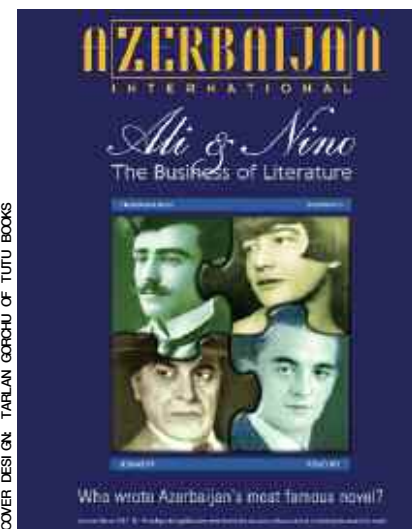


Azerbaijan International 15.2 to 15.4 (2011)



COVER DESIGN: TARIHAN GORCHU OF TUTU BOOKS

The true identity behind the penname of Kurban Said has mystified readers since the novel *Ali and Nino* was first published in German by a Viennese publisher in 1937. Who was the real author? Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli, Essad Bey (Lev Nussimbaum), Grigol Robakidze or Elfriede Ehrenfels? No doubt, "The Business of Literature" was, and is, still part of the puzzle today, now that the novel is available in 33 languages.



SABINA RAKCHEYEVA TRI O, 2007

Violinist Sabina Rakcheyeva, Azerbaijan's first graduate from New York's Julliard School of Music (Search AZER.com), arranged the Azerbaijani folk song "Sari Galin" (Blond-Haired Bride!) for our new Website, ALI-NINO.com. A new CD features the Rakcheyeva Ensemble, "Toward the East." Listen: SabinaRakcheyeva.com.

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Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli



Lev Nussimbaum - Essad Bey

"The Lives of Two Writers"  
Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli (1887-1943)  
and Lev Nussimbaum / Essad Bey (1905-1942)

Essad Bey fled Baku when the Bolsheviks took control in 1920; Chamanzaminli, who was out of the country on a diplomatic mission, decided to risk returning to be with his people. He was given permission to return but soon was charged as a counter-revolutionary writer and sentenced to the GULAG where he died.

**38**



**256**

A sketch of a rose was given to a young Jewish girl with whom Yusif Vazirov (Chamanzaminli) had fallen in love. Was she the prototype for Nino?



**298**

What is the link between the Bahai House of Worship, which was being built in 1908 in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, and the authorship of the novel *Ali & Nino*?

101 Reasons Why Chamanzaminli is the Core Author of *Ali & Nino*. Reason 66



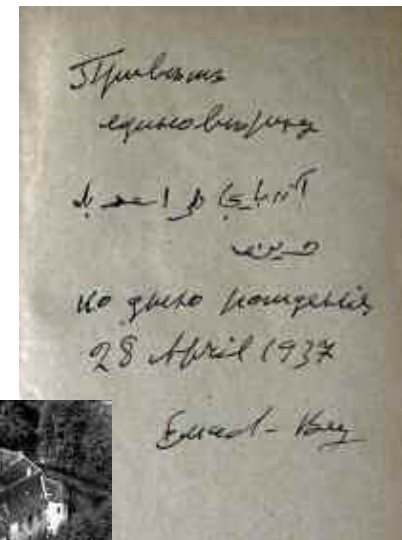
**294**

Sketches and doodles in a student notebook dating back to 1907 and kept in the Institute of Manuscripts, Baku, point to an Azerbaijani being the core author of *Ali & Nino*.

101 Reasons Why Chamanzaminli is the Core Author of *Ali & Nino*... Reason - Hard to Refute No. 54

How is it that Essad Bey didn't know how to spell his name in Azeri in Arabic script? Nor the name of the country—Azerbaijan—in which he grew up. Yet Essad Bey wrote: "Azeri was easy and anybody, however stupid, can understand can use it." A book that Essad Bey inscribed in 1937, stored in an old trunk in a castle in Lichtenau, Austria, tells a different story.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Authorship of *Ali & Nino*  
Notes: 128-130



**110**

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*Ali & Nino* is now published in 33 languages. See covers for nearly 100 editions at AZER.com





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Named "Best Magazine of the Year" in Azerbaijan by New Writers and Artists for "promotion of Azerbaijani history, literature, culture and realities throughout the world" (May 2007). More than 350 links from WIKIPEDIA.org, the world's most popular encyclopedia on the Internet.

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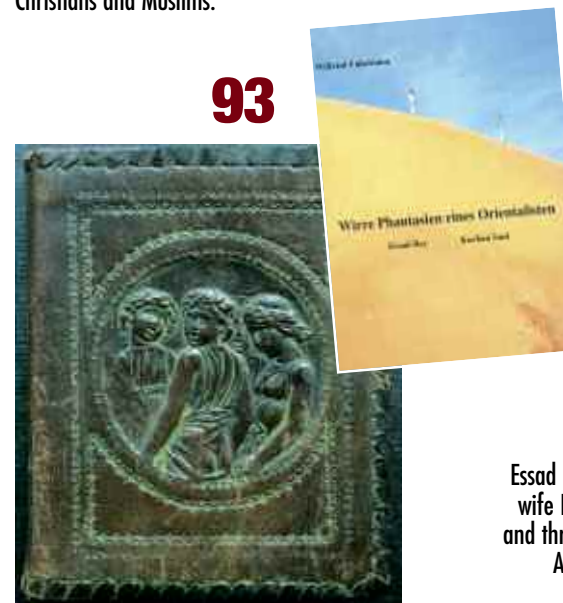
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Did cross-cultural couples exist in early 20th century Baku? One couple—Ali Pasha and Alexandra—an Azeri businessman and a Georgian beauty—lived two blocks away from Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli. Their daughter had the same name that was given to Ali and Nino's child. "We'll call her Tamar, in honor of the Lyceum," whispered Nino, and I nodded, for Tamar is a beautiful name used by both Christians and Muslims."



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"Arslanoghlu" means "son of a lion." Vacca says it was the name of Lev Nussimbaum's father. What other tales did Vacca have up his sleeve in his attempt to become the beneficiary of Essad Bey's wealth?

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Get to know the Baku of *Ali & Nino*. Take a walk in the heart of the city. See the beautiful architecture of a century ago

30

What else was going on in Essad Bey's life in 1937, the year that *Ali & Nino* was published? Did he really write the novel *I was an Ugly Girl*, and give it to his girlfriend Annemarie Selenko to publish under her name? Frequently Asked Questions, FAQ 154.



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Essad Bey's secret "memoir-cum-novel-diary" called *Der Mann (The Man Who Knew Nothing About Love)*, which he signed as Kurban Said was never published. But it has been found and the transcript fully published—all six notebooks—in German, thanks to Professor Wilfried Fuhrmann. Frequently Asked Questions, FAQ 153.

Essad Bey wrote that cheating wives (implying his own wife Erika) should be tied up in a sack with a wild cat and thrown into the Bosphorus. The sensitive love story *Ali & Nino* was published during the same period. Same core author? Same Kurban Said?...