

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

# AramcoWorld



## 2 CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CONNECTION, STORIES AND CULTURE

Since its origins in 1949 as a company newsletter for Aramco employees to “get better acquainted with ourselves,” *AramcoWorld* has evolved to focus on global cultural bridge-building across the Arab and Muslim world and beyond. Its vibrant covers, in particular, celebrate 75 years of highlighting the shift from company to cultural connections.

## 24 ARTS & CULTURE

*AramcoWorld*'s mission of showcasing historical connections in the arts and cultural heritage is reflected in its many cover stories about architecture, visual arts, photography, music, literature and more.

## 46 HISTORY

Cover stories that bridge the past and present offer insights into humanity's common ground. Our features on archeology, historical objects and people are a powerful means of demonstrating societies' connections to one another.

## 64 SCIENCE & INNOVATION

The magazine has shone a light on scientific traditions, especially from the Islamic world, in its cover stories about discoveries across centuries to today in astronomy, mathematics, medicine and technology, to name a few, that have benefitted people around the globe.

## 80 NATURE

In over seven decades, we have strived to establish a connection between nature and cultures. Through cover stories about species, habitats and conservation efforts in lands far from their own, readers have gained insight into the natural world.

## 98 FOOD

From the ancient world to modern main courses, *AramcoWorld*'s vivid cover stories highlighting diverse dishes offer readers an opportunity to dig into a variety of recipes and how culinary traditions defined cultures.

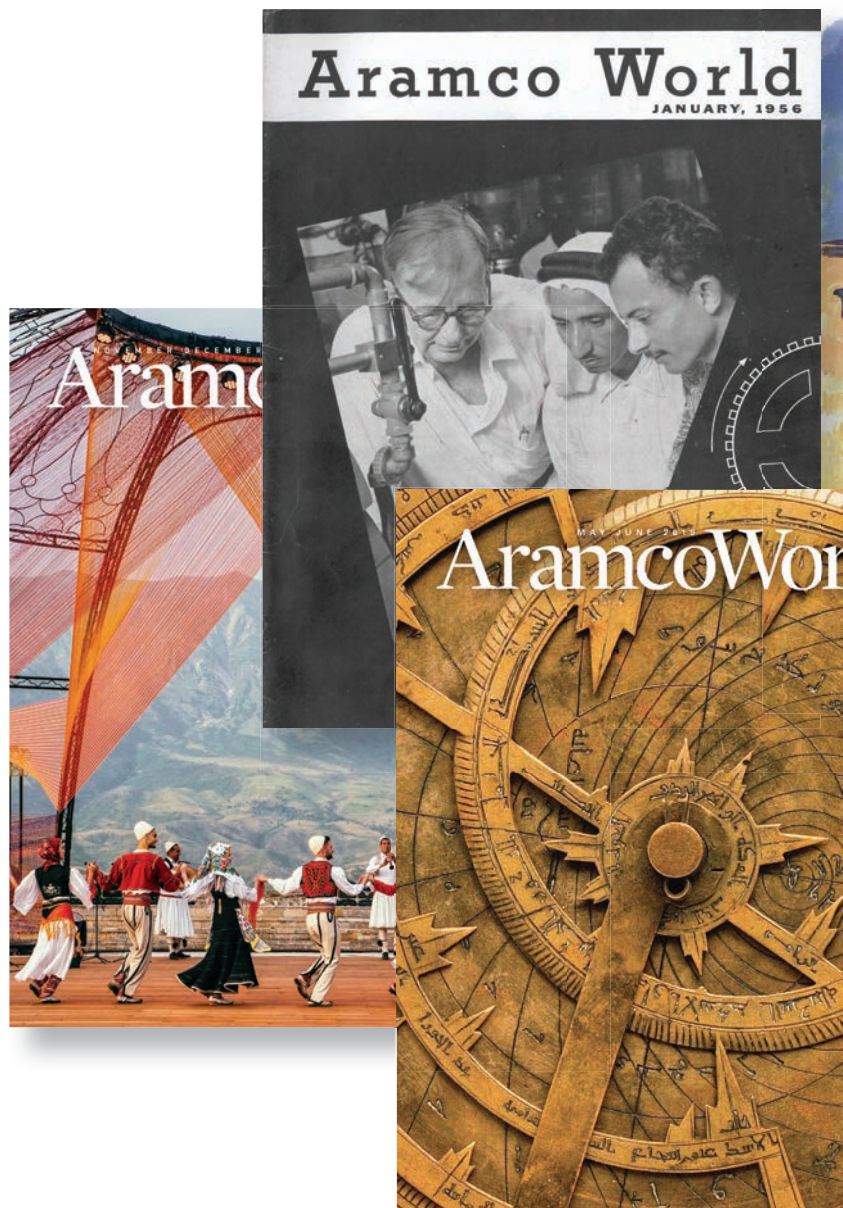


# AramcoWorld

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024 | VOL. 75, NO. 6



[aramcoworld.com](http://aramcoworld.com)



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We distribute *AramcoWorld* in print and online to increase cross-cultural understanding by broadening knowledge of the histories, cultures and geography of the Arab and Muslim worlds and their global connections.

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## A note of thanks

Seventy-five years. More than 500 covers. As we were putting together this special issue to mark the incredible milestone of *AramcoWorld's* 75th anniversary, we paused to acknowledge all those who helped it come to fruition. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many longtime contributors whose creativity and talents have connected with readers. Likewise to supporters at our home office in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and around the globe whose insights consistently improve the product. Special thanks also to Richard Doughty, Art Clark, Rob Arndt and Greg Noakes for their expertise in informing the direction of this edition. And finally, to you, our readers: We appreciate your trust in us throughout our journey. For your loyalty and your time, we thank you.

—AramcoWorld editorial team

**Explore more from our  
75 years of covers,  
searchable by decade.**



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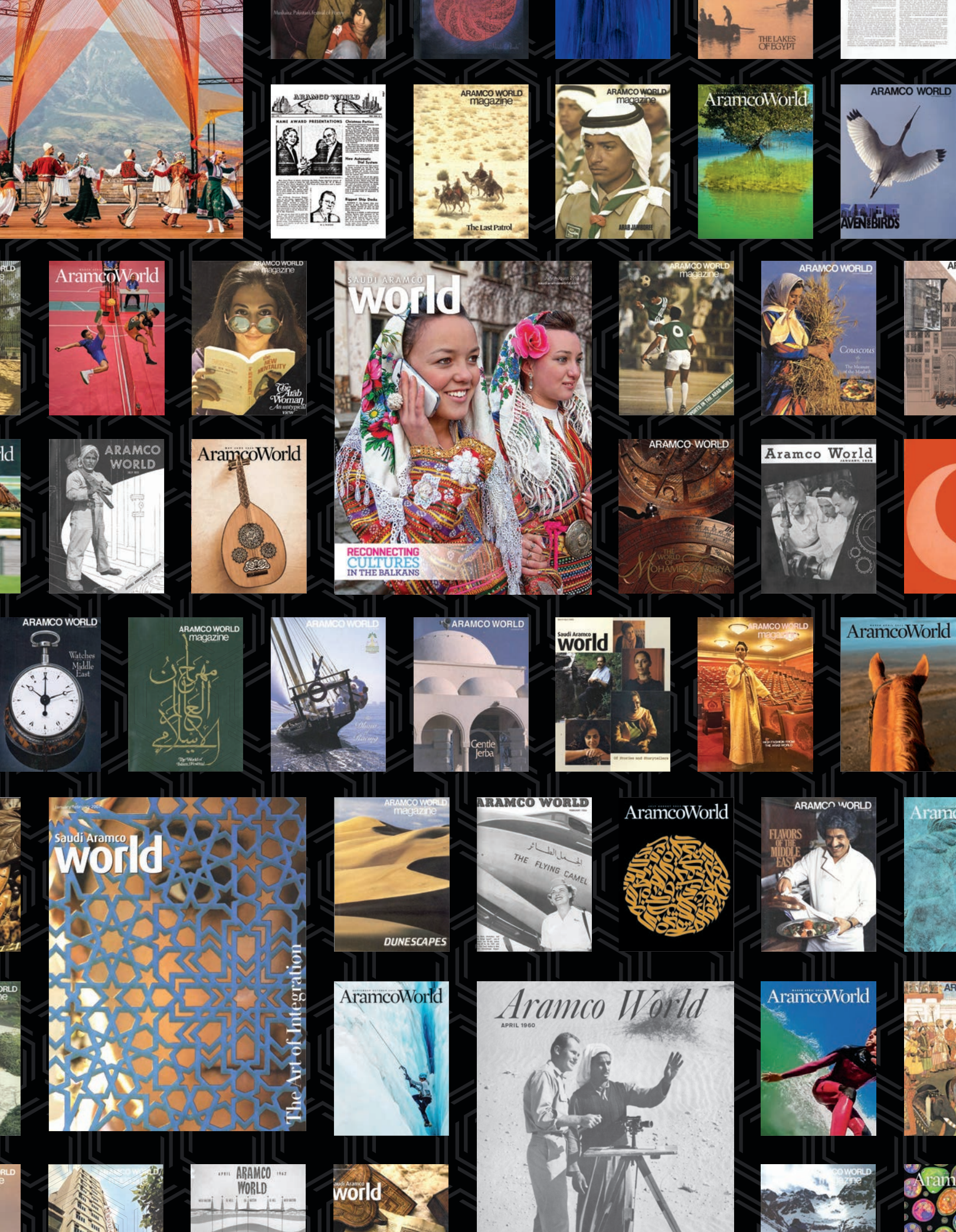
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# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF CONNECTION, STORIES AND CULTURE

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## ***AramcoWorld* debunks the maxim, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”**

Indeed, the magazine’s eye-catching covers have long defined its mission to serve as a window for the impactful stories found on its pages. The covers have offered a window into *AramcoWorld*’s wide range of storytelling across the globe. They reflect its evolution over 75 years from a publication by and for employees of Aramco to one that shares the wonders of the Arab and Muslim worlds with a global audience and emphasizes cross-cultural connections.

The first titled issue of *Aramco World* (then two words) appeared in January 1950 as a four-page newsletter. It was issue No. 3 of an initially unnamed publication launched the previous November that aimed to put employees of Aramco in the United States in touch with their counterparts in Saudi Arabia and around the world. That connection grew increasingly important in the years after commercial quantities of oil were discovered in Saudi Arabia in the late 1930s. As Aramco expanded, the company moved its headquarters from San Francisco to New York in 1949.



"We wish to break down the walls of isolation so that our people here in America will be helped to see beyond their immediate surroundings..." W. F. Moore, president of Aramco at the time, said at the top of the initial issue.

A front-page story announced a "Name Contest" for the publication. "The name should be short. It ought to be descriptive. It would be nice if it were tied into some phase of what we do or where and who we are," it read.

Anne Trust, a college sophomore and the daughter of employee Bill Trust, won the contest with her entry of "Aramco World." She is pictured on Page 1 of the January issue receiving a prize of 50 silver dollars from Moore.

Its nameplate showed *Aramco World* over a crescent slice of the globe, with the company's new skyscraper headquarters at 505 Park Avenue in New York on the left and an oil installation in Saudi Arabia on the right.

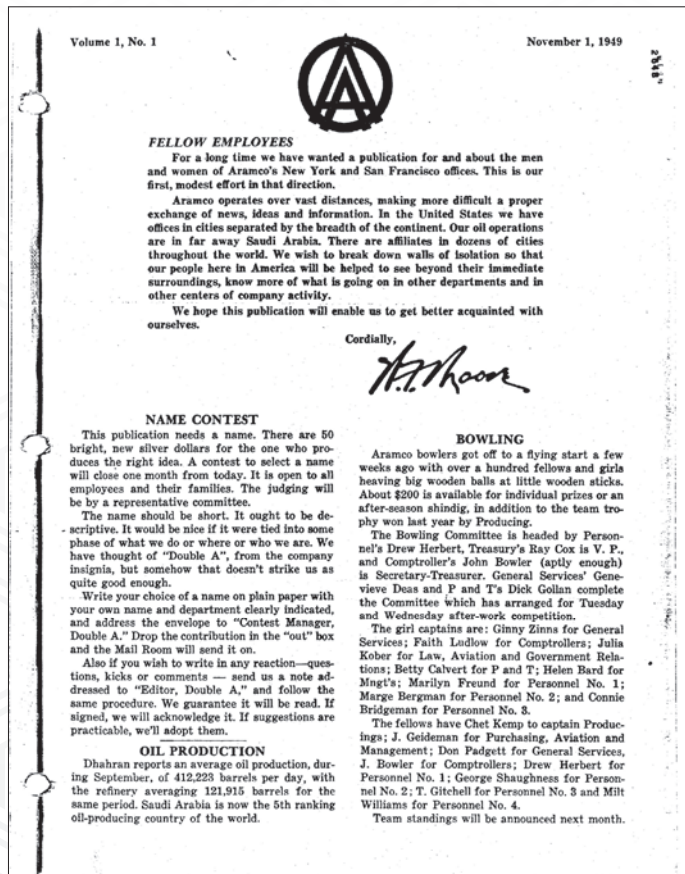
Stories in that issue focused mainly on company activities in New York. A short article on Page 1 reported that Aramco's oil port at Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia, had loaded "the largest ship ever handled there"—a tiny (compared with modern supertankers) whaler that took on 180,000 barrels of fuel oil and diesel oil.

In the late 1940s Aramco grew into one of the world's top oil-producing companies, and it needed employees. *Aramco World*

highlighted some enticing insights into living and working in Saudi Arabia.

The October 1952 cover showed Saudi employee Rashid ibn Jabir working at a gas-oil separator plant near Abqaiq, southwest of Dhahran. Along with the cover story about Aramco's training program for Saudi employees, an article described what four women from the New York office discovered about the ancient Middle East on a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Being members of an oil company that operates in Saudi Arabia, the foursome wanted to see for themselves the vestiges of the rich cultural heritage that belongs to the people who today are part of the Moslem [Muslim] World," the story said.

**"We wish to break down the walls of isolation so that our people here in America will be helped to see beyond their immediate surroundings..." W. F. Moore, president of Aramco at the time, said at the top of the initial issue.**



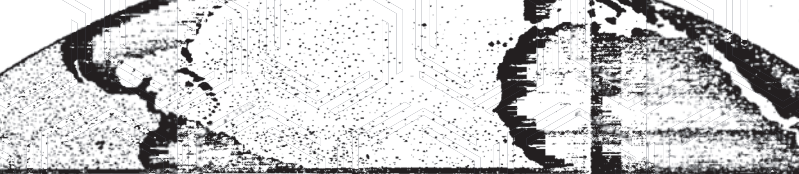
Left:

In 1949 Aramco created a company newsletter with the hope to, in the words of then President W. F. Moore, "get better acquainted with ourselves."

Opposite:

Vol. 1 No. 3 revealed the name of the publication and logo highlighting the connection from New York, US to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

# ARAMCO WORLD

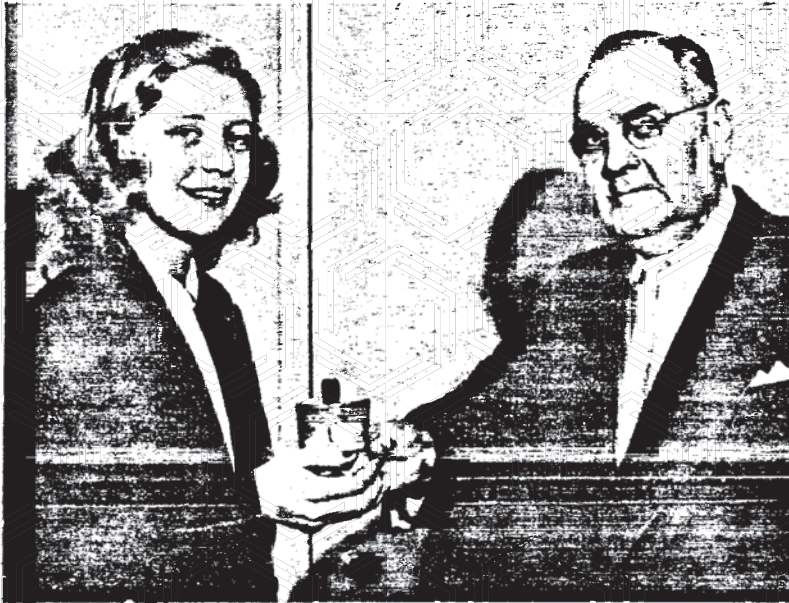


VOL. I NO. 3

JANUARY, 1950

NEW YORK, N. Y.

## NAME AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Aramco Photo By Carl von Hoffman

Miss Anne Trust is shown receiving the Fifty Dollar award as winner of the contest to select a name for this publication, from Mr. W. F. Moore, President. Miss Trust, daughter of Bill Trust of Comptrollers and a sophomore at Hunter College, proposed the name "Aramco World". After the award was made, Mr. Moore asked for a silver dollar as a souvenir, surrendering a paper one for a fair exchange.

Bill McWood, Personnel Department on the Coast, suggested "The Aramco World". Mr. Moore and the other judges decided a duplicate prize should be awarded because of the similarity of entries. Bill's dollars were presented to him at the Christmas party held in the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

It was not an easy job to pick the winner. The contest committee felt the name should be short and simple, as well as being indicative of our global scope. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who sent in suggestions!



W. L. McWOOD

## Christmas Parties

Both coasts celebrated Christmas with successful holiday parties.

New York took over the Terrace Room in the Plaza at 1 P.M. on Friday, the 23rd. Between dancing, consuming sandwiches, and wishing one another Season's Greetings, the party ran an hour longer than planned, and several hundred exhausted but festive minded Aramcons departed at 4 P.M. for the long weekend.

San Francisco had a cocktail dance on Thursday afternoon, the 22nd. Frank Popovic won the main door prize which was a table radio. Other door prize winners included A. D. Fitzpatrick.

## New Automatic Dial System

Aramco's new automatic dial system is being installed on the 22nd floor. When completed next month, it will permit dialing all inside extensions, and use of "9" for automatic connection with an outside line.

This will ease the job of the operators, who are hard-pressed to handle the hundreds of lines which come into the communications department. The operators will of course continue to handle all calls originating from the outside.

Once the new board is installed, a total of 580 extensions will be available, with a possible 1,000 if expansion is necessary.

## Biggest Ship Docks

KOSMOS V, the largest ship ever handled at Ras Tanura, loaded more than 165,000 barrels of fuel oil and about 15,000 barrels of diesel oil just before Christmas.

The ship is a whaler, a self-contained floating factory that operates in the Antarctic. She is 671 feet long with a 35 foot draft making her two and a half times as long as "505" is high. One of the unusual features of the ship is the open stern through which the whales are hauled inside.





**Above:**  
The October 1952 cover "Know How" shows Rashid ibn Jabr taking notes as he managed a gas-oil separator, a trade he learned through an Aramco work training program.



**Left:**  
From the same October 1952 issue, women from the New York Aramco office learn about the ancient Middle East on a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.  
Photo by Carl von Hoffman

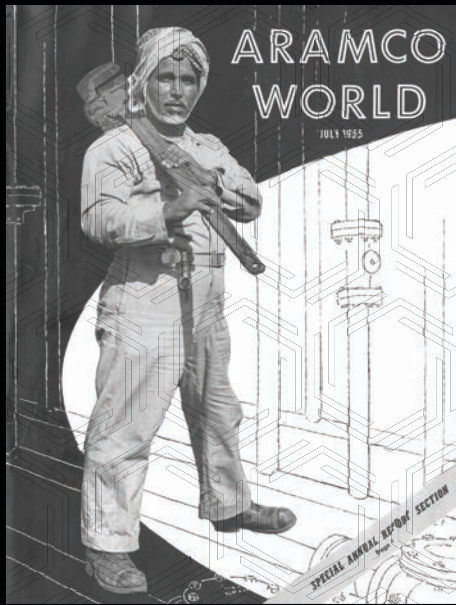
The first magazine with a cover resembling today's publication—in January 1953—showed a Translation Department employee in Dhahran holding an Arabic-language newspaper. "To watch Maegie Scott reading an Arabic newspaper, her eyes gliding across the page from right to left, you'd never believe that two years ago she didn't know a single word of this difficult language," said the accompanying story.

"From the Field," a column about work at Aramco by Joe Alex Morris Jr., began in the early '50s. His boss, Thomas Gartland, was the first named editor of *Aramco World*. Morris appeared on the cover of the May/June 1968 issue, as Middle East Bureau chief of the *Los Angeles Times*, in a story about the reporters in the region.

The bulk of the covers in the 1950s and '60s focused on the company. Single-subject issues such as "Tankers: A Special Issue" in 1966 became standard fare.

Up to the fall of 1963, *Aramco World* was a monthly publication; it went bimonthly partway through the year. Five of the nine issues published that year pictured company subjects on the cover. Over the decade, 28 covers focused on Aramco.





Left column top to bottom:  
 January 1953, "Girl of the Desert"  
 Maegie Scott of Santa Monica, California, learns Arabic to better communicate with her co-workers.  
 Photo by T. F. Walters

June 1953, "The 1952 Annual Report Issue"

November 1953, "A Family Affair in Saudi Arabia"

Father-and-son team Maurice and Maurice Jr. Hollyfield from Texas in a story about families on Aramco camp.

Photo by T. F. Walters

Right column top to bottom:

July 1955, "People of Aramco"

Standing proud on the cover is newly promoted gas-oil separator head supervisor Saad bin Agil in a story about Aramco employees.

Photo by T. F. Walters

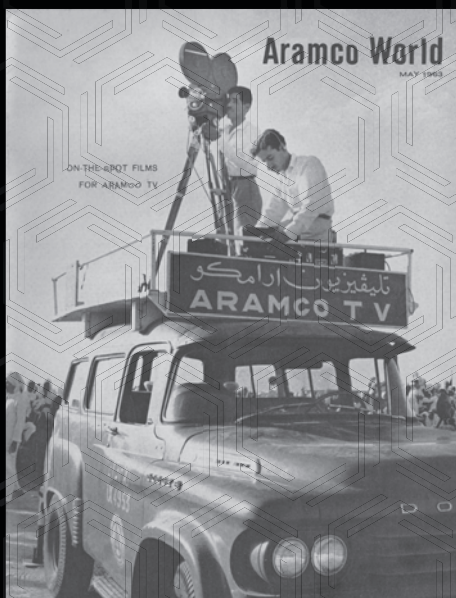
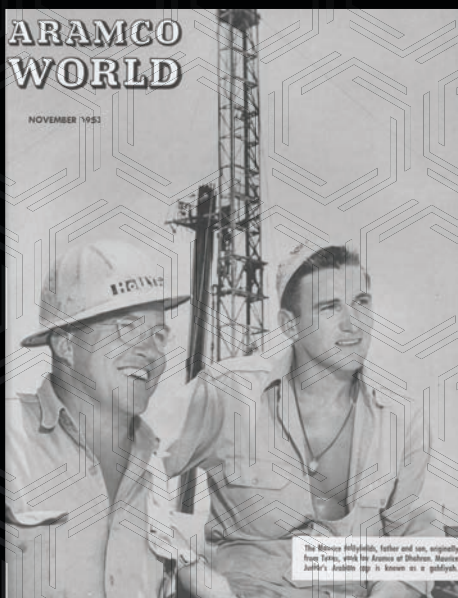
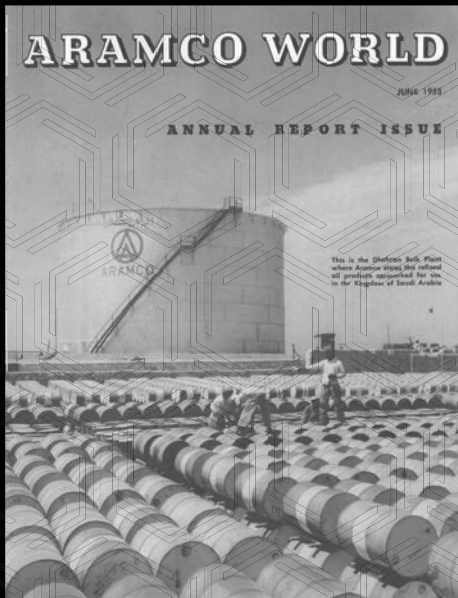
January 1956, "A.I.D.D."

The collaborative cover highlighted the Arab Industrial Development Division training department.

Photo by E. E. Seal

May 1963, "Aramco TV On The Air"

Shows the work of the on-location broadcast team with a mission to train the next generation of broadcasters





# ARAMCO WORLD

July-August 1966

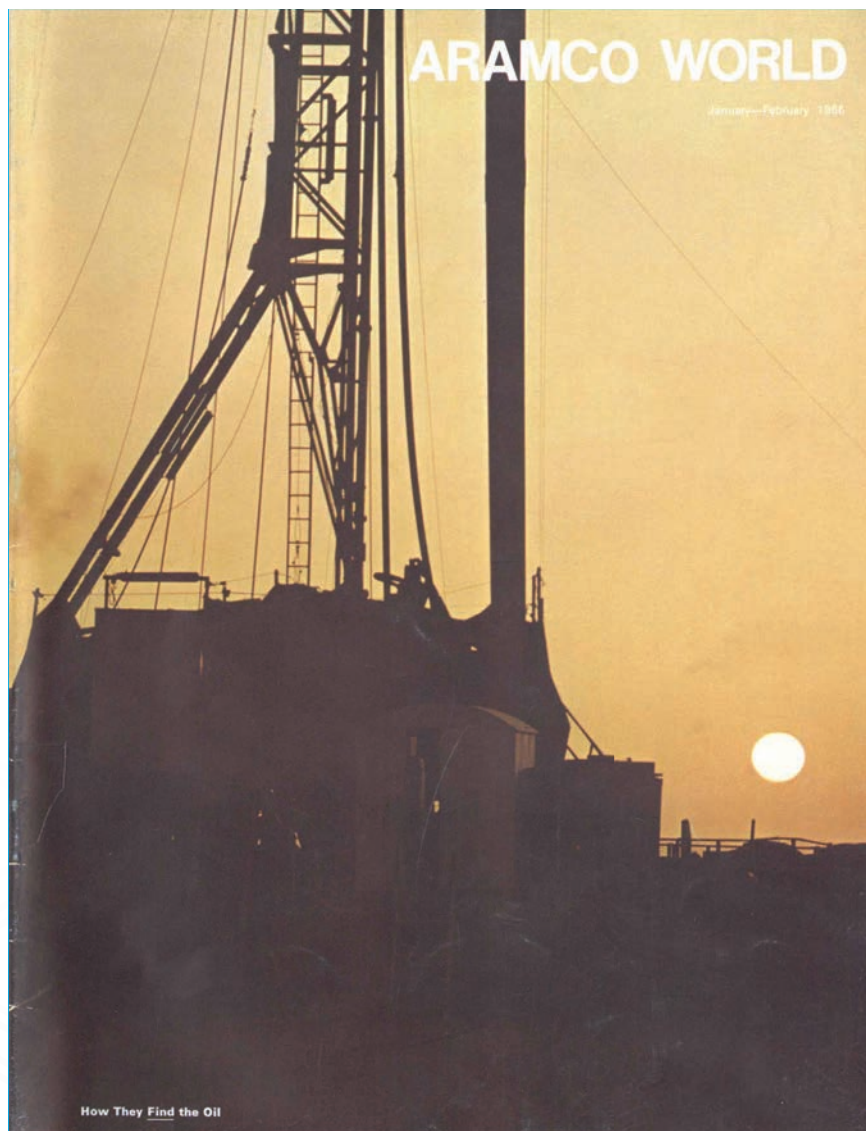


## TANKERS: A SPECIAL ISSUE



The “How They Find the Oil” cover in the January/February 1966 issue was typical, showing a drilling rig against a stark, sepia-colored desert background. But the issue covered cultural topics too, with stories like “Music in the Middle East,” “City of the Palms,” about the caravan metropolis of Palmyra in Iraq, and “Ski Lebanon.”

This shift in reportorial focus reflected a new corporate outlook for the magazine and the imagination of its new editor, Paul Hoyer, a Rhode Island newspaperman who came aboard in 1964 after studying Middle East affairs at Columbia University. It also highlighted the influence of the magazine’s new home in the cosmopolitan Arab capital of Beirut, where it relocated that year.



**Above:**  
January/February 1966, “How They Find Oil”

**Left:**  
March/April 1968, “Jounieh: Jewel of Lebanon”  
Photo by Tor Eigeland

**Opposite:**  
July/August 1966, “Tankers: A Special Issue”  
Photo by B. H. Moody





There, *Aramco World* was looking at the Arab world as a place where history and modernity mixed at every turn. It was also much closer to Dhahran, where the company had moved its headquarters in 1952.

The new environment for *Aramco World* fit well with a new company view on its role.

Tom Barger, a geologist who'd gone to Saudi Arabia in the 1930s, taught himself Arabic and became Aramco's president in 1959 and CEO in 1961, and T. D. Durrance, vice president of Public Affairs, decided "that the magazine should be focused almost exclusively on the culture and history and customs of the Arab and Muslim world," Hoye said in an interview published in Aramco's weekly newspaper in

Dhahran in August 1986, shortly before his death. "They wanted *Aramco World* to tell that story to

***Aramco World* was looking at the Arab world as a place where history and modernity mixed at every turn. [The Beirut headquarters] was much closer to Dhahran, where the magazine had moved in 1952.**

the US—to the teachers, reporters, scholars, editors and others who helped shape US perceptions of the Middle East."

Hoye's take on that directive stood out on the cover of the March/April 1970 issue. It featured a Superman-like character behind

the headline blast, "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's NABIL FAWZI!" He "has had to learn Arabic because, we're told, the 270,000 or so Arab boys and girls who so eagerly await his exploits each week refused to learn Kryptonese," joked the cover caption.

A single-subject issue, "The Hajj," appeared in 1974, a year before *Aramco World* relocated to The Hague in the Netherlands, headquarters of Aramco Overseas Company, in the wake of the civil war in Lebanon. Two stories in that issue came from Ismail Nawwab, a Makkah-born Islamic scholar who joined Aramco in 1970 and later played an important role in *Aramco World's* development as manager of Public Relations and general manager of Public Affairs.

**Right:**

March/April 1970, "It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's NABIL FAWZI!" tells of an editor's quest to promote reading with Arabic translated comic books.

**Far right top to bottom:**

November/December 1974, "The Hajj: A Special Issue," an educational and historical look into the Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah.

Photo by S. M. Amin

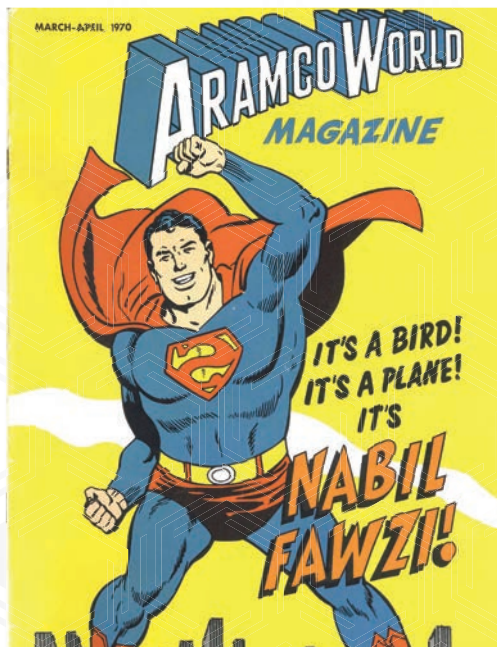
March/April 1979, "The Beauty of Bedouin Jewelry" makes the cultural connection between Bedouins and Native Americans in the US and Mexico.

Photo by Ian Yeomans

**Opposite:**

May/June 1967, "The Alhambra" highlights the history and architecture of one of the most magnificent buildings in the whole world.

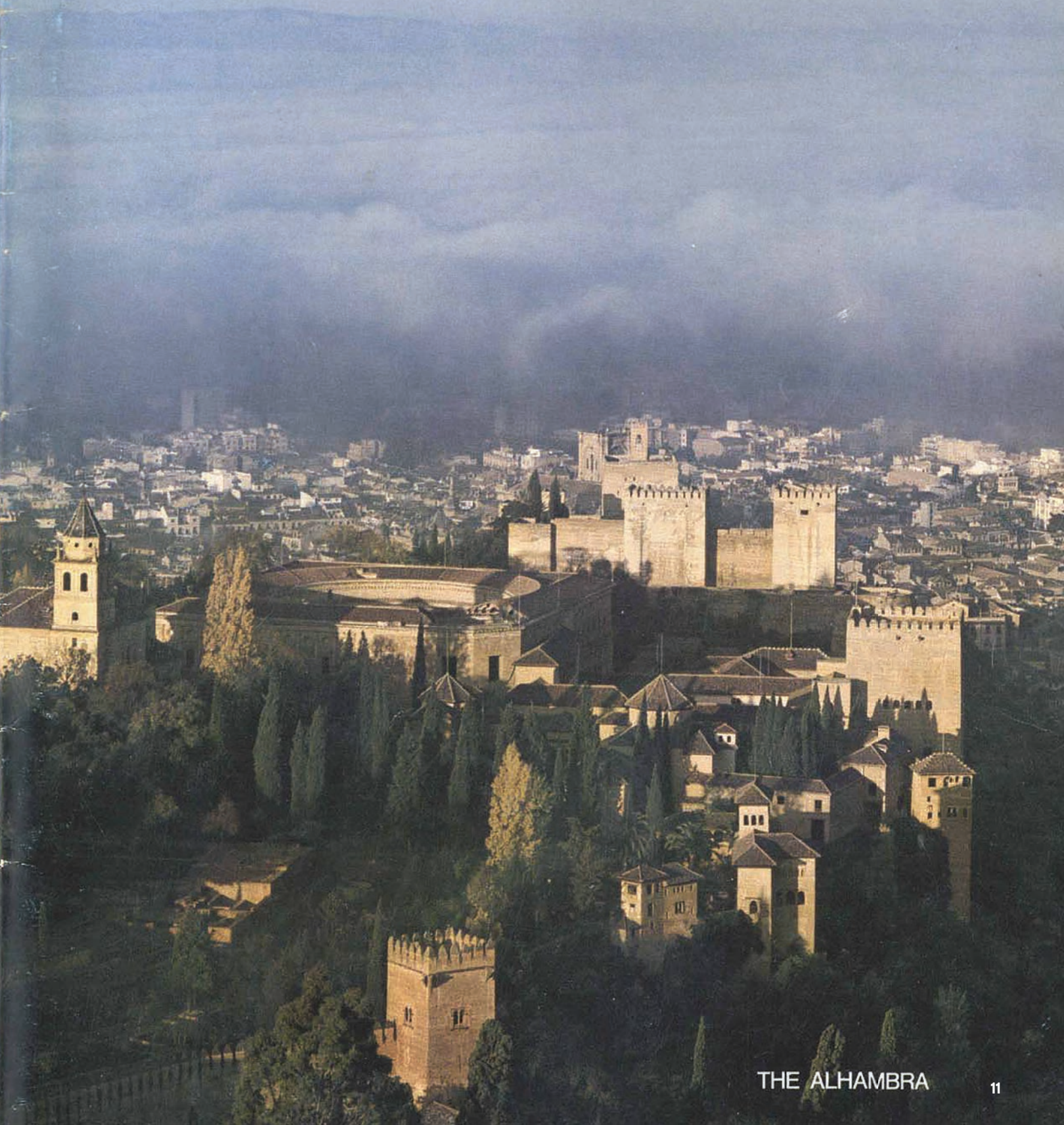
Photo by Tor Eigeland





# ARAMCO WORLD

May—June 1967

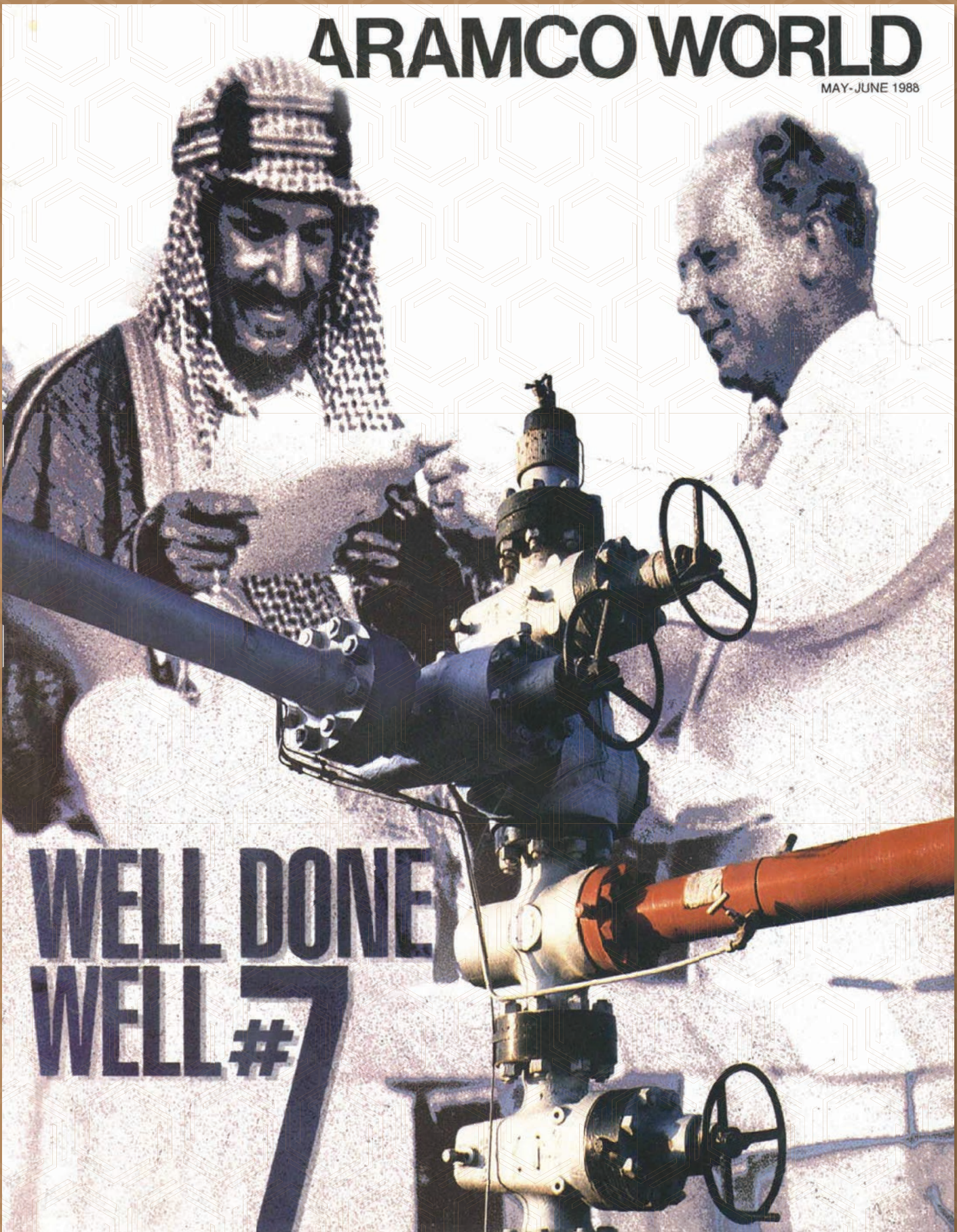


THE ALHAMBRA



# ARAMCO WORLD

MAY-JUNE 1988



**WELL DONE  
WELL #7**

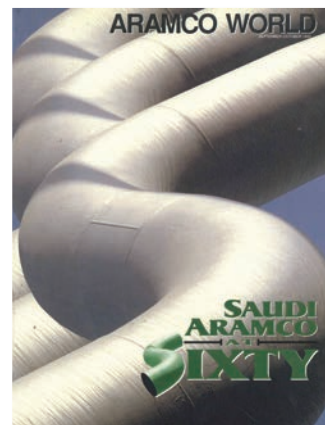
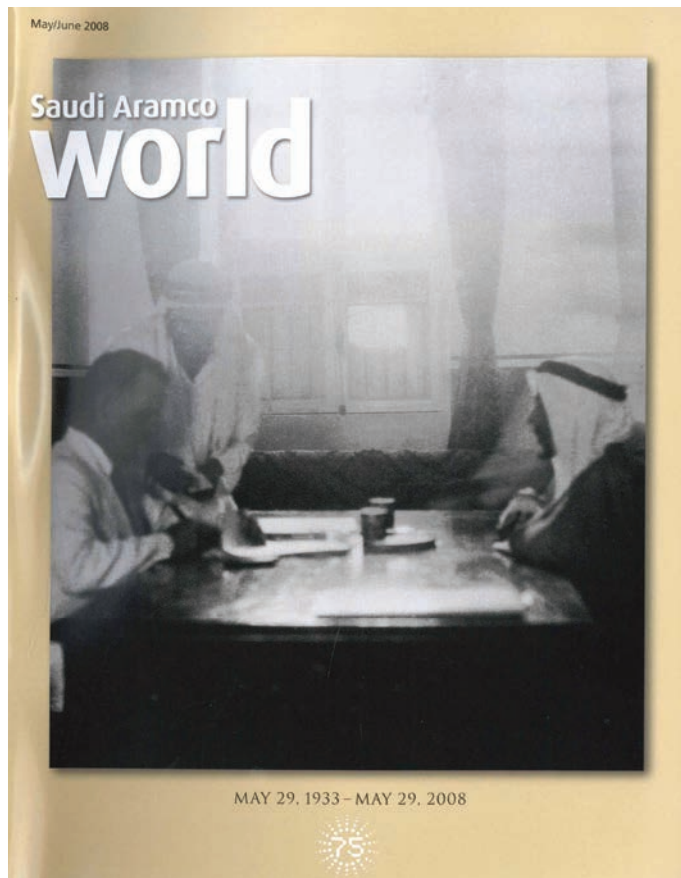


Hoye devoted the March/April 1975 issue to "Arabs in America." Dr. Michael DeBakey, a Houston, Texas-based heart surgeon whose parents had emigrated from Lebanon, appeared at work on the cover.

Other cover stories in the '70s, '80s and early '90s featured subjects such as "Muslims in the USSR," reflecting the era of glasnost in the Soviet Union. That's when reforms initiated by leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980s allowed diverse communities to make themselves heard, en route to achieving independence, some seven decades after being swept into the country.

*Aramco World* did not quit writing about Aramco, but company stories took on an educational or commemorative nature.

"Aramco: A Celebration" in 1984 marked the 50th anniversary of the search for oil in the Kingdom by SOCAL; in 1988 the "Well Done, Well Seven" cover celebrated the anniversary of the Kingdom's first commercial oil strike. That well, next door to Dhahran, is now known as the "Prosperity Well." It was the seventh of a series drilled into a rock formation known as the Dammam Dome. Geologists had been exploring the region since the signing of the oil Concession Agreement with Saudi Arabia in 1933, but the search didn't pay off until 1938, after nearly three long years of drilling.



