

## **МОВОЗНАВСТВО. ЛІТЕРАТУРОЗНАВСТВО**

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### **THE ROLE OF HEYDAR ALIYEV IN THE CREATION OF HOME AND MEMORIAL MUSEUMS OF AZERBAIJANI LITERARY FIGURES**

*The aim* is this article is devoted to the creation and development of house-museums under the cultural policy of the national leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. In the article, the author took a brief look at the history of the creation of house-museums at Heydar Aliyev's initiative, and noted the difficulties and national-cultural importance of the work done in this direction.

**Methods and methodology.** Historical-comparative method was used during the research.

**Scientific innovations.** For the first time, the article talks about the unprecedented services rendered by the national leader of the Azerbaijani people, a prominent political figure, Heydar Aliyev, in the creation of houses and memorial museums of literary figures in Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev is valued as a great patron of the national culture and literature of Azerbaijan, attracting factual information and documentary resources related to the topic to the research. For the first time, the conclusion has been scientifically substantiated that the attention paid to the creation of memorial houses and museums is one of the main aspects that characterize Heydar Aliyev as a national leader. During the period of Azerbaijan being part of the Soviet Union and after gaining independence, the assertion that Heydar Aliyev's activities in this area was an important component of his national cultural policy as a political leader was brought to the scientific level for the first time.

**Conclusion.** The great leader was deeply familiar with the works of prominent personalities whose house-museums he established, and taking into account the universal importance, extraordinary influence and longevity of this work.

Heydar Aliyev's decisively expressed views are the legacy of the national leader and a unique task. We have no doubt that this task has been duly fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled in Azerbaijan, which has gained strength under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev.

These strongly expressed views of Heydar Aliyev are the heritage of the national leader, a special task. We have no doubt that this duty has been duly fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled in Azerbaijan, which has strengthened its power under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev.

**Key words:** Heydar Aliyev, national leader, home and memorial museums, promotion of national culture, cultural policy.

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### **РОЛЬ ГЕЙДАРА АЛІЄВА У СТВОРЕННІ ДОМАШНІХ ТА МЕМОРІАЛЬНИХ МУЗЕЇВ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКИХ ЛІТЕРАТУРНИХ ДІЯЧІВ**

*Метою статті* є створення та розвиток будинків-музеїв в рамках культурної політики національного лідера Азербайджану Гейдара Алієва. У статті автор коротко зупинився на історії створення будинків-музеїв з ініціативи Гейдара Алієва, відзначив труднощі та національно-культурну важливість проведеної в цьому напрямку роботи.

**Методи та методика.** Під час дослідження використано історико-порівняльний метод.

**Наукові новинки.** У статті вперше йдеться про безпрецедентні заслуги національного лідера азербайджанського народу, видатного політичного діяча Гейдара Алієва у створенні будинків і меморіальних музеїв літературних діячів Азербайджану. Гейдара Алієва цінують як великого мецената національної культури

та літератури Азербайджану, залучаючи до дослідження фактичну інформацію та документальні ресурси, пов'язані з темою. Вперше науково обґрунтовано висновок про те, що увага до створення меморіальних будинків і музеїв є одним із головних аспектів, які характеризують Гейдара Алієва як національного лідера. У період перебування Азербайджану в складі Радянського Союзу та після здобуття ним незалежності вперше на науковий рівень було винесено твердження про те, що діяльність Гейдара Алієва в цій сфері була важливою складовою його національної культурної політики як політичного лідера.

**Висновок.** Великий вождь був глибоко обізнаний з творчістю видатних діячів, чії будинки-музеї він створював, враховуючи загальнолюдське значення, надзвичайну впливовість і довголіття цієї праці.

Рішуче висловлені погляди Гейдара Алієва є надбанням національного лідера та унікальним завданням. Ми не сумніваємося, що це завдання належним чином виконано і буде виконуватися в Азербайджані, який зміцнів під керівництвом Президента Ільхама Алієва.

Ці яскраво виражені погляди Гейдара Алієва є надбанням національного лідера, особливим завданням. Ми не сумніваємося, що цей обов'язок був належним чином виконаний і буде виконуватися в Азербайджані, який зміцнив свою владу під керівництвом президента Ільхама Алієва.

**Ключові слова:** Гейдар Алієв, національний лідер, домашні та меморіальні музеї, розвиток національної культури, культурна політика.

**Introduction.** Museum construction, which is one of the main driving forces of socio-cultural development in Azerbaijan, has always been in the limelight of society and the state, except for certain periods. A small museum created by Jalil Mammadguluzada in 1896 in the Nehram village school in Nakhchivan became the first herald of this historical process. Probably, at that time Mirza Jalil did not even dream that, after almost a century, a museum would be created for him in Nakhchivan and Baku, and the world-famous compatriot of the writer, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, would become the founder and benefactor of these house-museums.

