

# **University Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdallah**

## **Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Dhar al Mahraz**

**Department of English**

**Semester 6: Maghreb and Europe**

### **Moroccan Ambassador's Residence in London Attacked, 1764**

The February of the following year, 1764, produced a riot of a most singular kind. A man, having a claim for debt against a female servant of the ambassador for Morocco who resided in Pan-ton-square, Haymarket, collected a mob, declaring that the woman was his wife, detained for unlawful purposes. The ambassador's windows were pelted with dirt and stones, and all the furniture destroyed. The ambassador and his retinue defended the first floor with drawn sabres, and were pelted with the legs of chairs, till a company of the Guards arrived and dispersed the irrational mob.

### **Physician to the Emperor of Morocco, January, 1846**

The Physician of the Emperor of Morocco, who is at present in England, supplying himself with European medicines, has, through the kind offices of a Correspondent, supplied us with some interesting information respecting Morocco and its Emperor, which we hasten to communicate to our readers. The Physician, who is about 50 years of age, is a man of much intelligence, and is well acquainted with the resources of European science; having cultivated the friendship of all the distinguished Europeans who visited Barbary, and from whom he has received information touching new discoveries and improvements. On many occasions he has saved the lives of shipwrecked Europeans, who would otherwise have been put to death by the fanatic Moors; and, to his friendly offices, most of the European travelers in the empire of Morocco stand indebted. The information he gives respecting some of the remedial resources of Africa are full of interest, and contains facts, which, if widely promulgated, would have an important influence on medical science. Some of his most effectual remedies he has derived from the Philistines of Mount Atlas, and the roving tribes of Sahara; and, in certain maladies, the mode of treatment prescribed by them is successful when the European methods fail. This, however, will cease to excite astonishment, when it is remembered that the most precious European medicines of the present day have been derived from the information given by savages. The Virginian Snakeroot, the Peruvian Bark, and many others which could be mentioned, come under this category; while a large proportion of the rest have been originally secret medicines, among which may be mentioned James's Fever Powder, Iodine, Colchicum, Griffith's Mixture, and many others.

### **Moroccans of Manchester, 1860s**

Early in the sixties as you passed along the business streets of the City, you would suddenly come in sight of some white turbaned individual, whose gay Eastern dress appeared in such strong contrast to the sombre of the attire of all those about him. At first the sight of one of these men in Moorish garb was a very uncommon occurrence, and people would stand and smile as one of them passed along. But now they have ceased to be a wonder, and so they go to and fro and do their business in their usual quiet way, and make their purchases at the shops without more than perhaps a casual glance from the passers by.

When a new arrival came upon the scene he was always easily distinguishable from the rest, as he would be seen shod with Oriental slippers, to which he had been accustomed in his own footwear was not serviceable in a climate like ours, where a wet day would play sad havoc with those gay-looking slippers without any heels; so one of the first lessons to be learned by a new arrival was to get his feet encased in boots with more understanding in their nature.

Most of these Moors seemed to learn English almost as quickly as they changed their footgear; or at any rate they were soon quite capable of making a bargain, and able to buy their goods at the cheapest possible prices, in fact bargaining seemed their English grammar, and excellent use they made of it. If for a short time you did succeed in petting a trifle more margin on your sales to a newcomer, he very soon posted himself up in matters, and you found out that, however limited his knowledge of English might be, he always knew enough to be able to beat you down in price.

### **Aaron Afriat Applies for British Citizenship, 1874**

I Aaron Afriat of N: 9 Catherine Court seething Lane in the city of London Merchant do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am a native of Morocco and a subject of the Emperor of Morocco. That I am Twenty Seven years of age and have been a resident in this kingdom continually for the last Seven years and intend to reside permanently in the United Kingdom of Great Britain. That I am unmarried – That I am a Merchant and have resided and been engaged in the aforesaid business for the last Six years first at N: 3 Bury Street Saint Mary axe in the City of London for three years there at 56 Great Preseott Street Goodmans Fields afterwards at 31 Great Preseott Street Goodmans Fields both in the County of Middlex for Two years afterwards at N: 2 King Street Kensburg in the County of Middlex and at N: 2 Henery Lane Bevis Marks in the City of London for one year.