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أصدقاء المغرب

FRIENDS of MOROCCO

A Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 4, January 1992

Royal State Visit

King Hassan II at Washington and UN

His Majesty King Hassan II made an official state visit to the United States in late September 1991. He also made a stop in New York City to talk with then U.N. Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The King was accompanied by a daughter and a niece.

The visit included discussions of past and future cooperation as well as thanks from President Bush to Morocco for support that "demonstrated its commitment to shared ideals by sending its troops to the defense of Saudi Arabia...[demonstrating that the two countries can] work together to promote peace and stability in the Middle East and the gulf and in Western Sahara, building a new world order."

King Hassan stated that President Bush's successes were due to his "personal ability" and in part to Barbara Bush for "constant support and sincerity so indispensable to a head of state."

The visit included several social functions and receptions hosted by both the Moroccan Embassy and the White House. The official state dinner on 26 September 1991, saw not only dignitaries and officials from Morocco and the United States, but also guests from the worlds of

American business, politics, sports, and entertainment.

President Bush reaffirmed the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Morocco that has lasted for over 200 years (Morocco was the first government to recognize American independence).

A final musical toast at the state dinner was dedicated to President and Mrs. Bush and to King Hassan by Roberta Peters.



Morocco/USA

**Over Two-hundred
Years of Friendship**



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Friends of Morocco

THE FOM SOUK



As we wrote in the last newsletter, Friends of Morocco is trying to compile a source list for things Moroccan that can, we hope, lead to the creation of a source book for our members. We asked that readers send us the names (and addresses) of restaurants, retailers of Moroccan goods, sources of Moroccan musical recordings, speakers from or about Morocco, exhibits of Moroccan art and artifacts, sources for cooking spices, books, tours, etc.

The information has started rolling in, of which the following is a sampling:

Society for Moroccan Studies. At the Centre of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, SOAS, London, England. Among other activities, it sponsors lecture series concerning *M o r o c c o* and Morocco/European understanding. Its US office is in care of Dr. Henry Munson, Jr., Anthropology Dept., Stevens Hall South, University of Maine, Orono ME 04469.

The Biblical Archaeology Society. With offices at 3000 Connecticut Ave., N.W.



Suite 300, Washington DC 20008, it offers a catalogue of Near Eastern and North African crafts and jewelry. It features such Moroccan goods as multi-colored baskets, Berber weavings, leather goods, and jewelry.

International Food Bazaar. The Portland OR, store carries Middle Eastern foods, including Moroccan olives. Find it at 915 S. W. 9th.

Lotfi's Couscous. These New York City restaurants are found at 28 Cornelia Street (Greenwich Village) and 135 W. 45th Street, 2nd floor (Mid-town). It is rumored that at the Greenwich Village location, if you Speak Moroccan Arabic, that you will be served a free dessert.

Mamounia. At 311 Cameron Street, Alexandria VA. Mamounia is operated by Hamid Mernissi, and is a source for all kinds of Moroccan crafts, clothing, and jewelry.

The Arabic Yellow Pages. A national directory of Arab-Americans, including entries relating to tourism, country information, business services, etc. It includes some Moroccan-related entries. Contact the publisher at P. O. Box 5335, Playa Del Rey CA

90296.

Marrakesh. A Moroccan restaurant in Portland OR, at 122 N.W. 23rd. The restaurant states that its food "makes a favorable impression." It offers banquet rooms as well as outside catering.

We have a long way to go to publish a directory so whenever you run across something, send your bit of information to Bill Gaisser, FOM Newsletter Editor, 219 Oak Street, Evansville, Indiana 47713-1254.



UNICEF Greeting

UNICEF has a greeting card available that reproduces a tile pattern from the royal palace in Marrakech. The detail is actually reproduced from *Traditional Islamic Craft in Moroccan Architecture* by Andre Paccard. Though not listed in current catalogs, it is available by contacting a UNICEF office or chapter.

Un peu de tout.....

