



## GĪLĀN NEWSPAPERS

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**GĪLĀN**, title of four newspapers published in Rašt.

1. Biweekly organ of the provincial *anjoman* (q.v.) of Gīlān (Anjoman-e welāyatī-e Gīlān), it was published from 18 Du'l-ḥejja 1326/11 January 1909 to 3 Jamāda I 1327/23 May 1909, twelve issues in all. It replaced *Anjoman-e welāyatī-e Gīlān* which had suspended publication on 22 Ša'bān 1325/30 September 1907. Its managing editor was Ḥasan Khan Asadzāda Ešfahānī, who at times signed also as Ḥasan b. Asad-Allāh Ešfahānī. It published the proceedings of the *anjoman* and some articles dealing with social issues. It was published in four double-column pages, measuring 21.5 x 34.5 cm; it was typeset and printed at 'Orwat al-woṭqā printing house and carried no illustrations or advertising. Single issues were priced at three *šāhīs*; annual subscription cost twenty *qerāns* in Gilan, twenty-four *qerāns* elsewhere in Persia, and twenty-eight *qerāns* abroad. Scattered issues are accessible at the Central Library of the University of Tehran, the Majles Library I, and the Cambridge University Library.

2. A newspaper published three times a week from 26 Ša'bān 1328/ 2 September 1910 to 2 Moḥarram 1330/23 December 1911. It covered news and political events. It was published without official authorization, for which reason its republication in 1300 Š./ 1921 was prevented (Bayāt and Kūhestānī-nežād, pp. 342-41). Its managing editor was Moḥammad-Kāžem Zoharī, whose initials, M. Z., appeared on the masthead. Its editor was known merely as Moḥammad-'Alī. According to Ebrāhīm Fakrā'ī (1977, p. 280), Ḥosayn Kasmā'ī, a prominent journalist of the time (editor of *Šarq* in 1327/1909, as well as the



owner of *Waqt*, and the managing editor of *Jangal* at the beginning), was the author of many of its political articles. According to Edward Browne, it represented the E'tedāliyūn party.

Gilān dealt with local, in particular political and social, issues and entered into polemical disputes with its contemporaries such as *Ḳayr al-ḱalām* and *Esteqlāl*. It had misgivings about Russian policies in the Caspian region. This newspaper was suspended in 1911 after the arrival in Gilān of Russian armies and the banishment of its editor Zoharī (Bayāt and Kūhestānī-nežād, p. 340).

The format was four three-column pages, measuring 31 x 35.5 cm. It was typeset and printed at the Sa'ādat printing house and carried some advertising but no illustrations. During the first year of publication, it was priced two *šāhīs* in Rašt and three in other towns; from the second year, it was priced three *šāhīs* and one *'abbāsī*, respectively. Annual subscription was thirty *qerāns* in Rašt and thirty-five *qerāns* elsewhere in the country. A nearly complete set is accessible at the Cambridge University Library; scattered issues are also kept at the Central Library of the University of Tehran, the National Library of Gilān, and the 'Allāma Ṭabāṭabā'ī Library in Shiraz.

3-4. Two more newspapers were published in Rašt under the same name in 1298 Š./1919 and 1330 Š./1951, by Sa'id Ašafī and Šādeq Moqarrab, respectively.

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