

IRS-Heritage turns five

Musa MARJANLI,
Editor-in-Chief

Dear readers, we have been meeting with you regularly on the pages of *IRS-Heritage* for five years now. Over this time, the magazine has published about 200 scientific-popular and journalistic articles on the history of Azerbaijan, material and spiritual culture of the Azerbaijani people and Azerbaijan's place in the world community. *IRS-Heritage* is second in a series of our magazines after its Russian-speaking counterpart, but it has the largest audience – it is read in more than 70 countries around the world. In the past few years we have started the publication of IRS magazines in 11 other languages. Today our magazine is published in all official languages of the United Nations. In addition, many readers around the world have the opportunity to receive first-hand information about Azerbaijan in their native language. Also, *IRS-Heritage* has published five books and albums promoting Azerbaijan's intangible heritage. In the future, we will regularly inform you about our publishing activities.

Let me now say a few words about the first issue of this year you are holding in your hands. First of all, it features an article dedicated to the oldest and most favorite holiday of all Azerbaijanis – Novruz, and the place of this spring holiday in the works of Azerbaijani artists.

Recent years have seen significant changes in Azerbaijan's foreign policy. The country is expanding mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries. In this regard, the interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov, is of great interest.

In terms of its multiculturalism experience and tradition of international relations, Azerbaijan is transforming into a model of global importance. Two articles are dedicated to this topic in this issue.

Azerbaijan has been suffering from Armenian aggression for more than two decades. A part of the country is occupied, towns and villages are destroyed, temples and cemeteries are desecrated, and thousands of people have been killed. These days the people of Azerbaijan are commemorating the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. Nevertheless, those who have committed heinous crimes against humanity, as well as those who patronized or approved of these crimes, are unfolding a worldwide hysteria over events of a century ago, portraying them as "Armenian genocide". However, as has long been claimed by all serious scientists, history knows only one act of genocide – the Holocaust that took place in Nazi Germany in the middle of the last century. This issue contains materials that we hope will help our readers decide for themselves what is a lie and what is the truth.