The December 1991 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* includes a nearly fifty page, beautifully photographed (as would be expected from NG) article of Abou Abdallah Mohammed ibn Battuta, legendary Moroccan traveler, historian and explorer. Often called the "Marco Polo of Morocco," ibn Battuta set out in 1352 for the Sudan, describing life, geography, and all else that he saw along the way. He spent most of his life traveling to Asia, Russia, China, North Africa, and Spain. Born in Tangiers in 1304, he died 73 years later at Fez. A future edition of the newsletter will highlight some of Ibn Battuta's travels.



Peace Corps confirmed in October 1991, that volunteers will be sent to the (former) Soviet Union. President Kennedy once said that he hoped the day would come when the USSR would be a host country.



Morocco is one of several new non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. It will serve in that position during the 1991 calendar year.



Morocco was one of the featured countries in the December issue of the *Burger King Kids Club Adventures* magazine. It included a short description of Ashura in a story about world holidays.



For those who eagerly look for the latest *Arab-American Affairs* in your mailbox or on the newsstand, you will not find it after the Fall 1991 issue. Its editors have announced that it will be renamed *Middle East Policy*, commencing with the the winter 1992 issue.



President and Mrs. Reagan made a private visit to Morocco in October 1991. They visited Fez, Marrakech, and Rabat, where they dined with King Hassan II.



Delegates representing the Maghreb from Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria met in Paris in mid-November 1991, with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The question of "aid budgets and the tradition of cooperation" was discussed. Mauritania and Libya, the two other Maghrebian countries, were not invited to participate in the discussion.



The World & I (February 1991), a voluminous and monthly review of "the world," includes a rather informative and varied article entitled "Islam and the Modern World." The eighty-seven page article is broken into eight parts, including writings, drawings, and photographs relating to Art, the Koran, Islamic Fundamentalism, Social conditions, interviews, Muslims and Jews, and much more.



Moroccan flowers have attained their mark in the international marketplace. Progressing with constant investment in new techniques and technology, floriculture is becoming an important growth industry for Morocco. The proof of its importance is emphasized by the Third International Floriculture Exposition, Exiflor, held in Marrakech (17-19 January 1992). The exposition, hosted by Ampexfluers (the Moroccan Association of Flower Growers and Exporters) brought together members of the flower industry from around the world. The exposition was the scene of seminars, exhibits of the latest materials and techniques, and exchanges of the newest ideas in floriculture.

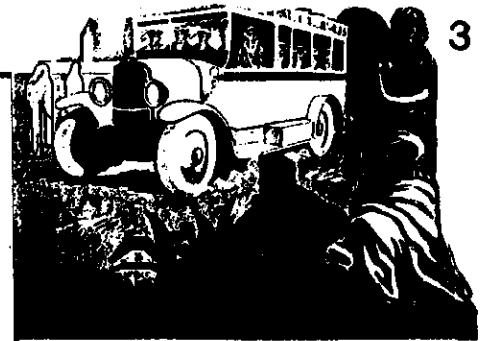


The Italian Chamber of Commerce in Morocco celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in October 1991. In cooperation with the *Banque Commerciale du Maroc (BCM)*, the chamber staged an exhibition of fifty Moroccan and Italian manufacturers. This was the overture of a debate and discussion held in November with all of the foreign chambers of commerce in Morocco. The debate was moderated by Mohamed N'Daghri Aloui, Minister of Foreign Investments.



The first performance of a western opera in Arabic was sung in the New Cairo Opera House in December. The opera, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, included Raouf Zaidan, one of Egypt's best known operatic baritones. What's next? In February 1992, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, also translated into Arabic, will be sung in Cairo.

Oriental Rug Review



TRAVELING

A Treasure Hunter's Guide to Morocco, by Alf Taylor, is a wonderful, detailed, and unusual guide to Morocco--taking the reader through Morocco via its art and culture.

It covers many aspects of Morocco with its 180 color plates and 191 pages, gives a brief, but very complete, feel for history, art, architecture, and everyday life. It includes complete lists of festivals, holidays, sites, and methods of traveling within the country.

