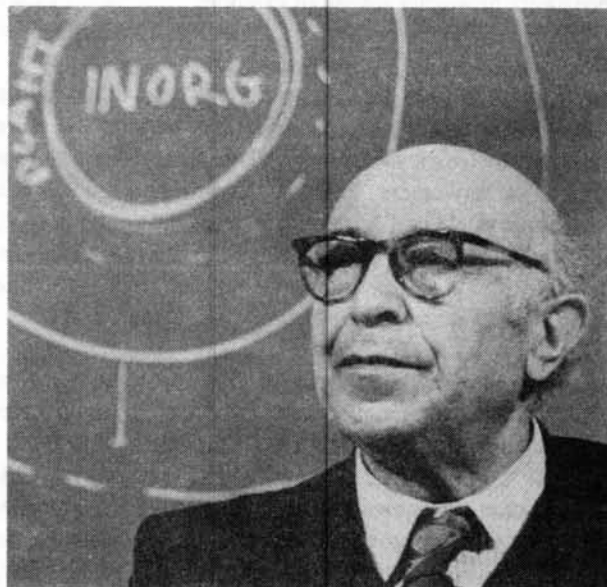


## In Memoriam: Ali Mazaheri

We have just learned of the death of one of the century's leading Orientalists, Prof. Ali Mazaheri, who taught at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris for several decades, after having served as curator of Oriental Manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale for many years. His depth of knowledge was almost unbelievable, particularly in the area of theology and ancient philosophy; to those of us who are more ignorant, he seemed a man of mystery and secrets, whereas in fact, no one was more outspoken in his views, nor more dedicated to open diplomacy. He read and worked in over a dozen ancient and modern tongues.

A Persian, Professor Mazaheri was the incarnation of everything good in his country's intellectual life; in particular, he did not share the western academic's purported distaste for political action. As opposed to Anglo-Saxon historiographers, who disguise their propaganda aims under a thin veil of "objectivity," Ali Mazaheri always baldly stated that he wrote history to bring out its positive aspects and shape the future. In his work, which was rigorously scientific, he sought to show, not only to the outside world but also to his countrymen, that the true, underlying nature of Persia was not that of an imperial backwater, but a nation of scientists, inventors, and statesmen.

Professor Mazaheri was deeply depressed by the events in Teheran in 1979, and still more by what followed, though he was not so naive as to be in the slightest surprised by the role England and the United States played in that disaster. But he never accepted that Persia's downfall would be permanent, and therefore became a strong supporter of Lyndon LaRouche. He shouted, after reading LaRouche's writings on epistemology for the first time, "I have discovered Columbus's egg!" He said that he had virtually given up hope on the United States until he had picked up leaflets in the Paris streets on the crisis in Iran, distributed by LaRouche's associates. At that point, he said, he decided that perhaps the American Revolution had meant something after all, and he decided to go back and look up the writings of the Founding Fathers.



He was a very witty man. Although he attained a great age, probably over 80, when asked he always gave his age as 69. It was indescribably droll to see this great scholar bolting through the Vatican museum, standing before a vast Renaissance painting, and suddenly cackling wildly at some detail, simply in order to throw everyone off guard: "Look! He is wearing spectacles and reading a newspaper! He is wearing spectacles and reading a newspaper!" When everyone burst into laughter, he would look bemused.

Another time, in Rome, at a meeting convened by the Schiller Institute in 1989 to mark the 550th anniversary of the Council of Florence, after a number of learned scholars had spoken, Professor Mazaheri stood up and said in a tiny, piercing voice: "That was beautiful! But it reminds me of the Persian proverb, of the scholar whose head was so much in the stars, that one night he watched and walked and fell into a well. If we do not get LaRouche out of jail, we will walk and talk and fall into a well." And he proceeded to issue a passionate denunciation of those forces which had imprisoned LaRouche in the United States.—*Katherine Kanter*

the ruling power and them—

**Yue Wu:** Yes, absolutely. The people see this river of blood.

**EIR:** Last question: If you had to refer, as your compatriots so often love to do, to classical Chinese literature or to a historical situation in China, which would you use to characterize what is happening today?

**Yue Wu:** The expression I would use to describe the Chinese situation today is: "Before the rains come, the wind blows strongly through the house."

**EIR:** This quotation comes from the very beautiful poetry of the Tang period. Let's make the wind blow a bit stronger, and soon the rains will come.