Orders and medals

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General Information

The first order of Azerbaijan was “Red Flag” order of the Azerbaijan SSR which had been instituted by decree of the Azerbaijan Revolution Committee after the establishment of the Soviet power in the republic. The “Red Flag” order of the RSFSR was used as a basis for its design, the order started to be presented since November 1920; the second order was “Red Labour Flag” of the Azerbaijan SSR; a competition for its design had been declared in June 1921, in 1922 draft design of the new order and its General regulations had been approved by the session of the Azerbaijan CEC (Central Executive Committee). Awarding of both orders ceased in the middle of 30s. After the declaration of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991, the following orders had been instituted by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan of November 10, 1992 On Institution of Orders and Medals of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Law of December, 1993 On Amendments and Changes to the previous law, as well as by the Laws of November 7, 2003 and April 22, 2005: “Heydar Aliyev” order; “Independence” order; “Shah Ismayil” order; “Azerbaijan Flag” order; “Glory” order; “Service to Motherland” order. “Honour” and “Friendship” orders were instituted by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan of March 12, 2007.

The highest award of the Republic of Azerbaijan, “Heydar Aliyev” order, is presented to citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan for their extensive contributions to development, improvement and prosperity of Azerbaijan; for the courage and bravery in defencing of the motherland and protecting interests of Azerbaijan, as well as to foreign citizens for their outstanding contributions to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"Independence" order is presented to citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan for an exceptional contribution to the national liberation movement in the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the outstanding service to the government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as for a contribution to the establishment of the national statehood of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The highest military award of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "Shah Ismail" order, is being given to the high-rank officers and commanders of military units and formations of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ARSQ) for their outstanding contribution to the organization and strengthening of the ARSQ, enhancement of the territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Azerbaijan and elimination of emergency situations in the republic.

"Azerbaijan Flag” order is awarded to the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to foreign citizens and stateless persons for their contribution to national liberation movement in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the social and political activities; for development of military science and military technology and preservation of the independence and territorial integrity, as well as for special services in enhancement of the territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Azerbaijan and protection of its state borders.

"Glory” order is awarded to the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to foreign citizens and stateless persons for their extensive services in the fields of economic, scientific, technical, social and cultural development, in strengthening of peace and improvement of cooperation between nations; for outstanding results in industries, transport, communications, construction and other fields of the national economy as well as for extensive services in science, education and public health.

"Service to Motherland” order is presented for loyalty to the Republic of Azerbaijan, fulfilment of duties with honour and in good faith; for efficient activity in civil service, highly professional and special achievements, special services in the construction of the national state.

"Honour” order is awarded for great services to the people and the state of the Republic of Azerbaijan, special services in the establishment of national state, outstanding activity in economic, scientific, technical, social and cultural development, exceptional service, science, culture, literature, arts, education and public health areas.

“Friendship” order is presented for outstanding services in development of friendship, economic and cultural cooperation between foreign countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan, for significant contribution to strengthening friendship between nations, for special services in establishment of peace and stability in the
world, region and different countries, in initiating constructive relations between civilizations and promoting intercultural dialogue.

Along with "Red Star", "Service to Motherland", "Courage", "Progress", "For Military Services", "For Distinction in Military Service", "For Distinction on Border", "For Services in Military Cooperation", “Veteran of the Military Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, “For Perfect Service”, “For Distinction in Civil Service”, “For Fair Service in the Bodies of Internal Affairs”, “For Distinction in diplomatic service” medals there are established a number of commemorative.

According to the Article 109 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan state awards are carried out by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
The drafts of the orders and medals Azerbaijani Democratic Republic in 1918

After the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 it became necessary to institute the national emblem, flag, orders and medals of the state. In 1919-1920 years the competitions on preparation of drafts of the national anthem, national emblem, state seal and orders were advertised in the press.

On January 30, 1920 a decree on preparation of military orders was adopted. About 100 drafts of “Independence” order were introduced to the competition. Mainly, the tricolor flag, an eight point star, crescent, sword, Azerbaijani soldier and mosque were depicted in the drafts. Some of the best drafts are preserved in the personal archive of the prime minister of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic Fatali Khan Khoyski in the Moscow State Historical Museum.

