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The Fabric of Moroccan Life

Indianapolis Museum of Art : The Fabric of Moroccan Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fabric of Moroccan Life:

For centuries, the people of Morocco have been producing magnificent embroideries, pile rugs, and flatweaves. The Fabric of Moroccan Life showcases rare embroideries, hangings, and rugs that reflect the broad range of traditions and cultural influences active in Morocco during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The book explores the artistic importance of these superb weavings as well as their central role in Moroccan culture. Approximately 150 pieces -- and numerous details -- are illustrated in color, and additional photographs (including many that were taken in the 1930s) show how they were once used in everyday life in Morocco. The book includes essays on Moroccan

embroidery and its origins, traditional costumes of the cities and rural areas, the weavings of the Berbers and other ethnic groups, and the distinctive characteristics of items made by particular ethnic sub-groups. The contributing writers are eminent scholars and experts in a variety of fields, including Moroccan history and culture; Moroccan rugs, textiles, and clothing; and natural dyes. A wealth of information is included that has never before been available in one volume.

From *Library Journal* This volume, which catalogs fine examples of Moroccan embroidery, weaving, and dyeing, accompanies an exhibit that appeared at the Indianapolis Museum of Art through June 2002 and will travel to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, from June to August 2003. Paydar, curator of textiles and costumes at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and collector and writer Grammet have pulled together varied essays accompanied by engaging color photographs of exhibit pieces. Regional styles, techniques, and influences are detailed, and a few maps assist with the geographic references. Watermarks of traditional Moroccan motifs enhance the book's ethnic feel. Sadly, this lovely book has some disappointing flaws. One cannot easily locate photos cited in the text, there are no page references and seemingly no organization, and the lack of an index severely limits the book's usefulness. While an appendix offers a technical analysis of each piece, no reference is given to locate that item in the book. Thus, despite its beauty and the lack of other recent books or exhibitions on the topic, this is not for public libraries and will be an additional purchase for academic or specialized collections. Karen Ellis, Nicholson Memorial Lib. Syst., Garland, TX Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Niloo Imami Paydar is curator of textiles and costumes at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Ivo Grammet is coordinator of a new museum in Nador, northern Morocco. The contributors include Grard Boly, Gebhard Blazek, Katherine Dolk-Ellis, Narjys El Alaoui, Mustapha Hansali, Annette Korolnik-Andersch, Marcel Korolnik, Zineb Lehman, Russell Pickering, Ahmed Skounti, Frieda Sorber, Wilfried Stanzer, and Marie-France Vivier.