

AZERBAIJAN AT AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

SHORTLY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE CONQUEST OF AZERBAIJAN, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE BEGAN TO STUDY AND THEN EXPLOIT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE REGION.

The Paris International Exposition of 1867. Artist E. Manet. The best examples of crops grown in Azerbaijan were on display at this exhibition





London World Exhibition of 1862 - the first world exhibition attended by Azerbaijani farmers

Goods produced in Azerbaijan began to emerge in the international arena. To this end, based on the new administrative division, tsarist officials made a survey of the conquered lands in the provinces that were formed on the territory of the liquidated khanates, which was determined by the tasks of the development of the region. They began geological surveys and then started to exploit deposits of oil, copper and iron ore, and various non-metallic minerals. Initially the focus was on the sectors of the economy that could supply raw materials to Russian industry. However, it soon became clear that handicrafts produced in Azerbaijan could not meet the mass demand because they were homemade, but were of

high quality. This applied particularly to the production of raw silk, natural dyes and later industrial crops (cotton, tobacco), as well as products of craft workshops. As a result, products first began to appear on the market inside the empire and then on the foreign market. In this respect, an important role was played by the advertising of Azerbaijani goods at domestic and global industrial and agricultural exhibitions.

The Caucasian Society of Agriculture, founded in 1850, played a big role in the spread of improved methods of cultivation of agricultural produce and livestock and in the organization of the participation of Azerbaijani farmers in exhibitions. Azerbaijan sent the most outstanding products of sericulture, agricul-

ture, horticulture, livestock, horse breeding, tobacco growing, wine-making and fishing to various regional, national and global exhibitions.

Azerbaijani farmers first participated in exhibitions outside of Azerbaijan in 1852. So, products of grain growing from Azerbaijan were presented at an exhibition of crops in Moscow.

In the same year, 100 exhibits from Baku, Lankaran and Nukha counties were presented at the National Exhibition of Agriculture and Agricultural Industry in Moscow. Twelve participants received letters of commendation and two were awarded bronze medals. (1)

In 1857, Guba residents Allahgulu Haji oglu and Jafar Haji Mammad-yar oglu, as well as Baku resident Haji



Khurshidbanu Natavan (1832-1897), the daughter of the last khan of Karabakh, Mehdiqulu Khan. An Azerbaijani poetess known for progressive reforms. Horses of the Karabakh breed of her stud farm in Shusha repeatedly won at exhibitions

Abbas Aga Mirza oglu participated in an agricultural exhibition in Tiflis with samples of madder they had grown.

At the Transcaucasian exhibition in 1860 in Tiflis, various types of products from Azerbaijan were presented, and archival documents preserve the names of those awarded. It was Abdulla Alkond oglu from the village

of Agkoynek in the Gazakh site and Rahim Jafar oglu, a resident of the village of Garagoyunlu in the Shamsadil site of Yelizavetpol County, for samples of millet, as well as Malik Said Malik from village of Harada in Ordubad County for samples of wheat. (2)

At the Transcaucasian regional

exhibition in 1861 in Tiflis, Shukur Karim oglu from the village of Gizil-Agaj of the Lankaran site, Mirza Mammad Bayram oglu from the Khazri site and Yunus Agasi oglu from the village of Siyazan in Guba County were awarded for wheat (3).

In 1862, 135 samples of wheat, barley, rye, millet, spelt, pea, rice and buckwheat produced in Azerbaijan were put on display at the exhibition of natural and industrial products of the Caucasus and Transcaucasus region. For the high quality of silk (cocoon), a resident of Ordubad in Nakhchivan County, Mashadi Gasim Aga Karim oglu, was awarded a letter of commendation at the exhibition. Azerbaijani cotton was first presented at the same exhibition.

Azerbaijani farmers first participated at a world exhibition in 1862. At the London World Exhibition in 1862, a resident of the village of Shaturnu of Lankaran County, Nasir Gulu Nasrulla oglu, was awarded a medal for the outstanding quality of the wheat he had grown, while Mashadi Mammadi Tajmammad Hasan from Baku County was given an honourable review for cultivated rice. (4) At the same exhibition, the owners of the Nukha filature, the Voronin brothers, were awarded a medal for raw silk and cocoons (5). For the excellent quality of madder Gazikhan Mustafa oglu and Mustafa Gara Mirza oglu from Guba County were awarded honourable reviews and Jannat bay Aga bay oglu - a special medal at the London World Exhibition (6).

In 1863, the exhibition of works of the Caucasus region in Tbilisi demonstrated silkworm cocoons grown by the resident of Nukha, Abdul Rahim Abdul Aziz oglu.

