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THE PERIOD OF THE ADR IN THE COLLECTIONS OF TWO MUSEUMS

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Abstract. Following the call of the head of state to "turn oil capital into human capital", Azerbaijan is implementing measures aimed at forming a knowledge society and economy. In an era of global challenges, we should not only talk about the integration of science and education but also expand this concept and speak about the integration of science, education, and culture. Museums, which are an integral part of this process, should play a crucial role in it. Naturally, for this, museum activities need to be brought in line with modern requirements. Only a competent implementation of museum management and marketing principles will ensure that the museum network secures its place within the social life [6, p. 175]. In the "Year of the Constitution and Sovereignty", special importance is also given to activities aimed at promoting knowledge related to the history of statehood and the restoration of sovereignty, for example related to the period of the ADR.

Key words: knowledge society, museums, national identity, ADR, sovereignty.

Introduction. The expansion of the social role of museums in society has led to an increase in their number, as well as a growing public interest in these cultural institutions. Museums are becoming active participants in cultural, national, and political processes. In the modern era, museums are practically the only institutions that have been able to preserve historical memory and heritage within their walls. As noted in UNESCO's World Report "Towards Knowledge Societies", published in 2005, knowledge societies should ensure

the shared use of knowledge. A knowledge society must guarantee the social integration of each of its members and contribute to the development of new forms of solidarity – both toward present and future generations. In knowledge societies, there should be no phenomenon of social exclusion, as knowledge is a public good that should be accessible to all [9]. Ensuring the accessibility of information to every member of society and the popularization of knowledge – this is the primary mission of museums.

The interpretation of the main material. The role of museums in the formation of knowledge societies is highlighted in R. Lane's work "The Decline of Politics and Ideology in a Knowledgeable Society". The author describes a knowledgeable society as one that is intelligent, informed, intellectual, and knowledgeable. While Lane's definitions are somewhat vague, Doctor of Philosophy A. O. Karpov summarizes them into five key activities that members of such a society engage in most: the pursuit of knowledge, obtaining knowledge from knowledge, applying knowledge, resource support for these processes, and logical rationalization of thinking [10, p. 813]. All these aspects can be attributed to museum activities, given the expansion of their social functions.

Regarding the formation of a knowledge society in Azerbaijan, it is essential to mention a study that compares the characteristics of the Wiki community forming in Azerbaijan with the knowledge society. PhD I. Alekperova points out that in a knowledge society, national (state) interests must necessarily be taken into account. The process of collecting and transmitting knowledge requires both technical and humanities disciplines to reconsider old information and adopt new fundamental methodological principles when making decisions. Expanding historical research and applying wiki technologies in public service, social governance, education, communication, intercultural relations, and integration development can lead to more effective solutions in these areas [4, p. 51].

It should be emphasized that the expansion of Wiki content in the Azerbaijani language and the improvement of Wikipedia pages related to Azerbaijan in other languages remain relevant topics. By the end of 2025, our plans include the creation and placement of the page "Azərbaycan muzeyşünaslığı" ("Azerbaijani Museology") in the Wiki space, followed by the development of new topics in this field.

Museums and museum activities play a crucial role in solving the above-mentioned issues. In an era of constantly increasing information flow,

society has a great need for reliable information, presented in an accessible and understandable way. Alongside universities and research institutes, museums serve as invaluable sources of such knowledge, as they have been collecting and demonstrating the historical experience of humanity for many years. Unlike academic institutions, museums are accessible to the public [11, p. 3].

As is known, this year has been declared the "Year of the Constitution and Sovereignty" in Azerbaijan by order of the head of state [2, p. 1]. In this regard, various institutions, including museums, are conducting relevant events. Since the Republic of Azerbaijan is the legal successor of the first democratic republic in the Muslim East, established on May 28, 1918, there is a need to examine materials related to the activities of the ADR. These materials, preserved in museums, can be used in events held within the framework of this commemorative year.

After the restoration of independence of our republic, various materials related to the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) began to be deeply studied. Hundreds of documents, photographs, memorial items, and other artifacts constitute an important part of the collection of the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan.

