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أصدقاء المغرب

FRIENDS of MOROCCO

A Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 1, March 1991

BOSTON

Ijtimaa '91 and Moroccan-Roll

Friends of Morocco and *Ijtimaa '91* are proud to present a harbor cruise featuring ZAHAR, America's finest Moroccan-American musical ensemble, and one of Greenwich Village's hottest bands,

and their *Moroccan-Roll* sound.

ZAHAR, led by Moroccan musician Hassan Hakmoun, plays a captivating blend of traditional Gnaoua music from Marrakech and jazz-based urban dance music. Gnawi music merges black African and Arabic musical traits into a spiritual music performed in Morocco for healing ceremonies. *The New York Times* music critic Peter Watrous described the music as sounding "at times like an Arabic version of one of the great Memphis rhythm sections, the James Brown band,...a Chicago blues rhythm section...the excitement of hearing a music as new and as rhythmically charged as theirs carried the audience away."

Formed in 1989, the band has grown to five members. Hassan Hakmoun is a talented vocalist, dancer, and master musician of the sintir--a three stringed, "camel-faced" instrument. Hakmoun was hailed by *The New York Times* as "a virtuoso; one of the most rhythmically gifted musicians working in New York today." Guitarist Anthony Peterson studied music at Berklee College of Music in Boston and has received numerous honors. Bill McClellan on drums is from Chicago and specializes in Latin and African percussion. Keyboardist Itaal Shur trained at the College conservatory of Cincinnati and has written music for dance and film. Said Hakmoun has performed Gnaoua music since

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For Late Registration

There is still time to get to Boston and *Ijtimaa '91*. The gathering will be at Bentley College 12-14 April.

Make plans now to attend all or part of the conference. There will be the annual meeting, seminars, reunions, and more. For details, contact Rorie Valadez at 617/891-3141 (days) or Bob Dudley at 617/628-0966 (evenings).

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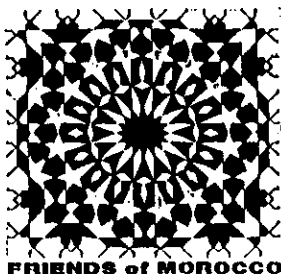
Friends of Morocco

Ijtimaa.....

he was a young boy and plays the *qerqeba*, a large metal castanet, and several African and Arabic drums.

The cruise will board at 6h30 p.m., Friday, 12 April, from 1, Long Wharf, Boston, near the Aquarium "T" stop. Tickets (\$10.00 each) will be sold on a first-come basis. A number of tickets will be sold to non-MRPCV Morocophiles to help cover the boat rental expenses---so get your orders in *early*.

To join in the fun, order your tickets on your *Ijtimâa '91* registration form, or send check or money order to Friends of Morocco/Itjimâa '91, c/o Bentley College, Office of International Programs, Waltham MA 02254. Include your name, address, telephone number, and quantity of tickets that you want to reserve. We will hold all prepaid tickets unless you prefer to have them mailed to you. For more information, call Rorie at 617/891-3141 (days), Bob at 617/628-0966 (evenings), or Bill at 617/864-3346 (anytime).



FRIENDS of MOROCCO



Bowles, Mrabet, Gnaoua, & Jilala

(Plus an Ijtimaa '91 Bonus)

Sub Rosa US announces the release of three new CDs that are the result of a 1990 expedition to Morocco by Boston, Massachusetts, musician, producer, and writer Randy Barnwell. The discs comprise a series entitled *The Kif Traveler*.



(Attendees at *Ijtimâa '91* in Boston, April 12-14, can buy the discs at a discount of 15%, courtesy of Sub Rosa.)



Barnwell traveled the length of Morocco, making recordings of various spiritual music groups, street recordings, and, best of all, the great American Ex-Patriate Paul Bowles, as well as the first recordings ever of the famous Moroccan storyteller Mohammed Mrabet.

