

The happiness of introducing Azerbaijan...

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Azerbaijan is a country of rich and ancient culture. It is enough to mention that the earliest state formations on this land – Manna, Media and Atropatene appeared long before the beginning of our era and that Albania was an important landmark of statehood in the Caucasus of the Middle Ages.

The world renowned archaeological complex Azikh Cave in Karabagh shows that Azerbaijan belongs among the centres of human civilizations. The most ancient monument of Zoroastrianism – the Avesta, written in the first millennium BC, and the famous slightly later heroic eposes Kitabi Dada Gorgud and Koroghlu were created on this land. The earliest monuments of visual art in Azerbaijan – the petroglyphs created by primitive man in Gobustan near Baku and in the tracts of Gamigaya in Nakhchivan date back many thousands of years. The patterns on the walls of mosques, mausoleums, palaces and dwelling houses are by rights the pride of our nation and have already for a few centuries attracted the attention of people from all over the world. Examples of these are the Mausoleum of Momina-khatun in Nakhchivan, the Khan's Palace in Sheki and the Shirvanshahs' Palace in Baku. Miniaturists such as Jalaladdin Bahzad, Sultan Muhammed, Mir Seid Ali and many others lived and worked in the 16th century in Tabriz, which is considered one of the most important cultural centres of that time. All of them substantially influenced miniature art and book illustration in many countries of the East.

During different times, different types of art flourished in Azerbaijan. Thus, carpet making and preparation of different items of stone and metal and jewellery reached high levels in the medieval period in Azerbaijan. Today, the best examples of the artistic creativity of Azerbaijani masters are preserved in outstanding museums of the world.

Azerbaijani scientists, writers, artists and musicians brought deserved glory to their fatherland. Nizami, Khagani, Natavan, Sabir, Jalil Mammadguluzade, Huseyn Javid, Yusif Mammadaliyev, Ziya Buniyadov, Uzeyir Hajibeyli, Gara Garayev, Sattar Bahlulzade, Rashid Behbudov and many others became part of the heritage of world culture and science.

It is possible to speak about Azerbaijani endlessly. The example may serve the theme of Karabagh – as rich and interesting as this beautiful land. Today the Irs-Heritage Magazine offers you this digest in which selected materials about the history, culture and life of the Azerbaijani people are collected. Learn about Azerbaijan together with Irs-Heritage!