



Baku 2015
1ST EUROPEAN GAMES

MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN SHAHRIAR

Poet, 1905-1988

AZERBAIJANI LITERATURE



Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Republic of Azerbaijan



Azerbaijani Literature

Development and project management:
Ph.D of Philology, associate prof. Shamil Sadig

Consulting:
Vagif Bahmanli

Publishing:
Mushfig KHAN

Translation:
Konul Nasibova

Editor of Azerbaijani version:
Nargiz Jabbarli

Editor of English version:
Jahid Huseynov

Coordination:
Rovshan Yerfi, Jalala Aliyeva

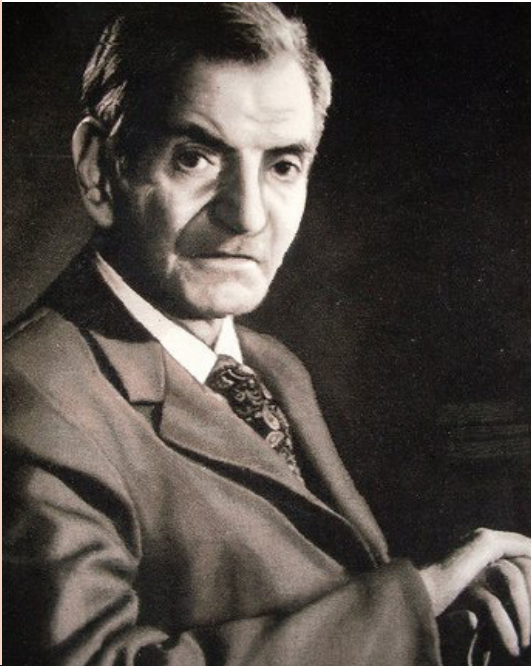
Design and graphics:
Teymur Farzi

Art:
Vasif Saftarov

These publications were printed by "KHAN" publishing house in the framework of "Introducing Our Writers to the World" project of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of "European Games 2015". The reference is necessary in case of extraction and replacement in e-resources. The translated literary pieces of writers were extracted from "Modern Azerbaijani Prose" and "Azerbaijani Prose Anthology" publications.

ISBN: 9 7 8 - 9 9 5 2 - 4 0 5 - 8 5 - 9

© The Ministry of Culture and
Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan / 2015
© "KHAN" PUBLISHING HOUSE / 2015



