

Dedication **NO LONGER WITH US**

Yet Profoundly Influencing Our Research

Lucy Tal

(1897-1995)

Wife of Peter Tal (1888-1936), owner of E.P. Tal Publishers & Co., Vienna

A victim of the German Anschluss, Lucy fled Vienna to the United States in 1938, the year after *Ali und Nino* was published. Her personal correspondence provides insight into the turbulent times in the mid-1930s in Europe, and about her involvement with the novel after her husband died of a sudden heart attack in late 1936.



Kichik Khanim Ajalova

(1875?-1967)

Mother-in-law of Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli

Courageous woman who preserved the personal diaries, essays and novels of Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli. During the brutal years of the Stalinist regime when it was clear that her son-in-law was in trouble with government authorities in Baku, she secretly hid his rare documents in a muple-use piece of furniture—table-chest-bed—in her one-room apartment above the Taza bey Bath House.

Today Chamanzaminli's works are archived in the Institute of Manuscripts, Baku. Without these materials, especially the autobiographical sketches and diaries, it would have been difficult to determine and confirm Vazirov's role as Core Author in the novel *Ali and Nino*.

Ziya Bunyadov

(1921-1997)

Arabist, Academician, Azerbaijan Member of Parliament

After Azerbaijan's independence in late 1991, Bunyadov sought access in the KGB Files in Baku to understand what had happened to Azerbaijan's intellectuals during the Stalinist period (mid-1920s to 1953). His findings—published in the book *Red Terror* (1993)—included the proceedings against Yusif Vazirov in 1940, which led to the writer's imprisonment and subsequent death in the GULAG. Bunyadov was married to Tahira, the daughter of Yusif Vazirov's sister Azat.