Volume 1, *Paul Bowles: Black Star at the Point of Darkness* (originally *Journey to Solitude*), was prepared especially for release by Barnwell. Author of the book *Sheltering Sky* (now a major mo-

tion picture), Bowles has provided a collection of prose, poetry, his own music, and field recordings he has made over the past 30 years from Tangier to the Sahara, and points beyond.

Volume 2, *Mohammed Mrabet: The Storyteller and the Fisherman*, features some of the best stories of Mrabet. Included are stories of magic, folktales, and "Fantasies"---a unique blend of reality and fantasy.

Volume 3, *Insha' Allah! Spiritual Music of the Gnaoua & Jilala: Baraka Eyeh!*, features two of the best music groups in Morocco. The Jilala de Tanger led by the trance dancing of Mohammed Mrabet are a delight. The Gnaoua group of Abdenbi Binizi has revolutionized this traditional form by blending Western influences while maintaining the rich character of this group descended of peoples from the Niger.

If you can't attend *Ijtimâa '91*, you can get the discs and a catalogue of other Moroccan recordings from Sub Rosa US, P.O. Box 15492, Kenmore Station, Boston MA 02215.

Update: Dairy Goat/ Family Nutrition

Progress of FOM's First Grant

Mark Riordan, DVM (MRPCV 86-89), director for the Near East Foundation's Dairy Goat/Family Nutrition project in the Ait Imeghrane tribe in Ouarzazate Province, recently submitted an updated report.

In November 1988, FOM made a \$200.00 grant (FOM's first) to the Foundation's project. The funds were used for an extension project: distributing cassette tapes in Berber and Arabic dealing with goat care and human health. Mark wrote the goat care dialogue and Karen Cook (MRPCV, 88/90) wrote health care dialogue. The grant covered costs for script translation,

script recording, and cassette tapes.

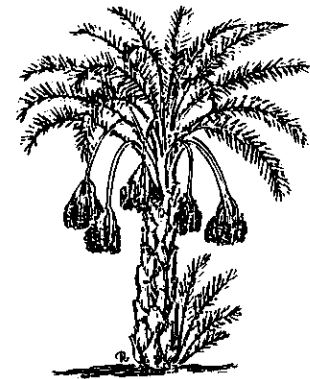
The dialogue was mixed with local Berber or Arabic music. The thirty-two tapes distributed in August 1990 were well received. All of the recipients were happy to hear their local Berber or Arabic dialect on the recordings.

Mark reports that a review of the project will be done this spring, to see how well the information on the cassettes was absorbed.

FOM will print the results in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Conference on Maghreb's Environment

The sixth annual American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) conference, *The Maghrib Environment at Risk: Conference on Contemporary Environmental Threats*, will be held in Algeria in early 1992.



The focus will be on current scientific research on the Maghrebi environment, highlighting Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Twenty-four researchers from the Maghreb and the United States will present papers on their research. Objectives of the conference are: to raise awareness of the current environmental problems in the Maghreb, to stimulate further research, and to explore the potential for science and technology to help solve the regions environmental problems.

For more information, contact American Institute of Maghribi Studies, Middle East Institute, Columbia University, New York NY 10027.

أصدقاء المغرب
Friends of Morocco

Shriver Award

It's time to submit nominations to the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for the Shriver Award.

The purpose of the award is to honor Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who, subsequent to their overseas service, have made *sustained and distinguished* contributions to humanitarian causes in developing countries or here at home.

The nomination deadline is 17 May 1991. The award will be presented at a special ceremony in Washington this August.

For nomination forms and additional information, contact: Arlene Goldberg, Chairperson, Shriver Award Committee, 266 Garibaldi Avenue, #5, Lodi, New Jersey 07644 (201/473-5311).