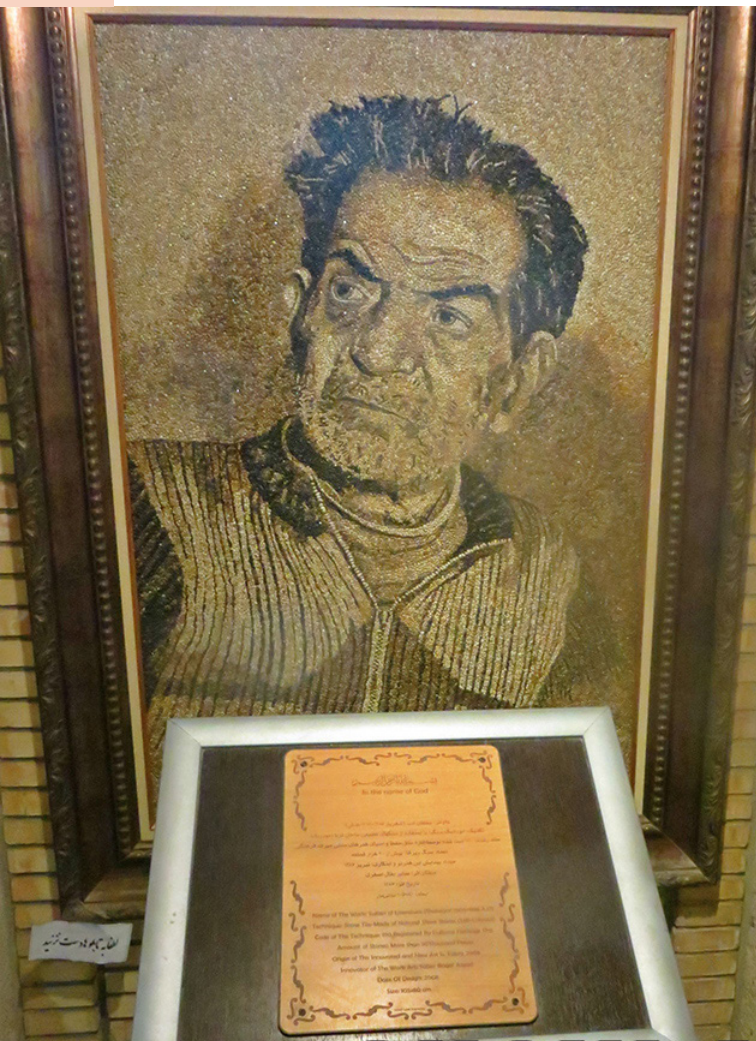
Mohammad Hossein Shahriar

Mohammad Hossein Shahriar, the great Azerbaijani poet, who wrote his poems in Azerbaijani and Persian, was born on March 21, 1905 to the family of Haji Miraga Khoshginabi, one of the well-known lawyers of that time. Earning his life by working lawyer in the court, his father was fond of poem and music. Her mother Kovkab khanum used to read for Shahriar samples of Azerbaijani folklore, classical literature, especially the *ghazals* (lyric poems) by Sayyid Azim Shirvani.

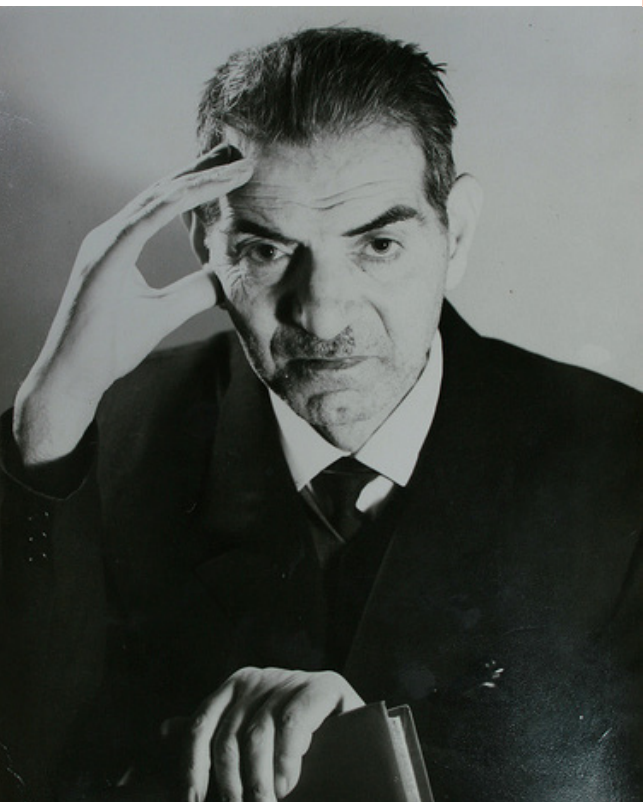
He spent his childhood in Abbas region, in the curative hillsides of Heydarbaba Mountain near Garachaman village. He got his primary education in *mollakhana* (religious primary school) and secondary education in *madrasah* (primary secondary school) in Tabriz. He learnt Persian, Arabic and French, later on, continued his education in the medical department of Tehran University.