It is not the usual guide in that it skips the normal listings of hotels, restaurants, and "how to get there from New York (or Paris or wherever)" pages.

The text is in both English and French. It does include a short traveler's guide to basic Moroccan Arabic "conversation."

The book, in paperback, is available at the American Museum of Moroccan Art, P. O. Box 50472, Tuscon Arizona 85703-0472. The cost is \$25.00, including mailing costs.

أصدقاء المغرب
Friends of Morocco

Frederick Vreeland: New Envoy to Rabat

The new American ambassador to Morocco is Frederick Vreeland.

Mr. Vreeland has been Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South Asian Bureau since the beginning of 1991. In that position he has had supervisory responsibility for North Africa and the Levant, as well as relations with the U. S. Congress.

In 1989 and 1990, Mr. Vreeland served as Vice President of John Cabot University, an American Institution of higher learning in Rome, Italy. He served as the Director of the Aspen Institute in Italy from 1985 to 1987. Prior to that, he was with the Central Intelligence Agency, retiring in 1985.

He has served in a variety of foreign posts in both

Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. Vreeland has served at the U. S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City, and was temporarily assigned to the National Security Council in the White House.

As a travel writer from 1988 to 1990, he was contributing editor of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine, for which he wrote about Mediterranean tourism and culture, specifically including Morocco. He is co-author of *Rome Access*, a guide published in New York in 1987 and 1991.

Mr. Vreeland received a BA degree from Yale University in 1951, and served in the U. S. Naval Reserve during the period 1945-47.

He speaks French, Italian, and German.

New Choukri Translation

An English translation (from the Arabic) of Mohamed Choukri's 1979 reminiscences will be available in 1992, from Quai Voltaire. It will include, among other materials, conversations with American playwright Tennessee Williams. The book was written in honor of a visit to Tangiers by author Jean Genet, who was the inspiration for an earlier work by Choukri.



Choukri's *Genet à Tanger*, written in 1968, was inspired by a conversation with Genet when he asked "Why do you go to a hotel like the Minzah, you who are prefer only the company of the poor? ...Because I am a dirty dog, I go to the Minzah or the Hilton because I love to see those elegant persons serve a dirty dog like myself."

Quai Voltaire has also announced the translation of *The Spider's House* of Paul Bowles. It concerns the Algerian War as seen by an American from Tangiers.

The Man of the Book

Moroccan author Driss Chraïbi is ready to release two new works. One, according to Mr. Chraïbi, that is going to "cause a lot of noise," is entitled *The Man of the Book* (*L'Homme du Livre*). The book recounts twenty-four hours in the life of the

prophet Mohamed prior to the revelation of the *Koran*.

The second book, yet to be titled, is a police novel due to be released by Editions Denoel in June 1992. It will concern a case solved by Inspector Ali, a character created in his last novel.



Eliminating "Arabphobia"

The following is a letter from a Moroccan teacher of Arabic. Though only recently received by the newsletter, its message continues to ring clear, even a year after the Gulf War.

Dear FOM,

As a former Arabic teacher who served in Peace Corps, I am writing to express my sadness and dismay ascribed to the quite unexpected decision to evacuate the 130 American Volunteers who served here and who, I believe, have made of Morocco their second home. This abrupt decision has, in fact, disappointed many of us. It was a real pain to have found out that all those people I happened to know and respect had been sent home. I never thought I wouldn't be given the opportunity to see them for the last time and as well say bye to people like Scott Johnson, Jennifer Trapp, Rob Matthew, Julie Foster, and the list is long.

Anyway, I am writing from the perspective of one who believes in friendship whatever may occur. You are to know that you have gained a warm place in our hearts and Morocco is

always ready to receive you once again. Consider us as your brothers and sisters overseas.

