



GOLESTĀN

GOLESTĀN, the title of two Persian newspapers.

1. A news and political journal that began publication in Shiraz in 1297 Š./1918 and was continued with long intervals until 1342 Š./1963; the last issue is numbered 5,276. The first few issues could not be found in any major libraries. *Golestān* started as a weekly journal, but it turned into a daily paper in 1307 Š./1928, eventually being published twice a week in the years following World War II. The publisher was Sayyed Moḥammad-Taḳī Golestān, also known as Malek-al-Moḥaqqaqīn (b. Shiraz, 1274 Š./1895), who was a seminary student before he published *Golestān*. He represented Fārs in the Constituent Assembly of 1925 that did away with the Qajar dynasty and nominated Reżā Khan as the new king. He also served for a time as the mayor of Shiraz. In the years following World War II, the paper was apparently run by the chief editors ‘Ali Liāqat and, after him, by Nikumand.

Golestān was a conservative paper. In the last few years of its existence, it was mainly filled with government advertisements. The government banned it for a month in 1299 Š./1920, because it had published an article advocating women’s education, which the religious establishment of Shiraz found unacceptable (Şadr Hāşemi, *Jarā’ed o majallāt*, no. 951). It was the only paper published in Shiraz during the final years of Reżā Shah’s reign (1304-20 Š./1925-40), since all other papers were banned in Shiraz (Bayāt and Kuhestāni-neżād, II, pp. 190-91). In Mordād 1331/August 1952, during a popular disturbance in Shiraz in support of the government of Moḥammad Moşaddeq, the office and the printing house of *Golestān* were set on fire for, as



the common perception was, its pro-British stance (Şadr Hāşemi, *Jarā'ed o majallāt*, no. 951; Şawlat Qaşqā'i, p. 304). This event seems to have been the cause of the long suspension of its publication until 1335 Š./1956.

In its early years *Golestān* was lithographed in four four-column pages of 23 x 36 cm at the Moḥammadi printing house. It is not clear when it was first printed in typeset, but issues published after 1307 Š./1928, 28 x 44 cm, are in typeset printed at the Musawi printing house. After World War II, the paper, which now owned a printing house (Čāp-ķāna-ye Golestān) of its own, was published in eight five-column pages and occasionally carried illustrations. Single issues of *Golestān* were initially priced at three *şāhis* in the first year and two rials in the final year of its publication. Sporadic issues are kept in major Persian and foreign libraries. All issues for the year 1945-46 are accessible at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

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2. A newspaper published in Rašt, Gilān, for only four issues from 14 Ša‘bān to 1 Du‘l-ḥejja 1325/22 September 1907 to 5 January 1908. The publisher and the chief editor was a local merchant, Mo ḥammad-Ḥosayn Ra‘is-al-Tojjār, also known as Safina. *Golestān*, like most newspaper of the period, was not interested in publishing the news, instead it printed articles of various lengths advocating patriotism, constitutional government, and the virtues of charitable deeds. It was typeset at ‘Orwat-al-Woṭqā printing house in four 22 x 35 cm double-column pages, carried no illustrations, and was distributed free of charge. All four issues are accessible at Cambridge University Library.

Ebrāhim Fakrā’i, *Gilān dar gozargāh-e zamān*, Tehran, 1354 Š./1975, p. 318.

Ja‘far Komāmizāda, *Ruz-nāmahā-ye Irān az āgāz tā sāl-e 1329*, Tehran, 1372 Š./1993, pp. 218-19 (based on Rabino).

Faridun Nowzād, “Čehra-ye maṭbu‘āt-e Gilān,” in *Ketāb-e Gilān*, 3 vols., Tehran, 1374 Š./1995, III, p. 664.

Hyacinth Louis Rabino, *Šurat-e jarāyed-e Irān wa jarāyed-i ka dar kārej az Irān ba zabān-e fārsi ṭab‘ šoda ast*, Rašt, 1329/1911, no. 173.

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