

# Moroccan Expatriates & others: a reading list

compiled for *the bookclub without a name*, February 2004

Paul Bowles

**Novels:**

*The Sheltering Sky* (1949)  
*Let It Come Down* (1952)  
*The Spider's House* (1955)  
*Up Above The World* (1966)

**Short Stories:**

*The Stories of Paul Bowles* (2001)

**Essays etc:**

*Their Heads Are Green And Their Hands Are Blue* (1963)  
*Points in Time* (1982)  
*Paul Bowles: Photographs* (edited by Simon Bischoff, 1994)  
*Baul Bowles on Music* (2003)

**Letters:**

*In Touch: The Letters of Paul Bowles* (1994)

**Autobiography / Biographies:**

*Without Stopping* (1972)  
*Days-Tangier Journal: 1987-1989*  
*Paul Bowles by his friends* (Gary Pulsifer, 1992)  
*The Dream at the End of the World : Paul Bowles and the literary renegades in Tangier* (Michelle Green, 1991)  
*Conversations with Paul Bowles* (Gena Dagal Caponi, 1993)  
*An Invisible Spectator : a biography of Paul Bowles* (1989)  
Paris Review interview in the Fall 1981 issue, collected in *Beat Writers at Work – the Paris Review*

**Film:**

*The Sheltering Sky* (1990) – Paul Bowles makes a cameo appearance  
*Let It Come Down* (1998) – excellent documentary/biography

**Recordings:**

*Bowles: Sonata for Oboe & Clarinet/Nocturne for Two Pianos/Selected Songs/Sonata for Flute and Piano/Cuatro Canciones* – some of Paul Bowles' compositions on CD  
*Bowles: Secret Words; Concerto for pianos & wind instruments* – another CD featuring Paul Bowles' music  
*Baptism of Solitude* – a 1995 CD of Paul Bowles reading some of his work

**The Authorized Paul Bowles Web Site:**

<http://www.paulbowles.org/> - lots of interesting resources, including a couple of sound clips, memoirs etc.

## Jane Bowles

### Novels etc:

*Two Serious Ladies* (1943)

*My Sister's Hand In Mine* - collected works (1978)

### Autobiography / Biographies:

*A Little Original Sin : the life and work of Jane Bowles* (Millicent Dillon, 1981)

## William S. Burroughs

Lived and wrote in Tangiers for a period in the 1950s and early 1960s. Knew Bowles. There are novels, letters, journals, biographies, etc – plus lots on the Beat Generation in general. *Naked Lunch* was made into a Cronenberg movie and has episodes set in Tangier (sort of...). *Interzone* (the title is a reference to “the international zone of Tangier”) is a “fragmentary collection of letters, journal entries, stories and autobiographical sketches from the mid-1950s” including “straightforward sociological descriptions of Tangier, where he has dope and young boys.”

## Other people:

### Isabelle Eberhardt

A French/Swiss woman (Feb. 17, 1877 - October 21, 1904) - an explorer who lived and traveled extensively in North Africa. She traveled to North Africa in May, 1897 and converted to Islam. She made northern Algeria her home and explored the desert. Dressed as a man, calling herself Si Mahmoud Essadi, Eberhardt traveled in Arabic society, including the secret Sufi brotherhood, Qadriya. On October 21, 1904, Eberhardt died in a flash flood in Aïn Sefra, Algeria. Her stories were translated by Bowles. There is at least one biography.

## Other writers & artists who visited Morocco:

Too many to list completely, but including: Gregory Corso, Jack Kerouac, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Joe Orton (playwright), Brion Gysin, Timothy Leary, Rupert Croft-Cooke, Francis Bacon (painter), Jean Genet, Edith Wharton, Barbara Hutton (“the Woolworth heiress”), John Hopkins, etc. etc.

## Some other fiction:

*The Tattooed Map* (Barbara Hodgson, 1995) – Vancouver writer; a “graphic” novel (a la Griffin and Sabine) that gives a good visual feel for the Tangier of an earlier era.

## Travel narratives of Morocco (classic and present day):

*The Voices of Marrakesh: a record of a visit* (Elias Canetti, 1978)

*Morocco: Its People and Places* (Edmondo Di Amicis) – a turn-of-the-century account of Morocco - an excerpt is available online at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1870morocco.html>

*A Street in Marrakech* (Elizabeth Fernea, 1975) - quite a good tale about living in the medina

*Morocco That Was* (Walter Harris, 1921) - Eyewitness account of the Sultanate by the eccentric London Times correspondent in Tangier. Harris lived in the country for 30 years, which gave him unusual access to the Moorish court and civic life. He reported on the kidnapping on which the movie *The Wind and the Lion* is based. Harris is buried in Tangier, in the Anglican church there.

*The Histories* (Herodotus)

*The Tangier Diaries: 1962-1979* (John Hopkins, 1998)

*Journey into Barbary* (Wyndham Lewis) – account of Lewis' 1931 journey south through Morocco to the rugged heartland of the Berbers

*Lords of the Atlas* (Gavin Maxwell, 1966)

*A Year in Marrakesh* (Peter Mayne, 2003)

*A Travellers History of North Africa* (Barnaby Rogerson etc; 1998)

*In Morocco* (Edith Wharton, 1920)

## Movies:

*Morocco* – 1930 film with Gary Cooper & Marlene Deitrich

*Casablanca* – the classic 1942 Humphrey Bogart movie

*The Road to Morocco* – 1942 film with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby & Dorothy Lamour

*A Night In Casablanca* – 1946 Marx Brothers film

*The Wind and the Lion* – 1975 film with Sean Connery and Candice Bergen

*The Sheltering Sky* – 1990 Bertollucci film version of Bowles' novel. Some excellent visuals, but reportedly not completely true to the book.

*Hideous Kinky* – 1999 film with Kate Winslet, set in 1970s Marrakesh

### Music:

*Master Musicians of Jajouka* (The Music of Jajouka, Morocco) – recorded once (originally?) by Rolling Stones member Brian Jones, in 1968 (Brion Gysin was the one who'd put Jones on to them). Later recordings also exist. Their music was featured in the film *The Sheltering Sky*.

“Marrakesh Express” – Crosby, Stills and Nash single (1969)

### And some non- expatriates, to add flavour:

*Travels* (Mohammed Ibn Batuta) - Born in Tangier in 1307, wrote an account of his travels through the medieval world: “Ibn Batuta started travelling in 1325, first setting out for Mecca, on hajj. During his 29 years of travels, he covered 120,000 km, and reached as far as China in the east, and Andalucia (now Spain) in the west, from Timbuctu (now in Mali) to the steppes of today's Russia. Among the most treasured parts of his book are the descriptions of the Byzantine court in Constantinople, the Black Death in Baghdad, his accounts from India, Anatolia and the lands around the river Niger.”

*The Sand Child* (Tahar Ben Jelloun) – novel by a contemporary Moroccan writer

Books by Mohammed Mrabet - Moroccan writer, translated by Bowles

*Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood* (Fatima Mernissi) – the life of a young girl born into a family in Fez (in Western Morocco) in the 1940's