Now I urge you to take all the steps necessary to lessen the drastic effect of that Arabphobia, caused by the senseless war in the Gulf. You are in a good position to help the American communities understand the Arab and conceive them as human, too. I was shocked to hear the president of a great country defining the end of the war as the victory of the "human race" and at the same time rejecting the fact that the people he was fighting--victims of Saddam's lack of insight, are themselves human. You, as former PCVs who had been in direct contact with many Arabs, could well project who we are. Our world today needs more understanding and love, not discrimination and hatred. So, be our ambassadors and speak for us. With your experiences and cultural understanding, I am sure you will, *inshallah*, bring many Americans to their senses and make them accept our cultural differences. I am confident you will contribute to a better understanding of our culture and as well

serve as a barrier obstructing misunderstanding and suspicion that the war may have implanted in the American mind. If there were more people like you in the world, how much easier life would be, and how limited the problems that separate people and largely loom upon the horizon of our life would be.

I wish you all good luck and on behalf of all Moroccans, I send you my best regards. Once again, you are always welcome here. Please transmit my sympathy and respect to all the evacuees.

Yours Sincerely,
Najib

The following is excerpted from a response to Najib's letter from Noreen Polk (TEFL, Errachidia 1984-86), FOM Board Member.

Dear Najib,

Thank you for your letter...

Now that the war is over, I am hopeful that peace in the region will be the primary focus of our government--and I think it is. I also feel that the war served to bring the

Middle East issues to the forefront of most Americans' minds. Unfortunately, Americans are still suffering from Arabphobia, but believe me when I tell you that we, as Returned Peace Corps volunteers, work every day to dispel the myths and misconceptions about Arabs. It has become a personal crusade for me to expose my coworkers and friends to the warmth and generosity I experienced as a volunteer in Morocco.

It is in this way that I relive my Peace Corps experience--I was a "little Ambassador" in Morocco, representing America and now I feel as though I am a "little Ambassador" in America. I am sure that my friends get tired of my references to Morocco, but I will never tire of the feelings I have for Morocco and Moroccans.

I feel extra special in my situation in Washington. There are so many Moroccans here...In some ways, I feel that I have not even left Morocco! I can still enjoy endless hours of discussion and mint tea with my Moroccan friends.

Again, thank you for your wonderful letter...

Sincerely
Noreen Polk

Threads of Time

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, are collaborating on *Threads of Time: Wedding Textiles in Fez, Morocco*.

A study of textiles woven in and around Fez, the work is based on research by Lotus Stack and Mark

Stanley (Minneapolis Institute), Louise Mackie (Royal Ontario Museum), Frieda Sorber (Textelmuseen-Belgium), and Susan Davis, (anthropologist and Morocco RPCV, Haverford PA).

To be completed and released in 1992, the study will consist of a

thirty-minute video and a collaborative book.

For more information contact Louise Mackie, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6.



"O he who entered Fez with a rug, O I

Windows on the Maghrib...

On 28 February 1992, a major exhibition of Moroccan carpets and textiles, *Windows on the Maghrib... Tribal and Urban Weavings of Morocco*, will open under the sponsorship of the Frank H. McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville. The exhibit will be cosponsored by the Near Eastern Art Research Center, Inc., of Washington DC.

Approximately sixty-five pieces will be drawn from the museum and private collections in North America. They will present an overview of tribal and urban material produced throughout the major weaving areas of Morocco and will include flat-woven and knotted pile carpets, capes, tent bands, horse trappings, pillows, and embroideries.

The exhibition will be documented by a fifty-two-page catalog, (see adjacent article) published by the Frank H. McClung Museum and the Near Eastern Art Research Center.

The McClung Museum was established in 1963 and is part of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Tennessee. It is a general museum with collections in anthropology, archaeology, and decorative arts. The Near Eastern Art Research Center was founded in 1964 by Joseph V. McMullen, one of America's foremost collectors, to further projects relating to Islamic carpets. The center has published four books and supported nearly thirty programs.

The exhibit will continue into April 1992.

From the West.....

Considered by many to be the best book for those who are just discovering Moroccan rugs and Moroccan rug collecting, *From the West: Carpets and Textiles of Morocco*, has been called the most "eye-opening presentation of Oriental rugs ever presented."

Published as a catalog for an exhibit at the Textile Museum in Washington DC, in 1980, it is one of very few books on the subject, written in English, that exists today.

