

COATS OF ARMS OF THREE REPUBLICS OF AZERBAIJAN

Draft coat of arms of the Azerbaijan Republic. 1919

The coat of arms is one of the most important elements of attributes. The definition of the coat of arms boils down to its main feature - the emblem of images approved by the government in accordance with the rules of heraldry. The word "gerb" (national emblem) comes from the German word "erbe", which means inheritance. The science of heraldry is based on a general system of compliance with laws, which has been formed among the peoples of the world for centuries, as well as on peculiar national-historical traditions. This means that the symbols displayed on any emblem have a certain general compliance with laws, a strong internal system, and at the same time, these symbols in one way or another reflect the historical, political, ideological, national-moral, religious and mystical views of the people, nation and state they symbolize. (6, p. 292)

The national emblem is approved by the constitution or a special law, is often an integral part of the national flag and is also shown on banknotes, seals and official documents.

After the overthrow of the tsarist and the establishment of Soviet power, the enslaved peoples of the former Russian Empire got a chance to restore their statehood. On 28 May 1918, the first democratic republic was proclaimed in the East – the Azerbaijan Republic (2, p. 3). In the short period of its existence, the young republic achieved a great deal. A parliament was created, the state flag was approved, state borders were established, and numerous other acts were passed in the field of education, army building and the economy. The strengthening of the foundations of statehood was carried out simultaneously with the adoption of the most important decisions in the field of economics



and finance that were directly related to the monetary policy. Paper money and government securities are one of the key attributes of state power (4, p. 92). The release of paper money by the Azerbaijan Republic meant the restoration of the monetary economy of Azerbaijan interrupted after annexation by tsarist Russia.

The appearance of the Republic's banknotes originates from small changeable paper money in denominations of 5, 15 and 50 kopecks and large denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10 and 25 rubles of the Baku City Council. Later, new paper money of 10, 25 and 50 rubles was produced and put into circulation. Emissions of this pa-

Coat of arms of the contemporary Republic of Azerbaijan

per money continued to circulate throughout 1918 and partly in 1919. The fund of materials of Auxiliary Historical Disciplines of the National Museum of the History of Azerbaijan stores paper money and securities of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

The coat of arms of the city of Baku (coat of arms of the Baku province of 1883 without the Alexander Ribbon) was depicted on all banknotes of the Baku City Council and the Baku City Economy and securities (1, p. 103) due to the absence of an approved coat of arms at the time. The shield depicts flames that signify the ancient symbol of the land of fire, as well as the oil wealth. On the sides there are oak branches connected under a shield (with an ornamental pattern, with and without acorns), which symbolizes strength and long life. At the top of the shield there is a golden crown with three prongs (indicating the ancient nature of the city and its fortress origin). Some of the banknotes are shown in this article.

On 23 March 1919, a competition was announced in the "Azerbaijan" newspaper for drafting the coat of arms and seal of the Azerbaijan Republic. A prize of 1,000 rubles was established for the best coat of arms. 20 April was established as the deadline for the submission of bids and control over execution was entrusted to the Ministry of Post and Telegraph. Unfortunately, the competition was unsuccessful and the coat of arms was not selected.

On 30 January 1920, the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic adopted another resolution "On the preparation of draft military orders, national anthem, coat of arms and seal". According to the first clause of the resolution, the announcement of a competition for the submission of draft orders was entrusted to the Ministry of War. The main condition was that these attributes should serve as a symbol of independence of Azerbaijan. According to the second clause of the resolution, the announcement of the competition for the submission of draft national anthem, coat of arms and seal was entrusted to the Minister of Public Education. In February 1920, the Ministry of Public Education announced a competition for the submission of a draft text for the national anthem, the image of the state coat of arms and seal in the Russian-language version of the "Azerbaijan" newspaper (the "Azerbaijan" newspaper was published in Azerbaijani and Russian) dated 19 February 1920. A prize of 2,500 rubles was es-



tablished for the best coat of arms. Drafts were to be submitted to the Ministry of Public Education and be approved on the eve of the second anniversary of national independence – 28 May 1920 (5, p. 399). One of the drafts formed the basis of the modern coat of arms: three concentric circles on a round heraldic shield: blue – symbolizing the Turkic roots of the people on which rivets were placed, red – symbolizing modernity, and green – symbolizing Islam. Superimposed on the circles was an octagonal star – a symbol of the paradise sphere, as well as eight branches of the Turkic people, with flames in the middle as a symbol of the oil wealth, the shield below framed by ears of wheat and an oak branch with acorns symbolizing the ancient nature of the country, wealth and fertility tied around with a ribbon of the national flag colors.

Unfortunately, the Soviet invasion and the fall of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on 27 April 1920 prevented the government from approving the coat of arms. As a result, this issue of national importance was not implemented.