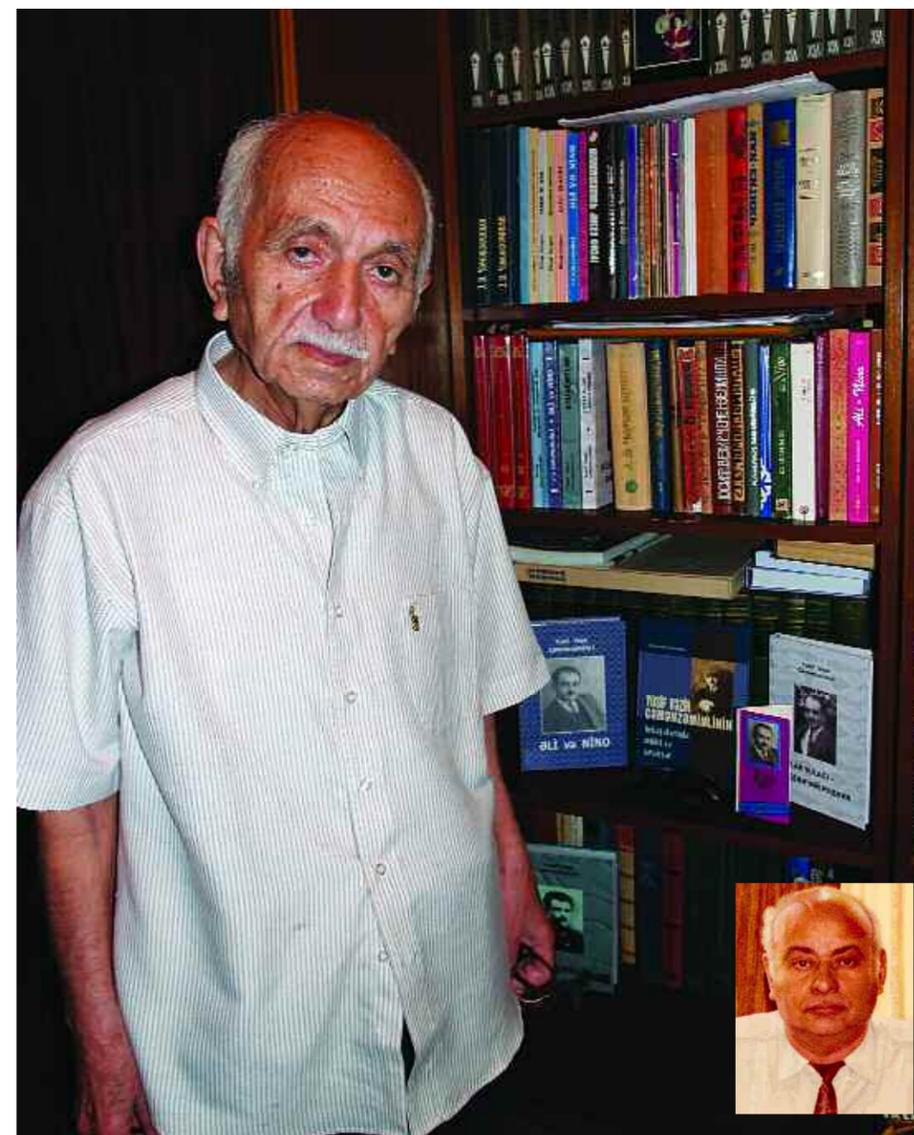
Gilman Ilkin

(1914-2009)
Writer, Editor

Ilkin was an eyewitness to the demolition in 1936 of Azerbaijan's most prominent architectural monument, the Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral ("Qizilly Kilsa" or Golden Church as Azerbaijanis often called it).

He was also involved in editing one of the latest translations of *Ali and Nino* in Azeri (2004, 2007), and he was one of the signatories of the 1996 declaration by Azerbaijan Writers' Union about Chamanzaminli's authorship of *Ali and Nino*.

Ilkin also authored the book *Baku and the People of Baku (Baku va Bakillilar)*, which traces the history of the city from 15th century.



Orkhan Vazirov

(1928-2010)

Elder son of Yusif Vazirov (Chamanzaminli)

Our decision to research the authorship of *Ali and Nino* is due primarily to Orkhan's commitment and sincerity. We consulted with him dozens of times between 2005-2010. Orkhan generously shared memories of his father, family photographs and countless documents linking his father to the authorship of the novel *Ali and Nino*.

Here, in his living room, in 2009, he stands in front of his collection of books, by and about, his father. At Orkhan's death, he was so disappointed that the issue of his father's authorship was still being debated 30 years after he and his brother Fikrat first became aware of the connection.

Fikrat Vazirov

(1929-2004) Inset

Younger son of Yusif Vazirov (Chamanzaminli), who was heavily involved with conducting research to piece together his father's life and literary activities. He had seen his father for the last time when he was only eight years old. During his lifetime, especially after Azerbaijan gained its independence in 1991, Fikrat became the family spokesman, advocating his father's authorship of *Ali and Nino*.



Gerhard Höpp

(1942-2003)



East German Orientalist, Arabist and Islamic Scholar

Höpp is known for his extensive research about the life of Essad Bey (Lev Nussimbaum) which he summarized in a meticulously written 22-page article (169 Endnotes) article in 1997 entitled "Mohammed Essad Bey: Nur Orient Für Europäer?" (The Orient for the Europeans). Höpp's work offers the most comprehensive and solid, reliable account that exists about Essad Bey's life. The scholar bequeathed 127 boxes of his life's research to the Zentrum Moderner Orient (Center for Oriental Studies) in Berlin. The collection included 12 boxes of documents and analysis related to Essad Bey.

Jenia Graman

(1920s?-2002)

Translator of *Ali und Nino* from German to English

In 1967, Jenia Graman, a Russian-born dancer, who had immigrated to Europe, sought permission to translate *Ali und Nino* into English. Admitting that she was not a professional translator, she persuaded Lucy Tal that she wanted to do the work as a "labor of love." E.P. Tal & Co. had published the original German edition in 1937 in Vienna. Today, most editions of the 33 languages of *Ali and Nino* are based upon Jenia Graman's translation.