**Above top:**  
 May/June 2008, "75: May 29, 1933–May 29, 2008" celebrating the 75th anniversary of Aramco  
 Photo courtesy of Karl S. Twitchell/  
 Aramco Archives

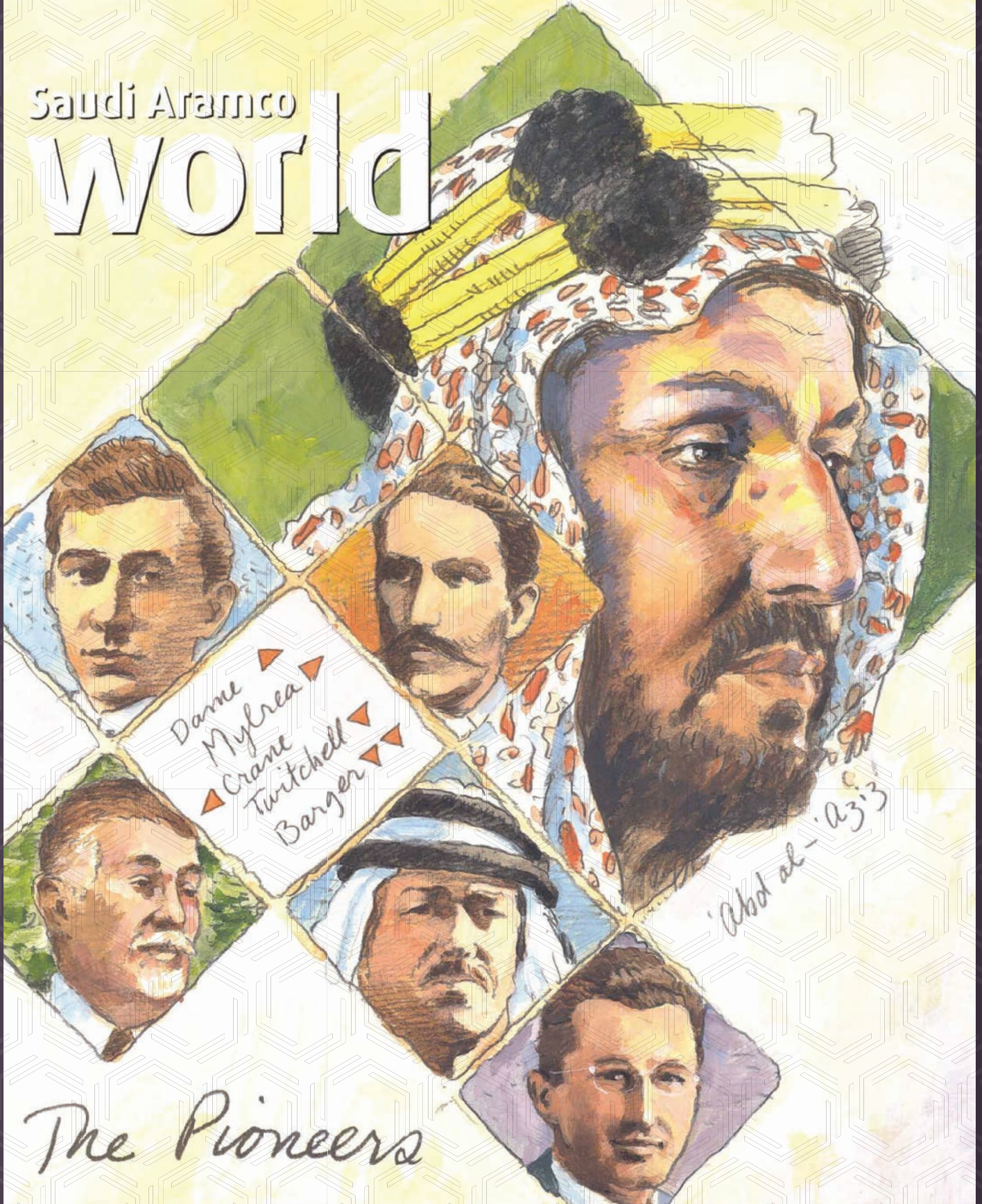
**Opposite:**  
 May/June 1988, "Well Done Well #7" shares the story about the Prosperity Well and the discovery that changed a nation.

**Above bottom left to right:**  
 September/October 1969, "Tom Barger: Myth or Man?"  
 Illustration by Don Thompson

September/October 1993, "Saudi Aramco At 60"  
 Photo by S. M. Amin



# Saudi Aramco WORLD

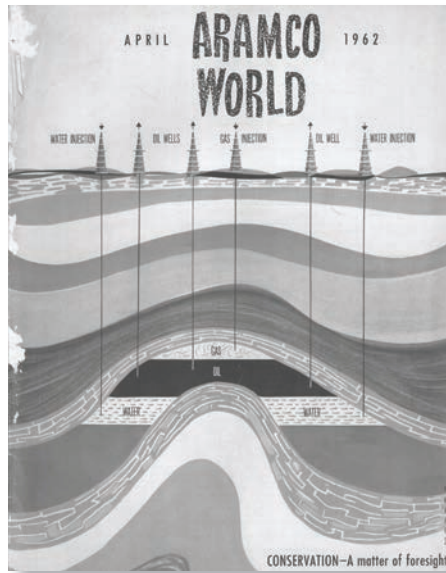
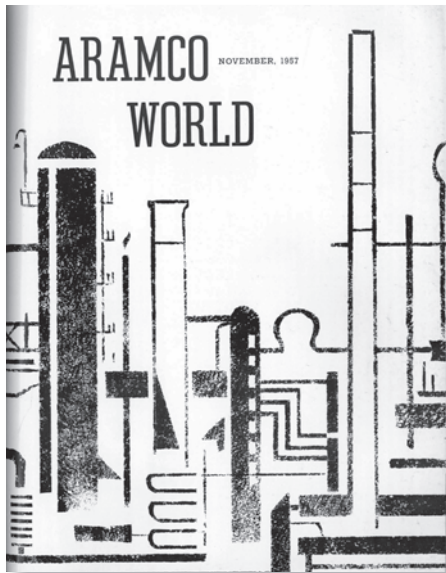


Dame  
Myhra  
Crane  
Twitchell  
Barger

'Abd al-'Aziz

The Pioneers





**From its earliest years, *AramcoWorld* has showcased the work of imaginative and talented illustrators.**

**Opposite:**

May/June 2004, "The Pioneers" recognizes the development of a company and a country and the pioneers who made it happen.

Illustration by Norman MacDonald

**Top left to right:**

November 1957, "Petroleum Magic," an illustration of the Ras Tanura refinery in Saudi Arabia

Illustration by Walter Ferro

April 1962, "Conservation—A matter of Foresight"

Illustration by Harold D. Hoopes

November/December 1965, "To The Last Drop"

Illustration by B. H. Moody

January/February 1968, "Discovery! The Story of The Aramco Then"

Illustration by Don Thompson

July/August 1973, "Amad and Oil"

Illustration by Don Thompson



culture, particularly to further education, Nawwab engineered in the mid-1980s the creation in Dhahran of a magazine called Dimensions, later Dimensions International, to report on Aramco's business activities—a role now played by a number of company news outlets and communications platforms.

Also in 1988, Saudi Arabia chartered the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (known as Saudi Aramco) to take over for Aramco. Earlier, in 1980, the Kingdom had completed the buyout of the company from its four American owners—including Chevron (formerly SOCAL). The magazine changed its title to *Saudi Aramco World* in 2000; in 2015, it reverted to a version of its original brand, as *AramcoWorld*.

From Dhahran, Nawwab supported Hoyer and Rob Arndt, who succeeded Hoyer as editor, in making the magazine a tool for educators.

Hoyer's final magazine, in September/October 1986, was a US-based issue titled "The Arab Immigrants." Arndt moved the magazine to Houston, headquarters of Aramco Services Company, or ASC (today's Aramco Americas) in 1987.

There the magazine flourished with the backing of Shafiq Kombargi, head of ASC's Public Affairs department. Kombargi had known the publication ever since he began working for Aramco in Beirut as a recruiter in 1949.

To enable the magazine to devote its resources to covering

**Left to right:**

January/February 2016, "The Unlikely Sisterhood of Seattle and Tashkent"

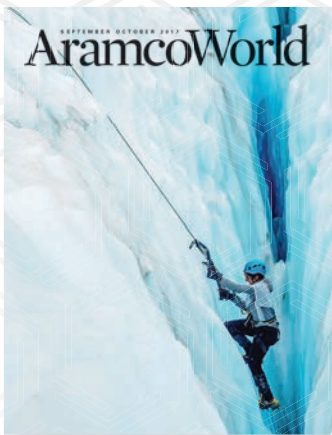
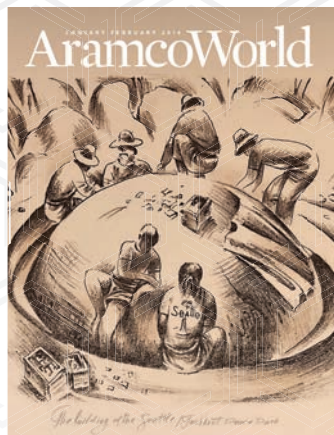
Lithograph by Marat Sadykov, courtesy of STSCA

September/October 2017, "The Seventh Summit"

Photo courtesy of Raha Moharrak

January/February 2024, "Meet Me at the Mudhif"

Photo by Nick de la Torre



**Opposite:**

September/October 2019, "A House for the World"

Photo by Abdullah A. Alshammary

**Then, as today, the magazine's message was that people are not all the same, but that their differences are of mutual interest; their societies and cultures are often historically interdependent in surprising ways.**

The company's continued investment in *Aramco World* was consistent with the reason behind the publication's establishment: bridging peoples, showing shared values to benefit both social intercourse and the economy at large.

"The Middle East and the Age of Discovery," a single-subject issue in 1992 pegged to the quincentennial of Columbus's voyages, was just one example of the magazine's "teachable" bent.

Arndt "was very focused on education, and the magazine started to get used more and more in teacher-education workshops because US classes began adding courses and units in Middle East history—and that drove interest in *AramcoWorld*," said Richard Doughty, who became assistant editor in 1994 and succeeded Arndt as editor in 2014 when he retired.

Company covers became rare, in favor of cultural topics, in the '90s and into the new millennium. "A House for the World," published in 2019, covered both sides of the coin: It portrayed the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture—Aramco's leading cultural and creative institution housed in a spectacularly modern building in Dhahran.

Over the years the magazine has expanded its offerings. It added cultural events listings in the 1990s and book reviews in 2000. It established its online presence in 2003 and the following year initiated a precursor to Classroom Guide, later renamed Learning Center, a resource geared toward educators and students. *AramcoWorld* added a video channel and activated its Instagram channel in 2015. For readers with a gustatory sense of adventure, the Flavors section came in 2018.

The new editorial team, under Johnny Hanson, that took over following Doughty's retirement in 2023 continues to grow the magazine's digital-first strategy. It is also expanding its online content and social-media presence, and amplifying its outreach to educators via digital-first stories—opening more windows into Arab and Muslim communities' interconnectivity with the rest of the world.

Looking to the future, Hanson says, *AramcoWorld* "will remain global in its mission while focusing on our shared values, culture and history on multiple platforms."

Today, even with the focus on digital growth, the first impression made by an *AramcoWorld* cover is paramount.

"Nothing complements our content better than the impact made by the cover of our magazine," Hanson said. "It just invites you to pick it up and discover."



SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 2019

# AramcoWorld

**CELEBRATING  
75 YEARS**





# 1950

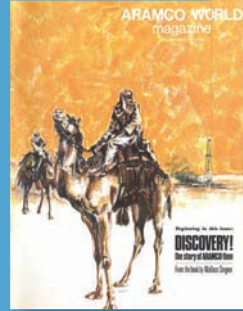
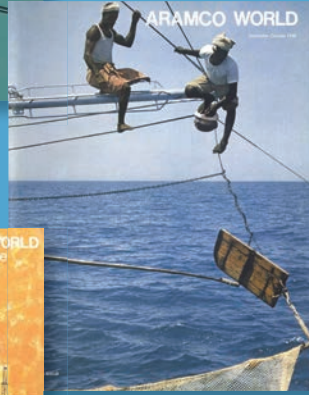
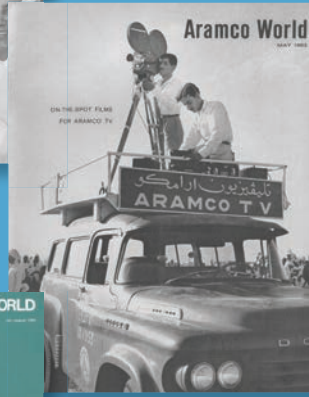
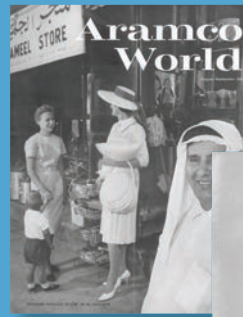
**1950:** Aramco launches the third issue under the name "Aramco World" after Vol. 1 No. 1 was established as a company newsletter in November 1949.

**1952:** "Know-how" features an all-Saudi crew operating an oil and gas plant. This is the first visually driven cover.

**1954:** The cover for the story "International Airport" shows flight attendant Betty Dunn before taking off on one of the two Aramco-owned DC-6Bs used to fly between New York and Saudi Arabia.

**1954:** The "American Schools in the Middle Past" features the American University of Beirut.

**1958:** Khamis ibn Rimthan was the chief guide for oil exploration and featured not for his work but for his attire in the cover story "Fezzes, Ghitras and Gafiyas," about traditional male head coverings of the Middle East.



**1961:** "Country Store" in Saudi Arabia

**1963:** "Aramco TV On The Air." At the time, Aramco TV was the second-oldest Arabic-language television station in the Middle East.

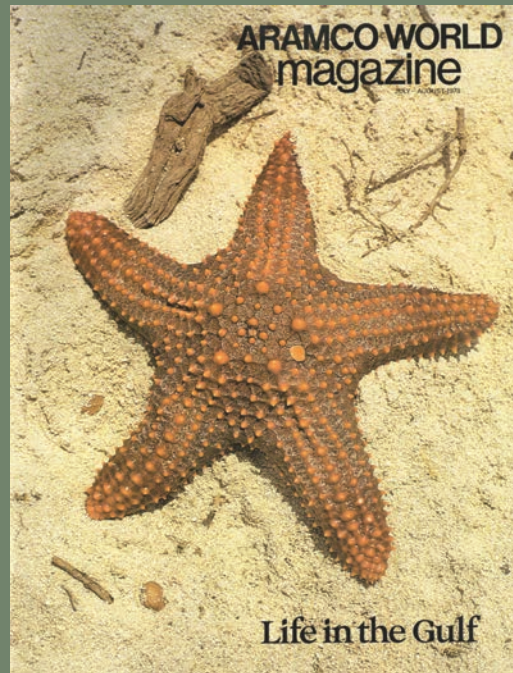
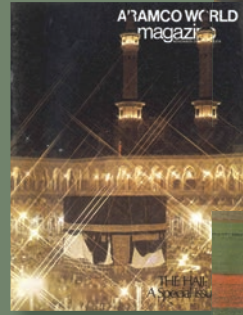
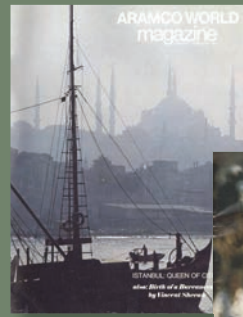
**1964:** "Calligraphy a Noble Art" explores the meaning of the craft in the Arab World. This is the first issue with color. The same year the publication moved from Beirut to New York.

**1966:** "Pink Gold" features the Arabian Gulf's shrimp industry.

**1968:** "Discovery! The Story of The Aramco Then" is our first illustrated series.

**1968:** "High fashion from the Arab World"

# 1960



**1970:** "Istanbul: Queen of Cities" explores the history and life of the city where East meets West.

**1972:** "Sports in the Arab World" is the first special issue on the topic.

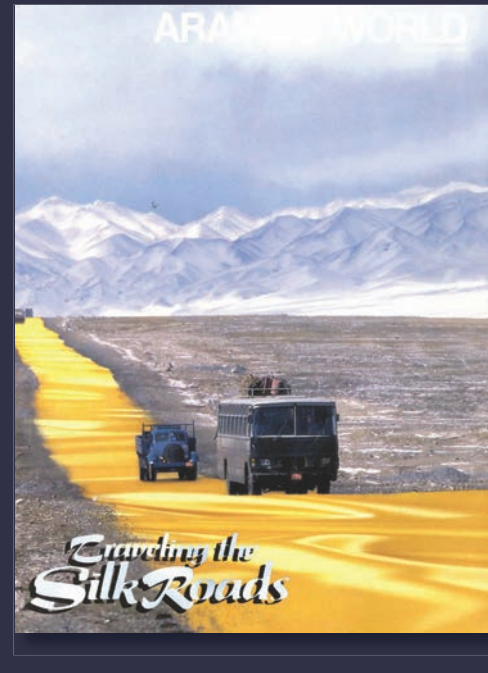
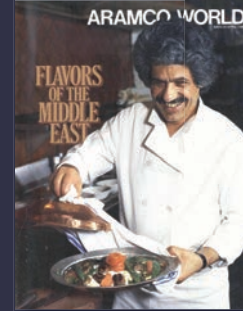
**1974:** "The Hajj: A Special Issue" is dedicated to the annual Islamic pilgrimage.

**1977:** "A Dutch Treat" features tulips in the Netherlands where Aramco World was based from mid-1970s to mid-1980s.

**1977:** "The Return of Scheherzade" features postage stamps on themes from *The Arabian Nights*.

**1978:** "Life in the Gulf" examines the natural ecosystems in the region.

# 1970



**1981:** "Formula One" features the relationship between Saudi Arabia and motorsport, a relationship that continues today.

**1982:** "Foundations: A Decade of Development," a special issue to mark 50 years since the founding of Saudi Arabia.

**1986:** "Arabs and the Stars" special issue explores Arab contributions to astronomy and the first Arab in space.

**1987:** "Islamic Banking: Knotting a New Network" is published the same year AramcoWorld moves to Houston, Texas.

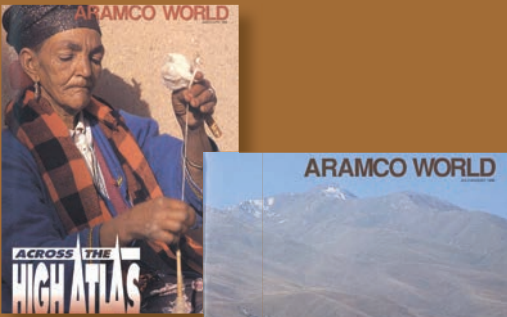
**1988:** "Flavors of the Middle East" is a special issue on cuisine and recipes from the region.

**1988:** For "Traveling the Silk Roads," AramcoWorld sent writers and photographers to various locations to get a fresh look at the route.

# 1980



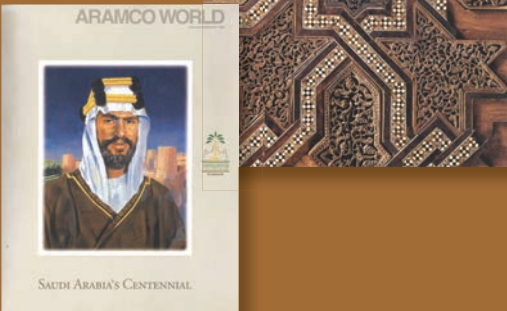
# 1990



**1993:** "Across the High Atlas" takes readers to new heights in Morocco.



**1995:** "Kyrgyzstan: A First Look" depicts the former Soviet state a few years after its independence.



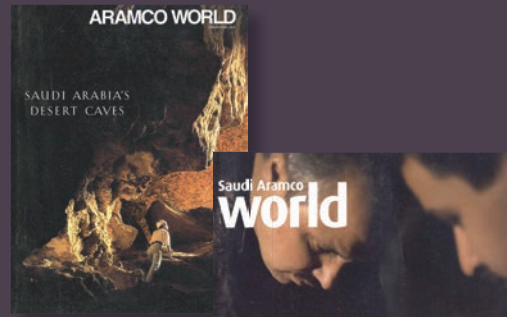
**1996:** "Culinary Reconnaissance: Indonesia"



**1999:** "Saudi Arabia's Centennial" special issue marks 100 years, by lunar Islamic calendar, since men from the House of Saud entered Riyadh.

**1999:** "Aramco World Turns 50"

# 2000



**2000:** "Saudi Arabia's Desert Caves"



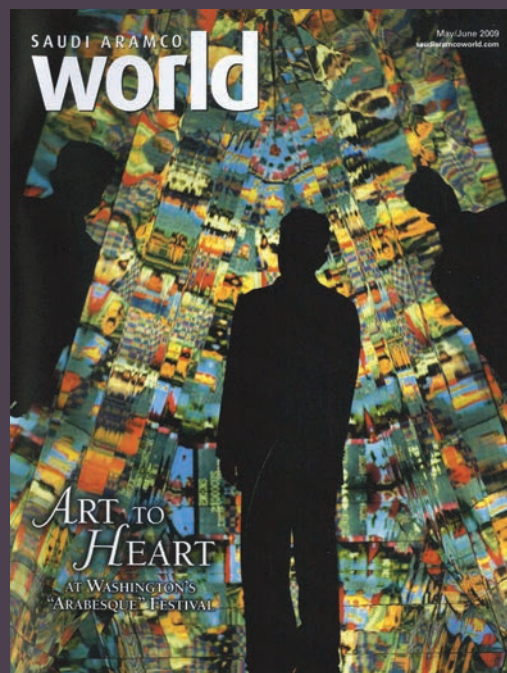
**2001:** "The Musical Pulse of Tunisia"



**2006:** "Ibn Khaldun and the Rise and Fall of Empire" marks 600 years since the death of the famous Arab scholar.



**2007:** "Doha's Grand Games" features the first Asian games in an Arab country.



**2009:** "Art to Heart at Washington's 'Arabesque' Festival" shares Arab culture in the US capital.

# 2010



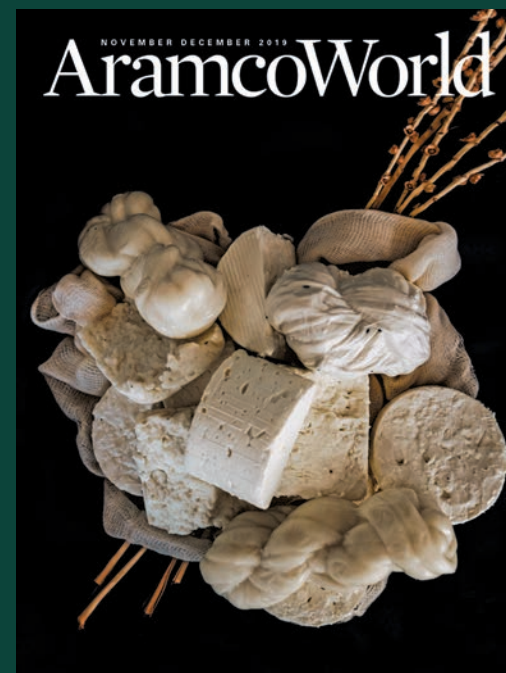
**2013:** "Malaysia's New Art Mix"



**2016:** "Forest of Tides: The Sundarbans" speaks to the fragile beauty of the world's largest mangrove forest.



**2016:** "Rights of Flight: Falconry in Japan"



**2017:** "The Place of Many Fish" takes readers to the Arctic region of Canada's smallest territorial capital, Iqluit.

**2017:** "Chasing Zero" shares the innovative and sustainable practices of Masdar City in the UAE.

**2019:** "A Palette in White" celebrates Arab cheesemaking traditions.

# 2020



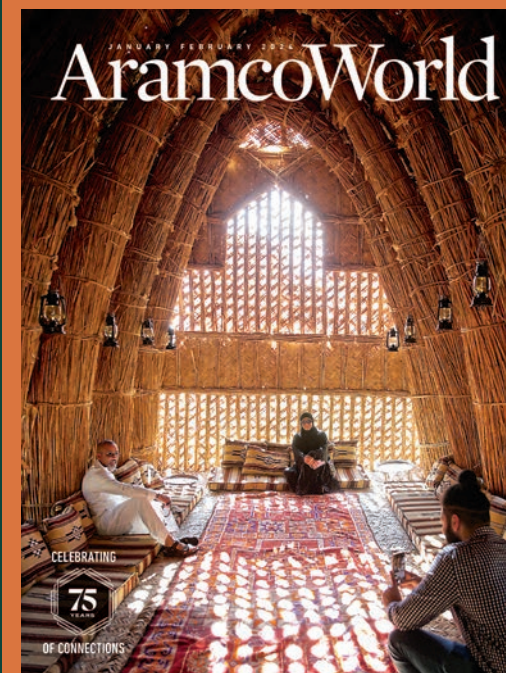
**2020:** "Sepk Takraw takes Flight"



**2021:** "The Quest for Blue" looks into the history of the color.



**2022:** "The Kingdom of Art" profiles the emergence of contemporary art in Saudi Arabia.



**2022:** "The March Guide and the English Explorer" tells the personal story of guiding explorer Wilfred Thesiger through the wetlands of southern Iraq.

**2023:** "A Vocal Appeal to Safeguard Albania's Iso-Polyphony"

**2024:** "Meet me at the Mudhif" is a story of cultural connection from Iraq to Houston and kicked off our 75th anniversary celebration.



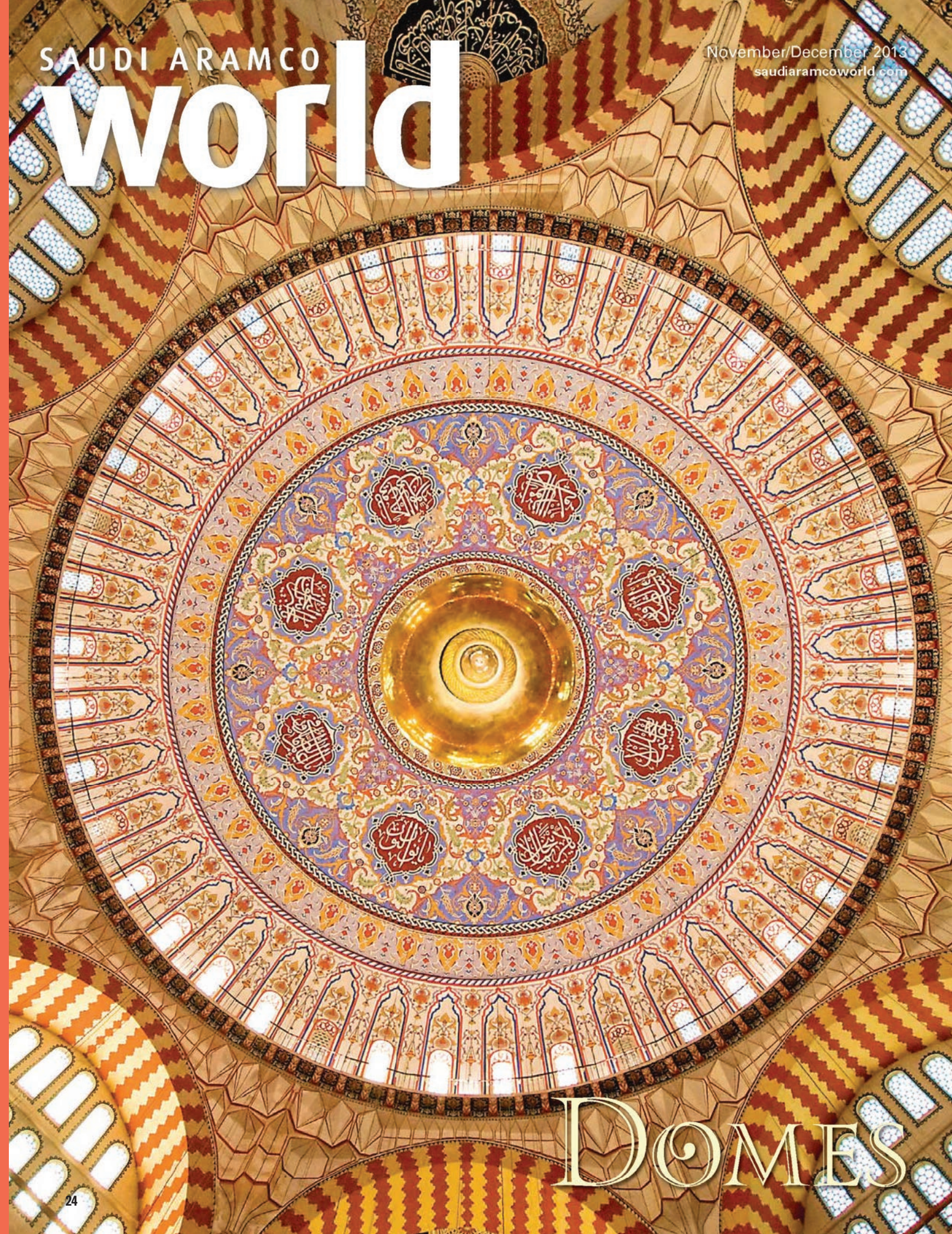
5  
ARS

**A LOOK  
THROUGH  
THE DECADES**

SAUDI ARAMCO

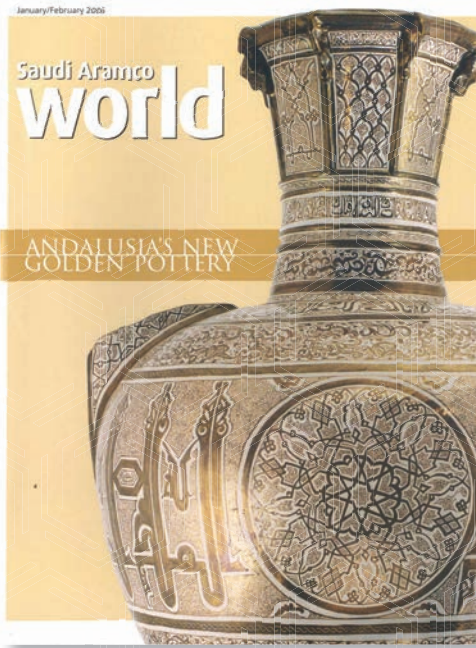
**world**

November/December 2013  
saudiaramcoworld.com



**DOMES**





**Left:**

Ceramics with this transparent, metallic overglaze are called *loza dorada* ("golden pottery") in Spanish. The earliest lusterware was created at the beginning of the ninth century CE in Basra and Chuff, in what is now Iraq. Some two centuries later, artisans of Al-Andalus learned enough to start their own production, reaching their apogee of beauty and sophistication in the period of the Alhambra.

January/February 2006, "Andalusia's New Golden Pottery"

Photo by Tor Eigeland

**Opposite:**

November/December 2013, "Domes"

Photo by Tor Eigeland

## ARTS & CULTURE

For 75 years *AramcoWorld* has sought to promote a deeper understanding of the Arab and Muslim world through arts and cultural bridging. That mission has been at the heart of our magazine's covers.

One poignant example came in 2013, when an *AramcoWorld* cover featured the dome of the 16th-century Selimiye Mosque. Built in Edirne, Turkey, at the crossroads of the East and West, the Ottoman architectural masterpiece is a synthesis of the Byzantine and Islamic traditions. And the mosque's ornate dome is regarded as an icon of Islamic art.

Over centuries architecture has created a lasting impact. Moorish architecture in Spain, for instance, not only defined the legacy of Arabs in Europe but stretched to Latin America, as demonstrated in "The Box Balconies of Lima" (2022).

With paintings, illustrations and other visual arts forms, artists explore and interpret the world around them. In the early 1970s, Canadian artist Penny Williams went to Saudi

Arabia to paint the Kingdom. Her work "Impressions of Arabia" (1973) was displayed on an *AramcoWorld* cover that year. "Six Degrees of Suriname" (2015) captured the life and history of a multireligious and multiracial nation through illustrations.

Photographs of performing arts also often found a home on our covers. From "Aida at Luxor" (1987), featuring Giuseppe Verdi's spectacular opera playing in Egypt, to "Sesame Opens!" (1979), about the Arab equivalent of the American educational television series, the publication has presented a variety of performances that connect us.

Additionally, *AramcoWorld* has reflected historical cross-cultural connections through music in stories like "The Lutemaker of Brooklyn" (1956) and "Muslim Roots, U.S. Blues" (2006).

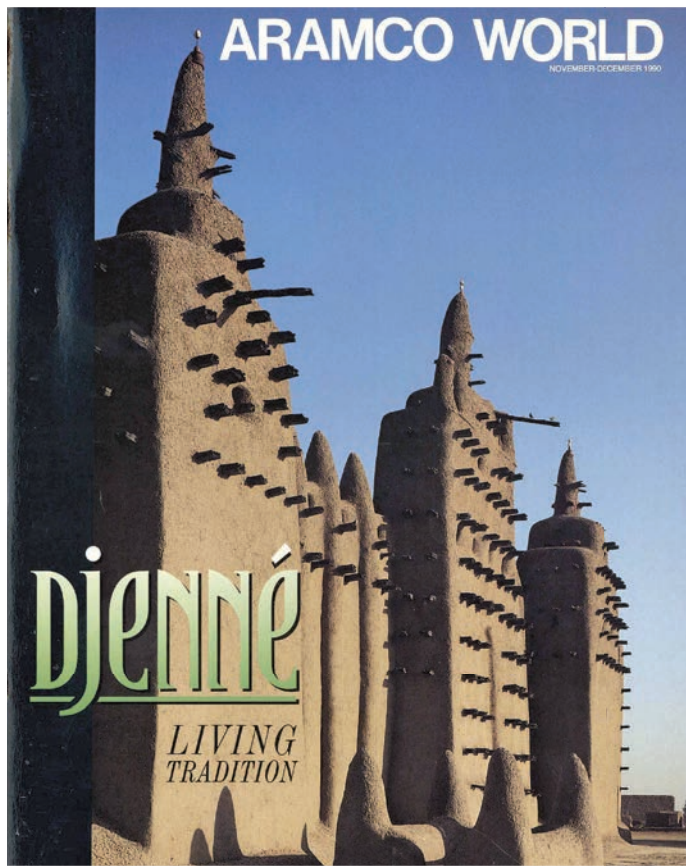
Calligraphy has preserved its esthetic and linguistic values in the traditions of the Far East and the Arab world. Those traditions sometimes merged, as we explained in



“Shodo Arabi” (2010), in which Japanese artists illustrated their work with Arabic calligraphy.

Through articles about literature and storytellers, the magazine provided insights into histories, cultures and global connections of Arab and Islamic lands. “Gibran Remembered” (1983) highlighted the life and international influence of the famous Lebanese writer Khalil Gibran on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Above all, the publication has focused on our shared human experiences, values and aspirations through stories about arts and culture. Those stories have largely defined our mission and will continue to do so.



**Above:**  
The Great Mosque in Djenné, Mali, built in 1907 on the ruins of an earlier one, is the town’s most important structure and focal point of community pride. Each year townsfolk stage a festival and replaster the mud walls.

November/December 1990, “Djenne: Living Tradition”  
Photographed by Brynn Brujin



**Above top to bottom:**  
July/August 1993, “Homes of Old Makkah”  
Illustration by Bülent Uluengin and Nihal Uluengin

March/April 2008, “East meets West in Venice”  
Photo courtesy of Alberto Campanile/Cubolimages/Alamy

**Opposite:**  
January/February 1973, “Impressions of Arabia”  
Illustration by Penny Williams



# ARAMCO WORLD

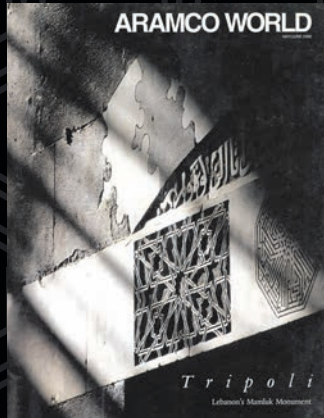
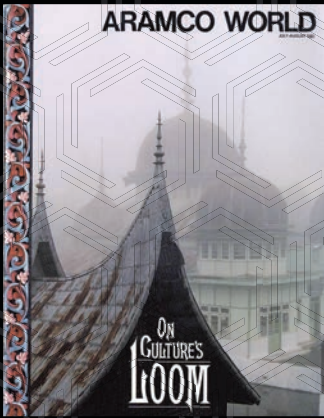
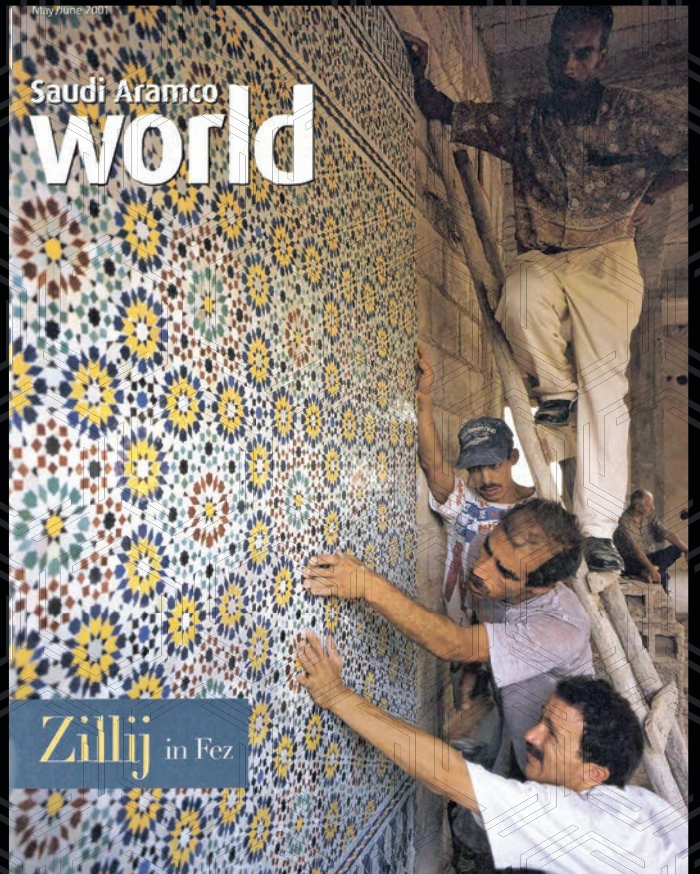
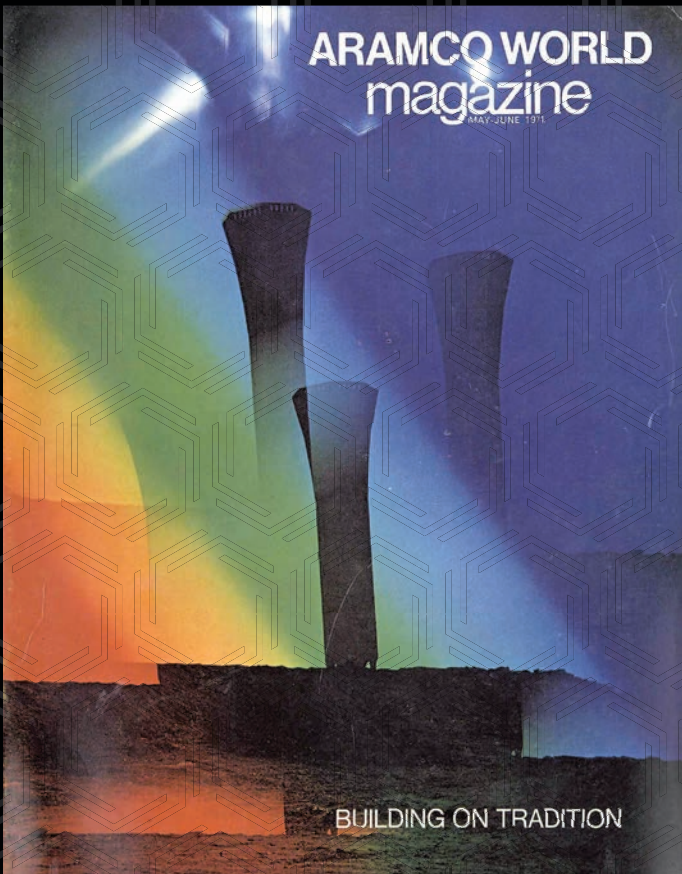
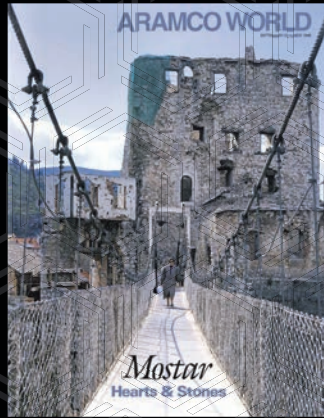
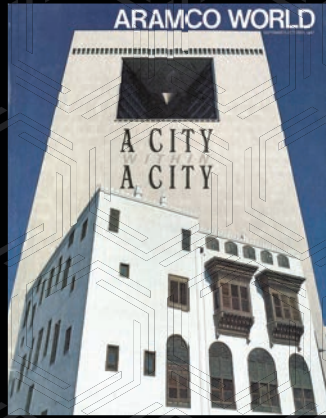
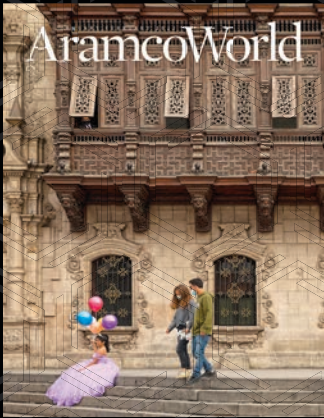
## magazine

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1973



## Impressions of Arabia







**Architecture shapes a foundation for cultural learning that is shared and admired globally.**

**Opposite:**

**First row left to right:**

January/February 2022, "Behind Lima's Balcony's"  
Photo by Mariana Bazo

September/October 1987, "A City Within a City"  
Photo by Ali A. Mubarak

September/October 1998, "Hearts and Stones"  
Photo by Maria Daniels

May/June 1998, "The Masterpiece Minbar"  
Photo by Bruce White

**Second row left to right:**

May/June 1971, "Building on Tradition"  
Photo by B. H. Moody

May/June 2001, "Zillij in Fez"  
Photo by Peter Sanders

**Third row left to right:**

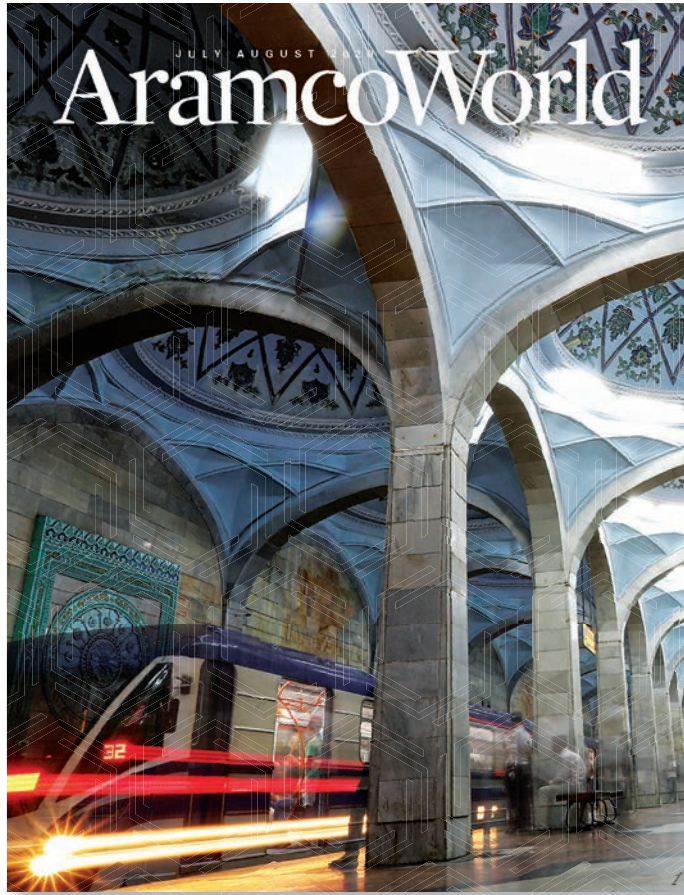
July/August 1991, "On Culture's Loom"  
Photo by Joseph Brignolo and Anne Summerfield

January/February 1989, "Window on the Arab World"  
Photo by Bruno De Hogues

May/June 2000, "Lebanon's Mamluk Movement"  
Photo by Richard Doughty

Glassy as evening falls, the waters around the Louvre Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates mirror both sky and the geometry of the museum's vast, shading dome, whose fractal patterns were inspired by the tradition of Arab screens called *mashrabiya*.