Ignorance & Misconception

A Not-So-Pretty Portrayal of Arab Culture

Ed. Note: The following article is reprinted with the permission of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune. It was written by Karin Winegar. Perhaps as former residents and workers who have experienced Arabic cultures first-hand, we can help to educate and expose other Americans to what Things Arabic really are.

The Western portrayal of Middle Easterners in music, film, literature, comics, and advertising hasn't been a pretty one.

From Rudolph Valentino as the sloe-eyed seducer in *The Sheik* (1921) to the scimitar-wielding assassin in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), the 1962 pop hit *Ahab the Arab* ("...there she was...with rings on her fingers and bells on her toes and a bone in her nose...") to the wife-beating tyrant of *Not Without My Daughter* (1991), Arabs often are depicted as lascivious, laughable, or loony.

According to experts such as Jack Shaheen, Americans have ingested a mishmash of cultural clichés and racist stereotypes of Arab

peoples for decades. Shaheen, a specialist in racial and ethnic stereotypes, is author of *The TV Arab* (Bowling Green University Popular Press, \$9.95) and professor of mass communications at Southern Illinois University.

"Historically we've treated the Arabs as if they didn't have a human face," he said. "In popular culture, comic books, and motion pictures, most of us have failed to see the dehumanization process. There are so many insidious portraits and nothing to balance them that we accept them as reality."

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The prevailing images in more than 450 movies and TV shows, 250 comic books as well as academic texts, children's literature, and novels that Shaheen analyzed are "the men as lecherous billionaires intent on kidnaping our women and placing them in harems, destroying our economy, buying up our networks, and corrupting our politicians," he said. "Arab women are either the bundle in black trekking behind the camels or the obese belly dancer."

Gail Stern of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies of Philadelphia agreed. The institute recently retired a traveling exhibit on ethnicity in advertising and in comics and is undertaking a second one on ethnic stereotypes in toys and games.

"What is consistent throughout is Arabs are generally portrayed as terrorists or assassins," said Ms. Stern. "There's an attempt to dehumanize them as well as many other groups in popular American culture. It depends on who's creating the images, but generally ad and comic images are created by Angloicans.

Right now, we're told Arabs are our enemy and our ally, so there's a sense of confusion in the public. How can they reconcile fighting for and against Arabs at the same time?"

Based on the progress of racial stereotypes of African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians, Ms. Stern expects racist Arab stereotypes to diminish as advertisers and corporations begin to view them as consumers and as



people from these maligned groups move into positions of power in corporations. "The rise of ethnic pride and civil rights struggles also creates awareness and appreciation for differences," she said.

"We've seen real evolution in the media we've looked at, to the point of positive stereotypes replacing old negative stereotypes," she said. "Movies that used to feature African-Americans as villains now really avoid showing any black people in villain roles, for example."

Shaheen compared the stereotyping of Arabs to that of Jews in Nazi Germany.

"The Germans dehumanized Jews by showing them as greedy bankers wanting the blond, blue-eyed German virgin, wanting control of the economy," he said.

"If you look at the German editorial cartoon or movie of the late '30s and '40s you'll see the Semitic features of that era are the same as those of the Arab caricatures of today: exaggerated nose, fat lips, beard. The Jews were depicted in black hat and cloak; today the Arab billionaire wears the robe and headdress. It's easier to hate someone who doesn't dress the same as you."

A Quarterly Review of Printed Arts

A new quarterly review of fiction, poetry, photography, and criticism called *Mediterraneans* is now in circulation. It includes periodic text relating to the Maghreb and Morocco. Subscription information can be obtained from Didsbury Press, 7 Darey Avenue, Manchester M20 8XE, United Kingdom.

Spring Tour on Back Burner

The *Cooks' Tour of Morocco* noted in the last newsletter has been postponed until a future date. Please contact Kitty Morse at P. O. Box 433, Vista CA 92085, for more information.



أش اخبارنا ؟

Ash Khabarna?