Its chapters cover not just the weaving and technical aspects of rugs, but delve deeply into the sociology, culture, and history of the people who produced such textiles.

Written by Patricia Fiske, Russell Pickering, and Ralph Yohe, it is available from the Textile Museum in Washington DC, for \$37.50.



who leaves it with a money-bag."*

Windows on the Maghrib..... Tribal and Urban Weavings of Morocco

A new publication, *Windows on the Maghrib... Tribal and Urban Weavings of Morocco*, has been released to commemorate a carpet exhibit of the same name.

Lavishly photographed and with a very informative text, this publication would be a wonderful addition to the library of any Moroccophile--or anyone generally interested in the art of textiles.

The text reviews the cultural background and history of Morocco, as well as the weavings of Arab and Berber tribes which inhabit the plains of Marrakech and the High and Middle Atlas Mountains. Also discussed are the rugs and embroideries produced in the urban centers of Fez, Mediouna, Rabat, and Tetouan.

The thirty-four plates are accompanied by descriptions and structural analyses and include examples of knotted pile and flat-woven rugs, blankets, capes, shawls, tent bands, and saddle covers, saddle bags, and pillows. Eighteen tribes and confederations are represented, and the influence of Middle Eastern and Andalusian weavings on both

urban and tribal carpets and embroideries is investigated.

The catalog includes a preface by Alex Haley, author of *Roots* and an introduction by Dr. Jefferson Chapman, PhD, Director of the McClung Museum.

The main text is by Jefferson Hyde and W. Russell Pickering. Mr. Hyde has traveled extensively in Morocco, studying the tribes and weavings. Mr. Pickering has collected Moroccan textiles since 1971 and is co-editor of *From the Far West: Rugs and Textiles of Morocco*.

Sections on embroideries and technical analysis are by P. Lynn Denton, Assistant Director of the Texas Memorial Museum, Austin, Texas. Mrs. Denton staged a major exhibition of Moroccan carpets at the Texas Museum in 1987, and is currently working on her PhD on weavings of Morocco.

An extensive bibliography was compiled by James F. Jereb of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. Jereb has spent many years in Morocco studying tribal arts and has written extensively on Moroccan carpets

and North African arts and textiles.

Dedication statements are written by the Honorable Mohamed Belkhat, Ambassador of Morocco to the United States, and by the Honorable Michael Ussery, former United States Ambassador to Morocco.

Published by the Frank H. McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and the Near Eastern Art Research Center, Inc. in Washington DC, it is edited by Jefferson S. Hyde, Janice Harmer, Miriam Lorimer, and W. Russell Pickering. The fifty-two-page softcover publication, contains thirty-four color plates, a weaving map, and three black and white weaving illustrations. It costs \$18.00.

For more information contact W. Russell Pickering, Chairman, The Near Eastern Art Research Center, 4200 Cathedral Avenue, Suite 1112, Washington DC 20016.



* From a book of popular sayings,
Wit and Wisdom of Morocco,
by Edward Westermarck.

Oriental Rug Review

The *Oriental Rug Review*, a bi-monthly journal of oriental rugs and textiles, devoted most of its April/May 1991 issue to Moroccan rugs and other handwoven goods.

Included are photographs and drawings of old and modern rugs and rug weaving, with detailed information on weaving techniques and Moroccan rug collecting in general. The following is a synopsis of some of the articles:



Rug Collecting in Morocco (Brooke Pickering, W. Russell Pickering, & Ralph S. Yohe): a very good guide for collecting that groups the rugs by region, style, and periods; where to find them; what to look for when buying rugs; how to price them; and much more valuable information for both the serious and casual collector.



Corsairs, Commerce, and Cognomens (Michael Bazinet): a good and concise history of Moroccan carpet making, it covers key issues that explain why the industry developed as it did. It goes on to discuss tribal geography and the importance of the names given to various weavings.



Continuity and Change: Handwoven Textiles in Fes, Morocco (Susan Schaefer Davis--a Morocco RPCV): a look at textile art in Morocco focusing more on the producers than the product. Covering drawloom weaving, jalaba weaving, and knotted carpets, the article derives much of its depth and interest from interviews with master weavers, their children, and apprentices.



