



BĪṬARAF

BĪṬARAF (The impartial), a news and political affairs journal published in Persian and French in Tehran (1913-14). *Bīṭaraf* began as a bilingual Tehran weekly at the beginning of 1331/January, 1913. It later was published two and finally three times weekly. After the publication of the sixtieth issue in Šaʿbān, 1332/July, 1914, its name was changed to *Eṭṭelāʿāt*, and it continued to be published with the same format under this name until 18 Šawwāl 1334/18 August 1916. *Bīṭaraf*'s managing editor was Mīrzā Ḥosayn Khan Yūsofzāda; its editor-in-chief was Mīrzā ʿAlī Khan Zanjānī. The French language section of the newspaper, called *Impartial*, which contained translations of the Persian articles with modifications, was under the general editorship of Mišel Ḥājīān. *Bīṭaraf* was wholly devoted to news and only rarely took a political position. Despite this, signs of the newspaper's leaning toward the foreign policies of Great Britain or Russia, which peaked during the time *Eṭṭelāʿāt* was in circulation, are already noticeable in *Bīṭaraf*. In sum, the newspaper was a successful imitation of French journals in which short and varied, internal and external news stories were stressed. Because of the profusion of its news items and of its bilingual format, *Bīṭaraf* was quoted often by the foreign press. It was published at first on four two-column, 21.5 x 35 cm pages and later on eight triple-column pages measuring 30 x 42 cm and contained advertisements in proportion to its size and a limited number of photographs. A single issue cost four *šāhīs*, a yearly subscription in Tehran was 15 *qerāns*, outside of Tehran 20 *qerāns*, and abroad eleven French francs. Complete runs of the newspaper are found in major libraries in Iran; a file is also held in the Cambridge University Library.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

M. Şadr-Hašemî, *Tārīk-ejarāyed o majallāt-e Īrān*, Isfahan, 1327-32 Š./1948-53, no. 319.

Search terms:

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