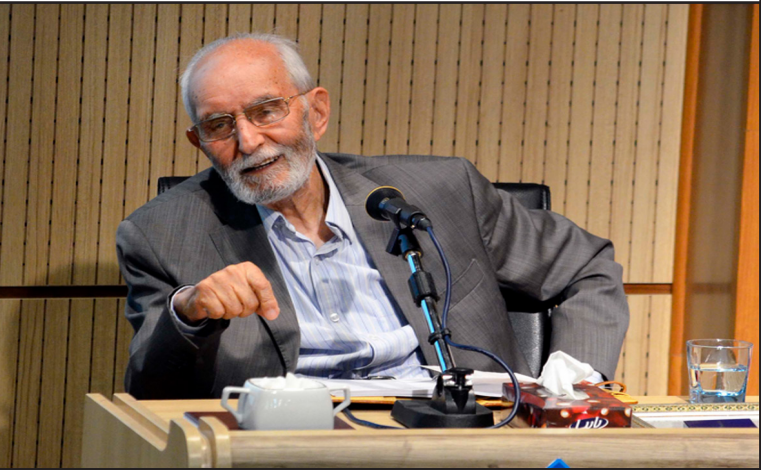


## Researcher Samad Movahhed Passes Away



TEHRAN – Renowned Iranian Sufism researcher Samad Movahhed has died at the age of 87.

The late Movahhed, an Iranian writer, researcher, and editor, was born in 1936 and was Iranian lawyer and researcher Muhammad Ali Movahhed’s brother.

“Gulshan-i Raz” written by Sheikh Mahmoud Shabestari (1288–1340), Gowhar-e Morad by Abd al-Razzaq Lahiji (died c. 1662 CE), The Bezels of Wisdom by Ibn Arabi (1165–1240) and a survey of Azerbaijani Sufism are the books that late Movahhed had edited or authored.

## University of Tehran Honors Eslami Nodooshan

TEHRAN – The University of Tehran was the site of a gathering on Monday, where a funeral procession was held for esteemed Iranian critic and writer Muhammad-Ali Eslami Nodooshan.

Born in Nadooshan, Yazd province in August 1924, Eslami Nodooshan was a celebrated literary critic, translator, poet, and writer. He was also a graduate of international law from France. He passed away on April 26, 2022 in Canada at the age of 97 due to old age.

Initially buried in Canada, his remains were returned to Iran Sunday after 18 months. Following ceremonies in Tehran and Yazd, Nodooshan’s remains will be buried in Neyshabur, northeastern Iran. He will be buried next to the graves of the famous Iranian poet, hagiographer, and theoretician of Sufism, Attar of Nishapur, and renowned Iranian astronomer, philosopher, and poet Omar Khayyam.

Eslami Nodooshan’s academic journey began in Yazd, where he graduated from high school before earning his bachelor of laws from the University of Tehran. He then moved to Paris to pursue his MA and PhD. Upon returning to Iran, he began teaching literature and law at the University of Tehran, quickly becoming one of its prominent professors and one of Iran’s renowned writers.



The body of Muhammad Ali Eslami Nodooshan was carried from University of Tehran’s Faculty of Literature in a funeral procession attended by a group of literati on Monday.

His fame extends beyond Iran, reaching thinkers, writers, and scholars around the world. Eslami Nodooshan’s magnificent works have significantly contributed to promoting the Persian language and literature.

Nodooshan’s tireless efforts to familiarize people worldwide with Iranian literature and his deep sense of patriotism are truly commendable and will continue to inspire future generations.

## U.S. Sends Back Fake Mosaics to Lebanon

BEIRUT (Guardian) -- Authorities in New York have been accused by leading academics in France and Britain of repatriating fake Roman artifacts to Lebanon.

Eight out of nine mosaic panels that the U.S. authorities recently returned to the Middle Eastern country are not what they seem, according to claims made by Djamila Fellague of the University of Grenoble.