Weft-twined Rugs and Related Textiles of North Africa and the Middle East (David W. Fraser): explains, with many excellent examples, a type of rug weaving that creates the "flatwoven" appearance in Moroccan rugs. It differs from the often seen pile rugs such as the *Rabat* and *Middle Atlas*. Mr. Fraser diagrams many of the weaves found in such rugs--all leading to very intricate designs.



Shawls of the Berbers of the Atlas Mountains (Valerie Justin): talks about an often overlooked art in Moroccan weaving, explaining the subtle differences in color, fabric, and symbolism of this burnoose-related garment. The article points out that the burnoose (*khaidus* in Arabic) was actually the habit of Christian monks who lived in Arab countries.



Textiles from Vanishing Cultures (Harriet P. Swedlund): relates the contents of a traveling textile exhibition that was put together by the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings, South Dakota. The exhibit places great importance on fabrics and rugs from Morocco, with other examples from the rest of North Africa, South-Central Europe, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey.



Oriental Rugs in a United Germany (Mohtashem): reveals the previously unknown or little known treasures of Middle Eastern and North African woven art to be found in the museums and markets of Berlin and the former East Germany. It traverses Germany, city by city, west and east, describing what was found. It includes several references to and photographs of Moroccan rugs and fabrics.

The journal includes a very, very extensive bibliography of Moroccan weaving compiled by Michael Bazinet. It also lists many sources for Moroccan weavings and rugs in the United States and Canada.

Costumes of Morocco

Costumes of Morocco, by Jean Besancenot, has been republished in English by Kegan Paul International (London, 1990).

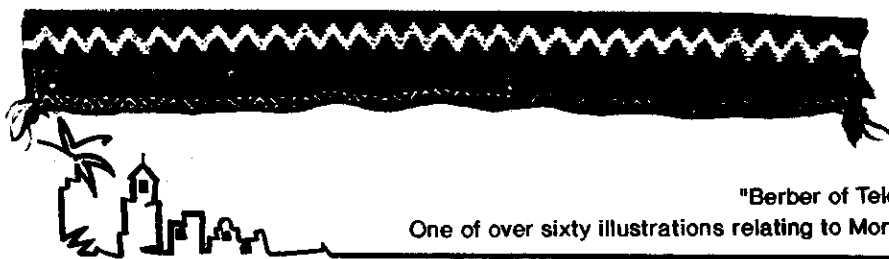
It has reproductions of sixty colored paintings and drawings of Berber and Arab tribal costumes as well as descriptive and explanatory text. The book is based on Mr. Besancenot's travels throughout Morocco from 1934 to 1939.

Priced at \$87.50, the book can be obtained in the United States from Routledge, Chapman, & Hall, 29 W. 35th Street, New York NY 10001 (tel. 212/224-3336).



"Berber of Telouet," drawing by Gabrielle-Rousseau, 1934.

One of over sixty illustrations relating to Moroccan weavings in *The Oriental Rug Review*.

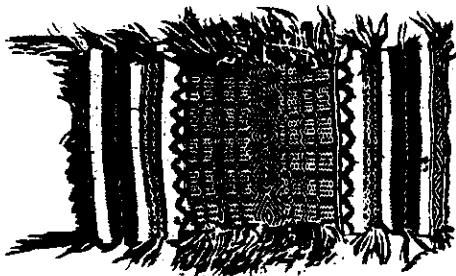


Moroccan Rug & Textile Society

The Moroccan Rug and Textile Society is an organization composed of individuals interested in the weavings of Morocco.

Founded in 1991, it currently has forty-five members--primarily collectors, museum curators, and rug dealers.

The purpose of the society is to further knowledge and recognition of Moroccan rugs and textiles. It has established a central communications point for those interested in the subject and provides a quarterly newsletter for members. The organization encourages and supports exhibitions, publications, research, and other programs relating to Moroccan weavings.