Shahriar with his daughter



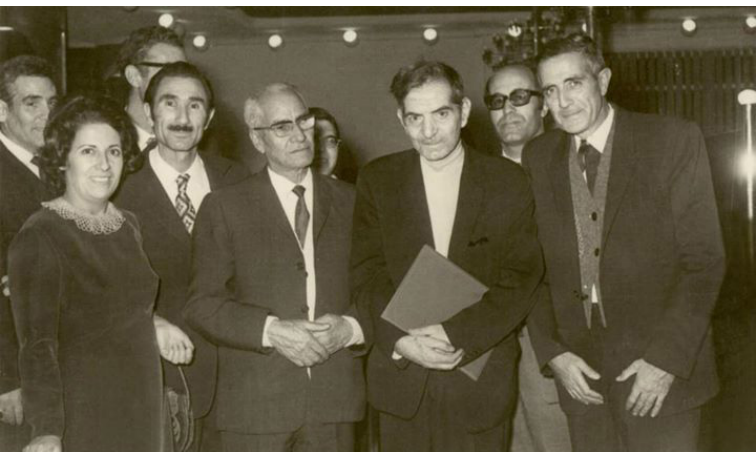
The portrait of Shahriar in
"Mausoleum of Poets" in Tabriz



His first poems were published in the magazine of *Armagan* ("Present"). Shahriar was persecuted for his relations with democratic-minded intellectuals and was exiled to Khorasan when he was in the last course of the university. He has been known as a talented poet since the mid-1920s.



*The portrait of Shahriar in
"Mausoleum of Poets" in Tabriz*



He has love poems worth to compare with the *ghazals* by Hafiz and Fuzuli – the giants of love lyrics, wise *gasidahs* (odes) embodying the philosophical thoughts about world and essence of life, lyric poems written as a result of real life observations. However, what made Shahriar the brilliant representative of Azerbaijani poetry is his works propagating patriotic feelings and national solidarity ideas.



*The portrait of Shahriar in
"Mausoleum of Poets" in Tabriz*



The view from Shahriar's mausoleum



Shahriar's grave





*The largest monument of Shahriyar is in Eynali Mountain, Eastern Azerbaijan province of Iran.
The height of the monument built up on the rock is 10 meters.*





■ Mohammad Hossein Shahriar wrote in all types of classical poem, enriched Azerbaijani literature with pithy *ghazals*, *gasidahs*, *masnavis* (double-rhymed verse), *giths* and *rubais* (quatrain). Whatever form of poetry he used, there was only primal theme of his writings – to see the moral integrity of his Motherland and always to hear good news of his blood brothers.



*The monument of master Shahriar in
Tabriz, Iran*





Shahriar with his daughter



Shahriar with his daughters





*The view from Shahriar's
home-museum*



Shahriar's years of old age





Shahriar while creating at home

The first book of poems by Shahriar was published in 1926 in Tehran. Although he suffered a grave disease for a certain period, the poet continued his creative activity vigorously. He accepted "Shahriar" pseudonym inspired by Hafiz's *divan* (collection of poems). The poet wrote lyric and epic poems in Persian and Azerbaijani.



*Shahriar towards the last years
of his life*



Shahriar's mausoleum. Tabriz, Iran



From the personal photo-album





*Shahriar reading poem in
national event*



Shahriar with his friends and son





Shahriar's portrait
Artist: Ilham Mirzayev

Shahriar is one of the poets who had literary school (trend). He is even called "Hafiz of his time".



*From right Shahriar and from left Afi-i
Tabrizi (Aslan Rakhtshash), one of the
modern greatest Turkish poets of Iran*



The theme of Azerbaijan holds a special place in Shahriar's works. The master of poetry glorified Azerbaijan inspiredly as his native land.



