**Ulala – Oirot Tura – Gorno-Altaisk.**

***Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the National museum of the Altai Republic named after A.V. Anokhin and to 90th Anniversary of Gorno-Altaisk city***

Gorno-Аltaisk city is the capital of the Altai Republic. Its historical name is Ulala. Ulala village had been the administrative centre of Oirot Autonomous Province since 1June 1922. It received city status in 1928. In 1992 Gorno-Altaisk, the former Ulala, became the capital of the Altai Republic. The Coat of Arms of Gorno-Altaisk was adopted in 1996.

The earliest written reference to a settlement in the valley of rivers Ulalushka and Maima date back to 1820. The first inhabitants of this settlement were Bachat Teleuts: the Chevalkov family, the Kocheyevs, the Tabakayevs, the Parayevs, the Yaraskins, the Kalanakovs. Along with them there were the Russian residents: the Ashchaulovs, the Konshins, the Shebalins and others.

From 1834 to 1879 the village served as a centre of Altai Ecclesiastical Mission and the Church of All-Merciful Savior was constructed in Ulala. Also the Mount church with chapel and Nikolsky Women's Monastery were built then. In 1838 a school for boys was established in the village, and the girls’ school was formed only in 1868. In the latter half of the 19th century an icon-painting courses were formed, the first apprentices of which were G. I. Choros-Gurkin, N.I. Chevalkov, the Nikiforov brothers.

In 1867 Ulala Central specialized school was founded. Later it was moved to Biysk city and provided a basis for founding Biysk Catechetical School. It was the educational institution where the first altai intellectuals went to.

In the latter half of the 19th century the merchants’ houses, shops and shopping areas sprang in Ulala. From 6th to 19th December annual Nikolsky trade fair was held.

For a long time the names of those buildings included names of merchants Tobokov, Khakin, Bodunov. In 1903 a hospital was founded which admitted patients for treatment. It also served as polyclinic and an orphanage.

The population of Ulala of that time was mainly engaged in agriculture and cattle farming. Moreover, smithcraft, carrier’s trade, icon-painting, pottery and other crafts have been an important position in life of the village. In total there were 27 craft shops in Ulala. Orientalist, the academician V.V. Radlov having visited Ulala in 1865 stated that: “The local Teleut people have such a good knowledge of religion which we would have failed to find in Russian rural communities, and in addition, they have very firm moral principles...”

In 1918 Ulala village became a centre of a newly formed Karakorum-Altai District. On 1 June 1922 it was announced a centre of Oirot Autonomous Oblast. In 1932 Ulala was renamed Oirot-Tura. At that time they founded House of the Soviets of the RSFSR as well as a savings-bank, House of Lenin, the Cinema named after Maxim Gorky, a public school, Regional hospital, a department store, an airport and Altai trading house were built in the city of Oirot-Tura. Actors of Oirot National Kolkhoz - Sovkhoz Theatre put on stage the plays of altai and soviet, foreign authors. The first educational institutions were opened in the town, they were Oirot Regional Communist Party school, special school boarding house for children from Tuva, workers' faculty, pedagogical technicum, zooveterinary technicum, planned-economy technicum, Tuvinian agricultural school, medical and obstetric school.

During the Great Patriotic War the Moscow Pedagogical Institute named after K. Liebknecht, the Leningrad Flight School, I.V. Michurin Institute for Horticulture from Tambov were evacuated to Oirot-Tura. Then the industrial plants switched to manufacturing military products such as military uniform, ski, sleighs, felt boots.

In 1948 due to renaming the Oirot autonomous oblast into Gorno-Altaisk autonomous oblast Oirot-Tura city was dubbed Gorno-Altaisk city. During the 1950-s on the basis of industrial artels they built weaving factory, curtain-lace machines, clothing factory, and carting manufacturer was set to start. Moreover, brick-making plant started its work and some new start-up companies emerged such as concrete product plant and a factory of household electrical appliances. Multi-apartment houses and buildings were constructed at that time.

The Altai Gornaya Duma (parliamentary body) acquired first collections for the first scientific and cultural institution – the Oirot regional museum (the present-day National museum of the Altai Republic named after A.V. Anokhin). After having acquired in 1926 the former shop of the merchant D. Tobokov as permanent quarters the museum received its first visitors in 1927. From 1931 to 1989 the museum was housed in the former store of the merchant Bodunov. At the start of its work the museum used to launch the first scientific expeditions, collected archaeological items together with ethnographical, art and natural science collections. Besides of that the photographic documentation and the first expositions were formed at museum.

At all times Gorno-Altaisk city inspired writers, poets, artists, composers to create original works of art. Paintings at National museum of the Altai Republic reveal the old-time Gorno-Altaisk with its historic buildings, streets, suburbs. Artworks of the museum allow us to imagine how Ulala with its one-storeyed houses has turned into a modern city. The historical photos and brushworks of outstanding artists represent lively impressions of people of that time, their thoughts and ideas about life, nature and human being.

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