The best examples of crops grown in Azerbaijan were put on display at the Paris International Ex-

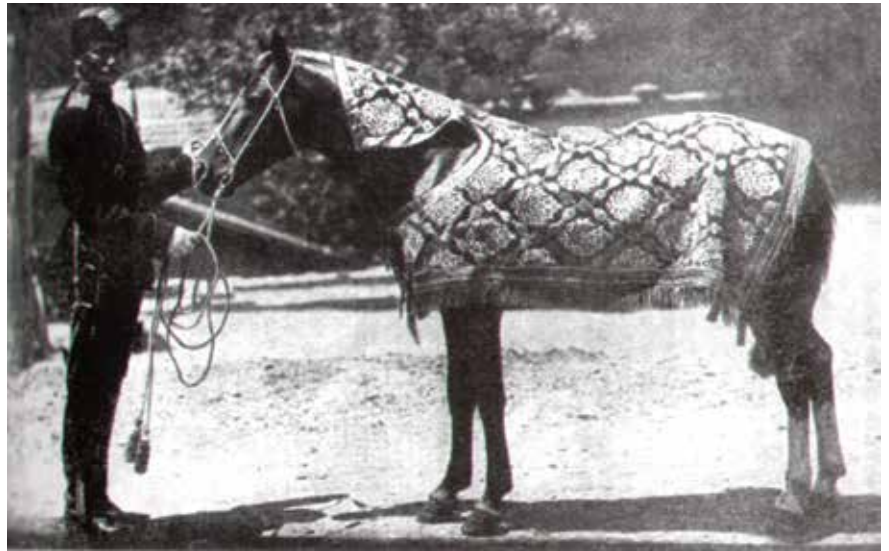
Karabakh horse. Multiple winner of various exhibitions. 1892 year

position in 1867 (7).

Cattle breeders of Azerbaijan were given high awards. In particular Karbalai Khan (Nakhchivan County) presented purebred sheep at the exhibition of pets and livestock products in Tiflis in 1869.

At the Moscow Polytechnic Exhibition in 1872, a resident of the village of Mashtaga of Baku County, Haji Mammad Vali Mammad oglu, received a bronze medal for the good quality of wool.

A big collection of fruit and vegetables was exhibited at the Moscow agricultural exhibition in 1882. Interestingly, among the persons who sent their products to the exhibition was the daughter of the last khan of Karabakh, poet Khurshud Banu Natavan, who sent samples of peas, beans, sesame, dried berries of dogwood, mulberry, cherry plum