September/October 2018, "A Museum of the World"  
Photo by Richard Doughty



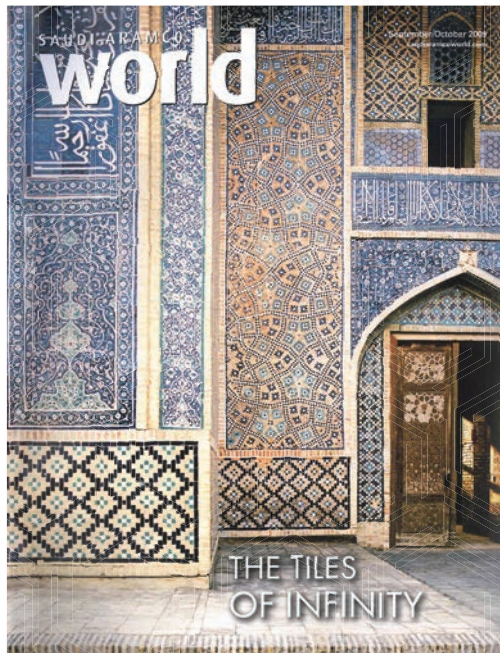
**Above:**

The subway system of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, consists of 29 stations, and each one is designed by an individual artist in honor of cultural heroes or historic resources.

July/August 2020, "Tashkent's Underground Masterpieces"  
Photo by Stephen Larry

**Left:**

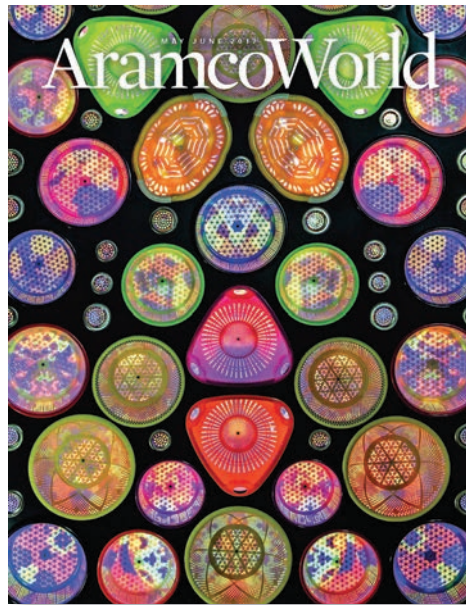
September/October 2009, "The Tiles of Infinity"  
Photo by Peter J. Lu







**First column top to bottom:**  
 May/June 2011, "Cool Mideast"  
 Photo courtesy of Hassan Hajjaj and Rose Issa Projects



September/October 2014, "The Middle East's New Lenses"  
 Art courtesy of Camille Zakharia

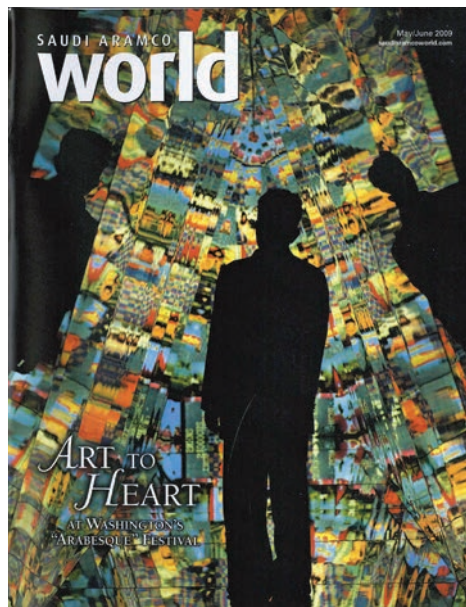
January/February 1987, "Arab Artists in Italy"  
 Illustration by Abdel Hakim Abbaci

**Second column top to bottom:**  
 May/June 2017, "Ambassadors of Art"  
 Art courtesy of Rashed Al-Shashai

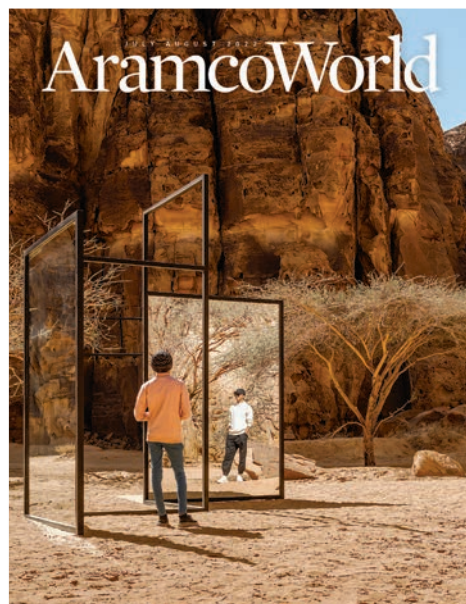
May/June 2009, "Art to Heart"  
 Photo courtesy of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts



July/August 2022, "Kingdom of Art"  
 Photo by Lance Gerber/courtesy of the artist and Desert X AIUla 2022



**Opposite:**  
 September/October 1992, "The Art of Islamic Spain"  
 Photos courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art

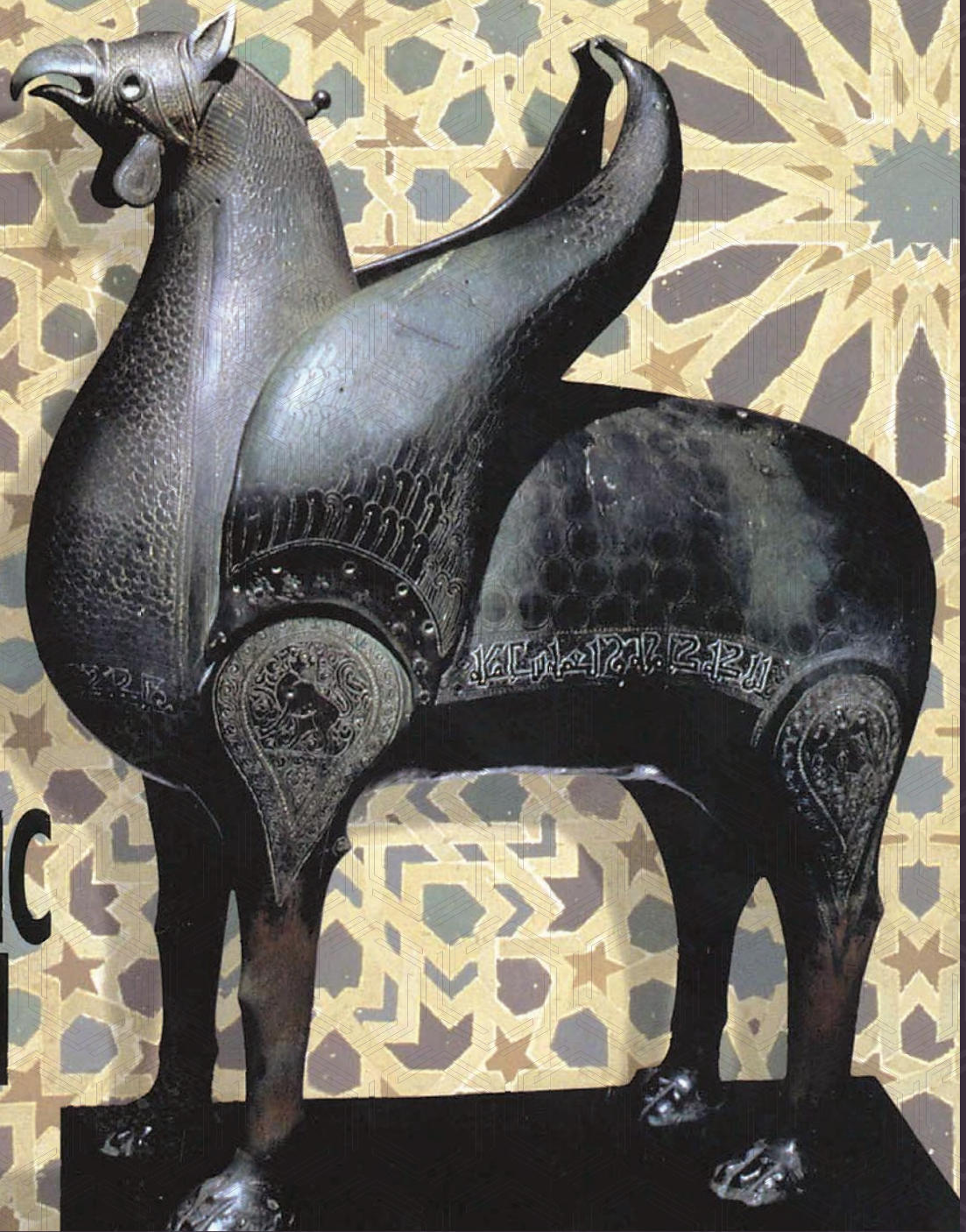




# ARAMCO WORLD

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1992

## THE ART OF ISLAMIC SPAIN

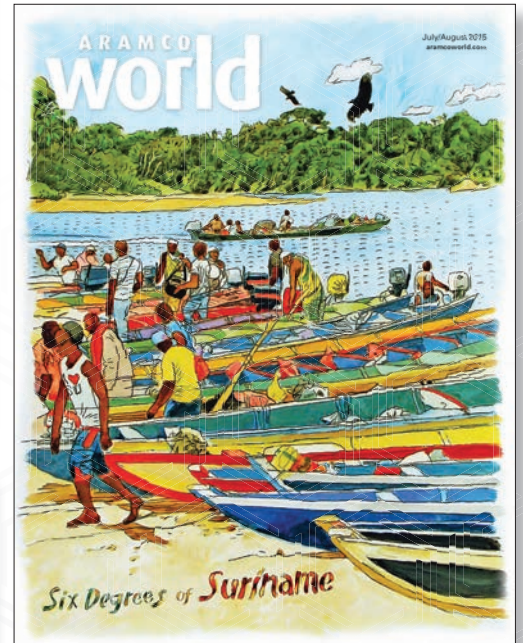




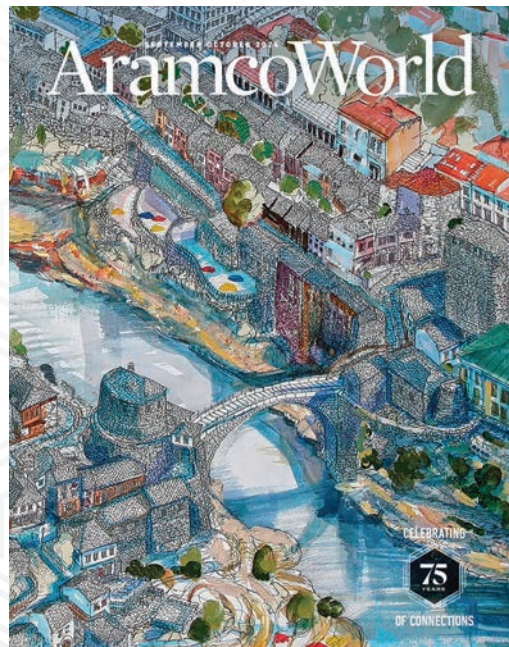


Illustrations have played a vital role on our covers to showcase storytelling in an artful way.

**Left:**  
November/December 2015, "Stories My Father Told Me"  
Illustration by Helen Zugaib

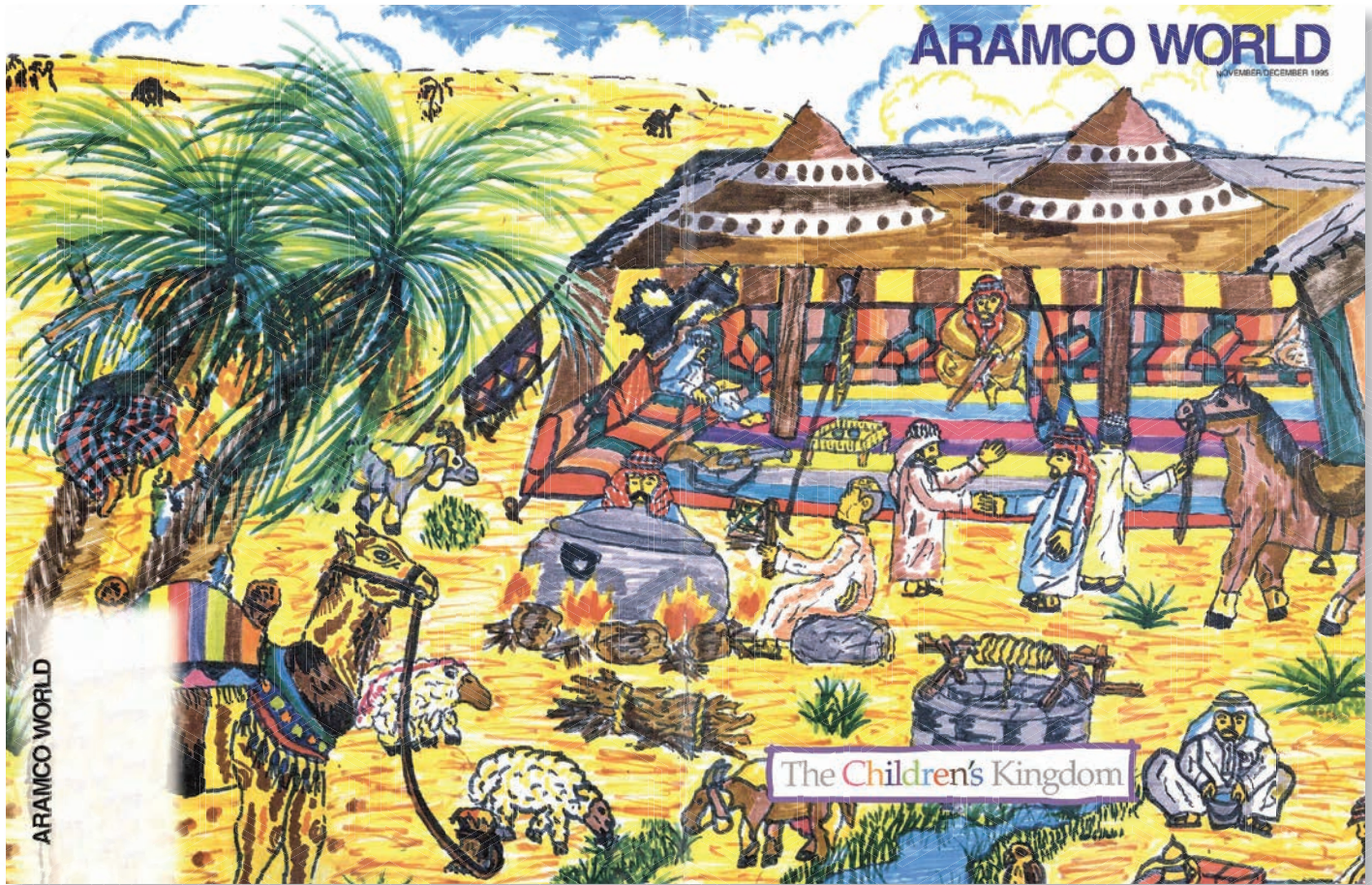


**Above:**  
July/August 2015, "Six Degrees of Sunshine"  
Illustration by Norman MacDonald



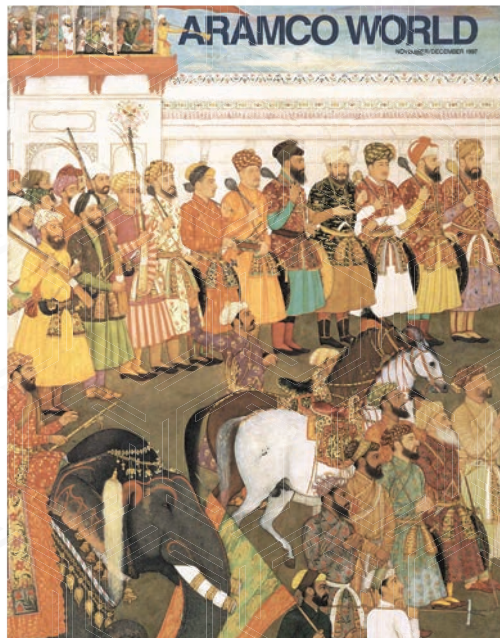
**Left:**  
September/October 2024, "The Bridge of Meanings"  
Illustration by Amir Pasic





Above:  
The illustration depicting cooking and a conversation scene from a men's encampment was drawn by 11-year-old Imad Jaha from Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, who won a children's art contest sponsored by Saudi Aramco.

November/December 1995, "We Dared to Venture"  
Illustration by Norman MacDonald



Left:  
November/December 1995, "The Most Splendid Manuscript"  
Illustration by The Royal Collection



SAUDI ARAMCO

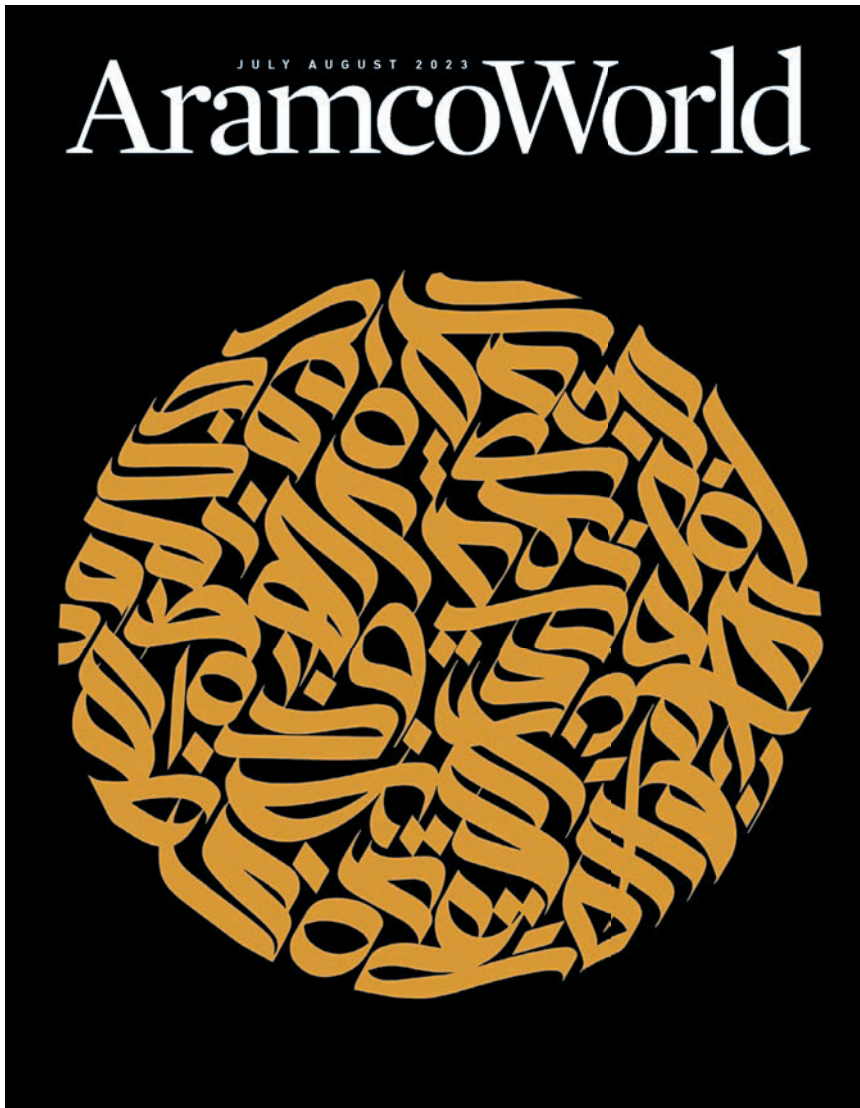
# World

March/April 2010  
saudiaramcoworld.com



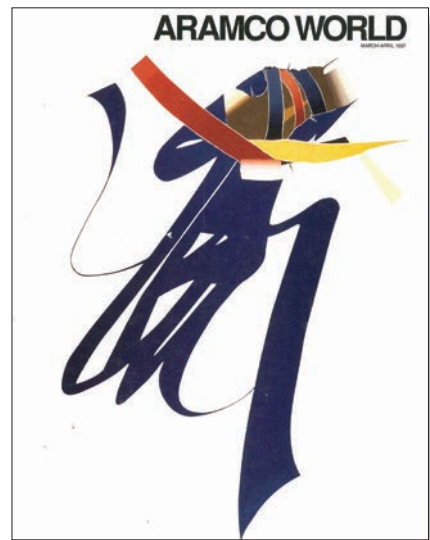
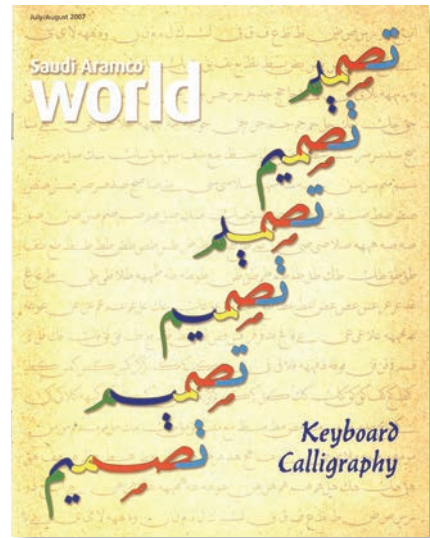
“Shodo ‘Arabi”





**Above:**  
 July/August 2023, "Escher + Alhambra = Infinty"  
 Art courtesy of The M.C. Escher Company

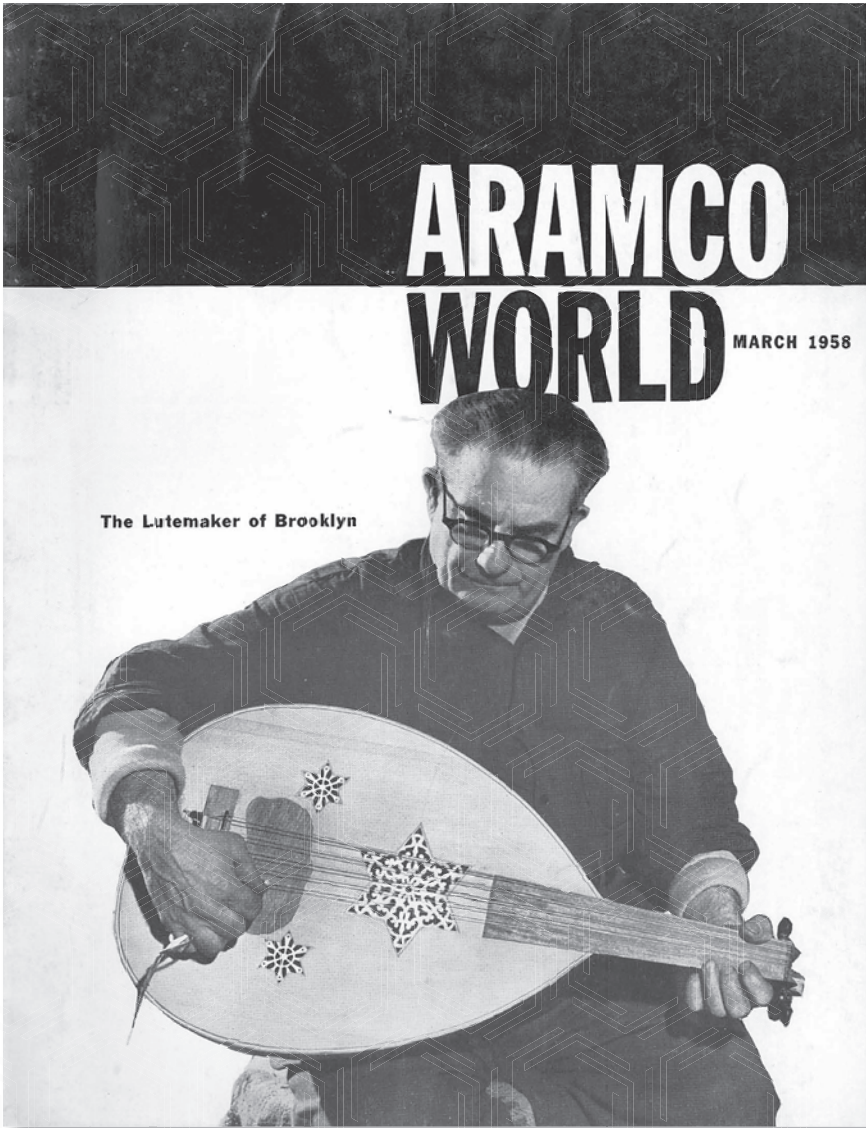
**Opposite:**  
 March/April 2010, "Shodo Arabi"  
 Illustration by Fuad Kouichi Honda



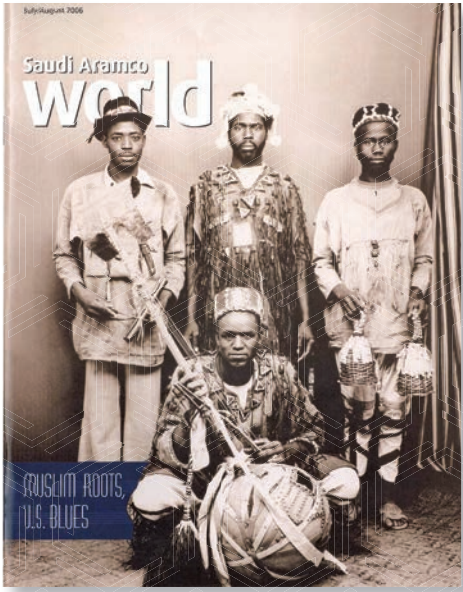
**Right column top to bottom:**  
 July/August 2007, "New pieces of Mada'in Salih's Puzzle"  
 Typesetting by Thomas Milo  
  
 March/April 1997, "Letter, Word, Art"  
 Illustration courtesy of Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts and Agnes Scott College  
  
 September/October 1989, "The Geometry of the Spirit"  
 Illustration by M. U. Zakariya



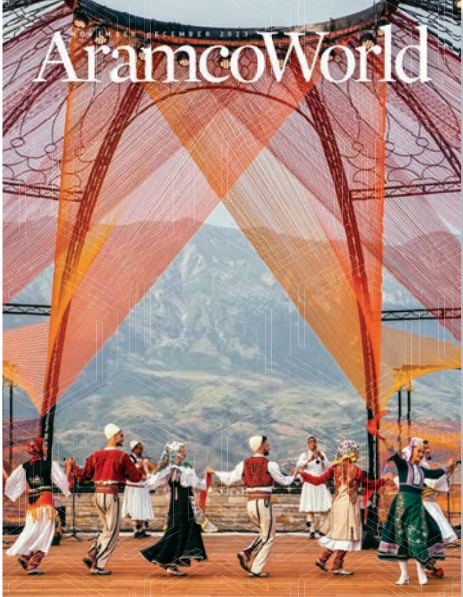




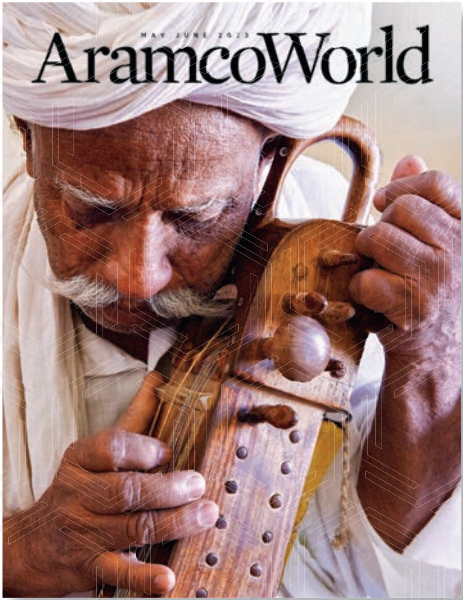
**Above:**  
 As a boy in Tripoli, Lebanon, Ernest Maliha often sat playing the *al'ud*, the Arabic name for lute, amid the ruins of a Crusader castle as he looked out over the Mediterranean toward the West where this instrument traveled with the Crusaders seven centuries ago. He then made lutes for more than a half century at his shop in Brooklyn, New York.  
 Photo by Carl von Hoffman



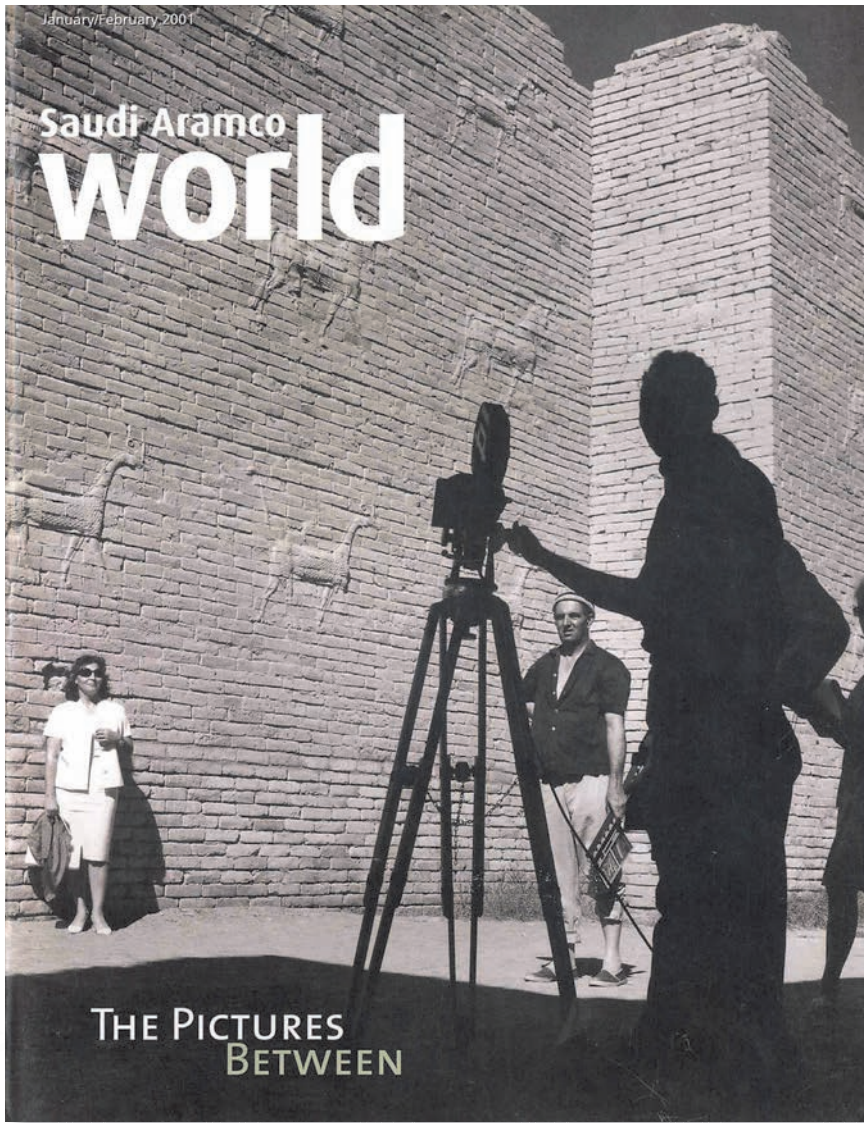
**Top right to bottom:**  
 July/August 2006, "Muslim Roots, U.S. Blues"  
 Photo courtesy of Bridgeman Art library



November/December 2023, "A Vocal Appeal to Safeguard Albania's Iso-Polyphony"  
 Photo by Ilir Tsouko  
  
 May/June 2023, "Rajasthan's Folk Musicians Find New Ways to Play"  
 Photo by Poras Chaudhary







**Above:**

Latif Al-'Ani was one of Iraq's most prolific photojournalists. In 1961 he took this photo of a film crew shooting amid the ruins of ancient Babylon. It is part of the personal archive that he placed in the care of the Arab Image Foundation in 2000. And since 1997, the Foundation has gathered more than 15,000 photographs in its Beirut archive and mounted international shows as well.

January/February 2001, "The Pictures Between"

Photo courtesy of Arab Image Foundation

**Right column top to bottom:**

March/April 1977, "Choreography in Cairo"

Photo by John Feeney

July/August 1987, "Aida at Luxor"

Photo by Tor Eigeland

November/December 2022,

"Tapping into Story"

Photo by Bear Gutierrez

September/October 1979,

"Sesame Opens"

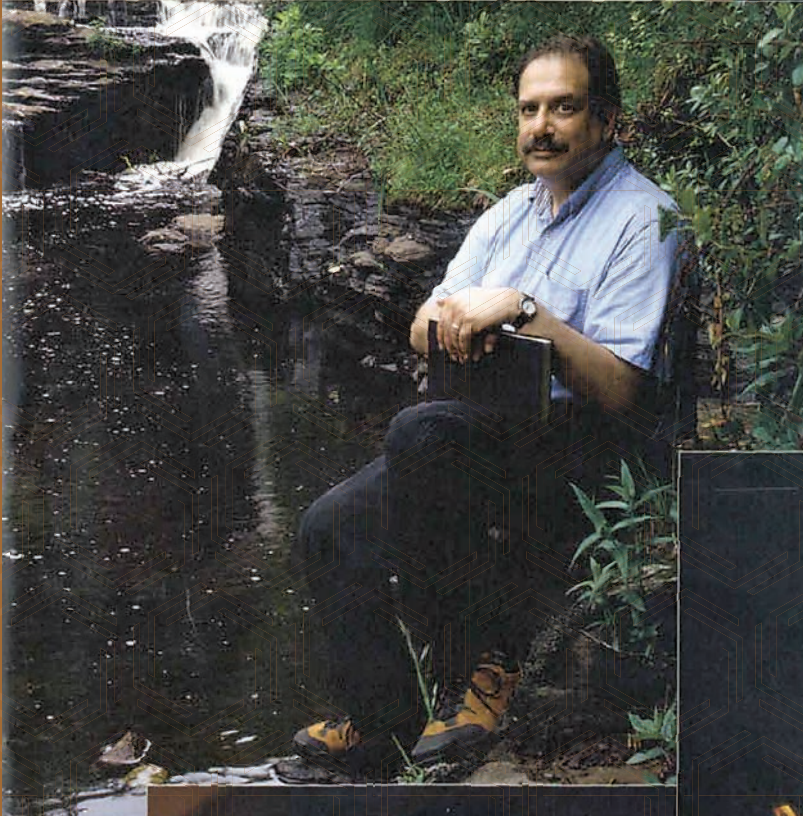
Photo by B. H. Moody





March/April 2005

# Saudi Aramco World



Of Stories and Storytellers



**Opposite:**

March/April 2005, "Of Stories and Storytellers"

Photo by Lorraine Chittock

**Right:**

March/April 1983, "Gibran Remembered"

Illustration by Norman MacDonald

**Bottom left to right:**

November/December 2003, "Mauritania's Manuscripts"

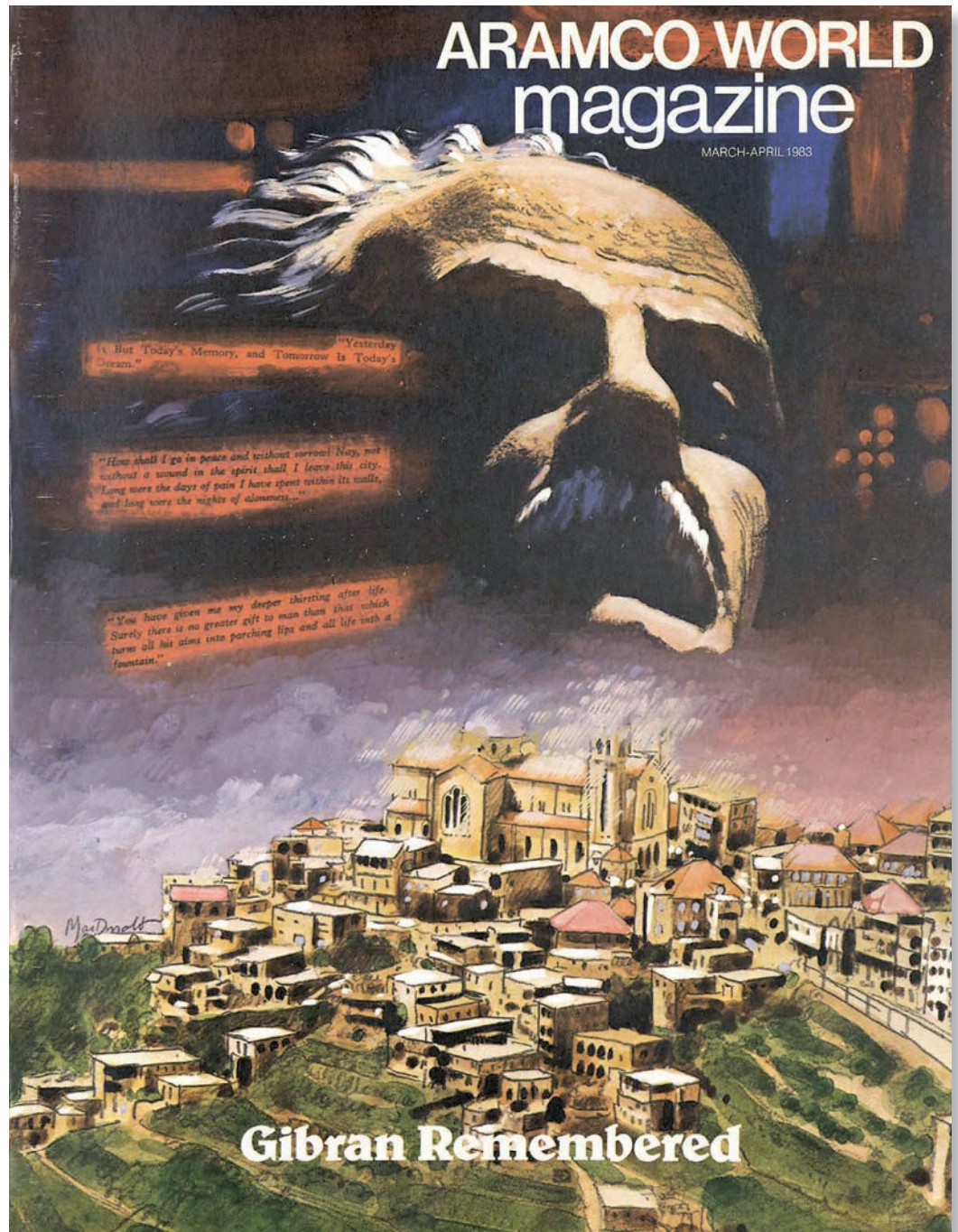
Photo by Lorraine Chittock

March/April 1989, "A Nobel for the Arab Nation"

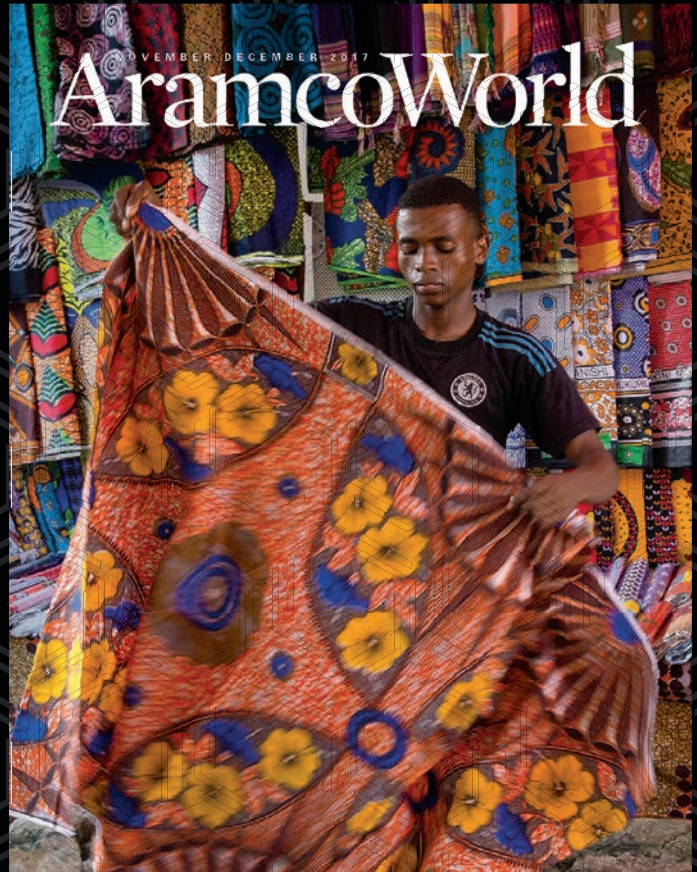
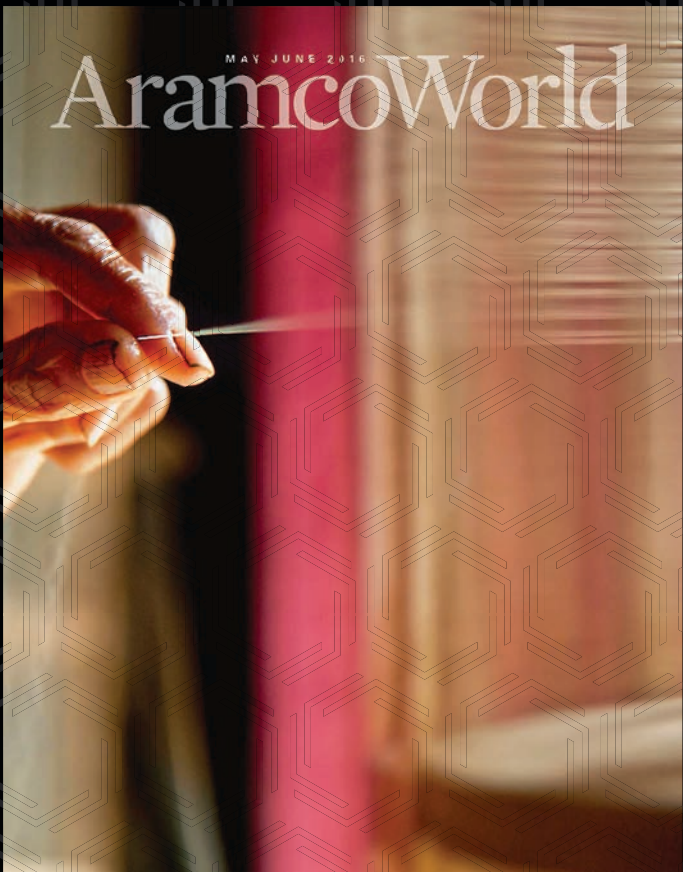
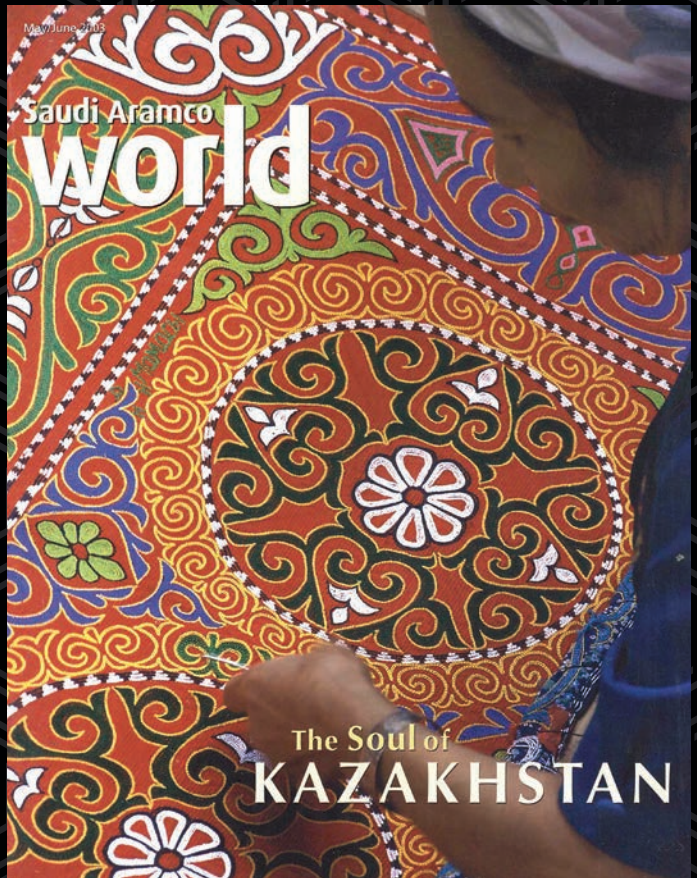
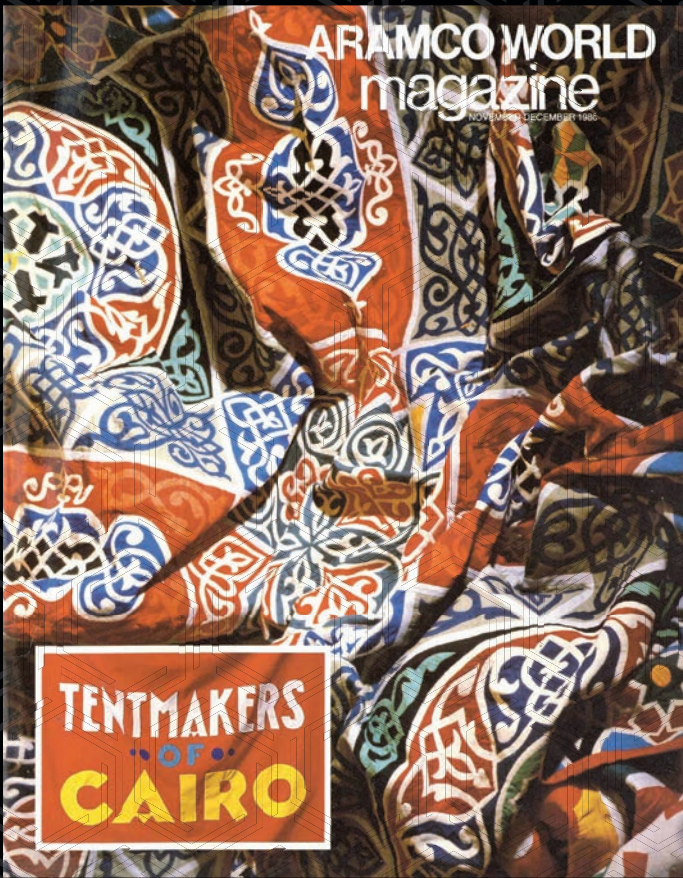
Photo by Thomas Hartwell

January/February 2019, "After Manas, My Kyrgyz, Your Chingiz"

Photo courtesy of the Aitmatov International Foundation









**Opposite:**

From *kanga*, one of the most popular fabrics in East Africa, to muslins of South Asia and the ornate garments and tents of central Asia and the Middle East, over the years *AramcoWorld* has highlighted the cultural connections between textiles and the communities.