*Shahriyar with his friends
and family members*



Shahriyar with his friends

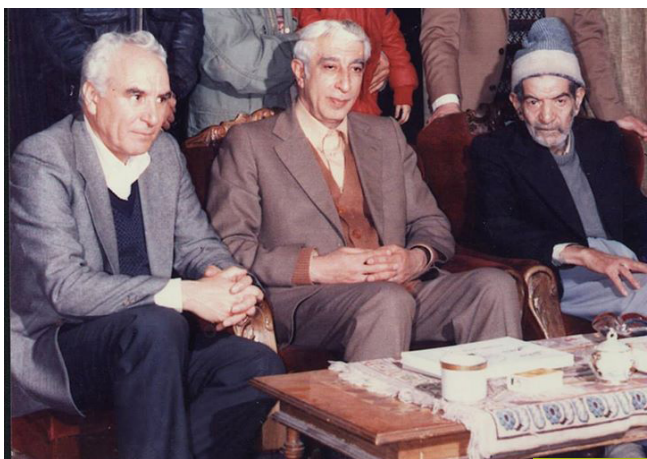


*From the personal photo-album
of Shahriar*

The genre of epic (voluminous) poem occupies a special place in his creative activity. Some of them were written in Persian, the others in Azerbaijani. In the poem "Voice of Justice" the poet invites the people to fraternity and equality moving forward the idea such as "The native land of human is Earth". "The Poem and Wisdom" could be called "Shahriar's Self-Praise". "The Legend of Night" is historical-romantic poem.



*The master Shahriar
and Piruz Dilanchi – Tabriz 1988*





Towards the end of his life

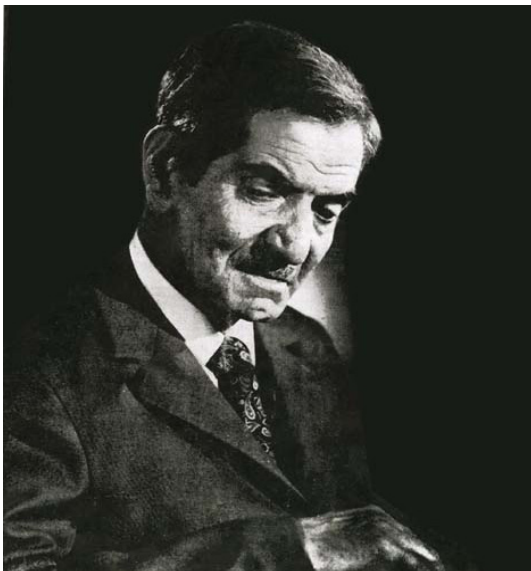




*Iran. Tehran.- Master Shahriyar Statue
The monument of master Shahriar –
Tehran, Iran*

“The Heroes of Stalingrad” is distinctive among his works and rich with World War II events, impressive battle scenes. The poem *Sahandiyya* (“The Book of Sahand”) was written in Azerbaijani Turkish as an answer to the letter of poet’s close friend Sahand. This poem is also possible to call “Strong Poetic Symphony of Motherland”.

The poem *Heydarbabaya Salam* (“Regards to Heydarbaba”) can be considered milestone of creativity of the prominent poet. He completed the poem after he had moved to Tabriz, afterwards prepared the collection of Persian-language poems to publication.



The poem *Heydarbabaya Salam* written in 1954 is also in Azerbaijani Turkish. The poem is of lyric genre and was written in syllabic verse without single plot. Shahriar is named “poet of Heydarbaba” for this poem. The image of mountain takes a specific place in the poem, to certain extent, this image can be regarded the character of poet himself. The liberty ideas of people are embodied in the poem in disguised way.

It should also be especially noted that the unprecedented poem *Heydarbabaya Salam* elevated Mohammad Hossein Shahriar to the rank of giants of 20th century Azerbaijani poetry. Regardless the poem is product of poet's yearning for a remote village of his childish memory, its literary power makes it readable in North and South Azerbaijan as an epoch of Motherland. The poem glorifies beauties of nature of South Azerbaijan, customs and traditions of people, endless love to Motherland with special aesthetic tinges and most of all, in simple language of people. The major peculiarity of the poem is in its national character. The social contradictions of South Azerbaijani village, miserable life of people, their wishes and languor are depicted with pain in the poem.