The authors of the drafts were the artists lived and created in Baku, as well as in Tbilisi. Artist experts and art critics paid great attention to the style of such artists as Azim Azimzade, Alesker Aliyev, also the artists of the magazine “Molla Nasreddin” Benjamin Telengater (Beno) and Oscar Shmerling from Tbilisi. Artistically regarded, their pictures aroused great interest for their richness.

Unfortunately, the downfall of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on May 28, 1920 made impossible to see the started works through.

About one hundred drafts of the first national emblem of Azerbaijan that were introduced to the competition, were found in the Party archive (at the present State Archive of Political Parties and Social Movements of the Republic of Azerbaijan) fund of the Institute of the Party History within the Central Committee of Azerbaijan Communist Party. These drafts were represented at the album titled “The symbols of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920)” published in “Ishig” (light) publishing house in 1992.

Sample drafts of the “Orders of Independence”
| ![Image 1] | ![Image 2] |
| ![Image 3] | ![Image 4] |
| ![Image 5] | ![Image 6] |

| ![Image 7] | ![Image 8] |
| ![Image 9] | ![Image 10] |

Administrative Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
Fourth degree Order of Independence under the slogan “Progress”
Orders of Independence of Azerbaijan Republic under the slogan  
“From the unity to the independence and world”

Orders of Independence under the slogan “Yuliya”
Orders “For Peaceful Service”

Orders for “Military Services”
Orders for “Military Services” and “For Peaceful Service”
Military and civil Orders under the slogan “A”
The attributes of national significance of the Republic
The orders and medals of Azerbaijan SSR

Breast Badges of the Soviet Azerbaijan

After establishment of the Azerbaijan SSR on April 28 1920 Naval Commissioner Ch.Ildyrym issued a decree banning the wearing of medals and other insignia of imperial Russia. The young republic promptly released the first award of the Azerbaijan SSR "The Honorary Badge of Proletarian". This badge had existed till the end of 1921. Introducing a sample of early symbols of Soviet Azerbaijan, it at the same time serves as an important historical document. The sign is oval, silver, gold-plated and sized 4.5 x 3.5 cm with fringed leaves on both sides (left is laurel symbolizing military merits, right - oak, denoting Civil Merit) interlocking at the top. At the bottom the wreath is stitched with red enamel ribbon with the inscription: "SSR" (Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic). The convex globe with a schematic map of the Caucasus between the Black and Caspian seas, covered with blue and yellow enamel, which shows the outline of the Absheron Peninsula is in the center of the red crescent with upward ends. There is a digit of 1920 between which a five-pointed star is placed. The Arabic inscription «Azərbaycan Şura Cumhuriyyəti» (Azerbaijan Soviet Republic) is engraved along the entire circumference of the badge. A clamping round plate that carried the specific information about the rewards is an integral part of the badge.

The badge was handcrafted by the best jewelers of Baku. Initially, separate parts were made - the crescent, star, globe, tape, and then these details were mounted on a common base by means of pins (there are 13 pins on the reverse side of the badge).

In the same 1920, the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee had decided to set up (after the RSFSR, which established the first Soviet award - "Red Banner" in September 1918) a fighting order of the Azerbaijan SSR - "Red Banner". The author of the sketch of this order is Ibrahim Agha oglu Vekilov, head of the military topographical section of operational-mobilization department of the People's Commissariat for Military and Naval Affairs of the Republic. The basis for the sketch is the image of the “Red Banner” order of the RSFSR. It is not a coincidence: the external similarity of military awards of the RSFSR and the Azerbaijan SSR was to emphasize the unity of military and political objectives, which was pursued by the establishment of all Soviet awards. The project was submitted to the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee and officially approved.

The oval silver gold plated award measuring 5x4.5 cm is edged on both sides with oak wreaths. Here is a red enamel banner at the top, on which "Workers of all countries, unite!" is written in capital letters. Same words in Azerbaijani are written above the sign (in Arabic script). Five-pointed star of red enamel with hammer and sickle is placed in the heart of the order. There can be seen three rays of the star, two of them – behind the banner. The national character of the Order is emphasized by the crescent (red enamel), which is located in the central part of the badge; closer to the left end of the crescent the top of the rifle with a bayonet is boldly mounted, to the left below there is an inverted hammer, and closer to the right end of the crescent - an ax with handle. Words “Azərbaycan İctimai Şura Cümhuriyyəti” in Arabic script was given in gravure on white enamel layer at bottom semi-circle of the order. And abbreviation of “АССР” (that is- Азербайджанская Советская Социалистическая Республика) was written in Russian in the very bottom of the order. Flagstaff and a handle of the torch are diagonally crossed on the image of the Order. All of these items were made by hand, on the reverse of the order, there are 10 pins, fixing all the elements.

