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ABDURRAHIM BEY HAGVERDIYEV

Writer, 1870-1933

AZERBAIJANI LITERATURE



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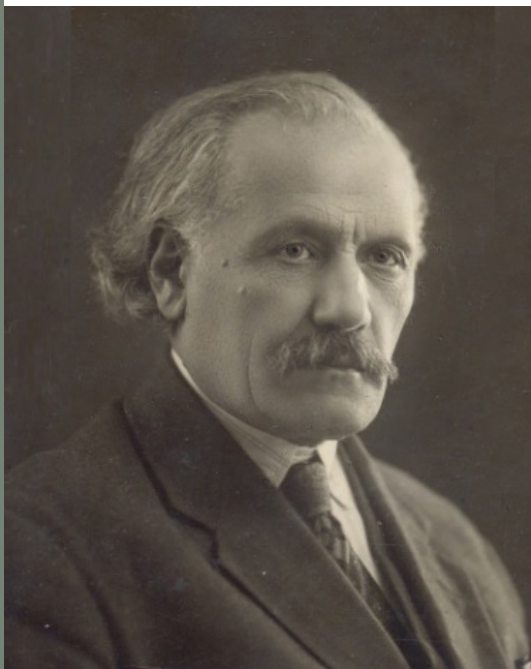
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Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev

Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev, one of the outstanding representatives of Azerbaijani realistic and democratic literature was born on of May 17 in 1870 in Aghbulag village near the city of Shusha. His father Asad Bey worked as a secretary in the okrug office. Abdurrahim lost his father at the age of three and was brought up under the guardianship of his uncle Abdulkarim Bey. Later on, his stepfather H.Sadigbeyov took care of him.

Having started attend Yusif Bey's temporary summer school in Shusha in 1880, A.Hagverdiyev mastered Russian there.

Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev began his literary activity when he was at Shusha Realni School. He wrote a small play titled "Haji Dashdamir" under M.F.Akhundzadeh's impact. A.Hagverdiyev wrote in this regard, "I remember well when Mirza Fatali's *"Khirs Guldurbasan"* [The Story of Robbers] was being staged. After seeing this play, I found Mirza Fatali's almanac and began to read it. I even wrote a comedy titled "Haji Dashdamir" similar in content with Mirza Fatali's "Haji Gara" and submitted it to Yusif Bey Maliknazarov for his deliberation. Yusif Bey was a genuine peadagogue. He returned the play to me using such a language that neither I was annoyed of him nor my spirits drooped".



Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev in Petersburg



Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev in childhood in Shusha

In 1890 A.Hagverdiyev finished the sixth grade at Shusha Realni School to enter the final grade at Tiflis Realni School where he studied the Russian and European classics and often visited the theatre. In 1891 A.Hagverdiyev finished Tiflis Realni School and left for Petersburg to get education. There he was enrolled in the Institute of Road Engineering. During the eight years in Petersburg, he got education in the Eastern Faculty of the University as a volunteer attendant and got seriously involved in linguistic and literary issues.

While studying in Petersburg, A.Hagverdiyev's inclination towards literary creativity grew more and more. Under the impact of the Petersburg literary life and the plays he had often seen at the Alexandrinsky Theatre, he wrote his early works such as "You'll Enjoy the Goose Meat, While Having It" (1892) and "The Collapsing Structure" (1896).



Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with his fellows



In 1899 he left Petersburg for Shusha where he stayed for two years and was busy with collecting the folklore pieces. He organized theatrical performances. In 1902-1903 he arranged the Eastern concerts in Baku and published his first stories "The Father and the Son", "The Moon's Attestation". The Baku scene provided wide potentials for the young writer's development. Here he met the progressive people of his time such as H.Zardabi, N.Vazirov, N.Narimanov, J.Zeynalov, H.Arablinsky with whom he collaborated, developed repertoire for theatre, worked as a producer and taught classes.