Lis del Ferro Abuhamad (Sidi Yalina/Rabat, 82-85) was married to Karim al Abuhamad in September 1990. Until recently they were living in Yemen.

Happy Birthday Nawbaat

A collaboration between the Moroccan government and MCM Record Company has created an impressive venture in recording to mark the 60th birthday of King Hassan II. A complete *nawbaat* is rarely played, since these five-part cantatas typically take at least five hours. This one, *Nuba Gharibat al-Husayn*, played by the Orchestra al-Brihi de Fez lasts six hours. The orchestra is under the leadership of the head of the Fez Conservatory, one of the Islamic world's major music schools. The six disc set can be obtained from *Original Music*, R.D. 1, Box 190, Lasher Road, Tivoli NY 12583. (\$120.00.)



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MRPCVs Evacuated

One-hundred thirty-five PCVs were evacuated from Morocco during the early stages of the Gulf War. Volunteers were also temporarily removed from Tunisia, Pakistan, and Yemen.

It is hoped that those as well as new volunteers can be back in Morocco in five or six months. FOM will keep you informed.

Morocco in the Gulf

Though Morocco was one of the Gulf Coalition sending troops (nearly 1,700) to the Persian Gulf, there were also reports of demonstrations and marches in support of Iraq in several Moroccan cities.

Most of the demonstrations occurred in university towns, including Tetouan and Rabat. The most widely reported march occurred on 3 February 1991, in Rabat. The Associated Press reported over 300,000 demonstrators. Other reports out of Morocco, however, counted 30,000 to 100,000 orderly marchers gathering on Avenue Mohamed V.



English Language Resource Project Needs Materials

Michael Toler (TEFL, El Jadida), a current MPCV evacuated because of the Gulf War, is taking the opportunity to continue one of his special projects while waiting for the time to return to his teaching site.

Michael was working with another volunteer, Mark Palko, creating an English language resource center that can expand into the Moroccan university system. English-language materials are scarce and often outdated. Michael points out that fourth year students of English are required to write a fifty-page research paper (in English) prior to graduation.

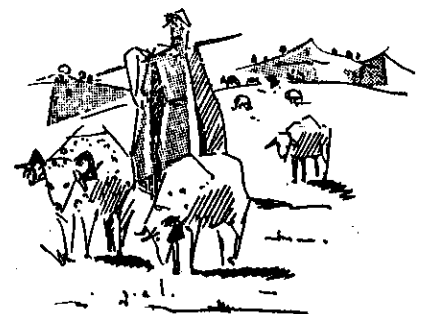
Materials should be in English and at a high school or college level. Subject matter can cover language, literature, linguistics, or any other area suitable for a liberal arts college. Philosophy, history, and reference books such as dictionaries and encyclopedias are highly desired. Books on business, science, or mathematics are not needed. Cassette tapes and videos are also welcome.

If you want to help or if you want more information about the project, contact Michael Toler, 10200 Merriam Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235 (tel: 804/320-1909).

"...fourth year students are required to write

a fifty-page research paper in English."

Though the project was just beginning, two of their Moroccan colleagues are continuing the project in their absence. The Richmond, Virginia, public library has been very helpful, but Michael still needs more materials and the funds to ship them to El Jadida.



Paula Wolfert in her cookbook *Couscous and Other Good Food from Morocco* offers the story of 50 ways to serve chicken. The list came about due to a wager at a meeting of the Istiqlal during the struggle against the French in the early 1950s. The wager was made, and won, by Mehdi Bennouna of Tetuan, later chief of the Agence Maghreb Arabe Presse in Rabat. We offer for your consideration:

