



BĪDĀRĪ

BĪDĀRĪ (lit. wakefulness), the name of three Persian newspapers published in Tehran (1907), Rašt (1920), and Kermān (1923-53) and also the name of several other Persian newspapers and magazines published in Iran, Europe, and the Soviet Union.

The name was first applied to a newspaper published in Tehran and edited by Faṭḥ-ʿAlī Khan Faṭḥ-al-Mamālek, the editor of the newspaper *Zešt o zībā*, which, but for the latter's illustrations, it closely imitated. *Bīdārī* appears to have lasted only one issue, which was published on 23 Jomādā II 1325/3 August 1907.

The second *Bīdārī* was published in Rašt during Jawzā, 1299 Š./May-June, 1920, and coincided with the uprising of Mīrzā Kūček Khan Jangalī. Some information in the author's possession indicates that *Bīdārī* was typographed once every ten days and was edited by Ḥosayn Jowdat.

The third and most long-lived *Bīdārī* began publishing in Kermān. The first issue appeared in Jawzā, 1302 Š./May or June, 1923 and was edited and managed by Sayyed Moḥammad Hāšemī (1279-1349 Š./1900-60), a poet, writer, and member of the Farhangestān. Hāšemī represented Kermān in the 13th, 14th, and 15th sessions of the Majles and, later, became the managing editor of the Official Gazette (*Rūz-nāma-ye rasmi*) and the head of the Majles printing office. He established the newspaper *Etteḥād-e mellī* in Tehran on 21 Tīr 1322 Š./12 July 1943. Prior to that time, he had entrusted the editorship of *Bīdārī* to his brother Moḥammad Reżā Hāšemī. During the last period of its publication,



Bīdārī was edited by Aḥmad Hāšemī. Until the year 1315 Š./1936, *Bīdārī* came out very irregularly with long gaps between issues. After that year, it became Kermān's first daily newspaper. During this period, it did not publish advertisements; a separate weekly publication was devoted to this purpose. The weekly publication was primarily concerned with cultural affairs, especially literature, while the daily *Bīdārī* focused mainly on news and local affairs. With the advent of World War II, *Bīdārī* once again became a weekly journal. The last issue of the newspaper appeared in Day, 1331 Š./beginning of 1953 (most likely in January). *Bīdārī* was initially lithographed on four, two-columned pages measuring 22 x 35.5 cm; it was later typeset on four-columned paper measuring 23 x 36 cm and then on five-columned paper measuring 30 x 53 cm. It was only during its last years of publication that *Bīdārī* was illustrated. A single issue initially cost five *šāhīs*, which later became one rial. A yearly subscription during its first years was twenty rials, which in its seventh year rose to 40 rials with the caveat, "school students, women, and those of limited means" received a 25 percent discount and "the wealthy" paid one third more. Incomplete runs of *Bīdārī* are found in major libraries in Iran.

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