Donkey/Mule Manger

Membership is \$15.00 annually. More information is available from W. Russell Pickering, President, The Moroccan Rug and Textile Society, 4200 Cathedral Avenue, N. W., Washington DC 20016 (tel. 202/686-5108).

Sahara Update

UN Peace Plan & Referendum

The following is a compilation of excerpts from several journals relating to the Western Sahara.

According to the *Middle East Times* (26 Nov./2 Dec. 1991), the United Nations peace plan for the Western Sahara is falling behind schedule by at least three months. The originally scheduled mid-January referendum may be delayed because of a lack of U.N. peace keepers (only 450 of 2,000 have arrived) and a lack of political campaign in which people are to choose between independence and incorporation into Morocco. All parties apparently agree that one of the problems is the lack of an accurate listing of who is an eligible Saharan voter---both sides claiming that a 1974 Spanish-compiled census was flawed.

Jeune Afrique (23/29 Oct. 1991) noted that King Hassan, speaking to the opening of Parliament upon his return from the United States, stated that "We have every chance of winning the referendum. This comes not from a simple impression, but from conviction." *Jeune Afrique* goes on to say that the referendum will take place, but within a timespan set by the United Nations. In the

meantime, if the referendum is not held soon, both social and political patience will wear thin.

American-Arab Affairs (Summer 1991) printed an article by Robert J. Bookmiller about future prospects for the Western Sahara. He states that the results of a referendum are not all that sure, though the political balance currently seem tilted in the favor of becoming a part of Morocco. Part of his thesis is that the rest of the world has been preoccupied with more demanding problems due to the Gulf War, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the former USSR, and the Middle East peace conference. President Bush did however, in his September 1991 speech list the Western Sahara as one of five "diverse and troubled lands" where the U.S. and the U.N. are working together to pursue peace. In the same month, the European Parliament passed a resolution relating to Euro/Moroccan cooperation until the referendum takes place.

Jeune Afrique (Oct.30/5 Nov.) noted that Algeria has dropped all "free" transport of Saharans to Polisario refugee camps.

Fantasy & Paradise

The May/June 1991 issue of *Garden Design* ran a beautifully photographed cover story about the Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech. Author Julie Moir Messervy, a landscape designer and MIT teacher, excerpted the article from her own book, *Contemplative Gardens*.

Describing Marrakech and the gardens, Ms. Messervy quotes Jahangir, a Mughal emperor: "If there be Paradise on the face of the earth, it is here, it is here, it is here."

Architectural Digest (August 1991) includes an article entitled "Midsummer Night's Dream," about the Long Island retreat of designer Thomas Britt.

The retreat, sporting many Moroccan decorative touches, is highlighted by the realization of a fantasy: "to have a Moroccan tent for dining and entertaining." The tent is filled with 19th-century Moroccan brass plates, silver cups, lanterns, candlesticks, pottery, and rugs.

Paradise in Islamic Art

The Here and the Hereafter: Images of Paradise in Islamic Art, is a traveling exhibit organized by the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, in Hanover NH. Its many objects span the Islamic world from Morocco to India--including weavings, manuscripts, and ceramics.

In 1992, the exhibit will appear at the University Art Museum, Berkeley, California (January 22-March 29); and the Springfield Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, Massachusetts (April 24-June 28).



Moroccan Museum

The new American Museum of Moroccan Art, the first such museum in the United States, opened in 1991, in Tuscon, Arizona.

Founded by Mr. & Mrs. Alf Taylor, the museum hosts exhibits of Moroccan textiles and artifacts, conducts tours to Morocco, and acts as an information center for Americans visiting Morocco and Moroccan tourists visiting the United States.

It includes a gift shop featuring Moroccan rugs, artifacts, and publications.

For more information contact the AMMA, P. O. Box 50472, Tuscon, Arizona 85703-1472. (Tel. 602/529-0232 FAX 602/529-2791.)

In a Moroccan Garden

A recent release by Le Temps apprivoisé (Paris, \$90.00 approx.), by Irene Menjili-de Corny was just released (currently available only in French). Entitled *Jardins du Maroc*, it is a beautifully designed and informative book.

