrs is not in vain,  
The generosity of widows cannot be in vain,  
Look at the end, the grace and assistance of Turkish women is not in vain,  
The sorrow of orphaned children will not be in vain* [5].

The poem «The Song of the Turk» by Mahammad Hadi published in the first issue of the «Azerbaijan» newspaper in the city of Ganja, was, in fact, a wreath of gratitude, a song of victory to the souls of the innocent victims and brave martyrs who perished during World War I, the March Massacre of 1918, and the struggle for

independence and freedom. It was a song of victory, and a garland of gratitude offered to their souls. The mass loss of life in wars, military clashes, and massacres, the death of people deeply shook society, and increased pessimism and eroding confidence in the future. In an era when the transience of life was frequently discussed in periodicals, official gatherings, and live conversations, when human values were being degraded, violence and cruelty were normalized, ancient traditions were being forgotten or disrespected, Mahammad Hadi raised his voice through «The Song of the Turk», elevated the chosen path of martyrdom for the sake of independence and freedom to a symbol of human dignity, etching it into stone memory. He declared in his poem: «*Blood shed on the path of an ideal is never in vain. The precious blood of martyrs is not in vain*». In this poem, the author created a complete, magnificent, and invincible image of the Turk, who installs pride and self-esteem in people, increases confidence in victory, understands the importance and value of fighting for a noble ideology, and embodies strength, wisdom, unwavering determination, justice, courage, fearlessness, and loyalty to peace.

The poem «The Black Sea» by the poet of independence, Ahmad Javad has been published first time under the pen name «Javad» in the first issue of the magazine «Youth's Homeland» (Gənclər yurdu), dated July 23, 1918. Considering the slight differences between the poem's original print version and its subsequent publications, and in order to form a clear picture of the work, it is necessary to present the full version from the journal:

*The Black Sea was stirring,  
Gazing upon the Turkish flag.  
Oh, I'd say I'd never die,  
If only I could fall at your feet [3].*

Our great artist and esteemed poet who devoted the most memorable and impactful poems to the symbols of the Republic era that is our army, our flag, and our national independence is Ahmad Javad without doubt. A photo of the earliest known manuscript of his poem «The Black Sea» was placed on the website «Kulis.az» on

May 5, 2021 [4]. At the top of the poem, the author wrote: «Dedicated to the revered master Alibey Huseynzada, the first guide of the beloved Turan ideal», and mentioned at the end of poem «May 1, 1918, Ganja» by signing.

When comparing the manuscript and published versions of the poem «Black Sea», certain differences can be observed. For example: in version manuscript version «You would flutter» and in the printed version of Youth's Homeland (YH) «It would flutter»; in MV: «Ah, you would say» and in YH: «Ah, we would say»; in MV: «If only I had fallen at your feet...» and in YH: «If only I could fall at your feet»; in MV: «If you were to fall away» and in YH: «Having fallen away». The places of the first and second lines of the third stanza in the manuscript version were swapped in the printed version. The third line of the fourth stanza of «Black Sea» reads in manuscript is: «Let Batumi be the sacrifice of the road», but in «Youth's House» it is: «Let Kazbek be the first sacrifice». These minor variations between the manuscript and the printed source can also be interpreted as results of editorial revisions. We believe that the first published version of the poem «Black Sea» during the author's lifetime should have been considered as the foundation for his later published books.

Jafar Jabbarli, a young poet, playwright, prose writer, and publicist (known as Jafar Jabbarzada during the Republic period) was very active in the press of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. His poems, «My Beloved Country» («My Country»), published in the January 20, 1919, issue of the newspaper «Azerbaijan», being widely memorized for a long time was included in the author's books in abbreviated form in Soviet-era publications and based on his text, the talented composer Asaf Zeynalli wrote the romance.

Two stanzas in the first newspaper version of «My Beloved Homeland», were later included in Soviet-era publications:

*The flame blazed on the «Yanar Dagh» mountains,  
Whole nations would flee to worship it,  
There was a time when my country lived free,  
The traces of my homeland are on these roads [2].*

From this stanza of the work, it becomes clear why the Soviet censorship deemed it «appropriate» to remove these lines from later publications?! The sacredness of the Land of Fire and its symbolic «Yanar Dag», the thought of «There was a time when my country lived free», and desire to see one's homeland free could not fail to trouble the Soviet censorship.

The great artist's most beautiful lyrical works, dedicated to our national independence and most captivating from an artistic and aesthetic perspective, were published in the newspaper «Azerbaijan». His poems «My Beloved» («*To the Azerbaijani Flag*») and «To the Azerbaijani Flag», published in August 1919, are devoted to the three-coloured national flag with a crescent and a star being an emblem of the Republic of a nation that had gained its independence and sovereignty:

*Your golden chest is the crescent and star, when kissed by the light,  
The sunrise is heard from the peak of Mount Shahdag.  
May God have mercy, like the God of all beauty – fine, and delicate,  
In this form, it sends endless greetings to hearts.  
It has brothers and friends in those lands whom it deeply loves,  
My beloved – in green, blue-eyed, with rosy cheeks [1].*

Among the young literary forces, Emin Abid, although he went to Istanbul for education before the Republic, was one of the talented poets whose heartbeat for Azerbaijan. Although he regularly performed in the journal «School» under the pen name «Abid Mutallibzada» in particular, in the early days of the Republic, he began using the pseudonym «Alp» according to the poems he submitted to the newspaper «Azerbaijan». Addressing the youth of the time in his poem «The Turk's Sorrow», the author wrote:

*A dark cloud playing over me,  
Is shining a thousand sorrows to the homeland...  
This nation, which doesn't understand pain, this living coffin,  
Opens the roads to the world of death... [7]*

Both of «*The Turk's Sorrow*» and «*Abdulgag Hamid*» from the series «*Great Figures*» by Abid Alp Mutallib oghu, that is, Emin Abid work, are rare gems of poetry of the Republic era, and national and spiritual treasures.

**Conclusion.** This period is a stage in the history of Azerbaijani literary and social thought when national self-awareness, the spirit of independence, and the ideals of enlightenment reached their peak. Most of the writers were also engaged in political and social life, which greatly influenced their creative work.

The rich literary, artistic, and intellectual heritage in harmony with the spirit of modernity, created by the main literary figures who regularly published poems, stories, and journalistic writings during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic era, as a whole constitutes the literary, cultural, and moral treasury of that period.

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