AFRICAN AND MAGHREB LITERATURE
By Helene Gill, Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster*

(This survey covers the years 1992 and 1993)

1. General


Cross-Mediterranean connections resulting from colonial history and present-day migrations also underpin francophone African writing, exemplified in France in the new beur writing. Here too, rigid categories cannot be maintained, and writers like Nina Bouraoui or Leila Sebbar span the Mediterranean divide. Notwithstanding these problems of definition, beur writing is the subject of several major works: Alec G. Hargreaves, Voices from the North African Community in France. Immigration and Identity in Beur Fiction, New York — Oxford, Berg, 1991, 175 pp., was the first full-length study; Michel Laronde’s Autour du roman beur: immigration et identité, L’Harmattan, 239 pp., adopts a more philosophical perspective. Original in approach, Nadine Decourt’s La Vache des Orphelins. Conte et immigration, Lyon U.P., 1992, 221 pp., is a comparatist study of a story and its variants, as well as the reality of intercultural experience. Although some Maghrebian writing stresses the supranational unity of the wider Arabo-Muslim world, the francophone Maghreb has its own preoccupations. Tahar Ben Jelloun emphasizes its specificity, in ‘Défendre la diversité culturelle du Maghreb’, JMS, 1.1–2:4–5. There is also Abdelkebir Khatibi’s, Penser le Maghreb, Rabat, Société Marocaine des Editeurs Réunis, 144 pp. The Maghreb viewed from outside may be subsumed into the Orient per se, and linked with the themes of ‘Orientalist’ literature, as in Alain Buisine, L’Orient voilé, Zulma — Calmann-Lévy, 297 pp. Bernard Mouralis, L’Europe, l’Afrique et la folie, Présence Africaine, 238 pp., also examines

*We acknowledge the assistance of the following in the preparation of this section: Maryse Bray, Aline Cook, Deborah Kelly, Margaret Majumdar, Senior Lecturers, and Éthel Tolansky, Principal Lecturer, University of Westminster.
European perceptions, particularly the assimilation of Africa and madness in fiction and anthropology.


2. FRANCOPHONE MAGHREB


In Maghrebian writing, literature and politics are inseparably intertwined and most writers feel obliged to take positions on key issues. Roger Fayolle, in ‘La Révolution française de 1789 dans la littérature maghrébine d’expression française’, *BFA*, 2.3:1–14, analyses the response to French republican values in the novels of Baccouche, Chraïbi and Mammeri. ‘La Destruction’, an issue of *CIIn*, 1992, nos 4–5, consists of reactions to the Gulf War by writers A.