**Opposite left to right:**

November/December 1986, "Tentmakers of Cairo"

Illustration by Theresa Le Bas

May/June 2003, "The Soul of Kazakhstan"

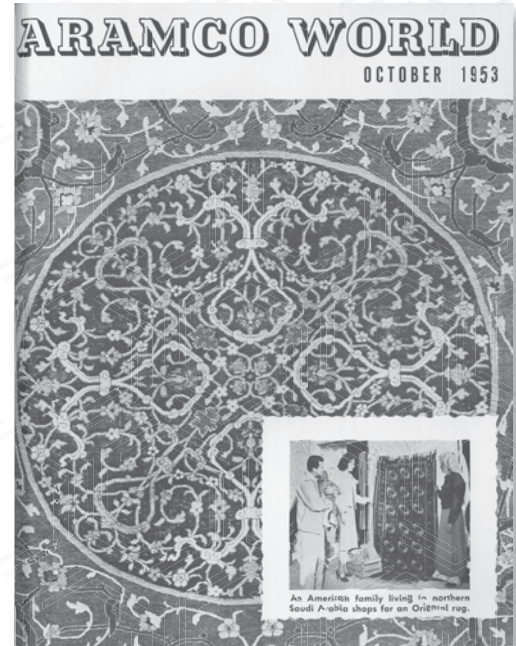
Photo by Wayne Eastep

May/June 2016, "Our Story of Dhaka Muslin"

Photo courtesy of DRIK

November/December 2017, "Kanga's Woven Voices"

Photo by Samantha Reinders



**Above:**

The first issue to highlight textiles on a cover came in 1953 when the magazine educated readers about carpets and rugs from across Central and East Asia.

October 1953, "Oriental Rugs"

Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art, inset by T. F. Walters

**Left:**

September/October 2000, "Progress Through Preservation"

Photo by David H. Wells







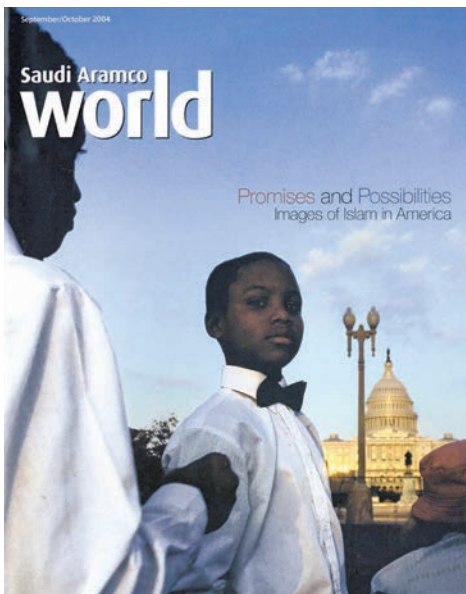
**Left column top to bottom:**  
 November/December 2006,  
 "Birmingham 9 to 5"  
 Photo by Karim Shamsi-Basha



September/October 2004,  
 "Promises and Possibilities: Images  
 of Islam in America"  
 Photo by Alexandra Avakian

March/April 2019, "The Handwritten  
 Heritage of South Africa's Kitabs"  
 Photo by Samantha Reinders

**Right column top to bottom:**  
 March/April 1993, "Across the  
 High Atlas"  
 Photo by David Melody



January/February 2003, "Agadez:  
 Sultanate of Sahara"  
 Photo by Kevin Bubriski



January/February 2008, "Hearts of  
 the New Silk Roads"  
 Photo by Kevin Bubriski

**Opposite:**  
 For this special issue,  
 AramcoWorld conducted  
 nearly 300 interviews in seven  
 countries—spanning Beirut and  
 Jiddah, Saudi Arabia—to shed  
 light on the lives of women  
 across the Arab world.

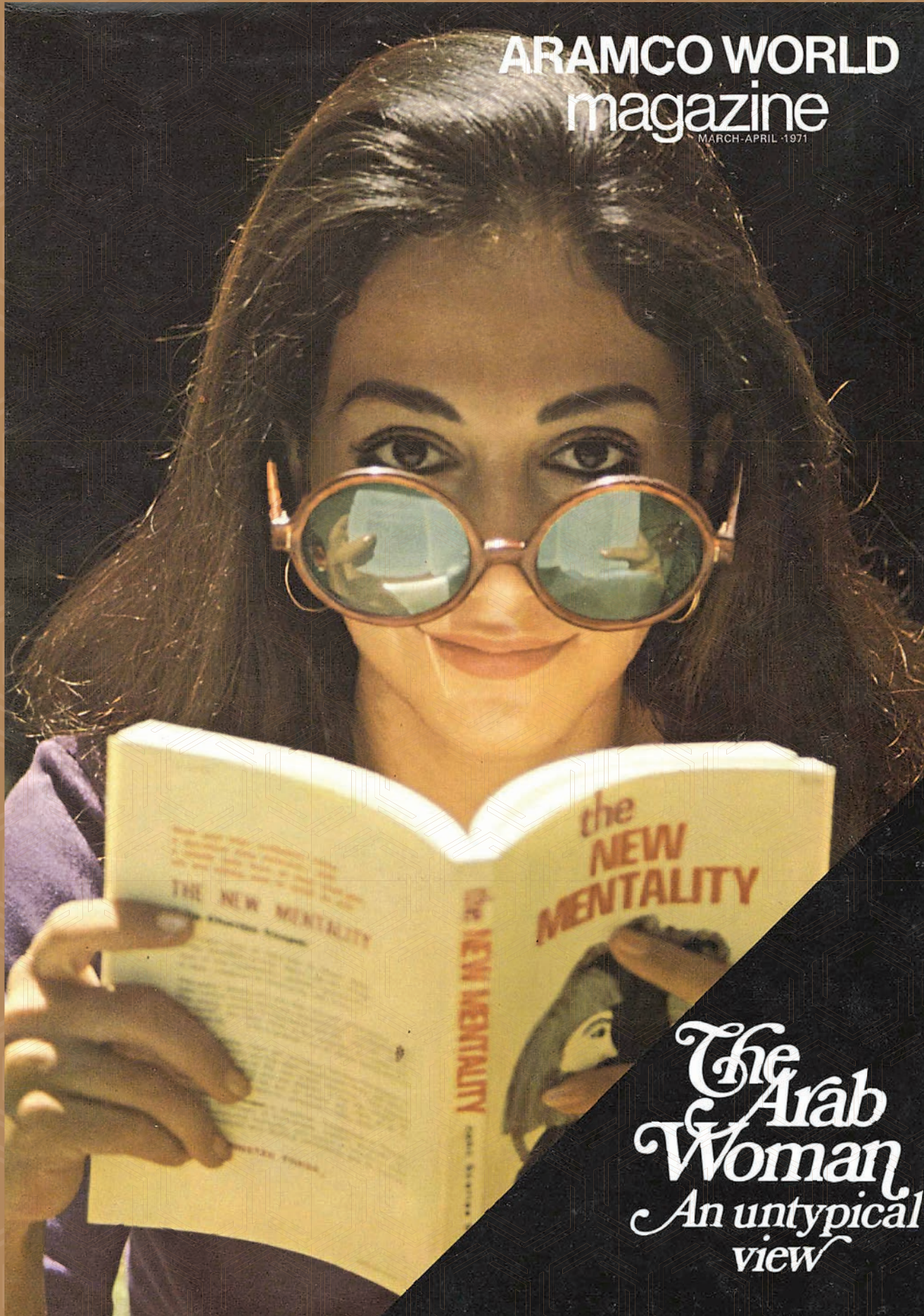
March/April 1971, "The Arab  
 Woman: An Untypical View"  
 Photo by Nik Wheeler





ARAMCO WORLD  
magazine

MARCH-APRIL 1971



*The Arab  
Woman  
An untypical  
view*



# ARAMCO WORLD magazine

MARCH-APRIL 1981



## Formula One

ARABIC AND  
THE ART OF PRINTING  
A SPECIAL SECTION



**Opposite:**

March/April 1981, "Formula One"  
Photo by Michael Turner

**Second column top to bottom:**

March/April 2020, "Sepak Takraw Takes Flight"  
Photo by Beawiharta

September/October 2003, "History's Curve"  
Photo by David H. Wells

May/June 1986, "Khalifa on the Bat"  
Photo by Brian Clark

**Third column top to bottom:**

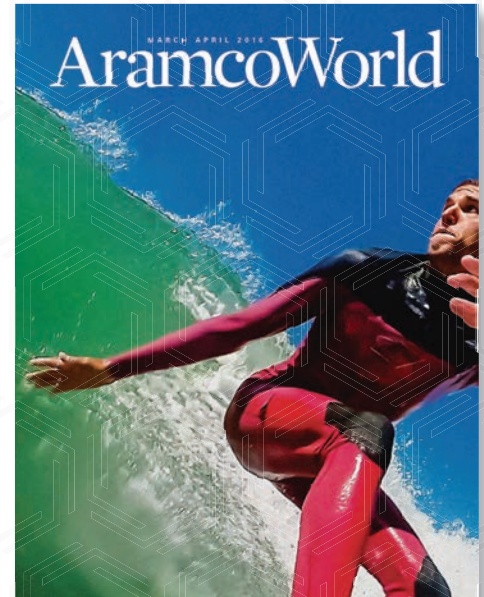
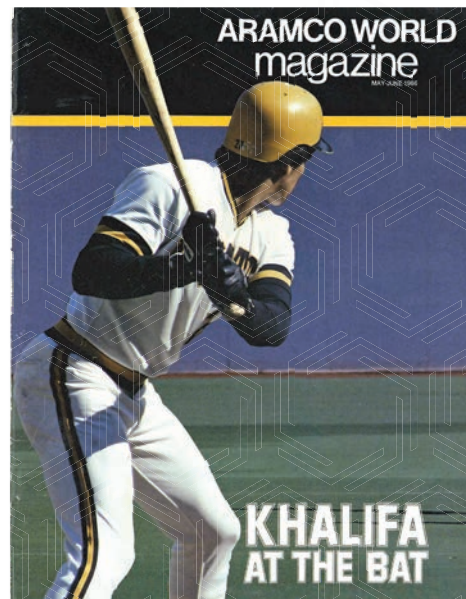
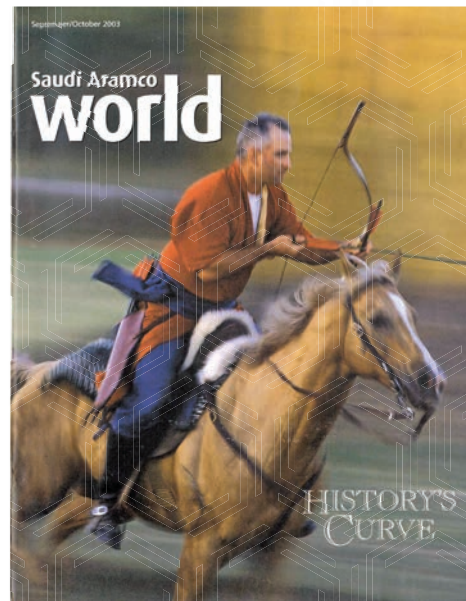
March/April 2016, "Morocco's New Wave"  
Photo by Toni Öyry

March/April 2007, "Doha's Grand Games"  
Photo courtesy of Getty Images



**Above:**

Summer 1972, "Football Arabian Style"  
Photo by S. M. Amin

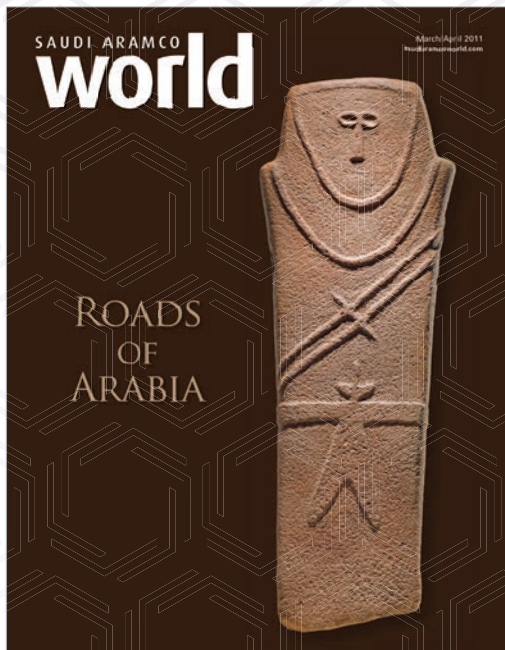






Three thousand years ago this winged stone creature adorned a palace in Assyria, the empire that vanished under the sands.





**Right:**

Sculpted at the dawn of the Bronze Age some 5,000 years ago, this funerary stele found near Ha'il, Saudi Arabia, shows a man wearing a dagger in his waistband—a custom that can still be found in parts of the Arabian Peninsula today.

March/April 2011, "Roads of Arabia"

Photo courtesy of SCTA

**Opposite:**

September 1953, "Assyria: An Empire in Stone"

Photo by Carl von Hoffman

# HISTORY

In today's fast-paced, emergent and diverse world, it's easy to forget how we got here in the first place. Some of the earliest civilizations, in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, nurtured various aspects of human development upon which later empires and nations built.

*AramcoWorld* over the years has explored ancient and more recent history through archeology, objects, pioneers and their journeys, with the aim of drawing connections between our past and present. And those stories were often featured on our covers.

Stories about history also have enabled us to educate readers through diverse narratives and perspectives of underrepresented voices across the world.

Archeological discoveries of artifacts in Saudi Arabia, as featured in "Discovery at al-Magar" (2012) and "Milestones to Makkah and Madinah" (2021) gave us an understanding of the lesser-known history of the Arabian Peninsula.

"Pieces of the Past: Mértola, Portugal Rediscovered

its Islamic Roots" (2024) shows another dimension of Arab history in Europe and the intersection between civilizations.

*AramcoWorld* has also offered numerous details about the ancient world. "A Hidden Beauty" (1978) analyzed limestone, sandstone and granite that ancient Egyptians utilized in their grandiose structures. That same year "Ebla: City of the White Stones" explored one of the earliest kingdoms in Syria.

Our stories ask questions, like, "What were the beginnings of our professions?" In "Our Work: Modern Jobs, Ancient Origins" (2014) we find that Egyptians ca. 1600 BCE had policing similar to our world today, and Akkadians ca. 2220 BCE already had fashion designers.

Historical objects give us clues about those who lived before us. "The Game of Kings" (2009) explores the history of chess across cultures from Central and South Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Explorers provided accounts throughout history. Ibn



Battuta, the most traveled explorer in pre-modern history, was often featured in *AramcoWorld*. Originally from Tangier, North Africa, he began his 30-year journey with a pilgrimage to Makkah, as explained in “The Longest Hajj: The Journey of Ibn Battuta” (2000), and ended up in East Asia. He eventually provided some of the most important accounts of social, cultural and political history of the lands he visited.

The stories we have covered not only bridge the past and present but connect us to one another. As a publication we will continue our own journey of historical exploration.

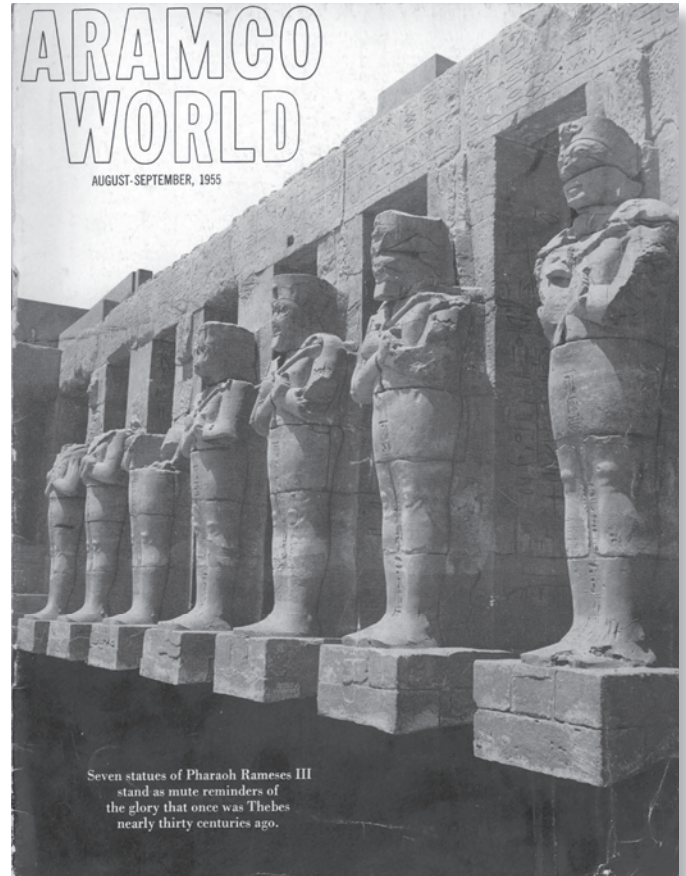
**Top left to right:**

March/April 1976, “The French Description”

Engraving courtesy of Publishers of Splendor of Egypt

August/September 1955, “Thebes: Wonder City of Ancient Egypt”

Photo by T. F. Walters



**Bottom left to right:**

September/October 1978, “A Hidden Beauty”

Photo by John Feeney

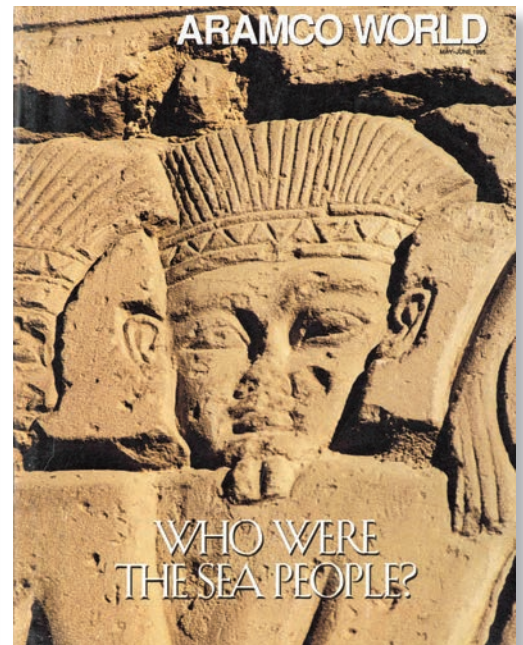
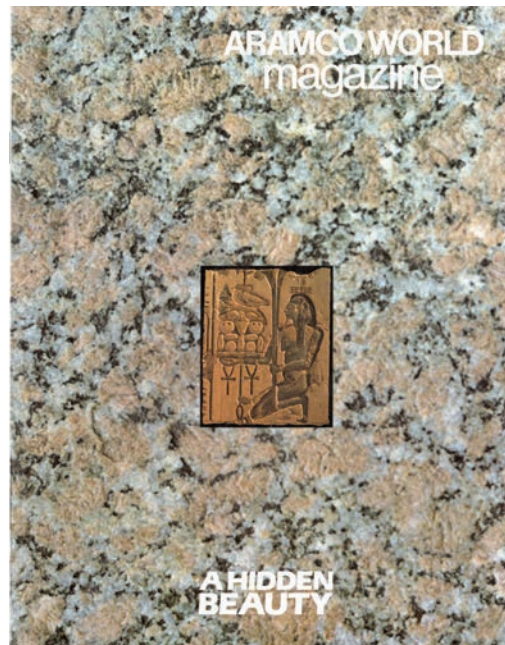
May/June 1995, “Who Were the Sea People?”

Photo by Andreas Wolfensberger

**Opposite:**

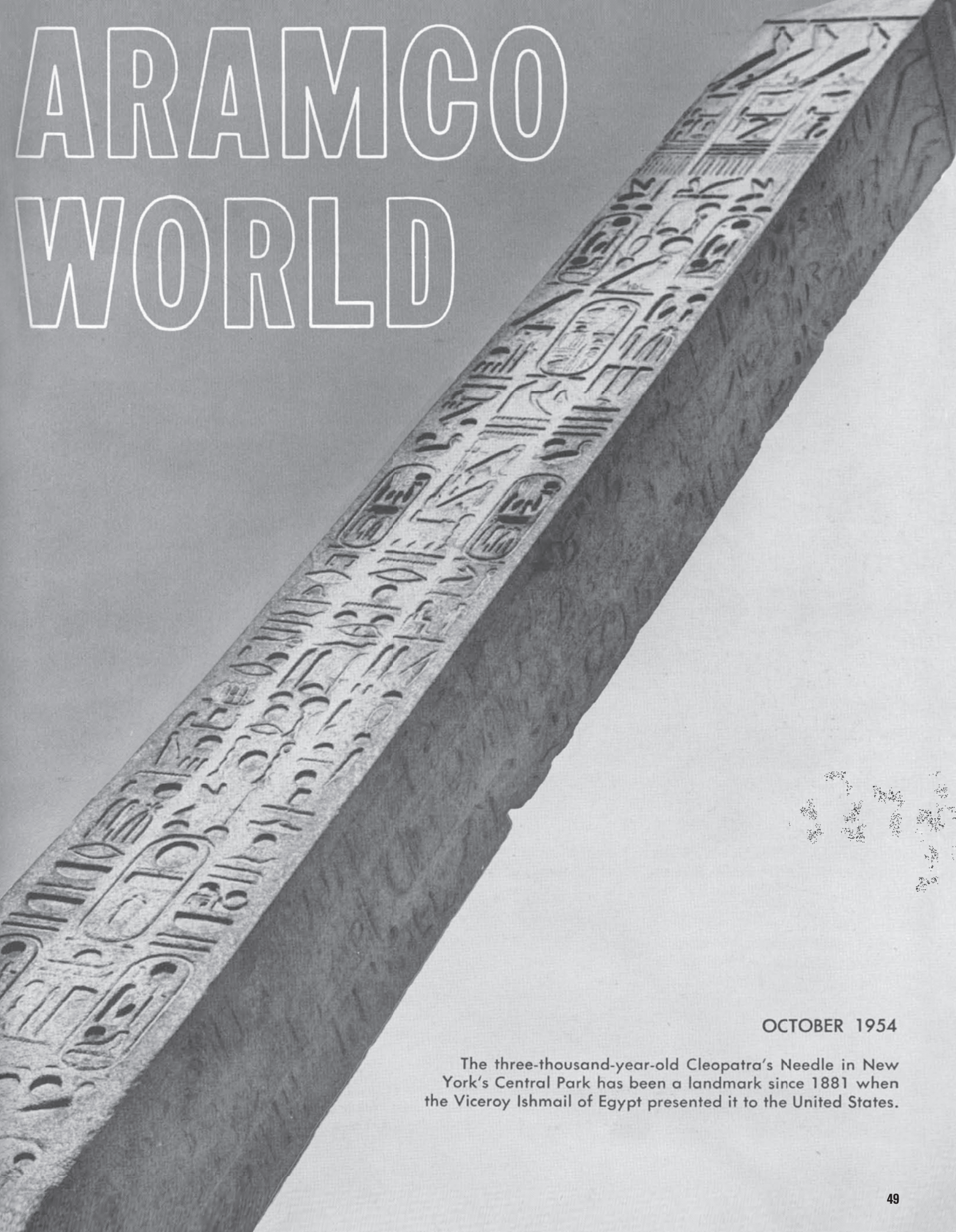
October 1954, “Egyptian Obelisks”

Photo by Carl von Hoffman





# ARAMCO WORLD



OCTOBER 1954

The three-thousand-year-old Cleopatra's Needle in New York's Central Park has been a landmark since 1881 when the Viceroy Ishmail of Egypt presented it to the United States.



# ARAMCO WORLD magazine

MARCH-APRIL 1980



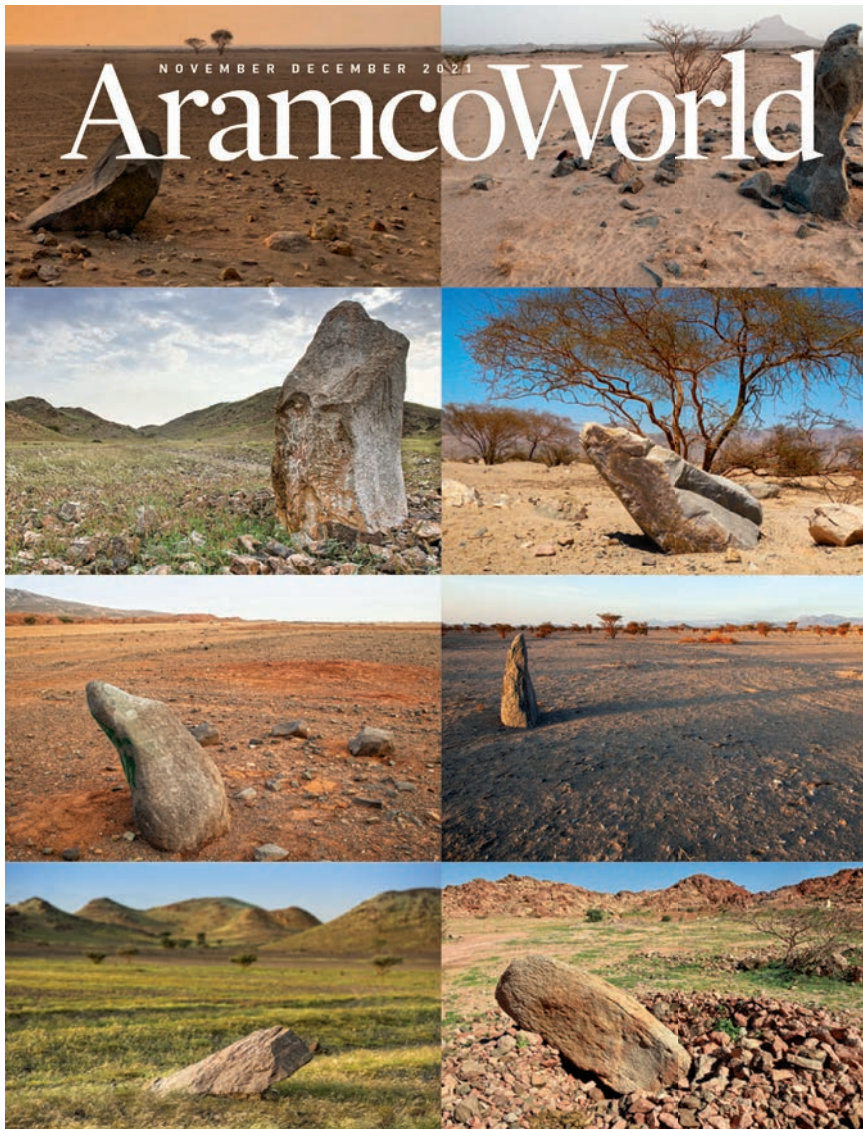
## The New Historians



**Opposite:**

March/April 1980, "The New Historians"

Illustration by Michael Grimsdale

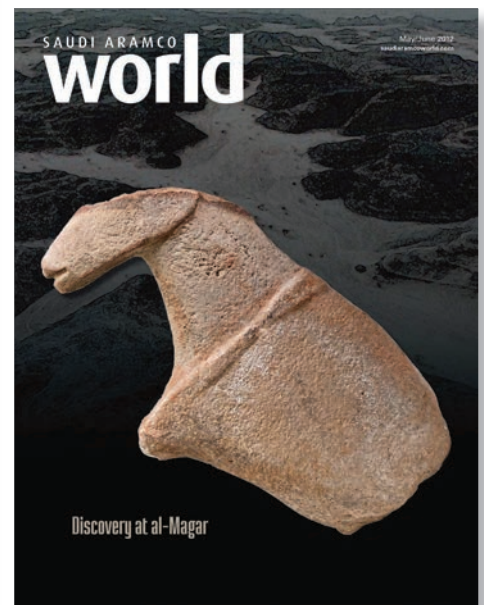


**Above:**

In 622 CE the Prophet Muhammad and his first followers rode some 450 kilometers from Makkah to Madinah for the journey of Hijra, along a segment of the caravan route that had long linked the Arabian Peninsula to North Africa and the Levant. In 2005 the discovery of an isolated monolith led to a 15-year archeological quest that has identified 55 stones that appear to pre-date the ninth century CE.

November/December 2021, "Milestones to Makkah and Madinah"

Photos by Peter Sanders (7) and Abrar Alkadi (left, upper center)



**Above top to bottom:**

March/April 2001, "New Doors to the Kingdom"

Photo by Brown W. Cannon III

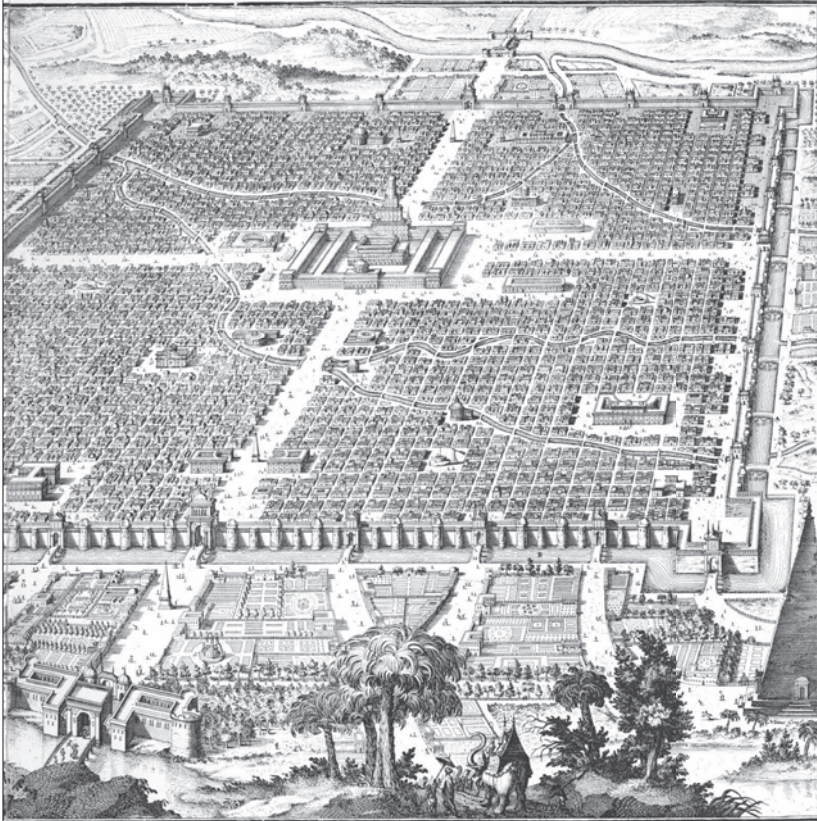
May/June 2012, "Discovery at al-Magar"

Photo courtesy of SCTA



# Aramco World

FEBRUARY 1962



*Ancient Nineveh*

**Left:**

An old Dutch engraving depicts Nineveh as the Assyrian capital as it might have appeared in the eighth century BCE, near what is now the city of Mosul in northern Iraq. Nineveh was also the oldest and most populous city of the Assyrian empire.

February 1962, "Ancient Nineveh"

Photo courtesy of Culver Pictures, Inc.

**Below left to right:**

March/April 1978, "Ebla: City of the White Stones"

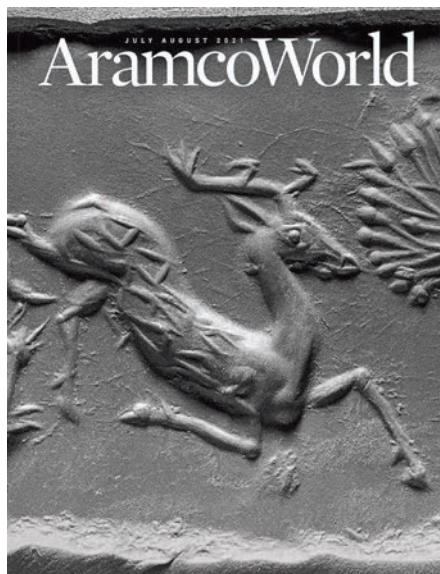
Photo by Tor Eigeland

July/August 2021, "Mesopotamia's Art of the Seal"

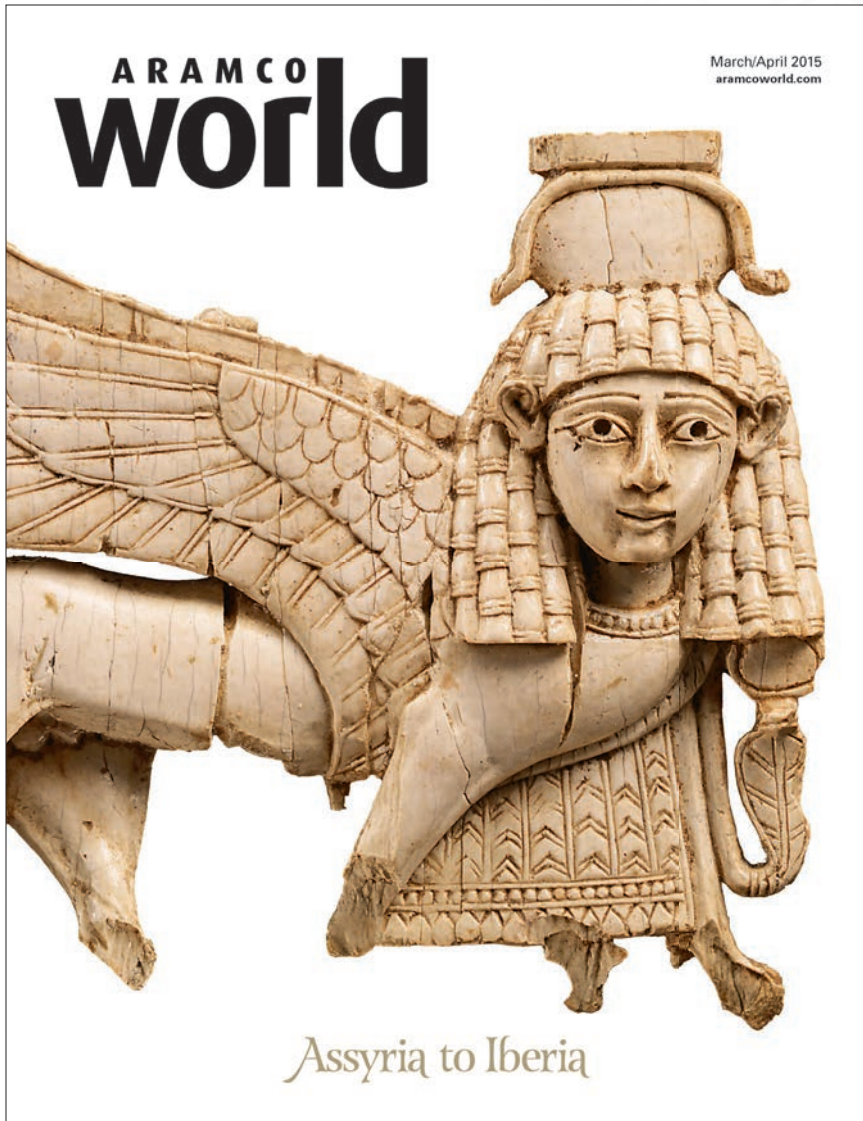
Photo courtesy of The Morgan Library & Museum

September/October 1964, "Byblos: Middleman of History"

Photo by B. H. Moody and Khalil Abou El-Nasr





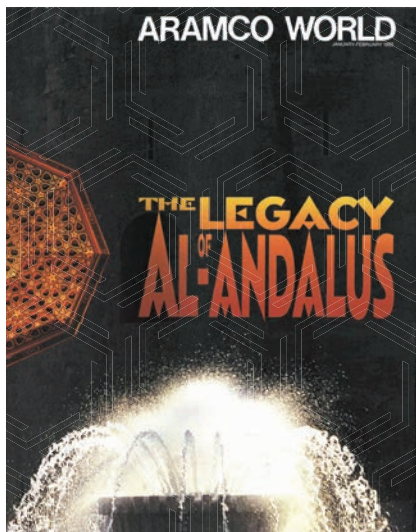


Left:

From Nimrud, in what is now Iraq, this openwork plaque with a striding winged sphinx and a solar disc crown elegantly exemplifies the diffusion and adaptation of Egyptian symbols north and east during the early first millennium BCE. It was around 600 BCE when a goldsmith migrated from Phoenicia, along the eastern Mediterranean coast, west to the metal-rich island of Sardinia, and there, he combined and reinterpreted several Egyptian symbols to make this plaque. Both his move and his craft were part of the flow of trade, arts and cultures that defined much in the pre-classical Mediterranean and Near East.

March/April 2015, "Assyria to Iberia"

Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art



Left to right:

January/February 1993, "The Legacy of al-Andalus"

Photo by Roland and Sabrina Michaud

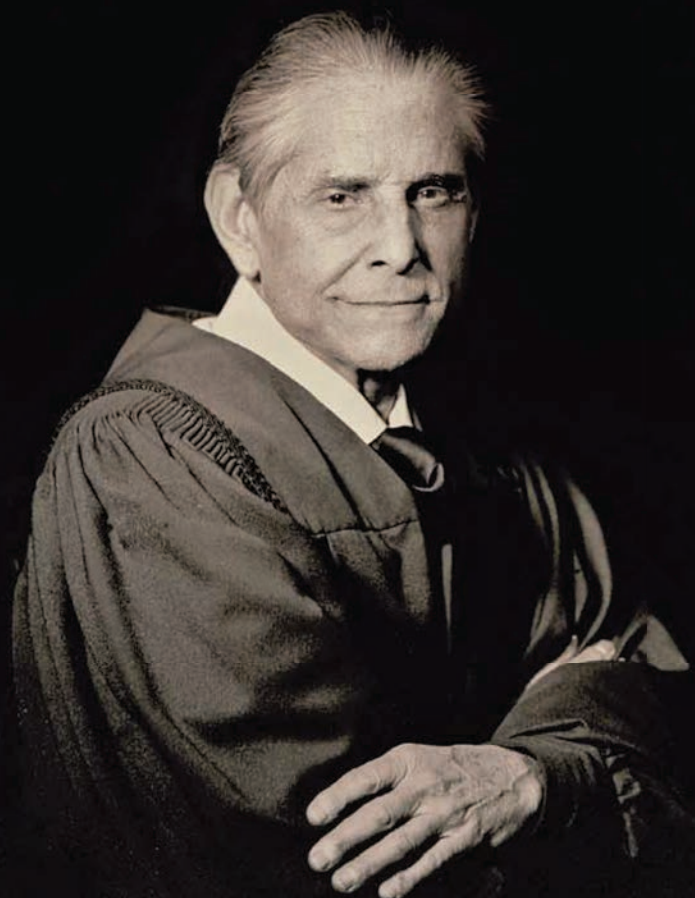
July/August 2024, "Pieces of the Past"

Photo by Tara Todras-Whitehill



SAUDI ARAMCO  
**world**

January/February 2014  
saudiaramcoworld.com



**OUR** Modern  
Jobs  
Ancient  
Origins **WORK**



**Opposite:**

Justice John B. Simon of the Illinois Appellate Court poses alongside a cast of a stele inscribed in 18th-century BCE Iraq. "Past and present are fused by the similarity of the Code of Hammurabi and the laws of today. Both make the law the sublimator of conflicts."

