

SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 6 December 2014
11am to 6pm

Institut du monde arabe

Salle du Haut Conseil, 1 rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard
75005, Paris, France

Migration of the Moroccan Berbers

Symposium organized by the Berber Museum of the Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech
in partnership with the Institut du monde arabe in Paris

The Amazighs, or Berbers, of Morocco began emigrating years ago to Europe, especially to France. Beginning in 1945, a more organized and massive departure began, reaching a peak during the 1960s.

The Berber language suffered the full impact of immigration. Denigrated in the home country, unrecognized in the adopted country, it was further diminished and impoverished. Several generations later, despite there having been excellent poets and storytellers among the first wave of immigrants – men and women who had learned the language in their villages – the language suffered terribly, due to a lack of official or institutional recognition.

Another Berber emigration, underway at the same time, debilitated the rural communities of Morocco: that of the mass exodus of Berbers of the Jewish faith. Beginning in the 1950s and 1960s, they abandoned their small villages to seek new lives in Israel, Europe and America. The staggering disappearance of their cultural patrimony has considerably damaged the current and future heritage of Morocco.

Questions related to the migration of the Moroccan Berbers will occupy a central role in this symposium of 2014, organized in partnership with the Institut du monde arabe in Paris, and which will be the third symposium presented by the Berber Museum of the Jardin Majorelle, Marrakech.



Fondation Jardin Majorelle

Fondation
PIERRE BERGÉ
YVES SAINT LAURENT

SYMPOSIUM OF THE BERBER MUSEUM
OF THE JARDIN MAJORELLE, MARRAKECH

Migration of the Moroccan Berbers

Please note the symposium will be conducted in French

PROGRAMME

11.00am

WELCOME

11.30am

INTRODUCTION

Jack Lang, president of the Institut du monde arabe, Paris, and
Pierre Bergé, president of the Fondation Jardin Majorelle, Marrakech

12 noon

Moroccan and Berber emigration

Ahmed Siraj, representative of the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad.
(30 min presentation, 15 min question and answer period)

(12.45pm Pause)

2.15pm

Migration and Culture: Berber sung poetry

Claude Lefébure, ethnologist in Berber studies, EHESS, CNRS.
(30 min presentation, 15 min question and answer period)

3.15pm

Are there special features of the Judeo-Berber Moroccan migrations ?

Frédéric Abecassis, lecturer, ENS, Lyon,
Editor-in-chief of *L'Année du Maghreb*.

(30 min presentation, 15 min question and answer period)

4.00pm

Tinghir-Jerusalem, Les échos du Mellah, documentary film, 2012

Directed by Kamal Hachkar, history professor and film director.
(90 min, followed by a 15 min question and answer period)

6.00pm

END OF SYMPOSIUM