She claims to have uncovered proof that forgers had copied designs from original mosaics in archaeological sites or museums in Sicily, Tunisia, Algeria and Turkey. “Eight of the nine ‘returned’ mosaic panels were fakes that [are] relatively easy to detect because the models used are famous mosaics,” says Fellague.

She singled out a panel depicting an Anguiped Giant, that she believes is based on a section of the famous mosaics in the Villa Romana del Casale in Sicily, a UNESCO world heritage site.

She also claims to have discovered that a mosaic of Nep-

tune and Amphitrite took as its main model a mosaic found in Constantine, Algeria, which has been in the Louvre in Paris since the mid-19th century. Of the other mosaics returned to Lebanon, she claims that there is only one example for which the forgers were inspired by an actual mosaic from Lebanon – a well-known depiction of Bacchus in the National Museum in Beirut.

Christos Tsirogiannis, a guest lecturer at the University of Cambridge and a leading expert in looted antiquities and trafficking networks, believes the evidence is irrefutable. He said that were the revelation to be shown to be true it would be extremely embarrassing for the office of the Manhattan district attorney (DA), which had announced the repatriation of antiquities to Lebanon on September 7.

Its press release at the time stated that nine mosaics included in the repatriation ceremony were among dozens of Middle Eastern and north African an-



tiquities that were allegedly brought into New York by a Lebanese antiquities trafficker.

In 2022, the DA’s antiquities trafficking unit (ATU) had obtained a warrant for their arrest and applied for a red notice from Interpol.

“Even if you are not an expert, if you put the fake next to the authentic mosaic, you see how similar they are, but also how the quality is actually not that good,” claims Tsirogiannis.

He added that the alleged forgers had made the mistake of copying well-known mosaics, which have been extensively photographed by tourists

with images widely available on the internet and in academic publications. “The whole thing is crazy. The authorities continually do these things without consulting experts.”

Tsirogiannis leads research on illicit antiquities trafficking for the UNESCO chair on threats to cultural heritage at the Ionian University in Corfu, Greece. Over 17 years, he has identified more than 1,700 looted objects, alerting police authorities and

governments and helping to repatriate items.

As soon as Fellague saw photographs of the mosaics in the press and online, following the September announcement, she says she sensed that most were “obvious fakes”.

“At first I fought against this idea, telling myself that an investigation that led to a warrant arrest, a red notice from Interpol and a restitution to a country must have been the subject of a rigorous scientific study,” she said.

She started to investigate further: “Very quickly, while searching, I found the models used by the forgers to make the forgeries.”

She said: “In the press and official press releases – on both the American and Lebanese sides – there has never been any scientific justification to prove that the mosaics were Roman,

looted and plundered precisely in Lebanon.”

Before being seized by the U.S. authorities in 2021, one of the mosaic panels was offered for sale in 2018 in a New York gallery, with an estimate of less than \$20,000.

Fellague suspects that a forgers’ mosaic workshop was located somewhere in the Middle East, probably in the 1970s and 1980s, judging from other pieces that have surfaced on the art market.

A DA spokesman denied the accusations. “In order for these antiquities to be repatriated a court had to evaluate our evidence, which included expert analysis about their authenticity and significant details about how they were illegally trafficked. The court found based on the evidence – which these individuals do not have – that the pieces are authentic.”

## Isfahan to Host Days of Turkmenistan



TEHRAN – Days of Culture of Turkmenistan will be held in Isfahan within days.

The event will be held with the participation of 40 artists and the minister of culture

and Islamic guidance on November 23-26.

The Isfahan Hall of Art is to host Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Muhammad Mehdi Esmaili, his

Turkmen counterpart, and the governor of Isfahan.

In addition to the performance of traditional music groups of Turkmenistan, there will be an exhibition of handicrafts, artistic and visual works, traditional costumes, Turkmenistan Film Week, and a photo gallery at the Sa’adi historical complex.

The literary meeting of Magtymguly Pyragy, one of the common celebrities of the two countries, will be held in the presence of poets and writers from Iran and Turkmenistan at Isfahan University.



The Iranian carpet is as old as its history and civilization, which introduces its culture and art and no other product can compete with it.

Photo by ISNA