January/February 2014, "Our Work: Modern Jobs—Ancient Origins"

Photo by Jason Reblando

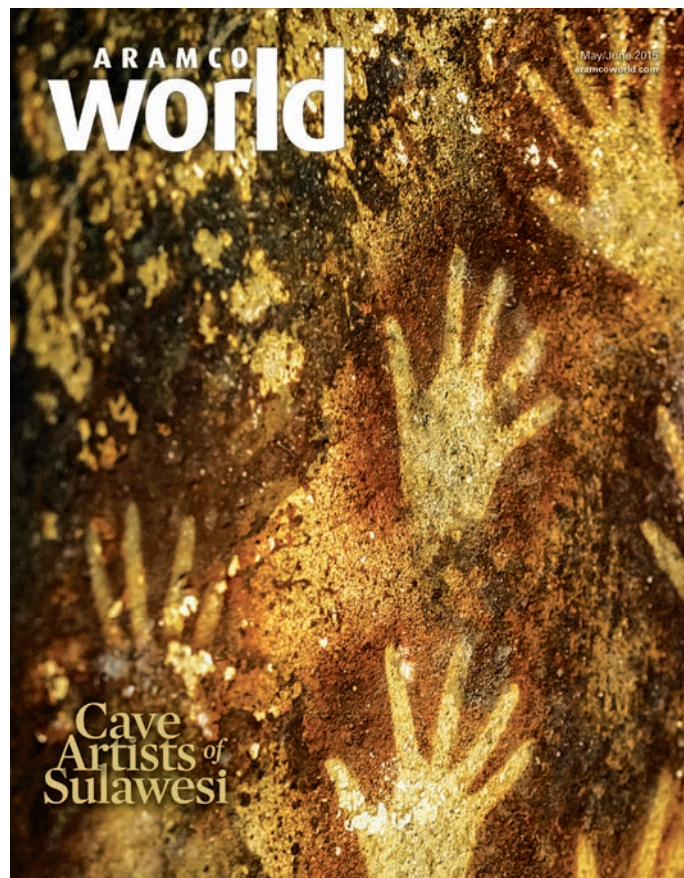


**Left:**

In about 1450, the volcano Kuwae exploded in a cataclysmic Plinian eruption that blew some 35 cubic kilometers of rock and dust into the air. It is possible that South Pacific islanders were not the only ones affected: The aftermath of the eruption may have caused the ominous dark eclipse, flaming skies and frightening weather that "foretold" the fall of Constantinople, half a world away.

November/December 1996, "1453: Kuwae and Constantinople"

Illustration by David A. Hardy



**Left:**

Painted by blowing ochre-based pigment over a hand, stencil paintings in more than 100 South Sulawesi caves vary in age from some 10,000 to nearly 40,000 years old, and alongside many of them are images of animals and fish that are just as old.

May/June 2015, "Cave Artists of Sulawesi"

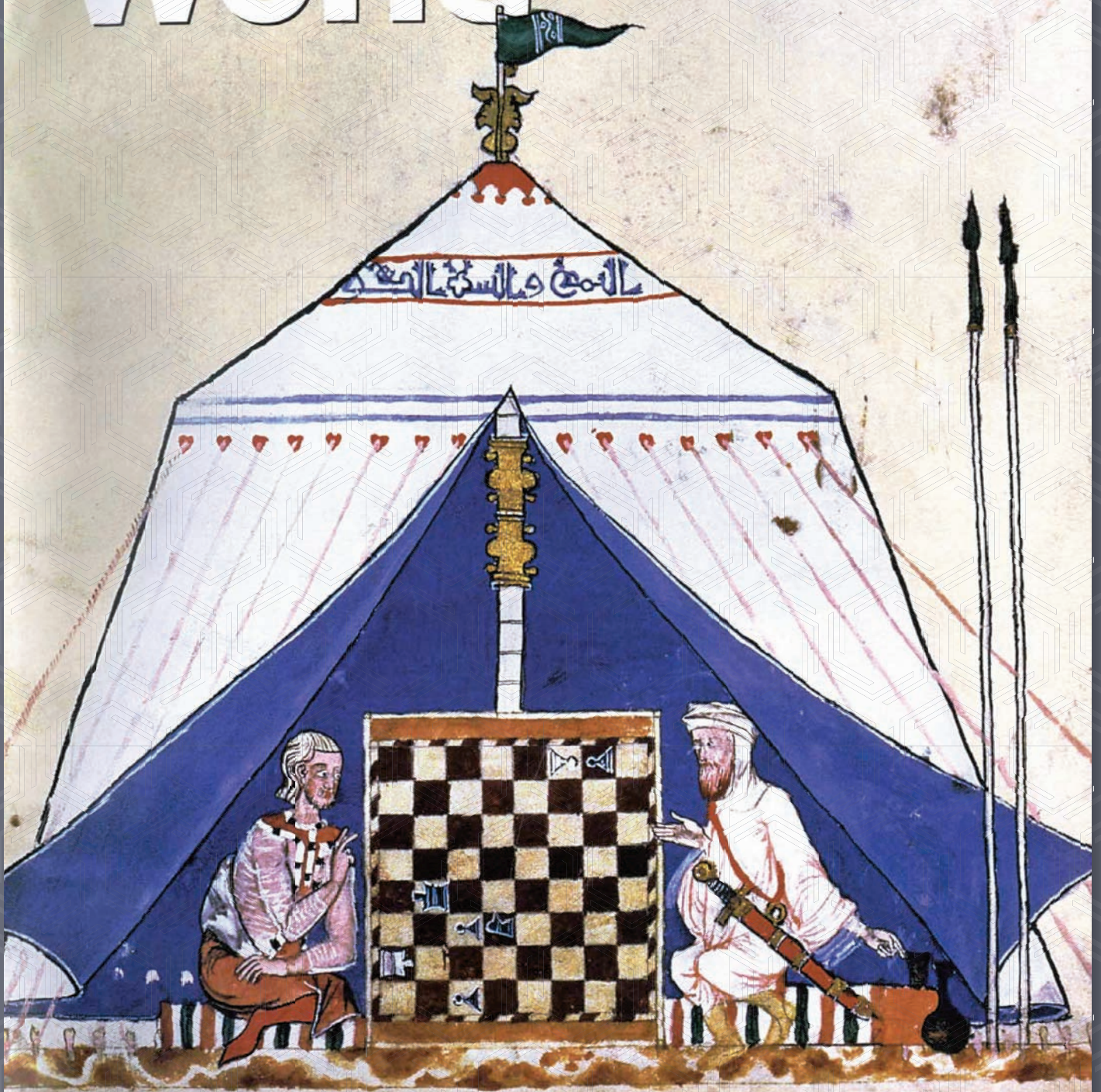
Photo by Meridith Kohut



SAUDI ARAMCO

# World

July/August 2009  
saudiaramcoworld.com



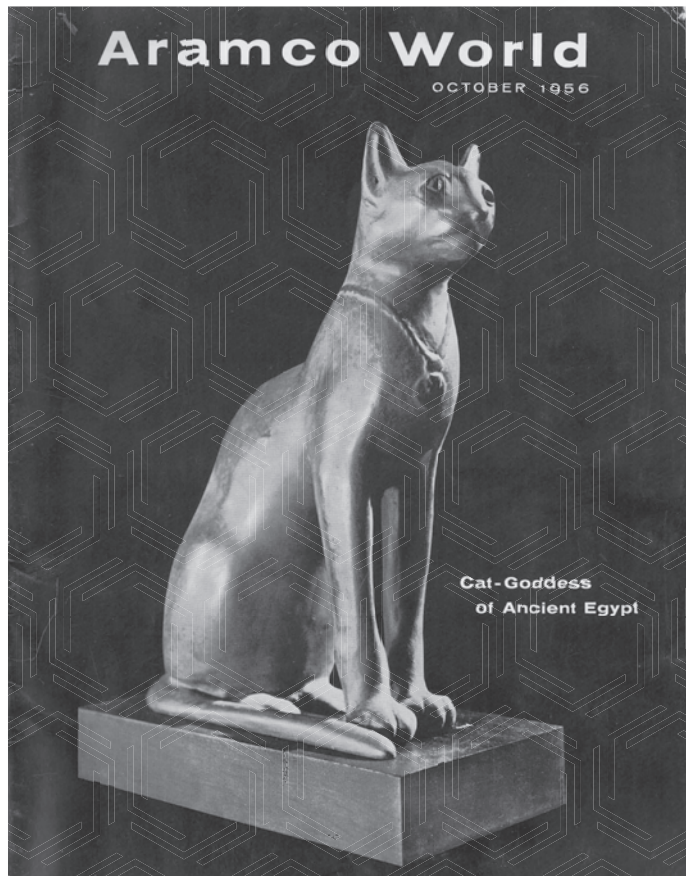
*The Game of Kings*



**Opposite:**

July/August 2009, "The Game of Kings"

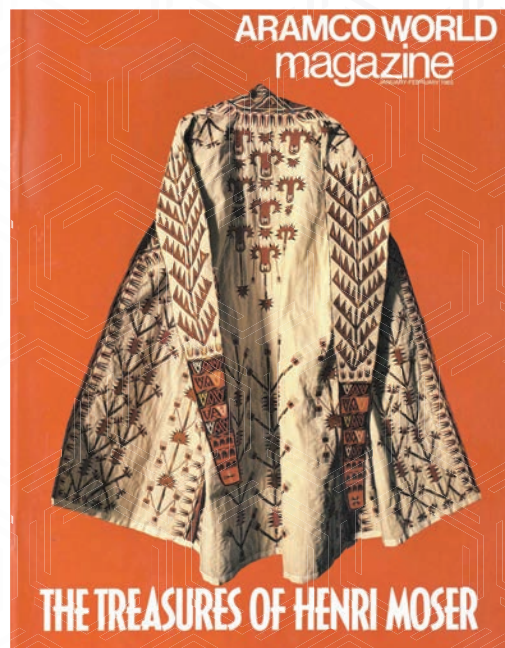
Illustration courtesy of Biblioteca Monasterio del Escorial/Index/Bridgeman Art Library



**Above:**

October 1956, "Cat-Goddess of Ancient Egypt"

Photo by Carl von Hoffman



**Above top:**

This cover features an illustration depicting *The Black Horse* or *The Flying Horse* from Scheherezade's *Arabian Nights* tales. It highlights the history of these famous stories that were featured on postage stamps in the United Arab Emirates.

September/October 1977, "The Return of Scheherezade"

**Above bottom:**

January/February 1985, "The Treasures of Henri Moser"

Photo by Tor Eigeland



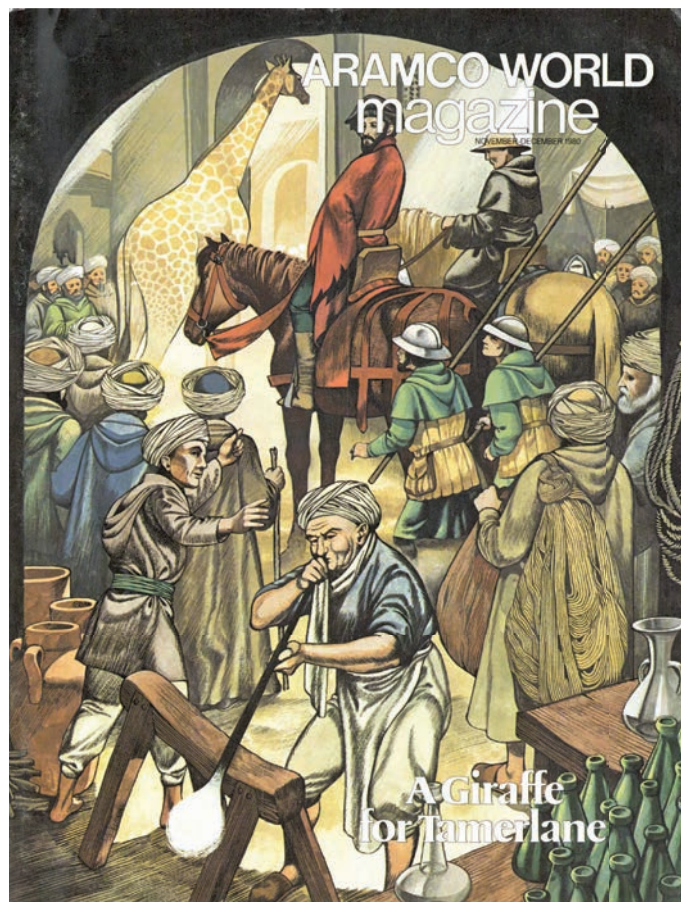
**Right top:**

November/December 2001, "The Polish Quest for Arabian Horses"  
Painting by Kazimierz Zwan, National Museum of Warsaw  
Photo by Teresa Żółtowska-Huszczka



**Right bottom:**

November/December 1980, "A Giraffe for Tamerlane"  
Illustration by Neville Mardell



**Opposite:**

To American novelist John Dos Passos, materialism and hypocrisy were the great faults of his own society, and honesty, freedom and self-reliance the great virtues of desert life. When he joined a camel caravan to cross the Syrian desert in 1921, Dos Passos found his traveling companions "the finest people I had ever met," and the desert itself he found harsh, cleansing, invigorating and inspiring.

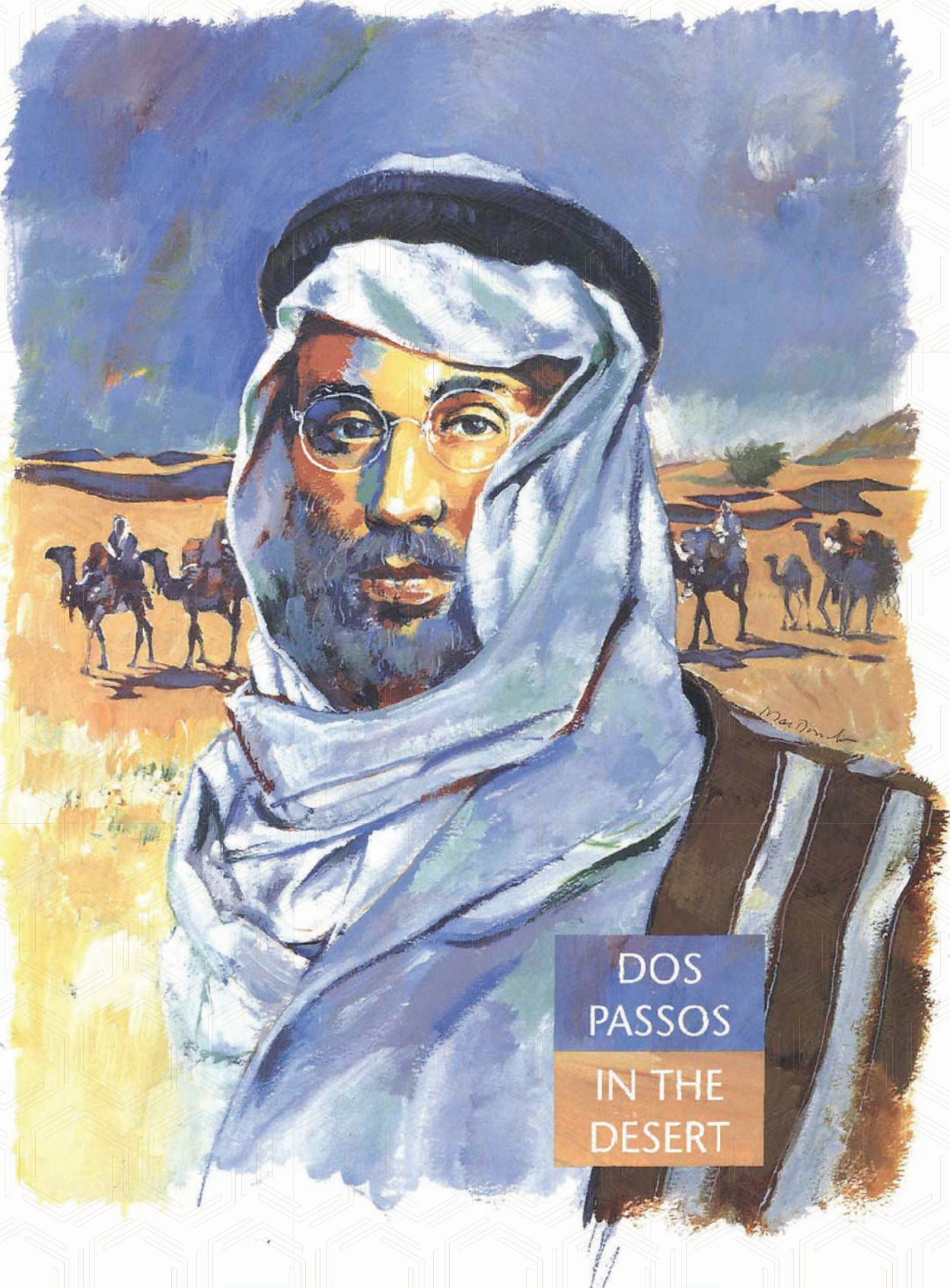
July/August 1997, "Dos Passos in the Desert"

Illustration by Norman MacDonald



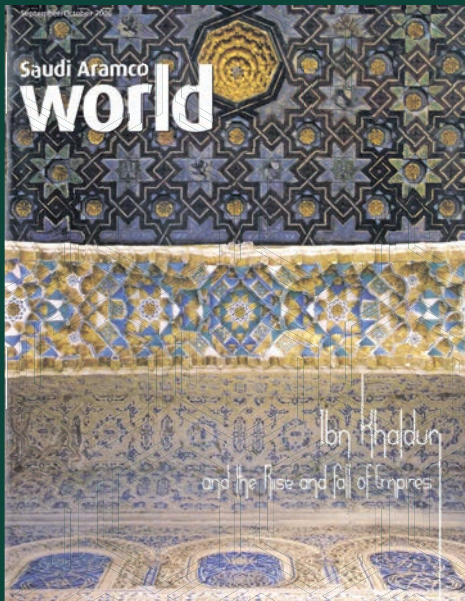
# ARAMCO WORLD

JULY/AUGUST 1997



DOS  
PASSOS  
IN THE  
DESERT

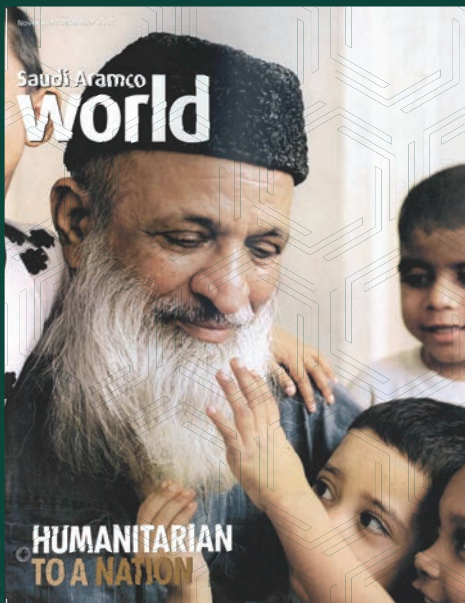




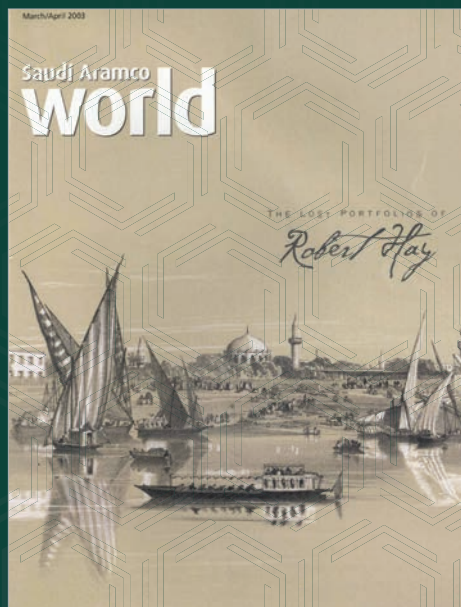
Left top to bottom:  
November/December 1978,  
"The Expeditions of Chaillé-Long"  
Photo by Vanessa Stamford



March/April 2003, "The Lost  
Portfolios of Robert Hay"  
Illustration by Robert Hay, copied  
by Owen Carter and recopied on  
stone by J. C. Bourne, courtesy of  
the British Library



Above top to bottom:  
September/October 2006, "Ibn  
Khaldun and the Rise and Fall of  
Empires"  
Photo by Richard Doughty/Saudi  
Aramco World/PADIA



November/December 2004,  
"Humanitarian to a Nation"  
Photo by Shahidul Alam/DRIC



# ARAMCO WORLD

January—February 1965



**Above:**

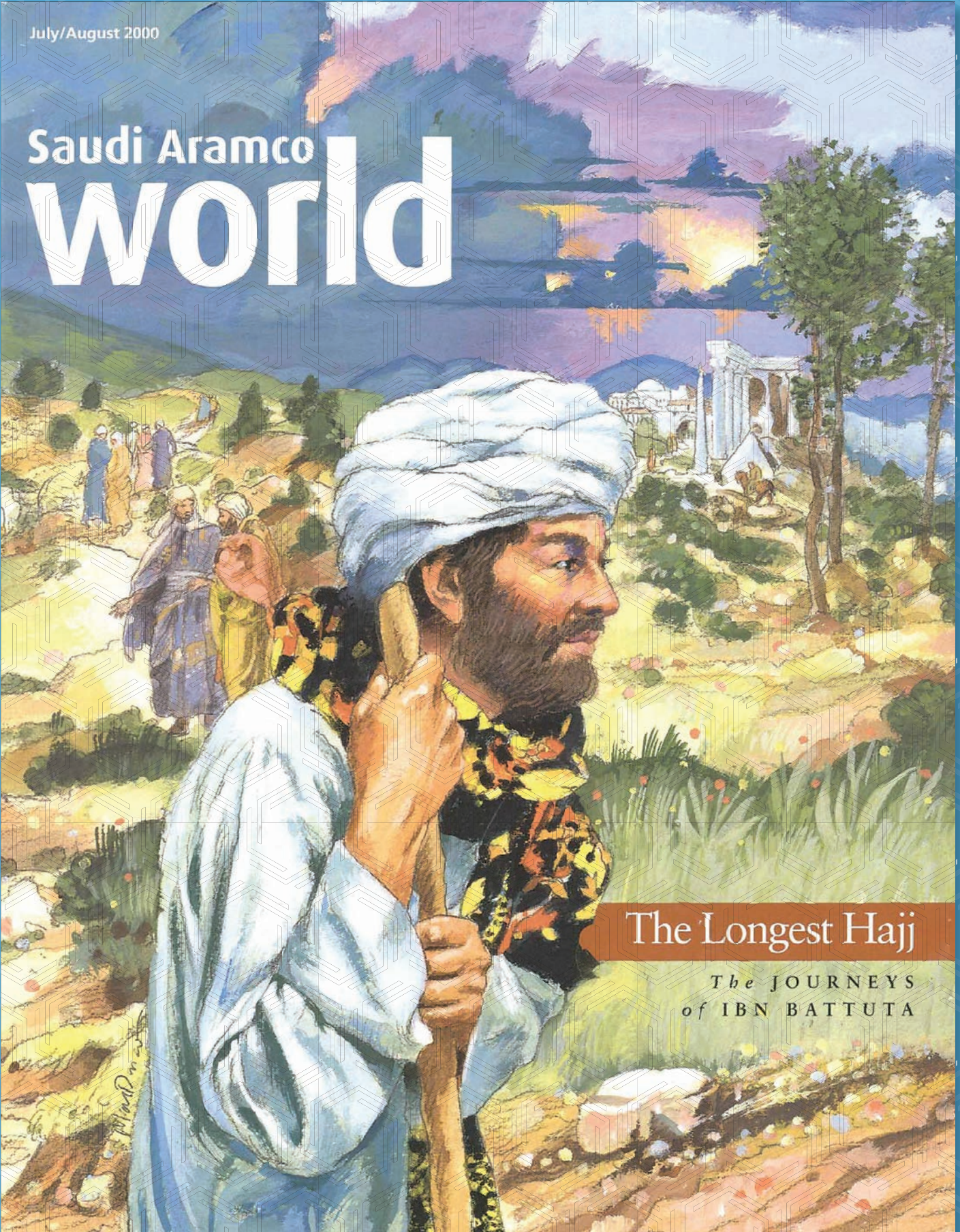
January/February 1965, "To Light a Flame" featuring King 'Abd al-'Aziz, also known as Ibn Saud, who was the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Illustration by Sydney King



July/August 2000

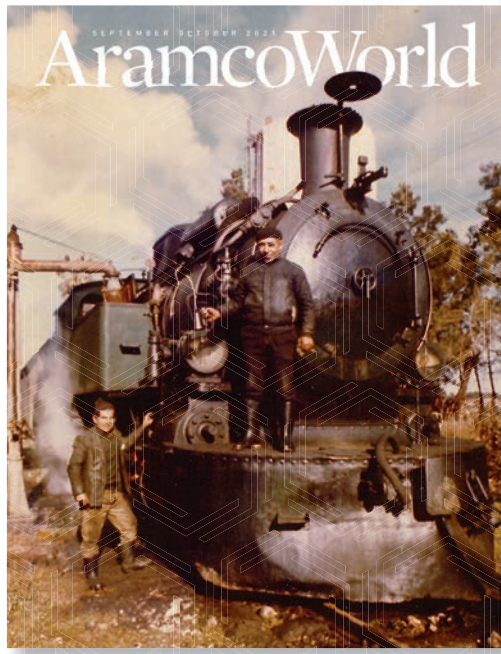
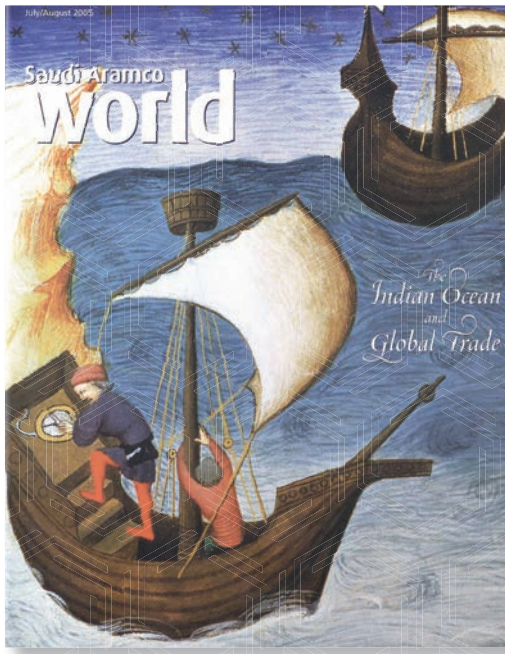
# Saudi Aramco World



## The Longest Hajj

*The JOURNEYS  
of IBN BATTUTA*





**Top left to right:**

July/August 2005, "The Indian Ocean and Global Trade"

Illustration by Bibliothèque Nationale/Bridgeman

September/October 2021, "Rust and Dreams on the Beirut-Damascus Railroad"

Photo by Train/Norbert Schiller



**Bottom left to right:**

May/June 2005, "The World of His Choice"

Photo by Wilfred Thesiger/Pitt Rivers Museum

September/October 1986, "The Arab Immigrants"

Montage designed by Peter Keenan  
Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

**Opposite:**

Though Ibn Battuta traveled some 120,000 kilometers and dealt with princes and pirates, he was by training and profession a scholar of Islamic law.

As he roamed three continents, he earned his living, and a growing reputation, as a judge, advisor and diplomat in the service of local rulers; survived piracy, shipwreck and royal disfavor; and saw more of the world than anyone else in his time. When he finally returned to Morocco, the memoirs he dictated became a turning point in Arab literature.

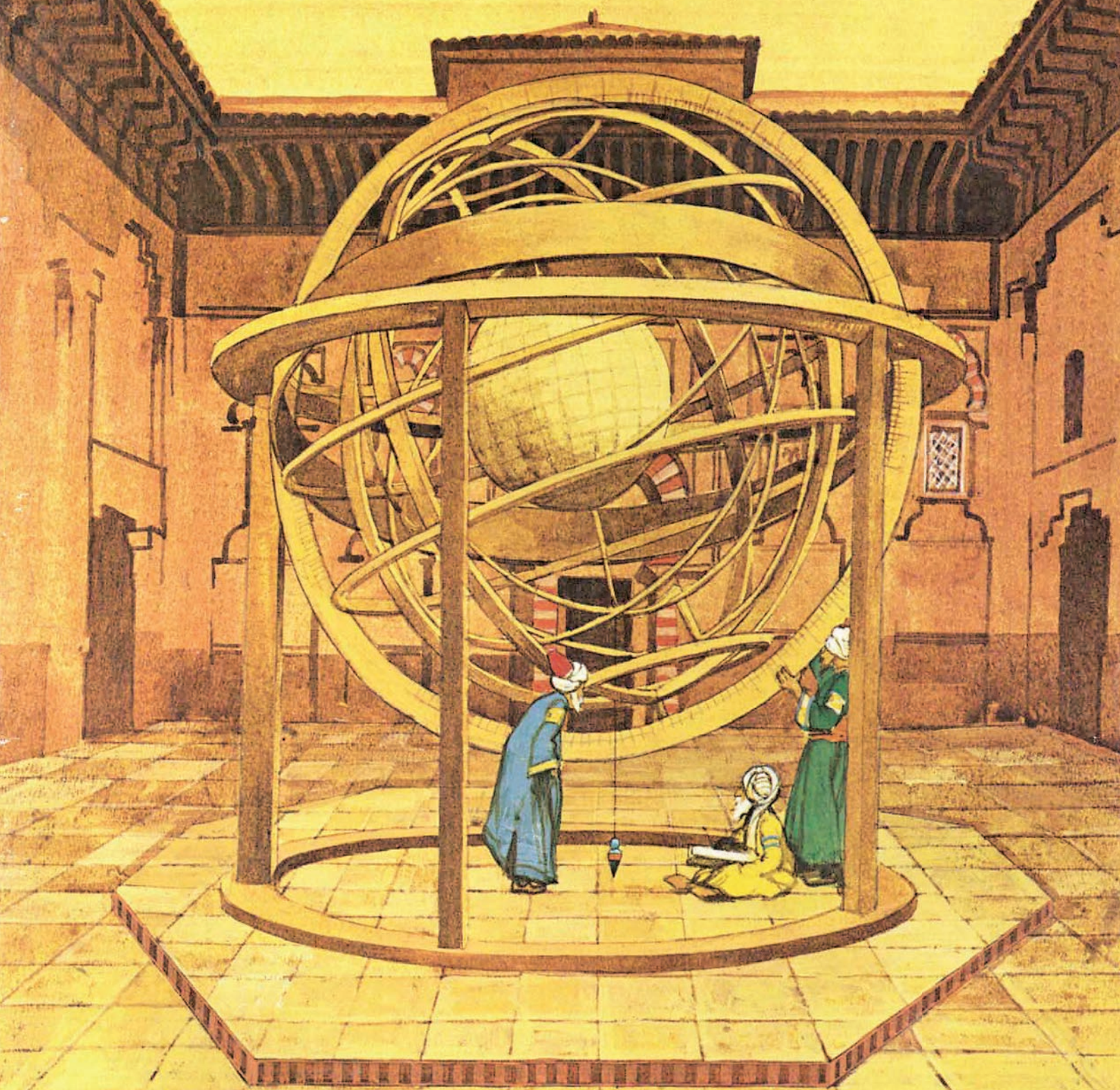
July/August 2000, "The Longest Hajj: The Journeys of Ibn Battuta"

Illustration by Norman MacDonald



# ARAMCO WORLD magazine

MAY-JUNE 1982



## Science : The Islamic Legacy

*Ginsale*





**Opposite:**

In Spain, Islam’s Golden Age was at first imitated, then exceeded, as scholars poured in from the Muslim east. One example is the ninth-century scholar ‘Abbas ibn Firnas who experimented with flight 699 years before Leonardo da Vinci and constructed a planetarium in which the planets revolved. This reconstruction by Michael Grimsdale, based on descriptions dating to that era, suggests the elaborate gearing that Ibn Firnas had to have developed.

May/June 1982, “Science: The Islamic Legacy”

Illustration by Michael Grimsdale

**Left:**

The first historical reference to science on an *AramcoWorld* cover.

August 1952, “Leonardo da Vinci”

# SCIENCE & INNOVATION

The quest for knowledge spans societies and the ages. To boost cross-cultural understanding, *AramcoWorld* has shared scientific traditions, particularly from the Arab and Muslim world, that throughout history have advanced astronomy, mathematics, physics, medicine and more to the benefit of people around the globe from prehistoric times to today.

And over time, *AramcoWorld* has brought readers closer to the innovations across scientific disciplines.

The cover of our special issue “Science: The Islamic Legacy” (1982) showcased one example of the Islamic Golden Age of discovery. It depicts ninth-century CE Andalusian polymath ‘Abbas ibn Firnas, who constructed a planetarium indicating the revolution of the planets. He experimented with flight some 600 years before Leonardo da Vinci, dabbled in chemistry and manufactured corrective lenses.

“Al-Idrisi and Roger’s Book” (1977) highlighted mapmaking techniques by Muslim geographer

Muhammad al-Idrisi, whose atlas, known as the *Tabula Rogeriana*, commissioned by King Roger II of Sicily in 1138 CE, is an example of scientific cooperation between Christians and Muslims at the time. It is considered one of the most significant works of medieval geography.

*AramcoWorld* covers have emphasized advancements that sprang from the 19th-century awakening in the special issue “Quest for Knowledge” (1969) and celebrated “The World of Mohamed Zakariya” (1992), who breathed new life into historical Islamic and early European scientific instruments.

Innovations in medicine appeared in “The Doctor Doesn’t Miss a Beat” (1995), about the work of Michael E. DeBakey, a pioneering American heart surgeon of Lebanese descent, in Houston, Texas. Another story, “Somaliland’s Midwife” (2021), shares the passion and heart of Edna Adan Ismaili, a nurse midwife, activist and politician who inspired female leaders in public service,

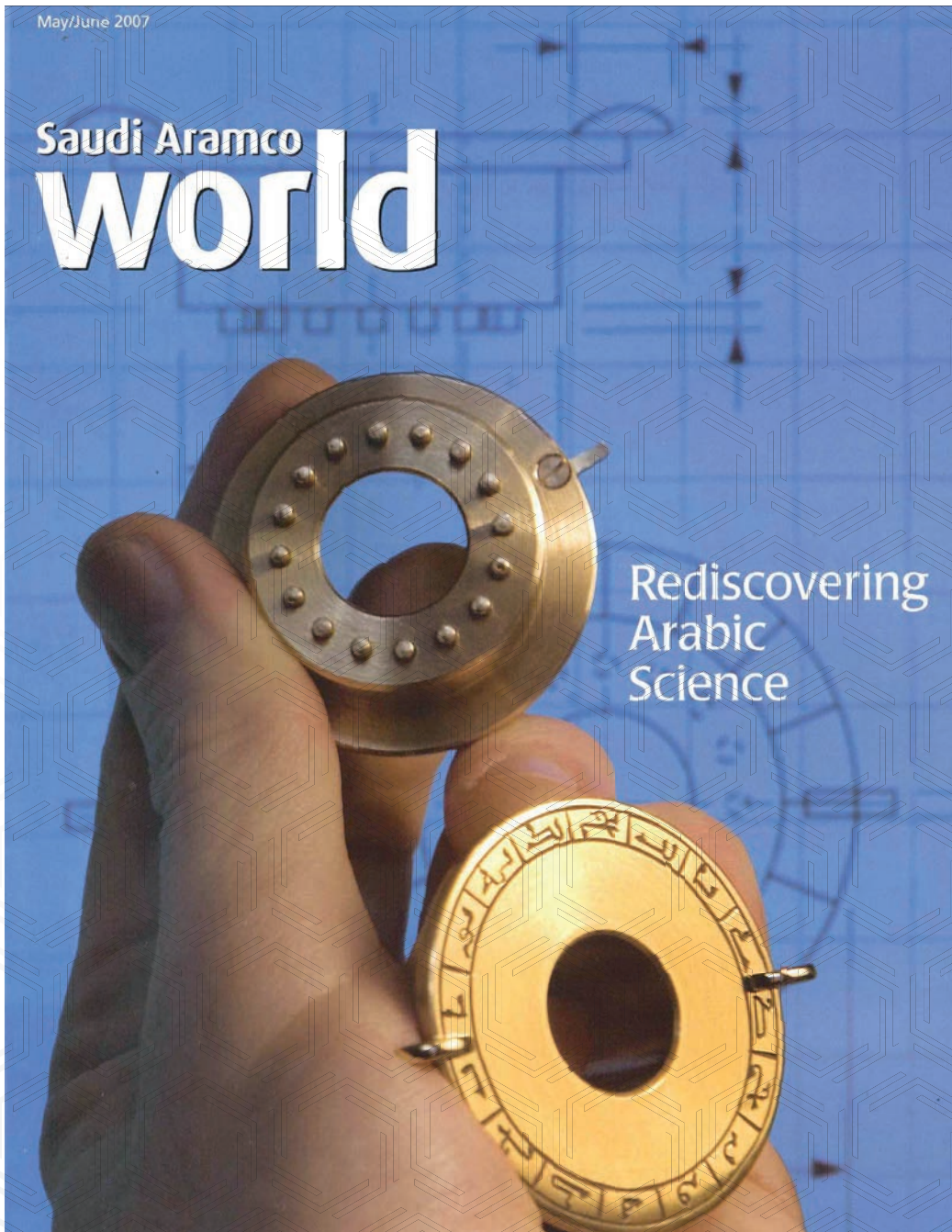


medicine, environmental conservation and even the arts.

We also tell the stories of those who dream beyond this world. "Arabs in Space" (1985) looked at the renaissance of scientific and technological learning that led to the first Arab satellite and the first Arab astronaut to ride a spaceship into orbit.

With current technological advancements, we

look forward not only to covering but also integrating innovation into our product. Notably, for a recent article, "The Promises and Challenges of AI for Arabic" (2024), *AramcoWorld* generated the cover with the help of artificial intelligence. Yet even as we explore new technological avenues, we remain dedicated to contextualizing historical scientific achievements and their relevance to our world today.



**Left:**

May/June 2007, "Rediscovering Arabic Science"  
Photo by Thorne Anderson

**Opposite:**

Under the patronage of King Roger II of Sicily, the great Arab geographer and cartographer Al-Idrisi spent 16 years producing the first scientific geography of the known world—*Roger's Book*. From the meticulous and unprecedented research also came a great map engraved on an 80-inch silver disk.

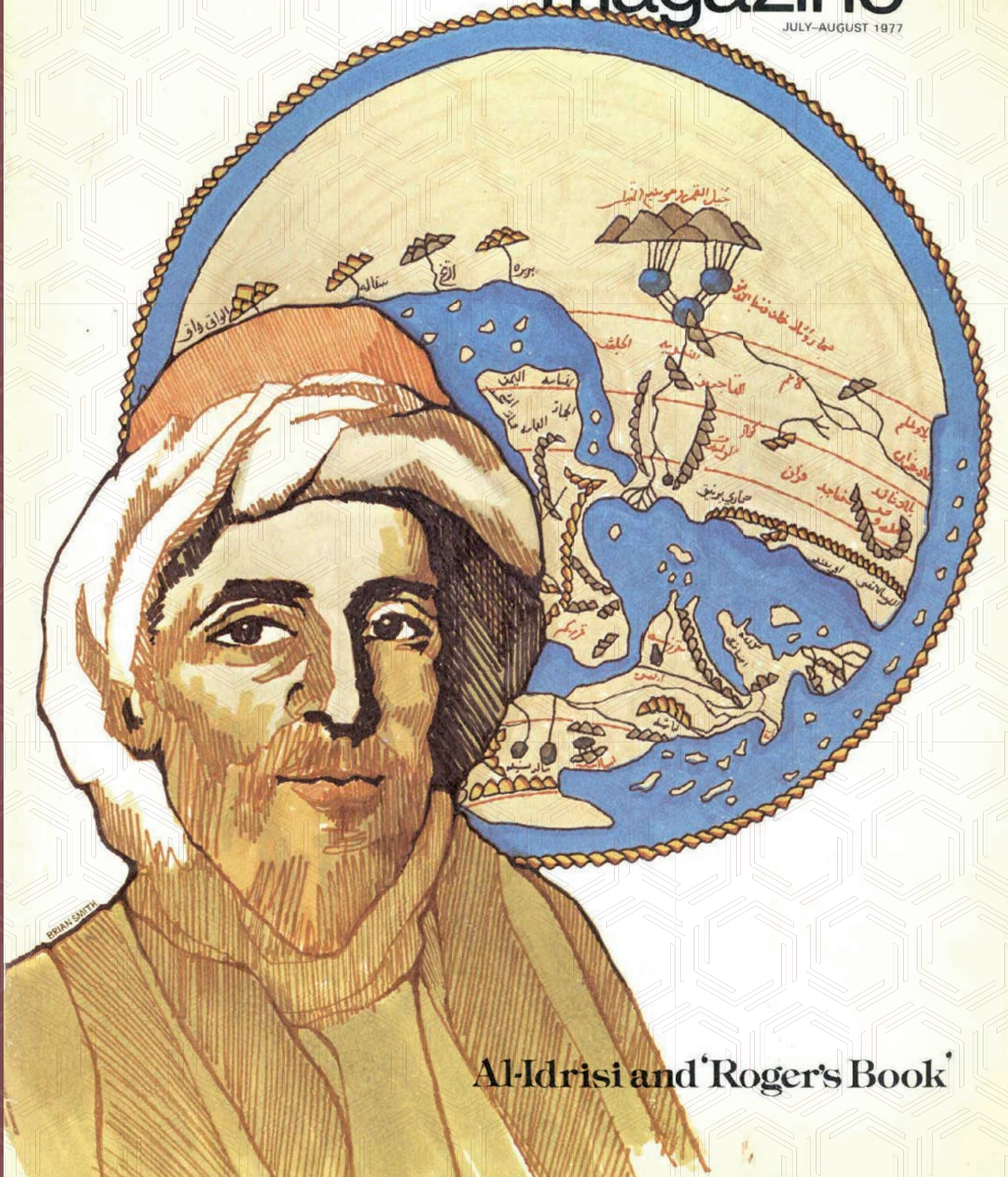
July/August 1977, "Al-Idrisi and 'Roger's Book'"

Illustration by Brian Smith



# ARAMCO WORLD magazine

JULY-AUGUST 1977



BRIAN SMITH

Al-Idrisi and 'Roger's Book'





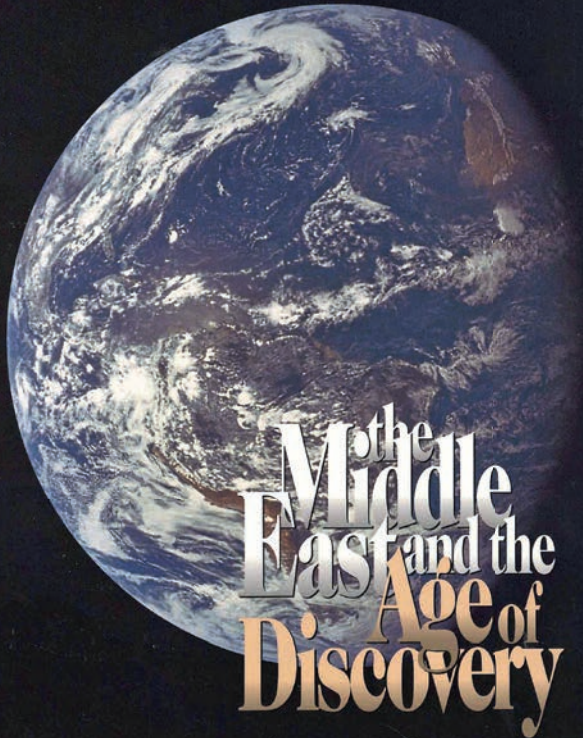
Above:

Persia became part of the Islamic world in 636 CE, and Arab rulers supported the medical school at Jundishapur, the old Sassanid capital of Persia. For the next 200 years, it was the greatest center of medical teaching in the Islamic world.