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev
with Habib bey Mahmudbeyov. 1890*

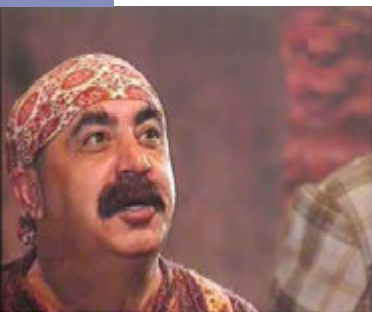


Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev in Tiflis

He attached great importance to non-distortion of the main idea and the naturalness of the actors' performance in "Haji Gara", "The Story of the Lankaran Khan's Vizier", "The Inspector", "Othello", "The Outlaws", "Out of the Pot into the Frying Pan", "Having a Name Without Being", "The Collapsing Structure", "The Unlucky Youth" and other plays which he produced and supervised in general in this period. A.Hagverdiyev, who was supervising the staging of Uzeyir Hajibeyov's opera "Leili and Majnun" in 1908, also directed the performance as the first Azerbaijani conductor.



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with figures
of literature and art*



A photo collage from "Hungry Swindlers" theatrical movie shot on the motives of play by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev. 1993



Post stamp of Azerbaijan with image of Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev (2014)





*Alexander Samoilov, Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev
and Bakir Chobanzadeh with their wives.
St.Petersburg, 1925*

The writer, who was well aware of the acting art of such outstanding masters of stage as Davidov, Varlamov, Komissardzevskaya, Savina, Dolmatov, Dalski working at the Alexandrinsky Theatre, did all his best to develop such talented theatrical figures on the national stage of Azerbaijan as well. A.Hagverdiyev made considerable efforts in the coming on the stage and improving as an actor of such outstanding artists as Husein Arablinski, Abulfat Vali, Sidgi Ruhulla, Huseingulu Sarabski and Murad Muradov.



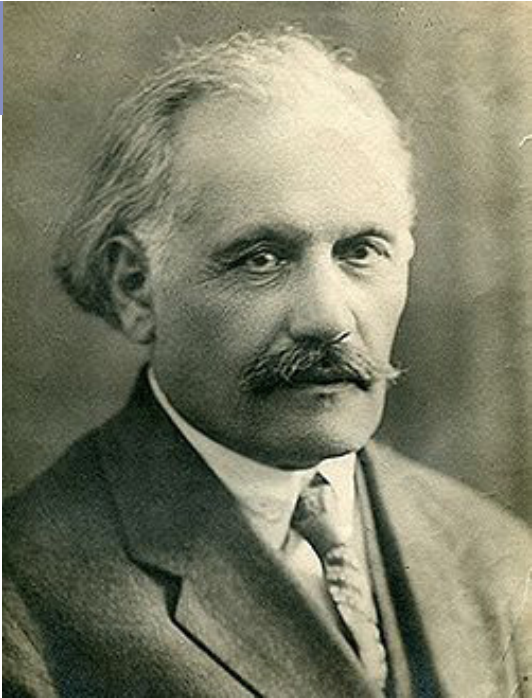
*The years when Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev chaired
the Body of Azerbaijani Writers*



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev among the students
of the Seminary*



Being elected a representative of the Russian State Duma from the Ganja province after the revolution of 1905, Abdurrahim Bey left for Petersburg. After the Duma was dissolved, he lived there for a while and was busy with collecting materials for the tragedy "Agha Mahammad Shah Gajar" he was to write. In 1907 the writer traveled to Iran to collect some additional materials again for the same tragedy. The tragedy was first staged in Baku in 1907 and further ruled the stage for a long time with great success.





Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with his family members



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with the students
of Theatre College*





From the archive of Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's room
on the eve of his death.*





I Countrywide Congress of Azerbaijan. 1924, Baku

Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev, who published stories, topical satires and publicistic articles under the bylines *Jeiranali*, *Khortdan* [The Ghoul], *Hakimi-nuni-saghir* [The Doctor of the Young with Deformed Stature], *Laghlaghi* [The Mockery], *Mozalan* [The Gadfly], *Supurgasaggal* [The One with Broom-like Beard] and so on in the magazine “Molla Nasraddin” after it started its publication, earned fame as one of the active contributors of the magazine “Molla Nasraddin” with his works “The Hell Letters”, “Mozalan Bey’s Travel-book”, “My Deer”. In those years he wrote small plays such as “The Friends of Nation” (1905), “The Hungry Naive” (1911).

While working for the Association “Nijat” [Salvation] and in the office of the Kurr and Caspian Navigation, he traveled to Transcaucasia, Daghistan, Middle Asia and the Volga region. The trips encouraged the writer to create new literary pieces. He took an active part in the social and cultural life of the city together with N.Narimanov when he was in Astrakhan in 1910.

Being sacked from his position in 1911, A.Hagverdiyev moved to Aghdam to live there for five years. He continued his literary activities while living in Aghdam; contributed to the magazine “Molla Nasraddin” with his stories, topical satires and publicistic articles on everyday issues. Being appointed to a position to lead the monthly almanac published in Russian “The News of the Caucasian Division of the Union of Cities” in 1916, A.Hagverdiyev left for Tiflis. In 1917 he wrote the stories “The Dream” and “The Hamshari’s [The Compatriot’s] Passport”. Following the Revolution of 1917, A.Hagverdiyev was appointed an authorized agent to the okrug of Borchali, went to the Shulaver settlement where he worked a year and half.



“Mirza Safar” character from the “Want to Marry” movie shot on the works by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev



*The guard of honour at Abdurrahim bey
Hagverdiyev's funeral. 1933*

Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev also had a significant part in foundation of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan. Even in 1919 the Musavat government sent him to Daghistan as a representative of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan. In 1920 he was elected a commissar of the newly-established Soviet Theatre.

In 1920 A.Hagverdiyev began a new period in his literary and public activities. Alongside with leading the art department, he worked as an inspector at the state theatres. From 1921 to 1931 he delivered lectures in literature at Azerbaijan State University and took an active part in training young specialists. Along with teaching, A.Hagverdiyev also carried out some responsible duties. He was the Deputy Chair and Chair of the Society for the Research and Comprehensive Study of Azerbaijan (1923-1925) and the Secretary of the Eastern Faculty (1922-1925).

The writer was not content to create new works only, rendering close assistance to the theatre and working in different positions. He also delivered lectures on Azerbaijani art and literature, current urgent issues in different places.

1927 saw the 35th anniversary of A.Hagverdiyev's literary and social activities. In 1928 he was awarded the title of the Honoured Artist for his literary and artistic merits. A.Hagverdiyev published many satirical and serious stories from the series "My Deer" in this period, alongside with writing such works of drama as "The Red Old Woman", "The Doors of Justice", "Under the Shade of the Tree", "The Squall", "The Old Dynasty", "In the Land of Descendants", "The Women's Holiday", "Kamran", "The Magpie", "Comrade Koroghlu", "Superb" and so on. Part of his stories has been assembled in the book "My Deer" (1927) and the other part, in the book "The Stories" (1940).



A.Hagverdiyev's literary legacy also includes a number of valuable translations from Russian and West European literature. His translations from M.Gorki are included in the book "The Old Woman Izergil and Other Stories" (1928), the translations from A.P.Chekhov in the book "The Horrible Night" (1928).

Besides all this, Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev also translated into our language W.Shakespeare's "Hamlet", F.Schiller's "The Outlaws", Walter's "The Sultan Osman", E.Zola's "The Diggers", H.Ch.Anderson's "The Nightengale", "The King's New Clothes", Lanskoj's "The Religious Court", E.Chirikov's "The Jews" and V.G.Korolenko's "The Old Bell Ringer".

Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev died in Baku on December 11, 1933. He was buried in Honorary Cemetery.