Heydarbabaya salam by Shahriar proved to the whole world that Azerbaijani language is polished, harmonic, simple and rich language. And it is Shahriar's mother tongue. In general, the poem is one of the best samples giving impetus to the development of local-language poetry in South Azerbaijan. A lot of *nazirahs* (imitative poems) were written to the poem.

Approximately 20 books of poet were published during his lifetime. The great poet died on September 18, 1988 in Tehran and was buried in Tabriz.

Besides his own country, Shahriar's creativity made a great fame in Iran and Turkey. The poet's name is drawn alongside with Sadi Shirazi and Hafiz Shirazi in Persian language literature. His works were translated into English, German, French and Arabic languages.

*Appreciative statements about
Mohammad Hossein Shahriar:*

“Heydarbabaya salam” holds a special place among Shahriar’s writings. It is the vivid expression of his patriotic feelings and humanism. There is a longing of a great heart amongst all these, the light of superior goal is seen, and the voice of rubais (quatrain) calling to amenity and solidarity is heard.”

*Mirza Ibrahimov
People’s Writer*

“Sorrow of South, yearning for South, theme of South have always been devoted themes of our literature... In this regard, “Heydarbabaya salam” by Shahriar is one of the favorite poems of our readers.”

*Abbas Zamanov
Honorary Scientific Figure*

“Mohammad Hossein Shahriar, the outstanding figure of modern Eastern poetry bestowed precious literary pieces to world literature. The giant master who was called “Hafiz of his century” conquered the hearts with his rich poetry, gained the endless love of huge masses. The mastery of Shahriar is in abundance of ideas, literary purity and sincerity of his poetry”.

*Hokuma Billuri
Poet*

“Mohammad Hossein Shahriar is one of the most outstanding poets of 20th century, the honor of Azerbaijani and Iranian literature.”

*Bakir Nabiyeov
Academician*

“Heydarbaba Mountain was the golden key of Shahriar’s abundant treasure of poetry.”

*Budag Budagov
Academician*

🌀 Greetings, Heydar Baba! 🌀

Heydar Baba, when the thunder resounds across
the skies,
When floods roar down the mountainsides,
And the girls line up to watch it rushing by,
Send my greetings to the tribesmen and the
village folk
And remember me and my name once more.

Heydar Baba, when pheasants take flight,
And the rabbits scurry from flowering bush,
When your garden burst into full bloom,
May those who remember us live long
And may our saddened hearts be gladdened.

When the March wind strikes down the bowers,
Primrose and snowdrops appear from the frozen
earth,
When the clouds wing their white shirts,
Let us be remembered once again
Let our sorrows rise up like a mountain.

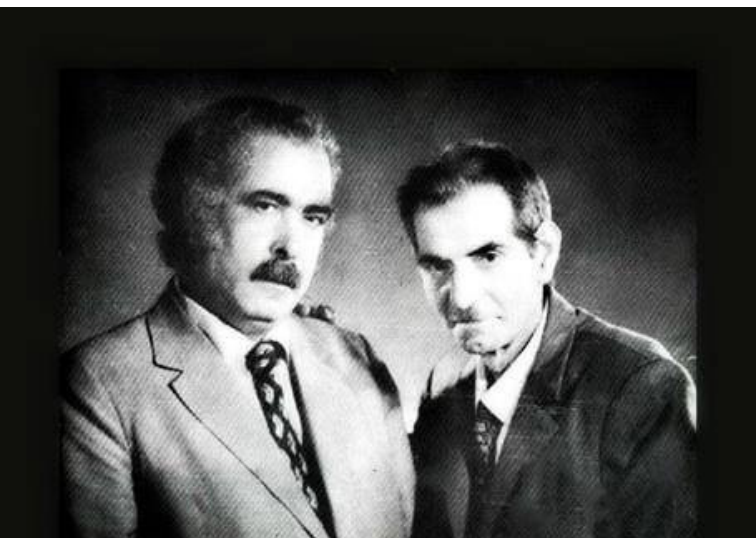
Heydar Baba, let your back bear the mark of the sun.
Let your streams weep and your face beam with
smiles.
Let your children put together a bouquet
And send it to us when the wind blows this way
So that, perhaps, our sleepy fortune be awakened.