It should be noted that the section "Azerbaijan Republic" was first created in the permanent exhibition of the History Museum in anticipation of the 90th anniversary of the ADR. Over the years, the museum has organized exhibitions reflecting various themes related to this period. In addition to the materials stored in the museum's collections, these exhibitions also featured exhibits created by contemporary artists and sculptors in honor of significant dates. For example, at the exhibition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the ADR, the sculptural composition İstiqlal müjdəçisi ("The Herald of Independence"), created by artist of the Theatre of Young Spectators Elshan Sarkhanoghlu, was displayed and gifted to the museum. It is worth mentioning that Elshan Sarkhanoghlu also donated the triptych Həsrət üzəngilərinə elegiya ("Elegy for the Stirrups of Longing") to the Museum of Independence in honor of this momentous occasion.

Materials reflecting the ADR period are preserved in various collections of the History Museum. Among these exhibits, documentary materials hold special value. The Declaration of Independence (Əqdnamə), which laid the foundation for modern Azerbaijani statehood, occupies a significant place in the Documentary Sources Fund. This document was presented in 1920

by Alimardan Bey Topchubashov at the Paris Peace Conference. The fund also includes valuable materials such as a copy of the Declaration of Independence, artistically designed by the outstanding Azerbaijani painter Azim Azimzadeh, a map of the Azerbaijan Republic compiled in 1919 in French for presentation at the Paris Peace Conference, as well as numerous materials related to state, public, military, and cultural figures (M.A. Rasulzadeh, N. Narimanbeyli, Y. Gindes, M. Hajinsky, S. Mehmandarov, A. Shikhlinsky, U. Hajibeyli, G. Kashiyeva, and many others). Additionally, documents related to Azerbaijani students sent abroad for education, including student ID cards, certificates, and diplomas, are stored in the fund.

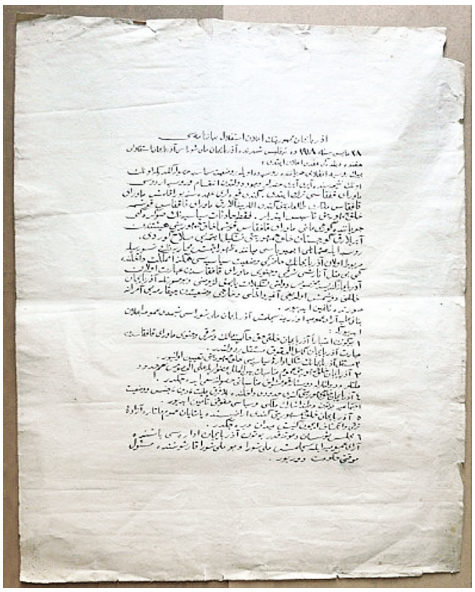

Fig. 1. Declaration of Independence of Azerbaijan, signed in 28 May 1918 in Tiflis.

Furthermore, the fund holds an ADR citizen's foreign passport, official documents of the diplomatic mission delegation, issues of the newspaper Azerbaijan, theater programs, and posters. In 2018, the collection was enriched with letters reflecting correspondence between the leader of the national movement, Mammad Amin Rasulzadeh, and Suleyman Mehmet Tekiner, one of the future researchers of Azerbaijani émigré literature.

Numerous photographs stored in the Documentary Sources Fund hold special informational value. For example, a photograph taken on May 23, 1919, capturing participants of an event marking the ADR's anniversary (including Meshedi Jamil Amirov, Bulbul, Hasan Bey Agayev, Nasib Bey Yusifbeyli, Nagi Bey Sheikhzamanli, Ahmed Javad, and others). Other photographs depict Azerbaijani students studying in Germany (Mirismail Seyidzadeh, Ahmed Rajabli, Huseyn Shikhiev, Bahram Bey Huseynzadeh, etc.) and prominent figures of the republic.

As early as 1932, Tagi Shahbazi, the first Azerbaijani rector of Baku State University, donated the university's first official stamp to the museum. Along with this seal, the Fund of Auxiliary Historical Disciplines holds seals of

Fig. 2. The first stamp of Baku State University.

the Azerbaijan State Theater Society and the Museum of Independence, a commemorative token dedicated to the opening ceremony of Parliament on December 7, 1918, the parliamentary badge of its chairman, Alimardan Bey Topchubashov, and other significant items.