President Ilham Aliyev's declaration of 2023 as the "Year of Heydar Aliyev" in Azerbaijan and celebration of 100th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev is a historical opportunity to honor the bright memory of the great leader with deep respect, to enliven his unparalleled services for Azerbaijan in the national memory, and to speak proudly about those merits.

**Main matters.** Azerbaijan has experienced its renaissance period during the 34 years of national leader Heydar Aliyev's rule. Our people still enjoy the results of the wise, versatile and deliberate activity of the great leader in all areas. Enterprises, scientific and educational institutions, social and cultural institutions, including museums which founded and created by Heydar Aliyev, put into operation for the first time, inaugurated, and did his best to survive, play an important role in the development of the economy, culture, education, and science of Azerbaijan.

It can be said that, the great leader would never distinguish the work he did for the sake of the people and their future as very important or less important. In the mind of Heydar Aliyev, it was equally important to create a military school for officers and specialists who liberated Karabakh from the enemy, to inaugurate the historic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, to establish and open of the small memorial, a house-museum of

the prominent person of Azerbaijan. It is no coincidence that, house-museums of many representatives of Azerbaijan's classical heritage started to be created during Heydar Aliyev's leadership in our country, from the 70s of the last century. The memories of the great leader about these processes not only shed light on the results of the work done in the field of museum construction, but also reflect the progress of these works, the hardships encountered and ways to solve these difficulties: "At the beginning of the 70's, we started to create house museums of great personalities of our people in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the first such museum was the house-museum of our great composer Uzeyir Hajibayov. In 1976, the house-museum of our great poet Samad Vurgun was established. After that, I gave special instructions about the creation of such museums. I really wished that such museums would be created soon. Undoubtedly, in order to create these museums, the people living in these houses had to be relocated to other places. We were doing these things at the time" (Aliyev, 1997: 76).

Special attention and benevolent attitude to museum work was an integral part of the cultural policy of Heydar Aliyev. Under the auspices of great leader, the memorial and house-museums of Jalil Mammadguluzada and Huseyn Javid (both also in Nakhchivan), Uzeyir Hajibayov, Nariman Narimanov, Samad Vurgun, Jafar Jabbarli, Mammad Said Ordubadi, Bulbul (also in Shusha), Niyazi, Sattar Bahlulzada, Leopold and Mstislav Rastropovich were established in Baku, Mirza Alakbar Sabir's house-museum in Shamakhi was fundamentally reconstructed and enriched with exhibits. In fact, some of these works were achieved by the great leader with great difficulty, time and effort for years (Huseinov, 2023). For example, during the rule of the chauvinist Zviad Gamsakhurdia in Georgia, the house-museum of Mirza Fatali Akhundov was destroyed, given to "who need housing", and the memorial plaque was removed. The return to power

of Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan and Eduard Shevardnadze in Georgia allowed to put an end to this historical injustice, and the great leader used his political influence to return the house-museum of Mirza Fatali Akhundov to Georgian Azerbaijanis. To perpetuate the memory of Nariman Narimanov in Tbilisi, the support of a national leader was needed, and at the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the apartment where this famous statesman and writer lived and created was purchased and turned into a house-museum (Karimli, 2023: 87–89).

This and other museums associated with the name of the great leader were his gift to Azerbaijani culture and are still successfully continue their activities today.

In general, a significant increase was observed in the number of museums and exhibitions during the leadership of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev to Azerbaijan. For example, in 1969, the number of exhibits in Azerbaijani museums was 240,000, in 1974, this number reached 344,000, and in 1982, it reached 640,000. According to the indicators of 2000, the total fund of memorial houses and house-museums in Azerbaijan amounted to 82,000 exhibits.

During the 34-year leadership of Azerbaijan by Heydar Aliyev, 120 museums of various profiles were established in our country, including 31 museums in 1993–2003. During these years, the material and technical base of museums has been strengthened, progressive scientific approaches have been widely used in the field of organization and management of museum work, the legislative framework for the regulation of the field was formed, the Law “On Museums” was adopted (2000).