May/June 1997, "The Arab Roots of European Medicine"

Photo courtesy of Art Resource/Topkapi Palace Museum





**Above:**

The *Apollo 15* crew member who took this photograph from more than 25,000 miles up could see almost half the globe, including Cuba and the Bahama Banks, the Strait of Gibraltar and the Sahara, the Andes, the Canaries and the Azores; 500 years ago, from the tip of the *Santa Maria's* mast, Columbus's crew could see at most 20 miles in any direction.

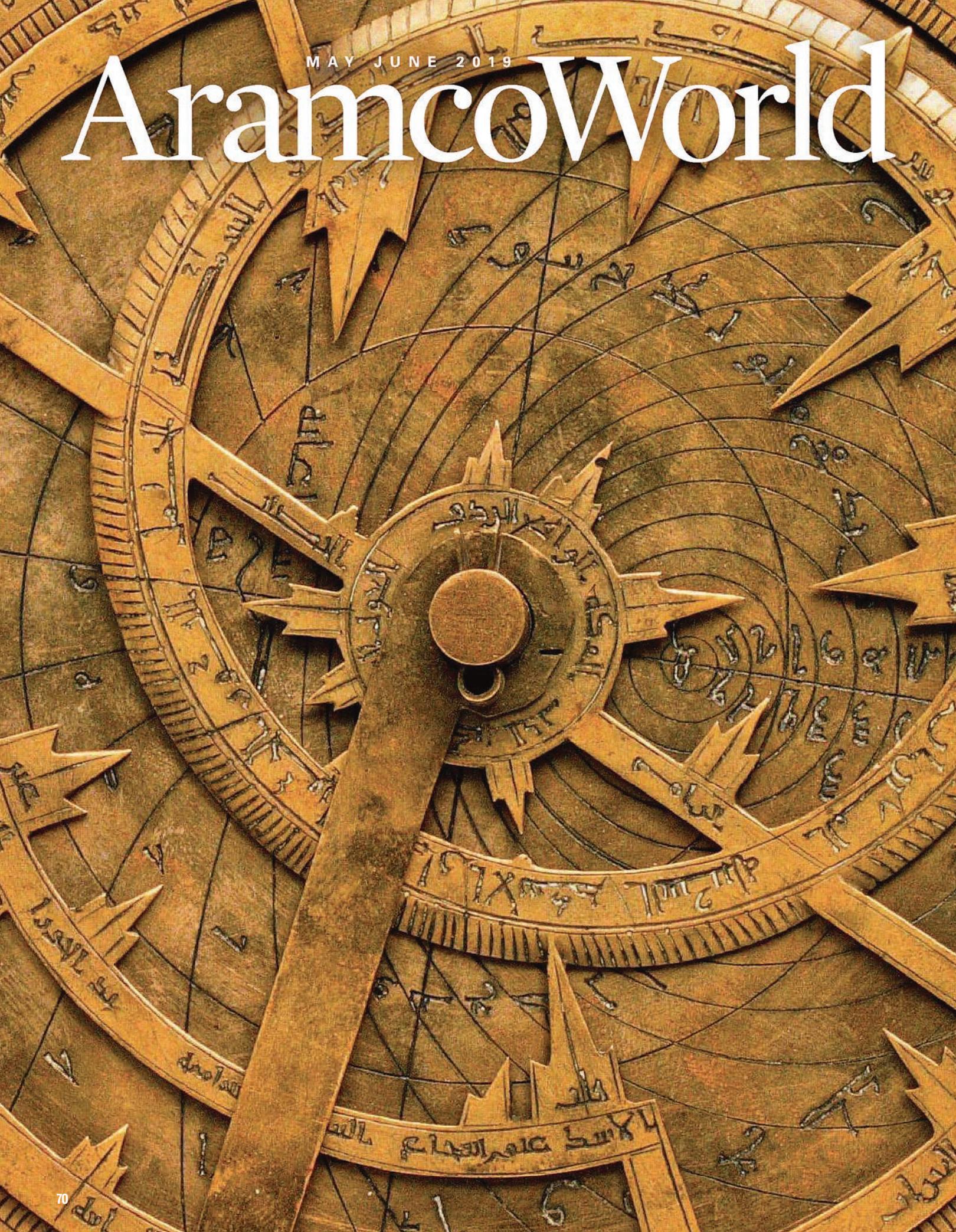
May/June 1992, "The Middle East and the Age of Discovery"

Photo courtesy of NASA

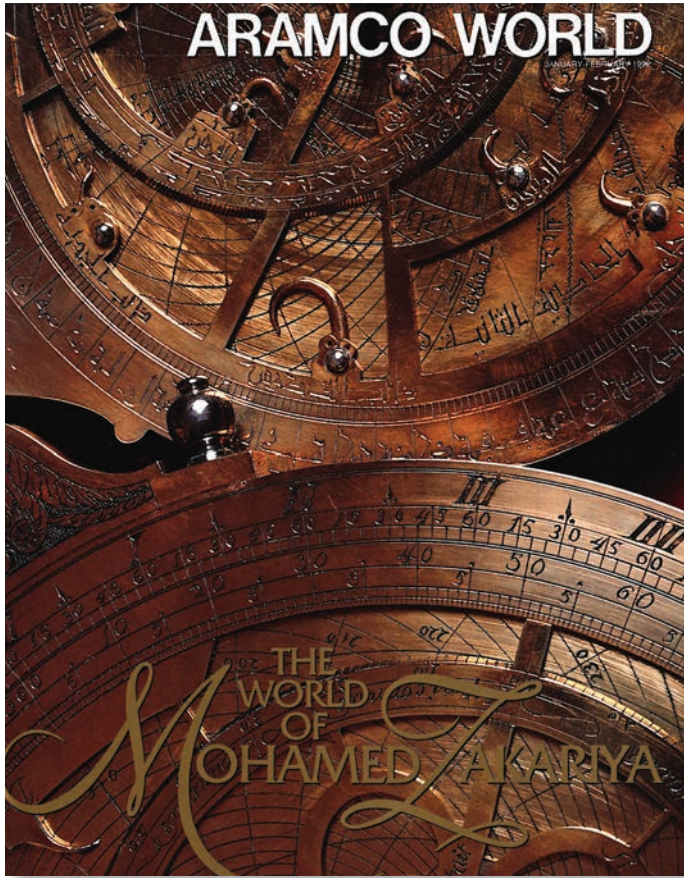


MAY JUNE 2019

# AramcoWorld







**Above:**

January/February 1992, "The World of Mohamed Zakariya"

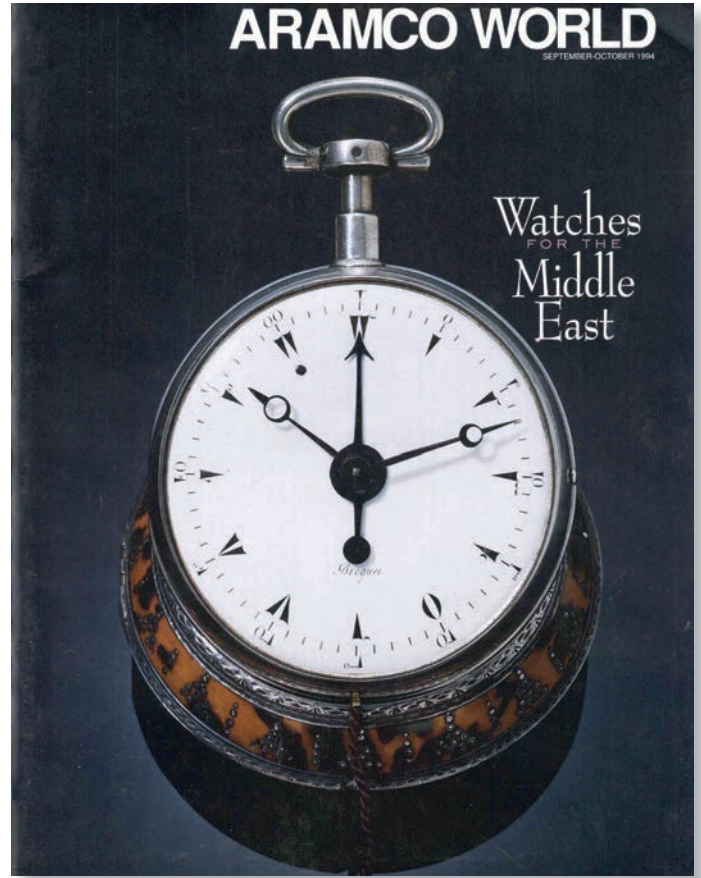
Photo by Robert Azzi

**Opposite:**

Each astrolabe's front plate is etched with lines that help calculate sunrise, sunset and celestial coordinates by rotating the calibrated rete over them.

May/June 2019, "Astrolabe Tech Made... Not So Easy"

Photo courtesy of Alamy/Naval Museum of Madrid



**Above:**

It was in the 17th century that the real development of watch-making technology began. Brass and steel parts, replacing iron, came into use around 1625, and in 1660 the hairspring provided a regulating mechanism that acted to moderate the balance wheel of a watch just as gravity moderated the pendulum of a clock. Toward the end of that same century, the export of watches to the East—the Ottoman Empire, Persia and India—began. Most notably, watches made for these regions were usually the finest examples of the watchmaker's art, often intended as prestigious gifts. For the sultan or prince or court official who owned one, these watches possessed the charm of the exotic, the fascination of an intricate mechanism, the elegance of a piece of jewelry and the inherent value of the precious materials of which they were made.

September/October 1994, "Watches for the Middle East"

Photo courtesy of Antiquorum



# ARAMCO WORLD magazine

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1986



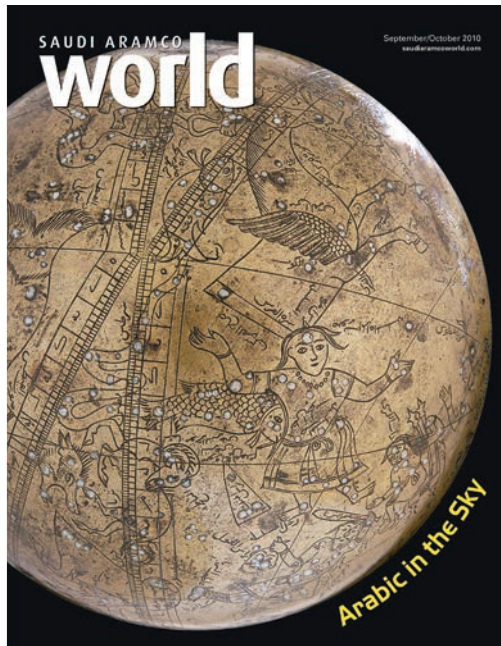
**Above:**

To suggest the contributions by Muslim scientists to astronomy over the centuries, illustrator Norman MacDonald focused on Halley's Comet and the Arab world's most recent contribution at the time: the trip into space by the first Arab, Prince Sultan bin Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. MacDonald also included a space shuttle launch, the first Arab satellite (on behalf of the 22 Arab League countries), and the proposed space telescope to study the stars.

January/February 1986, "Arabs and the Stars"

Illustration by Norman MacDonald





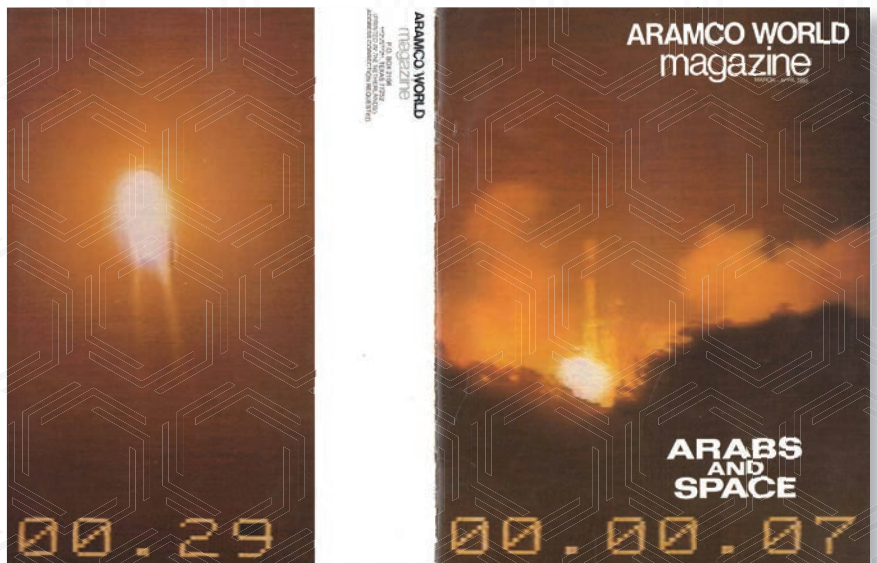
**Left:**  
 September/October 2010, "Arabic in the Sky"  
 Photo courtesy of Eric Long/ Smithsonian

**Below:**

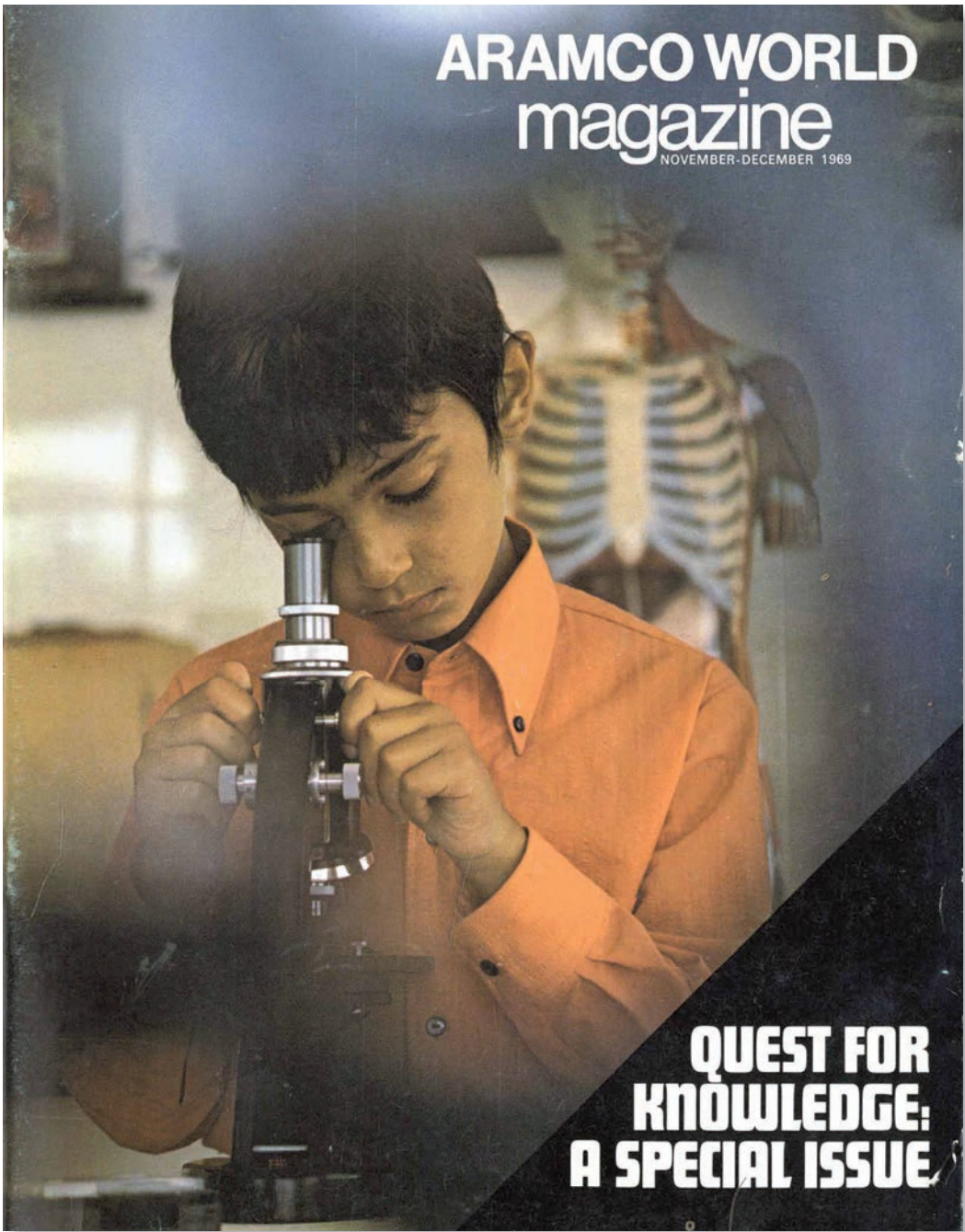
On Feb. 8, 1985, seven seconds after ignition, an Ariane rocket carried the Arab world's first communications satellite into space. This and other launch photographs were reproduced from television film using a new process. The film was taken in French Guiana by Radio France Outre-Mer, transmitted by satellite to Paris and shipped to London by UPITN Productions. There, using a newly developed Dai Nippon Video Graphics machine—one of only four in the world—editors selected frames for reproduction.

March/April 1985, "Arabs and Space"

Photo courtesy of Radio France Outre-Mer







**ARAMCO WORLD**  
magazine  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1969

**QUEST FOR  
KNOWLEDGE:  
A SPECIAL ISSUE**

**Opposite above:**

July/August 1974, "On Campus in Saudi Arabia"

Photo by B. H. Moody

**Opposite below left to right:**

August/September 1960, "Taking it over on tape"

Photo by B. H. Moody

March/April 1966, "Proud Centennial"

Photo by Tor Eigeland

May/June 2010, "Houses of Wisdom"

Photo courtesy of J. B. Picoulet/PCP/KAUST

July/August 1979, "KFSH: Showcase of the Future"

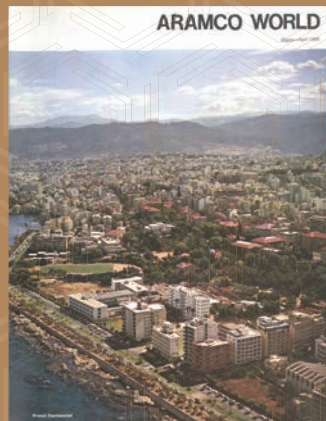
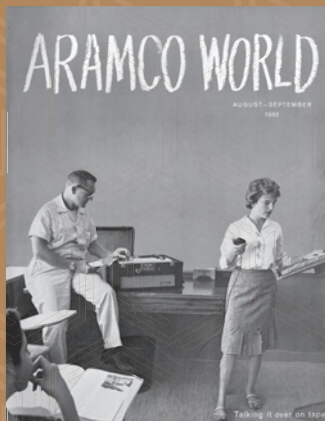
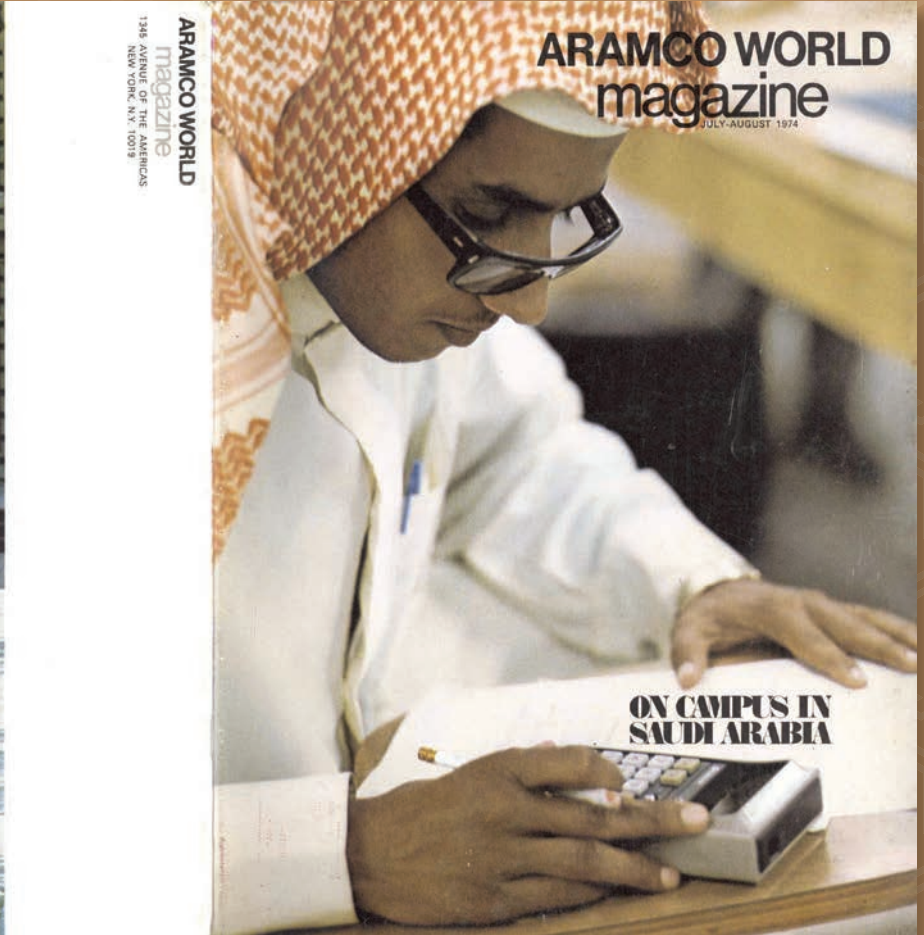
Photo by Terry Webb

**Above:**

The first real academy of higher education in Islam, apart from a mosque, was Al-Nizamiyah, founded in Baghdad in 1065 CE (about 100 years before the University of Paris) by Nizam al-Mulk, the Persian vizier of two Seljuk sultans. The Nizamiyah had as its backbone the Qur'an and Arabic poetic classics. Many of its students held scholarships—a contribution to such institutions being considered a meritorious act—and all were boarders. The Nizamiyah type of school, the *madrasah* (literally, "a place of study"), spread throughout the East, as far as Samarkand and to the West as far as Morocco, and certain organizational features were, supposedly, adopted by early European universities.

November/December 1969, "Quest for Knowledge: A Special Issue"





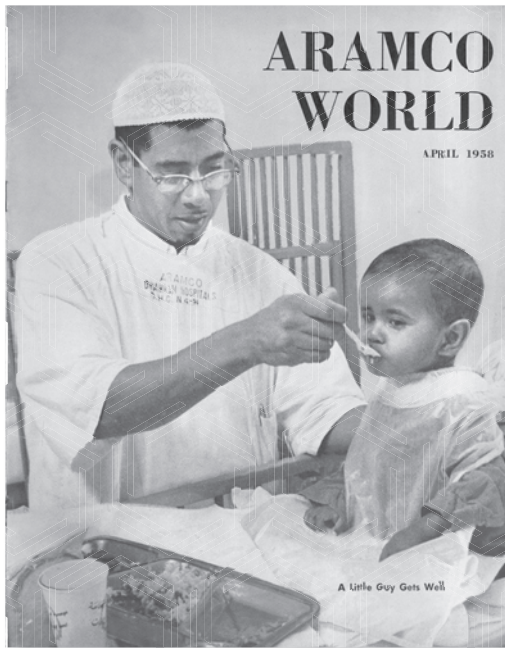


JULY AUGUST 2018

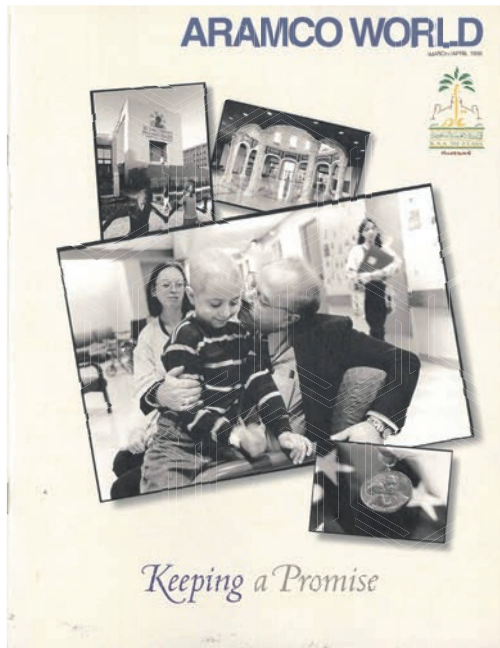
# AramcoWorld







**Top left to right:**  
 April 1958, "A Little Guy Gets Well"  
 Photo by Russell Lee



March/April 1999, "Keeping a Promise"  
 Photos by Richard Doughty



**Bottom left to right:**  
 March/April 1975, "Arabs in America"  
 Photo by Robert Azzi



March/April 1974, "Nursing in the Arab East"  
 Photo by Peter Keen

**Opposite:**

Outside Somaliland's capital, Hargeisa, Edna Adan, 80, has expanded her work caring for women's health to caring also for land, joining other women to distribute seedlings and teach about caring for plants and wildlife—helping her country recover from a civil war and inspiring a rising generation of female leaders in public service, medicine, environmental conservation and even the arts.

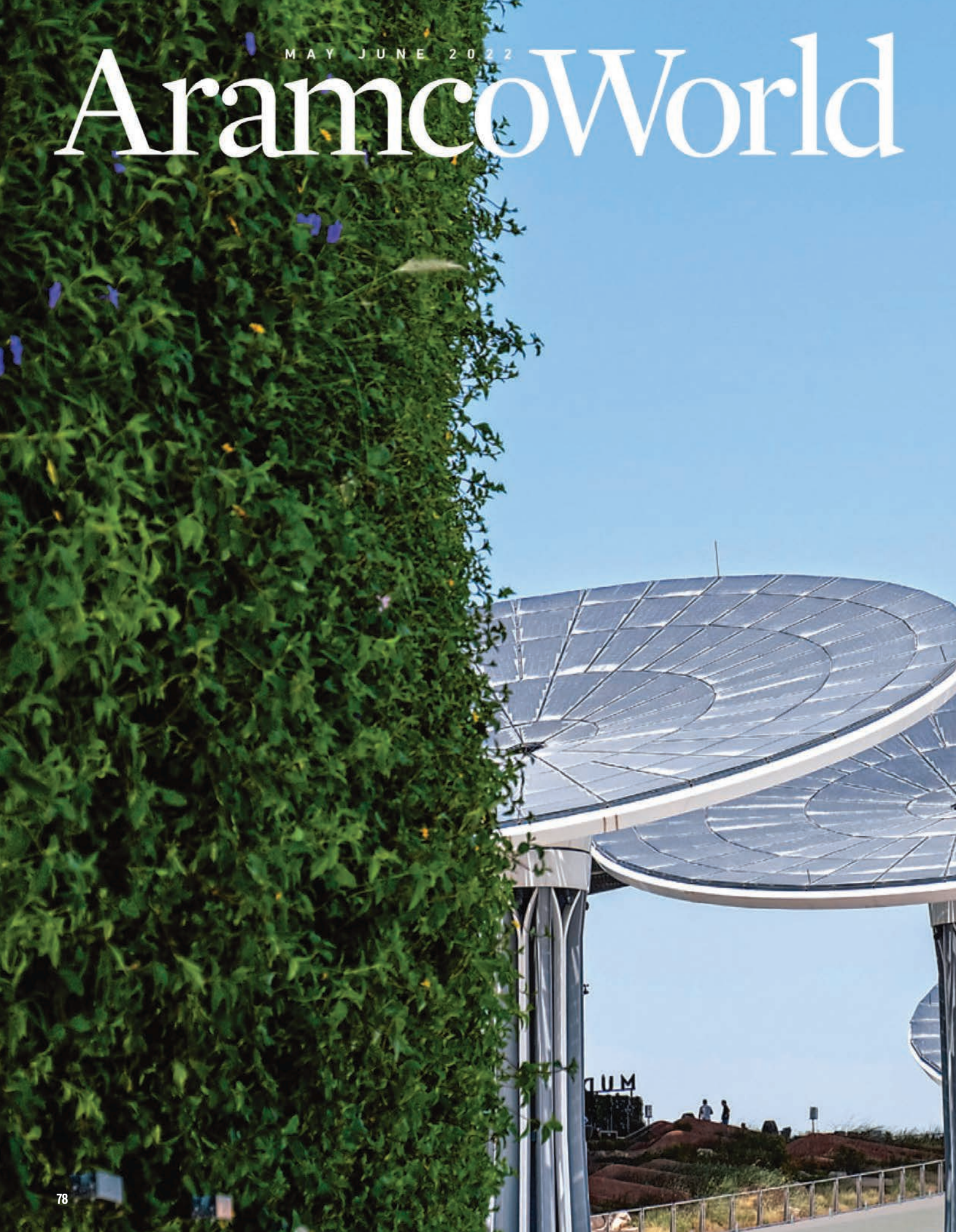
July/August 2018, "Somaliland's Midwife"

Photo by Lorraine Chittock



MAY JUNE 2022

# AramcoWorld



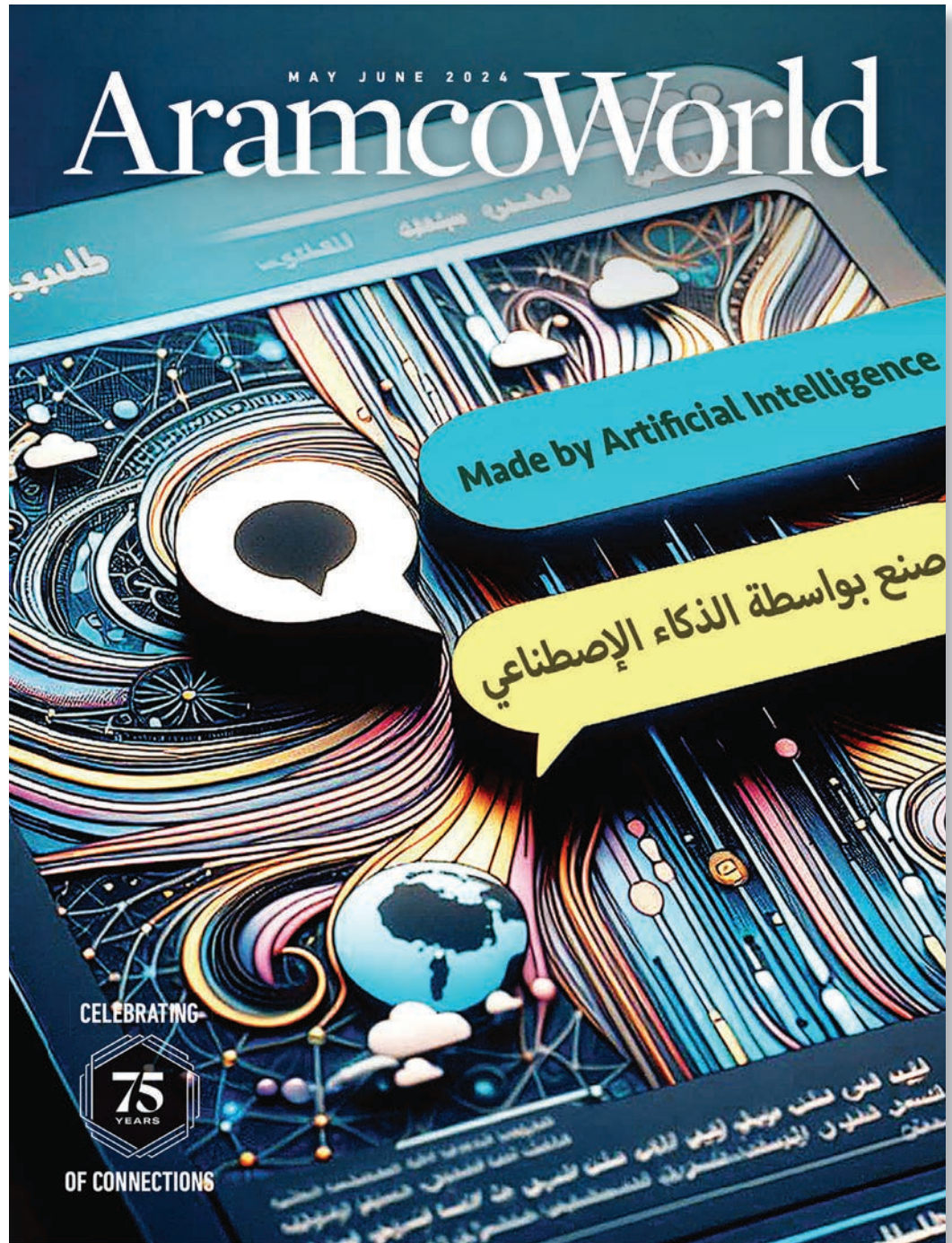


**Opposite:**

A record 192 countries participated in Expo 2020 Dubai, which addressed creative systems for power generation, water conservation and city planning to address global challenges. While most of the countries were housed in buildings erected by the Expo, many others built custom structures. This required each national planning team to submit plans for construction, operation and dismantling that adhered to demanding environmental standards for all aspects of materials, energy, water, recycling and more.

May/June 2022, "Sustainability's Dubai Beta Lab"

Photo by Natalie Naccache



**Above:**

May/June 2024, "The Promises and Challenges of AI for Arabic"

Illustrated by Mujahid Almalki via AI generator



SAUDI ARAMCO

# world

May/June 2014  
saudiaramcoworld.com

LAST LAKES *of the* GREEN  
**SAHARA**



## Sharing the beauty of the desert is a repeated theme of *AramcoWorld* over the decades.

### Opposite:

The photograph of the Lakes of Ounianga gives a breathtaking look at northeastern Chad where some of the only permanent freshwater desert lakes exist in the world.

May/June 2014, "Last Lakes of the Green Sahara"

Photo by George Steinmetz

### Right:

Colorful painting of a bouquet of tulips from Türkiye

May/June 1985, "Garlands from the East"

Illustration by Kathleen Crawford



# NATURE

*AramcoWorld* has connected readers to the natural world since the 1950s, introducing them to species and habitats in lands far from their own to establish a tie between nature and cultures.

Through captivating photography, we have produced compelling stories about animals, landscapes, the environment and conservation on the Arabian Peninsula and the rest of the world.

Animals that are particularly symbolic to the Middle East have played a central role in our texts. "Camels: the Magnificent Migration" (2018) focused on their predecessors' origins millions of years ago and migration from the Americas. Like camels, gazelles can go long stretches without water, instead taking moisture from desert plants, as featured in "Arabia, Sand, Sea & Sky" (1990). The article, focused on a documentary series, explored the wildlife of the peninsula, with an osprey, a gazelle and a manta ray displayed on the cover.

*AramcoWorld* has also dedicated a variety of stories to horses, which have played a key role in our history, traditions and migration. Spanning countries and cultures, the stories have paid homage to the majestic animals' place in time, from "Arabian Stallions" (1956) to "History's Hooves" (1998).

Other species are deeply intertwined with the culture and heritage of nations. Falcons, for instance, still play a huge role in the Arabian Gulf, as featured in "A Heritage Takes Wing" (2012). But falconry traditions stretch a long way. For over 1,000 years, the bird has symbolized power for the emperor, and later the samurai, as featured in "Rites of Flight: Falconry in Japan" (2016).

Beyond tradition and culture, the magazine has focused on preservation of natural environments. From examining recovery efforts in Central Asia, as featured in "Reviving the North Aral Sea" (2015), to protection efforts in Brunei as highlighted in "The Academy of the

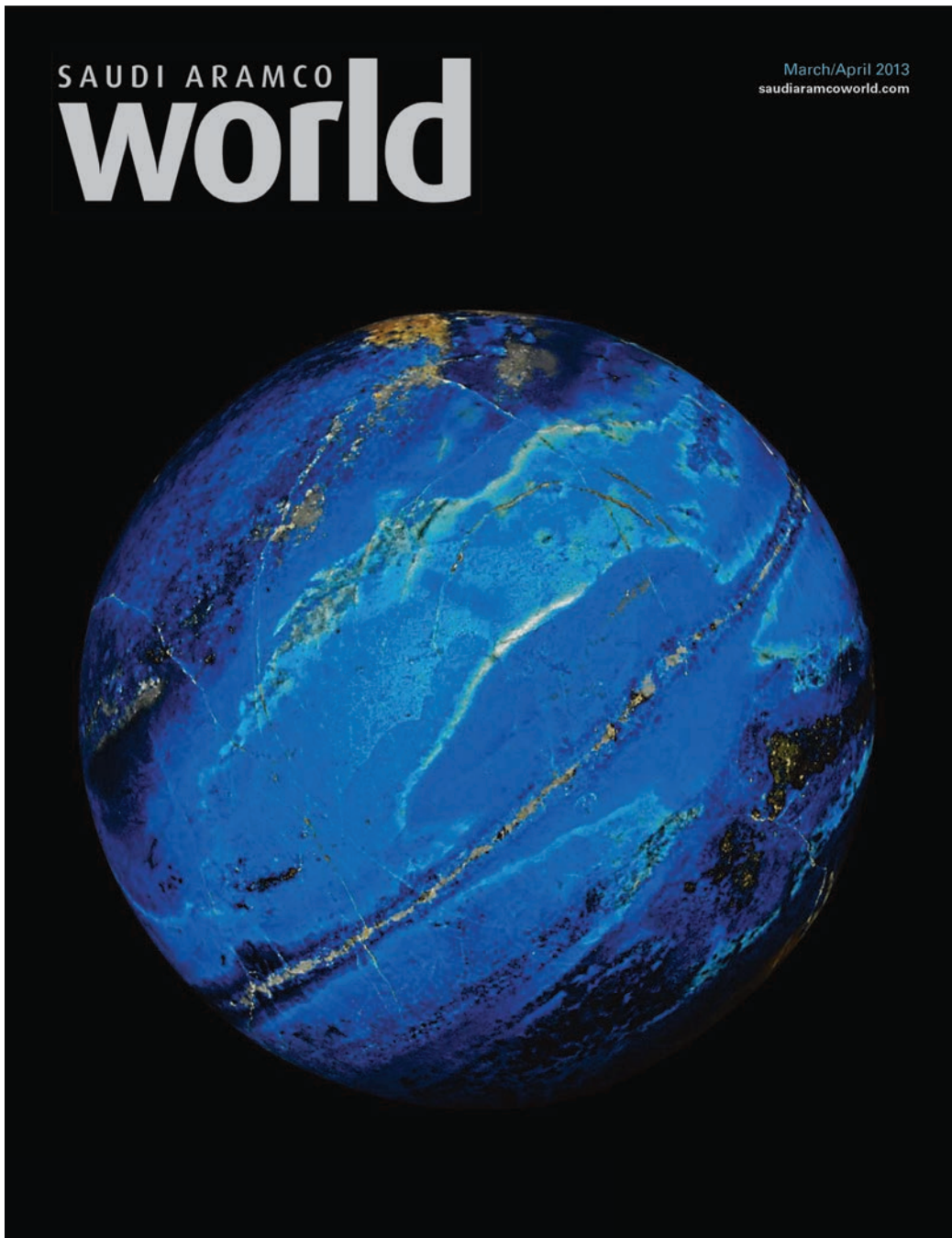


Rain Forest" (1992), *AramcoWorld* has devoted a variety of articles to conservation across the world.

Flora has also gotten its due. After *AramcoWorld*'s move to the Netherlands in the mid-1970s, "A Dutch Treat" (1977) looked at country's obsession with its yearly bounty of tulips, whose origins stem from the Ottoman Empire. And "A Harvest of Scents" (1980),

about Egypt's sowing of plants and flowers like jasmine, declared that the nation known for its rich history "still perfumes the world."

Our shared experience with nature knows no borders, and we remain committed to sharing enlightening stories about complex ecosystems and wildlife.