The Ethnography Fund also houses intriguing exhibits, including the narrative carpets Türk komandanları ("Turkish Commanders") and Balama qurban ("Beseech my child"), belonging to the Karabakh school of carpet weaving, a falconry glove of Jafargulu Khan Nakhchivanski, and a prayer inscribed on paper, belonging to a soldier of the Caucasian Islamic Army. Items associated with the Caucasian Islamic Army hold a significant place among the museum's ADR-era materials. The Weapons and Banners Fund preserves remnants of weaponry, bullet casings, and artillery shell fragments found during excavations near a site known as Gurdgapisi, where fierce battles took place in August-September 1918.

Fig. 3. The fourth grade "Majidiyye" order.

The materials listed above represent only a fraction of the artifacts from the ADR period preserved at the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan. Various banknotes, valuable bonds, postage stamps, paintings reflecting historical events of the time, commemorative items presented to the museum, and the flag of the Azerbaijan Republic, made by Mammad Amin Rasulzadeh in Turkey in 1953, are among the museum's most treasured artifacts.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the ADR's founding, the museum, under the academic editorship of its director, Academician Naile Valikhanli, published the catalogue "Keepsakes from the History of the Azerbaijan Republic" in Azerbaijani and English [1]. This beautifully designed

publication provides detailed information on the artifacts from the ADR period preserved in the museum's collections, highlighting their historical significance.

When discussing how the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) is represented in the museums of the republic, it is essential to mention the collection of the Museum of Independence (Istiqlal). The first state museum of the country was established on December 7, 1919, on the initiative of prominent orientalist, art historian, doctor of philological sciences, and professor Muhammad Aghaoglu, as well as educator, poet, translator, and public figure Huseyn bey Mirzajamalov, in honor of the first anniversary of the Parliament of the ADR. It was located in the same building as the parliament (now the Institute of Manuscripts named after Muhammad Fizuli of the ANAS).

In preparation for the museum's opening, the newspaper Azerbaijan (September 23, 1919) wrote: "For many years, we have cherished the dream of creating a national museum in Azerbaijan... If we had established a museum during the period of the Russian Empire, we would have called it the 'National Museum'. But today, it must be called 'Independence', which each of us aspires to" [5].

However, the museum lasted only a few months, until April 28, 1920. The exhibits of that museum have not survived, but some relevant documents can still be found in the archives. One such document states: "Since the Museum of Independence is a national institution, all the items in the museum are the property of the people" [8, p. 11]. According to archival records, the museum, which was intended to operate under the patronage of the ADR Parliament, was allocated various artifacts such as ancient swords and daggers, rare editions of the Quran, numismatic items, prayers inscribed on paper and snake skin, jewelry, books, manuscripts, and more.

Fig. 4. The stamp the Museum of Independence.

Decades later, on January 9, 1991, the Museum of Independence was re-established as the spiritual successor to the original museum. Currently, the

museum's collection consists of over 22,000 exhibits. The six exhibition halls display state symbols, paintings, sculptures, maps, numismatic items, various banknotes, rare documents, photographs, books, and other materials reflecting significant events in Azerbaijan's history and culture from ancient times to the present, primarily highlighting the nation's struggle for independence.

The second exhibition hall is entirely dedicated to the short but crucial period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. The exhibits illustrate the political, economic, military, and cultural development of the time, as well as the activities of diplomatic missions and prominent political and public figures (Mammad Amin Rasulzadeh, Fatali Khan Khoyski, Alimardan bey Topchubashov, Ahmad bey Aghaoglu, Ali bey Huseynzadeh, etc.).

In 2018, in honor of the ADR's 100th anniversary, the exhibition hall dedicated to this period was reorganized. The hall now includes materials from private collectors' archives. Among the original exhibits are books such as Daryek-i-Islam and Imadul-Islam, which belonged to a soldier of the Caucasian Islamic Army commanded by Nuru Pasha, a 1919 issue of the newspaper Azerbaijan, photographs, and letters.