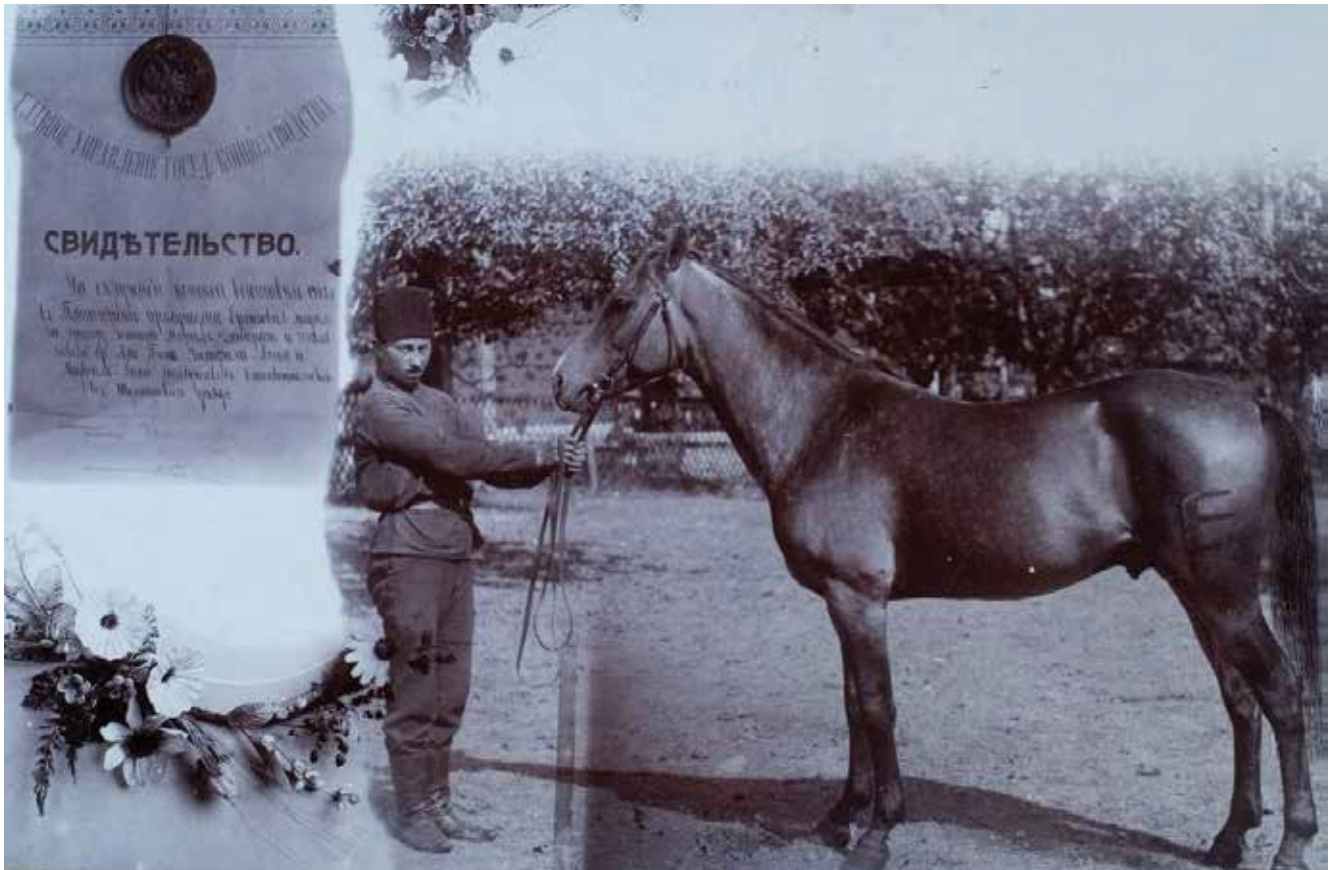


lavash and pomegranate. Dried fruits: albukhara, prunes, apricots, peaches, cherries and sweet cherries were presented by a resident of the city of Ganja, Ibrahim bay Karim.

Azerbaijani peasants were espe-

cially successful by the end of the 19th century when the effect from the first tractors and motor vehicles became noticeable. For example, a large number of exhibits from Azerbaijani counties were shown

Karabakh horse Maral. Multiple winner of various exhibitions





The medal of the All-Russian Horse Exhibition. National Museum of History of Azerbaijan. Published for the first time



The medal of the Caucasian Society of Agriculture. Participation in the exhibitions of the society contributed to the access of Azerbaijani goods to international markets. National Museum of History of Azerbaijan. Published for the first time

at the Caucasian exhibition of agriculture and industry in 1889 in Tiflis. Gold medals of the exhibition were awarded to Behbud Saakov from the village of Gutgashen in Aresh County for hard wheat; Balabay oglu from the city of Guba in Baku Province for barley and wheat; Amir Ali Haji-Rahim oglu from the village of Mosul in Zagatala County and Kochali bay Najaf Ali oglu from the village of Kaab in Nakhchivan County for special varieties of barley; a colonist from the village of Helenendorf in Yelizavetpol County, Frederick Locke, for barley, oats and wheat; and Ismayil bay Safiyev from the village of Bash-Norashen in Sharur-Daralagoz County for rice and rice paddy. At the same exhibition, a gold medal for cocoons and cocoon grain was awarded to the Zagatala model farm. The same farm won a second gold medal for special varieties of apples and pears (8).

In 1897, several Azerbaijani gardeners received medals and certificates at the First Caucasian horticultural exhibition.

A year later, in 1898, a large gold medal was awarded to the German settler of the village of Helenendorf in Yelizavetpol County, H. Forer, at the second exhibition of Caucasian horticultural crops for the exemplary condition of grape farming. (9)

Famous Karabakh horses, particularly those grown at the stud farm of poetess Khurshidbanu Natavan were exceptionally successful at trade exhibitions. For example, in 1869, a Karabakh stallion from Natavan's stud farm was awarded a gold medal at the Second All-Russian Horse Exhibition in Moscow. The stallion was purchased by the exhibition. A silver medal and a cash prize of 300 rubles in silver went to Natavan's stud

The medal of the International Exhibition of modern Art and Industry. London. National Museum of History of Azerbaijan. Published for the first time



farm for the stallion Meynern from the Keglän-Sarilar breed, who was bred at the farm. A bronze medal for hanging from the horse's neck was awarded to the Karabakh stallion Molotok from the Tokmakh breed. A letter of commendation was given to another stallion - Aletmez from the Keglän-Sarilar breed, who was also from Natavan's stud. Natavan herself was awarded a gold medal and given accolades in a special letter of commendation (10). Interestingly, in doc-

uments Khurshidbanu Natavan was known by the name of her husband - "Princess Utsmiyeva - Kh. Natavan."

At the same time, a letter of commendation was awarded to the stallion Salbina from the Jin-Sarilar breed exhibited by the Karabakh horse breeder Najaf Gulu bay Ayro-jinski. The same exhibition presented three horses from the Baku province: of Baku resident Mashadi Salah Khudaverdi oglu; of a horse breeder from the Panavand nomads from

Lankaran County, Mustafa Karbalai Hagverdi oglu; and Osmanbay Janmilinski, a horse breeder from Guba County (11).

The above information about Azerbaijan's participation in various exhibitions in the second half of the 19th century, despite its incompleteness, shows the development of traditional industries of agriculture. In general, participation in exhibitions and the demonstration of the most outstanding achievements contributed to the exchange of experience, stimulated the development of basic industries, which had taken the capitalistic path, and spread outside of Azerbaijan information about its hard-working people, whose representatives were awarded the highest honours. ✪

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