Ms. Menjili-de Corny, an architect practicing in Morocco since 1970, allows the reader to explore the sumptuous gardens in Morocco--gardens filled with symbolism.

Not only a history of Islamic gardens (using Morocco as the example), the book includes photographs, plans, histories, "stories," comparisons, and much more. It can be read as a research book or a coffee table book.

Concerned about the environment and development?

Help RPCVs define a position which represents their unique perspective!

Join the RPCVs for Environment and Sustainable Development

We need experts and concerned individuals.

Send \$15 to RPCV-ESD
c/o Katy Hansen
Box 246
Orange City,
Iowa 51041

We will send you our first newsletter, a questionnaire for members, and the first draft of our Policy Statement.



Ash Khabarna?

أش اخبارنا؟

We occasionally receive a note or letter asking for more listings in the Ash Khabarna column of the FOM Newsletter. We would love to oblige. Unfortunately, the column cannot be expanded (or even placed in the newsletter) if you don't send us the information. So please, to continue what appears to be one of our most eagerly awaited columns, send us news (what you are doing, where you are going, where you have been, etc.) about you, your friends, other Peace Corps volunteers, former Peace Corps related persons, or any other Moroccanophile.

Libby (Ahigren) Gartner (1990-91), wants to contact those RPCVs and PCVs who were evacuated from Morocco during the Gulf Crisis. She is interested in creating a newsletter or other medium to keep the evacuees in touch. If you

would like to help, or just want to let **Libby** know what you are up to and where you are, contact her at 815 Phelps Avenue, Rockford Il 61108. You can reach her by phone at 815/399-6813.

—————●—————
Elenore Pred (TEFL, 1987-88), died on 3 October 1991, in San Francisco, California. She had been a pioneering advocate for breast cancer patients and founder of the organization Breast Cancer Action (July 1990). She became a nationally recognized leader in the effort to get medical policy-makers to pay more attention to the disease, which now strikes one in nine American women. She was featured in the August 1991 *U. S. News and World Report* as one of eight "National Heroes of 1991," in a story about her political activism on behalf of women battling the disease. She also worked with AIDS ac-

tivist groups such as AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) and Project Inform to lobby for more government action on acquired immune deficiency syndrome and cancer. **Elenore** is survived by her sister, Linda D. Taggart, of Pensacola FL; and her three children, Lisa Pred-Sosa, of Boston MA, Jody D. Pred, of Celo NC, and Julie P. Gottschalk, of Charlottesville VA.

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Howard Alcock (Morocco, 1971-73), died on 15 October 1990. **Howard** had been living in Solvang, California.

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RPCVS Diana Doulon (1987-89), **Natasha Haugues** (1987-90), and **Angela Heimburger** (1987-89), ran in the 27 October 1991 "Race for the Cure" in San Francisco CA. The run was held to bring attention to plight of breast cancer in women.

Golden Palm Film Awards

Valencia, Spain, can probably lay claim to the title "Capital of Arab Film," due to its recent hosting of the Festival of Mediterranean Film, and the large numbers of winners from North Africa.

Among notable films from Morocco was *Chroniques*

d'une vie normale, by Saad Chraibi.

The festival, started in 1980, lists Moroccan Jilali Ferhati's *Poupees de roseau*, as the first Arab film to receive the Golden Palm award (in 1982). That film portrayed the status of women in Morocco.

أصدقاء المغرب
 Friends of Morocco



Improved Human Rights

Morocco has been recently recognized for the improvement of human rights, according to a report in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

World-wide human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights, point to positive measures, including the release of 435 political prisoners since 1981, improvement of the justice system, and the closing of the Tazmamart prison.

Jeune Afrique, *The New York Times*, and *Le Monde* report similar improvements. *Le Monde* suggests that as many as 5,000 people have been released since January 1991, and gives much credit for these developments to the help of U. S. Secretary of State James Baker.

أصدقاء المغرب



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 president Tim Resch at 703/660-9292.

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