The second Republic of Azerbaijan is the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. In the first years of its existence (1920-1922), it enjoyed relative sovereignty and had all the attributes, including the coat of arms. The coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR was to epitomize a union of workers and peasants with an international motto.

On 19 May 1921, the initial coat of arms of the



Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1920-1921

Azerbaijan SSR was approved. It consisted of a golden sickle and a hammer with a five-pointed star inside a red crescent moon surrounded by a crown of golden ears over which (on a red ribbon) there was an inscription in Azerbaijani (Arabic script) and Russian saying “نوتب ناهج ز نشلاکا رققه”, or “Workers of all countries, unite!” Unlike other republics (RSFSR, UzSSR, BSSR), it did not mention the name of the Republic proper.

The second coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR was approved at the First Congress of the Transcaucasian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (TSFSR) with the names of three Transcaucasian republics mentioned. The entry of the Azerbaijan SSR into the TSFSR in December 1922 meant the loss of independence and inclusion of the Azerbaijan SSR in the USSR (30-31 December 1922) (3, p. 21).

The emblem of the TSFSR consisted of an image against the backdrop of a black mountain range in the rays of the sun rising from behind the mountain, the golden sickle and hammer placed crosswise with the handles facing down, and a five-pointed red star above them. In the lower part of the coat of arms, at the foot of the ridge with three prominent peaks, there were oil rigs on the right, a factory with smoking pipes on the left, vine, cotton, rice, corn and wheat ears in the cen-



Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1921-1927

ter. The whole image was framed by a red ribbon which said the “TSFSR” in Armenian, Russian, Georgian and Azerbaijani (Arabic script). At the bottom of the coat of arms, between the edges of the ribbon, there was a motto “Workers of all countries, unite!” in Russian.

On 26 March 1927, when the new constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR was adopted, the draft of a third coat of arms was approved with an image of a crescent moon, sickle and hammer against the background of the rising sun. Inside of it there was a five-pointed star surrounded by a crown of ears of corn and with inscriptions: in Azerbaijani (Latin script) at the top – “Azərbaycan İctimai Şuralar Cümhuriyyəti” (“Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic”) and below – “Bütün dünya prollarları birləşiniz!” («Workers of all countries, unite!»).

On 14 February 1931, the Seventh All-Azerbaijan Congress of Soviets adopted the new Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR and approved a draft of the fourth coat of arms, which sharply differed from the previous ones in terms of its content and design. It was drawn by graphic artist Benedikt Rafailovich Telingater (nickname Beno, 1876-1960). The coat of arms of the Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic consisted of images on a light red background framed by a white circle in the rays of the rising sun. In the middle of the coat of arms, there was a hammer and sickle (placed across with handles facing down). Above them was a crescent moon with a five-pointed star surrounded with a crown of ears of gold

Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1927-1931

(golden color). There are ears of wheat on both sides. In the lower part of the coat of arms, against the backdrop of the rising sun, there were three colors: black, white and gray. On the left side, there was an oil field – seven oil rigs and two kerosene tanks; on the right – a tractor driven by a tractor operator at the foot of mountains with peaked summits. The wreath is entwined with a red (scarlet) ribbon in three rounds: the upper rounds are connected by a ribbon passing through the middle of the coat of arms over the sickle and hammer, with the inscription in the Latinized alphabet in the Azerbaijani language: “Azərbaycan İctimai Şuralar Cümhuriyyəti” (Azerbaijan Socialist Soviet Republic). On the lower round, which was common to both sides of the coat of arms, there was an inscription “Bütün dünya prollarları birləşiniz!” (Workers of all countries, unite).

Amendments were made under Article 151 of the new Constitution (fundamental law) of the Azerbaijan SSR, which was adopted by the ninth extraordinary All-Azerbaijan Congress of Soviets on 14 March 1937, and the new coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR was approved.

The coat of arms of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic is an image of a sickle and a hammer, an oil derrick against the backdrop of the rising sun and framed by a crown of cotton and ears. In the upper part of the coat of arms is a five-pointed star. On the ribbon under the star, there is an inscription in the Azerbaijani (Cyrillic) and Russian languages: “Azərbaycan Sovet Sosialist Respublikası”, “Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic”, “Bütün Ölkələrin Proletarları Birləşin!”, “Workers of all countries, unite!”. The coat of arms reflected the main features of economic activity: oil production (oil rig against the backdrop of the rising sun), cotton growing (white cotton bolls) and fertility (wheat ears).

On 5 May 1956, the “Regulations on the Coat of Arms of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic” were approved by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR. It established the image, which includes a light red circle with elements of the coat of arms depicted in the background (there was no mention of this background in the constitutional description).

On 21 April 1978, the new Constitution (fundamental law) of the Azerbaijan SSR was adopted. It left the description of the coat of arms unchanged, but the graphic attachment to the “Regulations on the Coat of Arms of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic” depict-



ed the sun's rays in the coat of arms a little less intensely, while the shade of the pink circle was lighter than in the figure of the 1956 Regulations. The coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR was active until 1991.