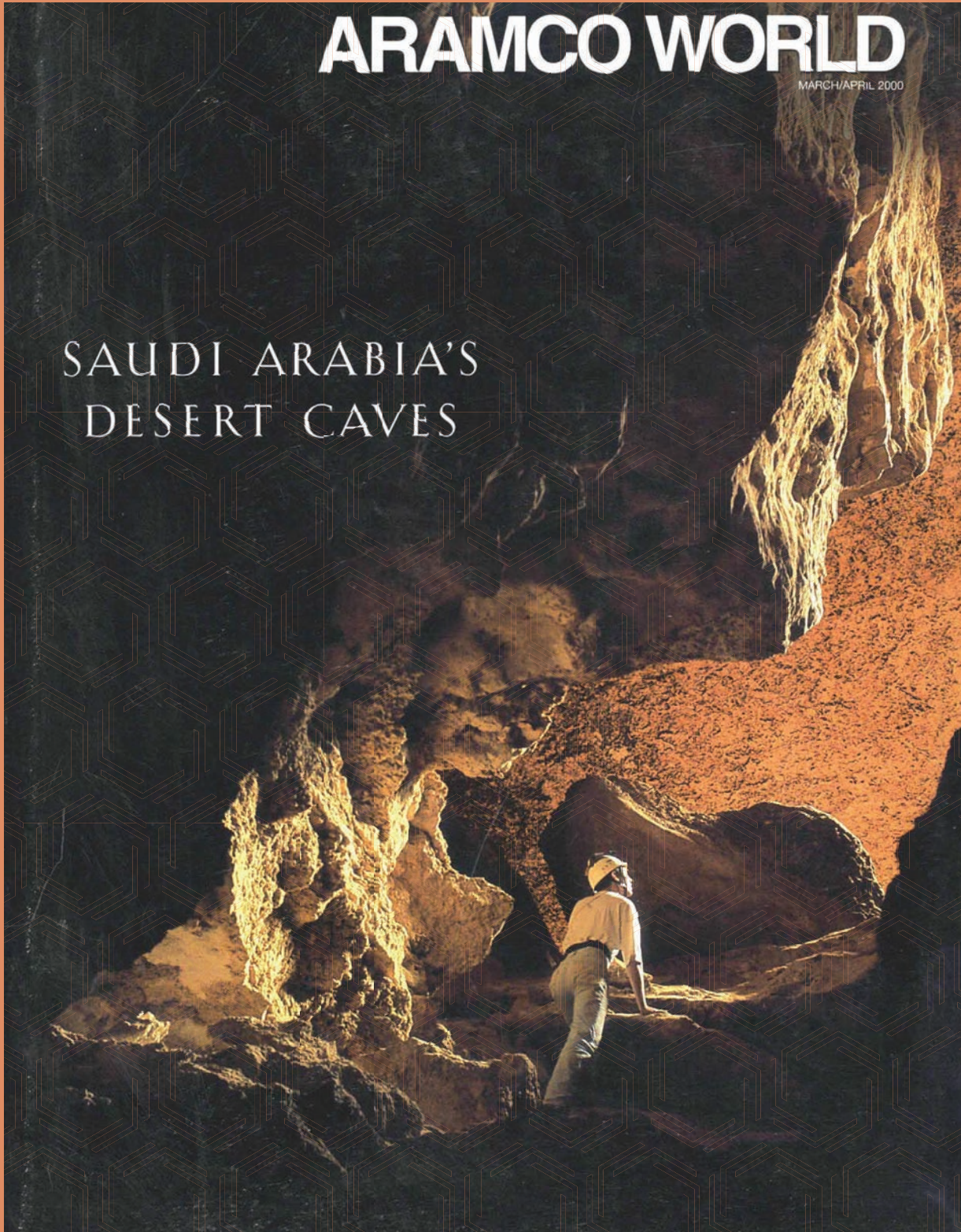
Left:

"The Celestial Stone" (March/April 2013) showcases the cerulean blues of lapis lazuli and how the stone has enchanted and inspired for thousands of years, from Sumerian kings to Renaissance painters and 18th-century cabinet makers to jewelry makers today.

Photo by Peter Sanders



## SAUDI ARABIA'S DESERT CAVES



Above:

"Saudi Arabia's Desert Caves" (March/April 2000) took readers deep below the desert surface into a world of carved labyrinthine marvels some 20,000 years ago.

Photo by John Pint



**Right:**

July/August 2012: Mauritania's Conservation Coast"

Photo by Kevin Bubriski

**Bottom left to right:**

September/October 2016, "Forest of Tides: The Sundarbans"

Composite of Landsat 7 images by Jesse Allen/NASA Earth Observatory/USGS

September/October 2015, "Reviving the North Aral Sea"

Photo by Carolyn Drake

November/December 1992, "The Academy of the Rain Forest"

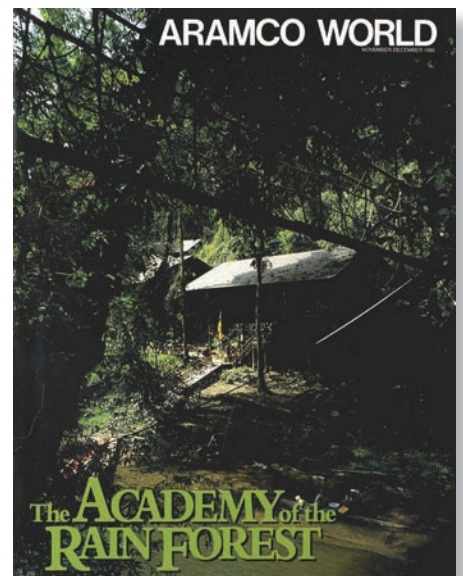
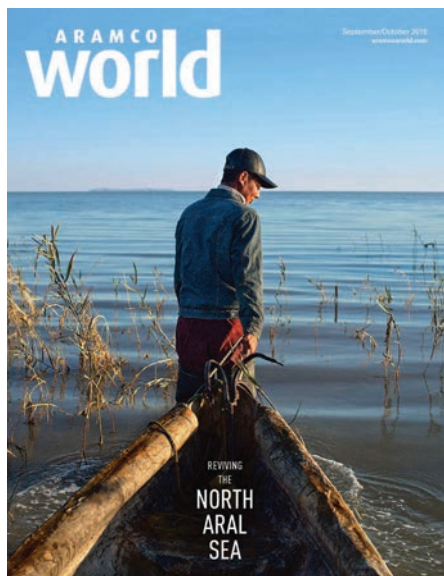
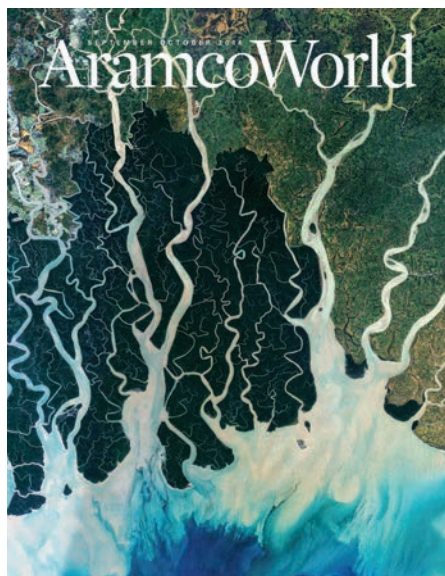
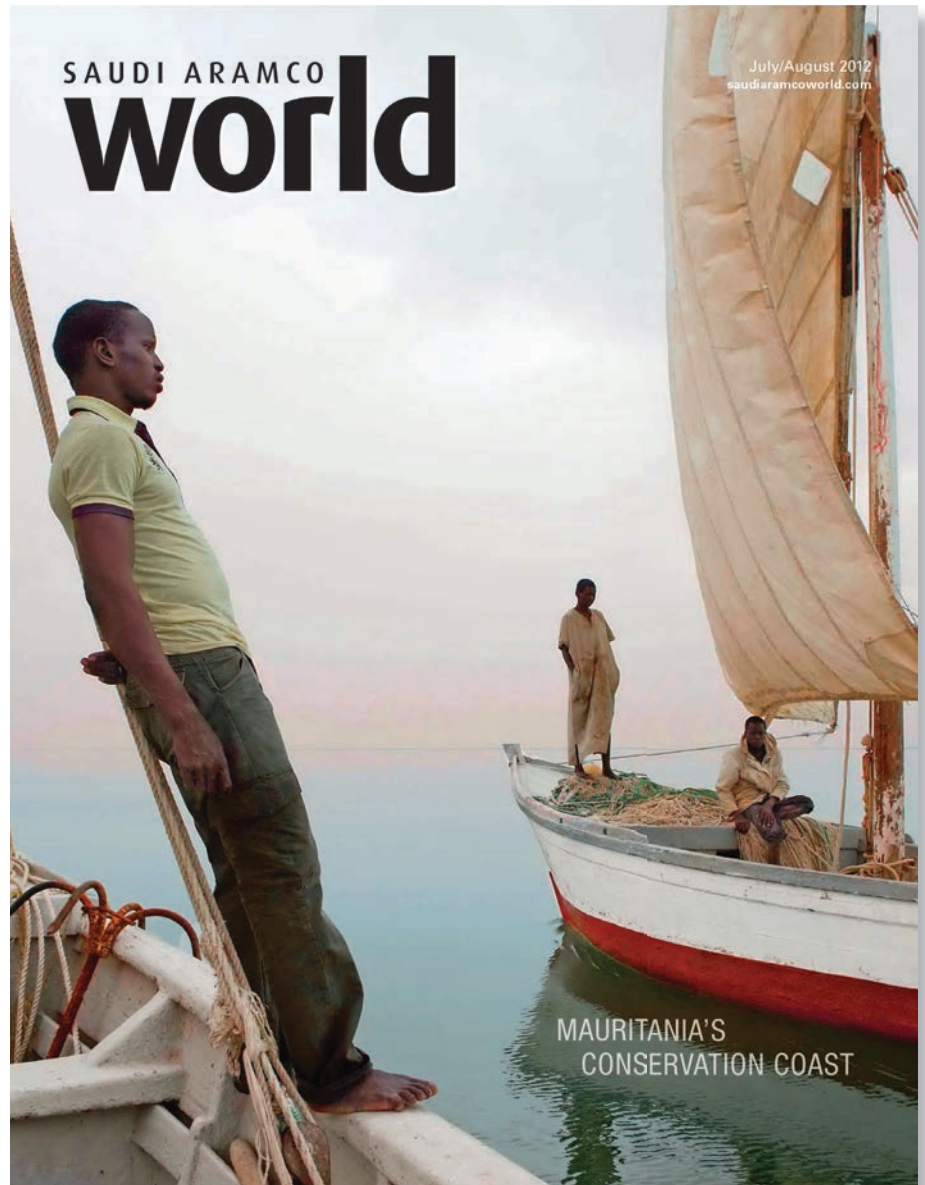
Photo by Tor Eigeland

**Opposite:**

AramcoWorld shares innovations and the amazing properties of mangrove forests.

September/October 2023, "Drones, Mangroves and Carbon Superpowers"

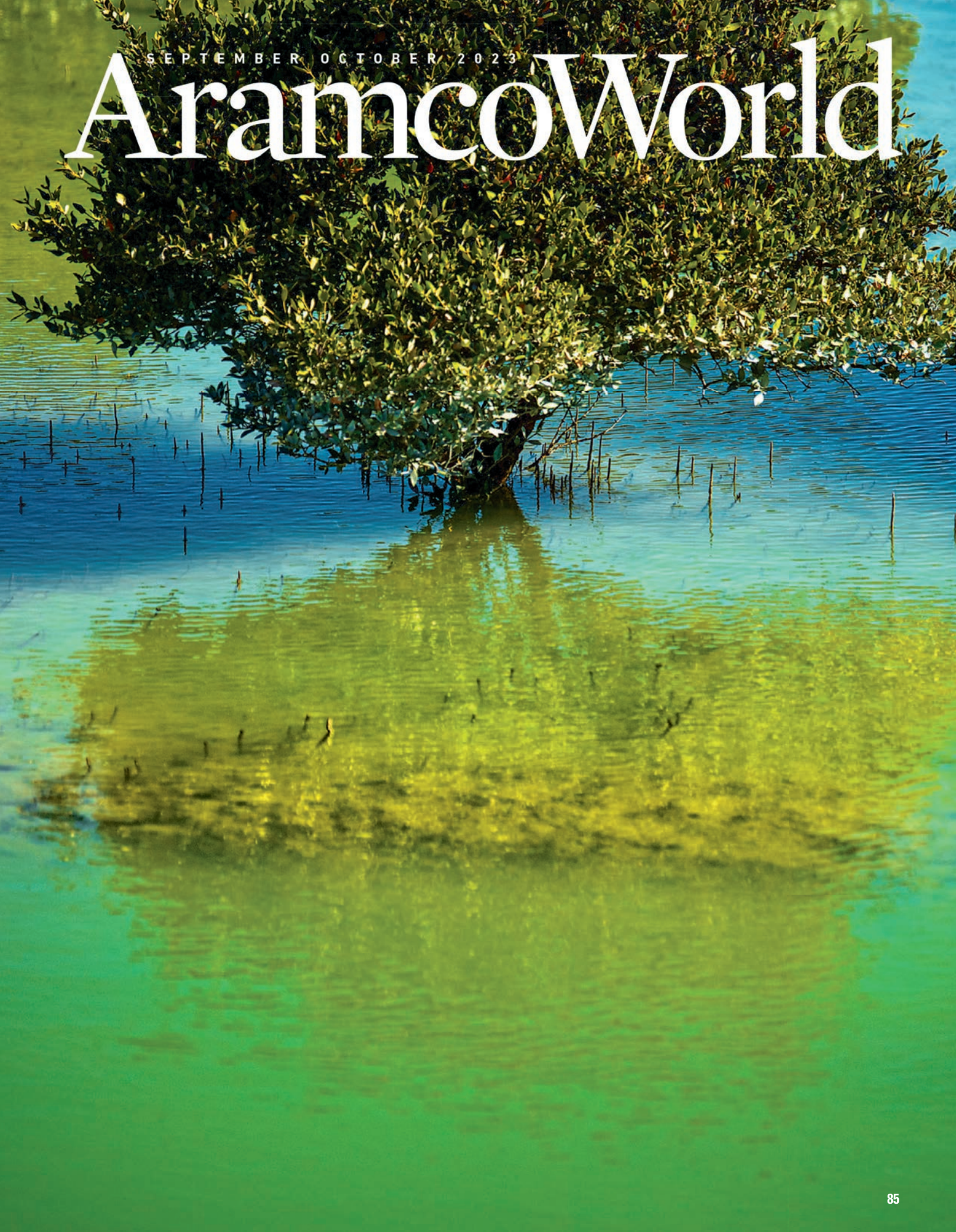
Photo courtesy of Aramco





SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 2023

# AramcoWorld





**Right:**

April 1959's "At War with the Weeds" cover shows a young girl spreading the seeds of a dandelion. The story informed readers about the usefulness of weeds.

Photo by Culver Service

**Bottom left to right:**

May/June 1977, "A Dutch Treat"

Photo by Tor Eigeland

September/October 1974, "Arabia in Bloom"

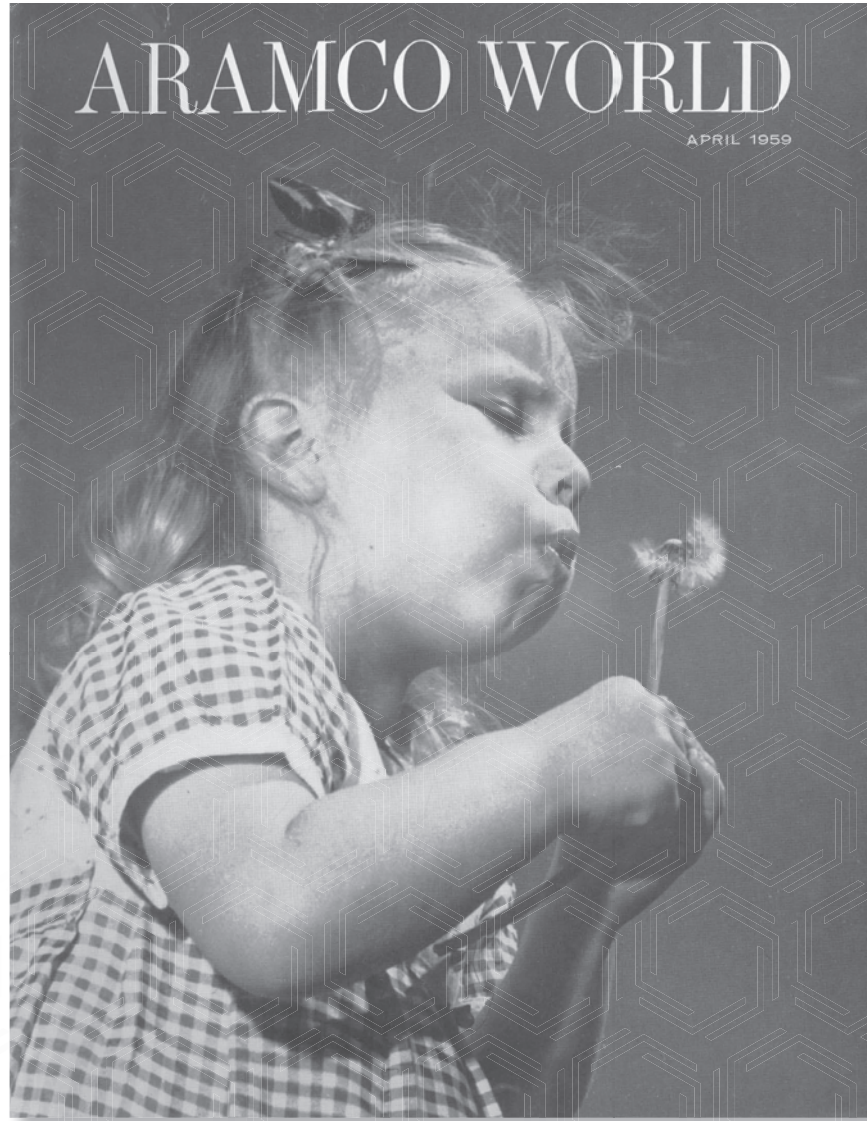
Photo by Khalil Abou El-Nasr

**Opposite:**

Roses are one of many blossoms from which ancient Egyptians extracted essential oils and waxes to provide the most fragrant and alluring perfumes, as described in this cover story.

July/August 1980, "A Harvest of Scents"

Photo by John Feeney







# ARAMCO WORLD magazine

JULY-AUGUST 1980

## A Harvest of Scents



# ARAMCO WORLD

MAY - JUNE 1990



SAND  
SEA &  
SKY







**Opposite:**

May/June 1990, "Sand Sea & Sky"  
 Photos courtesy of Stephen Dalton/  
 NHPA, Michael McKinnon and Peter  
 Vine

**Left column top to bottom:**

March/April 2012, "A Heritage  
 Takes Wing"

Photo by Rob Palmer

March/April 2009, "The Last Lair of  
 The Leopard"

Photo by David Willis

September/October 1991, "Safe  
 Haven for Birds"

Photo by Dan Guravich

**Right column top to bottom:**

September/October 1967, "Under  
 The Sea"

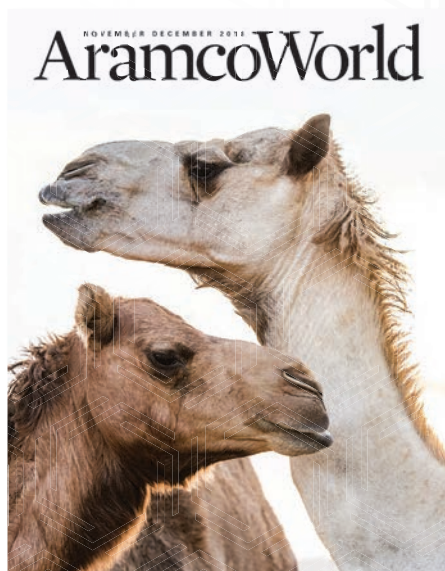
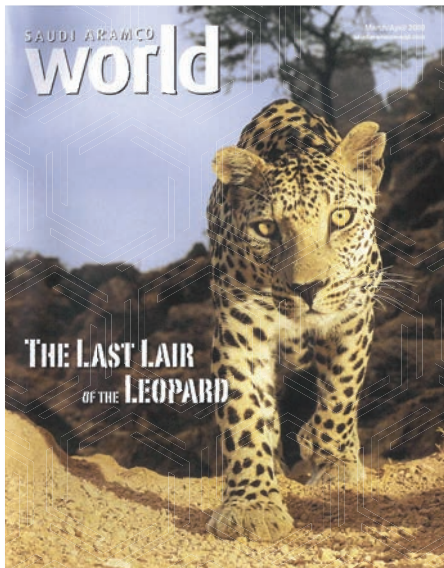
Photo by Ludwig Sillner

November/December 2016, "Rites of  
 Flight: Falconry in Japan"

Photo by Steve Shelton

November/December 2018, "Camels  
 and Culture—A Celebration"—an  
 entire issue dedicated to the camel.

Photo by Jason Plews





# ARAMCO WORLD

MAY-JUNE 1989



## EGYPT'S UNDER WATER WORLD





Left:

January/February 2018, "Asian Nations Unite To Protect Snow Leopards"

Photo by Sebastian Kennerknecht/Panthera

Opposite:

Clear, warm water and colorful reefs, makes the water of the Red Sea one of the finest scuba-diving areas in the world. Readers were able to learn about its diverse and fragile ecosystem through this issue.

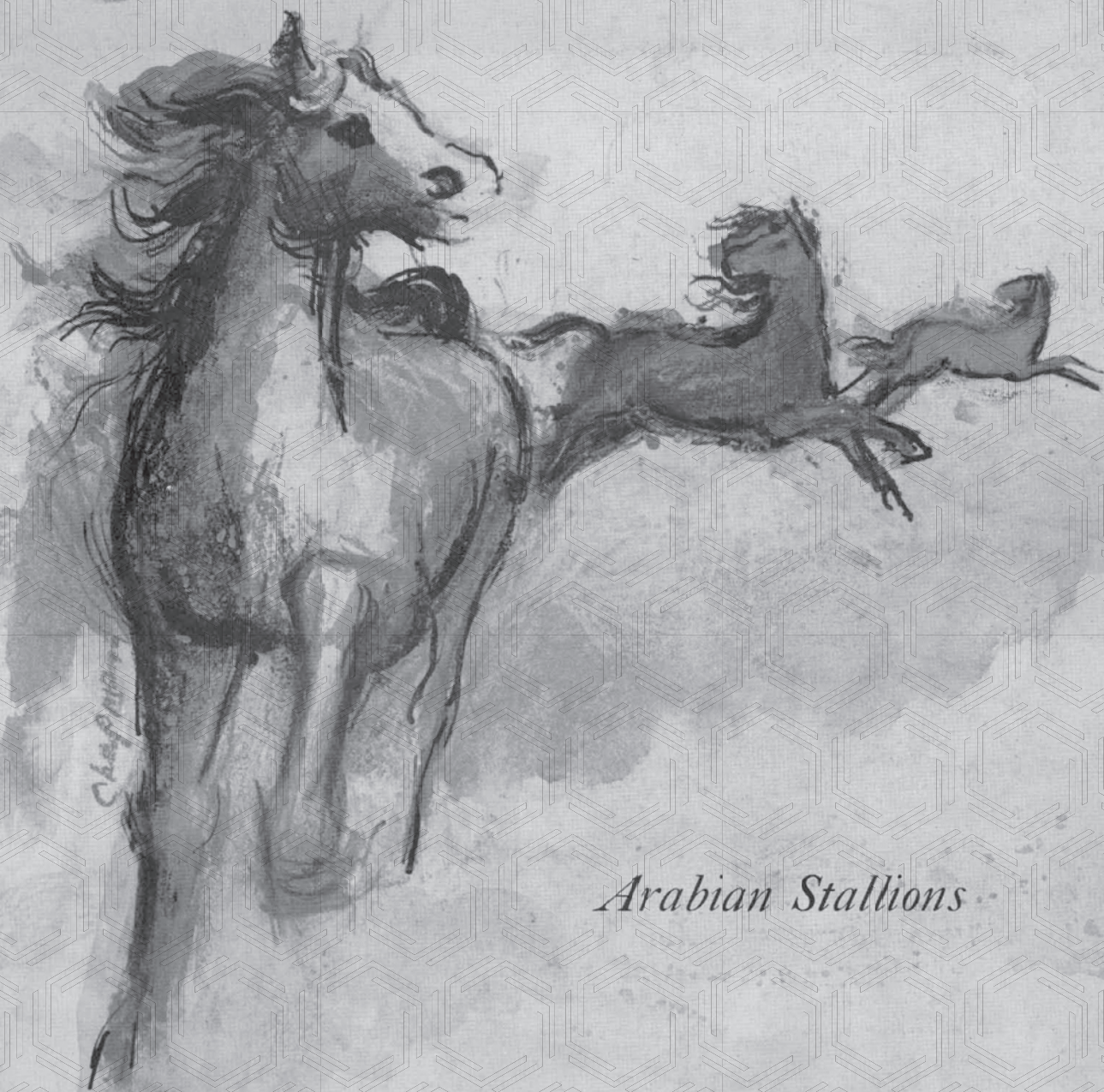
May/June 1989, "Egypt's Underwater World"

Photo by Eric Hanauer



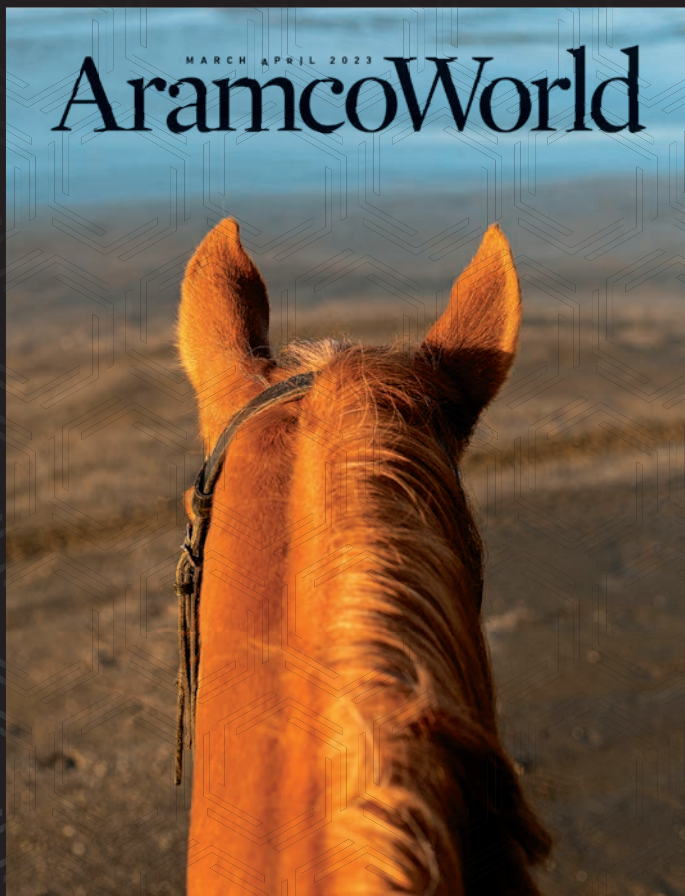
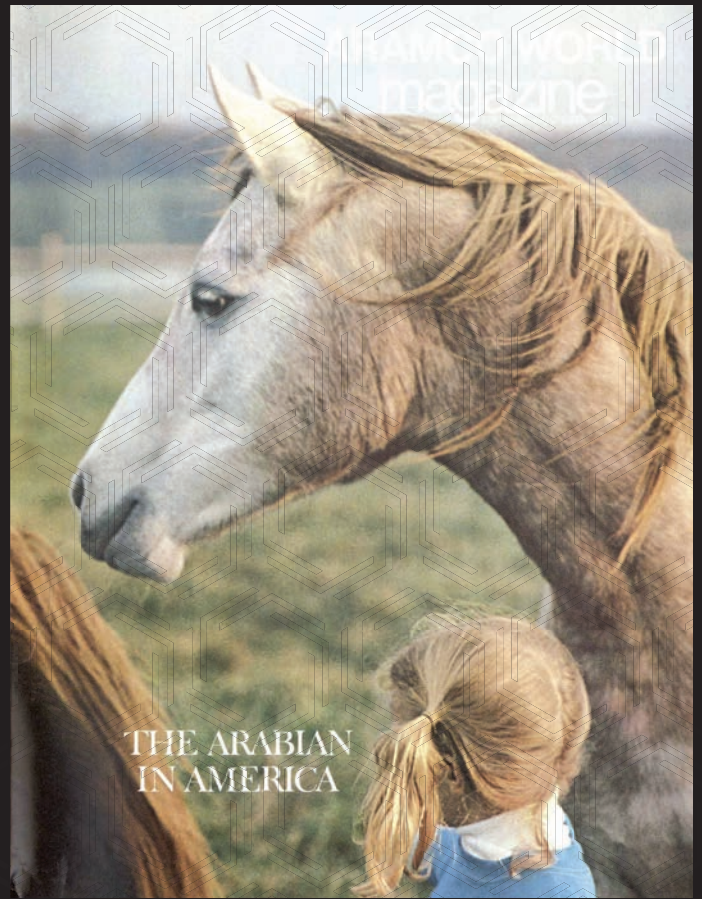
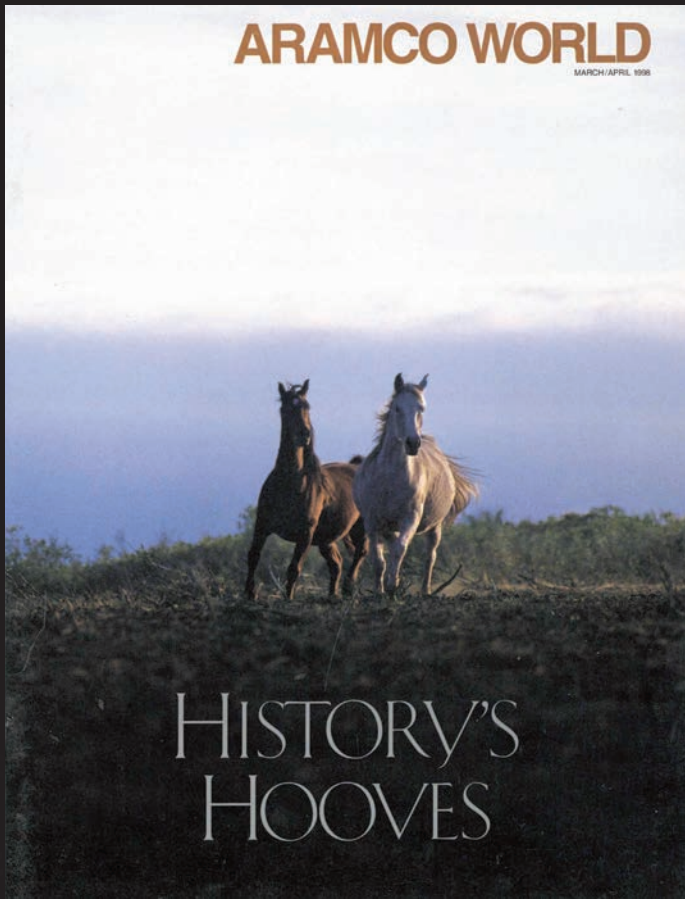
# *Aramco World*

MARCH 1956



*Arabian Stallions*





**The allure, beauty, history and utility of the horse has intrigued people across time and geographies, including *AramcoWorld* readers.**

**Above left to right:**

March/April 1998, "History's Hooves"  
Photo by Mustafa Sabankaya

September/October 1972, "The Arabian In America"  
Photo by Katrina Thomas

**Left:**  
March/April 2023, "The Return of The Karabakh Horse"  
Photo by Rebecca Marshall

**Opposite:**

As expats moved to Saudi Arabia for work, discovering the Arabian stallion led to a love affair that is now shared across the globe.

March 1956, "Arabian Stallions"  
Illustration by Robert Chapman



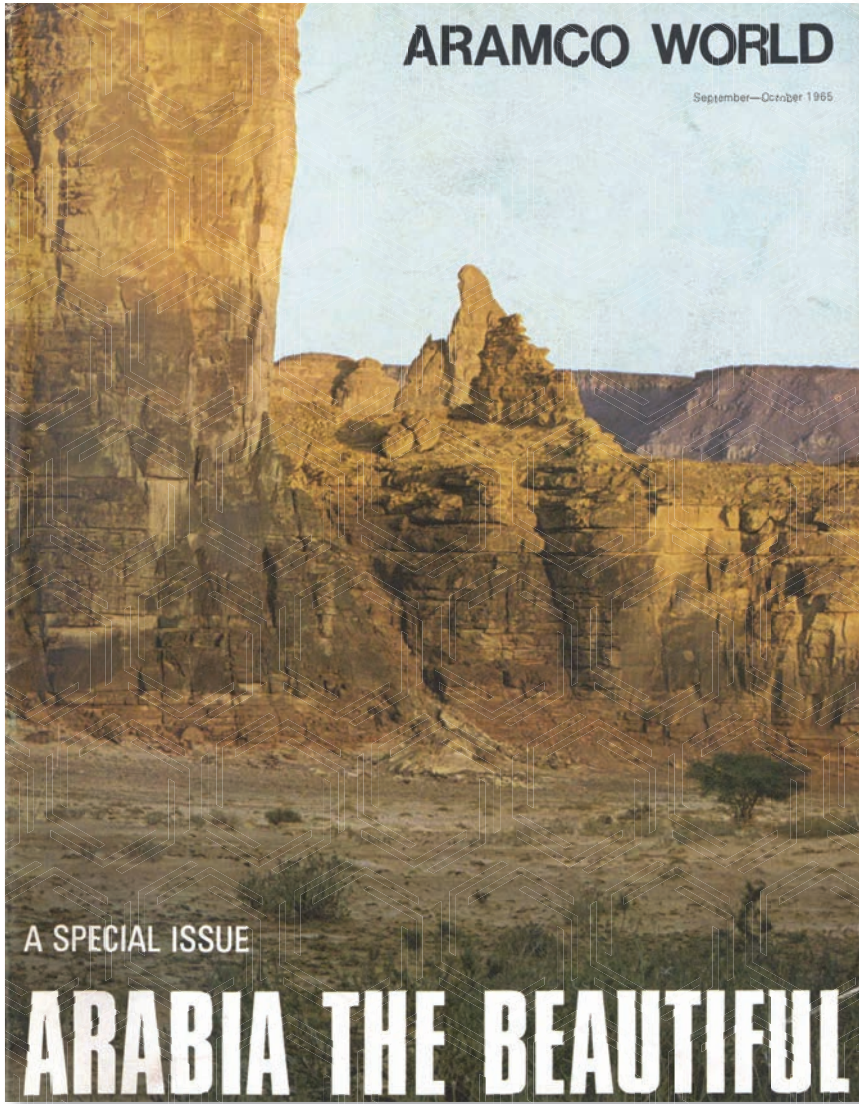
# ARAMCO WORLD

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1967



CAMPING IN THE EMPTY QUARTER





**Opposite:**

November/December 1967, "Camping In The Empty Quarter"

Photo by Sa'ïd al-Ghamdi

**Left:**

This special issue explores the valley called Mada'in Salih or "Cities of Salih," which lies on an ancient caravan route 500 miles north of Jiddah—providing readers with the natural beauty and a history that goes back to the Nabateans.

September/October 1965, "Arabia The Beautiful"

Photo by B. H. Moody



**Left:**

September 1959, "Sands, Sun and Silence"

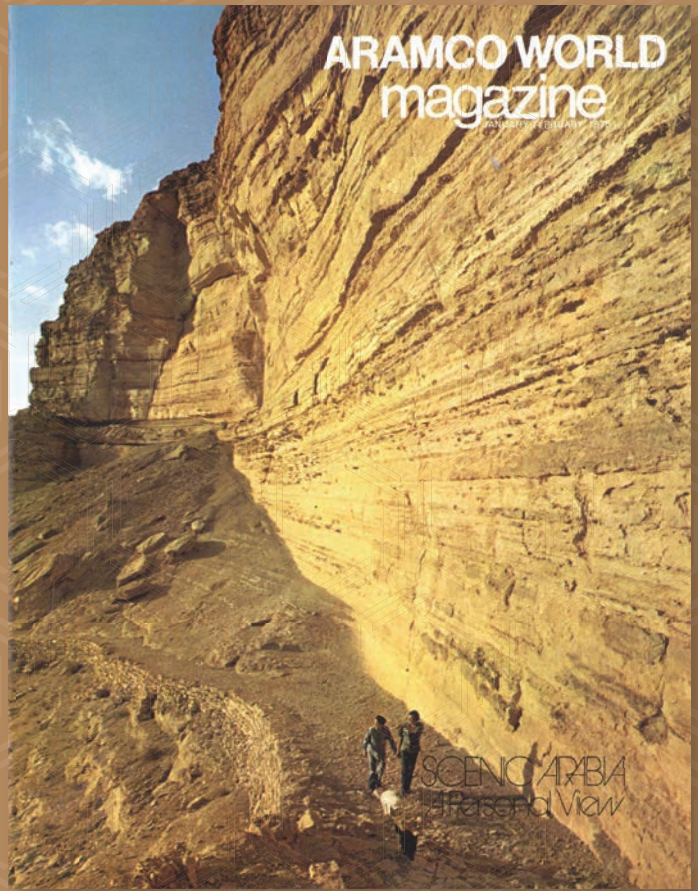
Photo by Russell Lee





ARAMCO WORLD  
magazine





***AramcoWorld* has continually explored the beauty of desert landscapes across the Arabian Peninsula.**

**Above:**

January/February 1975, "Scenic Arabia: A Personal View"  
Photo by Tor Eigeland

**Left:**

July/August 1984, "Dunescapes"  
Photo by Pamela Robertson



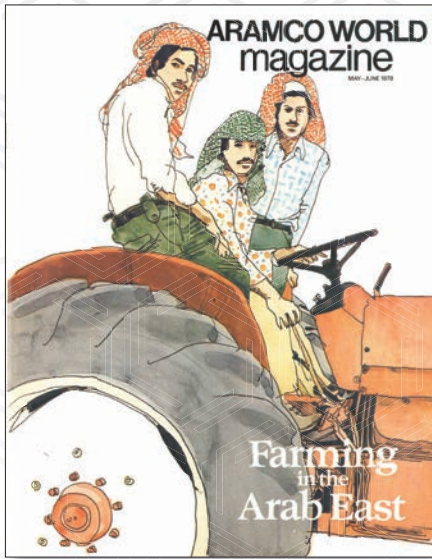
SAUDI ARAMCO

March/April 2014  
saudiaramcoworld.com

# world

CHILES'  
GLOBAL  
WARMING





**Left:**  
This 1978 special issue highlighted agriculture practices from Syria to Sudan.  
May/June 1978, "Farming in the Middle East"  
Illustration by Norman MacDonald

**Opposite:**  
The vibrant colors of this 2014 cover share the love of chiles that have transforming nutritional values and have enhanced culinary identities across the globe.  
March/April 2014, "Chiles' Global Warming"  
Photo by Deana Sidney

# FOOD

Through family gatherings and other festive celebrations, food creates connections and lasting memories. *AramcoWorld* seeks to satiate readers with insight into rich and diverse culinary traditions served up on a plate—or banana leaf.

We not only highlight recipes but the stories behind them, the people who create them and the cultures they represent—as captured on our iconic covers.

Visual feasts in their own right, our covers chronicle the transformation of global cuisines, food migrations and sustainability.

"Couscous: The Measure of the Maghrib" (1998), for example, looked at the region where the staples of rice and couscous meet.

In 2021 we took readers around the world through their spice racks with "Spice Migrations" to provide context for some of the world's favorite spices, including cinnamon, cumin and ginger. The series explored the Indian origins and migration to Europe and Africa of the most common spice on our tables, pepper.

The intersection of food and history also has been demonstrated. "Ghraoui and the Chocolate Factory" (2008) showed how a Syrian chocolatier, whose family

had been in the business for more than 100 years, was further putting his country on the map as having the world's best chocolate. We devoted the entire issue "Flavors of the Middle East" (1988) to recipes from clay tablets in 1700 BCE to modern starters, main courses and desserts from the region.

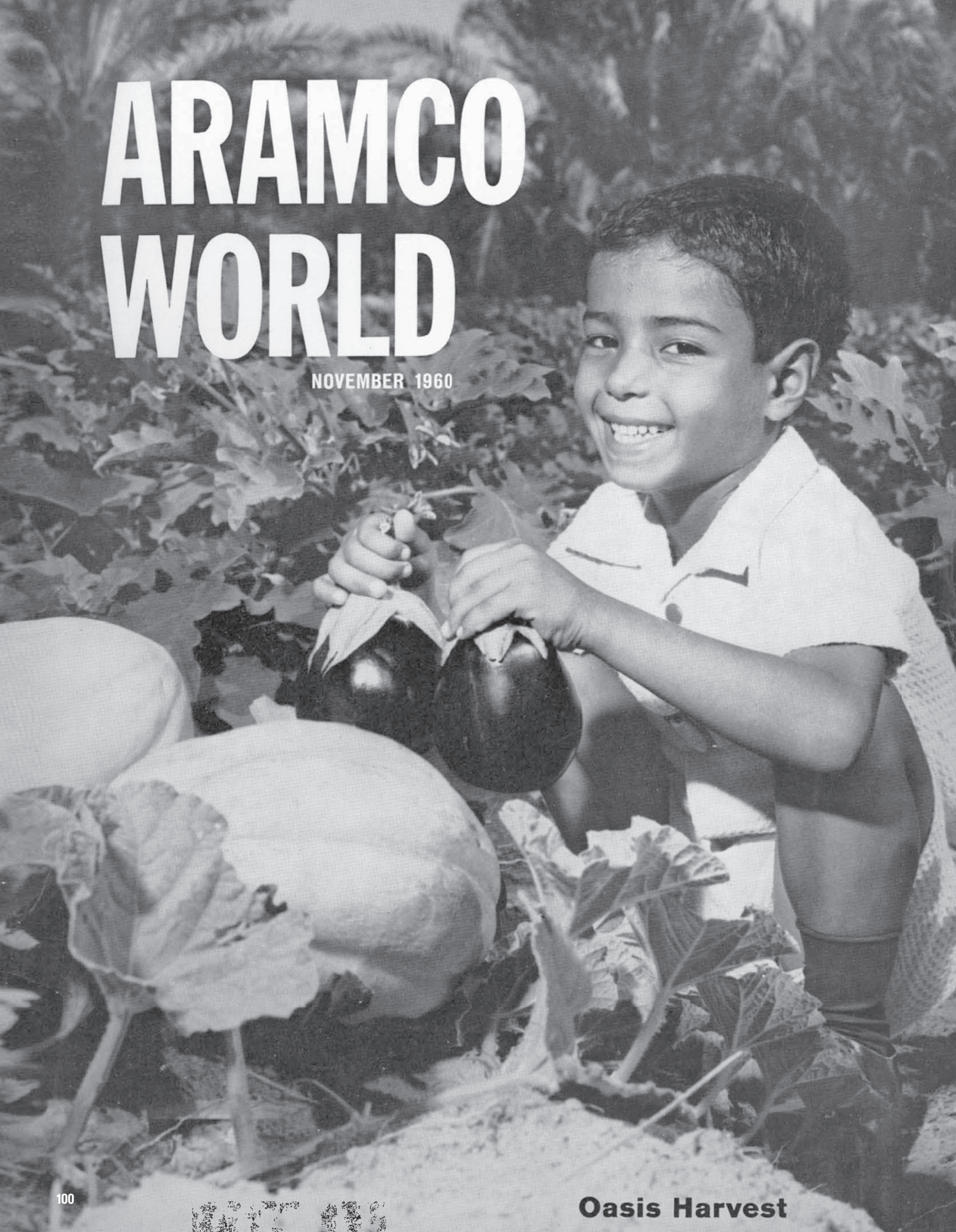
*AramcoWorld* has reflected on the ways food shapes culture and heritage through stories like 1962's "Oasis Fruit," which referred to the date palm as the "tree of life" for people in the Middle East. Sustainability efforts for local ingredients have received stark spotlights, as in "Harvest Without End" (1960), in which we showed how modern methods at the time helped Saudi Arabian farmlands bloom again. We also highlighted scientific efforts to address food security and innovations in "Seeds of High Asia" (2012) and "Can Figs Help Us Adapt to a Changing Climate?" (2024).

