

# Ebrahim Golestan

1922–

From a family of Shi'i Muslim clerics, Ebrahim Golestan was born and raised in Shiraz, where his father served as mayor for a time and ran a newspaper from which the family took its name. After high school, Golestan briefly attended Tehran University and entered into the employ of the National Iranian Oil Company.

From the late 1940s through the early 1970s, Golestan was a photographer, translator, publisher, movie-maker, and writer of fiction. He translated works of Mark Twain, George Bernard Shaw and Ernest Hemingway, and four volumes of short stories: *Āzar*, *māh-e ākber-e pā'iz* (Azar, the last month of autumn, 1948), *Shekār-e sāyeh* (Shadow-hunting, 1955), *Juy-o divār-o tesbneh* (The stream, the wall and the thirsty one, 1967), and *Madd-o meh* (Tide and mist, 1969).

In 1965 Golestan produced and directed an important feature film called *Khest va āyeneh* (Mudbrick and mirror). A second feature film of his reached movie theatres in 1974. Called *Asrār-e ganj-e darreh-ye jenni* (Secrets of the treasure of the haunted valley, 1974, 1978), it parallels a novel by the same name, which exists in two unpublished translations, one by the author and the other by Paul Sprachman, who provides a plot summary in "Ebrahim Golestan's *The Treasure: A Parable of Cliché and Consumption*" in *Iranian Studies* 15 (1982).

In the mid-1970s Golestan emigrated to England. During the 1980s he was reportedly working on a history of modern Iran and the course of modernist Persian literature.