The formation of the third Republic of Azerbaijan and the rebirth of the Azerbaijani national statehood after a 70-year-long hiatus was taking place in the most difficult public, political and economic situation with ongoing external intervention. The main attributes of state power of the Republic of Azerbaijan (flag, coat of arms and anthem), which were adopted from the first Azerbaijan Republic, are, in addition to their “continuity”, noted not only for their national coloring, but also for their exceptional content and laconicism (7, p. 23).

On 17 November 1990, the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, having discussed the issue of the coat of arms, requested that the Supreme Council of the Azerbaijan SSR announce a new competition for the national coat of arms.

By a decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the competition was announced on 5 February 1991. During 1991-1992, dozens of versions of new coats of arms were submitted to stand in the competition. Proposals were also submitted to adopt one of the drafts made in 1919-1920. On 19 January 1993, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the constitutional law, whereby the draft coat of arms made in 1919-1920 was approved with a few changes.

The coat of arms of the Republic of Azerbaijan represents the image of the eastern (round) shield with a



Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1931-1937

golden frame, painted in the form of concentric circles in blue, red and green colors. Placed above it is a silver eight-pointed star finely edged with gold, and in the center of it there are red flames. Gold rivets are placed on a blue strip between the rays of the star.

In its lower part, the coat of arms is framed by a green oak branch with acorns and golden wheat ears (Figure 13). In the center of the coat of arms, there are

flames that symbolize the “Land of Fire”, as Azerbaijan is often referred to. Back in the days of the Russian Empire, the coat of arms of the Baku province depicted three tongues of flames – a symbol of subsoil oil wealth (deposits of associated gas have been known here since antiquity). Fire is also an indirect reminder that fire-worshipping Zoroastrians lived in the territory of Azerbaijan. The fire on the coat of arms is also perceived as a symbol of hope for a better future. The colors used in the design of the coat of arms match the colors of the national flag of Azerbaijan. Three colors serve as symbols: blue – a symbol of Turkic culture, red – a symbol of modern European democracy, and green – a symbol of Islamic civilization.

The eight-pointed star is a symbol of paradise, as well as the eight branches of the Turkic people. Below, the coat of arms is framed by oak leaves and ears of wheat. Oak branches symbolize the ancient nature of the country and ears stand for the wealth and fertility of the Azerbaijani land.

The image of the coat of arms of the Republic of Azerbaijan is attached to:

- the residency and office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- parliament building, assembly hall and office of the speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- buildings of all courts, military tribunals, in courtrooms, the office of the chairpersons of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- in cases envisaged by legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, buildings of state bodies;
- buildings of diplomatic and trade missions of consular offices of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

A decree of national leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev “On stepping up work to promote state attributes of the Republic of Azerbaijan” dated 13 March 1998 said:

“The flag, anthem and coat of arms of the Republic of Azerbaijan are sacred symbols of the independence of the state of Azerbaijan. Educating our citizens, in particular our youth, in the spirit of deep respect for state attributes serves to strengthen the spirit of patriotism in society.” 🌟



Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1940-1978



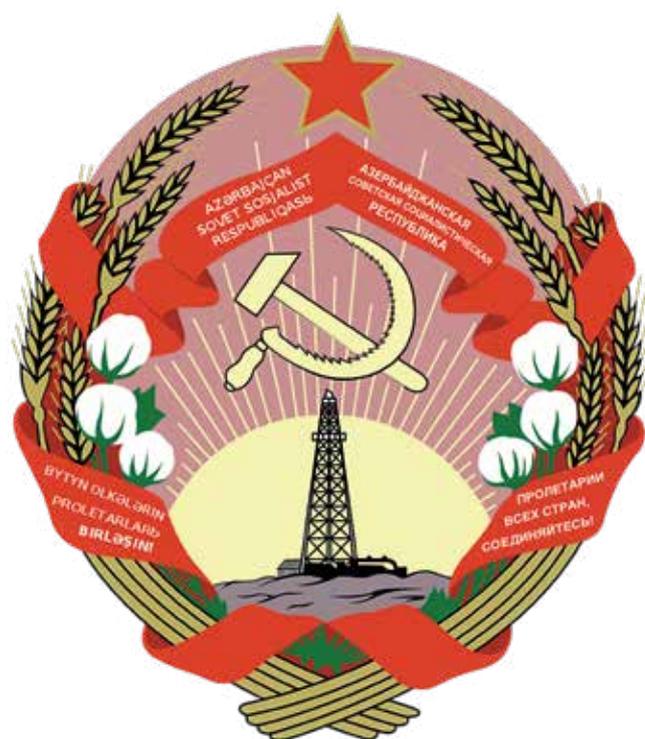
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Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1937-1940



Coat of arms of the Azerbaijan SSR. 1978-1991

