



FARROḶ, SAYYED MAḤMŪD

FARROḶ, Sayyed MAḤMŪD (b. Mašhad, 23 Jomādā II 1314/29 Nov. 1896; d. Mašhad, 2 Ordībehešt 1360 Š./22 April 1981; [Figure 1](#)), litterateur, poet, Majles deputy, and executive. FarroḶ was born to Sayyed Aḥmad Jawāherī (pen name Dānā) and Bibī Ṭūbā Jawāherī, a cousin of Sayyed Aḥmad. He received his elementary education at a neighborhood *maktab* and then studied traditional subjects with Adīb-al-Tawlīa, Mo ḥammad-Ḥosayn Šīrāzī, and his father, who taught him literary techniques and encouraged him to write poetry. He was the Majles deputy from Qūčān in the 12th and 13th sessions, after which he avoided active politics. FarroḶ composed his first poem at the age of nine. The first poem he published was a *maṭnawī* emulating Ferdowsī's *Šāh-nāma* on the occasion of the capture of Tehran by the Constitutionalists in 1909. One of his early poems prompted a religious leader to brand him as an infidel. In 1927 he entered the administration of Āstān-e qods-e rażawī (q.v.) and before long became the head of its personnel department. In 1935 he managed to save many lives when the soldiers attacked the people who had taken sanctuary (see BAST) in the Gowharšād mosque. In 1952 Moṣaddeq appointed him the chief executive of Āstān-e qods and the acting governor general of Khorasan. He resigned from his position after the coup d'état of 1953 (q.v.) and never again accepted a governmental appointment. His pro-Moṣaddeq stand almost cost him his life when, following the 1953 coup, a gang of thugs tried to kill him. He served as the chairman of the board and executive director of the textile factory (Kār-kāna-ye naḵ-rīsī wa nassājī) in Mašhad for the rest of his active life.



Farroḳ published over three thousand verses of his poetry, mainly of qaṣidas in Khorasani style, in his *Safīna-ye Farroḳ*, which contains also selection from a variety of poets, both contemporary and classical. His poetry has been admired by poets and literati, including Moḥammad-Taqī Bahār and Moḥammad Qazvīnī. In the early 1970s the Ferdowsī University, in recognition of Farroḳ's efforts in the establishment of that university in Mašhad as well as his years of scholarship and long-standing patronage of young poets, made him an honorary professor of literature. Farroḳ had a large library that was freely accessible to friends and students. Its manuscript collection is now kept at Ferdowsī University in Mašhad.

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Figure 1. Sayyed Maḥmūd Farroḳ. Photograph courtesy of Faridoun Farrokh.