**50 (MORE OR LESS) WAYS TO SERVE
FRIENDS OF MOROCCO**



- Recruit a new FOM member.
- Pay your dues and send a donation to FOM.
- Invite a Moroccan to visit your home.
- Befriend a Moroccan college student.
- Go to Boston for *Ijtimaa '91*, April 12-13.
- Wear a Friends of Morocco T-shirt (contact Tim Resch, 703/660-9292).
- Wear a crossed flag (U.S. and Morocco) or Moroccan flag lapel pin.
- Host a Moroccan feast to be auctioned for charity.
- Write an article for the FOM Newsletter.
- Rejoin Peace Corps or recruit a new volunteer (1 800/424-8580).
- Vacation in Morocco and tell others about your experiences.
- Invite friends over for a Moroccan meal.
- Wear a Peace Corps lapel pin or button.
- Design, commission, and distribute a FOM bumper sticker.
- Take friends to a Moroccan restaurant.
- Take a Moroccan dish to a community pot luck or private pot luck.
- Do a Moroccan slide show for a school, civic group, or church.
- Be on the FOM Board of Directors.
- Serve as a FOM officer.
- Organize or attend a Morocco reunion.
- Call or write an old friend from Morocco.
- See and discuss the movie *Sheltering Sky*.
- Go to NCRPCV and FOM Annual Convention in Washington DC, August 1-4.
- Join and support the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (NCRPCV).
- Join or start your own local RPCV group.
- Have Moroccan crafts on display in your house.
- Donate English language materials to a TEFL center.
- Teach kids some Arabic.
- Be informed and speak out on Arab issues.
- Put a Peace Corps bumper sticker on your car.
- Subscribe to FOM clipping service *Morocco File* (call Peter Laugharn, 203/772-0097).
- Send or gather news for *Morocco File*.
- Hold a fund raiser for a project in Morocco.
- Write a song, poem, essay--or maybe do a video--about your experience in Morocco.
- Write your newspaper presenting an RPCV's viewpoint on international events.
- Write Congress presenting an RPCV's viewpoint on international events.
- Subscribe to the Moroccan Embassy News Service publication.
- Contribute slides to the FOM slide library (call Becky Mangus 301/523-5749).
- Represent Morocco in local international fairs.
- Import and sell Moroccan crafts.
- Wear Moroccan clothes.
- Help edit, design, produce, or distribute the FOM 1991 Directory.
- Sell advertising in the FOM 1991 Directory to restaurants and merchants.
- Get and use a NCRPCV Master Card.
- Take friends to the Moroccan Pavilion at Epcot Center in Orlando.
- Write an article on Morocco for your local newspaper.
- Write an article on Morocco for your professional journal.
- Display photographs and crafts from Morocco in your office.
- Say *inshallah* when referring to the future.
- Say *bismillah* when starting anything new.
- Read and discuss a book about Morocco.
- Go to your local mosque.
- Introduce yourself to Moroccans on the street.
- Lead or organize a tour to Morocco.

Perhaps this list will not only help Friends of Morocco, but will also help bridge the gap in understanding between American and Arabic cultures.

Food for Thought

Bibliography for Lectures

When giving a slide show or lecture about Morocco, I have found that people often want to know more about the culture, geography, people, and history of the country and region than can be packed into those allotted 30 minutes. A good solution is to hand out a short bibliography of current and relevant reading materials along with a list of resources for more information.

FOM can help you create such a list relating to your lecture if you would contact us at the newsletter address. Send a SASE along with your name, address, telephone, lecture topic, lecture date, and whether you would consent to being placed on an FOM speakers bureau list. We would also appreciate receiving bibliographies and resource lists to increase our files.

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Friends of Morocco Newsletter

Friends of Morocco Newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of Morocco and circulated to their members and other interested parties. The organization was formed in 1988 to reunite PCVs who have served in Morocco, to inform members about current events and conditions in Morocco, to promote a better understanding of Morocco and Moroccans on the part of Americans, and to fund or otherwise support development activities in Morocco. Membership dues are \$15 annually. FOM is governed by a nine-member national board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, PO Box 2579, Washington DC 20013-2579. For further information, contact 1990 president Peter Laugharn at 203/772-0097.

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