In June 1921 at the initiative of the Azerbaijan CEC there was announced a competition for the best design of the Republican "Labor" award. The contest was held under the motto "Labour will rule the world!
» Works by artists E.S.Samorodov, M.A.Vlasov, B.R.Beno, M.A.Kosichkin and other were submitted to the competition committee. At the 2nd All-Azerbaijan Congress of Soviets, held in April 1922, the design of the officer from the headquarters of the XI Red Army, M.A.Vlasov, was recognized as the best project. The chairman of the AzCEC M.Gadzhiev and the chairman of the People's Commissars of Azerbaijan SSR G.Musabekov put their signatures under his sketch of "Red Labour Banner" order of the Azerbaijan SSR close to resolution "Approved".

Badges of "Labor" order of the AzSSR were manufactured by the same jewelers and in the same workshop in Baku that orders of "Red Banner" of the AzSSR were made. The Order was made of silver decorated with red enamel and gilding. In the center there is the relief image of the anvil, hammer and sickle, symbolizing labour. Beneath them is a fragment of the coat of arms of the Republic - crescent and five-pointed star with a picture of it hammer and sickle on it. On the top, on the enamel ribbon, there is a two-line inscription in the Azerbaijani language in Arabic script: «Bütün dünya işçiləri, birləşiniz! Zəhmət dünyaya hakim olacaqdır» (“Proletarians of the world, unite! Labour will rule the world”).

The Order was edged by three rows of gilded ears of corn, belted on both sides by the enamel ribbon on which Arabic letters - an abbreviation of the Republic “Azərbaycan İctimai Şura Cümhuriyyəti” (“Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic”) is written. On December 3, 1929 CEC SPC of the AzSSR adopted the statute of “Red Labour Banner” order of the AZSSR. Order for production of "Red Banner of Labor" badges of the AzSSR of a new sample was placed at the Leningrad Mint. By design and content it was considered one of the best among the orders of the Soviet republics.

In the center of the Order of the new model, which was also from silver, gold-plated, measuring 5x4 cm, there was pentagonal trapezoidal shield depicting factories, manufactories and oil rigs. Embossed gold hammer and sickle are placed on the main body of the shield. Across the entire field of the Order two banners are diagonally crossed. At the top, between the two wooden bars of the banners, on white enamel there is an Azerbaijani emblem - crescent facing right with five-pointed star of red enamel in it. On the right side of the banner there is inscription in Azerbaijani (Latin script): «Bütün ölkələrin proletariyatları, birləşin!». On the left is abbreviation A.S.S.C. (Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic). From both sides the Order is edged by wheat ears turning into oak leaves that finish with boxes of cotton. Sequence numbers on the orders were placed by puncheons on the clamping nut.

In late 1933, the submissions for the award of "Red Labor Banner" of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic were terminated.

Thus, with the formation of the USSR, Azerbaijan, like other Soviet republics, along with most of the statehood attributes has lost many state regalia. Only in 1991, with the proclamation of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan ("Third Republic") there were established state awards – orders, medals and special insignia.
**Order of the Red Banner of Labour**

**Order of the Labour’s Red Banner**


**Azerbaijan Order of Honour.** This is a strange and quite rare award issued in Soviet times in Soviet Azerbaijan only from March 1991 to the end of the year. Its gold plated only and allegedly issued only to very few people.
Azerbaijan Laureate of the State Prize. This is a strange and quite rare award issued in Soviet times in Azerbaijan. Its gold plated only but was allegedly issued to those individuals who received the Soviet State Prize.
The orders of Azerbaijan Republic

On November 10, 1992 Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan Republic issued a decree on the Law of Azerbaijan Republic about establishment of the orders and medals of Azerbaijan Republic. On December 6, 1993; on May 17, 2002; on November 7, 2003; on April 22, 2005; on October 10, 2006; on February 16, 2007; on May 16, 2008; on June 13, 2008, on the base of this Law has been bringing in bill some changes and supplements.