As *AramcoWorld* commemorates 75 years, we celebrate our commitment to showcasing the beauty and diversity of food from around the world and its role in bringing people together through a shared love of culinary exploration. We also remain committed to raising cross-cultural understanding through stories that are globally interconnected.

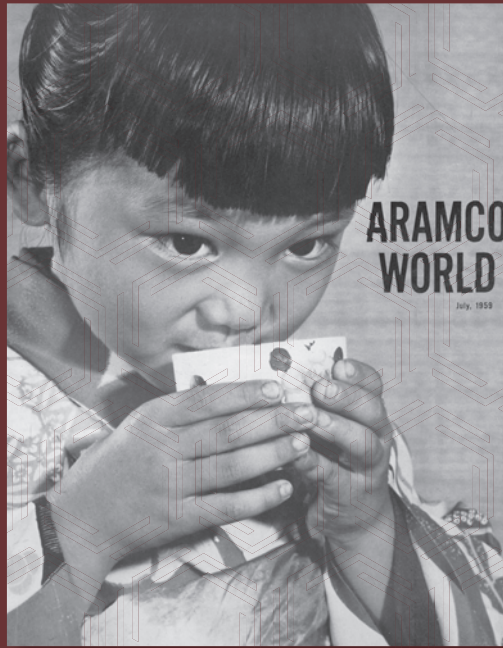
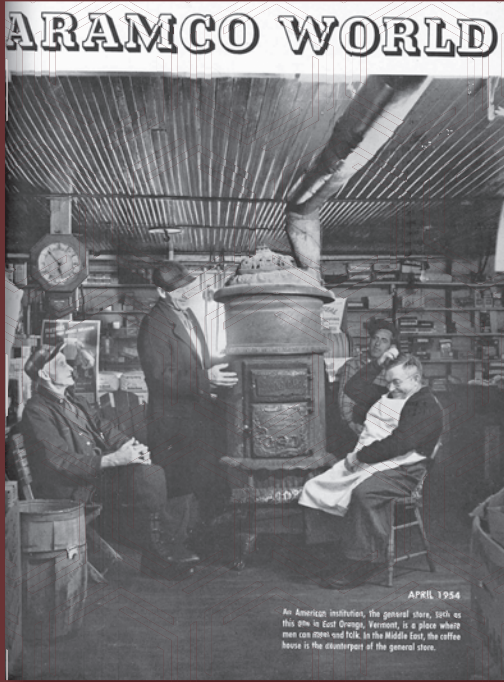


# ARAMCO WORLD

NOVEMBER 1960





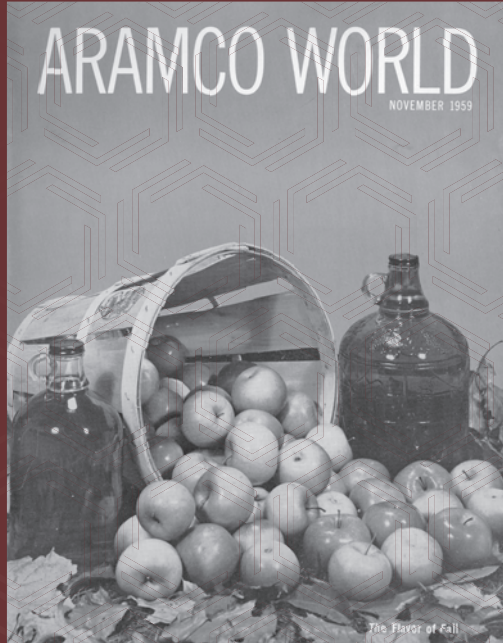
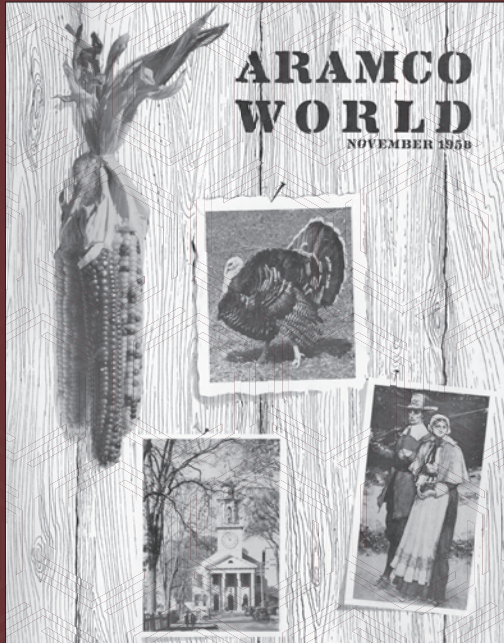


Top to bottom left to right:  
 April 1954, "Where old friends meet"  
 Photo courtesy of Standard Oil Company

July 1959, "Your cup of tea"  
 Photo by Ewing Galloway

November 1958, "The Turkey: Bird of Thanksgiving"  
 Photo by Frederic Lewis

November 1959, "Sweet as Apple Cider"  
 Photo by Ewing Galloway



Opposite:  
 November 1960's "Harvest Without End" highlights how innovative methods bring fresh produce to local markets daily in the 1960s.

Photo by B. H. Moody





## Couscous



The Measure  
of the Maghrib



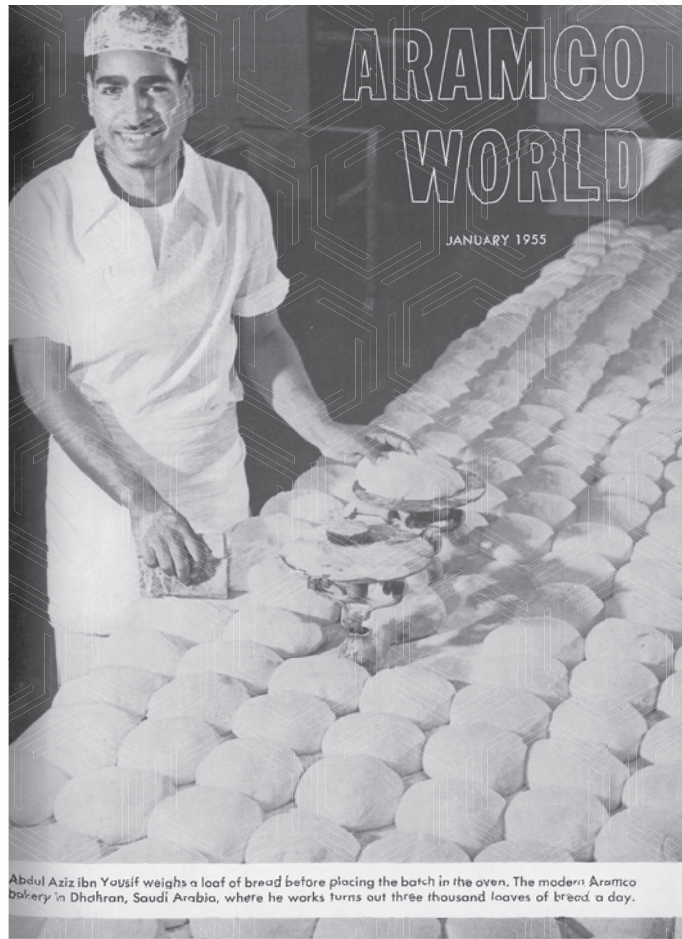


**Opposite:**

The Maghrib, a region made up of present-day Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, boasts a variety of culturally rich foods, that *AramcoWorld* has featured over the years.

November/December 1998,  
"Couscous: The Measure of  
the Maghrib"

Photo by Owen Morse

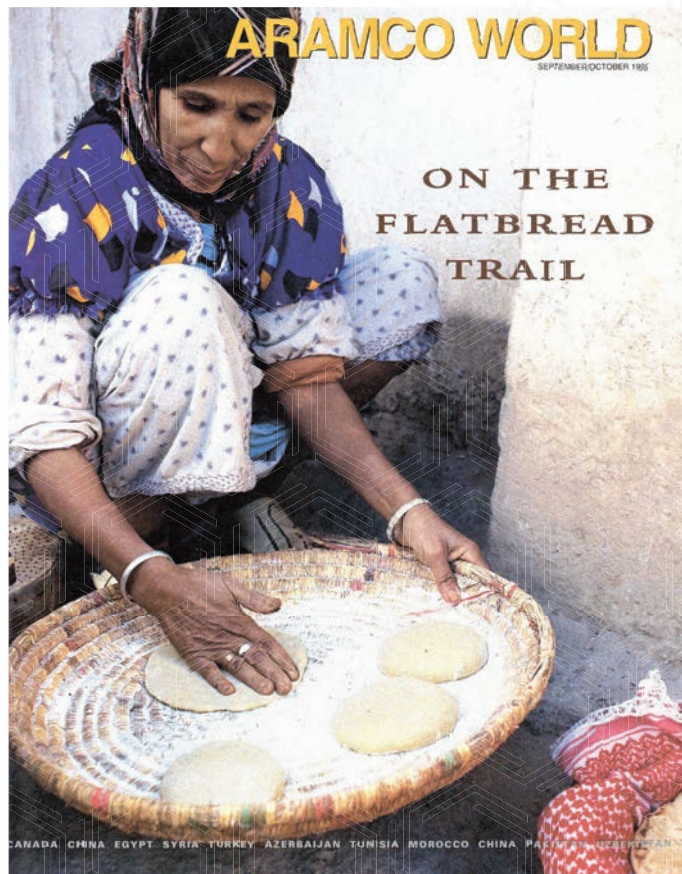


Abdul Aziz ibn Yousif weighs a loaf of bread before placing the batch in the oven. The modern Aramco bakery in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he works turns out three thousand loaves of bread a day.

**Left:**

January 1953, "Bread:  
The World's Food"

Photo by T. F. Walters

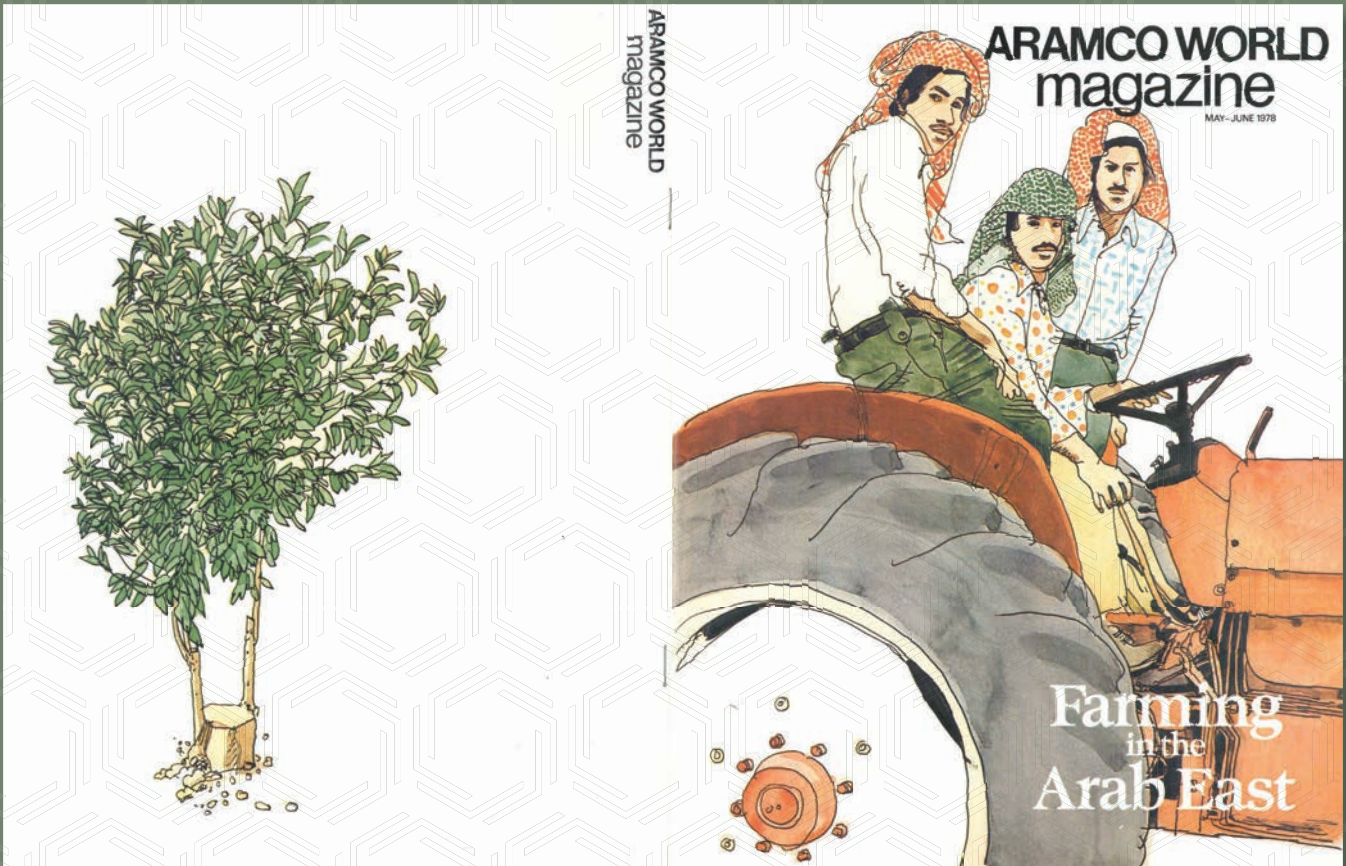


**Left:**

September/October 1995, "On the  
Flatbread Trail"

Photo courtesy of Asia Access  
Photo Agency







JANUARY FEBRUARY 2021

# AramcoWorld



**Opposite above:**  
January/February 1997, "Memories of a Lebanese Garden"  
Illustration by Linda Dalal Sawaya

**Opposite below:**  
May/June 1978, "Farming in the Arab East"  
Illustration by Norman MacDonald

In 2021 *AramcoWorld* took readers on a journey through their kitchen spice rack sharing the history of six spices, **illustrated above right:** Cinnamon, Pepper, Ginger, Cumin, Cloves and Nutmeg.

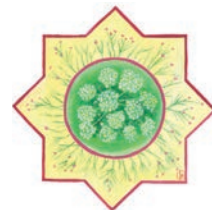
Illustration by Linda Dalal Sawaya

**Above:**  
January/February 2021, "Spice Migrations: Cinnamon"  
Illustration by Linda Dalal Sawaya



**Did you know that cinnamon originated in southern China and was carried to Egypt as early as 2000 BCE? (January/February 2021 issue)**

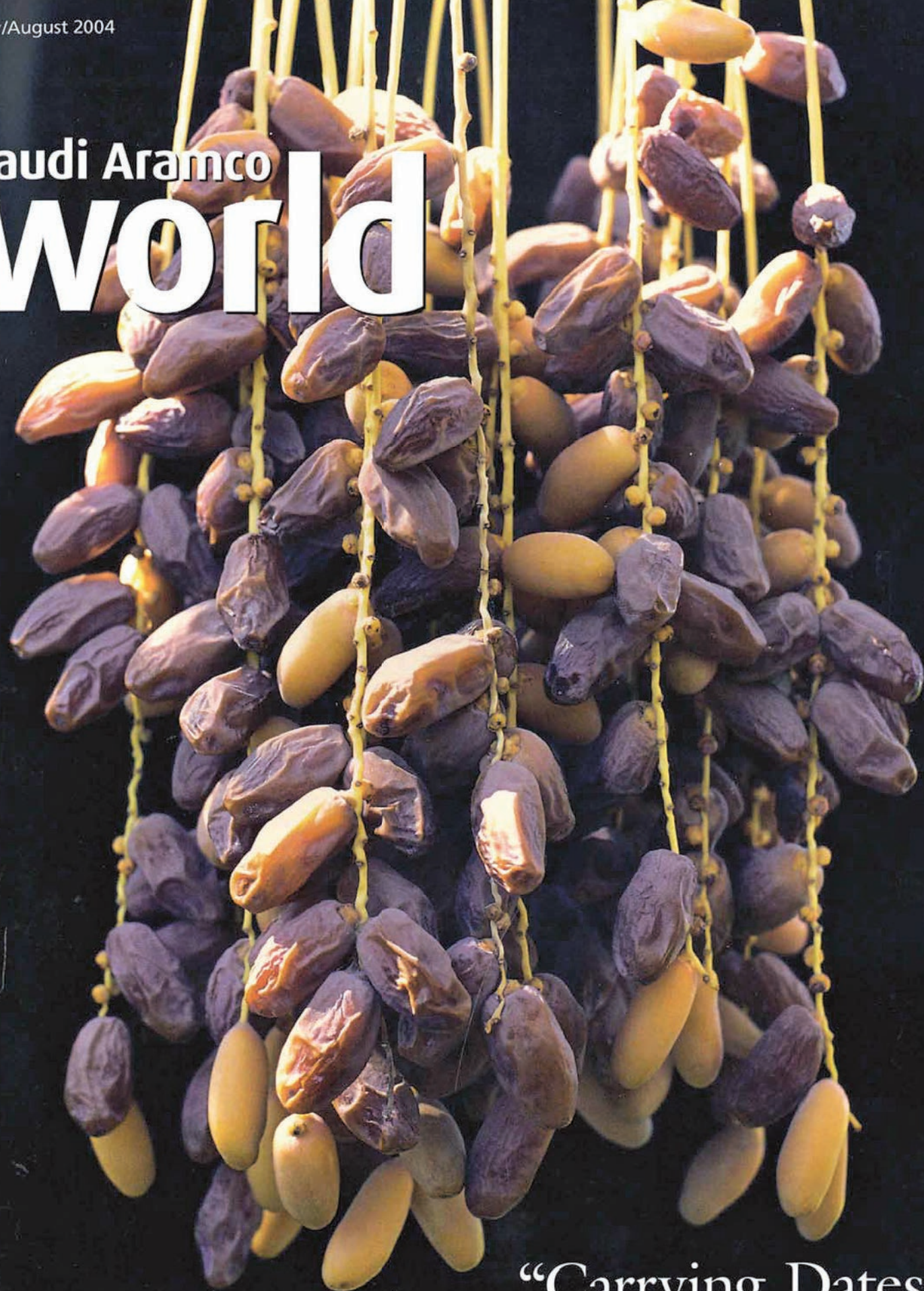
"By the end of the 19th century 90 percent of the world's cloves grew in Zanzibar. People used cloves for numbing a toothache, seasoning dishes or making necklaces," from the July/August 2021 issue.



"Cumin is known in Hindi as jeera, which comes from the Sanskrit root *jri*, meaning 'digestion,'" from the September/October 2021 issue.

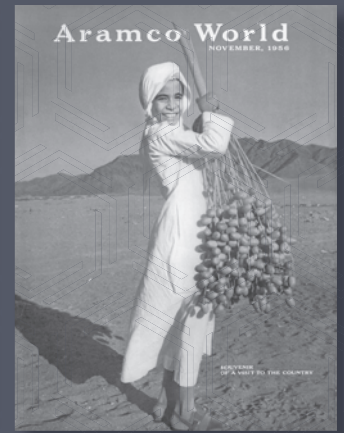
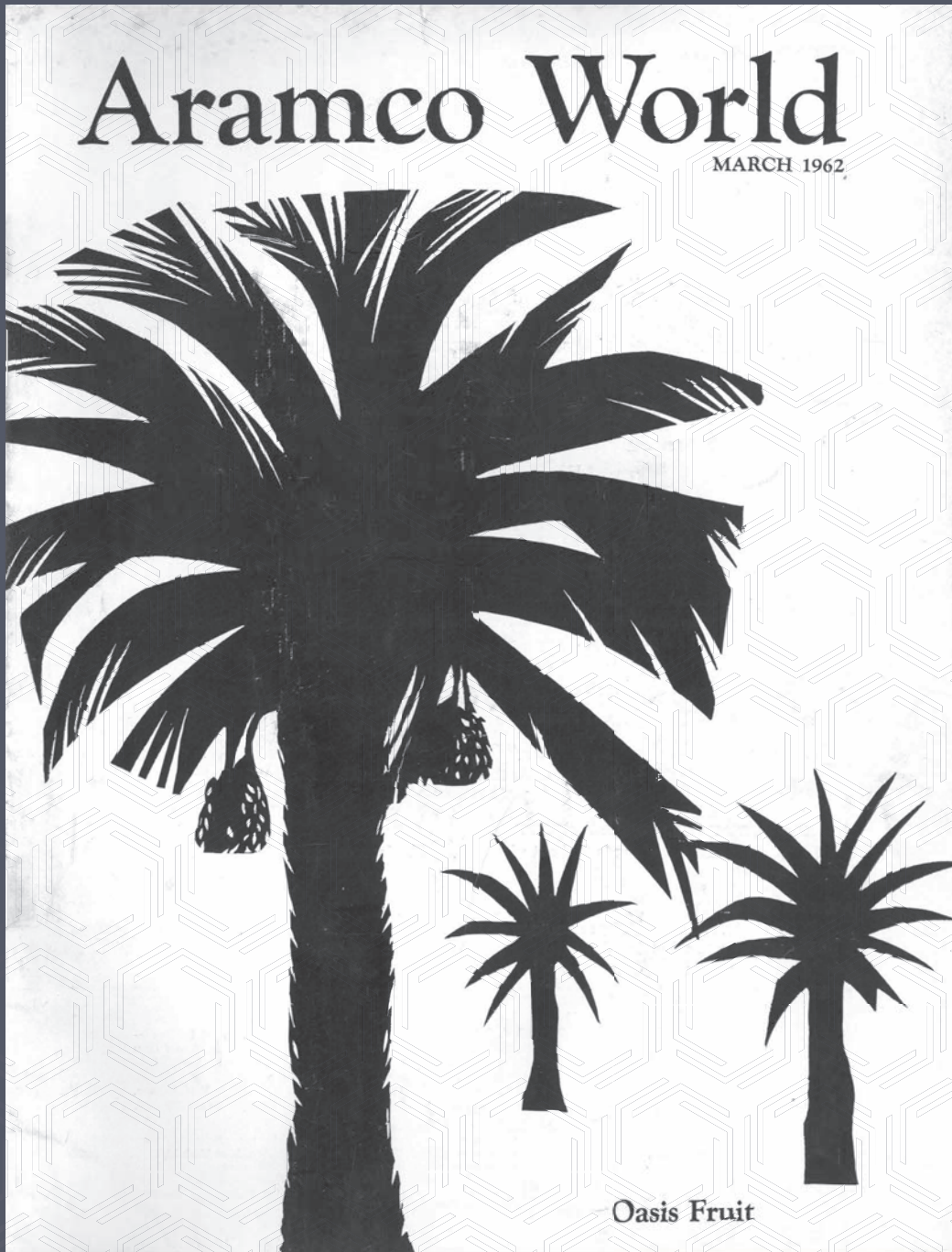


Saudi Aramco  
**World**



“Carrying Dates  
to Hajar”





Above:  
 March 1962, "Oasis Fruit"  
 Illustration by Walter Ferro

Left:  
 November 1956, "Souvenir of a visit  
 to the country"  
 Photo by T. F. Walters

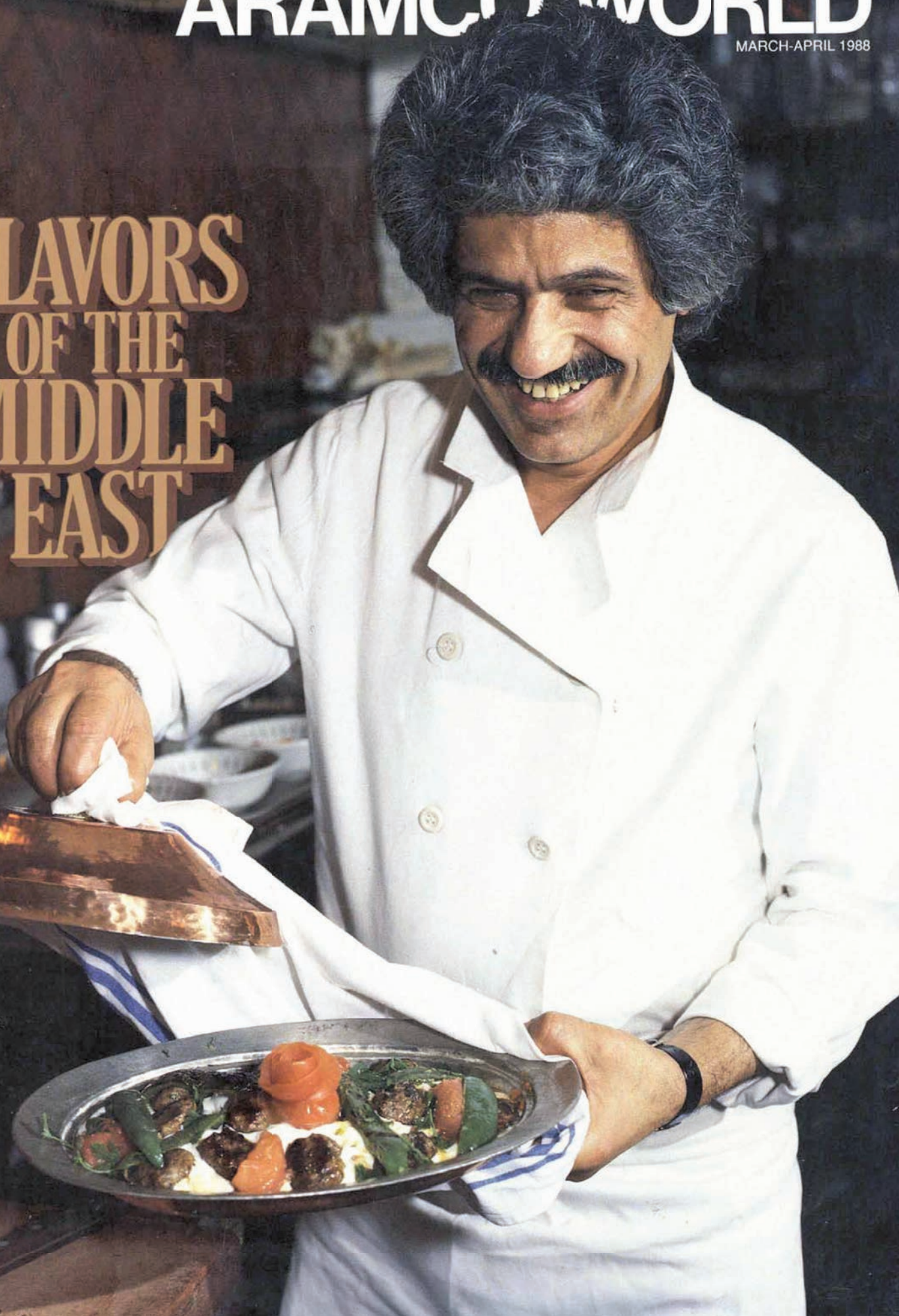
Opposite:  
 At the time of the article Al-  
 Hasa, known as Hajar in ancient  
 times, covered about 20,000  
 hectares (50,000 acres) and  
 was said to be the largest date  
 palm oasis in the world.

July/August 2004, "Carrying Dates  
 to Hajar"

Photo by Eric Hansen



## FLAVORS OF THE MIDDLE EAST







**Above:**

November/December 2008, "Ghraoui and the Chocolate Factory"

Photo by Tor Eigeland

**Right:**

July/August 2003, "Zalabia and the first Ice-Cream cone"

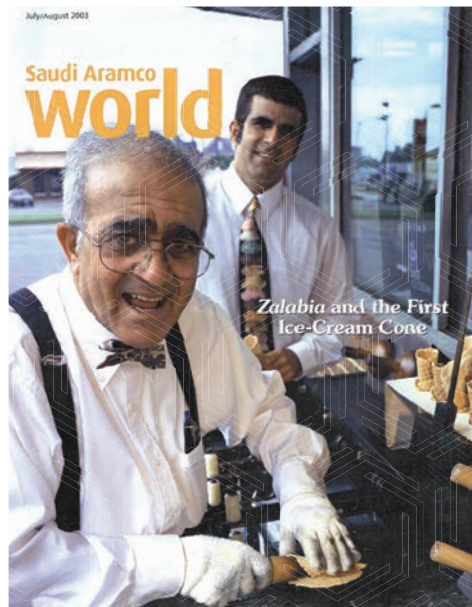
Photo by David Alan Harvey

**Opposite:**

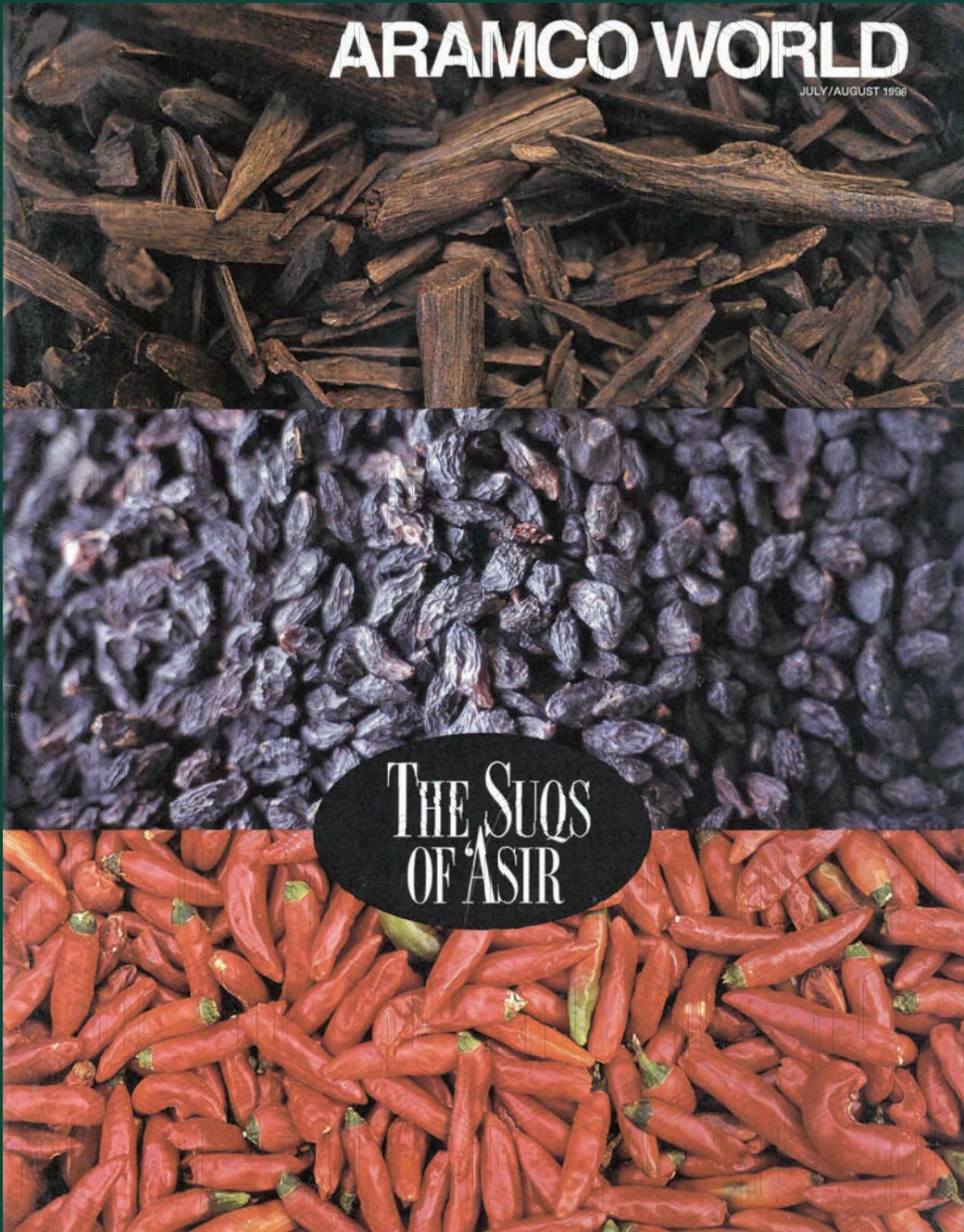
The Middle East's ancient trade, rich flavors and generational traditions have created a cultural bridge with the West.

March/April 1988, "The Flavors of Arabia"

Photo by Christopher D. Salvo





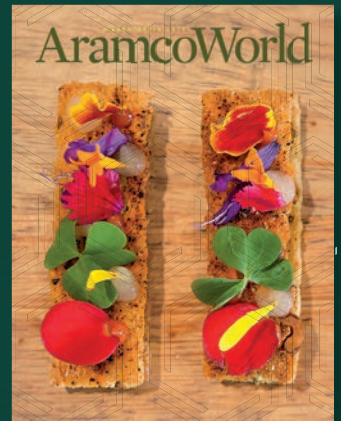
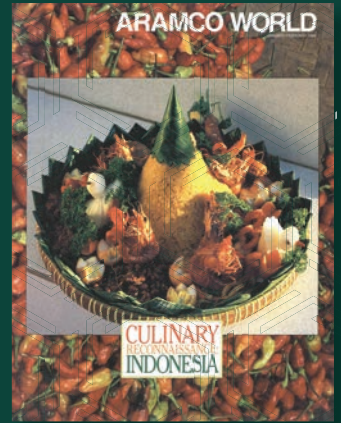


**Above:**  
 Innumerable variations in craft, cuisine, spice and scent distinguish Saudi Arabia's southwestern Asir province, where traditional markets were held in each regional center on a different day of the week. Among them, the Tuesday market in Abha, the province capital, is one of the most colorful.

July/August 1998, "The Suqs of Asir"  
 Photo by Peter Sanders

**Top right to bottom:**  
 January/February 1996, "Culinary Reconnaissance: Indonesia"  
 Photo by Brynn Bruijn

March/April 2018, "Marseille's Migrant Cuisine"  
 Photo by Rebecca Marshall

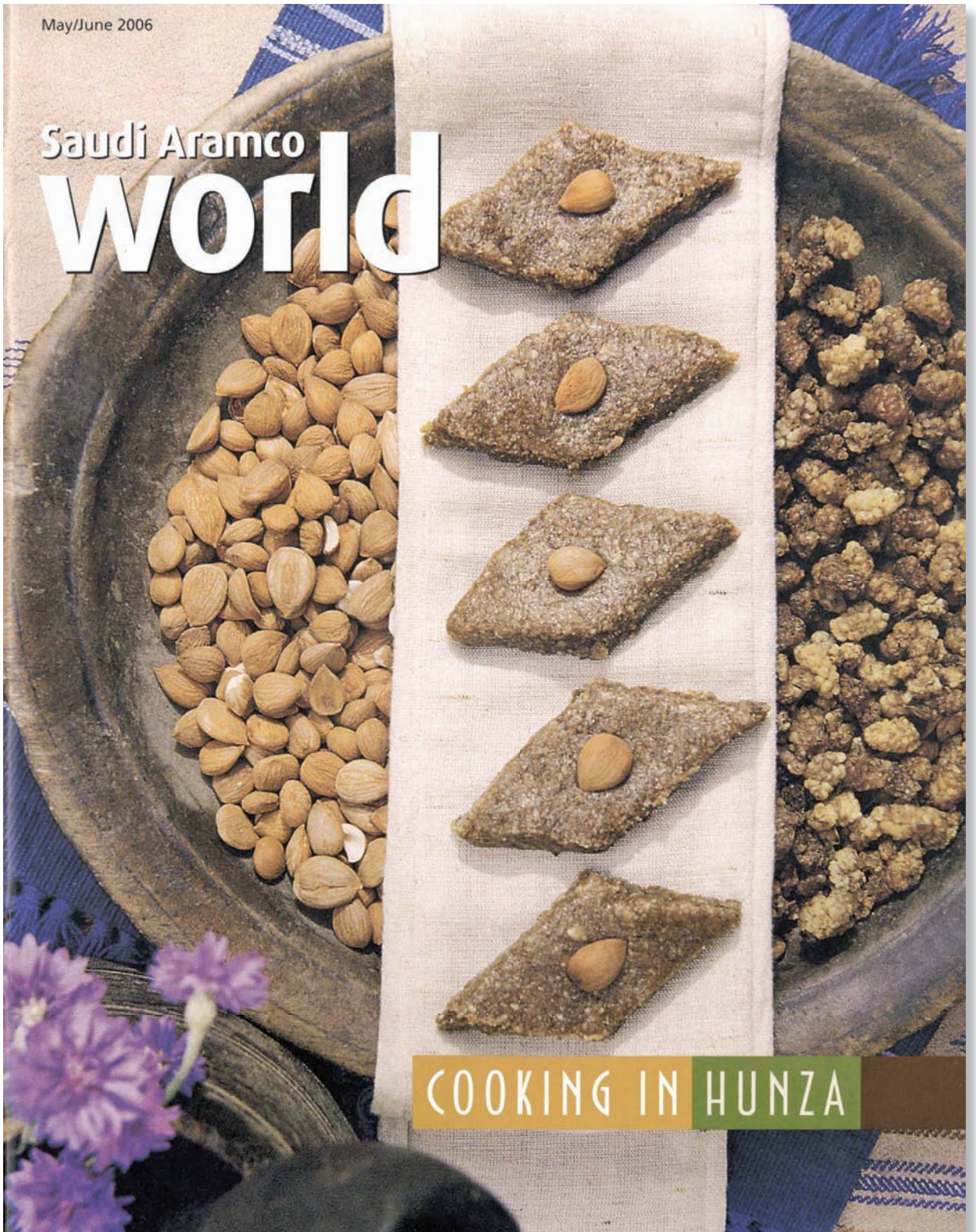


**AramcoWorld** spotlights local farmers as they preserve ancient rye for future global crops.



May/June 2006

# Saudi Aramco World



COOKING IN HUNZA

**Above:**

Using their local ingredients, generations of women in Pakistan's northernmost valley developed a remarkably imaginative culinary repertoire. Some 25 women pooled their talents to produce the first-ever Hunza recipe book, which features a recipe of Sultan Qoq, one of the few sweets in the Hunza Valley cuisine. It is made using apricot kernels, walnuts, dried mulberries and water.

May/June 2006, "Cooking in Hunza"

Photo by Matthieu Paley



SAUDI ARAMCO  
**world**

January/February 2012  
saudiaramcoworld.com



*Seeds of High Asia*



MARCH APRIL 2024

# AramcoWorld



CELEBRATING  
**75**  
YEARS  
OF CONNECTIONS

**Opposite:**

A spotlight on local farmers as they preserve ancient rye for future global crops.

January/February 2012, "Seeds of High Asia"

Photo by Matthieu Paley

**Left:**

March/April 2024, "Can Fig Trees Help Us Adapt To A Changing Climate?"

Photo by Rebecca Marshall



# CALENDAR COVERS

AramcoWorld launched its calendar series in January 2004, (pictured opposite top right) to increase engagement and deepen connection with our readers. Through themes such as "Patterns," "Fauna," "Design" and "Homes" we feature stunning photography and provide an educational exploration over 12 months with content not available in the regular issue. The 2025 calendar, "Textiles from the Islamic World" can be found online at AramcoWorld.com.



Above:  
"Home 2007"  
Photo by Margaret Courtney-Clarke/CORBIS

Opposite from top left to bottom right:

"Patterns 2004," our first calendar

Photo by Richard Doughty

"Arabians 2011"

Photo by Tariq Dajani

"Word 2012"

Photo by Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art

"Above 2013"

Photo by George Steinmetz

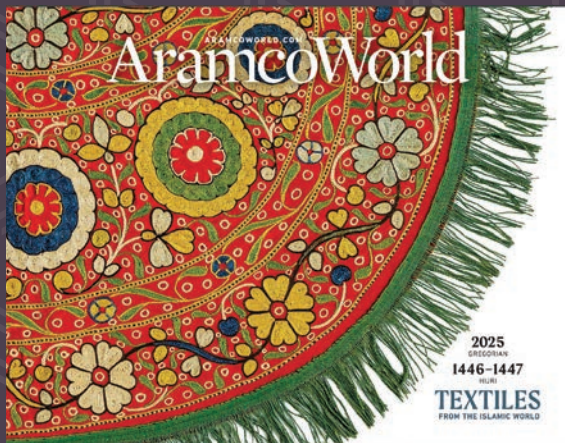
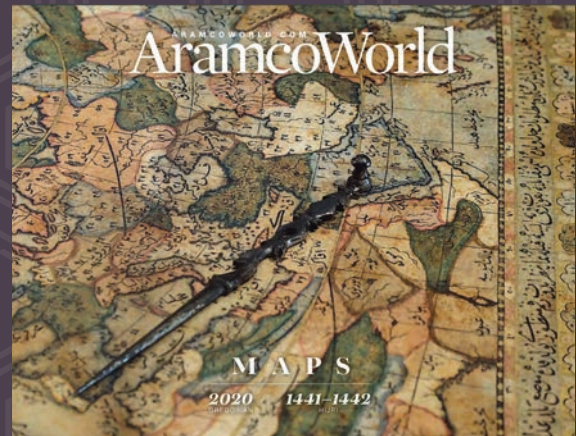
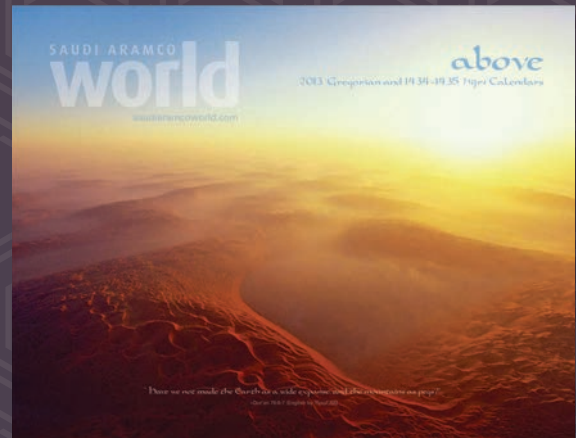
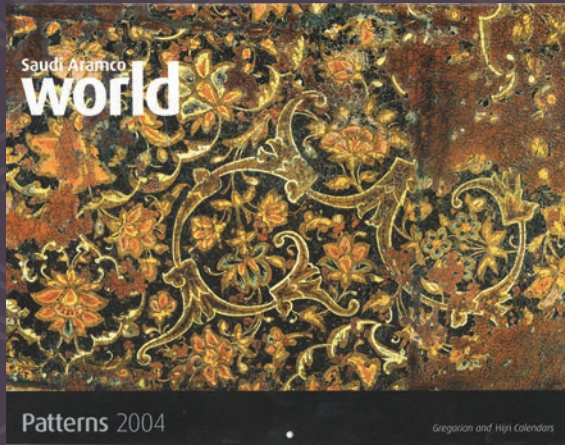
"Sweets 2015"

Photo by Sawsan Abu Farha

"Maps 2020"

Photo by Richard Doughty





Link to discover the 2025 calendar "Textiles From the Islamic World"



SCAN ME



# AramcoWorld



[aramcoworld.com](http://aramcoworld.com)