The great leader had personally completed the works he had started in the direction of the creation of several of these house-museums during his first leadership in Azerbaijan, and later, as he himself admitted, he thought that the work he had started in Azerbaijan would be continued despite his move to Moscow after being appointed to a higher position in 1982. However, due to the negligence and stolidity of the leaders of the time (read: indifference to Azerbaijani culture), the people in power, Heydar Aliyev’s unfinished works, which were the author of the idea, had to be carried out this time by him as the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Paying attention to the speech of the great leader at the opening of the house-museum of Jalil Mammadguluzada and the meeting regarding the creation of the house-museum of Huseyn Javid is enough to reveal the degree of indifference in question. In this sense, Heydar Aliyev’s remarks during the opening of the house-museum of J.Mammadguluzada on December 28, 1994

help to understand a number of truths of the time: Now you say that at the beginning of 1982 the place was already empty (It means the rooms where the house-museum is located – G.B.). It took maybe 5–6 months, a year, two years to repair the building and collect these exhibits. **But 12 years have passed since then...**

I would be very pleased, because we started this work and it was my own initiative. I have a lot of work in all of this, – I would be very happy if this museum opens as soon as possible. I would have been very happy if I had heard that this museum was opened when I was living in Moscow. Then I came to Azerbaijan, I was interested in it several times when I lived in Nakhchivan. It is true that at that time I did not have the opportunity. However, I was just asking everyone if the museum was open or not? They said: no, it was not opened. Finally, as soon as I returned to work in Baku, I again became interested in this issue and instructed me to take the necessary measures. **Now you see that it has opened.** So, no matter how difficult it may be, opening such a museum will not be difficult. We used to build big palaces and buildings in one or two years. Restoring such an apartment, that is, these rooms, and collecting the exhibits here is not a difficult task at all. Here, not only the personality of Jalil Mammadguluzada, but also our culture and literature in general are shown. What attitude? This attitude is not good. Because, you know, the creation of each such cultural center and museum contributes to the popularization of our culture, cultural heritage, history, past, our roots, on the one hand. On the other hand, it encourages the creativity of individuals and personalities, and they are a great source of education, a source of culture” (Aliyev, 1997: 73–74).

In fact, with this speech, Heydar Aliyev taught a kind of history lesson to those who understood him or not. A history lesson in both senses of the word: literally and figuratively. With these ideas, the great leader acts as a perfect connoisseur of Azerbaijani literature and history on the one hand, and called us to think, learn from the effects of time on personality and personality on time, as well as the effects of classical heritage on culture and the awakening of national consciousness. On the other hand, he goes against the flow, he gave a lesson to those who wanted to leave his work unfinished and thereby try to forget his name and his work: “**...Now you see that it has opened**”. That is, he wanted to say that he is the master of his word! Even if it’s too late, hard, he finishes what he started. Now, we wouldn’t be wrong if we say that Heydar Aliyev’s “I believe in him as much as myself” view about Ilham Aliyev was the continuation of this certainty. I wish to go to Shusha with you.

**We will go! Believe that we will go!**" Heydar Aliyev used to say. Of course, he believed in it with all his being and was sure. He was not at all worried about the fact that he would not have enough time to realize this dream, that one day he would leave the world and not keep his promise. With the assurance of the great leader and the determination of the victorious Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, the glorious Azerbaijani soldier recaptured Shusha from the Armenians. Heydar Aliyev, in the hearts of that victorious soldier, officer and the whole nation, went to Shusha, climbed with us to the Shusha fortress and the Isa spring. At the same time, he kind of taught a history lesson in his style to those who did not believe in him, his enemies:

"... **Now you see, we're gone**"... We once again believed that Heydar Aliyev finished the work he started, no matter where he was in the physical or metaphysical world, kept his promise and transferred his ideas to modern times.

Think about it, in the above-quoted speech, Heydar Aliyev himself admits that, he had no opportunity after leaving his post in Moscow and coming to Nakhchivan, that is, he lived in a difficult situation. However, despite all these difficulties and the pressures of the state at that time, he is interested in whether Jalil Mammadguluzada's house-museum has been opened or not. (Several times himself!). He gets a negative response. And look what he says: "As soon as I finally came back to work in Baku (not "later", but "as soon as I came back" – G.B.), I took care of this issue again and gave instructions to take the necessary measures". No matter how much we praise such a phenomenal personality, a devotee of the Motherland, a bigot of the nation, it is still not enough.

Another example of the great leader's steadfast, consistent, uninterrupted cultural obsession and patronage can be seen in relation to the outstanding Azerbaijani poet Huseyn Javid and the creation of his house-museum. In 1992, while he was serving as the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, in his speech at the meeting on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of Huseyn Javid, the great leader said with regret:

"In 1981, when the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan adopted a decision on the 100th anniversary of Huseyn Javid, many measures were planned.