The order of Heydar Aliyev. The order has been established on April 22, 2005. This order is awarding to a person whom exceptional services devoted to Azerbaijan, serving to the progress, glory and rising of greatness of the country in the world.
The order of “Independence”. The order has been established on February 6, 1998. This order is awarding to a person for the exceptional services in the national-liberation movement in Azerbaijan Republic.

The order of Shakh Ismayil. The order has been established on February 6, 1998. The order is awarding to a person for exceptional services in organization and strengthening of Azerbaijani Military forces, in guaranteeing of territorial integrity and security of Azerbaijan Republic.

The order “Azerbaijani banner”. The order has been established on February 6, 1998. This order is awarding to a person for the exceptional services in the national-liberation movement in Azerbaijan Republic, for the development of the military science, for special services in guaranteeing of the peace in the republic.
The “Honour” order of Azerbaijan Republic. The order has been established on February 16, 2007. This order is awarding to a person for the special services to Azerbaijan Republic and to the nation, for the special contribution in formation of the Azerbaijani statehood.

The “Glory” order of Azerbaijan Republic. The order has been established on February 6, 1998. This order is awarding to a person for the special services in economical, socio-cultural and science technical development.

The “Friendship” order. The order has been established on February 16, 2007. This order is awarding to a person for the special services in development of the friendship, economical and cultural relations between Azerbaijan Republic and the foreign country, for the special contribution in strengthening of the friendship between nations.
The order “Of services to the Fatherland”. The order has been established on November 7, 2003. This order is awarding to a person for the loyalty to Azerbaijan Republic, for the professional activity and the special achievement on the public service.
The medals of Azerbaijan Republic

The “Golden Star” medal. The medal has been established on February 6, 1998. This medal is awarding to a person for the special services and for the heroic deeds in name of the independence and the progress of Azerbaijan Republic.

“For motherland” medal. The medal has been established on December 8, 2000. This medal is awarding to a person for the courage and the bravery that showed in the special operations.

The medal “For Bravery”. The medal has been established on December 8, 2000. This medal is awarding to a person for show great courage in the battle, to carry out an order with risk of the life.

The medal “Progress”. The medal has been established on December 6, 1993. This medal is awarding to a person for the success reached in the sphere of agriculture and industry.
The medal “For Military services”. The medal has been established on December 6, 1993. This medal is awarding to a person for the special distinguished services in the combat operations.

The medal “For distinguished services on the frontier”. The medal has been established on December 6, 1993. This medal is awarding to a person for the special distinguished services on the frontier of Azerbaijan Republic.

The medal “For services in the military cooperation”. The medal has been established on May 17, 2002. This medal is awarding to a serviceman of Azerbaijan Republic and foreign states for the special services in strengthening of the military cooperation with Azerbaijan Republic.
The medal “Veteran of Military forces of Azerbaijan Republic”. The medal has been established on May 17, 2002. This medal is awarding to a servicemen who served in Military forces of Azerbaijan Republic more than 25 years.

The medal “For irreproachable service”. The medal has been established on May 17, 2002. This medal is awarding to a servicemen for irreproachable service in Military forces of Azerbaijan Republic 10, 15 or 20 years.

The medal “For distinction on public service”. The medal has been established on November 7, 2003. This medal is awarding to a servicemen for activity in the very important project of the creation of national state.
The medal “For irrepbroachable service in law-enforcement bodies”.
The medal has been established on April 21, 2006. This medal is awarding to employee who served in Interior of Azerbaijan Republic 10, 15 or 20 years.

The medal “For distinction in diplomatic service”.
The medal has been established on June 30, 2009.
Breast badges

Breast badge of the President of Azerbaijan Republic

Decree of the President of Azerbaijan Republic about breast badge of Azerbaijan Republic

1. To establish of the breast badge of the President of Azerbaijan Republic

2. To confirm of the breast badge’s description of the President of Azerbaijan Republic

3. This decree to come into force from day of signing.

Ilham Aliyev
President of Azerbaijan Republic

Baku, October 14, 2008. № 832.
Honour Breast badge of the State prize of Azerbaijan Republic.

The breast badge has been established on May 8, 2010.

The breast badge of the deputy of the Milli Madjlis of Azerbaijan Republic.

The breast badge has been established on December 12, 1995.