In 2016, the museum's collection was enriched with valuable materials: Feizavyar Khanum Alpsar Turan, residing in Istanbul, donated personal

Fig. 5. The Museum of Independence (Istiqlal).

belongings of her father, Ali bey Huseynzadeh – a distinguished public figure, active participant in the ADR's formation, ideologist of the state's tricolor flag, Turkologist, and journalist. These exhibits include literary works created by Ali bey Huseynzadeh and his children, Salim Turan and Feizavyar Alpsar, personal belongings, documents and photographs from the family archive, orders and medals, a copy of the newspaper Həyat woven in silk, and more.

Thus, the collections of the above-mentioned museums preserve invaluable artifacts that illustrate various aspects of the political, social, and cultural development of Azerbaijan during the ADR period. Given the nature of museum work, it is important to note that these institutions are continually engaged in collecting new materials, enriching their collections each year. This also applies to materials related to the ADR.

Conclusion. Considering all the above, we can confidently state that museums play a crucial role in building a knowledge-based society and a developing knowledge economy. The achievements of the knowledge economy support creative industries, with which museums actively collaborate by expanding their social functions [3, p. 100]. In the Year of the Constitution and Sovereignty, it is essential to widely promote museum collections related to the history of Azerbaijani statehood. This will contribute not only to spreading knowledge but also to strengthening national consciousness, especially among younger generations.

Like other countries, Azerbaijan has entered the post-oil era in recent years. Thus, the future development of the republic will depend more on agriculture, non-oil industries, science, technology, tourism, and other sectors rather than on the extraction of natural resources. All these fields are to some extent based on scientific knowledge. Therefore, disseminating information about scientific achievements and research results is of great importance. Museums play a key role in this process [7].

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BİLİKLƏR CƏMİYYƏTİ VƏ MUZEYLƏR: AXC DÖVRÜ İKİ MUZEYİN KOLLEKSİYASINDA

Ölkə başçısının "neft kapitalını insan kapitalına çevirək" çağırışından irəli gələrək Azərbaycanda biliklər cəmiyyəti və biliklər iqtisadiyyatının formalaşmasına yönələn tədbirlər həyata keçirilir. Qlobal problemlər dövründə biz yalnız elm və təhsilin inteqrasiyası haqqında deyil, bu ifadəni genişləndirərək elm, təhsil və mədəniyyətin inteqrasiyası haqqında danışmalıyıq. Bu prosesdə muzeylər mühüm rol oynamalıdır. Təbii ki, bunun üçün muzey fəaliyyətini müasir dövrün tələblərinə uyğun tənzimləmək lazımdır. Yalnız muzey menecmenti və marketinqi qaydalarına doğru riayət muzey şəbəkəsinin ictimai həyatda öz layiqli yerini tutmasına gətirib çıxara

bilər [6, s. 175]. “Konstitusiya və Suverenlik İli”ndə dövlətçilik tarixi və suverenliyin bərpası, məsələn, AXC dövrü ilə bağlı biliklərin artmasına yönələn tədbilər xüsusi əhəmiyyət kəsb edir.

Açar sözlər: biliklər cəmiyyəti, muzeylər, milli kimlik, AXC, suverenlik.

Назмин Джафарова *(Азербайджан)*

ПЕРИОД АДР В КОЛЛЕКЦИЯХ ДВУХ МУЗЕЕВ

Следуя призыву главы государства «превратим нефтяной капитал в человеческий», в Азербайджане претворяются в жизнь мероприятия, нацеленные на формирование общества и экономики знаний. В эпоху глобальных проблем мы должны говорить не только об интеграции науки и образования, но расширить это понятие и говорить об интеграции науки, образования и культуры. Важную роль в этом процессе должны сыграть и музеи. Естественно, для этого музейную деятельность необходимо привести в соответствие с требованиями современности. Только грамотное внедрение правил музейного менеджмента и маркетинга приведет к тому, что музейная сеть займет свое место в жизни общества [6, с. 175]. В «Год Конституции и Суверенитета» также особое значение имеют мероприятия, направленные на популяризацию знаний, связанных с историей государственности страны и восстановлением суверенитета, например, с периодом АДР.

Ключевые слова: общество знаний, музеи, национальная идентичность, АДР, суверенитет.