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's last hours.
December 12, 1933*



Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev in his youth.

Appreciative statements about A.Hagverdiyev

“Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev is, first of all, considered one of the active contributors and consultants of the almanac “Molla Nasraddin” ... since its foundation. “Molla Nasraddin” is going to welcome our old contributor’s forthcoming jubilee as its own holiday”.

*Jalil Mammadguluzadeh
Writer and playwright*

“Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev was an ardent patriotic writer and public figure who loved his people immensely and wanted to see its children in continuous progress”.

Nadir Valikhanov

A.Hagverdiyev knew the mother tongue perfectly well, and created his works on the basis of the words and expressions emanating from the language of broad masses, the rich natural potentials of the mother tongue despite the contradicting fronts and the harmful impacts and inclinations of the press”.

G.Kazimov

A.Hagverdiyev, who left numerous literary and cultural traces behind in the period of his fifty-year activities, was always progressive, was not just content with his interests in innovations, also waged a struggle to implement these innovations”.

Hajibaba Nazarli
Writer



*“Shamil” character from the “Want to Marry” movie
shot on the works by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev*



A photo collage from the "Want to Marry" movie shot on the works by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev

"Abdurrahim Bey Hagverdiyev is known as a playwright, writer, theatrical figure, talented scholar and translator in the history of Azerbaijani literature. His literary legacy is a precious heritage enriching the treasure of our literature. The desire to see his people accomplished, happy and independent holds one of the central places in A.Hagverdiyev's creative activity".

Abdul Azizov



☞ The Bomb ☞

Police Constable Kerbalay-Zal had served in the force for over 25 years.

"The cap doesn't go with your beard, and neither does the sword," his wife used to tell him. "Give up the police force. Open a grocery stall and trade away at your own sweet pace...."

"Wife," he would reply, "you don't understand the fascination of power. If they made you a policeman, you wouldn't leave it in a thousand years. And besides I've been serving in the force for more than 25 years. In a year or two I'll get a pension. Then we can take it easy."

"Well, you know best," his wife would concur.

One day Kerbalay-Zal came home very upset.

He had been called up by the district police inspector.



"Kerbalay-Zal" character from the "Want to Marry" movie shot on the works by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev

"Kerbalay-Zal," he had told him drily, "I'm not satisfied with you. You're an old and experienced member of the force. The young policemen who have only just arrived here from Russia keep finding bombs or rifles and cartridges. Their police station gets a good name and they receive rewards themselves. But you haven't even come with as much as a broken axe. Either you must be taking bribes or you've got too old to do your job properly. If this goes on, we'll have to dispense with your services."

These words went through Kerbalay-Zal like an arrow.

At home his wife asked him why he was upset, but he said it was just a headache.

His wife put a bowl of abgusht in front of him. Kerbalay-Zal ate a little, but then pushed the bowl away and decided to go to bed. But try as he might, he could not get to sleep. Finally he got up, drank a glass of tea, and went out on his beat again. Standing on the corner of Krovavaya and Neschastnaya streets Kerbalay-Zal began to ponder over the inspector's words.



*From the "Want to Marry" movie shot on the works
by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev*

It was well past midnight. Suddenly Kerbalay-Zal caught sight of a man approaching the house of the blacksmith Feyzulla, leading a horse by the reins. On the horse's back lay two sacks, which contained some kind of round objects. The blacksmith and the man with the horse carefully took down the sacks and carried them into the house. Then they led the horse away and shut the gates.

As he watched all this Kerbalay-Zal thought to himself:

"At last my star has risen.... Round objects in sack in the middle of the night.... Something funny there!..."

And without further ado he blew his whistle. The nearest policeman on patrol, Constable Potap, came running up to him.

"Potap, there's a bomb here...."

"Where?"

"They've just carried it into Feyzulla's house...."

