

# Journal of Maghrebi Women

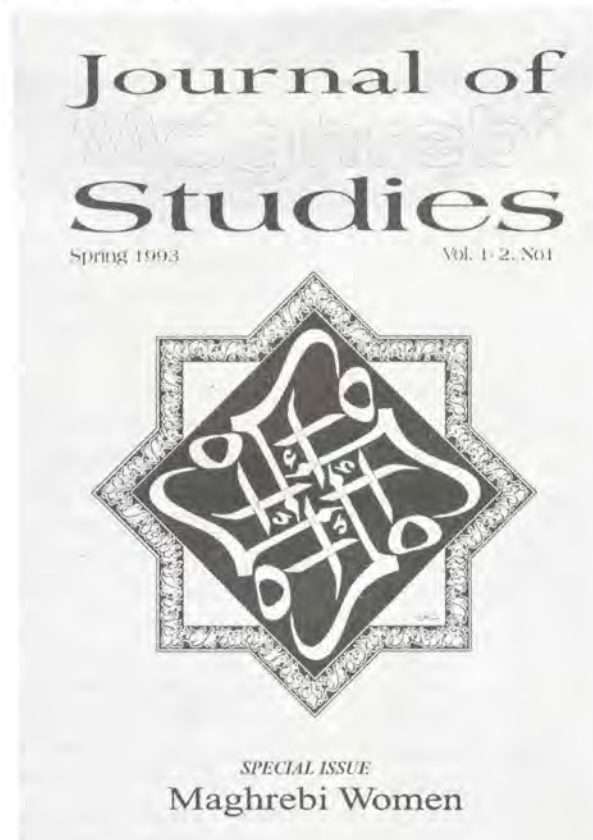
Review by Evelyne Accad

This first issue of *Journal of Maghrebi Studies* fills a gap in studies on the Maghreb which, outside of CELFAN (ed. Eric Sellin, devoted mainly to literature) have had to be included in *Journals on Africa* or have seen themselves relegated to special issues in other *Journals* covering various disciplines.

The journal will be bilingual (English and French) and will cover a wide range of various fields: Art, literature, history, and politics. Each annual volume will be devoted to a specific theme.

It is not by chance that this first issue was devoted to women in the Maghreb. The Editor, Rachid Hassani, who has devoted much of his research on women, is conscious of the importance of this topic and of the roles women are playing and will continue to play over the years. He states that: "The 90's have already seen an increase in the number of studies and works of literature by and about women. More and more, women are forming an integral part of the socio-political landscape of their various countries." (p. 2) Rachid Hassani's aim in founding the journal was first and foremost to support the cultural diversity of the Maghreb. By starting with women, he is able to present this diversity in its most immediate and vivid form.

The topics covered in the he *Journal* include the defense of cultural diversity



in the Maghreb; the Algerian theater of Fatima Gallaire; feminine associations in Algeria; women, nationalism, and decolonization; a visit to a Tunisian harem; Algerian woman-writing 1990-1992; and birth of Nissa' (unpublished excerpt from *Blessures des mots: Journal de Tunisie* by Evelyne Accad).

The interest of this first issue is its diversity, its wealth in points of view, approaches, and contributions by authors from a variety of countries like the Maghreb, France, Canada and the US. The use of both French and English is also an important

dimension. The book reviews add an informative element. It is an invaluable tool for anyone interested in North African issues, and specifically for anyone interested in women's issues in that part of the world. Editor Rachid Ameziiane-Hassani ought to be praised for this initiative.

**Journal of Maghrebi Studies.**  
**Special issue on Maghrebi Women.**  
**Founder/Editor Rachid**  
**Ameziiane-Hassani, Editorial**  
**Assistants Dan Cianfarini and**  
**Mériem Chemai. Vol. 1 No 1/2,**  
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