The return of Huseyn Javid's dead body to his homeland, the organization of a house museum in the houses where Huseyn Javid lived in Baku and Nakhchivan, the installation of the statue of Huseyn Javid in Baku, the creation of a mausoleum over the

grave of Huseyn Javid in Nakhchivan, the installation of the statue of Huseyn Javid in Nakhchivan, wide distribution, publication, translation and presentation of Huseyn Javid's works into Russian and other languages. **Unfortunately, most of these measures have not been implemented over these 10 years.** (The choice is ours – G.B.) Today, it was noted that as Heydar Aliyev, I took the initiative in these matters. Yes, it is, but I don't consider it a great achievement myself. It was just my civic duty. I certainly take solace in the fact that I have fulfilled my civic duty" (Hasanov, 2008: 351).

On June 10, 1995, a meeting was held with national leader Heydar Aliyev on the issues of "creating the mausoleum of Huseyn Javid and opening a house-museum"/

Great leader Heydar Aliyev also raised the issue of the Javid Mausoleum and the House-Museum at this meeting and resolved this issue: "After a long break, I returned to Azerbaijan from Moscow in 1990, went to Nakhchivan and visited Huseyn Javid's grave **on the same day**. Honestly, I didn't imagine that. I thought that even if there is no mausoleum, at least the top of the artist's grave has been removed. However, I went and saw the situation there, I was sorry, I was very worried. I saw that stones were simply placed on the grave, but the mausoleum was not built (Talibzade, 2023).

...I was told that two or three rooms were allocated for this museum (it means the museum to be created in Baku – G.B.), but it is not at the level of the House Museum, there is no House Museum. We cannot agree with that now... Huseyn Javid Museum will be held on the 3rd floor of the current Manuscripts Institute building, in the rooms where the famous artist once lived, and this museum will be affiliated to the Republic Academy of Sciences. The Cabinet of Ministers should adopt a special order" (Aliyev, 1998: 5–6; 8).

...And it happened. By decision No. 160 dated July 10, 1995, Huseyn Javid's memorial museum was transferred from the Ministry of Culture to the Academy of Sciences system and, being established on the 3rd floor of the Institute of Manuscripts building, continued its activities as the House-Museum of Huseyn Javid.

On October 24, 2002 – on Javid's 120th anniversary, national leader Heydar Aliyev officially opened the House Museum of Huseyn Javid in Baku.

In addition, there are also house-museums in Baku, which, although they were formed in the late 1980s and early 90s, have not been able to start full operation for a long time. For example, such a fate befell the house-museum of Abdulla Shaig. In December 1990, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decision on the

establishment of the Museum, and a month later – in January 1991, the museum was officially established. In January 1991, it was announced that the museum was officially established. However, for ten years, an exhibition could not be established here and the museum could not fulfill its function. Only in 2001, by the decision of National leader Heydar Aliyev, the exposition of the museum was opened in connection with the 120th anniversary of Abdulla Shaig.

The great leader Heydar Aliyev was especially sensitive to the creation of house-museums and considered such museums as a means of closer acquaintance with classical culture and literature, establishing spiritual contact with the outstanding people who created this heritage. As in all fields, he did not tolerate negligence and nonchalance in this work:

...Based on my past experiences, I can say that the people in power, the authorities, if they want to solve an issue (the work of building a house-museum – G.B), they will. Once, in 1976, when we were preparing for the 70th anniversary of our great poet Samad Vurgun, we organized his house-museum in a few months, and this museum is still operating. Before that, in 1975, we created the house-museum of our great composer Uzeyir Hajibayov. Then, on the eve of the 80th anniversary of Jafar Jabbarli, we erected a large monument and a statue of Jafar Jabbarli, and also created a house-museum. We also created a house-museum of our great artist and singer Bulbul. I'm not saying it's easy. But on the scale of the republic these are not such big tasks that it is impossible to do them. All you need is attitude and desire.

... Our great composer and conductor Niyazi died in 1983, but we created his house-museum a year ago

(in 1994 – G.B.). So, it is possible to do it when you want. It depends on attitude” (Aliev, 1998: 7).

From the point of view of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, the importance of creating museum houses was very great. According to the profound thought of the great leader, which is always relevant, the purpose of creating such museums is not just to honor the memory of some outstanding person. Of course, this is also important. But at the same time, house-museums should play a special role in the education of our people, especially the young generation, and in the development of national and moral values, promote our culture and lead to the cultural advancement of people.

The great leader was deeply familiar with the works of prominent personalities whose house-museums he established, and taking into account the universal importance, extraordinary influence and longevity of this work, he said with unique insight and conviction: “We have created house-museums and will create house-museums of outstanding representatives of our people. This is a good tradition and should be continued” (Aliev, 1998: 9).

Heydar Aliyev's decisively expressed views are the legacy of the national leader and a unique task. We have no doubt that this task has been duly fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled in Azerbaijan, which has gained strength under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev.

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