Potap immediately passed this news on to Constable Ivan, Ivan told the senior police inspector, he told the district police inspector, he told the superintendent, who passed the word on to the colonel of the gendarmes, and within half an hour Feyzulla's house was surrounded by cossacks, gendarmes and police.

They knocked at the gates.

"Who's there?" asked Feyzulla in a sleepy voice. "Open up!"

When he opened the gates Feyzulla went speechless with fear.

All he could say was:

"What's happened?"

"No talking.... It's a search."

They woke up Feyzulla's wife and children, turned everything in the room upside down, but didn't find anything. Then, on entering the room next door, they caught sight of two paunchy sacks.

"Mr. Superintendent, sir, there's the bomb!" Kerbalay-Zal gave joyous shriek. Everyone froze to the spot. Nobody dared to go up close to it: "It'll explode and blow us all to pieces."

Poor Feyzulla was standing to one side with his hands tied.

Seeing the futility of the search, he managed to come to himself and cried out suddenly:

"Gentlemen, don't be afraid! Untie my hands and I'll empty the sacks myself." His request was granted. Going up to the sacks, he calmly extricated the watermelons that were their real contents and rolled them towards the feet of the superior police officers.

On the following day Constable Kerbalay-Zal was discharged from the police force.



"Hasan aga" character from the "Want to Marry" movie shot on the works by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev





Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with elderly Azerbaijani writers: Jalil Mammadguluzadeh, Huseyn Javid, Suleyman Sani Akhundov and others.



Aghdam Drama Theatre named after Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev





The II graduation of Electromechanical department of Technological College, 1931



Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev and Jalil Mammadguluzade at Hamida khanum Javanshir's mansion in Kahrizli, Agdam.





Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with his family



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with his friends
and relatives. 1926*





A photo collage from the "Want to Marry" movie shot on the works by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev





*The members of commission of
Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's anniversary.*



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev with Azerbaijani
intelligentsia: Rzagulu Najafov, Salman Mumtaz,
Zeynal Mammadov and Aligulu Gamkusar*



Азәрбайчан ССР Назирләр Совети янында Инчәсенәт Ишләрә Идарәси.



— ӘЗИЗБӘЙОВ АДЫНА —
Гызыл Әмәк Байрагы орденли
АЗӘРБАЙЧАН ДӨВЛӘТ ДРАМ ТЕАТРЫ

Бу күн

Ә. һагвердиев

ДАҒЫЛАН ТИФАГ

4 пәрдә, 5 шәкилдә фәчиә

Гурулуш вә режиссорлуг — Мейди Мәммәдовундур
(Азәрбайчан ССР әмәкд. инч. хад.)

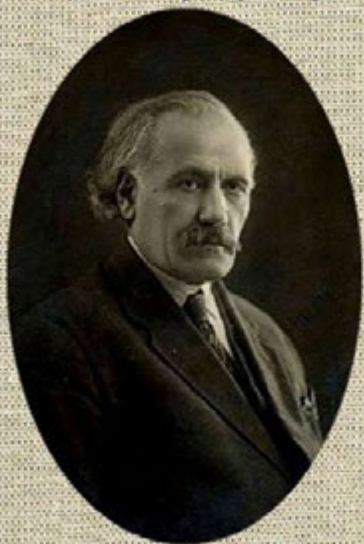
Бәдии тәртибат — Бәдурә Әфғаилынындыр
(Азәрбайчан ССР әмәкд. инч. хад.)

Мусигиси — Фикрәт Әмировундур
(Сталин мукәфаты лауреаты)

3-чү зәнkdән сонра тамаша салонуна кимсә бурахылмыр.

The poster of "The Collapsed Structure" theatrical performance staged on the play of same title by Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev. Azerbaijan State Drama Theatre, 1950

Əbdürrəhim bəy Həqverdiyev



SEÇİLMİŞ ƏSƏRLƏRİ

*The cover of "Selected Pieces" by
Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev*



*Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev at vacation
with his family. 1926*