Haydar Baba, may your brows be bright.
May you be circled by streams and gardens.
And after us, may you live long.
This world is full of misfortunes and losses.
The world is replete with those bereaved of sons
and orphaned.

Heydar Baba, my steps never crossed your pass.
My life was spent, becoming too late to visit you
I know not what became of all those beautiful girls.
I never knew about deadends, about paths of "no
return".
I never knew about separation, loss and death.

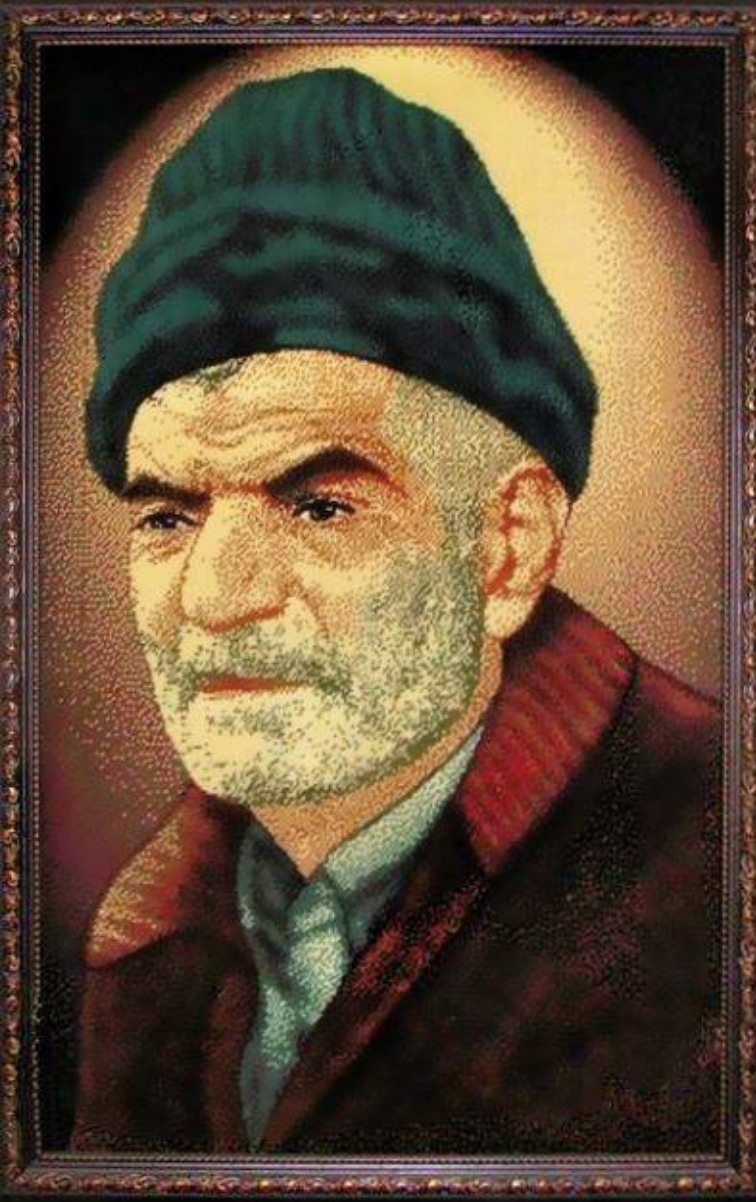


*From the personal photo album
of Shahriar*



*Mohammad Hossein Shahriar and
Bulud Garachorlu Sahand, one of the
outstanding poets of South Azerbaijan.*





Shahriar's portrait



Shahriar's wife Aziz khanum and his wife



Shahriar is in one of the events

